

**IAP - IJPP CME 2021****PERIPHERAL SMEAR IN ANEMIA****\*Shanthi S**

**Abstract:** *Peripheral smear is an important tool to diagnose hematological abnormalities. A good smear preparation and proper staining is vital for its correct interpretation. Many common causes of anemia like iron deficiency anemia, megaloblastic anemia and thalassemia can be diagnosed by a blood smear examination. This article discusses the basics of a good smear, methodical examination and interpretation of the smear in anemia.*

**Keywords:** *Anemia, Peripheral smear, Poikilocytosis, Iron deficiency, Thalassemia.*

**Points to Remember**

- *A good smear technique and proper staining is essential for correct interpretation.*
- *Methodical examination of all three cell lines is crucial.*
- *Poikilocytosis refers to abnormal shape in RBC and anisocytosis to difference in size.*
- *Many inherited anemias like thalassemia, sickle cell anemia and hereditary spherocytosis can be diagnosed by careful examination of a peripheral smear.*
- *A smear should always be interpreted in collaboration with history, clinical findings and CBC report.*

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