Preface

Anemia: Things Have Changed!

Anemia is one of the most common diagnoses patients present with and also can complicate the course of many illnesses. In the last few years, there has been an explosion of new information about pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of anemia. This issue of the Medical Clinics of North America has a team of experts to provide state-of-the-art reviews of a wide array of topics related to anemia to bring the reader up-to-date on this exciting area of Hematology.

Dr Cascio provides an overview of tests both old and new for anemia, ranging from the time-honored review of the blood smear to the role of molecular diagnostics. Dr Fraenkel reviews the pathogenesis of the anemia of inflammations, its role in many disease states, and possibilities for treatment.

Then, nutritional anemias take the stage. Drs Green and Datta Mitra thoroughly review all aspects of megaloblastic anemia, focusing on vitamin B12 and folate deficiency but also reviewing rarer causes. Then, I discuss iron deficiency and review the data of the harmful effects of nonanemic iron deficiency and treatment options.

Dr Dao uses a case-based approach to make comprehensible issues in diagnosis and treatment of myelodysplastic syndromes. The many forms of autoimmune hemolytic anemia are discussed by Drs Liebman and Weitz, focusing on aspects of pathogenesis, presentation, testing, and treatment. Congenital hemolytic anemia is the focus of Dr Haley’s article, where she reviews the protean manifestations of these anemias, the clues to diagnosis, and some of the most common hemolytic anemias.

Drs Azar and Wong review sickle cell anemia with a discussion on new trends in treatment for this disabling disease. Drs Shatzel and Taylor review the range of thrombotic microangiopathies, ranging from thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura to rare causes of hemolytic uremic syndromes and the new treatment options for these conditions. Then, discussions of anemia come to a close with Dr Daughety reviewing less common anemias.

Finally, Drs Goodnough and Panigrahi review red cell transfusions therapy and provide an overview of the crucial clinic trials that have recently helped define appropriate use of this commonly given therapy.
I am proud of the talent that took time to write these state-of-the-art reviews for this issue of Medical Clinics of North America, and I hope the readers of these articles find them both enlightening and helpful in their care for patients.

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