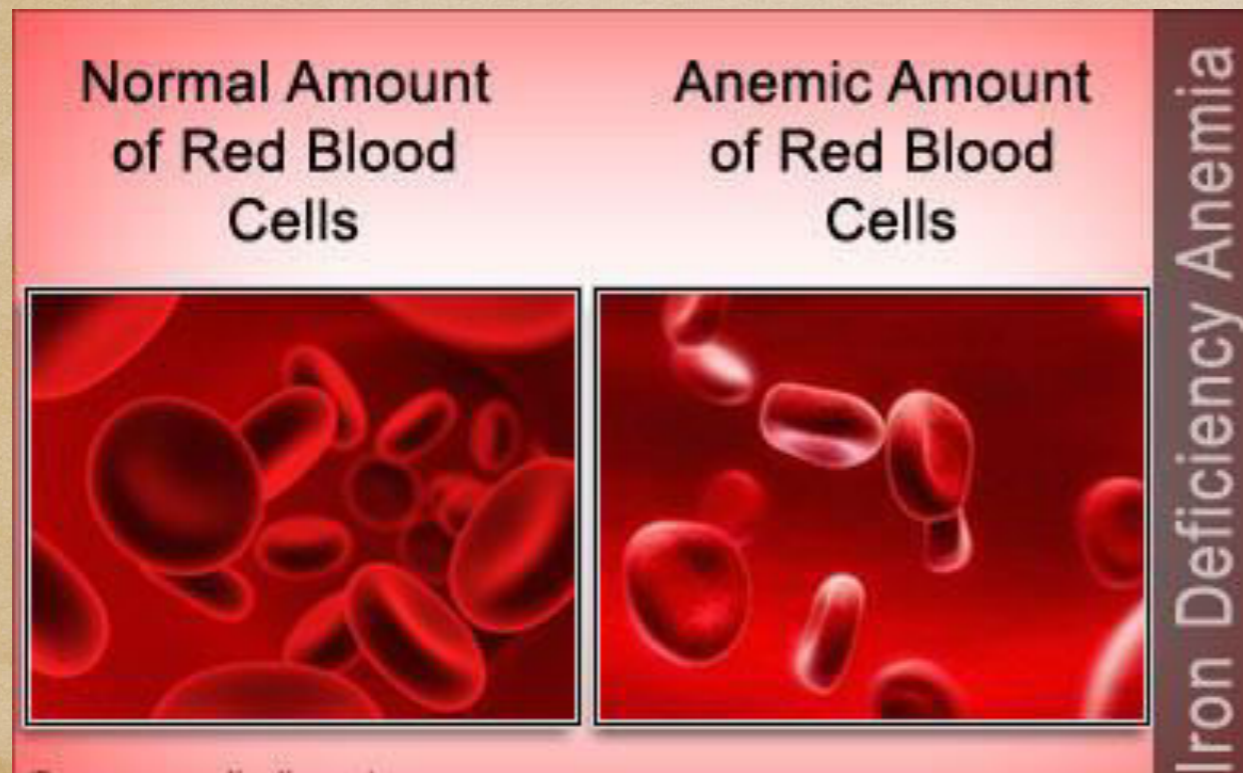


# INVESTIGATIONS FOR IRON- DEFICIENCY ANEMIA IN PREGNANCY



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8<sup>th</sup> SEMESTER

# 1. Hemoglobin and hematocrit :

- Hemoglobin -  $< 10\text{g\%}$  (NORMAL :  $11-14\text{g\%}$ )

## WHO Grading:

MILD	$8-10\text{g\%}$
MODERATE	$7-8\text{g\%}$
SEVERE	$4-7\text{g\%}$
VERY SEVERE	$< 4\text{g\%}$

Normal amount of red blood cells



Anemic amount of red blood cells



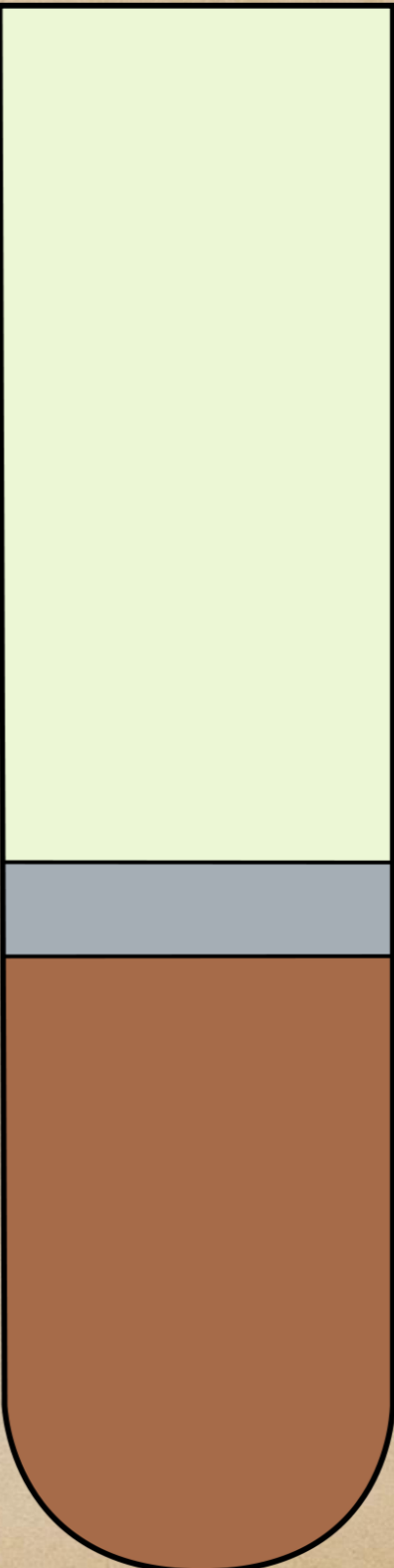
- PCV -  $< 32\%$  (NORMAL :  $32\%-36\%$ )
- RBC Count -  $< 3.2$  million (NORMAL :  $4-4.5$  million/cubic millimetre)

Plasma

Formed  
elements

Leukocytes &  
thrombocytes

Erythrocytes



## 2. Peripheral Smear :

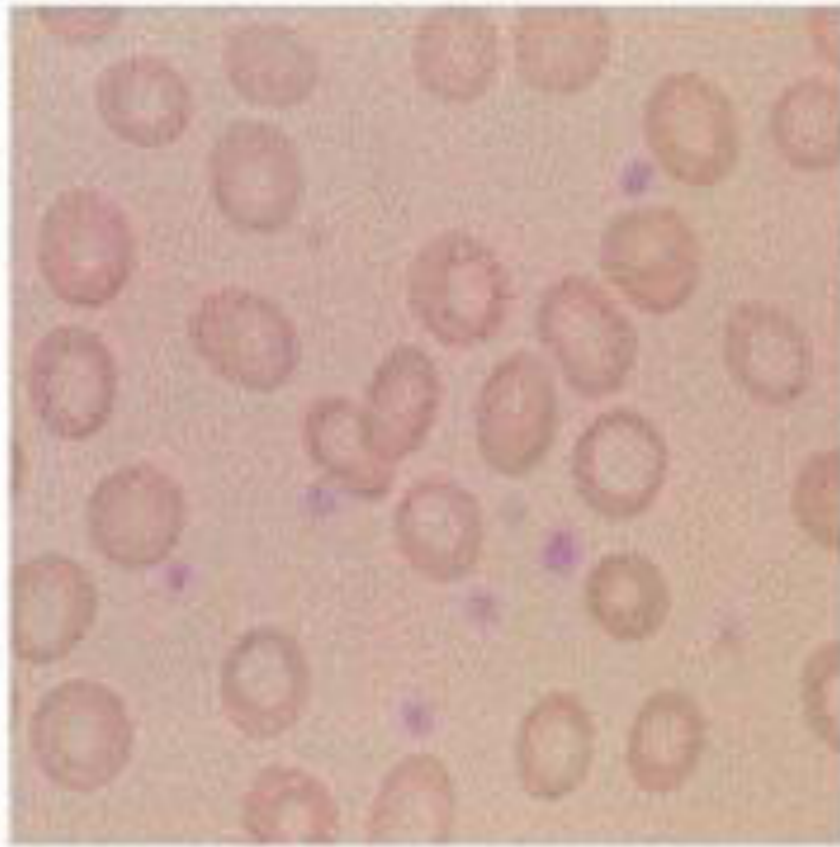
- Thin smear -

RBC Morphology - Microcytic hypochromic RBC's , anisocytosis , poikilocytosis and target cells.

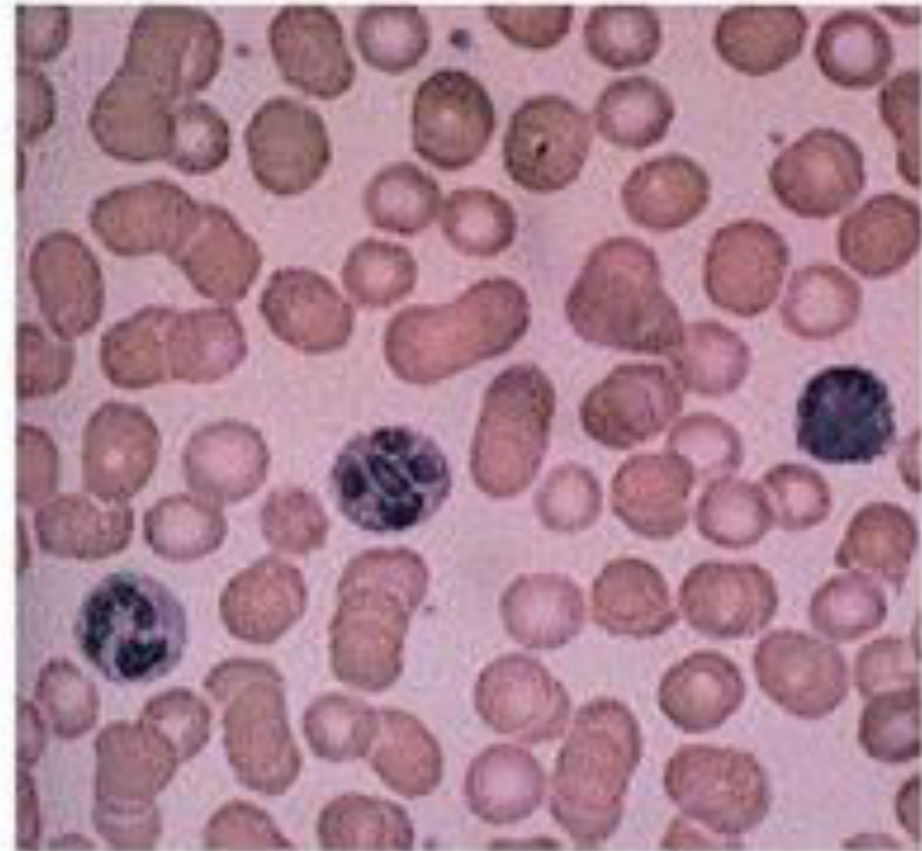
- Thick smear -

Useful in identifying parasites - malaria , leishmania

# Iron Deficiency Anemia



anemia



normal blood

### 3. Red cell indices :

- Mean corpuscular volume ( $MCV = Hct/RBC * 10$ ) - decreased ( $< 80 fl$ ) (NORMAL : 80-100 fl)
- Mean corpuscular haemoglobin ( $MCH = Hb/RBC * 10$ ) - decreased ( $< 25 pg$ ) (NORMAL : 27-31 pg)
- Mean cell hemoglobin concentration ( $MCHC = Hb/Hct * 100$ ) - reduced ( $< 30\%$  is sensitive indicator) (NORMAL : 32-36 g/dl)
- Red cell distribution width (RDW) - increased ( $> 14\%$ ) [helps to differentiate from thalassemia.] (NORMAL : 11.5-14.5%)

## 4. Special tests :

### A. ferrokinetic studies

- Serum iron and Total iron binding capacity:  $<30\text{mg/dl}$  and  $>400\text{mg/dl}$  (NORMAL:  $65-165\text{mg/dl}$  and  $300-400\text{mg/dl}$ ) respectively
- Transferrin % saturation :  $<16\%$  (NORMAL :  $20-50\%$ )
- Serum ferritin :  $<12\text{ng/ml}$  (NORMAL :  $15-300\text{ng/ml}$ )
- Serum transferrin receptor (TfR) : increased ( $>2.8\text{mg/L}$ ) (NORMAL:  $1-2\text{mg/dl}$ )
- Zinc protoporphyrin : increased (NORMAL :  $0-35\text{microgram/dl}$ )

### B. Bone marrow (prussian blue stain) studies:

$<10\%$  hemosideroblasts

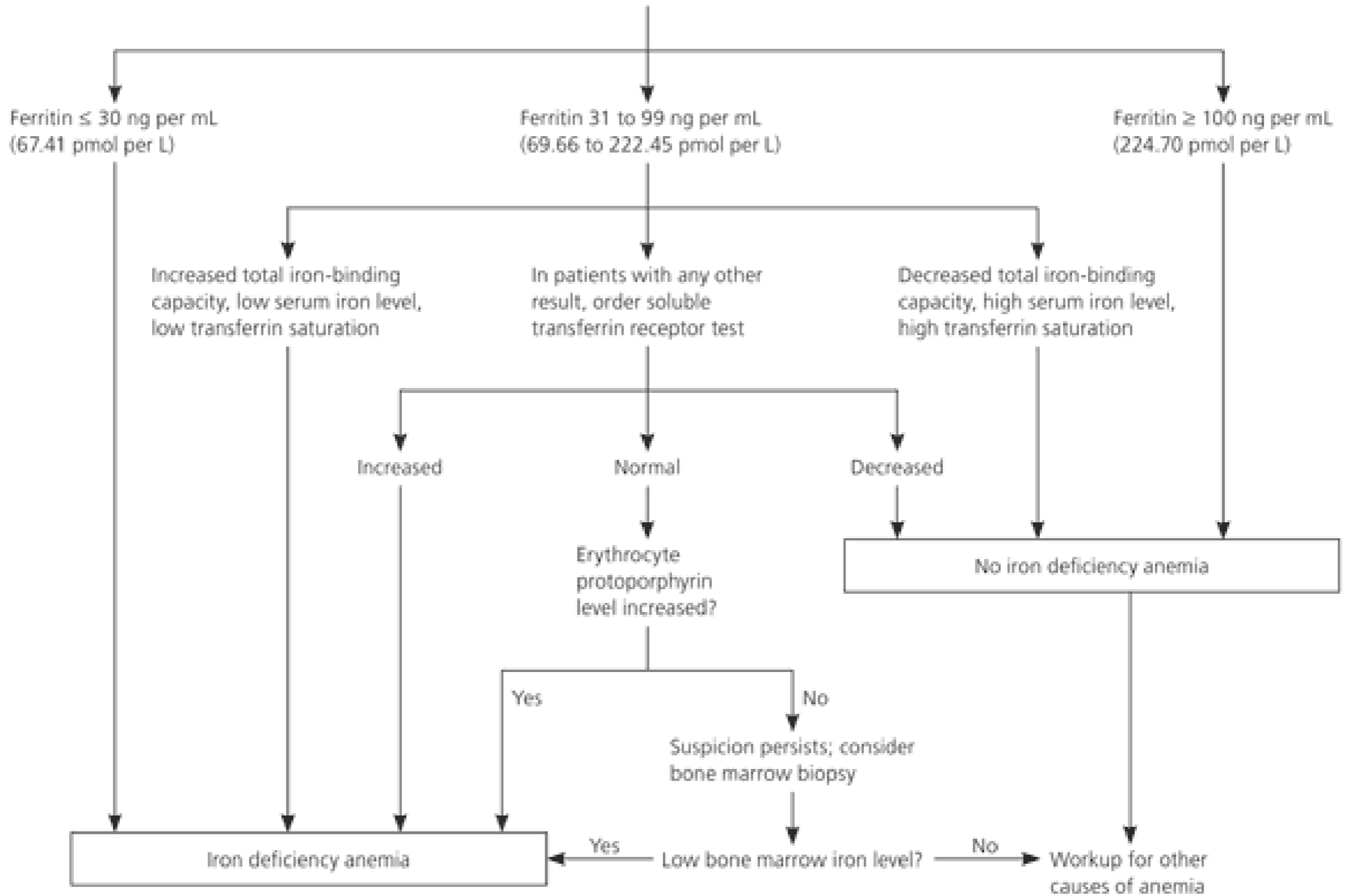
- not done routinely.

5. Investigations to determine the aetiology :

- Urine for hematuria and pyuria (culture & sensitivity)
- Stool examination for occult blood, ova and cysts.
- Renal function tests for chronic renal disease.
- Tests for tuberculosis (x-ray chest)
- Fractional test meal analysis of gastric juice.
- Serum protein.
- Osmotic fragility.

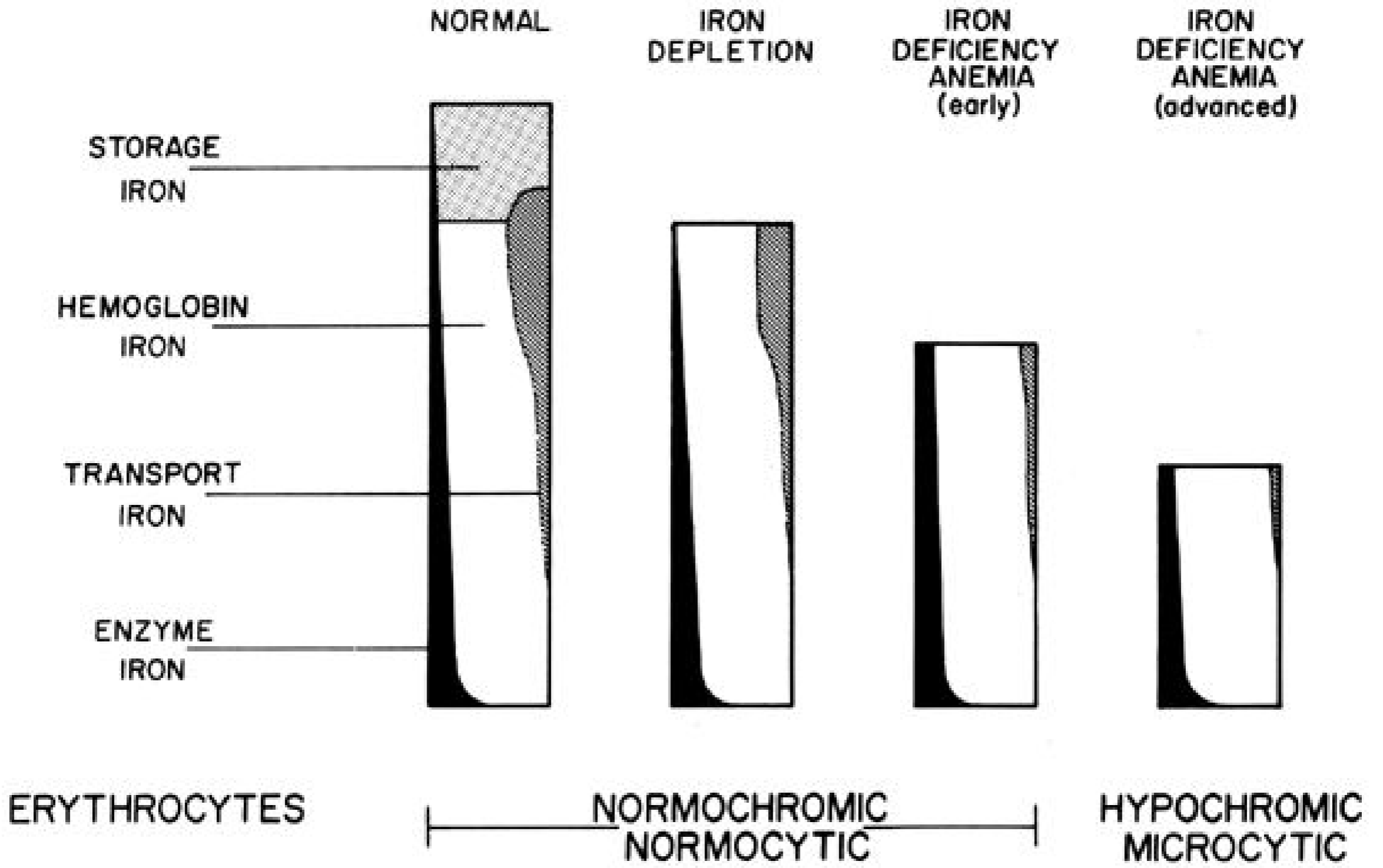


Patient with anemia, mean corpuscular volume < 95  $\mu\text{m}^3$  (95 fL)



# PHASES OF IRON-DEFICIENCY ANEMIA

1. Decreased iron stores (tissue iron only): decreased ferritin levels
2. Decrease in iron for erythropoiesis: (no clinical anemia) - serum transferrin receptors increases, decreased ferritin & %saturation of iron, increased FEP, decreased hemoglobin & hematocrit
3. Decrease in peripheral blood haemoglobin: decreased ferritin, %saturation of iron, haemoglobin, hematocrit, increased FEP and microcytic hypo chromic anemia.
4. Decrease in tissue oxygen delivery: clinical signs and symptoms.



# DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS

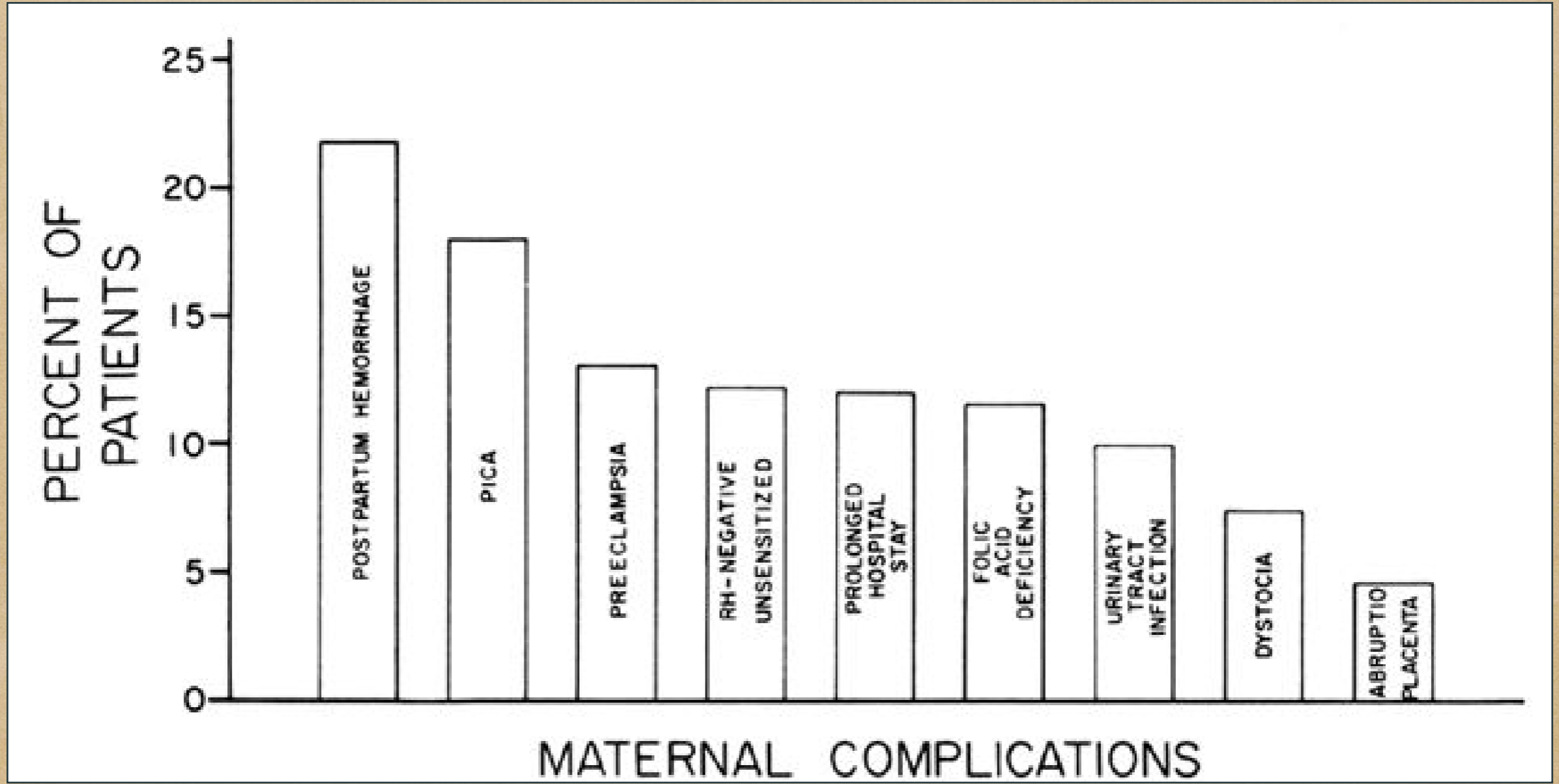
- . Anemia due to chronic disease or an inflammatory process
- . Thalassemia trait
- . Sideroblastic anemia
- . Anemia due to lead poisoning
- . Infection
- . Nephritis & pre-eclampsia
- . Hemoglobinopathies

	<b>Serum Ferritin (mcg/ml)</b>	<b>Serum Iron</b>	<b>Transferrin Saturation (%)</b>	<b>Hemoglobin</b>
<b>Anemia of Chronic Disease</b>	normal or increased	decreased	normal or decreased	decreased
<b>Iron Deficiency Anemia</b>	decreased	decreased	decreased	decreased

# COMPLICATIONS

## 1. Maternal :

- Spontaneous abortion
- Susceptibility to infections
- Preterm labour
- Pre-eclampsia
- Inability to withstand postpartum hemorrhage
- Puerperal sepsis
- Congestive cardiac failure
- Sideropenic dysphagia (paterson-kelly syndrome, plummer-vinson syndrome [rare])



## 2. Fetal :

- Intrauterine growth restriction
- Prematurity
- Intrauterine fetal death (severe cases)
- Non-immune hydrops
- Increased morbidity and mortality
- Neonatal anemia
- Behavioural abnormalities in children

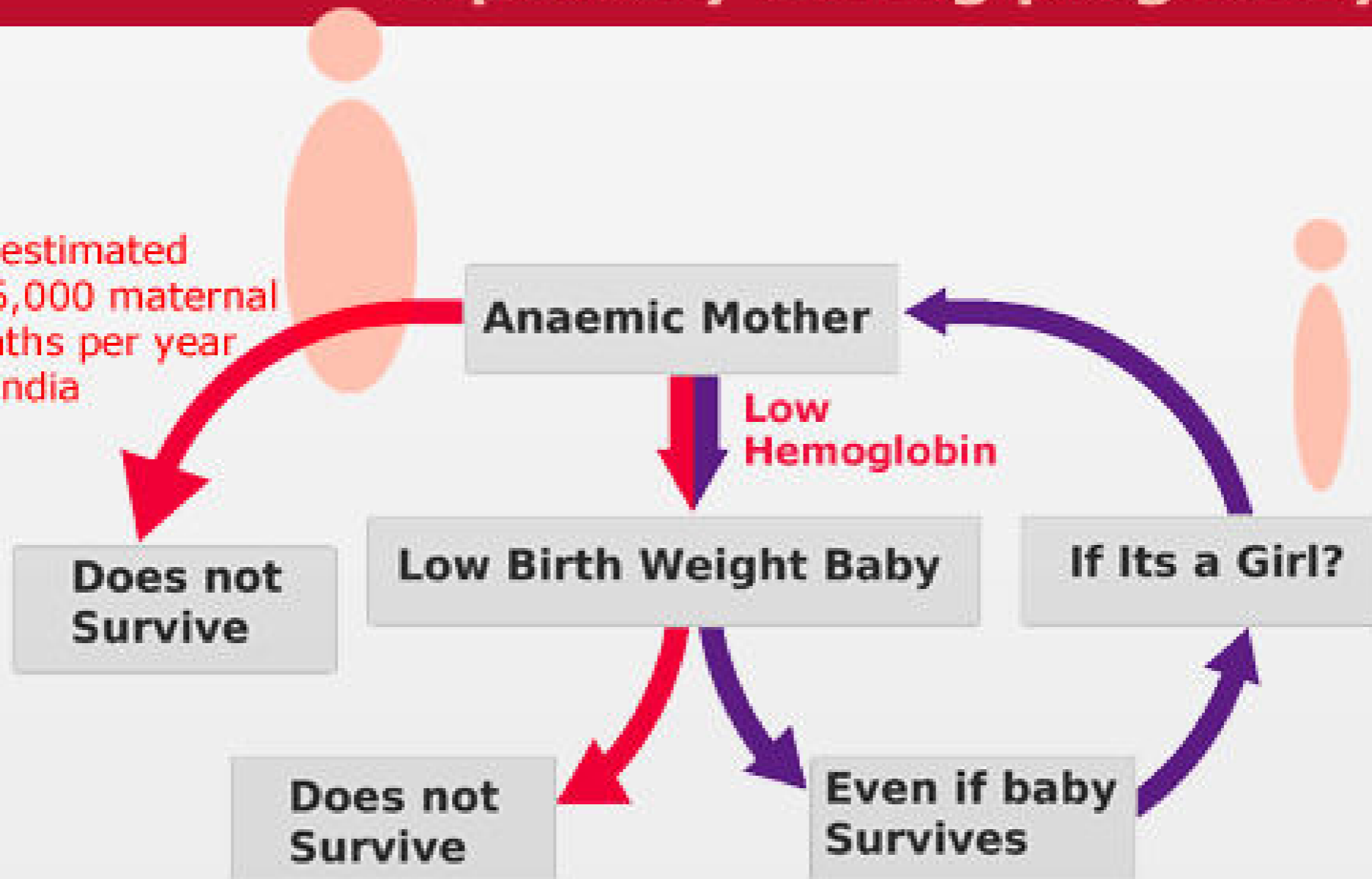


### 3. Puerperium :

- Subinvolution
- Poor lactation
- Puerperal venous thrombosis
- Pulmonary embolism

# Anaemia is a **serious problem** especially during pregnancy

An estimated 136,000 maternal deaths per year in India



High Infant Mortality Rate of around 60/1000 live births in India

 prone to diseases  
poor mental development  
poor physical development  
disability

# PROGNOSIS

## MATERNAL -

- If detected early and proper treatment is instituted, anemia improves promptly.
- At times, recurrence in subsequent pregnancy is seen.
- Anemia directly or indirectly contributes to about 20% of the maternal deaths.

## . FETAL:

- In severe cases fetal prognosis is adversely affected by prematurity with its hazards.
- Baby born at term, to severely anaemic mother will not be anaemic at birth, but as there is little or no reserve iron, anaemia develops in neonatal periods.
- Mean cord blood levels of serum iron, ferritin, B<sub>12</sub> and folate are higher than that of mother.
- However, total iron binding capacity and serum levels of vitamin E are lower than that of mother.



Thank you