# Hematology Physiology

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Reference books:

- 1. Hall, John, E. and Michael E. Hall. Guyton and Hall Textbook of Medical Physiology (14<sup>th</sup> Edition).
- Lauralee Sherwood. Human Physiology: From Cells To Systems (9<sup>th</sup> Edition).
- Gerard J. Tortora and Bryan Derrickson. Principles
  Of Human Anatomy & Physiology (15<sup>th</sup> Edition)

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(a) Distribution of body solids and fluids in average lean adult female and male







**Blood and its components** 

• Blood is connective tissue.

**Hematology** 

- Blood is denser and more viscous (thicker) than water.
- The temperature of blood is 38°C.
- Slightly alkaline pH ranging from 7.35 to 7.45 (average = 7.4).
- The color saturated  $(O_2) \rightarrow$  bright red

unsaturated ( $O_2$ )  $\rightarrow$  dark red

# Hematology **Blood smear Blood and its components** White blood cell (leukocyte: neutrophil) Blood plasma Red blood cell (erythrocyte) Platelet White blood cell (leukocyte: monocyte)

#### **Blood and its components**

Hematology



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#### **Blood and its components**

Hematology





#### Hematology



- 1. Establishment of colloid osmotic pressure.
- 2. Responsible for plasma's capacity buffer changes in pH.

Nonspecifically binds substances that are poorly soluble in plasma (bilirubin)

Fibrinogen

Globulins

Albumin

Is an inactive precursor for a clot's fibrin meshwork

α&β

- Specifically bind poorly water-soluble substances (thyroid hormone, cholesterol, and iron).
- Involved in blood-clotting.
- Angiotensinogen.



Antibodies/immunoglobulins. Body's defense mechanism.

#### Blood and its components

Hematology



#### Hematology >> Packed Red Cell Volume



Whole blood

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# Hematology Hematocrit

- Hematocrit/ Packed Red Cell Volume
- Adult males: 40–54% (avg = 47%).
- Adult females: 38–46% (avg = 42%)

Hematocrit =  $\frac{\text{Height of RBCs}}{\text{Total height}} \times 100\%$ 

#### Concentration!!





#### Polycythemia







#### Hematology Hemopoiesis (formation of blood cells)

Early fetal lifeOccurs in the yolk sac of an embryo and later in<br/>the liver, spleen, thymus, and lymph nodes of a<br/>fetus.

last 3 gestational months- death

\*Red bone marrow becomes the primary site of hemopoiesis in the, and continues as the source of blood cells after birth and throughout life.

\*axial skeleton, pectoral and pelvic girdles, and the proximal epiphyses of the humerus and femur.



### Hematology Hemopoiesis (formation of blood cells)

#### • Stem cells in bone marrow

- Reproduce themselves
- Proliferate and differentiate
- Formed elements do not divide once they leave red bone marrow
  - Exception is lymphocytes

#### Hematology Hemopoiesis (formation of blood cells)

- ✓ Myeloid stem cells
  - Give rise to red blood cells, platelets, monocytes, neutrophils, eosinophils and basophils
- ✓ **Lymphoid stem cells** give rise to
  - Lymphocytes and natural killer cells

- ✓ Hemopoietic growth factors regulate differentiation and proliferation
  - Erythropoietin RBCs
  - Thrombopoietin platelets
  - Colony-stimulating factors (CSFs) and interleukins WBCs



# **RBC** General characteristics

- Biconcave disc.
- Diameter is normally 8  $\mu$ m.
- Strong, flexible plasma membrane.
- Lack nucleus and other organelles
- Lack mitochondria.
- Key erythrocyte enzymes: glycolytic enzymes and carbonic anhydrase.
- Contain oxygen-carrying protein (hemoglobin).



- Oligosaccharides in plasma membrane are responsible for ABO and Rh blood groups.
- 5,200,000/ mm<sup>3</sup> in men; and 4,700,000/ mm<sup>3</sup> in women.
- Production = destruction ( 2 million/ sec).



- Oxygen and CO<sub>2</sub> transport (hemoglobin).
- Contain a large quantity of carbonic anhydrase  $\rightarrow$  increasing the rate of this reaction several thousand folds.
- Responsible for most of the acid-base buffering power of whole blood (hemoglobin).

$$CO_2 + H_2O \leftrightarrow H_2CO_3 \leftrightarrow HCO_3^- + H^+$$

carbonic acid

bicarbonate







- The different types of chains are designated alpha chains, beta chains, gamma chains, and delta chains.
- The most common form of hemoglobin in the ADULT HUMAN, hemoglobin A, is a combination of two alpha chains and two beta chains.
- Iron ion can combine reversibly with one oxygen molecule
- Also transports 23% of total carbon dioxide (Combines with amino acids of globin).



• Normal blood hemoglobin content is ~14.0 g/dL in the adult female and ~15.5 g/dL in the adult male.





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Breakdown products recycled Globin's amino acids reused Iron reused Non-iron heme ends as yellow pigment urobilin in urine or brown pigment stercobilin in feces



- Starts in red bone marrow with proerythroblast.
- Cell near the end of development ejects nucleus and becomes a reticulocyte which develop into mature RBC within 1-2 days.
- The remaining basophilic material in the reticulocyte normally disappears within 1 to 2 days, and the cell is then a mature erythrocyte.





Reticulocyte count =  $\frac{\text{Number of reticulocyte}}{\text{Number of RBCs}} \times 100\%$ 

Importance: Reticulocytes count help in diagnosis and typing of anemia







- Maturation of red blood cells requires vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (Cyanocobalamin) and folic acid.
- Both of these are essential for the synthesis of DNA (formation of thymidine triphosphate).
- lack of either vitamin B<sub>12</sub> or folic acid causes:
  \*\*abnormal and diminished DNA and,
  consequently, failure of nuclear maturation and cell division.

\*\* production of larger red cells called **macrocytes** and the cell itself has a flimsy irregular membrane.



### Regulation of Erythropoiesis\_Erythropoietin (EPO)

 Negative feedback balances production with destruction.

RBC

- Is a glycoprotein that normally formed in the kidneys (90%); the remainder is formed mainly in the liver.
- It is essential to stimulate the production of proerythroblasts from hematopoietic stem cells in the bone marrow.
- EPO causes these cells to pass more rapidly through the different erythroblastic stages.

**RBC** 

#### **Regulation of Erythropoiesis\_ Erythropoietin (EPO)**

- Hypoxia causes a marked increase in erythropoietin production.
- With renal failure, EPO release slows and RBC production is inadequate. This leads to a decreased hematocrit.

P.s. Hypoxia is insufficient  $O_2$  at the cellular level









RBC count ( $10^6/\mu$ L blood)

Hematocrit (%)

Hemoglobin (g/dL blood)

Mean red cell volume, MCV (fL/cell)

Mean red cell hemoglobin, MCH (pg/cell)

Mean cell hemoglobin concentration, MCHC (g/dL RBCs)

Red cell distribution width, RDW (%)

# RBC RBCs parameters MCV

#### Mean cell volume (fL/cell)

- Is the average volume (size) of the RBCs.
- It can be measured, as it is in automated cell counters, or calculated:

Hct [%] x 10

RBC count [in millions/ $\mu$ L]





Microcytic (<80)





**RBCs** parameters

#### Red cell Distribution Width (RDW)

 Measurement of RBC size variation (anisocytosis).

**RBC** 

- RDW = [standard deviation/MCV] x 100.
- A high RDW  $\rightarrow$  large variation in RBC sizes
- A low RDW → more homogeneous population of RBCs.
- A high RDW can be seen in a number of anemias, including iron deficiency, vitamin B12 or folate deficiency.

#### Increased Red Cell Distribution Width



Mean cell hemoglobin concentration (pg/ cell)

**MCH** 

**RBCs parameters** 

• Is the average hemoglobin content in a RBC.

RBC

Hemoglobin [g/dL] x 10 RBC count [in millions/μL]

• A low MCH is typically reflected in an enlarged area of central pallor in RBCs on the peripheral blood smear (greater than one-third of the RBC diameter)



Normochromic (30-34)



Hypochromic (<30)

#### Mean cell hemoglobin concentration (g/dL RBC)

MCHC

• Is the average hemoglobin concentration per RBC.

**RBCs parameters** 



= Hemoglobin [g/dL] x 100 Hct [%]

RBC

Normochromic (30-36)



Hypochromic (<30)



# RBC Anemia classification





MCV	Hb Content (MCH)	Causes
Normocytic	Normochromic	Bone marrow failure, renal disease, hemolytic anemia
Macrocytic	Normochromic	vitamin B <sub>12</sub> , folic acid deficiency
Microcytic	Hypochromic	Iron deficiency, chronic diseases, Thalassemia

### **RBC** Effects of Anemia on Function of the Circulatory System

- Blood viscosity is decreased.
- This decreases the resistance to blood flow in the peripheral blood vessels.
- Greater quantities of blood return to the heart.
- Increased cardiac output.
- <u>Thus, one of the major effects of anemia is greatly increased</u> <u>cardiac output, as well as increased pumping workload on the</u> <u>heart</u>.