

# **The Anemias**

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## اهداف درس

- ۱- یادگیری تعریف کم خونی در کودکان
- ۲- شناخت علل کم خونی در کودکان
- ۳- شناخت تطابق های فیزیولوژیک بدن در برابر کم خونی
- ۴- یادگیری گرفتن شرح حال و انجام معاینه فیزیکی
- ۵- شناخت علایم کم خونی در کودکان
- ۶- آشنایی با انواع کم خونی ها در کودکان
- ۷- یادگیری چگونگی افتراق انواع کم خونی

## Definition

- ▶ Anemia is defined as a reduction of the hemoglobin concentration or
- ▶ Red blood cell (RBC) volume below the range of values occurring in healthy persons.
- ▶ “Normal” hemoglobin (Hb) and hematocrit vary with age, sex and race.

## Normal Mean and Lower Limits of Normal for Hemoglobin, Hematocrit, and Mean Corpuscular Volume

AGE (yr)	HEMOGLOBIN (g/dL)		HEMATOCRIT (%)		MEAN CORPUSCULAR VOLUME ( $\mu\text{M}^3$ )	
	Mean	Lower Limit	Mean	Lower Limit	Mean	Lower Limit
0.5-1.9	12.5	11.0	37	33	77	70
2-4	12.5	11.0	38	34	79	73
5-7	13.0	11.5	39	35	81	75
8-11	13.5	12.0	40	36	83	76
12-14 female	13.5	12.0	41	36	85	78
12-14 male	14.0	12.5	43	37	84	77
15-17 female	14.0	12.0	41	36	87	79
15-17 male	15.0	13.0	46	38	86	78
18-49 female	14.0	12.0	42	37	90	80
18-49 male	16.0	14.0	47	40	90	80

From Brugnara C, Oski FJ, Nathan DG: *Nathan and Oski's hematology of infancy and childhood*, ed 7, Philadelphia, 2009, Saunders, p 456.

## **Causes of anemia**

**Nutrition: Iron deficiency, folate, Vitamin B<sup>12</sup> & Vitamin A deficiency.**

**Infectious disease: Malaria, soil-transmitted helminths, TB, AIDS, Leishmaniosis.**

**Genetic disorders: Thalassemia, G<sup>6</sup>PD, Spherocytosis.**

## Physiologic adjustments to anemia

- ▶ Increased **cardiac output**
- ▶ Augmented **oxygen extraction**
- ▶ A **shunting of blood flow** toward vital organs and tissues.
- ▶ The concentration of **2,3-diphosphoglycerate increases** within the RBC

## Physiologic adjustments (continue)

- ▶ The resultant “**shift to the right**” of the oxygen dissociation curve **reduces the affinity** of Hb for O<sub>2</sub>.
- ▶ **Higher levels of erythropoietin (EPO)** and consequent **increased RBC production** by the bone marrow.

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## History and Physical Examination

- ▶ **Important historical facts** should include age, sex, race and ethnicity, diet, medications, chronic diseases, infections, travel, and exposures.
- ▶ **Clinical findings** generally do not become apparent until the hemoglobin level falls to <7-8 g/dL.
- ▶ Clinical features can include **pallor, sleepiness, irritability**, and **decreased exercise tolerance**.



## Physical Examination (continue)

- ▶ **Pallor** can involve the tongue, nail beds, conjunctiva, palms, or palmar creases.
- ▶ A **flow murmur** is often present.
- ▶ **Ultimately**, weakness, tachypnea, shortness of breath on exertion, tachycardia, cardiac dilation, and **high-output heart failure** will result.

## Physical Findings in the Evaluation of Anemia

- ▶ **Skin:** hyperpigmentation, vitiligo, jaundice and petechiae
- ▶ **Head:** frontal bossing, microcephaly
- ▶ **Eyes:** blue sclera, microphthalmia, retinopathy
- ▶ **Ears:** deafness
- ▶ **Mouth:** glossitis, angular stomatitis

## Physical Findings (continue)

- ▶ **Chest:** shape, murmur
- ▶ **Abdomen:** hepatosplenomegaly
- ▶ **Extremities:** absent thumbs, triphalangeal thumb, spoon nails
- ▶ **Rectal:** hemorrhoids
- ▶ **Nerves:** irritable, apathy, peripheral neuropathy, stroke

# Laboratory Studies

Initial laboratory testing should include:

- ▶ **CBC:** hemoglobin, hematocrit, and RBC indices as well as a white blood cell (WBC) count and differential, platelet count
- ▶ **Reticulocyte count**
- ▶ **The peripheral blood smear (PBS)**

## Anemias may be morphologically categorized on the basis of :

- ▶ **Red cell size:** (mean corpuscular volume [MCV]) or microscopic appearance.
- ▶ Anemias can be classified as **microcytic, normocytic, or macrocytic.**
- ▶ RBC size also changes with age, and normal developmental (**Slide ۴**).
- ▶ Examination of a **PBS** often reveals **changes in RBC appearance.**

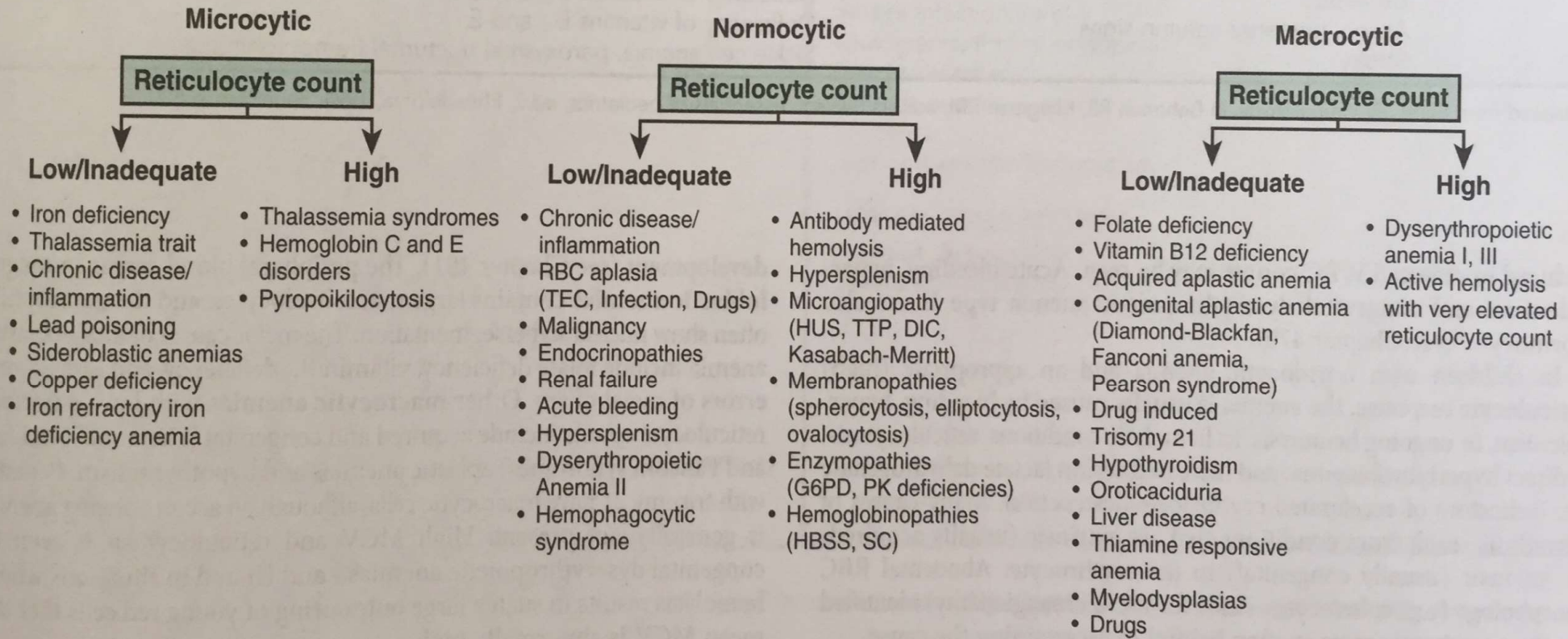
## Anemias may also be further divided on the basis of underlying physiology

- ▶ The **two major** categories are:
- ▶ Decreased RBC production may be a consequence of ineffective erythropoiesis or a failure of erythropoiesis.
- ▶ Increased RBC destruction or loss: may be secondary to hemolysis, sequestration, or bleeding.

## Anemias may also be further divided (continue)

- ▶ The **normal reticulocyte** percentage of total RBCs is approximately 1%, with an absolute reticulocyte count of  $25,000 - 75,000/\text{mm}^3$ .
- ▶ **Low or normal** numbers of reticulocytes generally represent bone marrow failure or ineffective erythropoiesis.
- ▶ **Increased numbers of reticulocytes** represent hemolysis, sequestration, or loss (bleeding).

# Differential Diagnosis



**Fig. 474.3** Use of the mean corpuscular volume (MCV) and reticulocyte count in the diagnosis of anemia. (Adapted from Brunetti M, Cohen J. The Harriet Lane handbook, ed 17, Philadelphia, 2005, Elsevier Mosby, p 338.)



## Conclusion

- In the **defining anemia** in children, unlike adults, the **age** of the child and **sex** (at puberty) is an important criterion.
- **Nutritional deficiencies**, infections and genetic disorders are major causes of anemia.
- In **classifying anemias** based on red cell size, we must also consider **normal MCV** values for different ages.

## سوالاتی که باید در پایان به خود پاسخ دهیم

- ۱ - در تعریف کم خونی های کودکان توجه به چه نکاتی دارای اهمیت است؟
- ۲ - علل اصلی کم خونی کودکان در کشور ما چیست؟
- ۳ - تعریف کم خونی در کودکان با بزرگسالان چه تفاوتی دارد؟
- ۴ - در تشخیص انواع کم خونی های کودکان چه معیارهای مهم هستند؟

## References

- 1- Thornburg D. *The Anemias: In Kliegman M, Geme St. Nelson Textbook of Pediatrics, 22<sup>th</sup> edition, 2022.*
- 2- Marcdante J and Kliegman M. *Nelson Essentials of Pediatrics, 9<sup>th</sup> edition, 2022.*



Thank you