

Anaemia 1

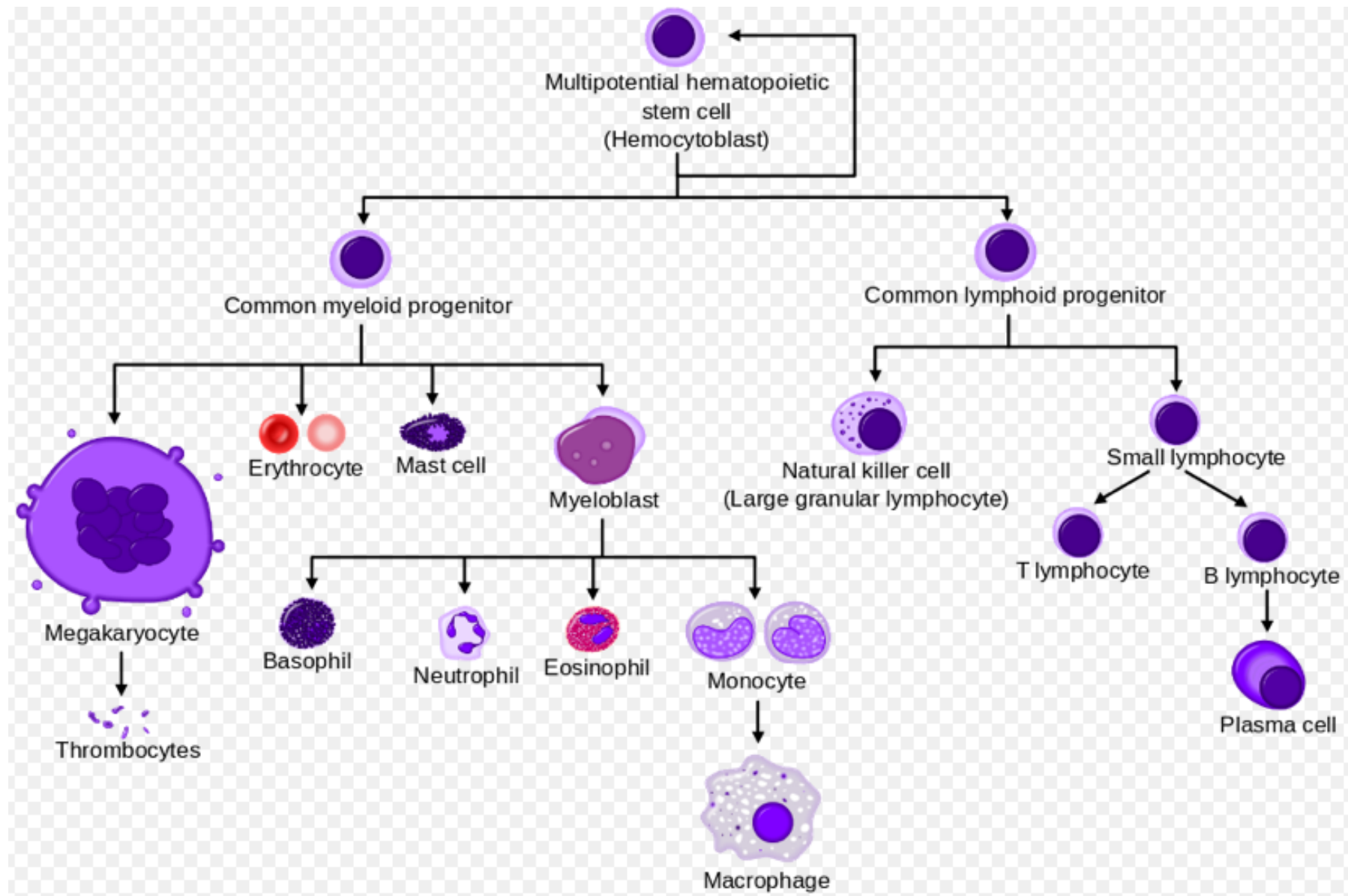
Rory McCulloch

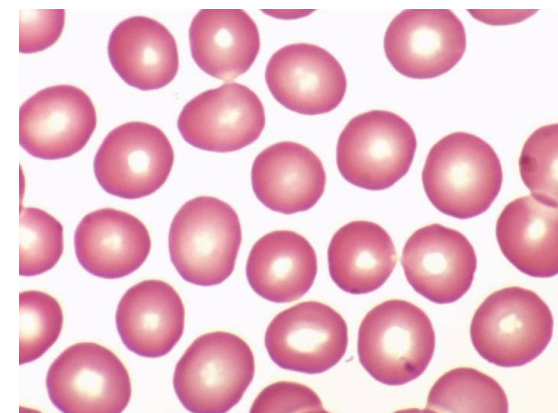
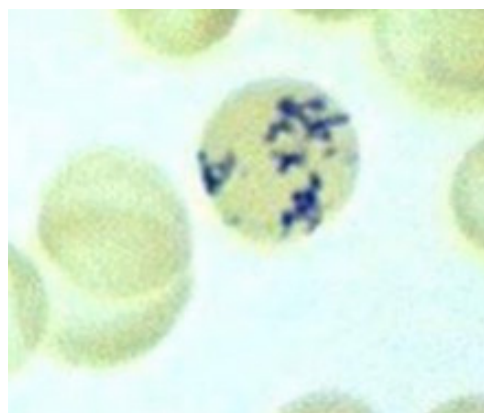
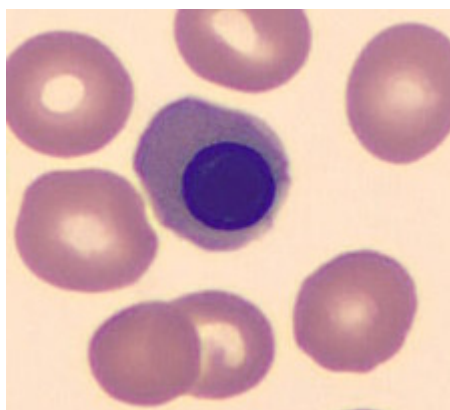
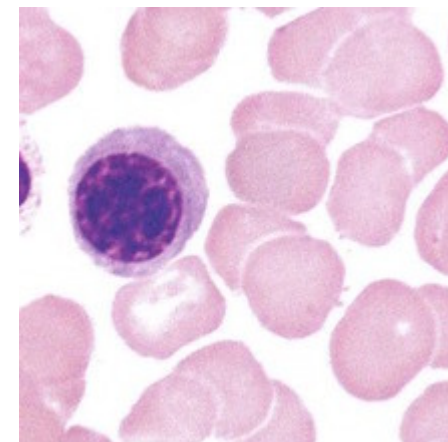
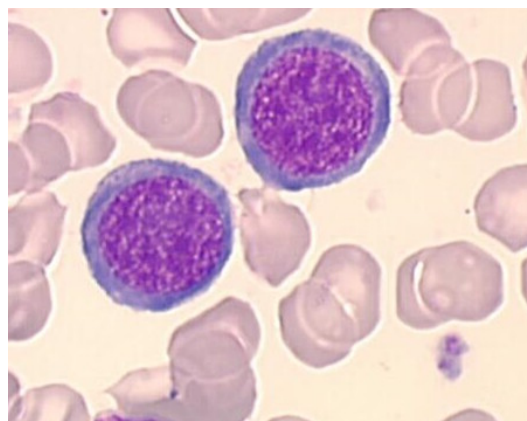
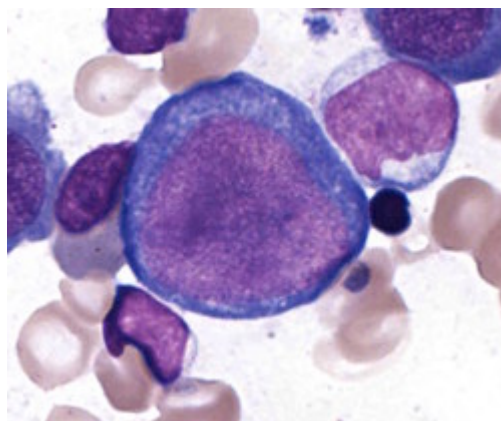
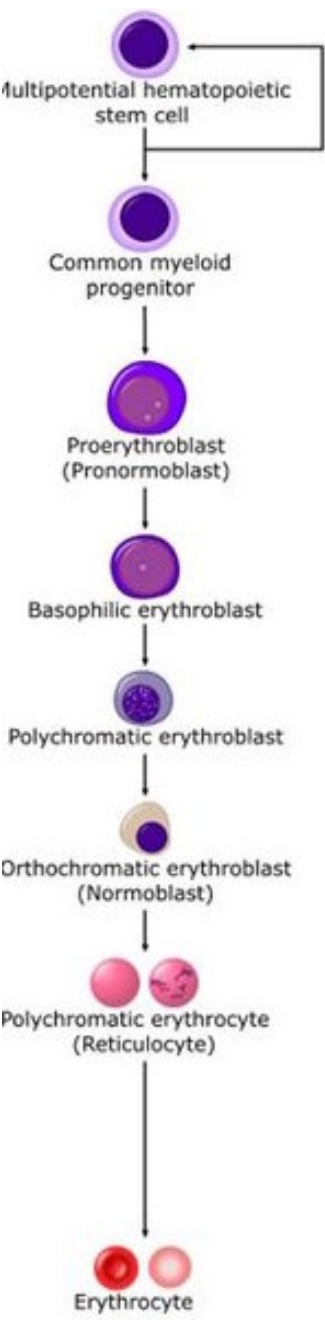
Specialty Trainee Haematology

Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital

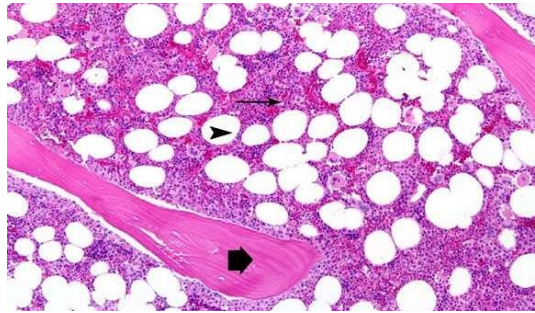
Overview

- Anaemia 1
 - Haematological disorders
- Anaemia 2
 - Non-haematological disorders





Erythroid homeostasis



Bone marrow

Substrates: Iron,
folate, vitamin B12

Globin chain
synthesis

Red cell
mass

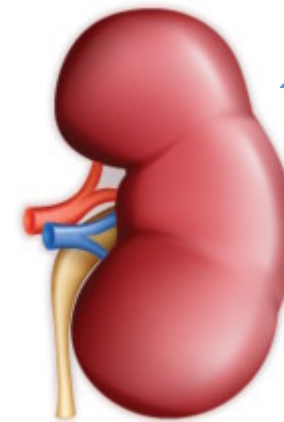
Destruction in spleen
(~1% per day)

Lung function

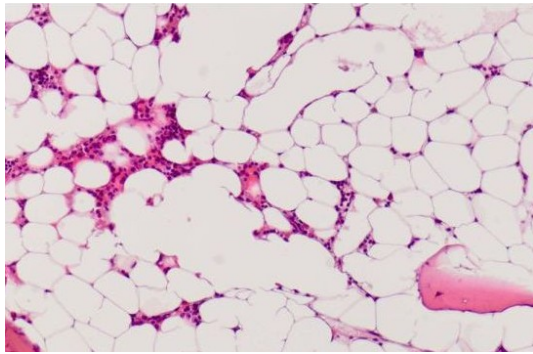
Atmospheric O₂
levels

Organ oxygenation:
Peritubular capillary
cells of the kidney

EPO



Causes of anaemia



Bone marrow failure

EPO
deficiency

Substrate deficiency:
Iron, folate, vitamin B12

Globin chain
synthesis
abnormality

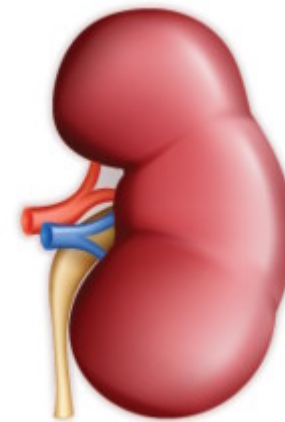
Red cell
mass

Blood loss

Intravascular haemolysis

Increased destruction
in spleen

Organ oxygenation:
Peritubular capillary
cells of the kidney



Case 1

- 53 year old female
- PC: Fatigue
- Noticed decreased exercise tolerance over last 6 weeks. Breathless on walking up incline.
- O/E: Pallor of conjunctiva. No palpable hepatosplenomegaly or lymph nodes.

FBC

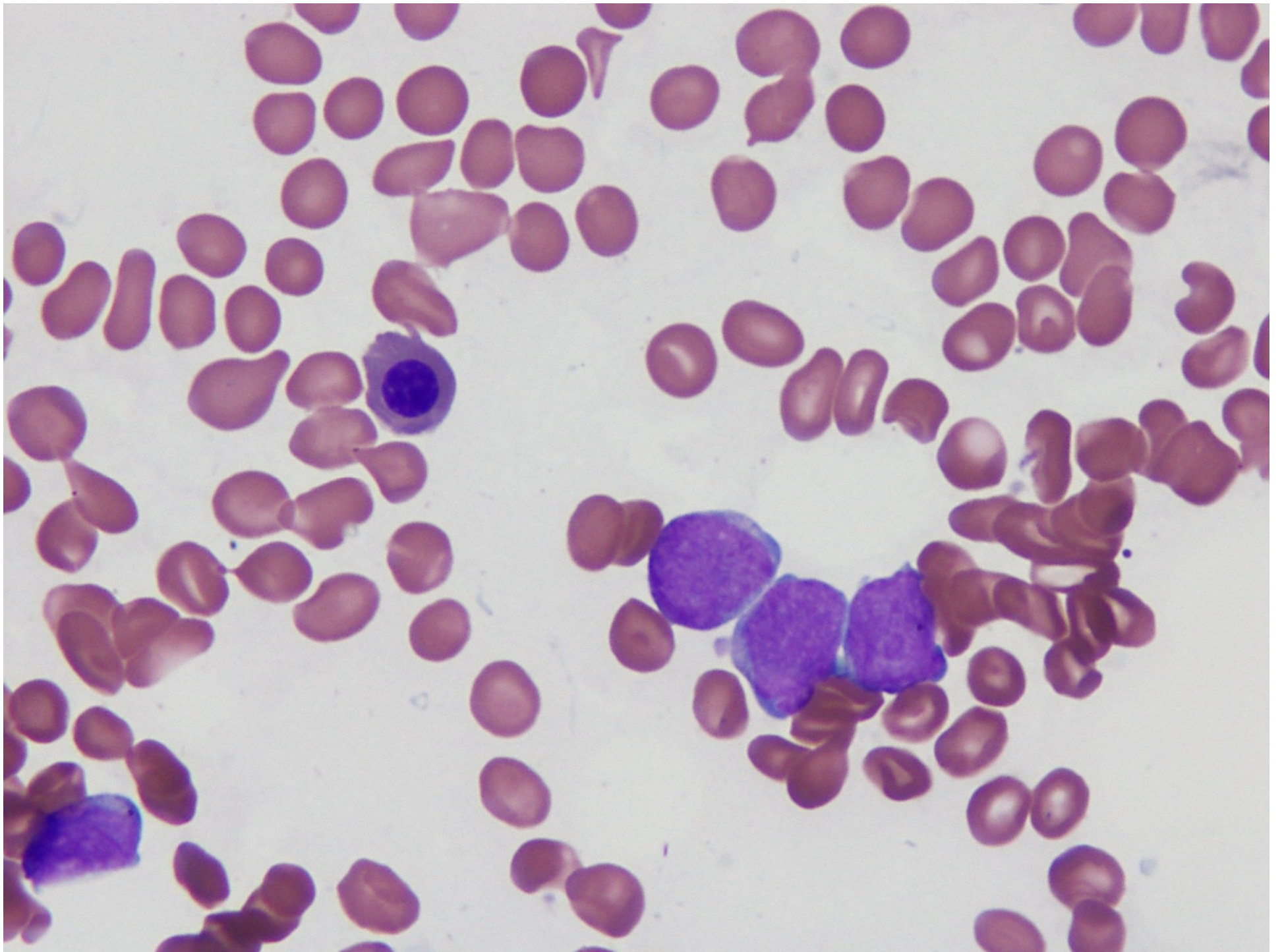
	Value	Reference
Haemoglobin	78 g/L	120-160
WCC	1.1 x 10 ⁹ /L	3.6-11
Platelets	20 x 10 ⁹ /L	150-400
Neutrophils	0.11 x 10 ⁹ /L	1.8-7.5
MCV	111.5 fL	82-98
Reticulocytes	20 x 10 ⁹ /L	50-100

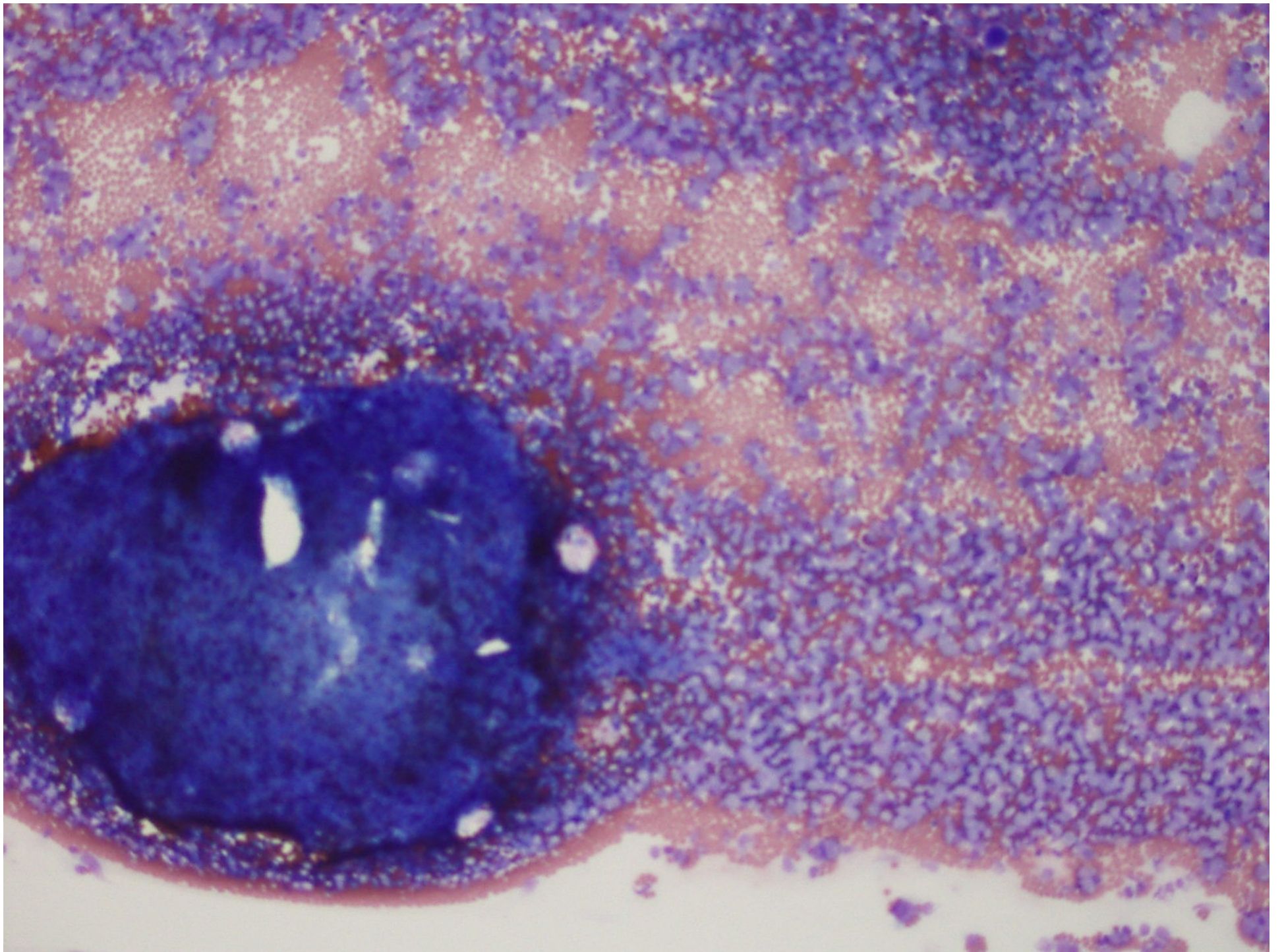
Blood film comment

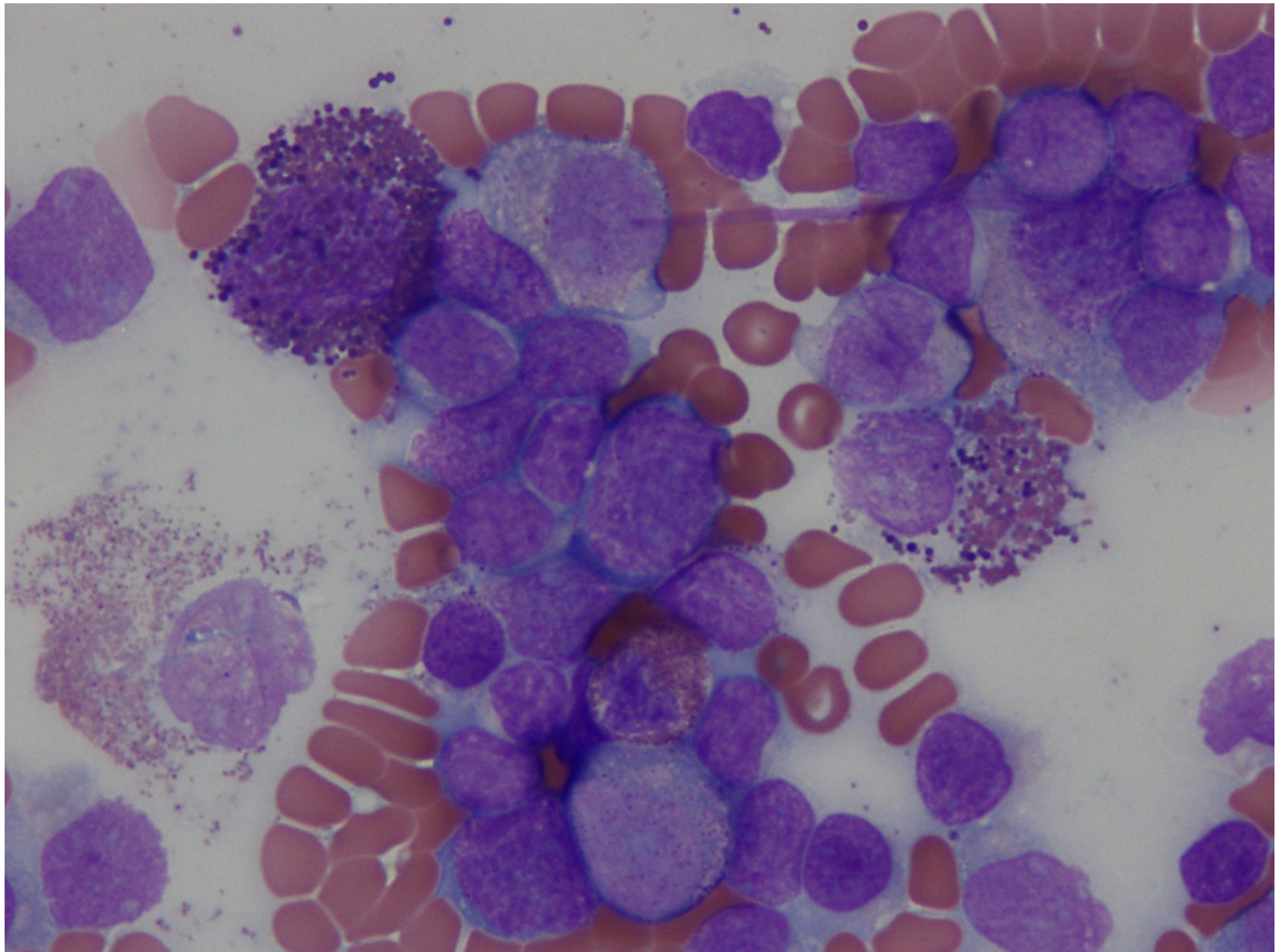
- “Leuco-erythroblastic blood picture with atypical/reactive lymphoid cells. Macrocytosis ++ and platelet count appears genuine.”

Differential Diagnosis

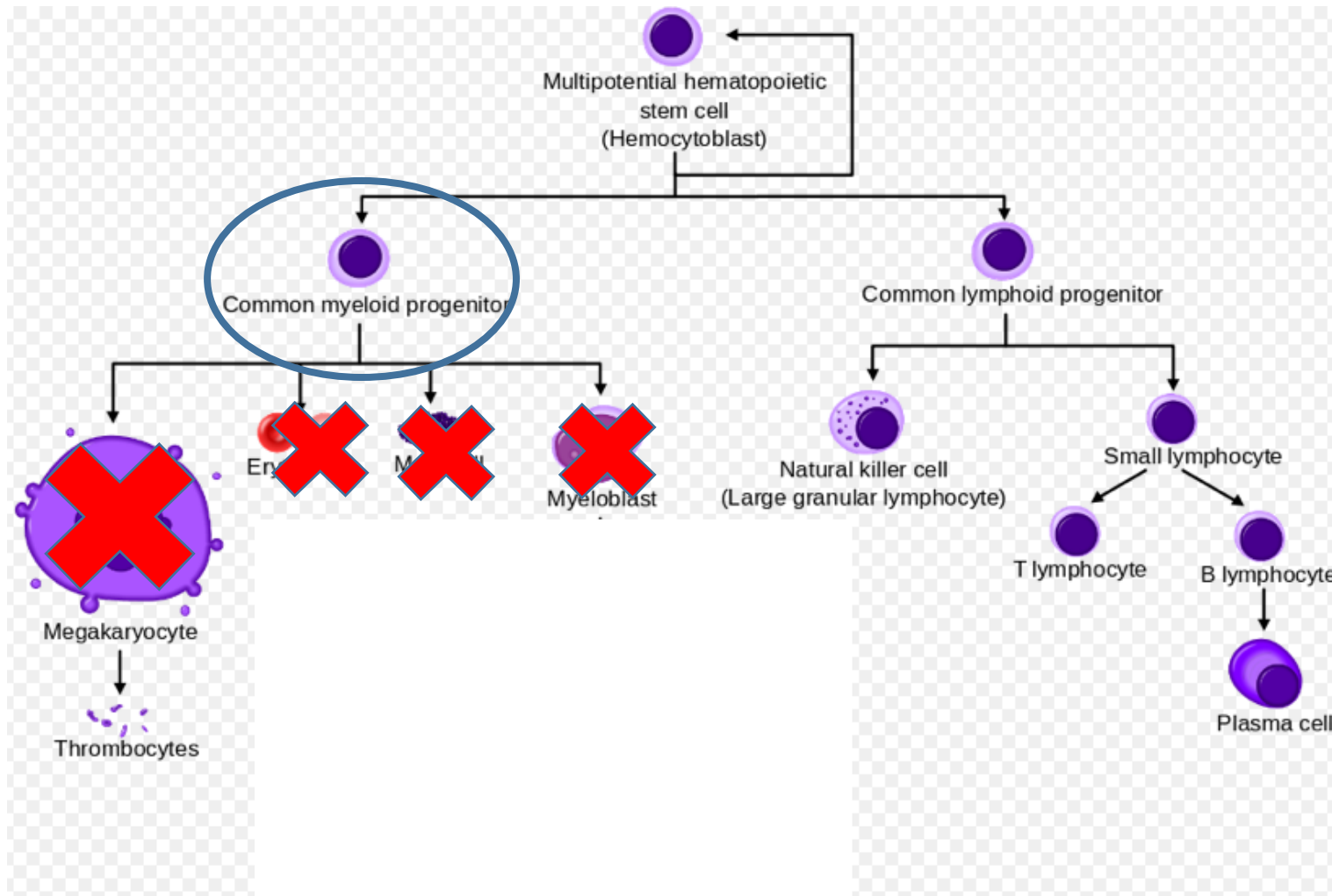
- Acute Leukaemia (Myeloid or Lymphoblastic)
- Myelodysplasia
- Myelofibrosis
- Other haematological malignancy with heavy bone marrow involvement
- Aplastic Anaemia
- ?Autoimmune
- B12/ Folate deficiency







Acute Myeloid Leukaemia



Acute Myeloid Leukaemia

- Fatigue
- New spontaneous bleeding/ bruising
- Bone pains
- Rapid onset of symptoms

FBC

- Pancytopenia
- Peripheral blasts
- Leukoerythroblastic blood film

Action

- Urgent Haematology phone referral
- If any bleeding symptoms consider DIC: send clotting profile plus D-dimer

Treatment

- Induction chemotherapy
- Consider allogeneic stem cell transplant

Case 2

- 68 year male
- PC: FU for hypertension
- Feels well. No recent infections.
- PMH: Hypertension
- DH: Ramipril, simvastatin
- O/E Nil to find

FBC

	Value	Reference
Haemoglobin	108 g/L	120-160
WCC	1.6 x 10 ⁹ /L	3.6-11
Platelets	90 x 10 ⁹ /L	150-400
Neutrophils	0.6 x 10 ⁹ /L	1.8-7.5
MCV	97 fL	82-98
Reticulocytes	45 x 10 ⁹ /L	50-100

Film comment

- “Anaemia first noted in 2011. Normochromic and progressive. Anisocytosis with tear-drop poikilocytes as well as dysplastic changes in granulocytes (hypogranulation, pseudo-Pelger forms and paramyeloid cells.”

Differential diagnosis

- Myelodysplasia
- Acute Leukaemia
- Bone marrow infiltration (e.g. myelofibrosis, lymphoma, myeloma)
- Autoimmune
- B12/ Folate deficiency
- Infection

Further tests

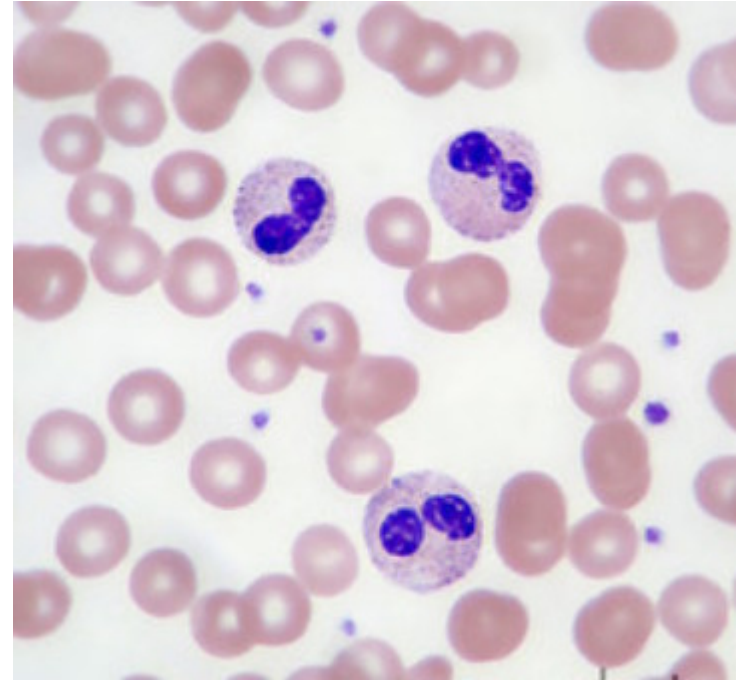
- B12 and folate
- TSH
- Ferritin
- Myeloma screen

Action

- Outpatient referral to Haematology

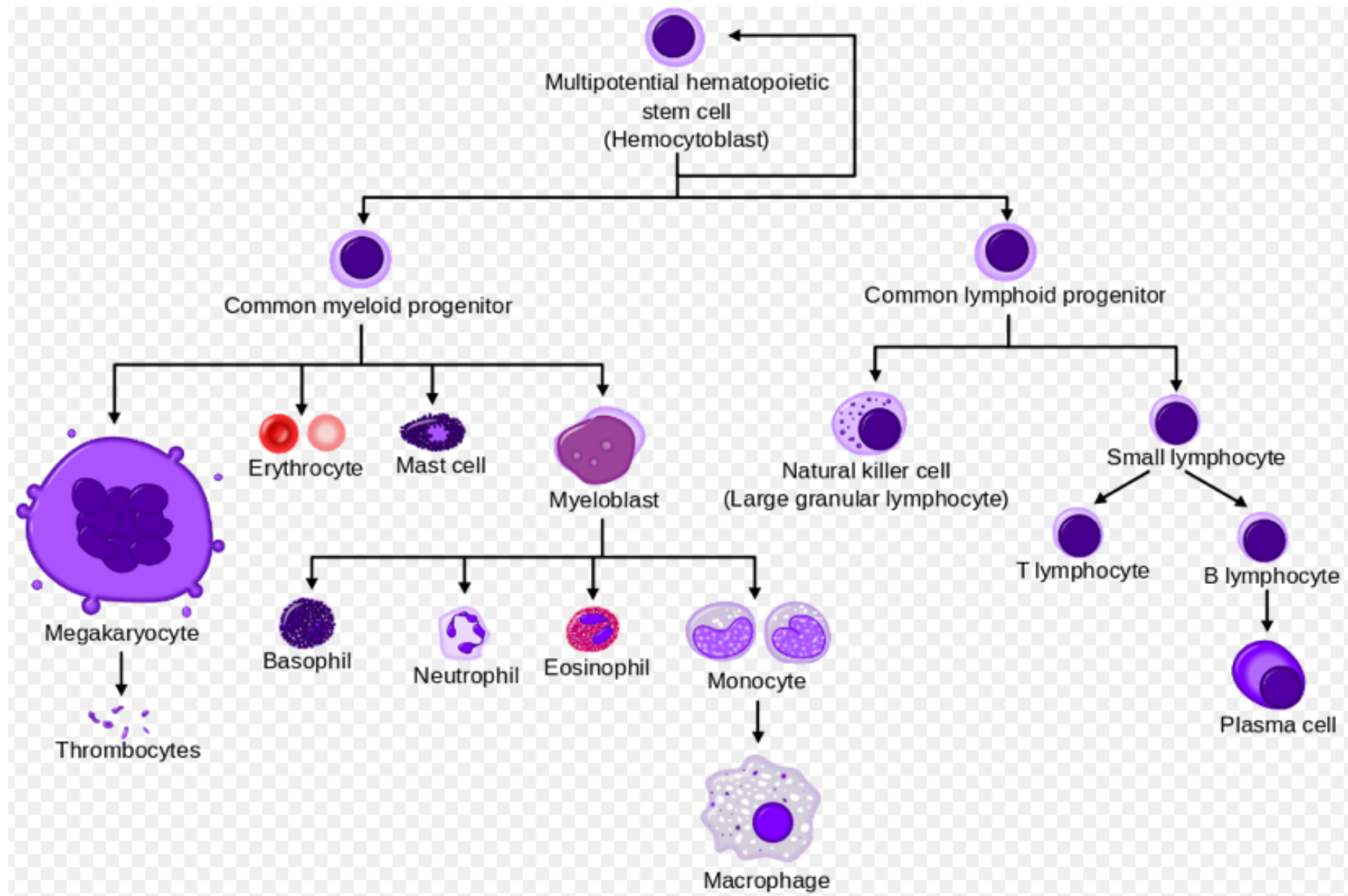
Further tests

- Bone marrow biopsy
- Cytogenetics



Myelodysplastic Syndrome

- Refractory Anaemia (RA)
- Refractory Anaemia with Ringed Sideroblasts (RARS)
- Refractory Cytopenia with Multilineage Dysplasia (RCMD)
- Refractory Anaemia with Excess Blasts (RAEB)
 - 1: 5-9%blasts on BMA
 - 2: 10-19%blasts on BMA
- Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukaemia (CMML)



Prognosis

Table 5. Revised International Prognostic Scoring System (IPSS-R) for myelodysplastic syndromes [8]							
Prognostic characteristics	Points						
	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	3	4
Genetic risk category ^a	Very good		Good		Intermediate	Poor	Very poor
Blasts in bone marrow, %	≤2		>2%–5%		5%–10%	>10%	
Hemoglobin, g/dl	≥10		8–<10	<8			
Platelet count, ×10 ⁹ /l	≥100	50–<100	<50				
Absolute neutrophil count, ×10 ⁹ /l	≥0.8	<0.8					
IPSS-R risk group	Score	Median overall survival, years		Median time to 25% AML evolution, years			
Very low	≤1.5	8.8			NR		
Low	>1.5–3	5.3			9.4		
Intermediate	>3–4.5	3.0			2.5		
High	>4.5–6	1.6			1.7		
Very high	> 6	0.8			0.7		

Treatment

- Low risk/intermediate 1: Supportive care
 - If symptomatic anaemia
 - Consider EPO +/- GCSF
 - Red blood cell transfusions
 - PRN antibiotics
 - Monitor FBC

Treatment

- High risk
 - Azacitadine
 - Induction chemotherapy + allogeneic SCT if age < 65 yrs

Case 3

- 67 year old female
- PC: Increasing fatigue
- HPC: Non-specific, gradual onset. Complains of OA in hips and knees. High BMI.
- PMH: T2DM, hypertension
- DH: Citalopram, metformin, ramipril, analgesics

FBC

	Value	Reference
Haemoglobin	104 g/L	120-160
WCC	8.2 x 10 ⁹ /L	3.6-11
Platelets	270 x 10 ⁹ /L	150-400
Neutrophils	5.8 x 10 ⁹ /L	1.8-7.5
MCV	99 fL	82-98
Reticulocytes	51 x 10 ⁹ /L	50-100

Differential

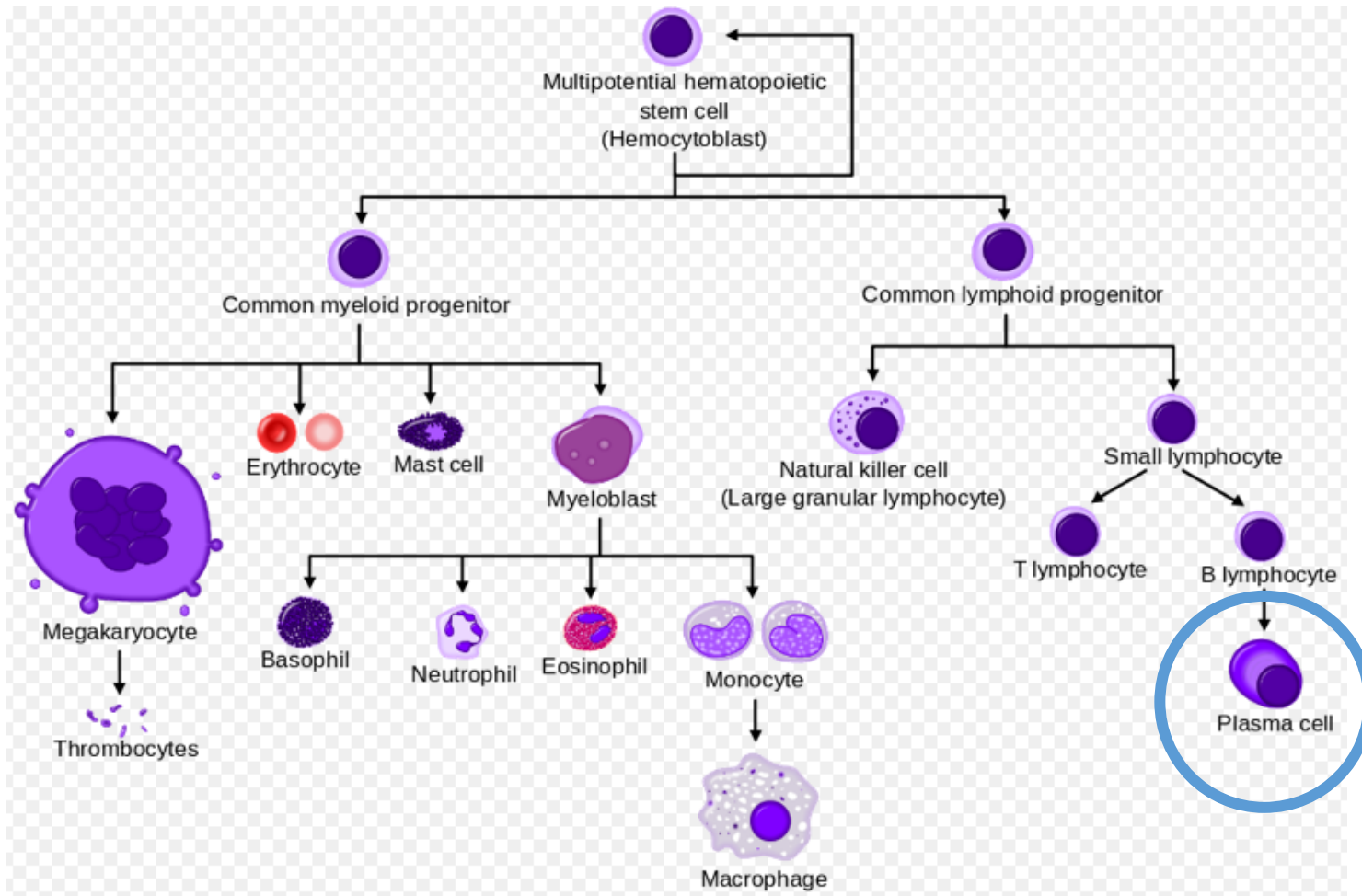
- B12, folate deficiency
- IDA
- Anaemia of chronic disease
- Hypothyroidism
- Myelodysplasia
- Bone marrow infiltration (e.g. myelofibrosis, lymphoma, myeloma)

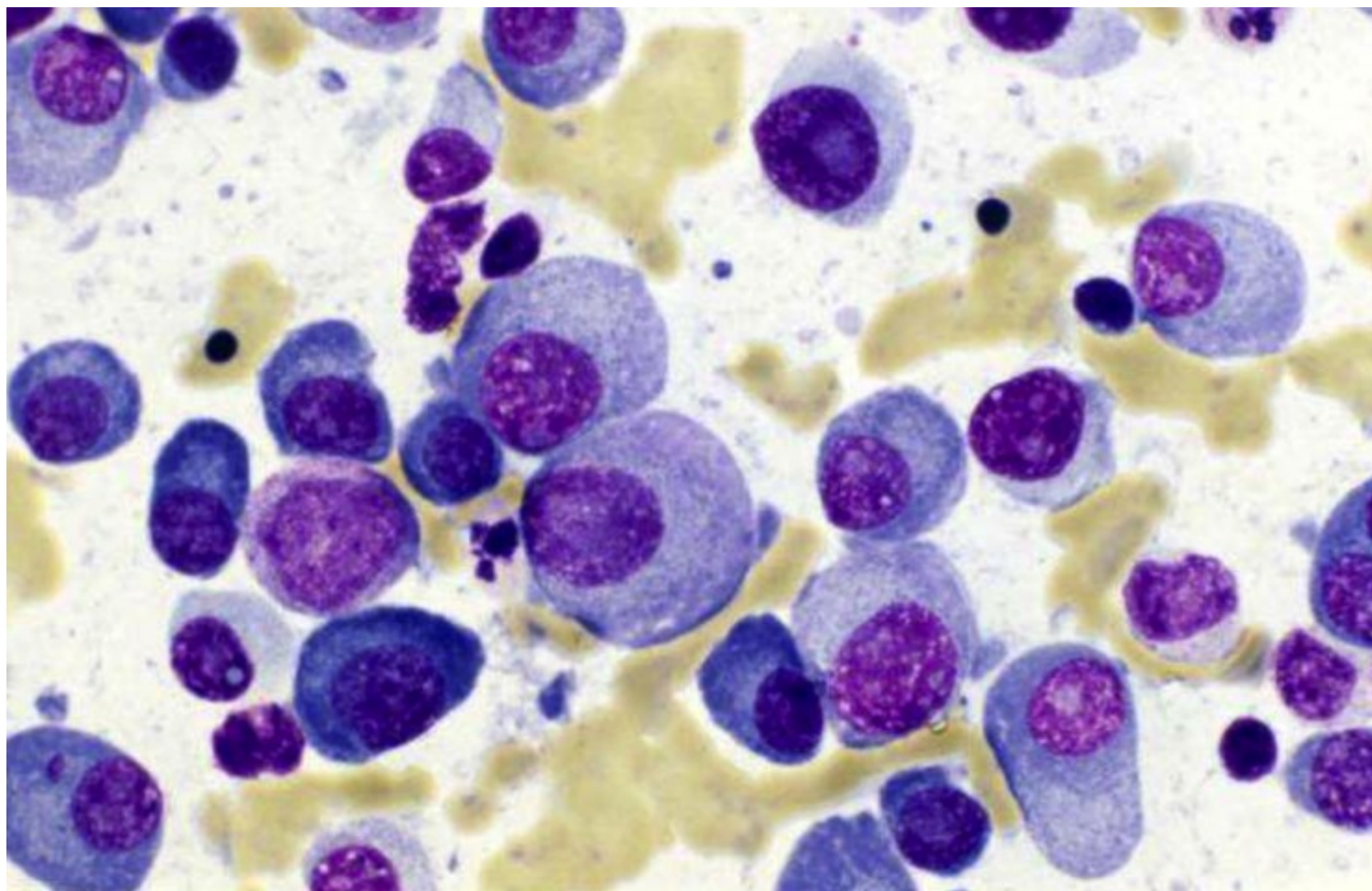
Further blood tests

- U&Es normal
- ALT 16, Bilirubin 4, ALP 93, Albumin 43 g/ L, Total protein 81 g/ L
- Ferritin, B12, folate normal
- CRP normal

- Calcium normal
- Serum protein electrophoresis: Band protein monoclonal band 15 g/ L
- Bence-Jones Protein negative

Multiple Myeloma





Multiple Myeloma

- Suspect:
- **C**alcium: High calcium
- **R**enal: New impairment
- **A**naemia: Unexplained
- **B**one pains



Action

- Refer to Haematology
- Treatment involves several therapies managed as outpatient

Monoclonal Gammopathy of Uncertain Significance (MGUS)

- Underlying plasma cell dyscrasia
- Low probability of progression to symptomatic myeloma: 5% in 10 years
- Risk stratify based on paraprotein level, Ig type, light chain ratio and age.
- Can be monitored in community

Summary

- Systematic approach to diagnosis
- Recognise red flag signs
- Always assess for splenomegaly and lymphadenopathy
- Recognise utility of reticulocyte count in diagnosing bone marrow failure
- Appropriate referral to Haematology