

Neutropaenia	Infection (e.g. bacterial, viral, TB), cytotoxic agents, idiosyncratic drug reactions (e.g. clozapine, carbimazole, sulphonamides, beta-lactam antibiotics), any cause of pancytopenia
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Neutrophilia	Infection (e.g. bacterial), inflammation (e.g. trauma, surgery, infarction, haemorrhage, malignancy, vasculitis), corticosteroids, myeloproliferative disorders
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Lymphopaenia	Infection (e.g. viral and the atypical pneumonias), sarcoidosis, corticosteroids, uraemia, any cause of pancytopenia, common and often non-specific in critical illness
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Lymphocytosis	Infection (e.g. viral, TB, toxoplasmosis, syphilis), thyrotoxicosis, leukaemia (especially CLL), lymphoma
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Atypical lymphocytes	Viral infections (e.g. EBV, CMV, HIV), toxoplasmosis, leukaemia, lymphoma, lead poisoning, drug hypersensitivity
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Monocytosis	TB, leukaemia, lymphoma, myelodysplasia, inflammatory bowel disease, convalescence from any infection
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Eosinophilia	Allergic disorders, Addison's disease, parasitic infections, sarcoidosis, polyarteritis nodosa, leukaemia, lymphoma, melanoma, irradiation, convalescence from any infection
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Basophilia	Infection (e.g. TB, viral), hypothyroidism, inflammatory bowel disease, post-splenectomy, leukaemia (especially CML), systemic mastocytosis, haemolysis, polycythaemia rubra vera
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Erythrocyte sedimentation rate	Non-specific inflammatory marker Markedly elevated (>100 mm/h) in multiple myeloma and other malignancies, temporal arteritis, polymyalgia rheumatica, severe infection
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neutrophils

lymphocytes

monocytosis

eosinophilia

basophilia

ESR

MCV

Anaemia with low MCV	Iron deficiency, thalassaemia, sideroblastic anaemia
Anaemia with high MCV	Folate or vitamin B ₁₂ deficiency, alcohol abuse, chronic liver disease, hypothyroidism, reticulocytosis, myelodysplasia
Anaemia with normal MCV	Anaemia of chronic disease, chronic renal failure, pregnancy, haemolysis, bone marrow failure, mixed haematinic deficiency (e.g. iron and vitamin B ₁₂ deficiency)

haemolytic anaemia

Haemolytic anaemia (low haptoglobin, high LDH, mildly increased bilirubin, reticulocytosis, haemoglobinuria, positive Coombs' tests if immune-mediated)	Intrinsic red cell defects—membrane (e.g. hereditary spherocytosis), enzyme (e.g. glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency) or haemoglobin (e.g. thalassaemia)
	Extrinsic insults—immune (e.g. beta-lactam antibiotics, SLE, CLL), microangiopathic haemolytic anaemias, infection (e.g. malaria), hypersplenism

reticulocytosis

Reticulocytosis	Acute blood loss or haemorrhage, any cause of premature red cell destruction
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polycythaemia

Polycythaemia	Primary—polycythaemia rubra vera Secondary—chronic hypoxaemia, tumour production of erythropoietin Relative—haemoconcentration
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pancytopenia

Pancytopenia	Reduced marrow production—cytotoxic agents, idiosyncratic drug reactions (e.g. sulphonamides, phenytoin, carbamazepine, gold), severe vitamin B ₁₂ deficiency, autoantibodies (SLE), marrow infiltration, myelofibrosis, myelodysplasia Increased peripheral cellular destruction—SLE, HIV infection, hypersplenism, paroxysmal nocturnal haemoglobinuria
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haematology