






# Pre-op Correction of Iron Deficiency Anaemia

Dr Emma O'Donovan  
Haematology Consultant  
East Surrey Hospital

# Risk of transfusion; SHOT 2016

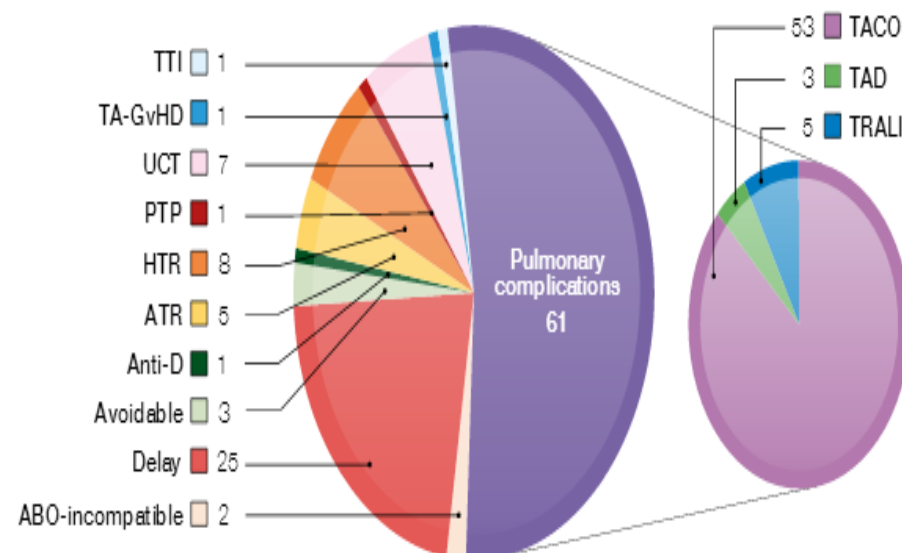
- Mortality 1 per 100,000, morbidity 5 per 100,000
- Transfusion reactions 3.5 per 100,000
- Transfusion related circulatory overload (TACO) 1.5 per 100,000
- Transfusion associated dyspnoea 0.2 per 100,000
- Viral transmission 10 episodes in 10yrs;
  - <1 in million HIV 1 + 2
  - <1 in million hepatitis C
  - <1 in million hepatitis B.
  - <1 in million hepatitis E
- CJD. None since 1999
- Bacterial infection 10 episodes in 10yrs.
- ?Next new risk

# SHOT REPORT 2016

TACO Checklist	Red cell transfusion for non-bleeding patients	If 'yes' to any of these questions
	<p>Does the patient have a diagnosis of 'heart failure' congestive cardiac failure (CCF), severe aortic stenosis, or moderate to severe left ventricular dysfunction?</p> <p>Is the patient on a regular diuretic?</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the need for transfusion (do the benefits outweigh the risks)?</li> </ul>
	<p>Is the patient known to have pulmonary oedema?</p> <p>Does the patient have respiratory symptoms of undiagnosed cause?</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can the transfusion be safely deferred until the issue can be investigated, treated or resolved?</li> </ul>
	<p>Is the fluid balance clinically significantly positive?</p> <p>Is the patient on concomitant fluids (or has been in the past 24 hours)?</p> <p>Is there any peripheral oedema?</p> <p>Does the patient have hypoalbuminaemia?</p> <p>Does the patient have significant renal impairment?</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider body weight dosing for red cells (especially if low body weight)</li> <li>Transfuse one unit (red cells) and review symptoms of anaemia</li> <li>Measure the fluid balance</li> <li>Consider giving a prophylactic diuretic</li> <li>Monitor the vital signs closely, including oxygen saturation</li> </ul>

Due to the differences in adult and neonatal physiology, babies may have a different risk for TACO. Calculate the dose by weight and observe the notes above.

Pulmonary complications, particularly transfusion-associated circulatory overload (TACO), cause the most deaths and major morbidity. Delayed transfusions are an important cause of death, 25/115 (21.7%) 2010 to 2016



# We need to optimise the Haemoglobin pre-op

- To reduce Transfusions
  - To reduce Length of Stay
  - To reduce Morbidity
  - To reduce Mortality
  - To improve QOL
- 
- How can we do this?

1. Identify anaemia
2. Identify cause
3. Treat cause

Simples.....



# Anaemia – a minor detour

- WHO: 130 g/L men, 120 women (1968)



**Iron Deficiency Anaemia**

**Assessment, Prevention, and Control**

# Gender bias?

- Women are smaller than men
- Women have smaller body surface area and less blood
- Women bleed just as much as men!
- **Question** - Should we be aiming for an Hb > 130 g/L in men and women?

Anaesthesia 2018

doi:10.1111/anae.14185

# Original Article

---

## The association between borderline pre-operative anaemia in women and outcomes after cardiac surgery: a cohort study

**G. Blaudszun,<sup>1</sup> K. E. Munting,<sup>1</sup> A. Butchart,<sup>1</sup> C. Gerrard<sup>2</sup> and A. A. Klein<sup>3</sup>**

*1 Fellow, 2 Information Analyst, 3 Consultant, Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care, Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, UK*



# Answer – Yes, Probably

- Women with Hb 120-130 have ↑ morbidity
  - 24% had Hb <120 g/l “anaemic”
  - 29% had Hb 120–129 g/l “borderline anaemic”
  - 47% had Hb ≥ 130 g/l “not anaemic”
- Blood Transfusion ( $p=0.0001$ ) RR1.5 (1.4–1.7):
  - “Borderline anaemic” transfused **69%**
  - “Not anaemic” transfused **45%**
- “Borderline anaemia” received more units ( $p=0.0001$ )
- LOS significantly longer;  $p=0.0159$ .
  - “Borderline anaemic” **8d** (6–12 [3–45])
  - “Not anaemic” **7d** (6–11 [4–6])
- No significant difference in long/short term survival

# What IS iron deficiency?

- Absolute Iron deficiency
  - A condition where there is an inadequate amount of mobilisable iron stores resulting in a compromise in iron supply to tissues.
- Functional Iron deficiency (Anaemia of chronic disease)
  - Where there is insufficient iron incorporation into erythroid precursors in the face of adequate iron stores.

**bjh** guideline

## Guideline for the laboratory diagnosis of functional iron deficiency

D. Wayne Thomas,<sup>1</sup> Rod F. Hinchliffe,<sup>2</sup> Carol Briggs,<sup>3</sup> Iain C. Macdougall,<sup>4</sup> Tim Littlewood<sup>5</sup> and Ivor Cavill<sup>6</sup>  
on behalf of British Committee for Standards in Haematology

# How do I Dx Iron deficiency?

- Simple? NO!
- **Ferritin**
  - LOW <12=absolute Iron deficiency
  - EXCEPT in <100=high likelihood of IDA
    - Infection <200=high likelihood of IDA IF on dialysis
    - Surgery <1500=cannot exclude functional iron deficiency
    - Inflammation
    - Cancer
- **MCV/MCH**
  - LOW (but only in severe IDA)
  - EXCEPT in
    - Thalassaemia
    - Blood loss (is a very late marker)

**Transferrin saturation** • LOW

**TIBC**

**Reticulocytes**

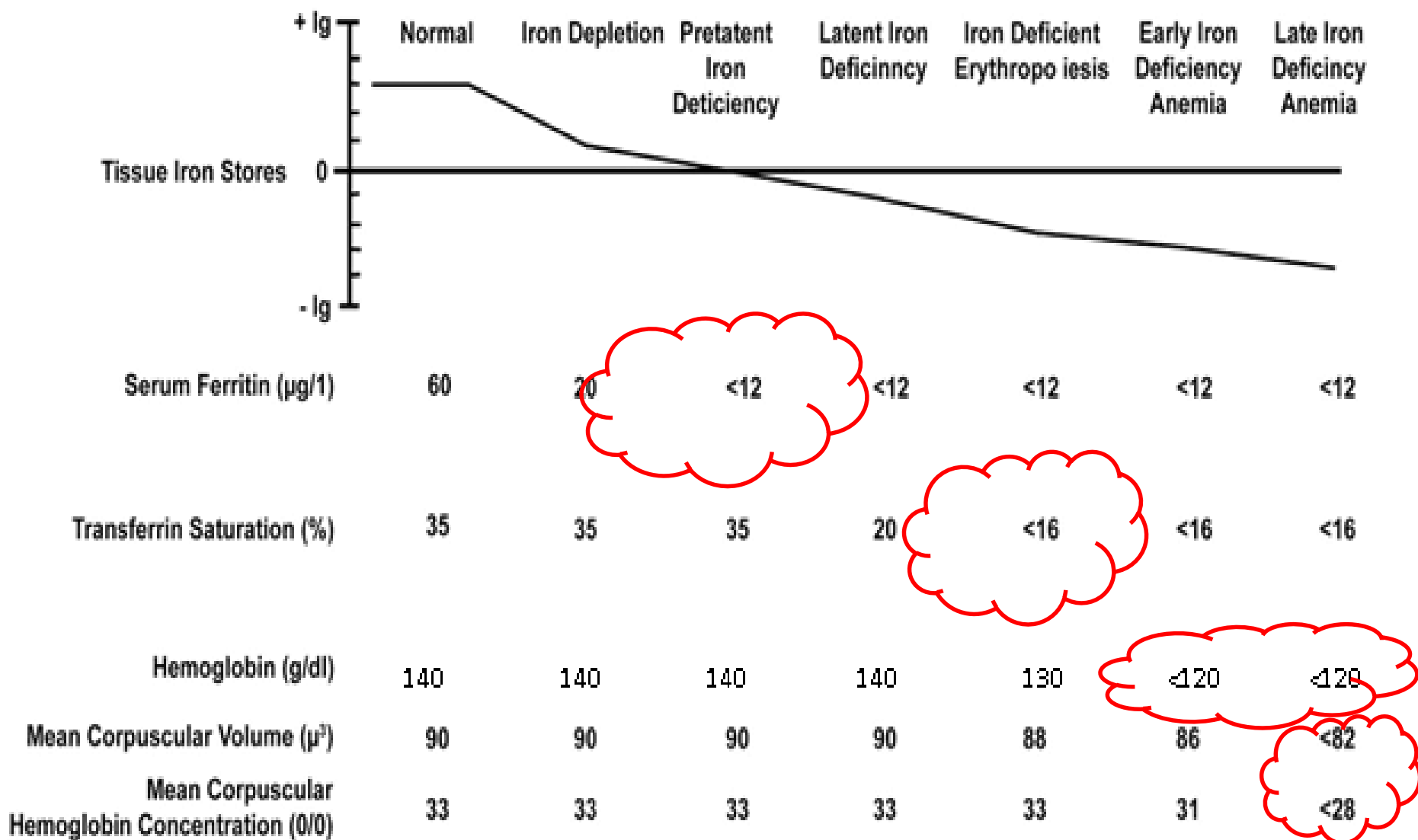
**Erythropoietin**

**Bone marrow iron stores**

- FALLS in inflammation
- HIGH
- EXCEPT in inflammation
- HIGH in bleeding
- LOW in IDA, CKD, BMF
- HIGH
- EXCEPT in CKD, Cancer
- Expensive
- Invariably low in true iron deficiency
- Unrealistic to use routinely

# A Plea

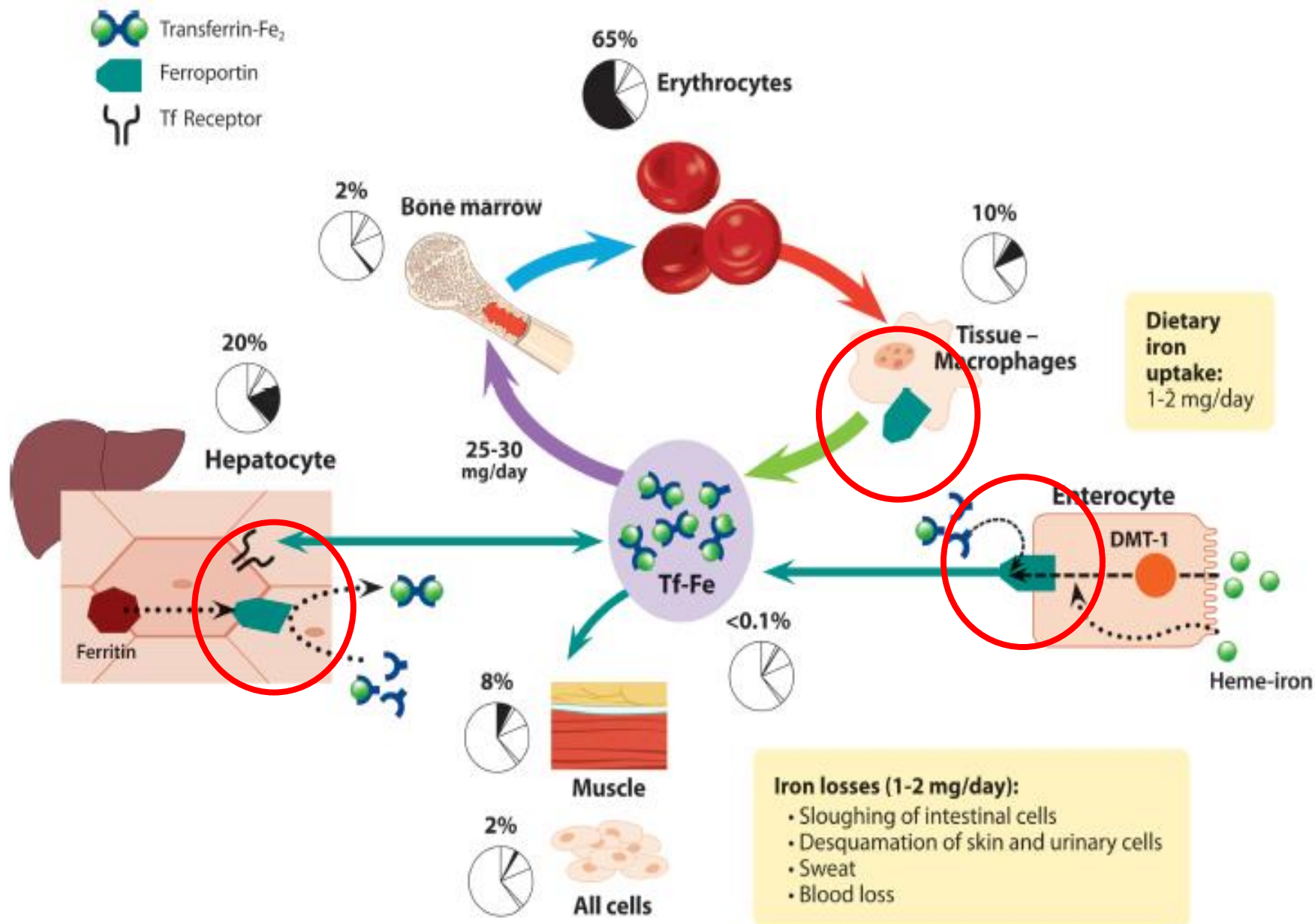
- Don't EVER look at serum iron



# Why the variability in results?

## A brief science interlude....

- ~50mg iron in diet/day
- Absorbed from enterocyte via Ferroportin molecule.
- Transported in blood on Transferrin molecule.
- Stored in hepatocytes, tissue macrophages & BM.
- Transported from blood to storage via Ferroportin.
- Released from storage when required via Ferroportin.





# Hepcidin

- A regulator of iron homeostasis
- Amino acid produced mainly in the liver.
- Acts by binding to Ferroportin.
- Blocks Ferroportin absorption of Fe in intestinal cells leading to iron deficiency.
- Blocks Ferroportin release of Fe from macrophages and hepatocytes.

# Hepcidin action

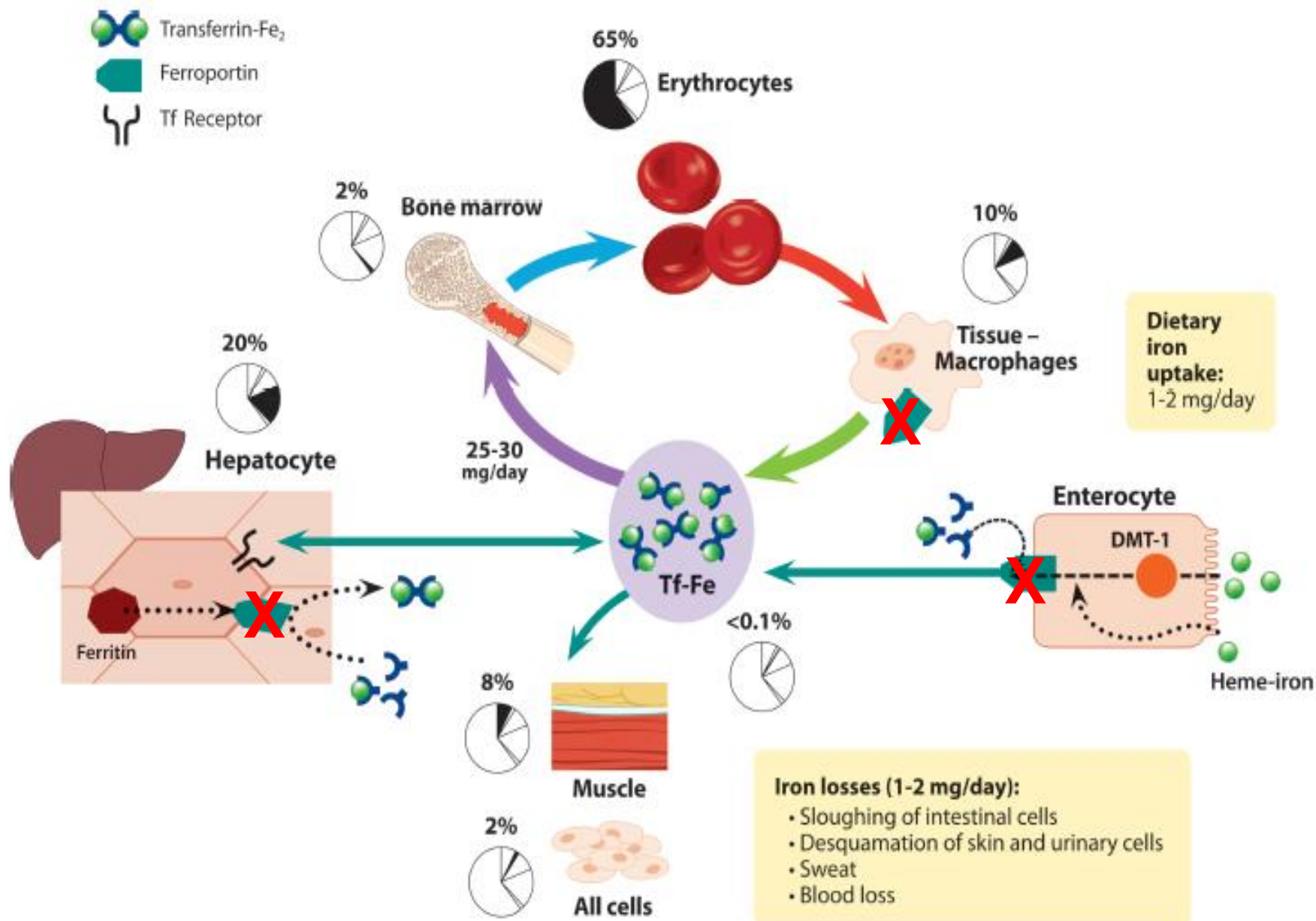
## INCREASED LEVELS

- ↑ Ferroportin blockade
- ↓ Absorption & storage Fe
- ↑ in iron overload
- BUT

## REDUCED LEVELS

- ↓ Ferroportin blockade
- ↑ Absorption & storage Fe
- ↓ in acute blood loss
- ↓ in iron deficiency,
- ↓ hypoxia

↑ in INFLAMMATION via IL-6      ↓ CLD as produced in liver.  
↑ CKD as cleared by the kidney.  
Ageing is a pro-inflammatory state,  
so ↑ with age.



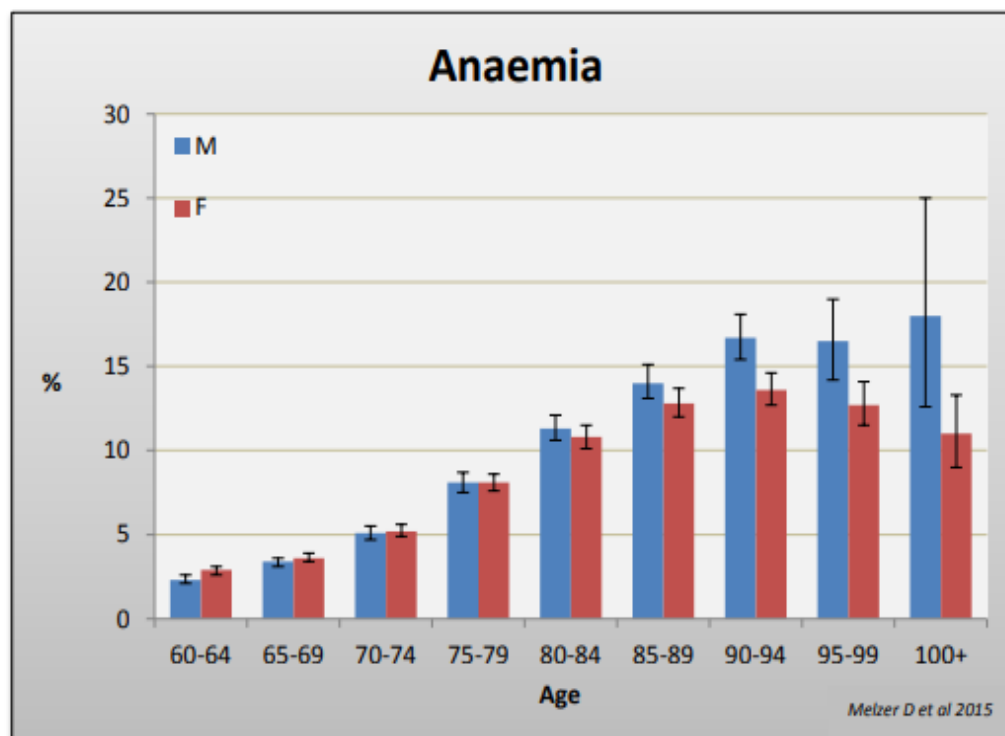
# Simples?

1. Identify anaemia
2. Identify cause
3. Treat cause



# 1. Identify Anaemia

**Figure 18: Prevalence of recorded anaemia (all types) in English general practice records in 2014. Previous 5 years of GP patient history considered.**



*Note: Estimate from CPRD records based on clinical codes entered in anonymised GP records up to 5 years previously, with 95% confidence intervals.*

•Source Age UK 2015

# By Whom?

- GP?
- Pre-assessment clinic?
- Pre-op anaemia clinic?
- How is anaemia communicated between teams....?



## 2. Identify cause

- 1/3 are nutritional
  - Iron, Folate, B12 deficiency
  - 12% Iron deficient patients have GI malignancy
- 1/3 have functional iron deficiency
  - Inflammatory diseases
  - CKD
  - Cancer
- 1/3 have no cause identified.
  - Bone marrow cause?

# 3. Treat cause

**NICE** National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence

NICE Quality Statement 138

- **Patients with iron-deficiency anaemia who are having surgery should be offered iron supplementation before and after surgery.**
- Pre-operative anaemia is associated with increased morbidity and mortality, and increased transfusion.
- Treating iron deficiency with iron supplements can reduce the need for blood transfusion.
- This avoids serious risks associated with blood transfusion e.g. infection, fluid overload and mismatch.
- May also reduce the length of hospital stays and cost to the NHS.
- Depending on the circumstances, the cause of the iron deficiency should be investigated before or after surgery.



Anaesthesia 2017

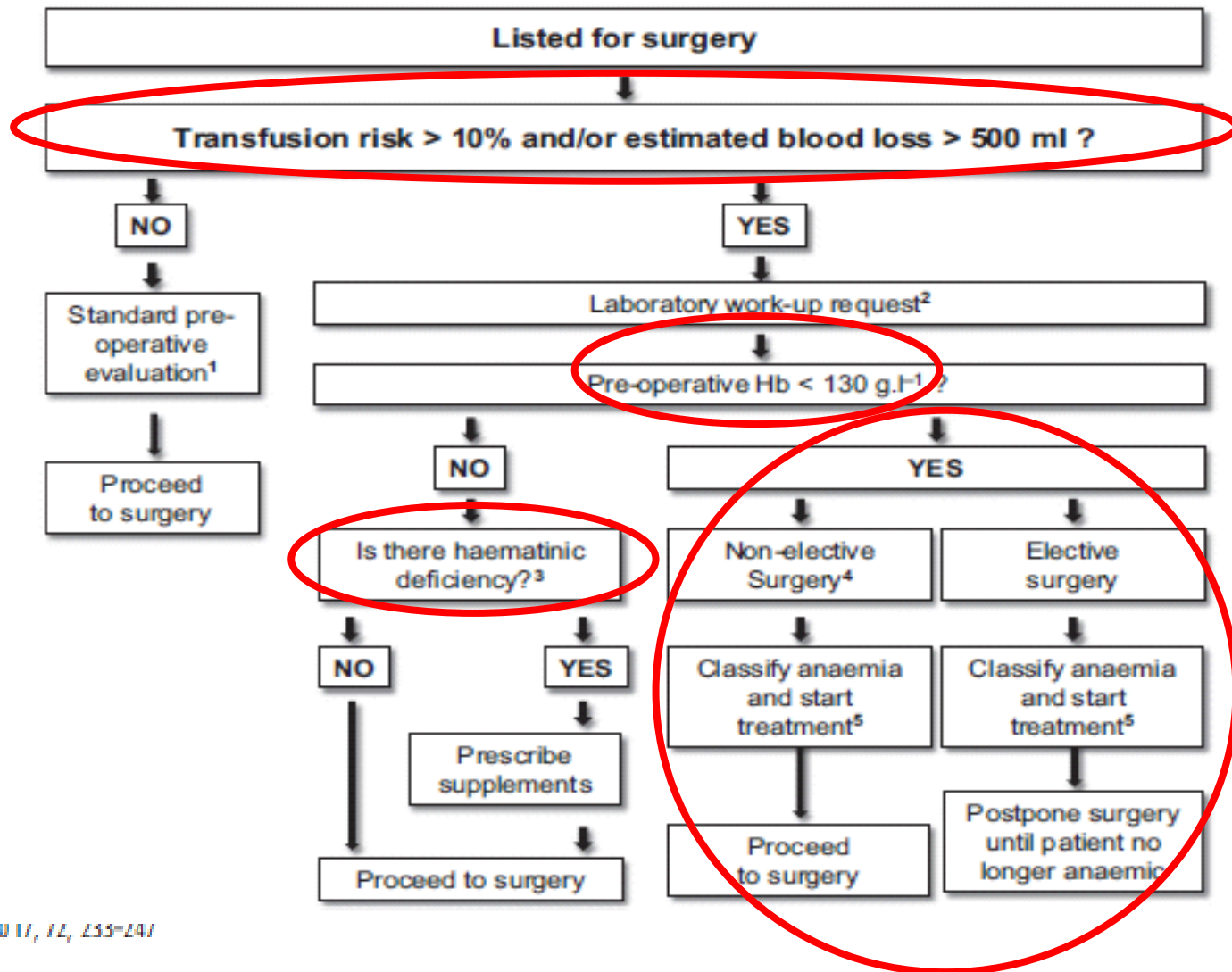
doi:10.1111/anae.13773

# Consensus Statement

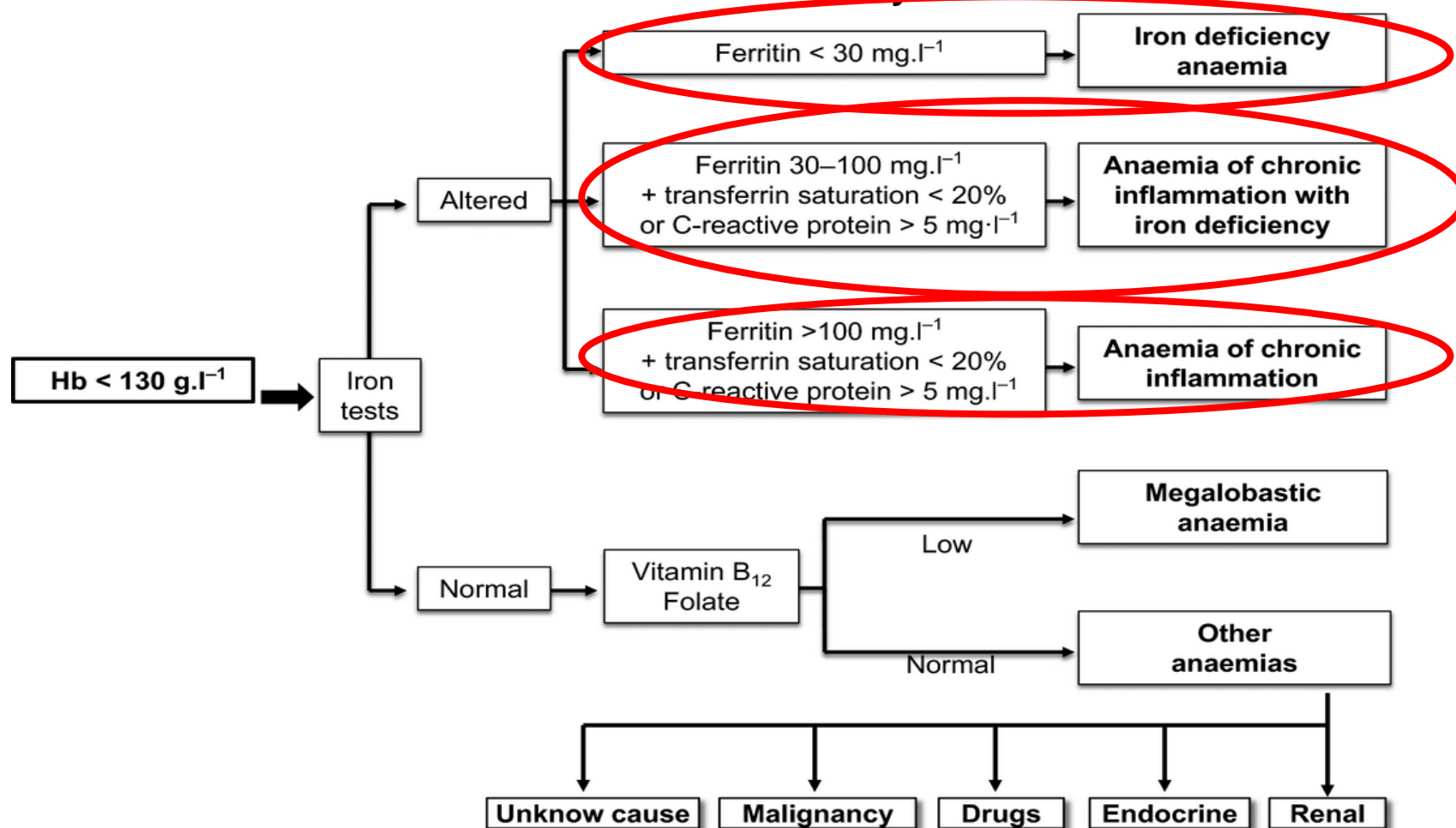
## International consensus statement on the peri-operative management of anaemia and iron deficiency

M. Muñoz,<sup>1</sup> A. G. Acheson,<sup>2</sup> M. Auerbach,<sup>3</sup> M. Besser,<sup>4</sup> O. Habler,<sup>5</sup> H. Kehlet,<sup>6</sup> G. M. Liumbruno,<sup>7</sup>  
S. Lasocki,<sup>8</sup> P. Meybohm,<sup>9</sup> R. Rao Baikady,<sup>10</sup> T. Richards,<sup>11</sup> A. Shander,<sup>12</sup> C. So-Osman,<sup>13</sup>  
D. R. Spahn<sup>14</sup> and A. A. Klein<sup>15</sup>

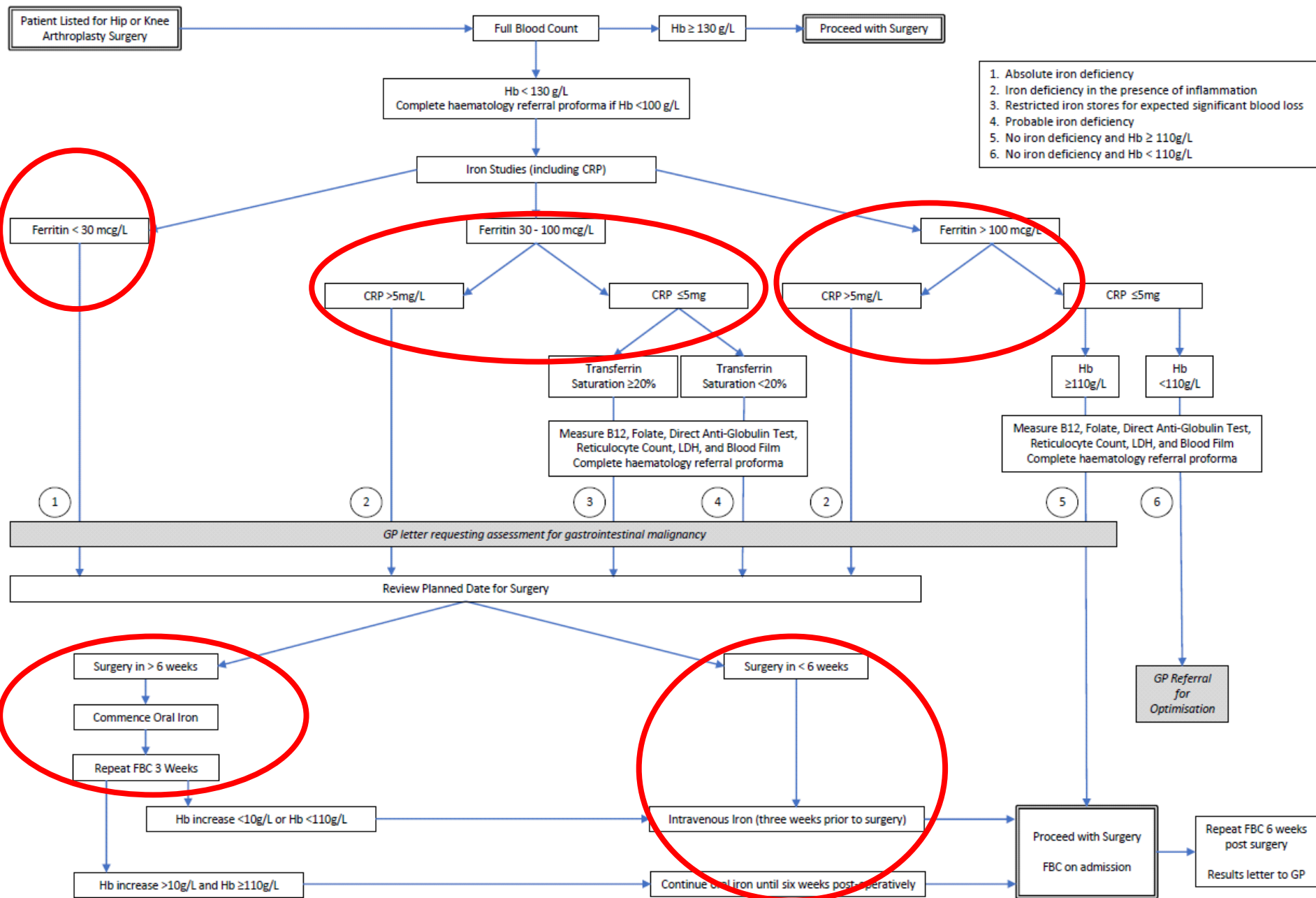
# Algorithm for the Management of a Surgical Patient



## International consensus statement on the peri-operative management of anaemia and iron deficiency



# Pre-Operative Anaemia Algorithm for Males and Females Hip and Knee Arthroplasty Surgery: Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre



UIBC	^58	umol/L			Auth
TIBC	60	umol/L	(	45 to 70	) Auth
% saturation	3	%	(	25 to 56	) Auth
Ferritin	9	ug/L	(	30 to 400	) Auth
Vitamin B12	341	ng/L	(	197 to 771	) Auth
Folate	19.5	ug/L			Auth
Comments :					
Folate Reference Range: > 3.8 ug/L					
WBC	7.7	10 <sup>9</sup> /L	(	3.7 to 11.1	) Auth
RBC	3.14	10 <sup>12</sup> /L	(	4.32 to 5.6	) Auth
Hb	68	g/l	(	130 to 170	) Auth

Iron	4	umol/L	(	5.8 to 34.5	) Auth
UIBC	^69	umol/L			Auth
TIBC	73	umol/L	(	45 to 70	) Auth
% saturation	5	%	(	14 to 51	) Auth
Ferritin	3	ug/L	(	13 to 150	) Auth
Vitamin B12	563	ng/L	(	197 to 771	) Auth
Folate	6.6	ug/L			Auth
Comments :					

# But?

- HOW?
  - WHO?
  - WHERE?
  - COST?
- 
- Hopefully we have convinced you of why?

# Business Case: Anaemia Clinic

- **Advantages:**

- Reduction in pre-operative anaemia
- Reduction in blood transfusion
- Potential for reduction in post operative morbidity and mortality
- Economic benefits associated with reduced length of stay in hospital
- Potential for income generation in the form of tariff for treatment of pre-operative anaemia

- **Disadvantages:**

- Requirement for additional staffing
- Requirement for training of staff

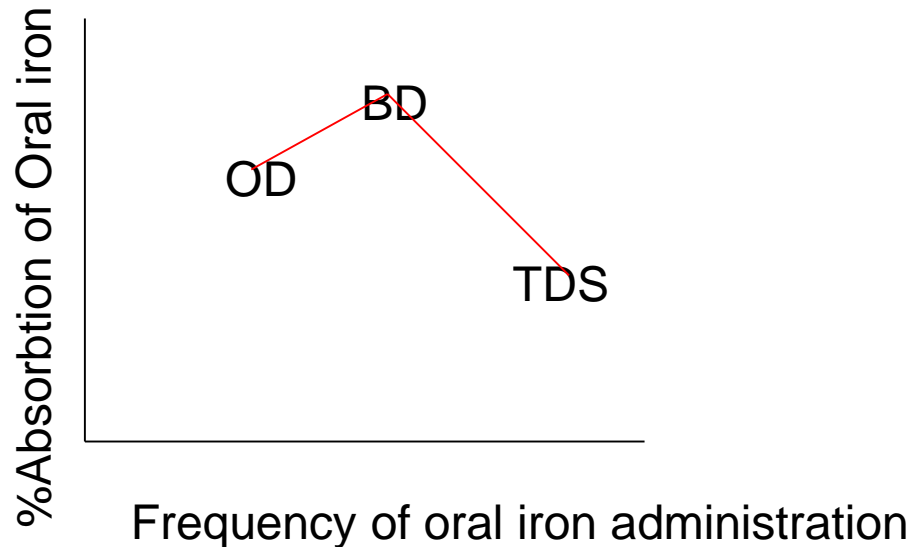
**Example – Colorectal pre-op anaemia clinic. 2000pts/yr**

£324.00 expenditure per patient

£255.00 overall savings per patient -> TOTAL SAVING £510,000

# Oral Iron

- Use if >6 weeks pre-surgery, test at 3 weeks to confirm response
- Takes ~4 weeks to have an effect
- Frequently poorly tolerated – GI side effects, poor compliance.
- Evidence presented at BSH 2017



- Takes 3 months to fully replace iron stores
- Absorption best if
  - On an empty stomach (advice often to take on full stomach to reduce SE)
  - With acidic drink (Vitamin C)
  - Avoid tannins (tea) Calcium and PPI's to optimise absorption



# Intravenous Iron

- Can't or won't take oral iron
- Fail to respond to oral iron in 4 weeks
- < 4 weeks to surgery
- Average 6.6g/L better Hb increase with IV than PO, and 18% average reduction in transfusion **Litton et al. BMJ 2013**
- Single dose – as much as possible in one visit (20 mg/kg)\*
- Ferrinject max dose 1000mg/dose (2 doses)
- Monofer max dose 2000mg/dose (1 dose)

\*Dose limitations per single administration vary between different IV iron preparations, please refer to the product SPC for full prescribing information

**NICE** National Institute for  
Health and Care Excellence

Putting NICE guidance into practice

## **Costing statement: Blood transfusion**

**Implementing the NICE guideline on  
blood transfusion (NG24)**



# IV iron vs transfusion

- Blood costs £170-1<sup>st</sup> unit, £162 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> units
- Ferrinject used at SASH £154/1000mg
- 15 min infusion vs overnight stay for blood
- Low risk (IV iron) vs mod risk (blood)
- Blood gives symptomatic relief at 24-48hrs, but doesn't treat cause.
- IV iron gives improvement HB within 7 days. Maximum Hb seen 4-6weeks

# Side Effects of Ferrinject

- Mild side effects 1 to 10%
  - headache, arthralgia
  - dizziness,
  - rash,
  - nausea and vomiting,
  - abdominal pain,
  - muscle cramps,
  - diarrhoea,
  - constipation,
  - abnormal liver function,
  - low or high blood pressure
  - injection site reactions.
  - Increased infections
- Anaphylaxis(1/10000 to 1/1000)



# To Summarise

- Use 130g/L as cutoff for anaemia in male and female patients
- Use Ferritin <100 Transferrin% <20% and CRP >5 in diagnosis of IDA (=normal range in APEX)
- DON'T LOOK AT SERUM IRON
- GP referral for ?GI malignancy is recommended for all uninvestigated IDA
- Use PO Iron if there is >6 weeks pre-op, OD with dietary advice.
- Recheck FBC after 3 weeks to ensure response
- If intolerant or unresponsive to PO, or there is <4 weeks to surgery, use IV iron.
- If there is functional Iron deficiency with ferritin >100 but CRP<5, further investigation may be required, but IV iron may help.
- Consider pre-op anaemia flowchart for your specific population needs and consider a business case for a pre op anaemia clinic.

# Thank You!

- Any Questions?