



Andrea Mantegna, Polittico di San Zeno – Crocifissione (1456-1459) Tempera su tavola, cm 67 x 93, Parigi, Musée du Louvre

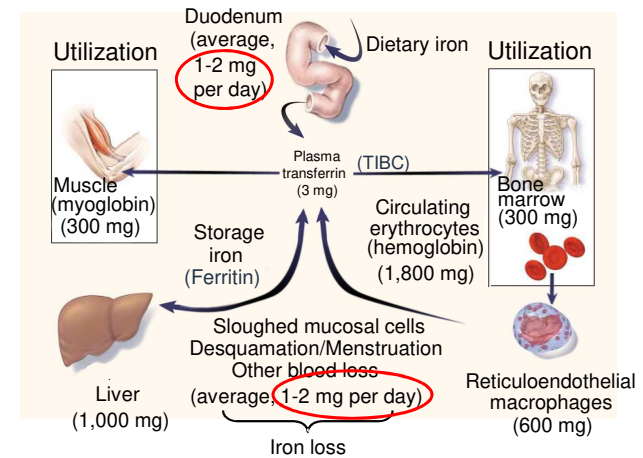
Omeostasi del ferro  
e patologia:  
carenza e sovraccarico

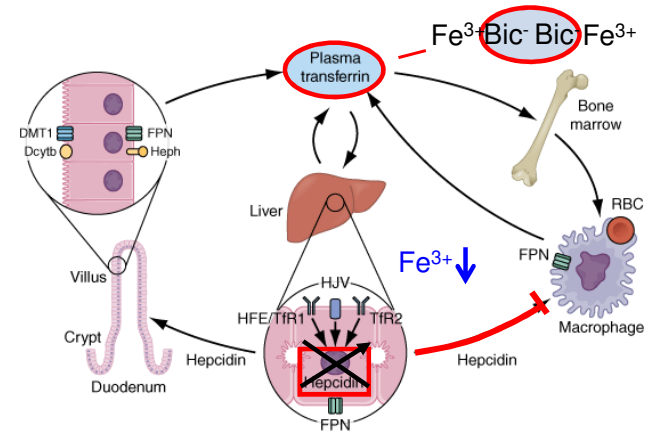
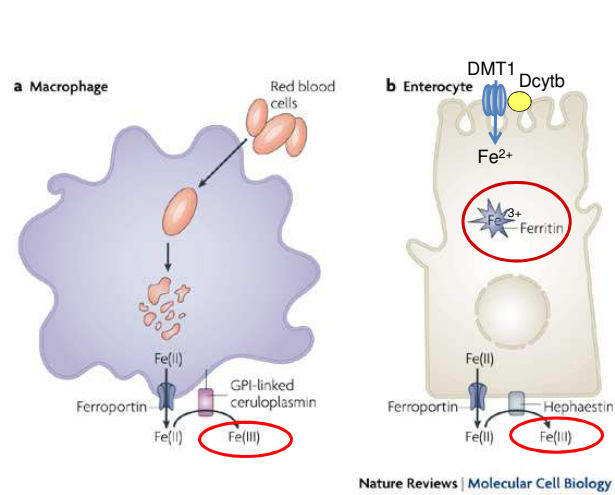
## Classificazione patogenetica delle anemie

### 3. Ridotta sintesi di emoglobina

- carenza di ferro
- talassemie
- anemie sideroblastiche
- anemia da flogosi cronica

## Body Iron Distribution and Storage





Source: Fauci AS, Kasper DL, Braunwald E, Hauser SL, Longo DL, Jameson JL, Loscalzo J: *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 17th Edition: <http://www.accessmedicine.com> Copyright © The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved.

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA  
 Vol. 80, pp. 2258-2262, April 1983  
 Cell Biology

### pH and the recycling of transferrin during receptor-mediated endocytosis

(endocytic vesicle/apotransferrin/transferrin receptor)

ALICE DAUTRY-VARSAT\*, AARON CIECHANOVER, AND HARVEY F. LODISH

Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Communicated by Joseph L. Goldstein, December 27, 1982

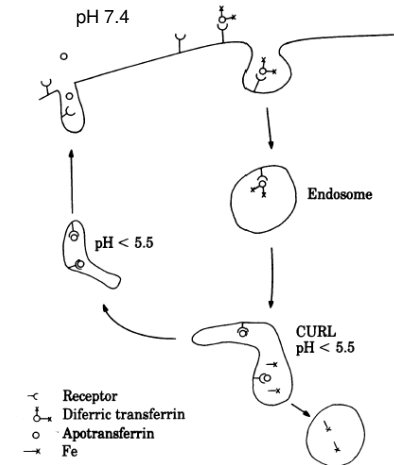
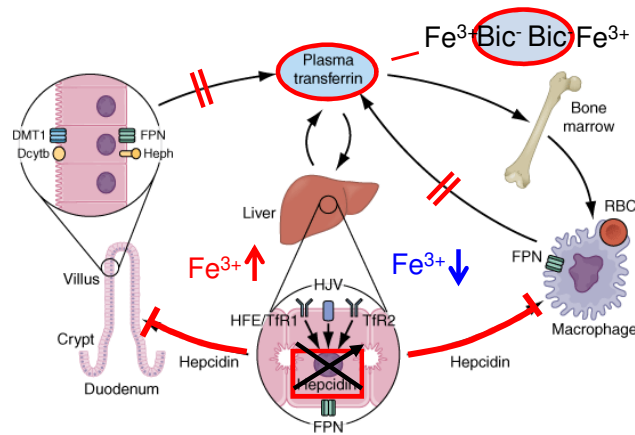
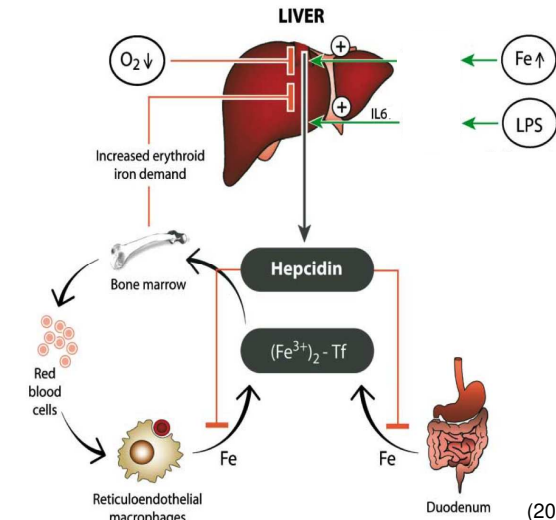


FIG. 7. The transferrin cycle. See text for details.

Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA  
 Vol. 80, pp. 2258-2262, April 1983  
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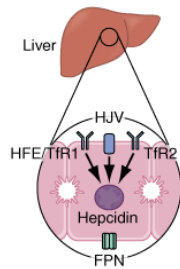
Hentze et al. (2004) *Cell* 117: 285

Review Article

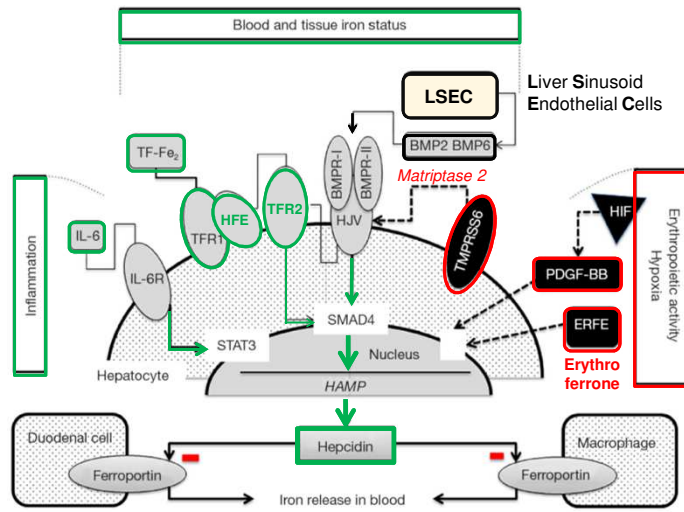
Inherited iron overload disorders

Alberto Piperno<sup>1,2</sup>, Sara Pelucchi<sup>1</sup>, Raffaella Mariani<sup>2</sup>

*Transl Gastroenterol Hepatol* 2020;5:25 | <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/tgh.2019.11.15>



**Figure 1** Positive and negative regulators of hepcidin synthesis. Hepcidin regulators are activated by different stimuli: positive (iron status, inflammation), and negative (erythropoietic activity, and hypoxia). HFE is a component of an iron-sensing complex that involves interactions with diferric transferrin (Tf-Fe<sub>2</sub>), transferrin receptors (TFR-1 and TFR-2) at the plasma membrane of hepatocytes. High concentrations of Tf-Fe<sub>2</sub> displace HFE from TFR1, which then forms a complex with TFR2 and HJV to promote bone morphogenetic protein (BMP)/SMAD signaling to hepcidin (28,29). HJV is a GPI-linked protein that activates hepcidin as a co-receptor for BMP cytokines. Only BMP2 and BMP6 have been so far demonstrated to activate hepcidin *in vivo* (9,21,30,31). In the liver, hepcidin is expressed only in hepatocytes while BMP2 and BMP6 are expressed almost exclusively in liver sinusoidal endothelial cells (LSECs) suggesting a paracrine function of these ligands (32). How LSECs sense changes in body iron levels and upregulate BMP2 and BMP6 is still to be defined. Two types of BMP receptors, type I (BMPRI) and type II (BMPRII) are involved in this pathway, and both types, as well as their ligands, act as dimers. The regulatory SMADs (R-SMADs), SMAD1, SMAD5, and SMAD8 are the mediators of BMP signalling, as they are phosphorylated by activated BMPRI. The common SMAD4 translocates to the nucleus in complex with the R-SMADs to induce the expression of genes regulated by BMP-responsive elements, as hepcidin. BMP/SMAD signaling to hepcidin is suppressed by matrilin 2, a serine protease, codified by *TMPRSS6* that cleaves and generates a soluble form of HJV. Erythroferrone (ERFE), a TNF $\alpha$ -like protein released by mature erythroblasts in condition of enhanced erythropoiesis, is a major candidate of erythropoiesis-induced hepcidin suppression (33). Platelet-derived growth factor-BB (PDGF-BB) is the candidate of hypoxia-induced hepcidin inhibition by the hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF), likely produced by a non-erythroid Ter<sup>119</sup><sup>pos</sup> population under hypoxia stimuli (34,35). Infection and inflammation markedly increase hepcidin synthesis through the interaction of interleukin 6 (IL6) with its receptor (IL6R) and STAT3 pathway (36).



Transl Gastroenterol Hepatol 2020;5:25 | <http://dx.doi.org/10.21037/tgh.2019.11.15>

Annual Review of Medicine  
**Hepcidin and Iron in Health and Disease**

Elizabetha Nemeth and Tomas Ganz

Center for Iron Disorders, Department of Medicine, David Geffen School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, California, USA; email: enemeth@mednet.ucla.edu

Ann. Rev. Med. 2023. 74:261-77

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<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-med-043021-032816>

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**Keywords**

hepcidin, iron, inflammation, anemia, iron overload

**Abstract**

Hepcidin, the iron-regulatory hormone, determines plasma iron concentrations and total body iron content. Hepcidin, secreted by hepatocytes, functions by controlling the activity of the cellular iron exporter ferroportin, which delivers iron to plasma from intestinal iron absorption and from iron stores. Hepcidin concentration in plasma is increased by iron loading and inflammation and is suppressed by erythropoietic stimulation and during pregnancy. Hepcidin deficiency causes iron overload in hemochromatosis and anemias with ineffective erythropoiesis. Hepcidin excess causes iron-restrictive anemias including anemia of inflammation. The development of hepcidin diagnostics and therapeutic agonists and antagonists should improve the treatment of iron disorders.

Article  
**A role of PIEZO1 in iron metabolism in mice and humans**

Cell 184, 969-982, February 18, 2021 © 2021 Elsevier Inc.

Shang Ma,<sup>1</sup> Adrienne E. Dubin,<sup>1</sup> Yunxiao Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Seyyed Ali Reza Mousavi,<sup>1</sup> Yu Wang,<sup>1</sup> Adam M. Coombs,<sup>1</sup> Meaghan Loud,<sup>1</sup> Immacolata Andolfo,<sup>2</sup> and Ardem Patapoutian<sup>1,3\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Department of Neuroscience, Dorris Neuroscience Center, Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA

<sup>2</sup>Department of Molecular Medicine and Medical Biotechnologies, University of Naples Federico II, CEINGE - Biotechnology Avanzate, Naples, Italy

<sup>3</sup>Lead contact

\*Correspondence: [ardem@scripps.edu](mailto:ardem@scripps.edu)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.01.024>

Iron overload causes progressive organ damage and is associated with arthritis, liver damage, and heart failure. Elevated iron levels are present in 1%–5% of individuals; however, iron overload is undermonitored and underdiagnosed. Genetic factors affecting iron homeostasis are emerging. Individuals with hereditary xerocytosis, a rare disorder with gain-of-function (GOF) mutations in mechanosensitive PIEZO1 ion channel, develop age-onset iron overload. We show that constitutive or macrophage expression of a GOF *Piezo1* allele in mice disrupts levels of the iron regulator hepcidin and causes iron overload. We further show that PIEZO1 is a key regulator of macrophage phagocytic activity and subsequent erythrocyte turnover. Strikingly, we find that E756del, a mild GOF *PIEZO1* allele present in one-third of individuals of African descent, is strongly associated with increased plasma iron. Our study links macrophage mechanotransduction to iron metabolism and identifies a genetic risk factor for increased iron levels in African Americans.

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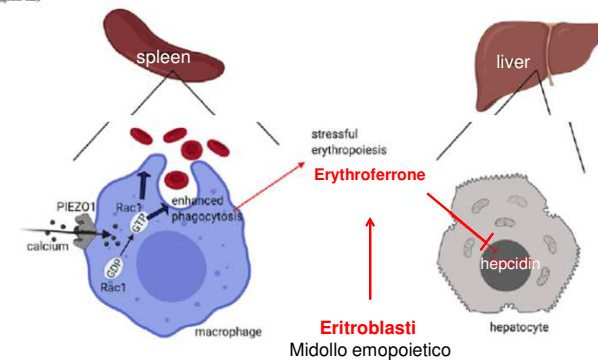
<sup>1</sup>Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Department of Neuroscience, Dorris Neuroscience Center, Scripps Research, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA

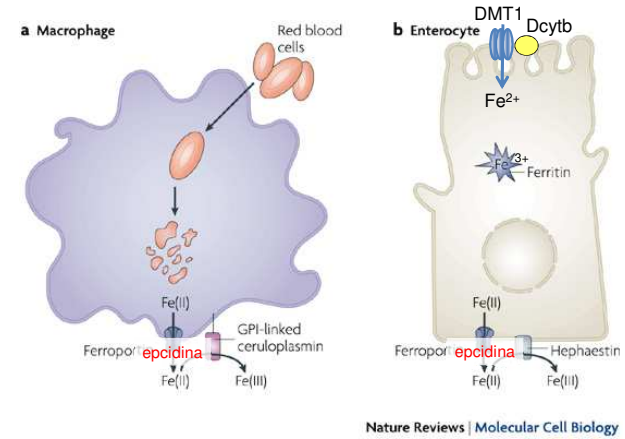
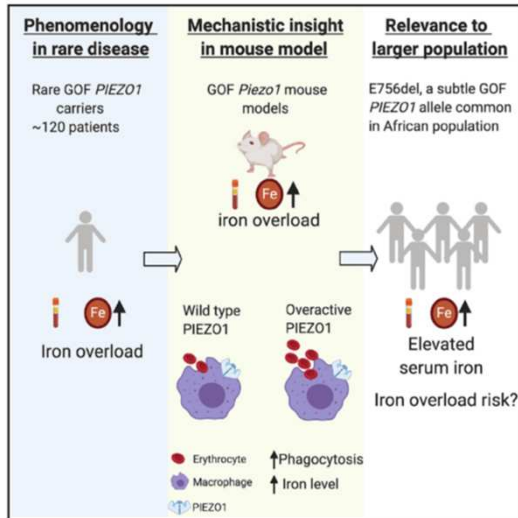
<sup>2</sup>Department of Molecular Medicine and Medical Biotechnologies, University of Naples Federico II, CEINGE - Biotechnology Avanzate, Naples, Italy

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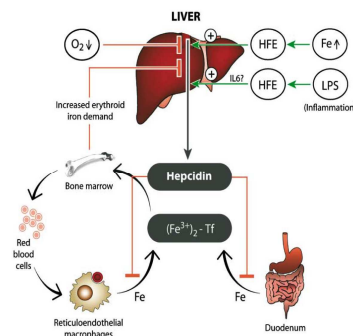
\*Correspondence: [ardem@scripps.edu](mailto:ardem@scripps.edu)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.01.024>





Iron Transfer Between Cells and Tissues:  
Role of Hepcidin



Hepcidin

Iron deficiency ↓

Hentze et al.  
(2004) Cell 117: 285

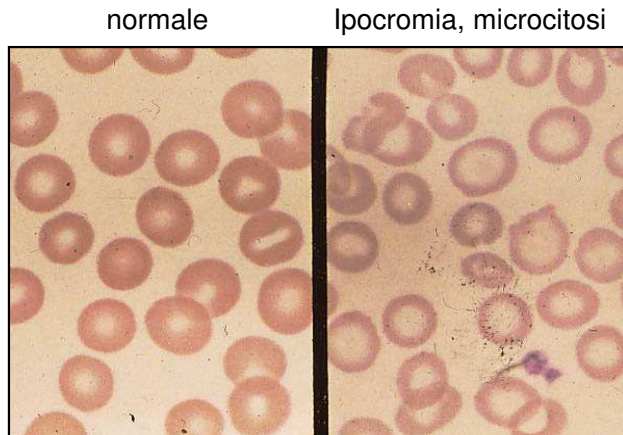
Classificazione patogenetica delle anemie

3. Ridotta sintesi di emoglobina

- **carezza di ferro**
- talassemie
- anemie sideroblastiche
- anemia da flogosi cronica



### A. L'anemia da deficienza di ferro



### A. L'anemia da deficienza di ferro

- aumentate necessità
  - crescita post-natale
  - pubertà
- perdita fisiologica
  - mestruazioni
  - gravidanza
- perdita patologica (sanguinamento)
  - GI
  - GU
- ridotta assunzione
  - dieta
  - malassorbimento

### L'assorbimento del ferro

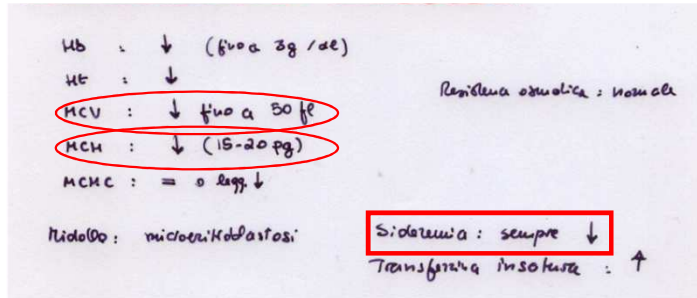
Physical State (bioavailability)	heme > Fe <sup>2+</sup> > Fe <sup>3+</sup>
High Gastric pH	hemigastrectomy, vagotomy, pernicious anemia histamine H2 receptor blockers, calcium-based antacids
Disruption of Intestinal Structure	Crohn's disease, celiac disease (non-tropical sprue)
Inhibitors	phylates, tannins, soil clay, laundry starch, iron overload
Competitors	cobalt, lead, strontium
Facilitators	ascorbate, citrate, amino acids, iron deficiency

	Normal	Negative iron balance	Iron-deficient erythropoiesis	Iron-deficiency anemia
Iron stores	Normal	Low	Very low	Very low
Erythron iron	High	Low	Low	Low
Marrow iron stores	1-3+	0-1+	0	0
Serum ferritin (µg/L)	50-200	<20	<15	<15
TIBC (µg/dL)	300-360	>360	>380	>400
SI (µg/dL)	50-150	NL	<50	<30
Saturation (%)	30-50	NL	<20	<10
Marrow sideroblasts (%)	40-60	NL	<10	<10
RBC protoporphyrin (µg/dL)	30-50	NL	>100	>200
RBC morphology	NL	NL	NL	Microcytic/hypochromic

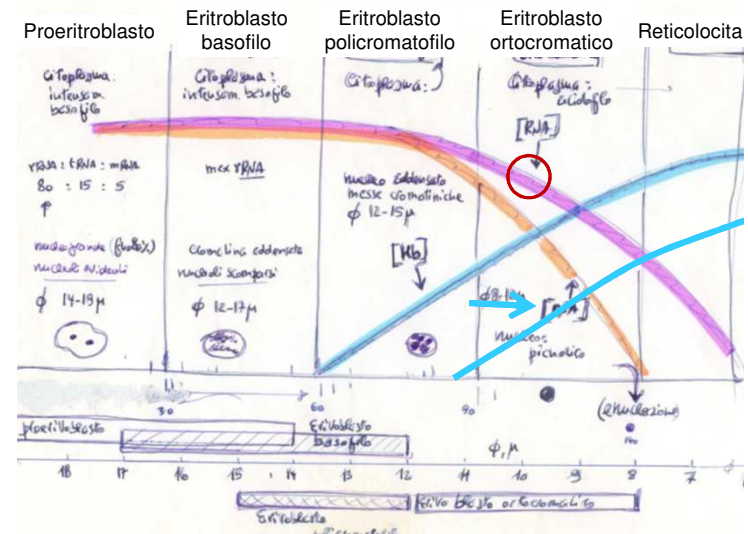
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## Anemia da carenza di ferro

### Reperti ematologici



ipocromica microcitica

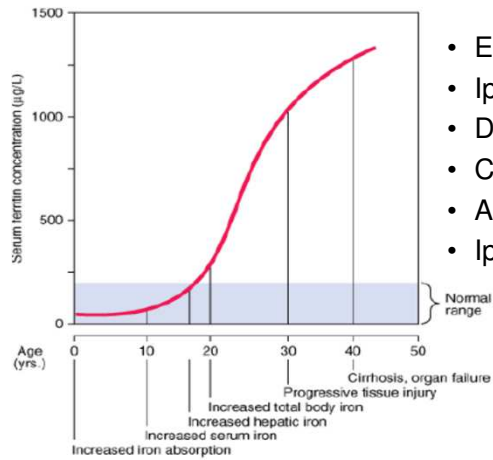


## B. Il sovraccarico di ferro

- Emocromatosi ereditaria
  - Difetto del gene HFE (molto frequente, freq. allelica 1/10 in Nord Europa)
  - Altre mutazioni più rare (epidina, emojuvenilina TfR)
- Sovraccarico di ferro secondario
  - Disordini dell'eritropoiesi (talassemie, anemia sideroblastica)
  - Malattie epatiche



Claude Monet (1867) Signora in giardino a Sainte-Adresse



- Epatomegalia
- Iperpigmentazione
- Diabete mellito
- Cardiopatia
- Artrite
- Ipogonadismo

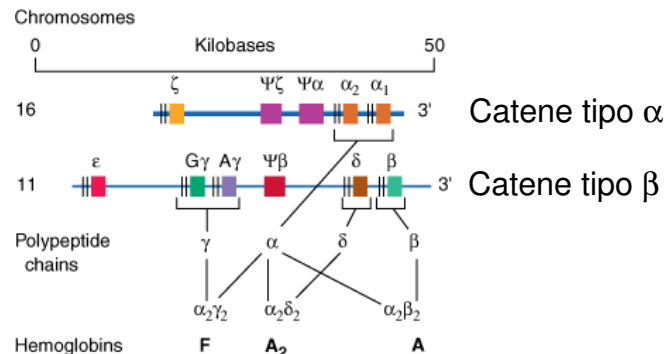
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## Classificazione patogenetica delle anemie

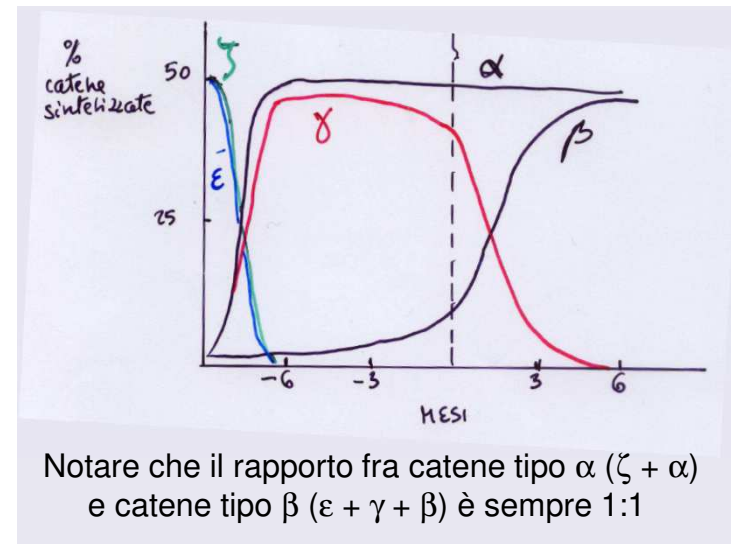
### 3. Ridotta sintesi di emoglobina

- carenza di ferro
- **talassemie**
- anemie sideroblastiche
- anemia da flogosi cronica

## I geni delle globine



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Notare che il rapporto fra catene tipo  $\alpha$  ( $\zeta + \alpha$ ) e catene tipo  $\beta$  ( $\epsilon + \gamma + \beta$ ) è sempre 1:1



	ε	γ	β	δ
ζ	x	x	-	-
α	x	x	x	x

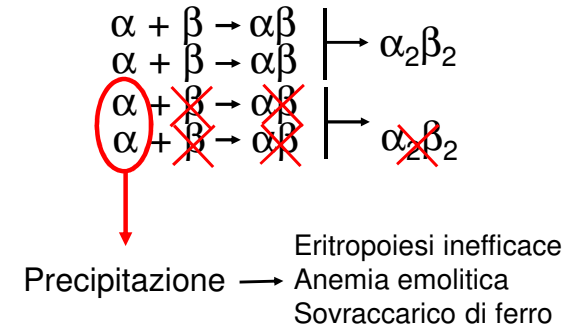
  

ζ <sub>2</sub> E <sub>2</sub>	Gower I	α <sub>2</sub> γ <sub>2</sub>	HbF	α <sub>2</sub> β <sub>2</sub>	HbA <sub>1</sub>
ζ <sub>2</sub> γ <sub>2</sub>	Portland			α <sub>2</sub> δ <sub>2</sub>	HbA <sub>2</sub>
α <sub>2</sub> E <sub>2</sub>	Gower II				

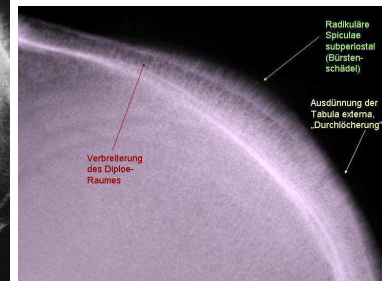
  

fase mesoblastica	fase epialica	fase mieloida
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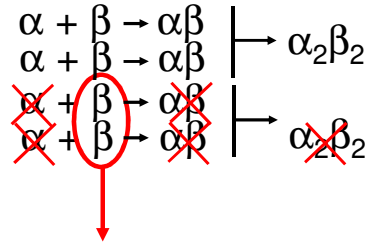
### Talassemia β



Sindrome	[Hb] g/dl	MCH	MCV	iperplasia midollo
1. Talassemia major (m. di Cooley)	2.5-6.5	↓↓	↓↓	++++
2. Talassemia intermedia	6-9	↓	↓	+ / ++
3. Talassemia minor	~ normale	↓	↓	norm.
4. Talassemia minima	normale	→	→	norm.



### Talassemia $\alpha$



Elevata affinità per  $O_2$   $\leftarrow$   $\beta_4$  (HbH)  $\rightarrow$  Eritropoiesi inefficace  
 $\gamma_4$  (HbBart)  $\rightarrow$  Anemia emolitica  
 Sovraccarico di ferro

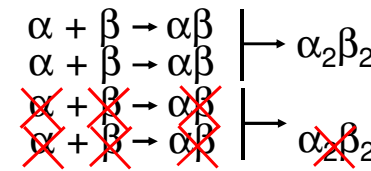
$\alpha$  TALASSEMIA [diplo:  $--\alpha 1$   
 $--\alpha 2$ ]

sindrome	genotipo	rapporto $\beta/\alpha$	effetti
idropse fetale	--/--	—	morte fetale o neonatale da anemia grave
malattia da HbH	--/- $\alpha$	$\sim 3$	anemia emolitica cronica moderata-severa
$\alpha$ -talassemia minor (trait talassemico)	- $\alpha$ /- $\alpha$ --/ $\alpha\alpha$	1.25	anemia moderata o assente GR "talassemici"
portatore asintomatico	- $\alpha$ / $\alpha\alpha$	1.15	nessuno, GR normali

sindrome	[Hb] g/dl	MCH	MCV	ipassia midollo [fegato]
idropse fetale	4-10	$\downarrow\downarrow$	$\downarrow\downarrow$	+++
mal. da HbH	7-10	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	aa+ $\alpha$ ++
tal. $\alpha$ minor	normo $\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	$\downarrow$	
asintom.	normale	$\rightarrow$		

anemia - due pro. - ipocromica microcitica con cellule a bersaglio  
 sideremia: normale o  $\uparrow$

### Talassemia $\alpha\beta$ eterozigote



A parità di riduzione delle catene  $\alpha$  o  $\beta$ , l'eterozigosi causa un'anemia meno grave perché la sintesi della catene globiniche è bilanciata, e non si generano i fenomeni legati all'eccesso relativo di catene  $\alpha$  o  $\beta$

## Talassemia

### Reperti ematologici

Hb :	↓	
Ht :	↓	
MCV :	↓ fuo a 50 fl	Resistenza osmotica aumentata
MCH :	↓ (15-20 pg)	
MCHC :	= o legg ↓	
Idioblo :	microeritroblastosi	Sideremia : sempre ↑
		Transferrina insatura : ↓

ipocromica microcitica

## Talassemia



Source: Fauci AS, Kasper DL, Braunwald E, Hauser SL, Longo DL, Jameson JL, Loscalzo J: *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 17th Edition: <http://www.accessmedicine.com>  
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## Attenzione

Il trait talassemico e/o le forme lievi di talassemia vengono spesso confusi con l'anemia da carenza di ferro (entrambe sono ipocromiche e microcitiche). Attenzione dunque allo stato dei depositi, al ferro circolante e alla percentuale di saturazione della transferrina!

## Classificazione patogenetica delle anemie

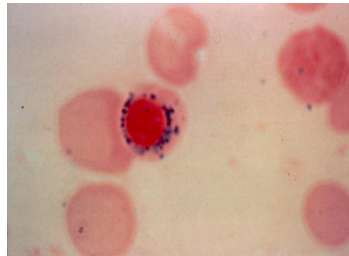
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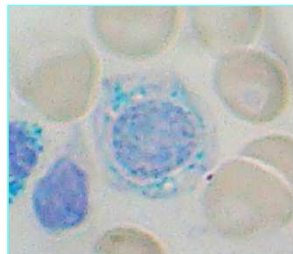
## Le anemie sideroblastiche

Coesistenza di:

- Anemia ipocromica
- Iperferremia
- Depositi di ferro (mitocondri) negli eritroblasti



MCV può essere normale, diminuito o aumentato a seconda della causa



The WHO International Working Group on Morphology of MDS (IWGM-MDS) defined three types of sideroblasts:

**Type 1 sideroblasts:** fewer than 5 siderotic granules in the cytoplasm

**Type 2 sideroblasts:** 5 or more siderotic granules, but not in a perinuclear distribution

**Type 3 or ring sideroblasts:** 5 or more granules in a perinuclear position, surrounding the nucleus or encompassing at least one third of the nuclear circumference.

↓  
**Anemie sideroblastiche**

## Le anemie sideroblastiche

Forme congenite (difetti nella sintesi dell'eme)

- difetto di ALA sintetasi (X-linked, vit. B6-dip.)

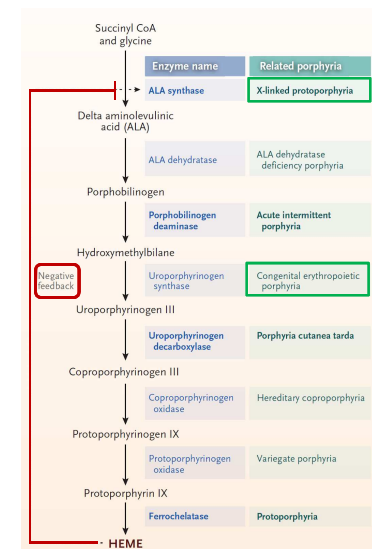
gly + succCoA → ALA

- porfirie (blocco successivo)

Si accumulano precursori (uroprofinogeno, coproporfinogeno) che causano fotosensibilizzazione

Forme acquisite

- Avvelenamento da Pb
- mielodisplasie



**Congenital sideroblastic anemia**

- **X-linked sideroblastic anemia:** This is the most common congenital cause of sideroblastic anemia and involves a defect in [ALAS2](#), which is involved in the first step of heme synthesis. Although X-linked, approximately one third of patients are women due to skewed [X-inactivation](#) (lyonizations).
- **Autosomal recessive sideroblastic anemia** involves mutations in the [SLC25A38](#) gene. The function of this protein is not fully understood, but it is involved in mitochondrial transport of glycine. Glycine is a substrate for [ALAS2](#) and necessary for heme synthesis. The autosomal recessive form is typically severe in presentation.
- **Genetic syndromes:** Rarely, sideroblastic anemia may be part of a congenital syndrome and present with associated findings, such as [ataxia](#), [myopathy](#), and [pancreatic insufficiency](#).

**Acquired clonal sideroblastic anemia:** Clonal sideroblastic anemias fall under the broader category of [myelodysplastic syndromes](#) (MDS). Three forms exist and include refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts (RARS), refractory anemia with ringed sideroblasts and [thrombocytosis](#) (RARS-T), and refractory cytopenia with multilineage dysplasia and ringed sideroblasts (RCMD-RS). These anemias are associated with increased risk for leukemic evolution.

**Acquired reversible sideroblastic anemia:** Causes include **excessive alcohol use** (the most common cause of sideroblastic anemia), **pyridoxine deficiency** (vitamin B6 is the cofactor in the first step of heme synthesis), **lead poisoning** and **copper deficiency**. **Excess zinc** can indirectly cause sideroblastic anemia by decreasing absorption and increasing excretion of copper. Antimicrobials that may lead to sideroblastic anemia include **isoniazid** (which interferes with pyridoxine metabolism), **chloramphenicol** (which, by inhibiting the synthesis of mitochondrial membrane protein, impairs mitochondrial respiration), **cycloserine** and **linezolid**.

**Le anemie associate a malattie croniche**

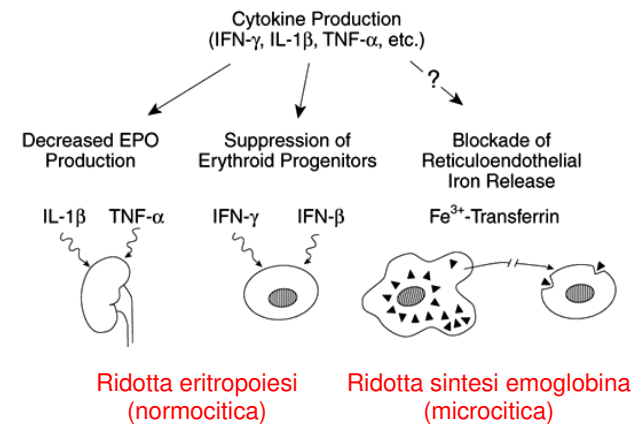
- | Condizione associata                | Prevalenza |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| – Infezione                         | 20-95%     |
| • Virus, batteri, parassiti, funghi |            |
| – Malattie autoimmune               | 8-17%      |
| • AR, LES, sarcoidosi, vasculiti    |            |
| – Neoplasie maligne                 | 30-77%     |
| – Rigetto di trapianto d'organo     | 8-70%      |
- **Caratteristiche**
    - Anemia di gravità variabile
    - Bassi livelli di EPO
    - Bassa conta reticolociti

**Classificazione patogenetica delle anemie**

**3. Ridotta sintesi di emoglobina**

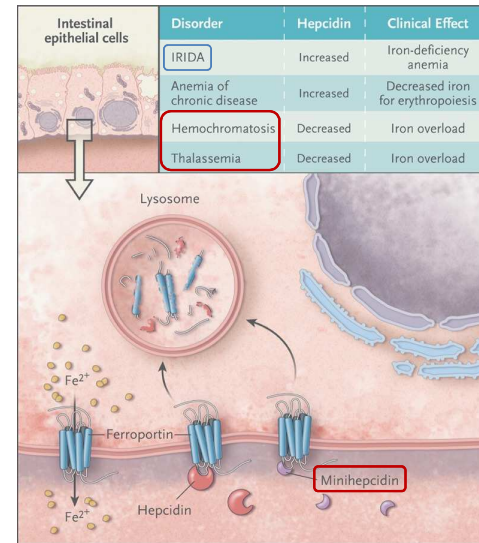
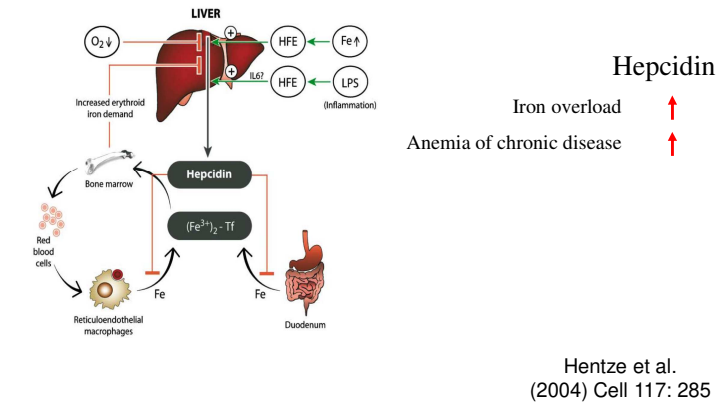
- carenza di ferro
- talassemie
- anemie sideroblastiche
- **anemia da flogosi cronica**

**Pathogenesis of the Anemia of Chronic Disease**





### Iron Transfer Between Cells and Tissues: Role of Hepcidin



Iron-Refractory Iron-Deficiency Anemia

↓

defetto del gene Tmprss6 sul cromosoma 22, che codifica matriptasi-2, proteasi serinica transmembrana che inibisce epcidina attraverso il clivaggio di hemojuvelin

### CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS OF BASIC RESEARCH

N Engl J Med 2012; 366:376-377

#### Closing the Iron Gate

Nancy C. Andrews, M.D., Ph.D.

Research article *J Clin Invest.* 2011;121(12):4880-4888. doi:10.1172/JCI57693.

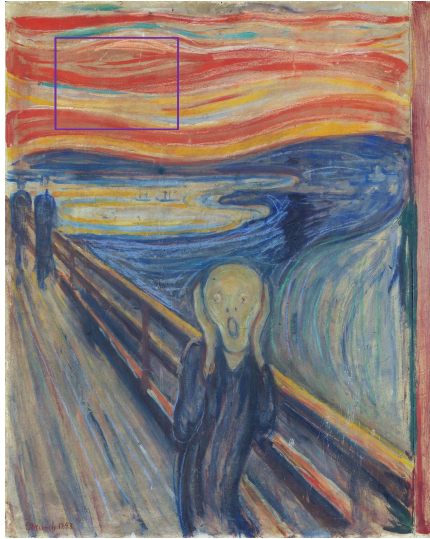
### Minihepcidins are rationally designed small peptides that mimic hepcidin activity in mice and may be useful for the treatment of iron overload

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Iron overload is the hallmark of hereditary hemochromatosis and a complication of iron-loading anemias such as  $\beta$ -thalassemia. Treatment can be burdensome and have significant side effects, and new therapeutic options are needed. Iron overload in hereditary hemochromatosis and  $\beta$ -thalassemia intermedia is caused by hepcidin deficiency. Although transgenic hepcidin replacement in mouse models of these diseases prevents iron overload or decreases its potential toxicity, natural hepcidin is prohibitively expensive for human application and has unfavorable pharmacologic properties. Here, we report the rational design of hepcidin agonists based on the mutagenesis of hepcidin and the hepcidin-binding region of ferroportin and computer modeling of their docking. We identified specific hydrophobic/aromatic residues required for hepcidin-ferroportin binding and obtained evidence in vitro that a thiol-disulfide interaction between ferroportin C326 and the hepcidin disulfide cage may stabilize binding. Guided by this model, we showed that 7-9 N-terminal amino acids of hepcidin, including a single thiol cysteine, comprised the minimal structure that retained hepcidin activity, as shown by the induction of ferroportin degradation in reporter cells. Further modifications to increase resistance to proteolysis and oral bioavailability yielded minihepcidins that, after parenteral or oral administration to mice, lowered serum iron levels comparably to those after parenteral native hepcidin. Moreover, liver iron concentrations were lower in mice chronically treated with minihepcidins than those in mice treated with solvent alone. Minihepcidins may be useful for the treatment of iron overload disorders.

*J Clin Invest.* 2011;121(12):4880-4888. doi:10.1172/JCI57693.



Camminavo lungo la strada con due amici- il sole tramontava- il cielo si tinse improvvisamente di rosso sangue- mi fermai- mi appoggiai stanco morto al parapetto- sul fiordo nerazzurro e sulla città c'erano sangue e lingue di fuoco- i miei amici continuavano a camminare e io tremavo ancora di paura- e sentii un grande urlo infinito che attraversava la natura



#### Art Mystery Solved: Who Wrote on Edvard Munch's 'The Scream'?

Nina Siegal, The New York Times 22 febbraio 2021

Munch probably wrote the sentence on his painting in 1895, according to Guleng, after his exhibition of new work at the Blomqvist gallery in Oslo. During a debate about the exhibition at the University of Oslo's Students Association one night, a medical student, Johan Scharffenberg said the artwork gave him reason to question the artist's mental state, calling Munch abnormal and a "madman." Munch was deeply hurt, said Jacobsen, and wrote about it even decades later.

Guleng believes the inscription is written with irony and reflects both pain at being attacked and fear of being regarded as mentally ill. "By writing this inscription in the clouds, he took possession, in a way, or he took control of how he was to be perceived and understood," she said.