

JSC “Astana Medical University”  
Department of Internal Disease

# IWS

Theme: Hemolytic anemia

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**Anemia**

CBC, reticulocyte count

Index < 2.5

Index  $\geq$  2.5

Red cell morphology

Hemolysis/hemorrhage

Normocytic normochromic

Micro or macrocytic

- Blood loss
- Intravascular hemolysis
- Metabolic defect
- Membrane abnormality
- Hemoglobinopathy
- Autoimmune defect
- Fragmentation hemolysis

Hypoproliferative

Maturation disorder

- Marrow damage
  - Infiltration/fibrosis
  - Aplasia
- Iron deficiency
- ↓ Stimulation
  - Inflammation
  - Metabolic defect
  - Renal disease

- Cytoplasmic defects
  - Iron deficiency
  - Thalassemia
  - Sideroblastic anemia
- Nuclear defects
  - Folate deficiency
  - Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> deficiency
  - Drug toxicity
  - Refractory anemia

# Hemolytic Anemia

- Definition:
  - Those anemias which result from an increase in RBC destruction
- Classification:
  - Congenital / Hereditary
  - Acquired

# Classification of Hemolytic Anemias

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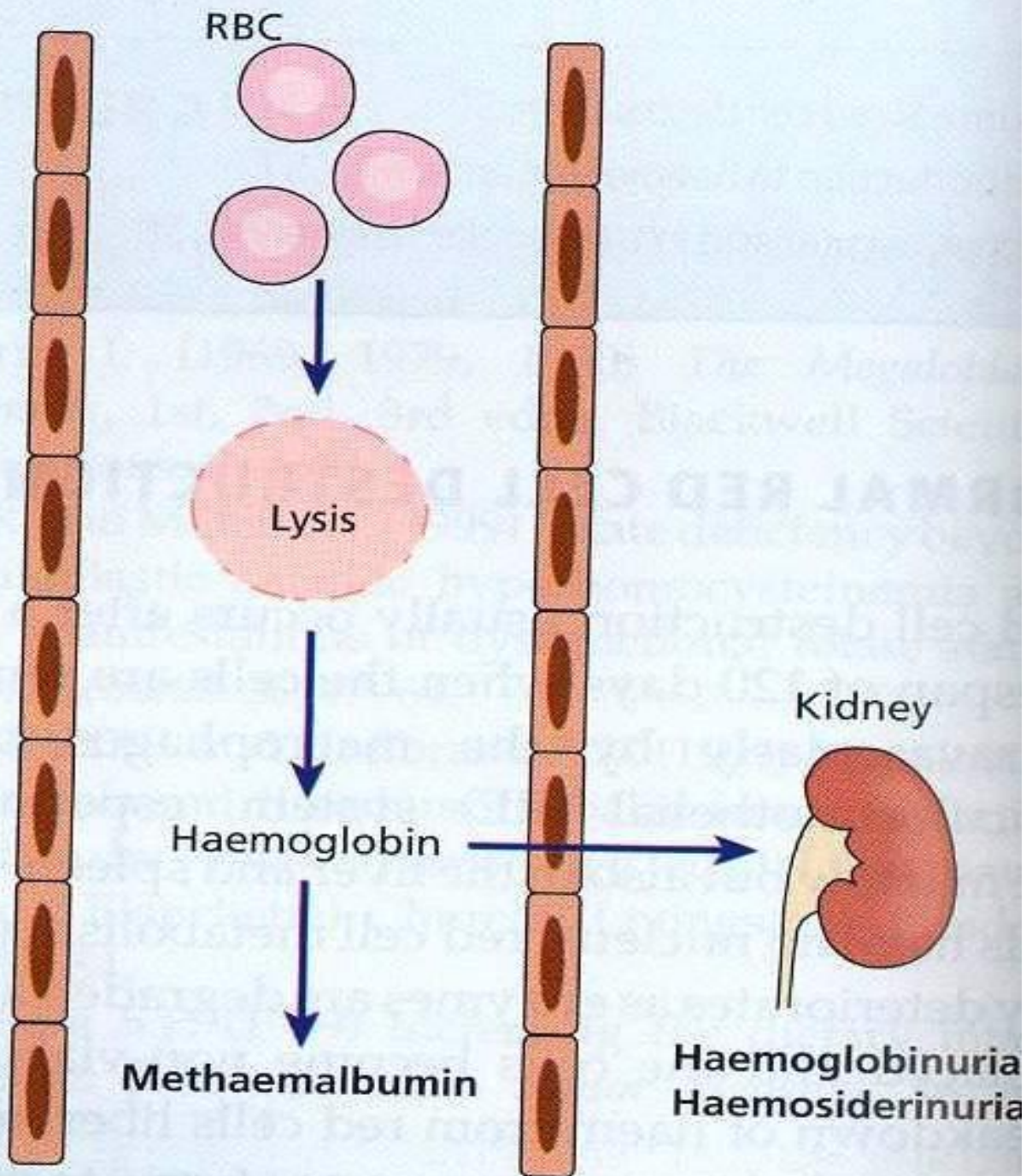
## Hereditary

1. Abnormalities of RBC interior
  - a. Enzyme defects: G-6-PD def, PK def
  - b. Hemoglobinopathies
2. RBC membrane abnormalities
  - a. Hereditary spherocytosis etc.
  - b. PNH

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## Acquired

- c. Spur cell anemia
3. Extrinsic factors
  - a. Hypersplenism
  - b. Antibody: immune hemolysis
  - c. Mechanical trauma: MAHA
  - d. Infections, toxins, etc



RBC

Lysis

Haemoglobin

Methaemalbumin

Kidney

Haemoglobinuria  
Haemosiderinuria

# Laboratory Evaluation of Hemolysis

## Extravascular    Intravascular

### HEMATOLOGIC

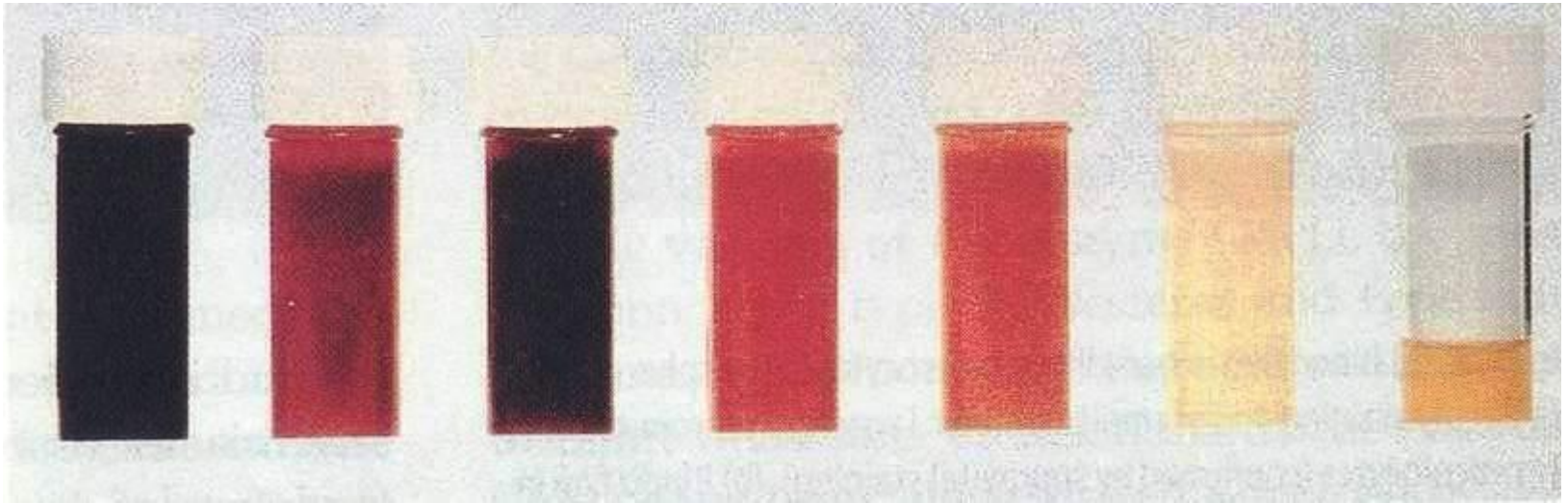
Routine blood film	Polychromatophilia	Polychromatophilia
Reticulocyte count	↑	↑
Bone marrow examination	Erythroid hyperplasia	Erythroid hyperplasia

### PLASMA OR SERUM

Bilirubin	Unconjugated	Unconjugated
Haptoglobin	↓, Absent	Absent
Plasma hemoglobin	N/ ↑	↑↑
Lactate dehydrogenase	(Variable)	↑↑ (Variable)

### URINE

Bilirubin	0	0
Hemosiderin	0	+
Hemoglobin	0	+ □ severe cases



Hemoglobinuria

# Features of HEMOLYSIS

↑ Bilirubin

↑ LDH

↑ Reticulocytes, n-RBC

↓ Haptoglobulins

+ve Urinary hemosiderin, Urobilinogen

Blood Film

Spherocytes

No spherocytes

Fragmentation

DCT +ve

DCT -ve

AI Hemolysis

H. Spherocytosis

Malaria,

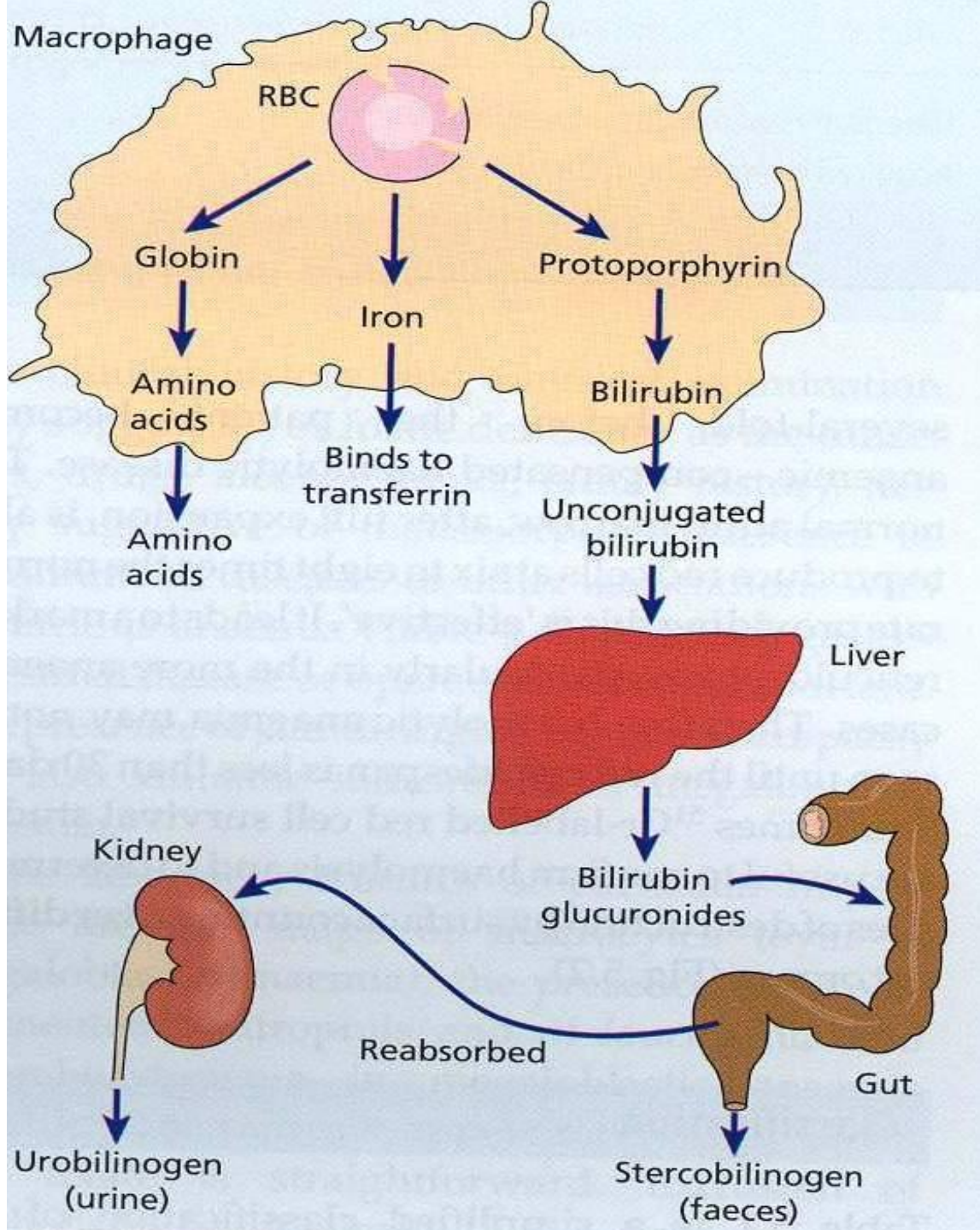
Clostridium

Hereditary enzymopathies

Microangiopathic,

Traumatic

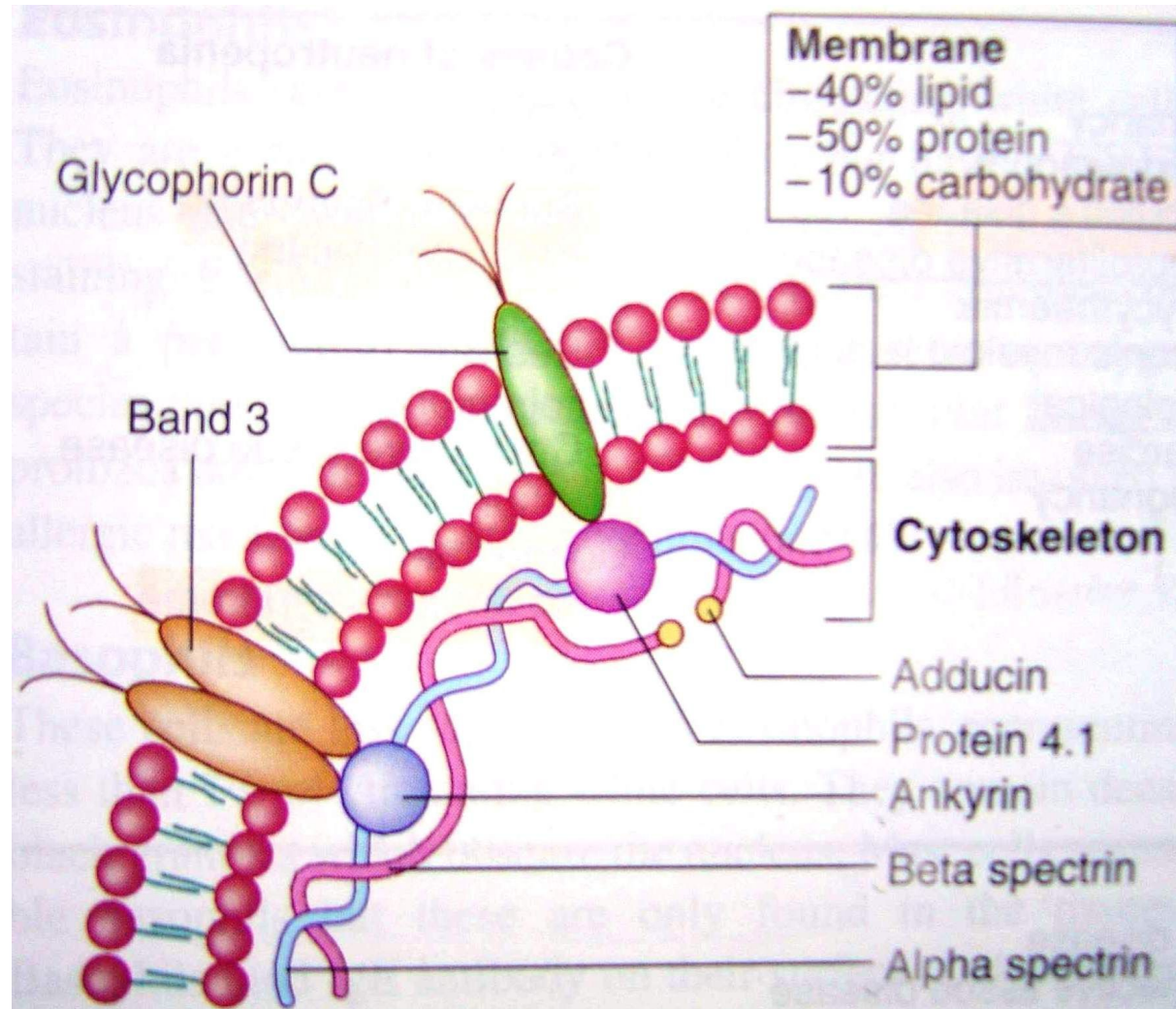




# Red Cell Membrane Defects

## 1. Hereditary Spherocytosis

- Usually inherited as AD disorder
- Defect: Deficiency of Beta Spectrin or Ankyrin □ Loss of membrane in Spleen & RES □ becomes more spherical □ Destruction in Spleen



C/F:

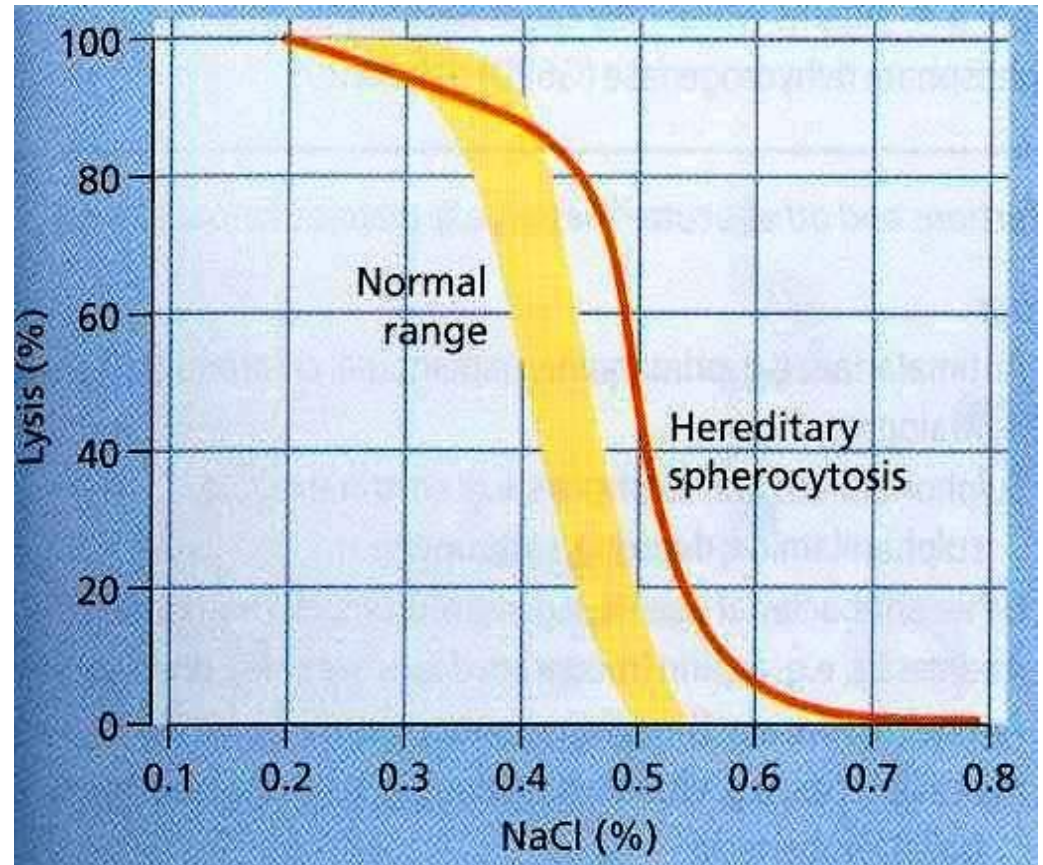
- Asymptomatic
- Fluctuating hemolysis
- Splenomegaly
- Pigmented gall stones- 50%

Clinical course may be complicated with Crisis:

- *Hemolytic Crisis*: associated with infection
- *Aplastic crisis*: associated with Parvovirus infection

• Inv:

- Test will confirm Hemolysis
- P Smear: Spherocytes
- Osmotic Fragility: Increased



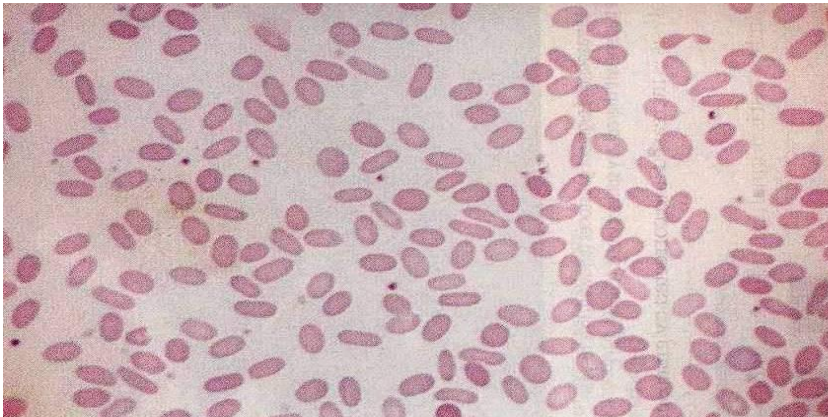
Osmotic Fragility

## 2. Hereditary Elliptocytosis

- Equatorial Africa, SE Asia
- AD / AR
- Functional abnormality in one or more anchor proteins in RBC membrane-  
Alpha spectrin , Protein 4.1
- Usually asymptomatic
- Mx: Similar to H. spherocytosis
- Variant:

### 3. SE-Asian ovalocytosis:

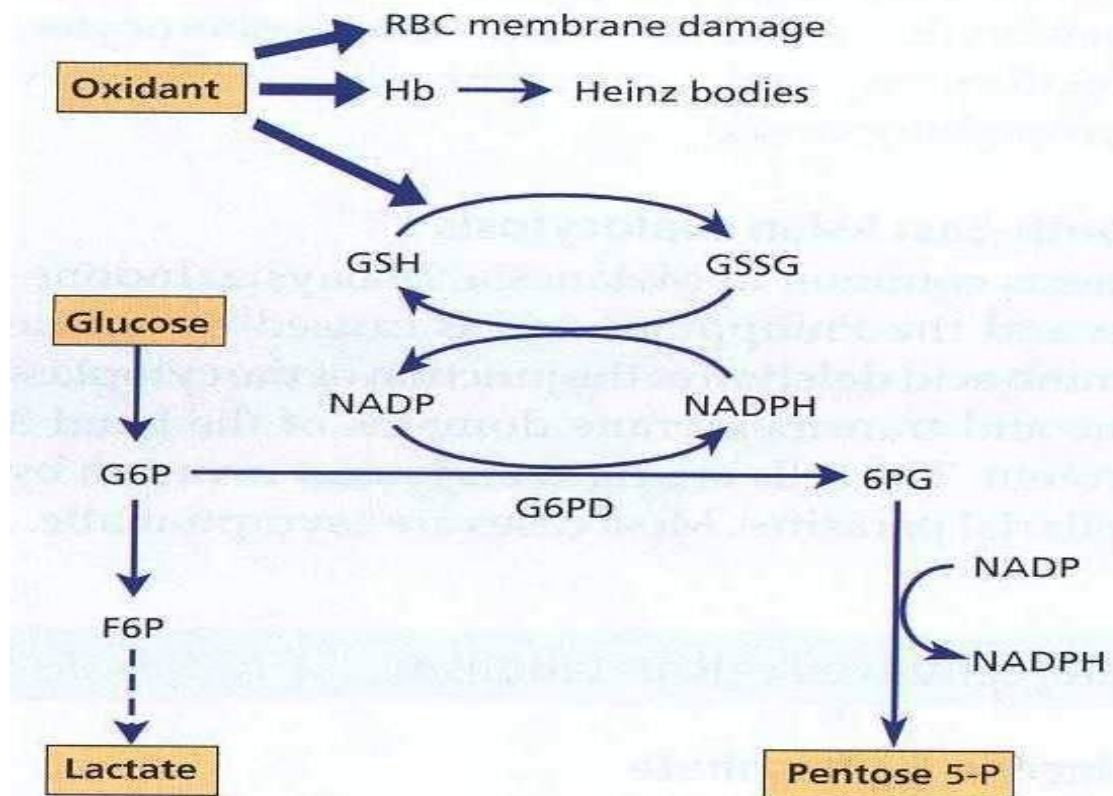
- Common in Malaysia , Indonesia...
- Asymptomatic-usually
- Cells oval , rigid ,resist invasion by malarial parasites



Elliptocytosis

# 1. Glucose-6-Phosphate Dehydrogenase ( G6PD ) Deficiency

- Pivotal enzyme in HMP Shunt & produces NADPH to protect RBC against oxidative stress
- Most common enzymopathy -10% world's population
- Protection against Malaria
- X-linked



- Clinical Features:
  - Acute drug induced hemolysis:
    - Aspirin, primaquine, quinine, chloroquine, dapsone....
  - Chronic compensated hemolysis
  - Infection/acute illness
  - Neonatal jaundice
  - Favism
- Inv:
  - e/o non-spherocytic intravascular hemolysis
  - P. Smear: Bite cells, blister cells, irregular small cells, Heinz bodies, polychromasia
  - G-6-PD level
- Treatment:
  - Stop the precipitating drug or treat the infection
  - Acute transfusions if required

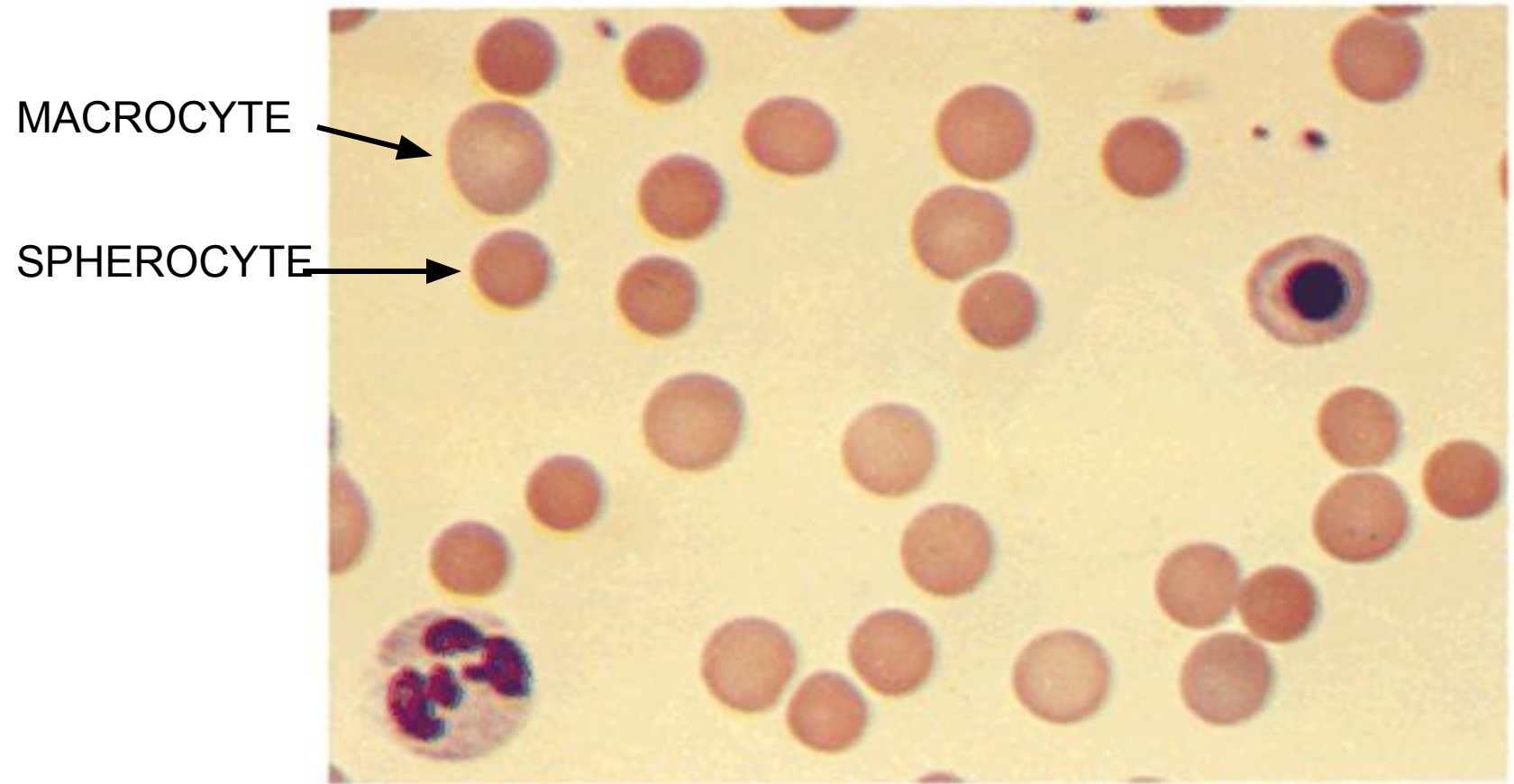
# Autoimmune Hemolytic Anemia

- Result from RBC destruction due to RBC autoantibodies: Ig G, M, E, A
- Most commonly-idiopathic
- Classification
  - Warm AI hemolysis: Ab binds at 37degree Celsius
  - Cold AI Hemolysis: Ab binds at 4 degree Celsius

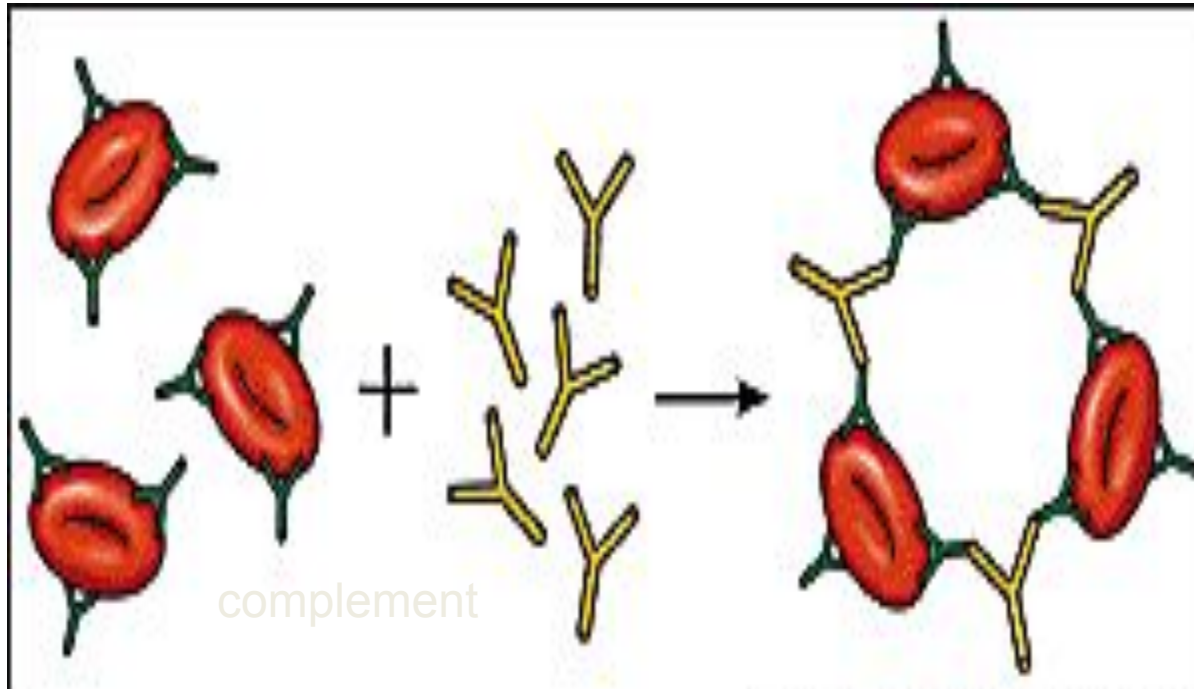
# 1. Warm AI Hemolysis:

- Can occur at all age groups
- F > M
- Causes:
  - 50% Idiopathic
  - Rest - secondary causes:
    1. Lymphoid neoplasm: CLL, Lymphoma, Myeloma
    2. Solid Tumors: Lung, Colon, Kidney, Ovary, Thymoma
    3. CTD: SLE, RA
    4. Drugs: Alpha methyl DOPA, Penicillin, Quinine, Chloroquine
    5. Misc: UC, HIV





IMMUNOHEMOLYTIC ANEMIA



## Direct antiglobulin test

*demonstrating the presence of autoantibodies (shown here) or complement on the surface of the red blood cell.*

- Inv:
  - e/o hemolysis, MCV
  - P Smear: Microspherocytosis, n-RBC
  - Confirmation: Coomb's Test / Antiglobulin test
- Treatment
  - Correct the underlying cause
  - Prednisolone 1mg/kg po until Hb reaches 10mg/dl then taper slowly and stop
  - Transfusion: for life threatening problems
  - If no response to steroids  Splenectomy or,
  - Immunosuppressive: Azathioprine, Cyclophosphamide

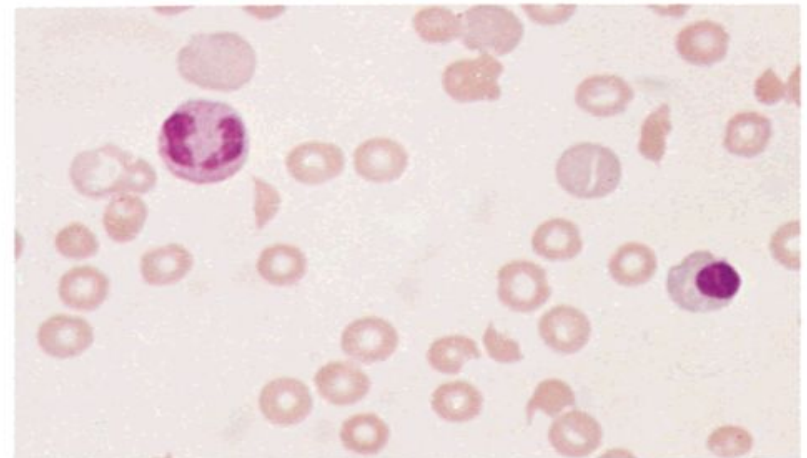
## 2. Cold AI Hemolysis

- Usually Ig M
- Acute or Chronic form
- Chronic:
  - C/F:
    - Elderly patients
    - Cold , painful & often blue fingers, toes, ears, or nose (Acrocyanosis)
- Inv:
  - e/o hemolysis
  - P Smear: Microspherocytosis
  - Ig M with specificity to I or I Ag

# Non-Immune Acquired Hemolytic Anemia

## 1. Mechanical Trauma

- A). Mechanical heart valves, Arterial grafts: cause shear stress damage
- B). March hemoglobinuria: Red cell damage in capillaries of feet
- C). Thermal injury: burns
- D). Microangiopathic hemolytic anemia (*MAHA*): by passage of RBC through fibrin strands deposited in small vessels □ disruption of RBC  
eg: DIC,PIH, Malignant HTN,TTP,HUS



# References

*Clinical Analysis and Synthesis of Symptoms and Signs on Pathophysiologic Basis*, JULIUS BAUER

*Clinical Medicine*, Kumar & Clark

*Cecil textbook of medicine*

*Harrison's principles of Internal Medicine*