

# Thursdays Webinars



## Pathophysiology, clinical presentation and management of congenital erythrocytosis

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Center for Rare Diseases (ZSE Ulm), Ulm University Medical Center, Germany  
ERN-EuroBloodNet subnetworks: RBC defects, BMF & hematopoietic defects



23rd September 2021





**No COI to declare in the context of the topic of this webinar.**



## Learning objectives of the webinar

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1. To understand the classification of CE according to pathogenesis
2. To know diagnostic parameters in CE and its use in the diagnostic pathway
3. To use the diagnostic pathway in an individual patient
4. To know the clinical and pathogenic background in distinct types of CE
5. To get an overview on some useful and and other more questionable treatment approaches in CE

# Regulation of erythropoiesis

# Erythrocytosis

## „Apparent“ erythrocytosis

= red cell mass (↑)  
+ plasma volume (↓)

## Relative erythrocytosis

= plasma volume ↓



## Absolute erythrocytosis

= red cell mass ↑

### Primary erythrocytosis

= Epo-independent, intrinsic defect of erythroid progenitor cells

### Secondary erythrocytosis

= Epo-dependent, normal sensitivity of the Epo receptor

## Absolute erythrocytosis

### Primary erythrocytosis

#### Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1;  
*EPOR* (syn. *Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP*)

#### Acquired

- Polycythemia vera

### Secondary erythrocytosis

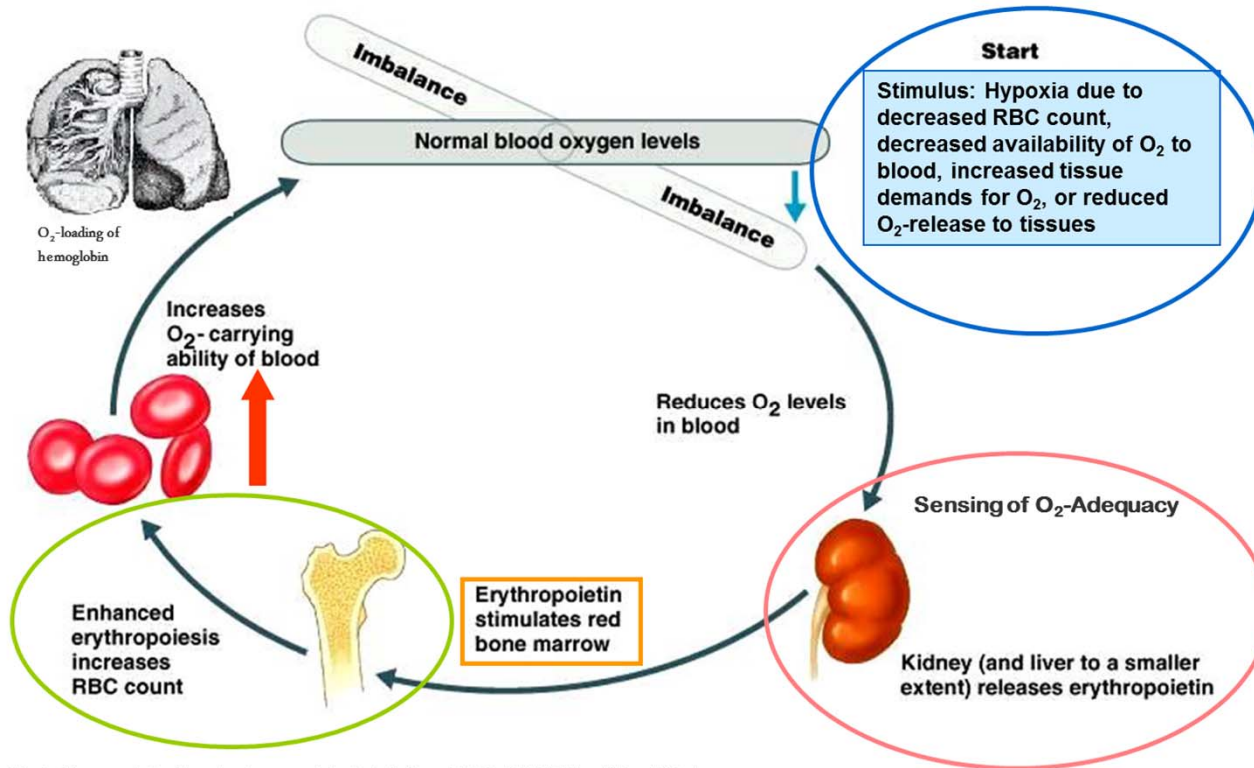
#### Congenital

- Defective O<sub>2</sub>-Sensing
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 2; *VHL*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 3; *EGLN1* (PHD2)
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 4; *EPAS1* (HIF2a)
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 5; *EPO*
- Altered Hb oxygen affinity
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 6; *HBB*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 7; *HBA1, HBA2*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type „x“; *PKLR*

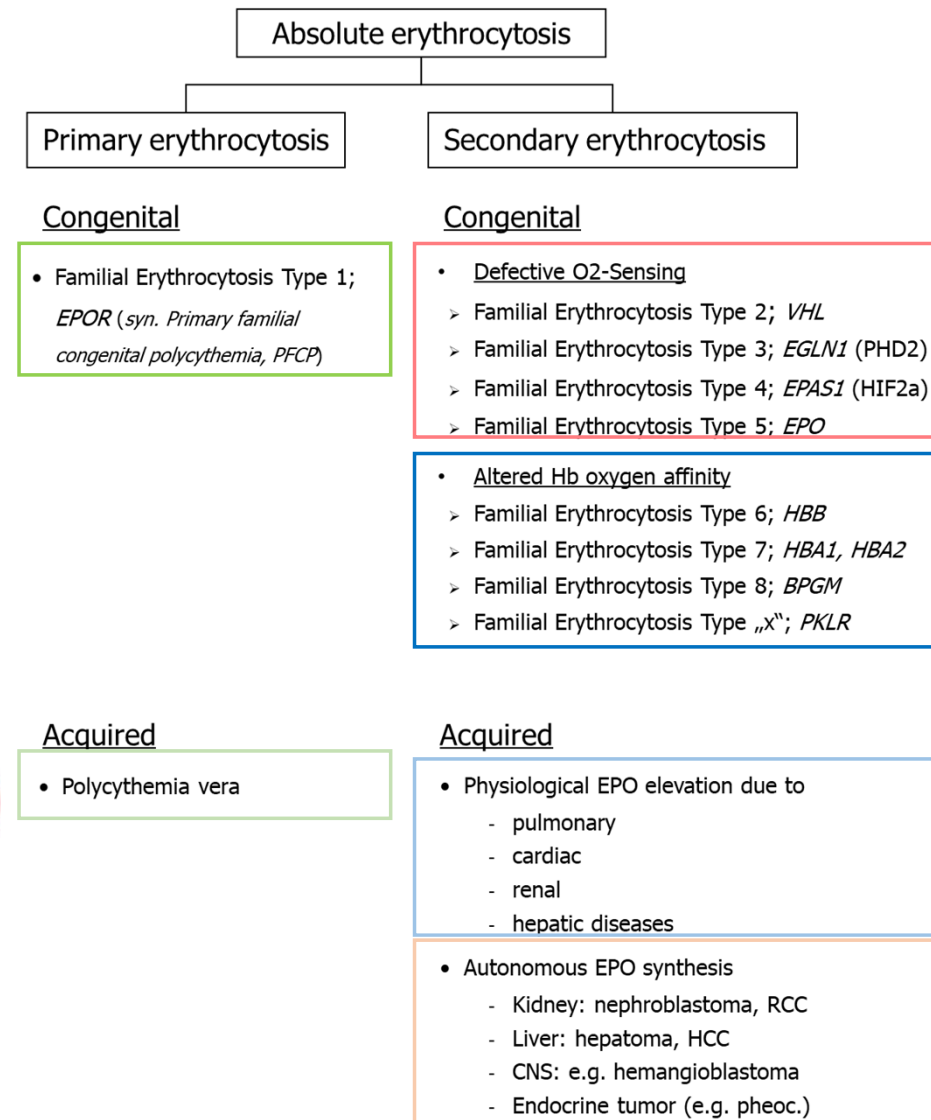
#### Acquired

- Physiological EPO elevation due to
  - pulmonary
  - cardiac
  - renal
  - hepatic diseases
- Autonomous EPO synthesis
  - Kidney: nephroblastoma, RCC
  - Liver: hepatoma, HCC
  - CNS: e.g. hemangioblastoma
  - Endocrine tumor (e.g. pheoc.)

# Regulation of erythropoiesis



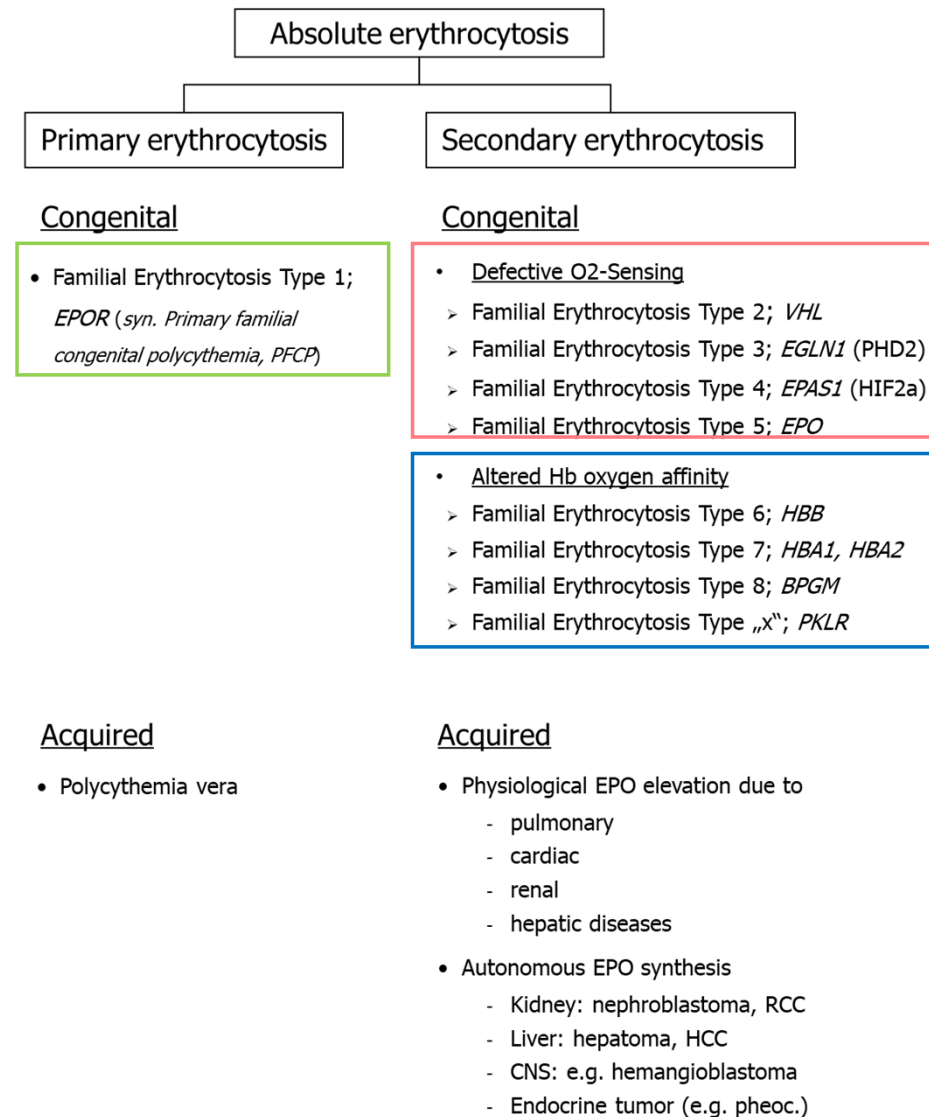
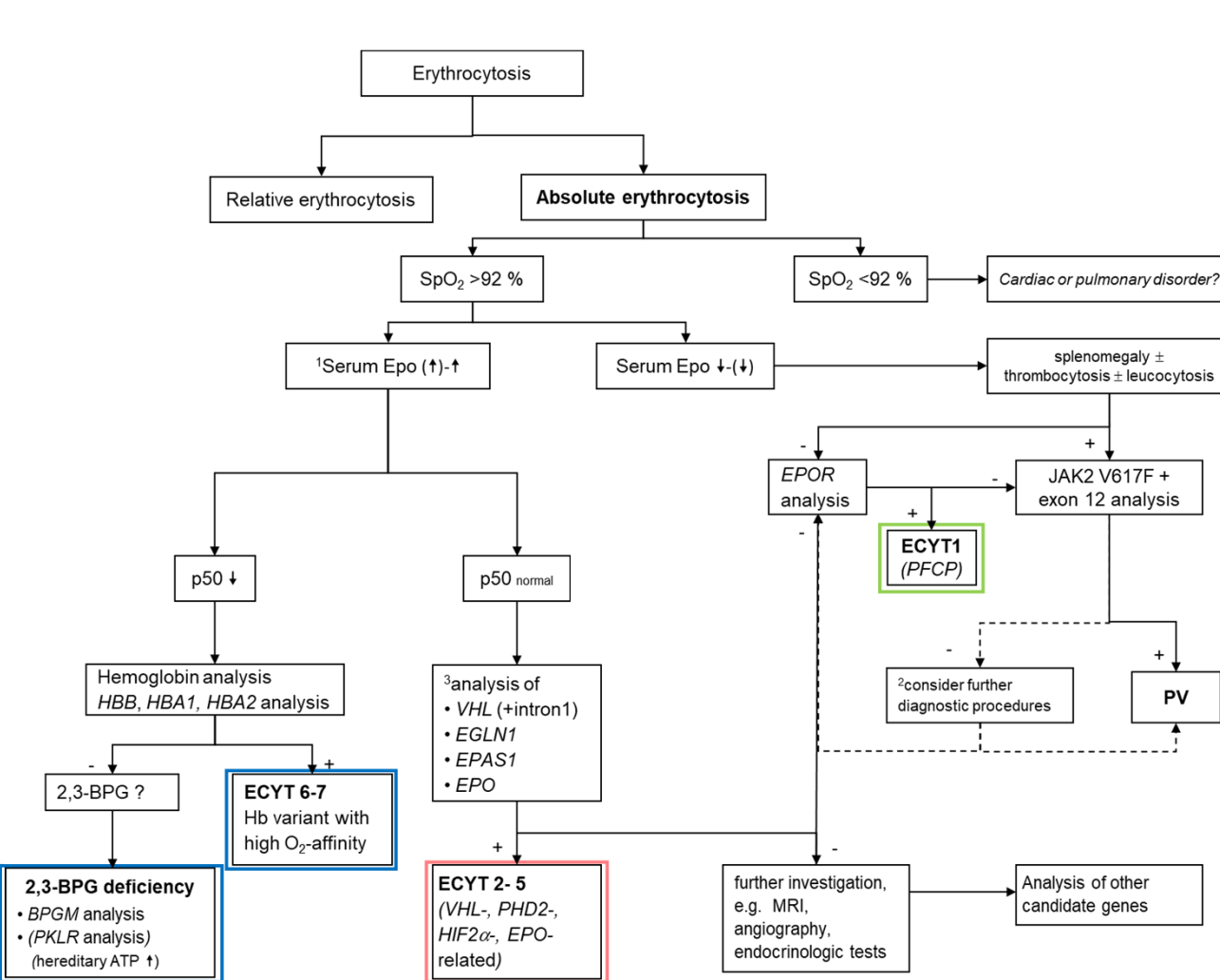
# Erythrocytosis



Adapted from: [http://academic.pgcc.edu/~aimholtz/AandP/206\\_ONLINE/Blood/blood2.html](http://academic.pgcc.edu/~aimholtz/AandP/206_ONLINE/Blood/blood2.html)  
<http://links.nephron.com/issues/anemia>

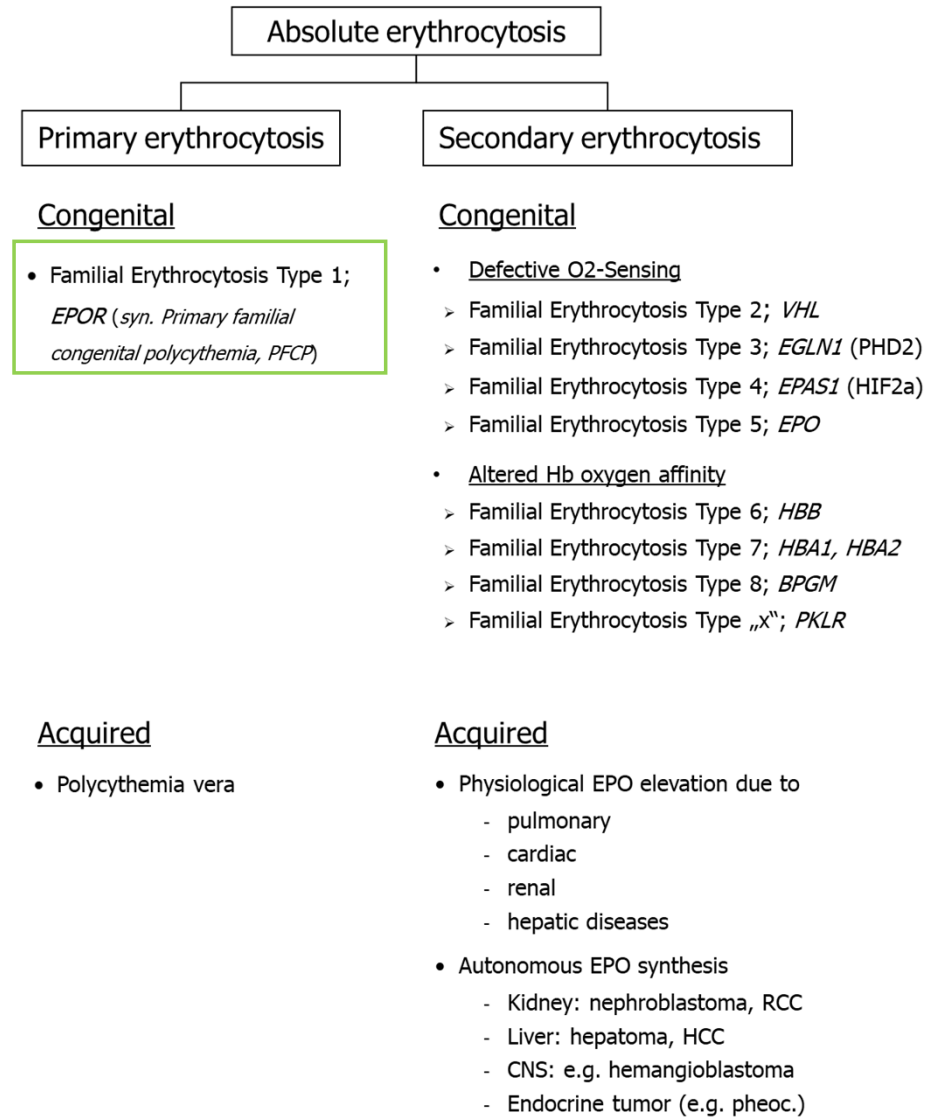
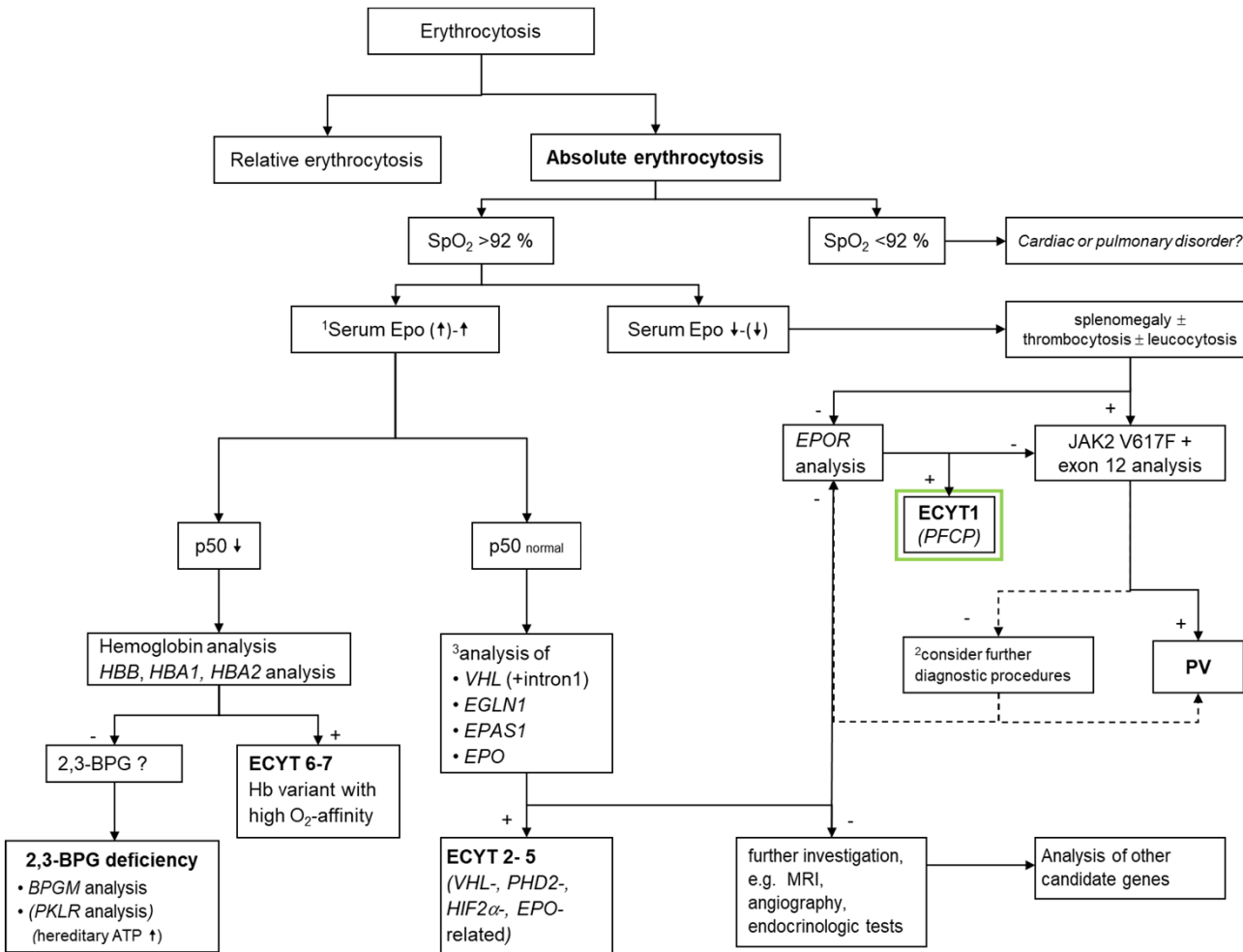
# Regulation of erythropoiesis

# Erythrocytosis



# Regulation of erythropoiesis

# Erythrocytosis





# Familial erythrocytosis Type I

# Erythrocytosis



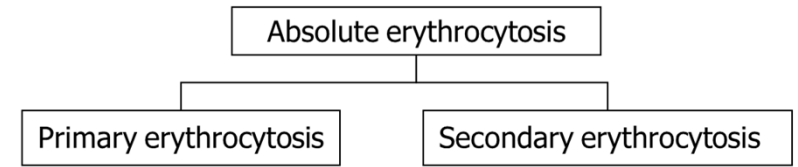
**Eero Mäntyranta**

\* 20.11.1937  
† 30.12.2013

Finnish cross-country skier

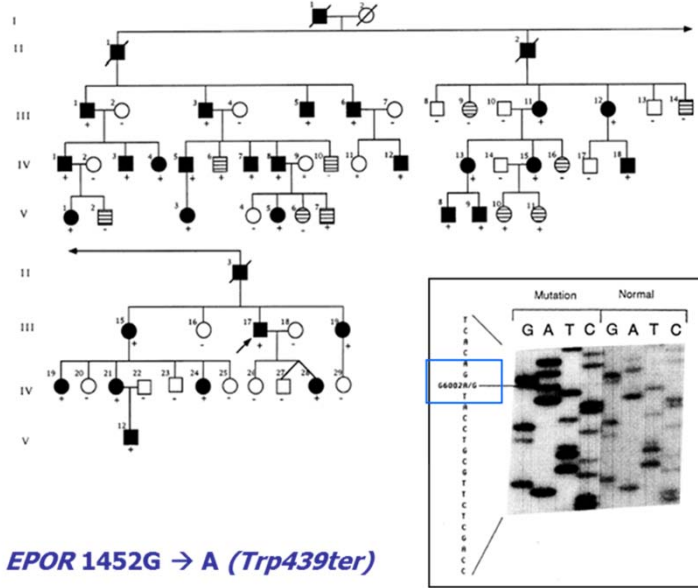
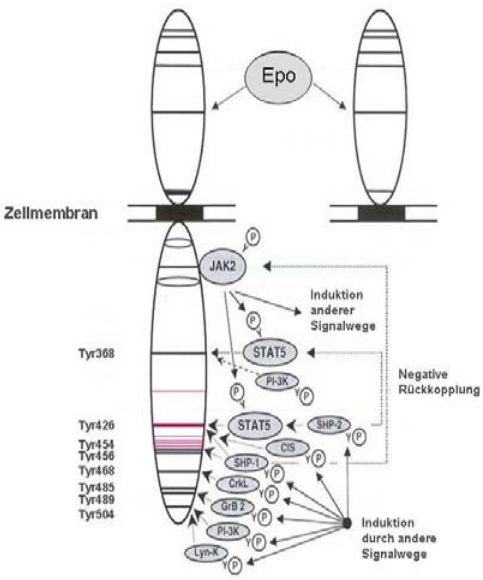
World championship and medals 1962, 1966

Olympic championship and medals 1960, 1964, 1968



- Congenital**
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- Congenital**
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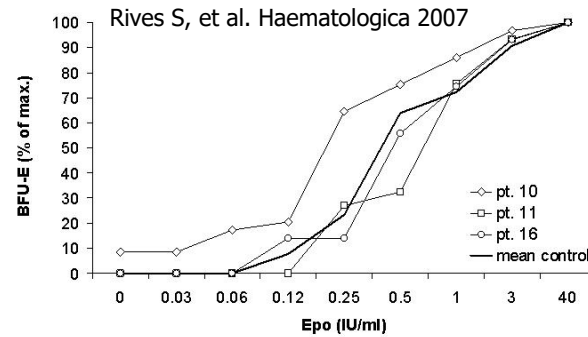
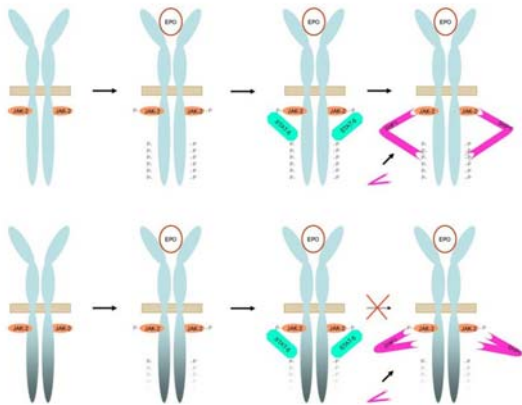
de la Chapelle A, et al. *PNAS* 1993



# Familial erythrocytosis Type I

# Erythrocytosis

Epo receptor – Activation and down-regulation

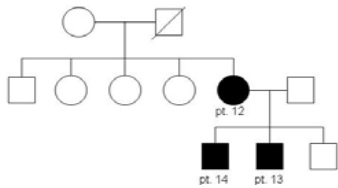


Previously described and novel *EPOR* gene mutations

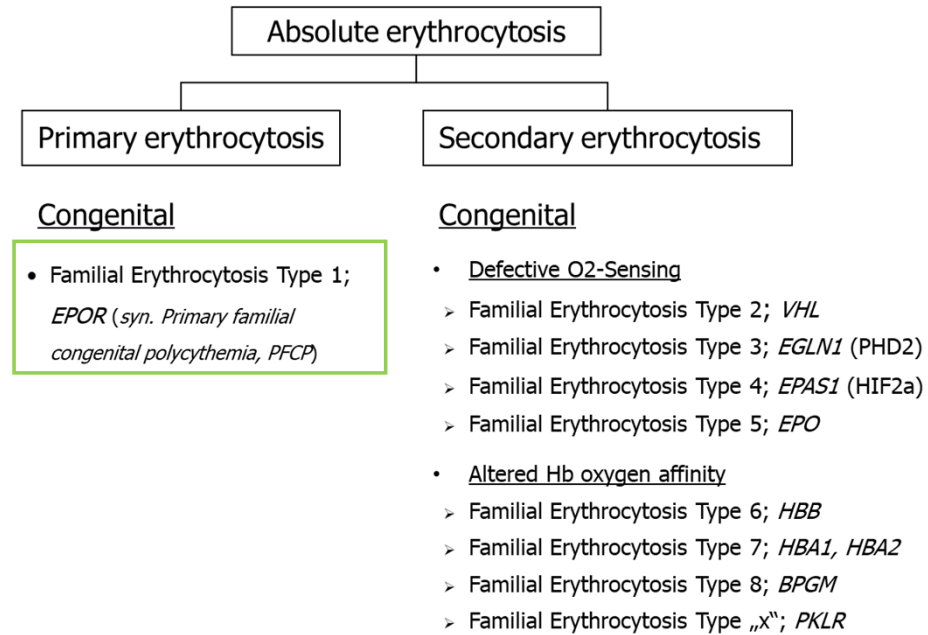
Protein effect	References
p.Pro380Ala	Almeida (this report)
p.Pro381Glnfs*2	Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Glu399*	Arcasoy et al. (2002)
p.Ser412Argfs*41	O'Rourke et al. (2011)
p.Ser412*	Bento et al. (2013a)
p.Ser415Hisfs*18	Minkov M (this report)
p.Glu417*	Perrotta et al. (2010)
p.Gly418Profs*34	Petersen et al. (2004)
p.Phe424*	Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Glu425*	Kralovics and Prchal (2001)
p.Tyr426*	Kralovics et al. (1998); Rives et al. (2007)
p.Ile428Tyrfs*17	Kralovics et al. (1997a)
p.Leu429Trpfs*24	Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Asp430Glyfs*15	Sokol et al. (1995)
p.Asp430Glufs*26	Watowich et al. (1999)
p.Gln434*	Furukawa et al. (1997)
p.Gln434Cysfs*17	Arcasoy et al. (1997); Kravolics et al. (1997a)
p.Arg437His	Bento C (this report)
p.Pro438Metfs*6	Bento et al. (2013a)
p.Trp439*	la Chapelle et al. (1993); Percy et al. (1998) Rives et al. (2007)
p.Asn487Ser	Le Couedic et al. (1996); Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Pro488Ser	Sokol et al. (1994); Kralovics et al. (1997b)

Bento C, et al. Hum Mut 2013

! Heterogeneous phenotype !

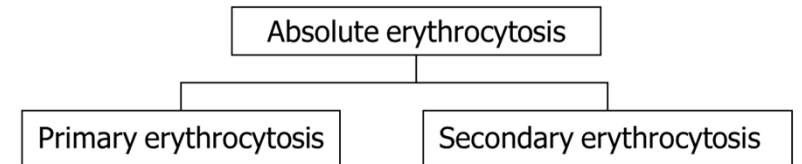
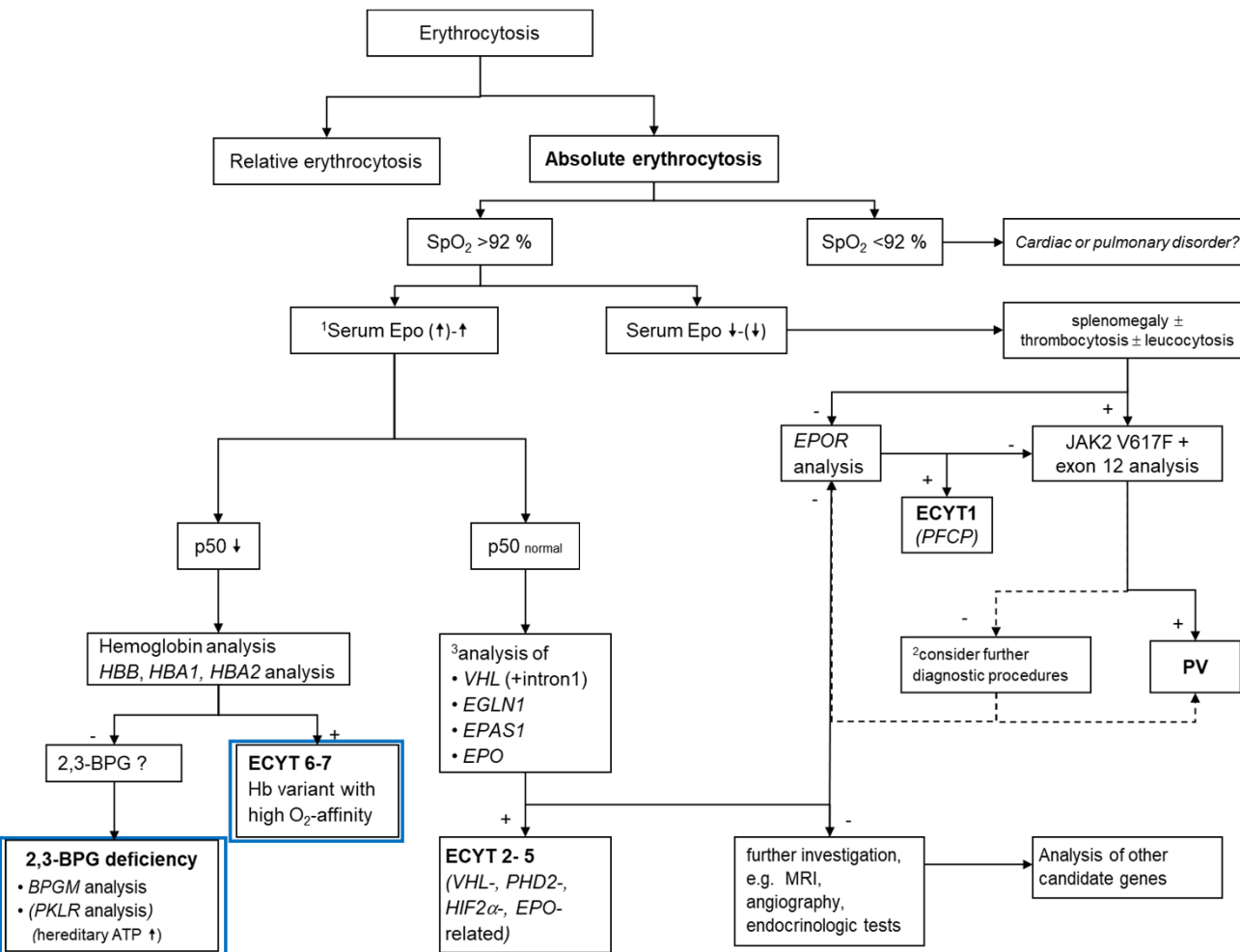


		Pt. 12	Pt. 13	Pt. 14
Age	[years]	40	14	22
Gender	[m/f]	f	m	m
Hemoglobin	[g/dl]	12.9	22.8	19.7
Erythropoietin	[mU/ml]	2.3	< 7.8	n.d.



# Regulation of erythropoiesis

# Erythrocytosis



## Congenital

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## Congenital

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  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 5; *EPO*

## Altered Hb oxygen affinity

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 6; *HBB*
- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 7; *HBA1, HBA2*
- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
- Familial Erythrocytosis Type „X“; *PKLR*

## Acquired

- Polycythemia vera

## Acquired

- Physiological EPO elevation due to
  - pulmonary
  - cardiac
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  - hepatic diseases
- Autonomous EPO synthesis
  - Kidney: nephroblastoma, RCC
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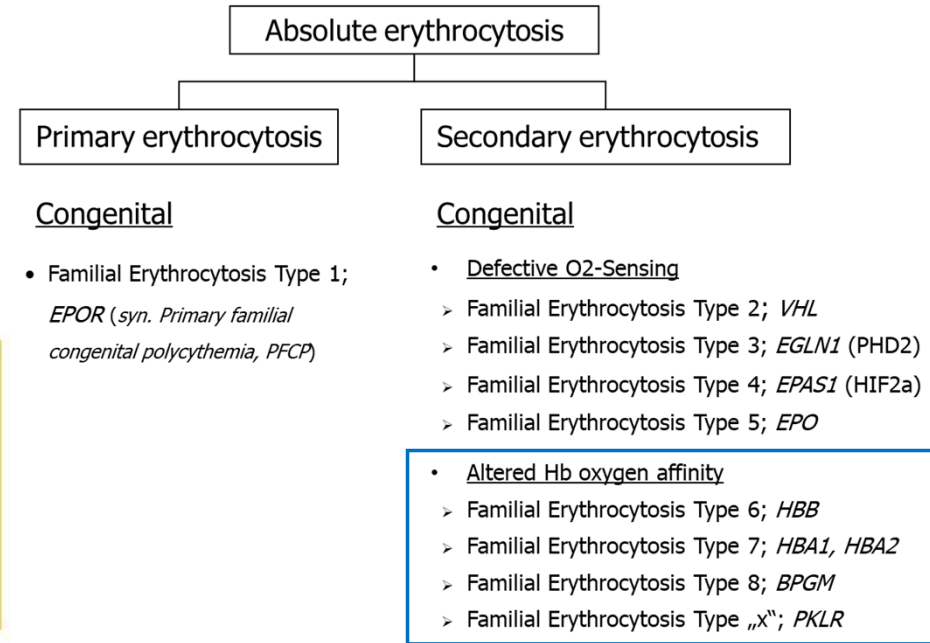
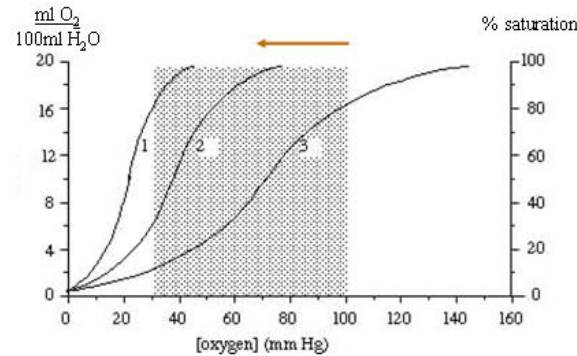
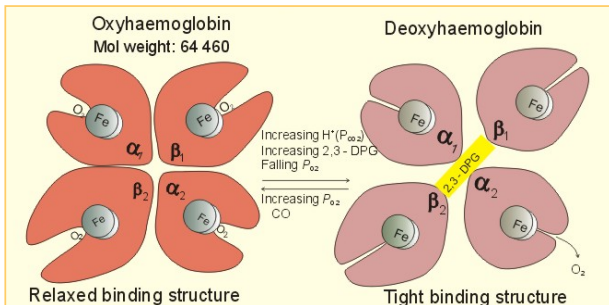
# Hemoglobin variants with increased O<sub>2</sub>-affinity

# Erythrocytosis

- Charache, S., et al. *J Clin Invest* 1966 → Hb Chesapeake
- > 200 Hb-variants with increased O<sub>2</sub>-affinity, 1/3 associated with erythrocytosis

1. mutations within the  $\alpha_1/\beta_2$ -interface →  $\nearrow$  quaternary confirmation
2. mutations in the 2,3-BPG binding site
3. C-terminal substitutions in the  $\beta$ -chain → reduced Bohr-effect
4. mutations interfering with heme binding

	1	2	3
P50	LOW	intermediate	HIGH
O <sub>2</sub> – affinity	HIGH	intermediate	LOW
O <sub>2</sub> – uptake in the lung	increased	intermediate	decreased
O <sub>2</sub> – release to the tissues	decreased	intermediate	increased

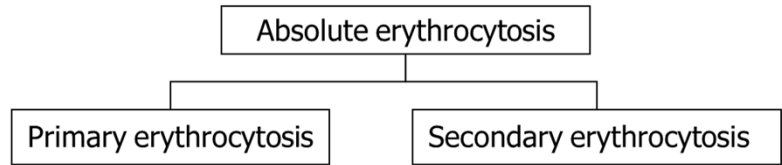


# 2,3 – Bisphosphoglycerate (2,3 BPG) deficiency

# Erythrocytosis

Rosa R, et al. The First Case of a Complete Deficiency of Diphosphoglycerate Mutase in Human Erythrocytes.

J Clin Invest 1978; 62: 907-15



### Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1; *EPOR* (syn. Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP)

### Congenital

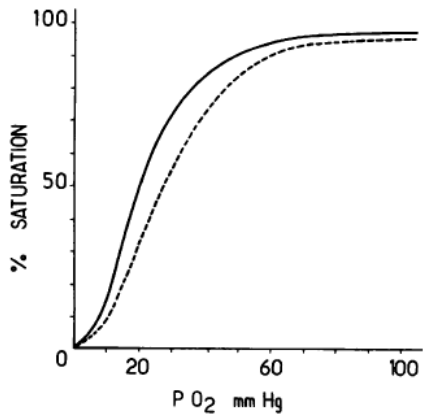
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### Altered Hb oxygen affinity

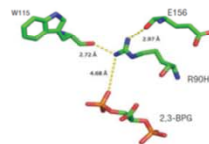
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TABLE II  
Family Study of the Correlation between 2,3-DPG and P<sub>50</sub> Values

	2,3-DPG μmol/gHb	P <sub>50</sub> mm Hg
Propositus	0.4	17.3
Son	9.2	19.5
Daughter	10.6	22.5
Normal adult values	15±2	26.5±1

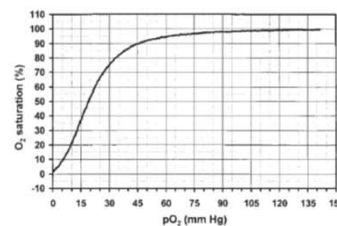


Lemarchandel V et al. Blood 1992



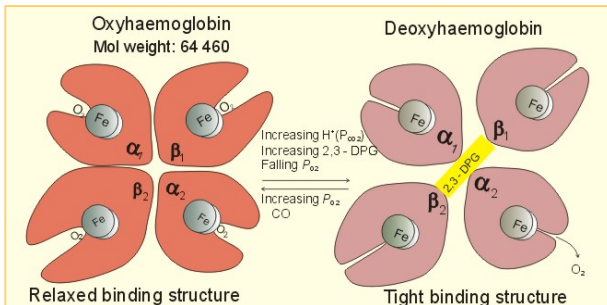
Arg90His

Petousi N et al. BJH 2014



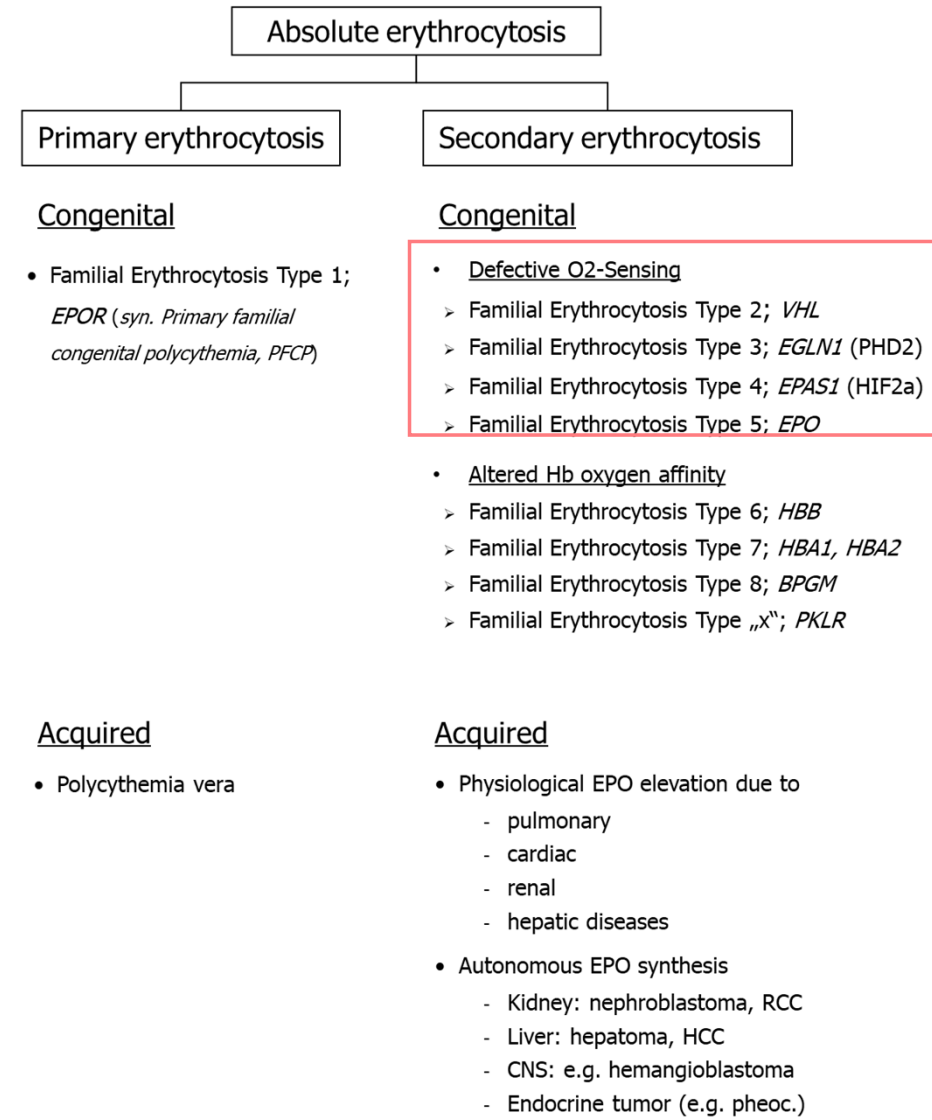
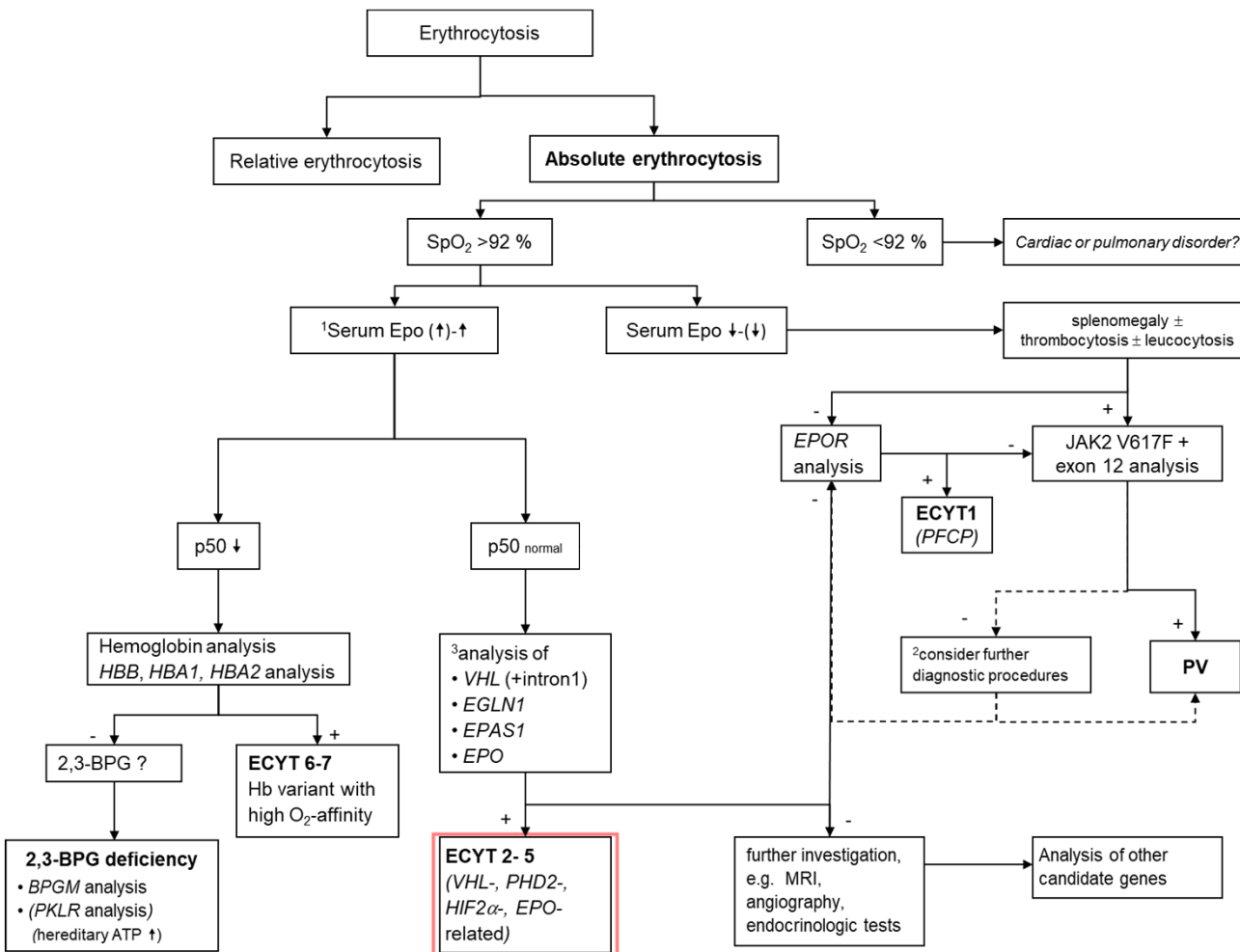
Arg62Gln

Hoyer JD et al. AJH 2004



# Regulation of erythropoiesis

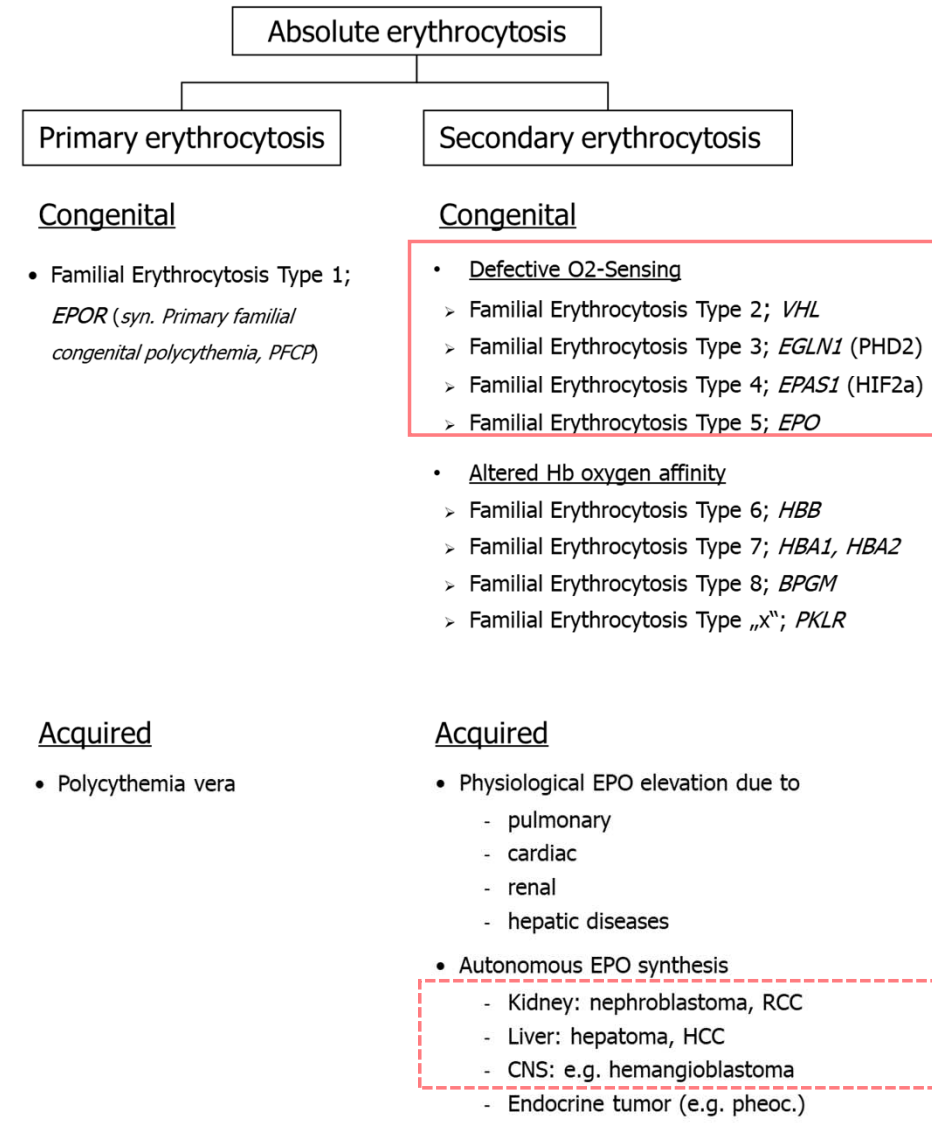
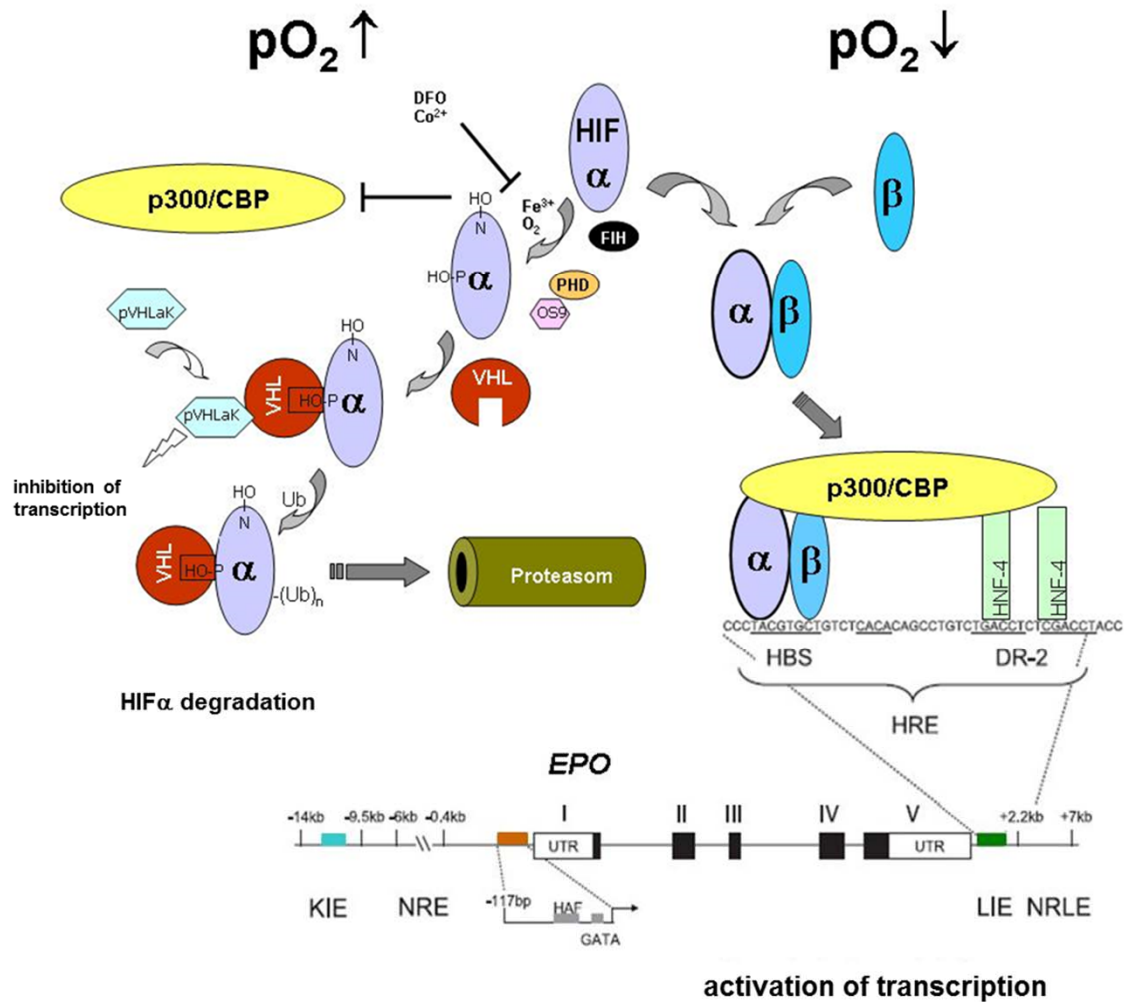
# Erythrocytosis



modified acc. Cario et al, PBC 2013



# Erythrocytosis

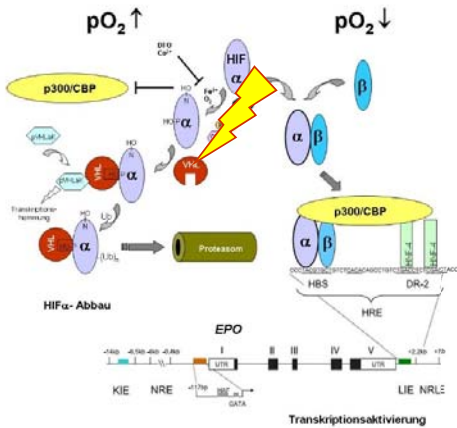




# Familial erythrocytosis Type II

# Chuvash polycythemia

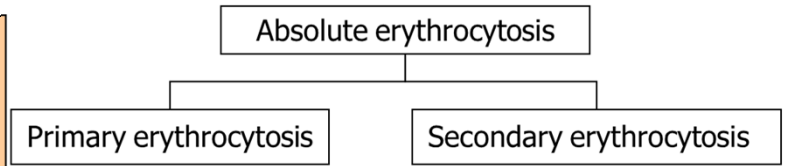
# Erythrocytosis



Polyakova LA.  
**Familial erythrocytosis among inhabitants of the Chuvash ASSR.**  
 Problemi gematologii i perilivaniya krovii 1974; 10: 30-36

Sergeyeva A, Gordeuk VR, Tokarev YN, et al.  
**Congenital polycythemia in Chuvashia.**  
 Blood 1997; 89: 2148-54

Ang SO, Chen H, Hirota K, et al.  
**Disruption of oxygen homeostasis underlies congenital Chuvash polycythemia.**  
 Nature Genetics 2002; 32(4): 614-621



## Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1;  
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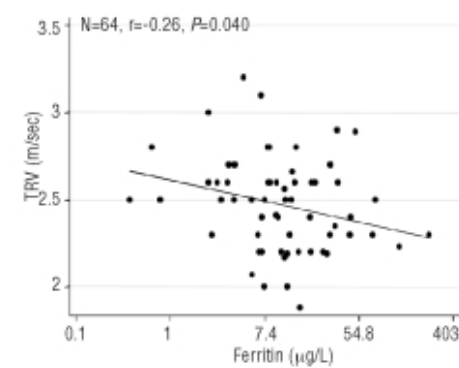
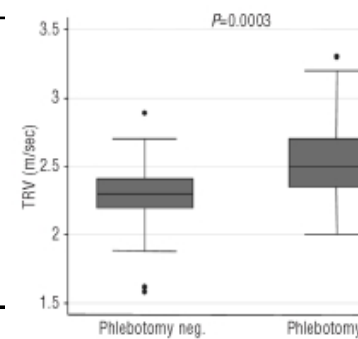
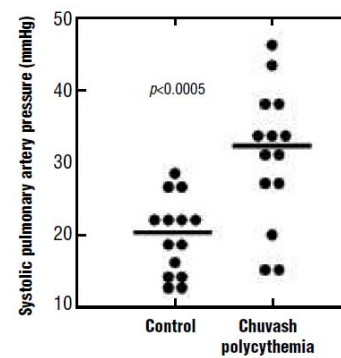
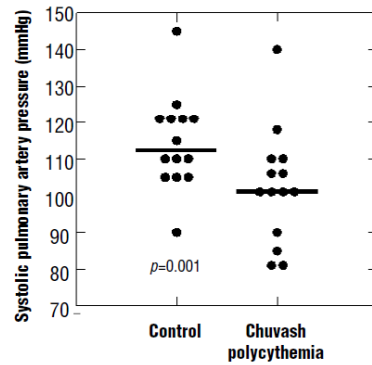
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## Morbidity

History of thrombosis	26 %
History of bleeding	33 %
Peptic ulcer disease	30 %
Dyspnea on exertion	56 %
Varicose veins	74 %
Previous silent infarction	45 %
Vertebral body hemangioma	55 %

## Pulmonary hypertension



Gordeuk VR, et al. Blood 2004

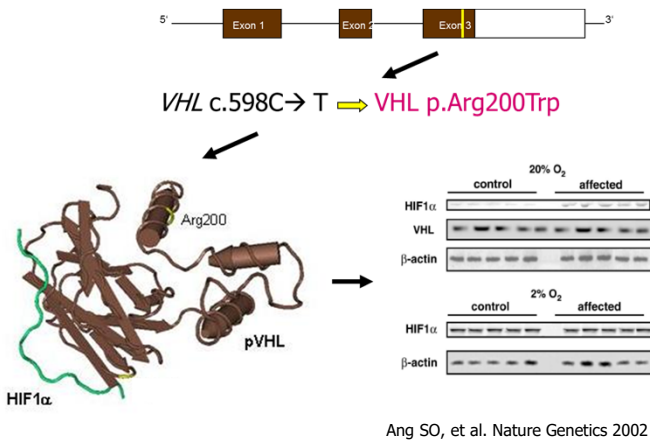
Bushuev VI et al. Haematologica 2006

Sable Ca et al. Haematologica 2012

# Familial erythrocytosis Type II

# Chuvash polycythemia

# Erythrocytosis



Liu E, Percy MJ, Amos CI, et al.  
**The worldwide distribution of the VHL 598C>T mutation indicates a single founding event.**  
 Blood 2004; 103: 1937-1940

### VHL haplotype analysis

Patients	VHL-gene mutation	Haplotype					
		rs776517	rs776517 + 68bp	rs374645	rs2600005	rs166538	rs458952
#02	C598T/C598T	G	C	T	A	C	A
#03	C598T/C598T	G	C	T	A	C	A
#15	C598T/C598T	G	C	T	A	C	A
#46	C598T/C598T	A	A	C	G	C	G
#20	C598T/wt	G/A	C/A	T/C	A/G	C/T	A/G
#09	G311T/wt	A	A	C	G	C/T	G
n=16	wt/wt	A	A	C	G	T (n=10) C/T (n=6)	G
					(#26: A/G)		(#28: A/G)

Cario H, et al. Hematologica 2005

## VHL mutations in ECYT II

Protein effect	References
p.Glu10*	Vainchenker (this report)
p.Arg79Cys	Bento et al. (2005)
p.Pro81Ala	Casadevall (this report)
p.Gly104Val	Cario et al. (2005)
p.Thr124Lys	Lorenzo et al. (2013)
p.Asp126Asn	Bond et al. (2011)
p.Asp126Tyr	Pastore et al. (2003a)
p.Val130Leu	Pastore et al. (2003a)
p.Pro138Leu	Lanikova et al. (2013)
p.Gly144Arg	Randi et al. (2005)
p.Tyr175Cys	Bento et al. (2005)
p.Ser183Leu	Bond et al. (2011)
p.Leu188Val	Pastore et al. (2003b)
p.His191Asp	Pastore et al. (2003b)
p.Pro192Thr	Percy et al. (2007)
p.Pro192Ser	Pastore et al. (2003b)
p.Lys196Glu	Bento et al. (2013b)
p.Arg200Trp	Ang et al. (2002a)

Bento C, et al. Hum Mut 2013

Perrotta S, et al.

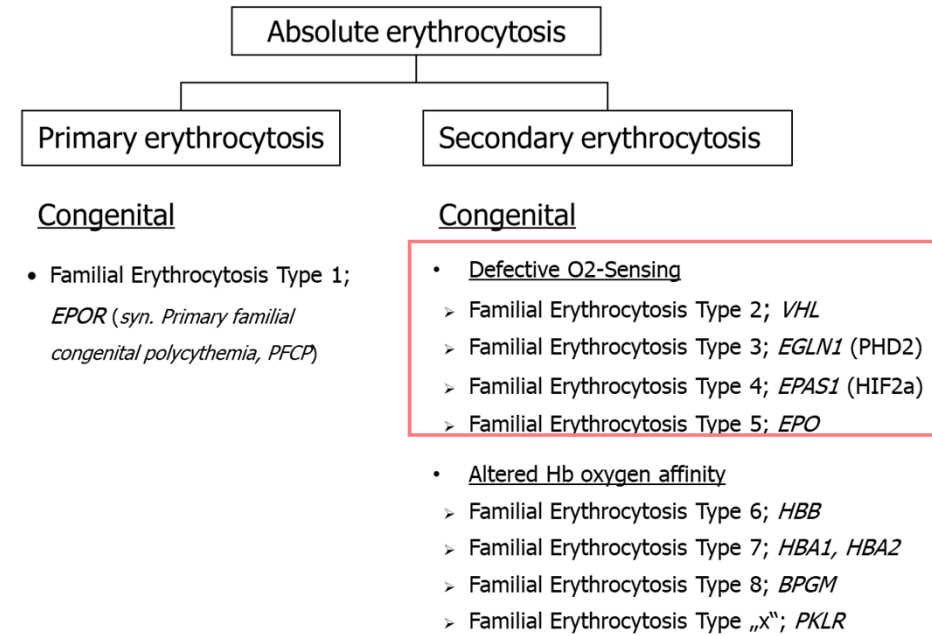
Von Hippel-Lindau-dependent polycythemia is endemic on the island of Ischia: identification of a novel cluster.

Blood 2006; 107: 514-9

Tomasic NL, et al.

The phenotype of polycythemia due to Croatian homozygous VHL (571C>G:H191D) mutation is different from that of Chuvash polycythemia (VHL 598C>T:R200W).

Haematologica 2013; 98:560-7



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# Familial erythrocytosis Type II

# Chuvash polycythemia

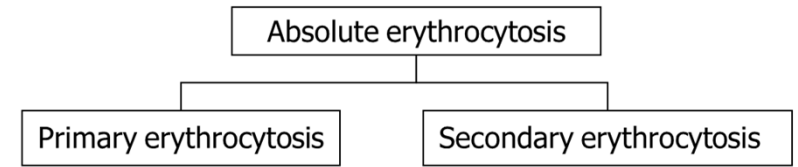
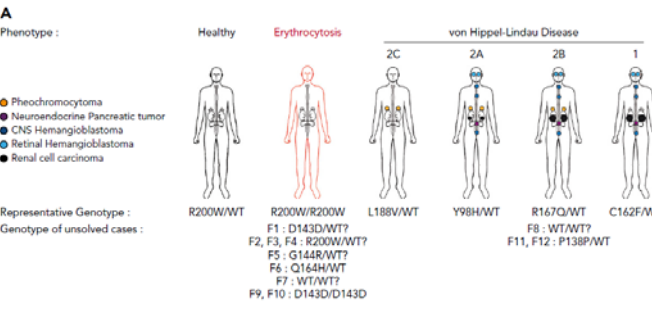
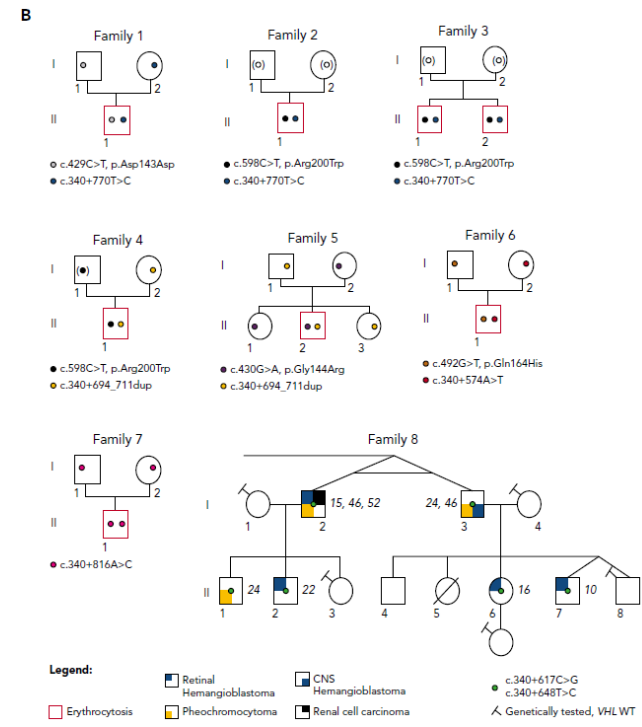
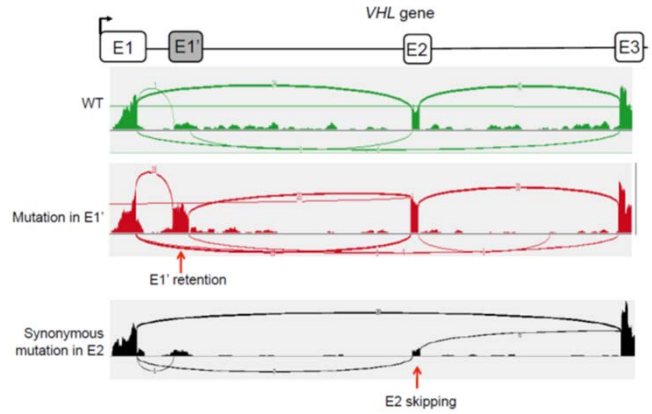
# Erythrocytosis

## RED CELLS, IRON, AND ERYTHROPOIESIS

### Identification of a new *VHL* exon and complex splicing alterations in familial erythrocytosis or von Hippel-Lindau disease

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Lenglet M, et al. Blood 2018



### Congenital

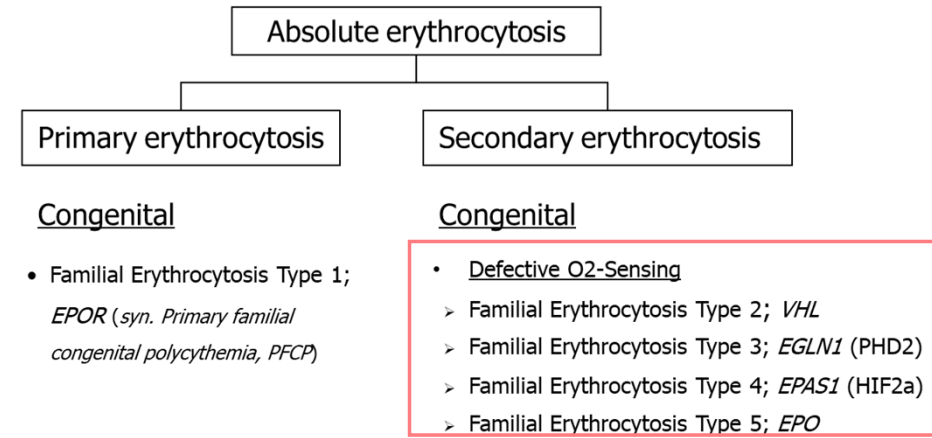
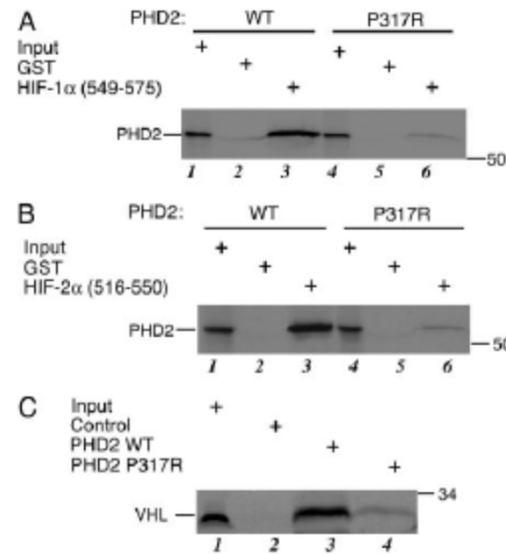
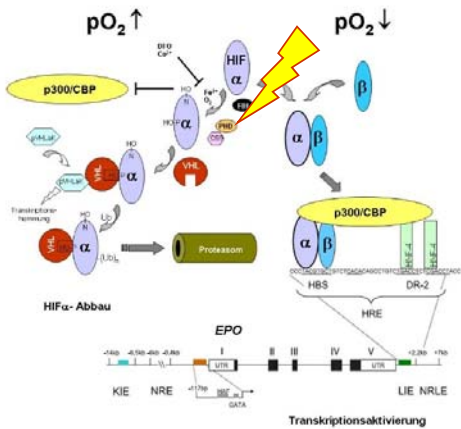
- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1; *EPOR* (*syn. Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP*)

### Congenital

- Defective O<sub>2</sub>-Sensing
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 2; *VHL*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 3; *EGLN1* (PHD2)
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 4; *EPAS1* (HIF2a)
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 5; *EPO*
- Altered Hb oxygen affinity
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  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 7; *HBA1, HBA2*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type „X“; *PKLR*

# Familial erythrocytosis Type III

# Erythrocytosis



Percy MJ, et al. *PNAS* 2006

Heterozygous mutation *EGLN1* c.950C→G = **PHD2** Pro317Arg

- AA change in the active site of PHD2
- Reduced HIF-binding and HIF hydroxylase activity
- Defective inhibition of a HRE reporter gene activity
- "Normal" serum Epo

### EGLN1 mutations in ECYT III

Protein effect	References
p.Asp4Glu <sup>#</sup>	Lorenzo et al. (2010)
p.Cys127Ser <sup>#</sup>	Lorenzo et al. (2010)
p.Gln157His <sup>#</sup>	Albiero et al. (2011); Ladroue et al. (2012)
p.Pro200Gln	Ladroue et al. (2012)
p.Met202Ilefs*72	Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Asn203Lys	Albiero et al. (2012)
p.Lys204Glu	McMullin (this report)
p.Asp254His	Ladroue et al. (2012)
p.Arg281Thrfs*4	Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Gly285Arg	McMullin (this report)
p.Lys291Ile	Albiero et al. (2012)
p.Pro317Arg	Percy et al. (2006)
p.Trp334Arg	Bento et al. (2013b)
p.Val338Glyfs*18	McMullin (this report)
p.Arg371His	Percy et al. (2007); Ladroue et al. (2012)
p.His374Arg	Ladroue et al. (2008)
p.Gln377*	Al-Sheikh et al. (2008)
p.Arg398*	Ladroue et al. (2012)
p.Lys423Glu	Albiero et al., (2012)

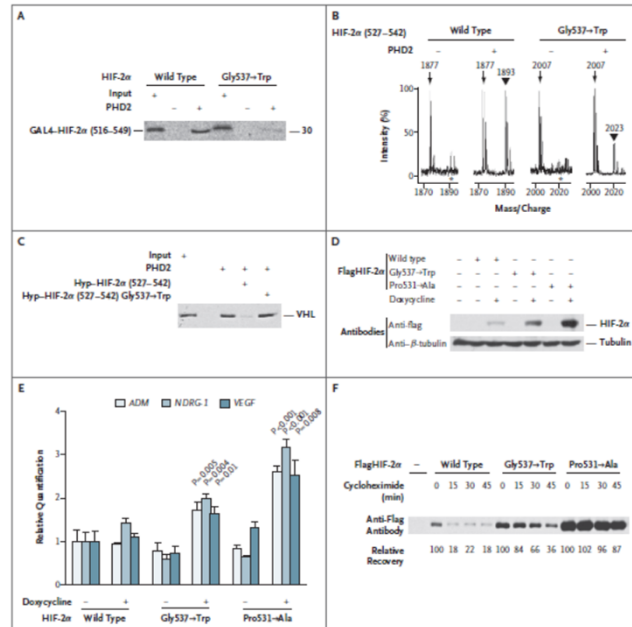
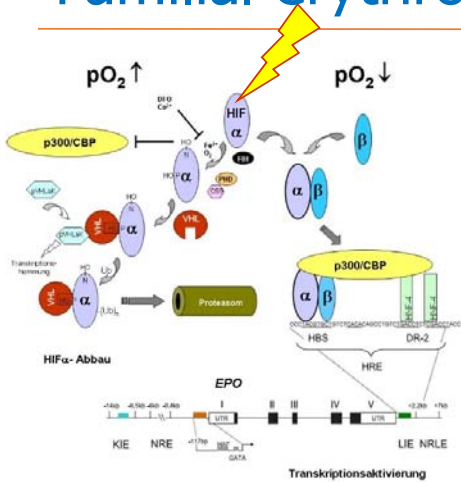
+ paraganglioma

Bento C, et al. *Hum Mut* 2013



# Familial erythrocytosis Type IV

# Erythrocytosis



Percy MJ, et al. *NEJM* 2008

Heterozygous mutation *EPAS1* c.1609G→T = **HIF2α** Gly537Trp

- AA change close to Pro531
- Reduced PHD2-binding and proline hydroxylation
- Reduced VHL-binding to hyp-HIF2a
- Increased HIF2a-stability

## Absolute erythrocytosis

### Primary erythrocytosis

#### Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1;  
*EPOR* (syn. *Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP*)

### Secondary erythrocytosis

#### Congenital

- Defective O<sub>2</sub>-Sensing
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 2; *VHL*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 3; *EGLN1* (PHD2)
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 4; *EPAS1* (HIF2a)
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 5; *EPO*
- Altered Hb oxygen affinity
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 6; *HBB*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 7; *HBA1, HBA2*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type „X“; *PKLR*

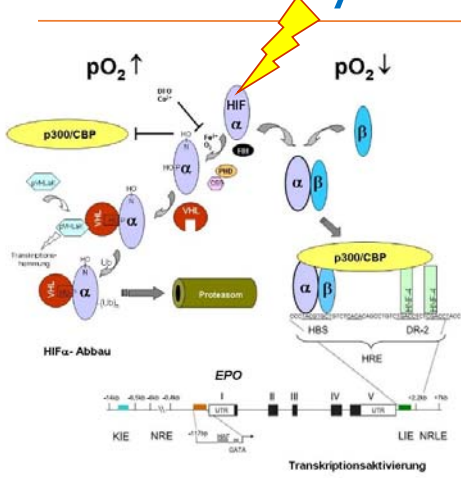
## *EPAS1* mutations in ECYT IV

Protein effect	References
p.Phe374Tyr	Lorenzo et al. (2012)
p.Ile533Val	Perrotta et al. (2013)
p.Pro534Leu	Percy et al. (2008)
p.Met535Ile	Martini et al. (2008)
p.Met535Val	Percy et al. (2012)
p.Met535Thr	Percy et al. (2008)
p.Gly537Arg	Percy et al. (2008); Gale et al. (2008)
p.Gly537Trp	Percy et al. (2008)
p.Asp539Glu	van Wijk et al. (2010)
p.Phe540Leu	Percy et al. (2012)

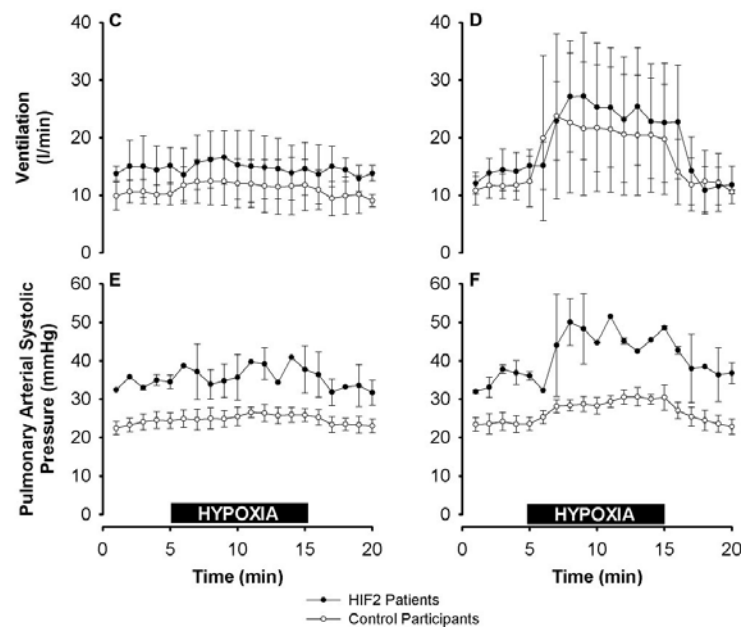
Bento C, et al. *Hum Mut* 2013

# Familial erythrocytosis Type IV

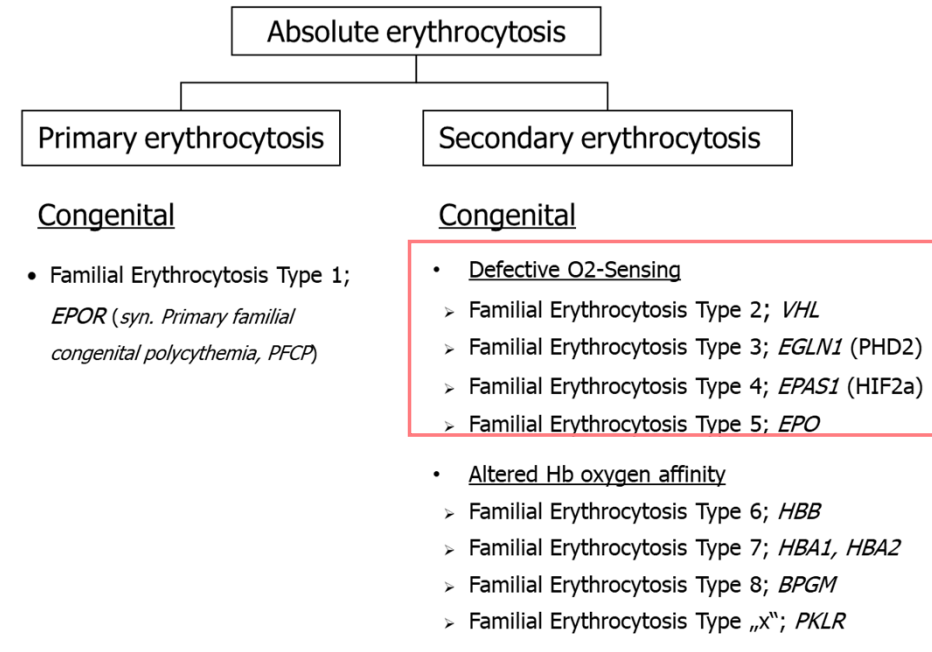
# Erythrocytosis



## Pulmonary hypertension



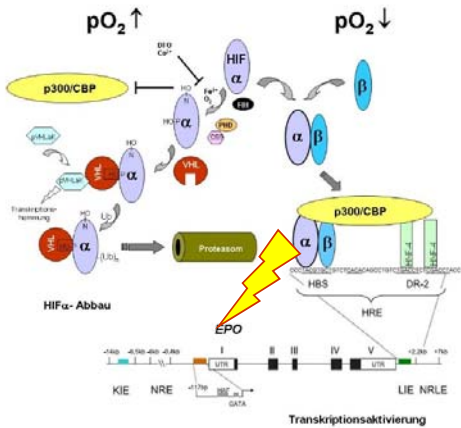
Formenti F, et al. FASEB J 2011



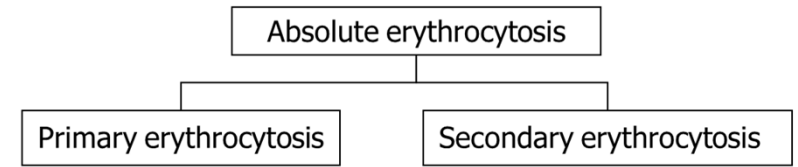


# Familial erythrocytosis Type V

# Erythrocytosis



CBC	PAR07 at 10 yrs.	PAR08 at 12 yrs.
WBC [Giga/l]	4.7	4.8
RBC [Tera/l]	6.1+	7.3+
Hb [g/dl]	17.6+	20.6+
Hct [l/l]	0.51+	0.58+
Plt [Giga/l]	251	166
Epo [mIU/ml]	4.6	5.9



## Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1; *EPOR* (syn. Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP)

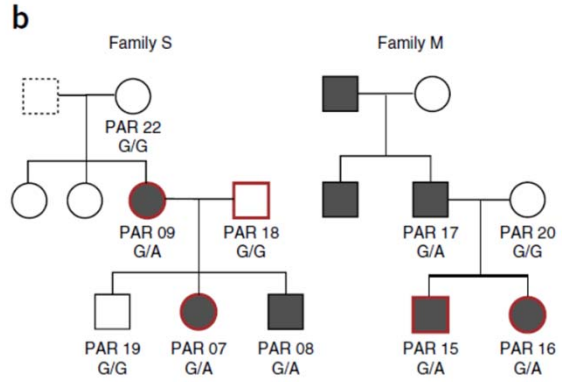
## Congenital

- Defective O<sub>2</sub>-Sensing**
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 2; *VHL*
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 3; *EGLN1* (PHD2)
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 4; *EPAS1* (HIF2a)
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 5; *EPO*
- Altered Hb oxygen affinity**
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 6; *HBB*
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 7; *HBA1, HBA2*
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type „x“; *PKLR*

*EPO* g.100318468G>A (in 5' UTR)

**a**

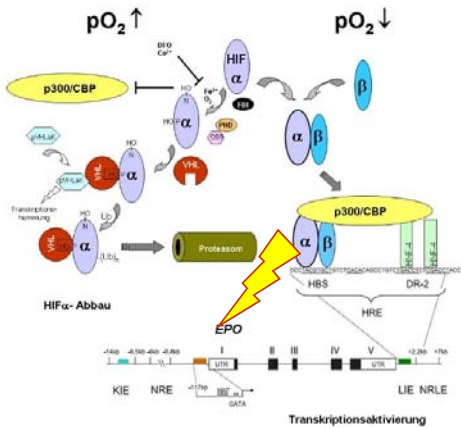
Species	Sequence
Human	CTCCGACACCGCGCCCCCTGG
Chimpanzee	CTCCGACACCGCGCCCCCTGG
Marmoset	CTCCAACCCCGCGCCCACTGG
Bushbaby	CTCCGACCCCGCGCCCTCCGG
Mouse	-----CCCGCGCCCCCTGG
Rat	-----CCCGCGCCCCCTGG
Pig	TTCCGACCCCGGGGTC-CCGG
Dolphin	CCCCGACCCCGCGCCC--CGG
Dog	CGC-GACCCCGTGGCCCTGG
Panda	TGC-GACCCCGCGGCCCTGG
Microbat	CCC-GACCCCGCAGCCCTGG
Elephant	CTCCGACCCCGCGCCCCCTGC
Aardvark	CTCCGACCCCGCGCCCCCTGC



Taylor JC, et al. Nature Genet 2015

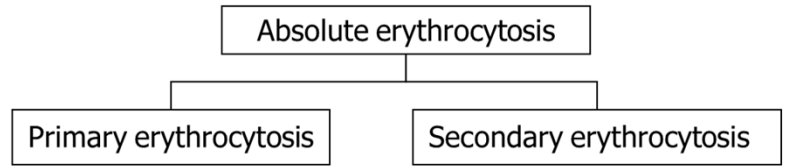
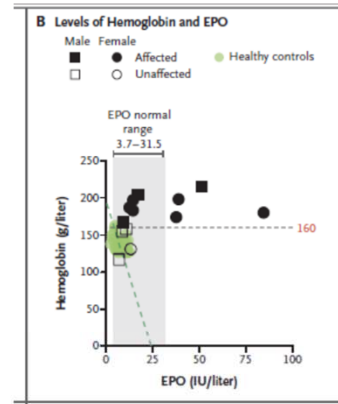
# Familial erythrocytosis Type V

# Erythrocytosis



Zmajkovic J, et al.  
NEJM 2018

*EPO* c.32delG

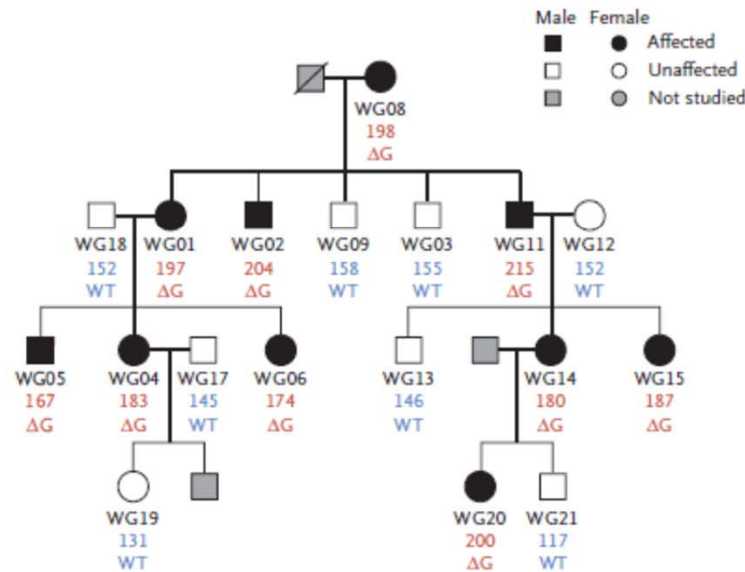


## Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1;  
*EPOR* (syn. *Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP*)

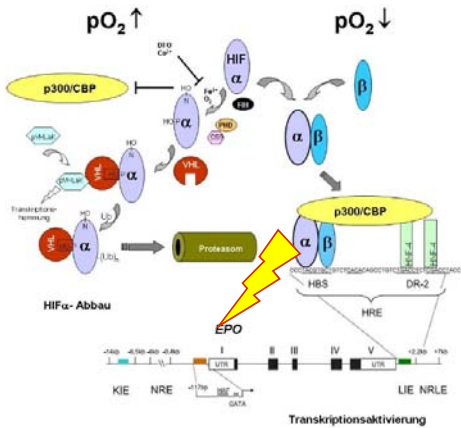
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  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 4; *EPAS1* (HIF2a)
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  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 6; *HBB*
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  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
  - Familial Erythrocytosis Type „x“; *PKLR*



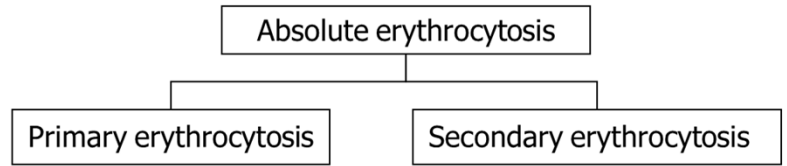
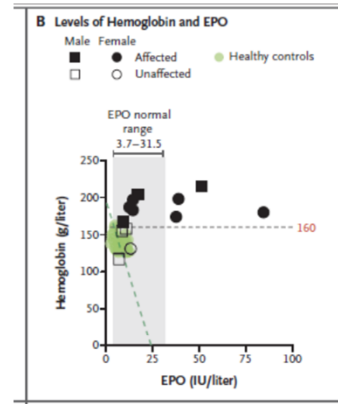
# Familial erythrocytosis Type V

# Erythrocytosis



Zmajkovic J, et al. NEJM 2018

*EPO* c.32delG



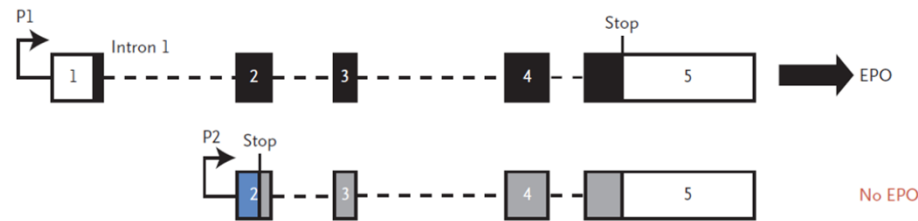
## Congenital

- Familial Erythrocytosis Type 1; *EPOR* (syn. Primary familial congenital polycythemia, PFCP)

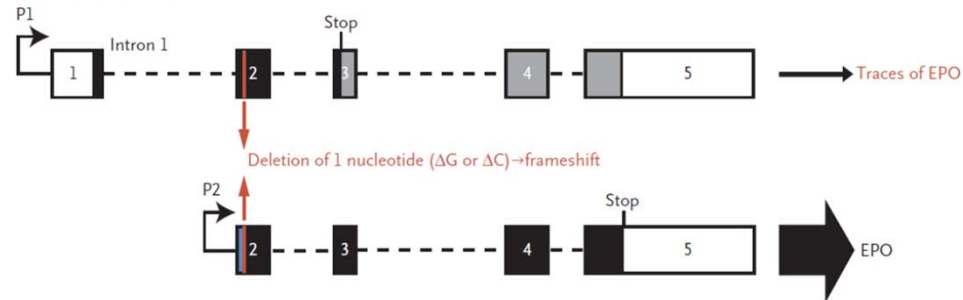
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  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type 8; *BPGM*
  - > Familial Erythrocytosis Type „x“; *PKLR*

### A Wild-Type *EPO*



### B *EPO* with $\Delta G$ or $\Delta C$ Mutation

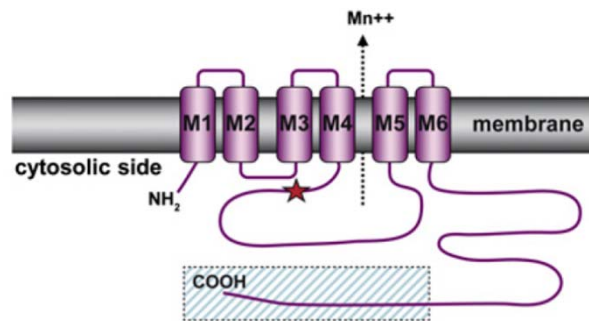


+ *EPO* c.19delC

(Camps C, et al. Haematologica 2016)

# *SLC30A10*

= human manganese transporter



Quadri M, et al. AJHG 2012

J Inherit Metab Dis (2008) 31:151–163

DOI 10.1007/s10545-008-0813-1

SSIEM SYMPOSIUM 2007

## Hepatic cirrhosis, dystonia, polycythaemia and hypermanganesaemia—A new metabolic disorder

Karin Tuschl · Philippa B. Mills · Howard Parsons ·  
Marian Malone · Darren Fowler ·  
Maria Bitner-Glindzicz · Peter T. Clayton

# Hyper manganeseemia syndrome (HMDPC)

## ARTICLE

Syndrome of Hepatic Cirrhosis, Dystonia, Polycythemia, and Hyper manganeseemia Caused by Mutations in *SLC30A10*, a Manganese Transporter in Man

Karin Tuschl,<sup>1,\*</sup> Peter T. Clayton,<sup>1</sup> Sidney M. Gospe, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> Shamshad Gulab,<sup>3</sup> Shahnaz Ibrahim,<sup>3</sup> Pratibha Singh,<sup>4</sup> Roosy Aulakh,<sup>5</sup> Reinaldo T. Ribeiro,<sup>6</sup> Orlando G. Barsottini,<sup>6</sup> Maha S. Zaki,<sup>7</sup> Maria Luz Del Rosario,<sup>8</sup> Sarah Dyack,<sup>9</sup> Victoria Price,<sup>9</sup> Andrea Rideout,<sup>9</sup> Kevin Gordon,<sup>9</sup> Ron A. Wevers,<sup>10</sup> W.K. "King" Chong,<sup>11</sup> and Philippa B. Mills<sup>1</sup>

The American Journal of Human Genetics 90, 457–466, March 9, 2012 457

## ARTICLE

Mutations in *SLC30A10* Cause Parkinsonism and Dystonia with Hyper manganeseemia, Polycythemia, and Chronic Liver Disease

Marialuisa Quadri,<sup>1</sup> Antonio Federico,<sup>2</sup> Tianna Zhao,<sup>1</sup> Guido J. Breedveld,<sup>1</sup> Carla Battisti,<sup>2</sup> Cathérine Delnooz,<sup>3</sup> Lies-Anne Severijnen,<sup>1</sup> Lara Di Toro Mammarella,<sup>2</sup> Andrea Mignarri,<sup>2</sup> Lucia Monti,<sup>4</sup> Antioco Sanna,<sup>4</sup> Peng Lu,<sup>5</sup> Francesca Punzo,<sup>1,6</sup> Giovanni Cossu,<sup>7</sup> Rob Willemsen,<sup>1</sup> Fabrizio Rasi,<sup>8</sup> Ben A. Oostra,<sup>1</sup> Bart P. van de Warrenburg,<sup>3</sup> and Vincenzo Bonifati<sup>1,\*</sup>

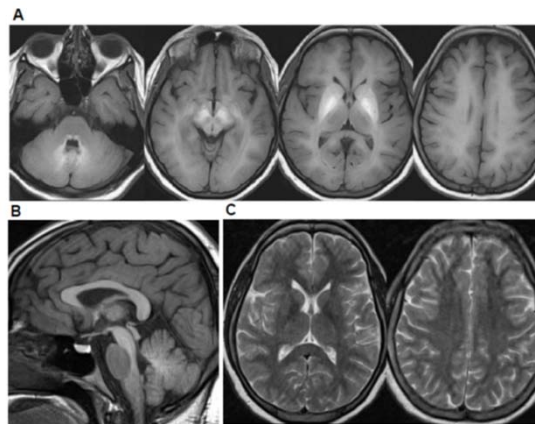
The American Journal of Human Genetics 90, 467–477, March 9, 2012 467

Homozygosity mapping → *SLC30A10* mutations in all affected individuals

### Lab results

Mn 1600 - 6370 nmol/l (<320)  
 Hb 15.9 - 22.5 g/dl  
 Ferr. 6 - 30 µg/l  
 Epo 20.4 - 473 U/l

- Neurologic symptoms:
  - Dystonia
  - Dysarthria
  - Fine tremor
  - Bradykinesia
  - Spastic paraparesis (1pt.)
  - No cognitive impairment
- Erythrocytosis
- Iron deficiency
- Liver: steatosis, cirrhosis, failure



cMRI: Hyperintensities in T1

## Treatment

Chelation with

1. disodium calcium edetate (CaNa<sub>2</sub>[EDTA])
2. 2,3 dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA)
3. (D-Penicillamin p.o.)

Additional treatment:

Iron supplementation with e.g. ferrous sulfate

Table 1. Agents That Affect *Epo* Gene Expression

Induction in vivo and in vitro

Hypoxia

Transition metals: Co<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup><sup>18,192</sup>

Iron chelators: desferrioxamine<sup>120</sup>

Abrogation of induction in Hep3B and HepG2 cells

Carbon monoxide<sup>91,118,193</sup>

Nitric oxide, nitroprusside<sup>91</sup>

Hydrogen peroxide<sup>86,194</sup>

Inflammatory cytokines: TNF-α, IL-1<sup>181,182</sup>

Phorbol esters: Forskolin<sup>193,195-197</sup>

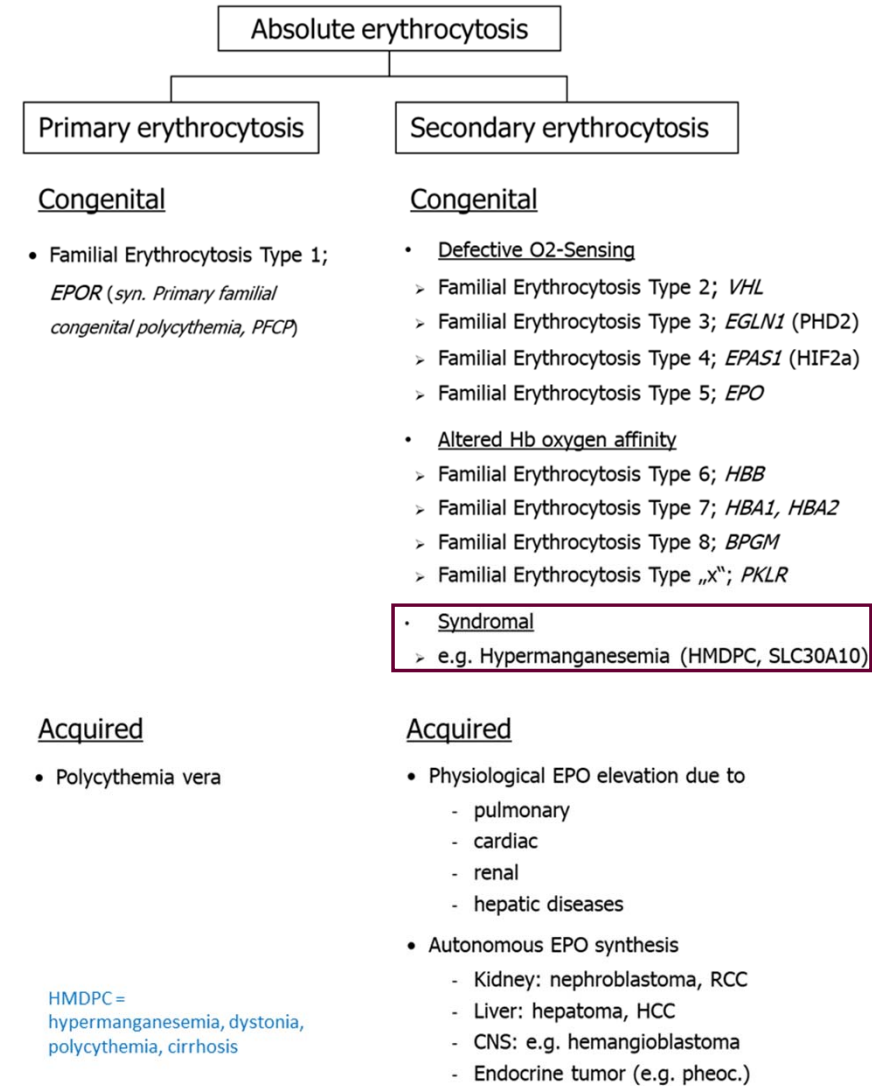
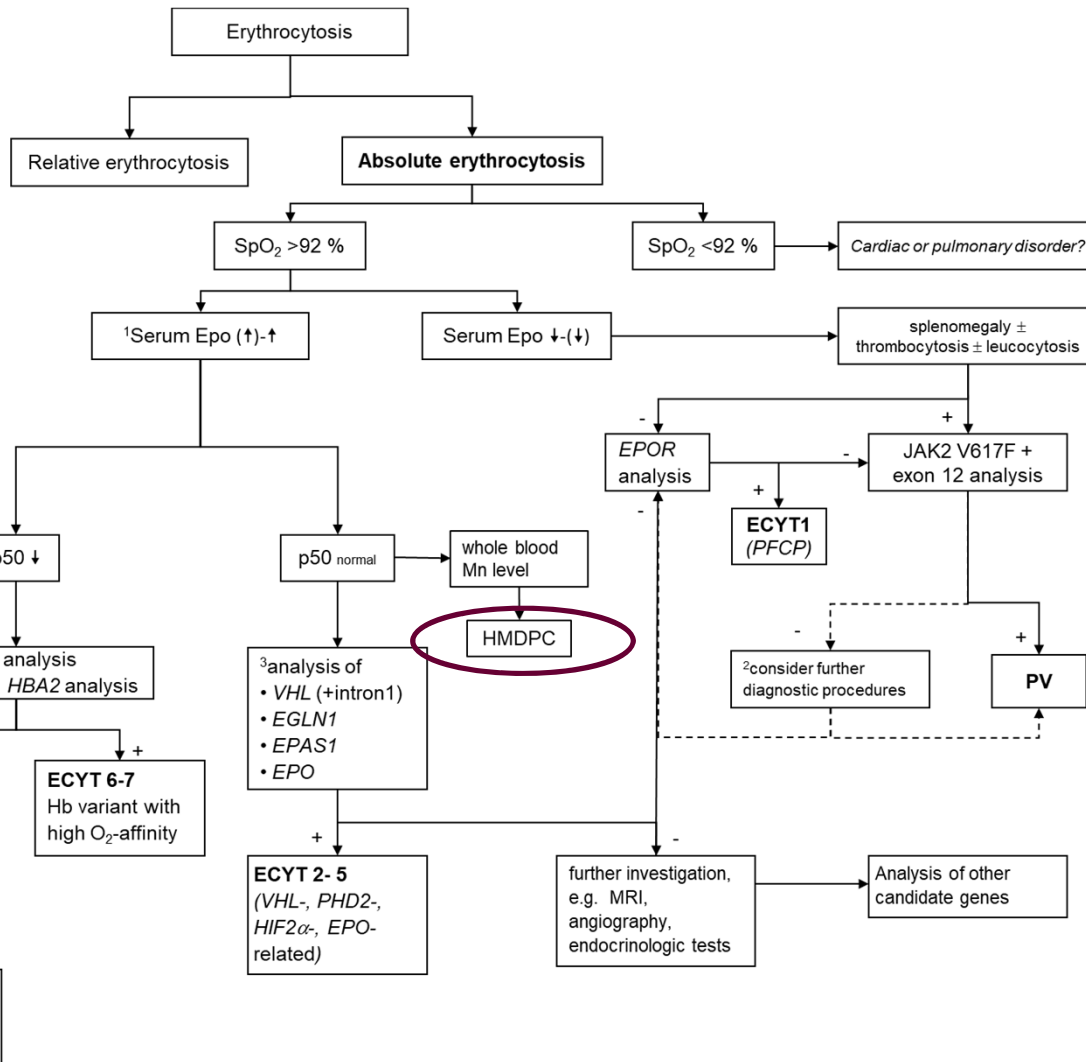
Protein synthesis inhibitors: cycloheximide<sup>83,118</sup>

Ebert J, Bunn F, Blood 1999



# Diagnostic algorithm

# Erythrocytosis



modified acc. Cario et al, PBC 2013



# Treatment

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1. Phlebotomy:

2. Interferon-alpha, peg-IFN $\alpha$ , hydroxycarbamide :

3. Ruxolitinib:

4. others:



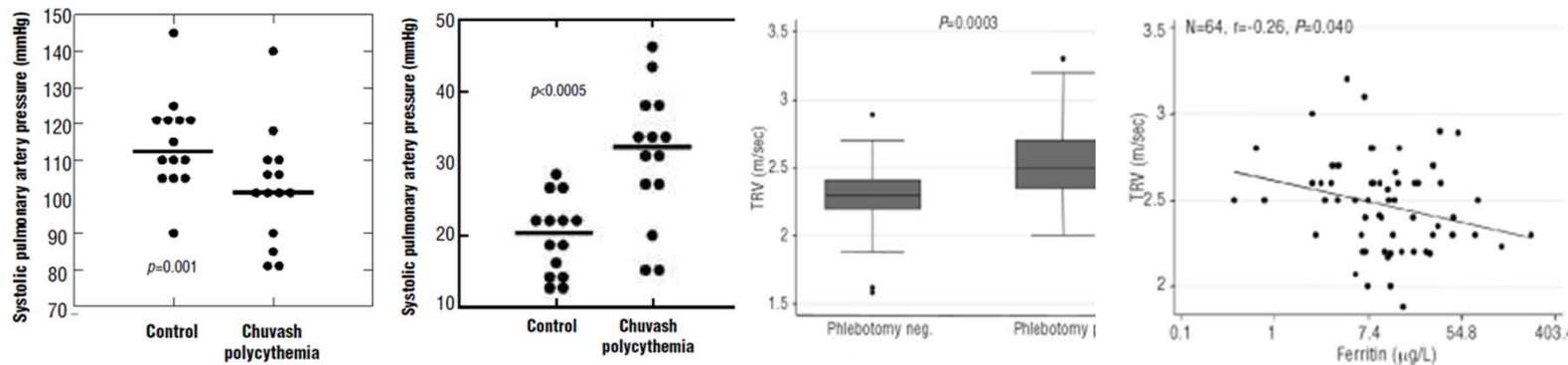
# Treatment

## 1. Phlebotomy:

- standard treatment for PV ( $\pm$  ASA), certainly o.k. in ECT1 (*EPOR*)
- no change (worsening?) of prognosis in *VHL*, *EPAS1* (+*EGLN1*?)–related Ecty
  - CAVE: pulmonary arterial hypertension ?
- in *HBB* variants: only for short term intervention (alternative: exchange Tx)



## Pulmonary hypertension in Chuvash Polycythemia



Bushuev VI et al. Haematologica 2006

Sable Ca et al. Haematologica 2012

# Treatment

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## 1. Phlebotomy:

- standard treatment for PV ( $\pm$  ASA), certainly o.k. in ECT1 (*EPOR*)
- no change (worsening?) of prognosis in *VHL*, *EPAS1* (+*EGLN1*?)–related Ecty
  - CAVE: pulmonary arterial hypertension ?
- in *HBB* variants: only for short term intervention (alternative: exchange Tx)

## 2. Interferon-alpha, peg-IFN $\alpha$ , hydroxycarbamide :

- peg-IFNa and HC: well established in adult PV
- Hydroxycarbamide in erythrocytosis other than PV?



# Hydroxycarbamide for CE ??

Reiss U, et al. Hydroxyurea therapy for management of secondary erythrocytosis in cyanotic congenital heart disease. AJH 2007

**TABLE I. Patient Characteristics and Laboratory Parameters Before and During Hydroxyurea Therapy**

	Patient 1		Patient 2		Patient 3		Patient 4	
Age (years)	16		18		22		42	
Diagnosis	Tetralogy of Fallot		Tricuspid atresia		Single right ventricle		Atrio-ventricular canal	
O <sub>2</sub> saturation	85%		85%		61%		48%	
Previous therapy	None		Aspirin		Aspirin, occasional phlebotomy		Phlebotomy every 2 weeks	
Hyperviscosity symptoms	Easy fatigue, dyspnea		Recurrent stroke		Recurrent TIA, headaches		Exhaustion, weakness after phlebotomy	
HU therapy	Start	Steady state (6 months)	Start	Steady state (24 months)	Start <sup>a</sup>	Steady state (19 months)	Start	Steady state (10 months)
HU (mg/kg/day)		16		15		25		7
Hb (g/dL)	21.8	19.8	24.6	21.8	23.3	21.3	21.0	17.2
Hct (%)	64	59	76	67	74	65	68	59
RBC (10 <sup>12</sup> /L)	7.84	5.77	8.20	4.55	10.90	5.45	7.37	5.90
MCV (fL)	90	102	93	147	71	120	93	99
MCH (pg)	27.9	34.2	30.4	47.9	19.4	39.1	28.5	34.3
MCHC (g/dL)	34.3	33.6	32.8	32.5	27.4	32.6	30.7	29.4
Hb F (%)	0.7	1.4	1.4	9.3	0.2	1.7	–	1.9
Ferritin (ng/mL)	71	–	77	–	<1	21	40	–

- Lower hematocrit → lower viscosity
- Higher MCV and MCH → macrocytes with better deformability?
- Avoidance of iron deficient → less rigid microcytes increasing viscosity
- Only slightly lower hemoglobin

→ well tolerated  
→ relieve of hyperviscosity symptoms

# Treatment

---

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## 2. Interferon-alpha, peg-IFN $\alpha$ , hydroxycarbamide :

- peg-IFN $\alpha$  and HC: well established in adult PV
- Hydroxycarbamide in erythrocytosis other than PV?

## 3. Ruxolitinib:

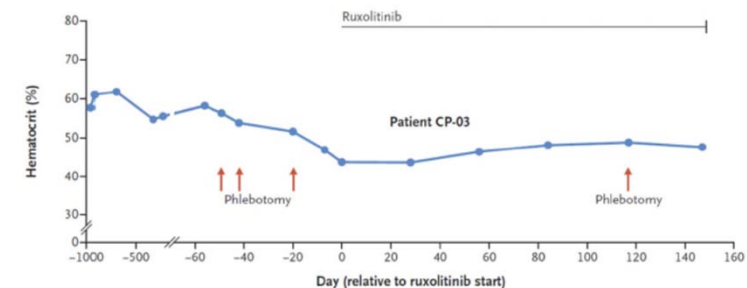
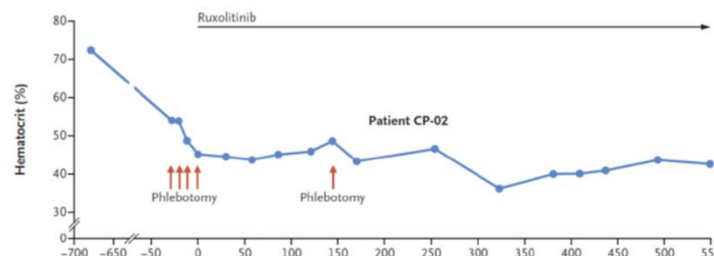
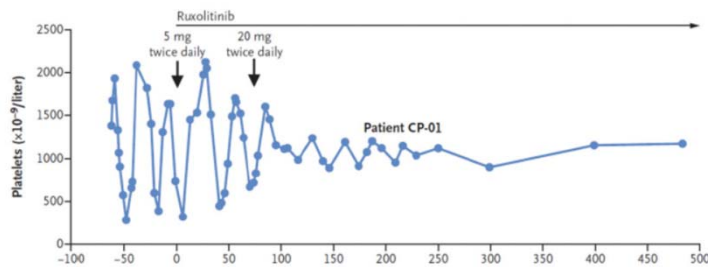
- accepted second-line treatment in adult PV
- option for *EPOR*- or *VHL*- related erythrocytosis?



# Ruxolitinib for *VHL*- related erythrocytosis ?

Zhou AW, et al. Clinical Improvement with JAK2 Inhibition in Chuvash Polycythemia. NEJM 2016

	Patient CP-01 33 yr of age		Patient CP-02 23 yr of age		Patient CP-03 28 yr of age	
	Before treatment	During treatment (69 wk)	Before treatment	During treatment (78 wk)	Before treatment	During treatment (21 wk)
White cells ( $\times 10^9$ /liter)	8.5	4.8	10.8	15.4	8.1	8.5
Hemoglobin (g/dl)	13.8	16.5	12.6	11.8	13.7	15.0
Hematocrit (%)	46.0	55.9	45.2	42.6	43.7	47.6
Platelets ( $\times 10^9$ /liter)	1500	1037	380	736	228	302
Erythropoietin (IU/liter)	1707	1081 (36 wk)	133	968 (54 wk)	32	ND
Phlebotomy frequency	Weekly	Less than 1 $\times$ /mo	4 $\times$ in 4 wk before ruxolitinib	1 $\times$ in 78 wk with ruxolitinib	3 $\times$ in 7 wk before ruxolitinib	1 $\times$ in 21 wk with ruxolitinib
Symptoms	Headaches, back pain	Markedly improved	Episodic, severe abdominal pain	Markedly improved	Fatigue, aquagenic pruritus	Markedly improved



- hematologic and symptomatic improvement
- no major safety issues or serious side effects
- clinical responses associated with decreases in erythroid-colony formation and inflammatory cytokine levels



# Treatment

---

## 1. Phlebotomy:

- standard treatment for PV ( $\pm$  ASA), certainly o.k. in ECT1 (*EPOR*)
- no change (worsening?) of prognosis in *VHL*, *EPAS1* (+*EGLN1*?)–related Ecty
  - CAVE: pulmonary arterial hypertension ?
- in *HBB* variants: only for short term intervention (alternative: exchange Tx)

## 2. Interferon-alpha, peg-IFN $\alpha$ , hydroxycarbamide :

- peg-IFN $\alpha$  and HC: well established in adult PV
- Hydroxycarbamide in erythrocytosis other than PV?

## 3. Ruxolitinib:

- accepted second-line treatment in adult PV
- option for *VHL*-related erythrocytosis?

## 4. others:

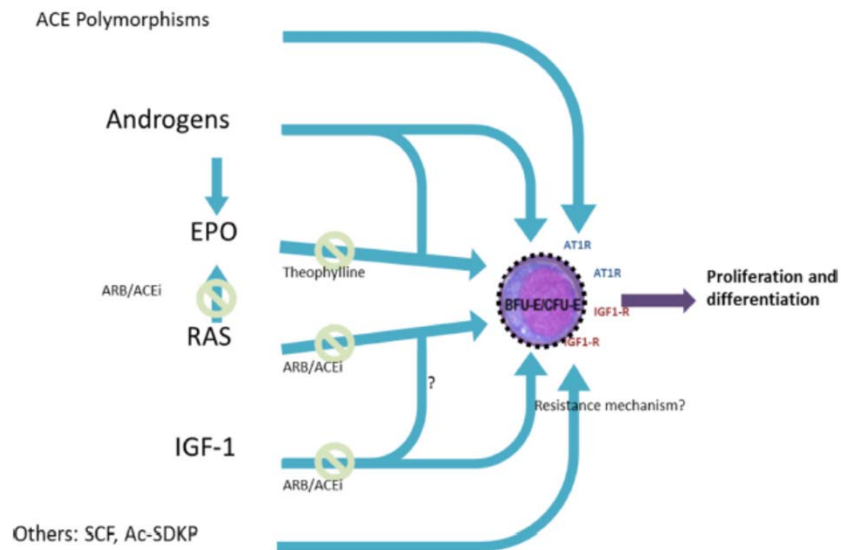
- ACE-inhibitors ?, AT1R-antagonists ?
- Digoxin ?
- new options?  $\rightarrow$  HIF 2 $\alpha$ -inhibitors
- symptomatic treatment in PAH (sildenafil, bosentan, macicentan)



# ACE-/ AT1R- inhibitors or theophylline for CE ?

Vishnu, et al.

A Post-transplant erythrocytosis refractory to ACE inhibitors and angiotensin receptor blockers. BMC Case Rep 2018



Author	Year	Study type	Sample size	Refractory patients	Mean hct (%) or mean hgb level (mg/dL)	Mean EPO (mIU/L) at diagnosis	Treatment strategy
Brouhard <i>et al</i>	1992	Case report	1	0	19.1±0.6	Not specified	Enalapril 5 mg
Rell <i>et al</i>	1994	Prospective	17	3	51.1	12.2	Enalapril 2.5–20 mg/day
Torregosa <i>et al</i>	1994	Prospective	19	0	56.2±1.9	13.5±9.48	Captopril 25 mg/day
Mulhern <i>et al</i>	1995	Prospective trial	8	1	53.7±0.6	22.8±8.4	Different ACE inhibitors
Perazella <i>et al</i>	1995	Prospective trial	10	0	52±2	20±11	Enalapril 2.5–5 mg/day
Rostaing <i>et al</i>	1995	Prospective trial	12	2	51.14±2	17.41±13.5	Enalapril 5–20 mg/day
Midtvedt <i>et al</i>	1996	Case report	1	0	52	<12	Lisinopril 2.5 mg/day
MacGregor <i>et al</i>	1996	Prospective	52	3	16.7±0.8	Not specified	Lisinopril or enalapril 2.5–5 mg/day
Ducloux <i>et al</i>	1997	Case series	3	0	49	15.6	Losartan 100 mg/day
Ducloux <i>et al</i>	1998	Case series	4	0	52±0.01	17±3.7	Losartan 100 mg/day
Tsang <i>et al</i>	1998	Prospective trial	11	0	52.5±1.5	Not specified	Losartan 12.5–25 mg/day
Iñigo <i>et al</i>	1999	Prospective trial	20	0	54.6±3.5	Not specified	Losartan 50 mg/day
Javid <i>et al</i>	1999	Case series	20	2	Not specified	Not specified	Enalapril 15 mg/day
Colak <i>et al</i>	2001	Case series	23	3	41%	Not specified	Losartan 50 mg/day
Singh <i>et al</i>	2002	Prospective trial	11	1	57.7±5.4	Not specified	Losartan 25 mg/day
Wang <i>et al</i>	2002	Prospective trial	8	2	52.1±1.1	10.49±7.64	Losartan 50 mg/day and enalapril 5 mg/day
Jimeno <i>et al</i>	2005	Prospective trial	21	0	Not specified	Not specified	Enalapril 2.5–5 mg/day
Basri <i>et al</i>	2007	Retrospective cohort	29	0	Not specified	Not specified	Different ACE inhibitors
Kiberd	2009	Retrospective cohort	59	37	18.1±9	Not specified	Different ACE inhibitors and ARB
Ahmed <i>et al</i>	2012	Retrospective cohort	40	28	54.78±1.96	Not specified	Different ACE inhibitors
Moreno <i>et al</i> (this article)	2017	Case report	1	1	59.35	8.1	Enalapril and losartan
<b>Total</b>			<b>370</b>	<b>83</b>			

ARB, angiotensin II receptor blocker; EPO, erythropoietin; hct, haematocrit; hgb, haemoglobin; PTE, post-transplant erythrocytosis.

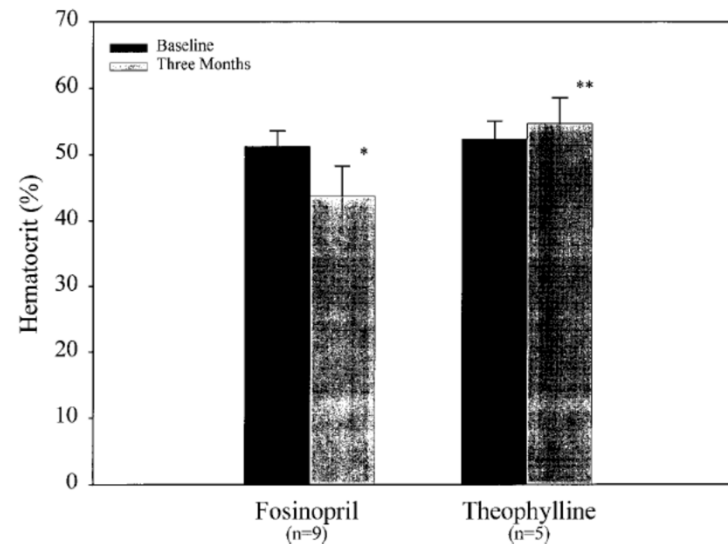
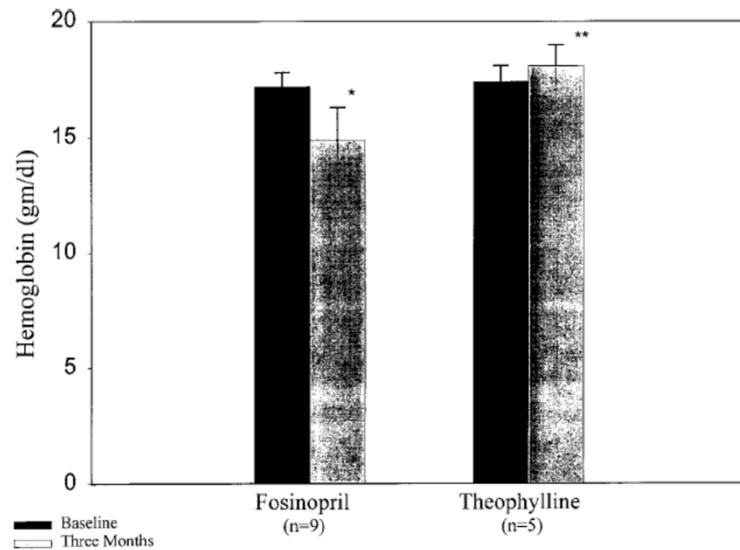
# ACE-/ AT1R- inhibitors or theophylline for CE ?

Trivedi H, et al.

A Prospective, Randomized, Open Labelled Crossover Trial of Fosinopril and Theophylline in Post Renal Transplant Erythrocytosis. Ren Fail 2003

**Table 2.** Mean ( $\pm$ SD) values before and after fosinopril and theophylline therapy.

	Hgb (gm/dL) <sup>a</sup>	Hct (%) <sup>b</sup>	BUN (mg/dL) <sup>d</sup>	Creatinine (mg/dL) <sup>d</sup>	Potassium (Meq/L) <sup>d</sup>	Mean BP (mmHg) <sup>d</sup>
Pre-fosinopril ( <i>n</i> = 9)	17.2 $\pm$ 0.6	51.3 $\pm$ 2.4	24.4 $\pm$ 10.2	1.6 $\pm$ 0.5	4.5 $\pm$ 0.4	102 $\pm$ 7.2
Post-fosinopril ( <i>n</i> = 9)	14.9 $\pm$ 1.4 <sup>a</sup>	43.7 $\pm$ 4.6 <sup>b</sup>	27.4 $\pm$ 12.2	1.6 $\pm$ 0.4	4.4 $\pm$ 0.6	100.4 $\pm$ 8.2
Pre-theophylline ( <i>n</i> = 5)	17.4 $\pm$ 0.7	52.4 $\pm$ 2.7	20 $\pm$ 11.5	1.4 $\pm$ 0.6	4.4 $\pm$ 0.2	106.3 $\pm$ 9.4
Post-theophylline ( <i>n</i> = 5)	18.1 $\pm$ 0.9 <sup>c</sup>	54.7 $\pm$ 3.9 <sup>c</sup>	23.5 $\pm$ 10.4	1.6 $\pm$ 0.7	4.2 $\pm$ 0.2	111 $\pm$ 6.1



# Digoxin for CE due to O<sub>2</sub>-sensing defects ?



## Digoxin and other cardiac glycosides inhibit HIF-1 $\alpha$ synthesis and block tumor growth

Huafeng Zhang<sup>a,b</sup>, David Z. Qian<sup>a,b</sup>, Yee Sun Tan<sup>a,c</sup>, KangAe Lee<sup>a,c</sup>, Ping Gao<sup>d</sup>, Yunzhao R. Ren<sup>e</sup>, Sergio Rey<sup>a,c</sup>, Hans Hammers<sup>b</sup>, Daniel Chang<sup>a</sup>, Roberto Pili<sup>b</sup>, Chi V. Dang<sup>b,d</sup>, Jun O. Liu<sup>e</sup>, and Gregg L. Semenza<sup>a,b,c,d,f,g,1</sup>

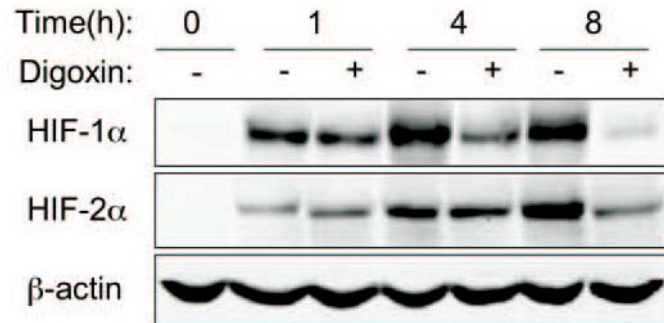
<sup>a</sup>Vascular Program, Institute for Cell Engineering, <sup>b</sup>Department of Oncology, <sup>c</sup>McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine, <sup>d</sup>Department of Medicine, <sup>e</sup>Department of Pharmacology, <sup>f</sup>Department of Pediatrics, and <sup>g</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD 21205

This contribution is part of the special series of Inaugural Articles by members of the National Academy of Sciences elected in 2008.

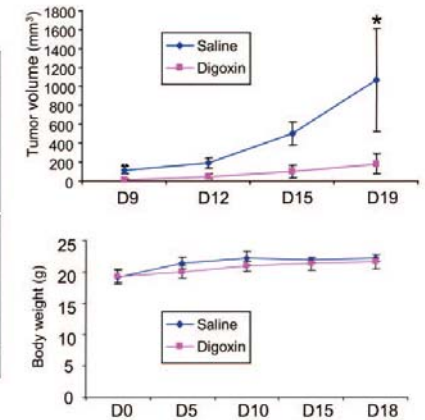
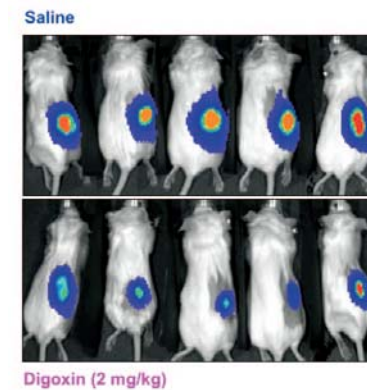
Contributed by Gregg L. Semenza, September 30, 2008 (sent for review August 21, 2008)

Zhang H, et al. PNAS 2008

G



E



# Digoxin for CE due to O<sub>2</sub>-sensing defects ?

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Trial record **1 of 1** for: polycythemia digoxin  
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## Digoxin for Congenital Erythrocytosis Due to Up-Regulated Hypoxia Sensing

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03433833

**⚠** The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. [Know the risks and potential benefits](#) of clinical studies and talk to your health care provider before participating. Read our [disclaimer](#) for details.

[Recruitment Status](#) ⓘ : Not yet recruiting  
[First Posted](#) ⓘ : February 15, 2018  
[Last Update Posted](#) ⓘ : December 16, 2020  
See [Contacts and Locations](#)

**Sponsor:**  
University of Illinois at Chicago

**Information provided by (Responsible Party):**  
Victor Gordeuk, University of Illinois at Chicago

[Study Details](#) [Tabular View](#) [No Results Posted](#) [Disclaimer](#) [How to Read a Study Record](#)

**Study Description** Go to

### Brief Summary:

The investigators will study **digoxin** to inhibit the hypoxic response in congenital erythrocytosis due to germ line mutations that result in up-regulated hypoxia sensing. These forms of congenital erythrocytosis, characterized by augmented levels of



# HIF2a- inhibitors for CE due to O<sub>2</sub>-sensing defects ?



## HHS Public Access

Author manuscript

Nature. Author manuscript; available in PMC 2017 May 03.

Published in final edited form as:

Nature. 2016 November 03; 539(7627): 112–117. doi:10.1038/nature19796.

### Targeting Renal Cell Carcinoma with a HIF-2 antagonist

Wenfang Chen<sup>1,2,3,†</sup>, Haley Hill<sup>1,2,†</sup>, Alana Christie<sup>1,†</sup>, Min Soo Kim<sup>1,4,†</sup>, Eboni Holloman<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrea Pavia-Jimenez<sup>1,2</sup>, Farrah Homayoun<sup>1,2</sup>, Yuanqing Ma<sup>1,2</sup>, Nirav Patel<sup>1,2</sup>, Paul Yell<sup>5</sup>, Guiyang Hao<sup>6</sup>, Qurratulain Yousuf<sup>1,2</sup>, Allison Joyce<sup>1,2</sup>, Ivan Pedrosa<sup>1,6</sup>, Heather Geiger<sup>7</sup>, He Zhang<sup>1,4</sup>, Jenny Chang<sup>1</sup>, Kevin H. Gardner<sup>8</sup>, Richard K. Bruick<sup>1,9</sup>, Catherine Reeves<sup>7</sup>, Tae Hyun Hwang<sup>1,4</sup>, Kevin Courtney<sup>1,2</sup>, Eugene Frenkel<sup>1,2</sup>, Xiankai Sun<sup>1,6</sup>, Naseem Zojwalla<sup>10</sup>, Tai Wong<sup>10</sup>, James P. Rizzi<sup>10</sup>, Eli M. Wallace<sup>10</sup>, John A. Josey<sup>10</sup>, Yang Xie<sup>1,4</sup>, Xian-Jin Xie<sup>1,4</sup>, Payal Kapur<sup>1,11</sup>, Renée M. McKay<sup>1,2</sup>, and James Brugarolas<sup>1,2,\*</sup>

Chen W, et al. Nature 2016



RED CELLS, IRON, AND ERYTHROPOIESIS

## Therapeutic inhibition of HIF-2 $\alpha$ reverses polycythemia and pulmonary hypertension in murine models of human diseases

Manik C. Ghosh,<sup>1</sup> De-Liang Zhang,<sup>1</sup> Wade H. Ollivierre,<sup>1</sup> Audrey Noguchi,<sup>2</sup> Danielle A. Springer,<sup>2</sup> W. Marston Linehan,<sup>3</sup> and Tracey A. Rouault<sup>1</sup>

Ghosh MC, et al. Blood 2021

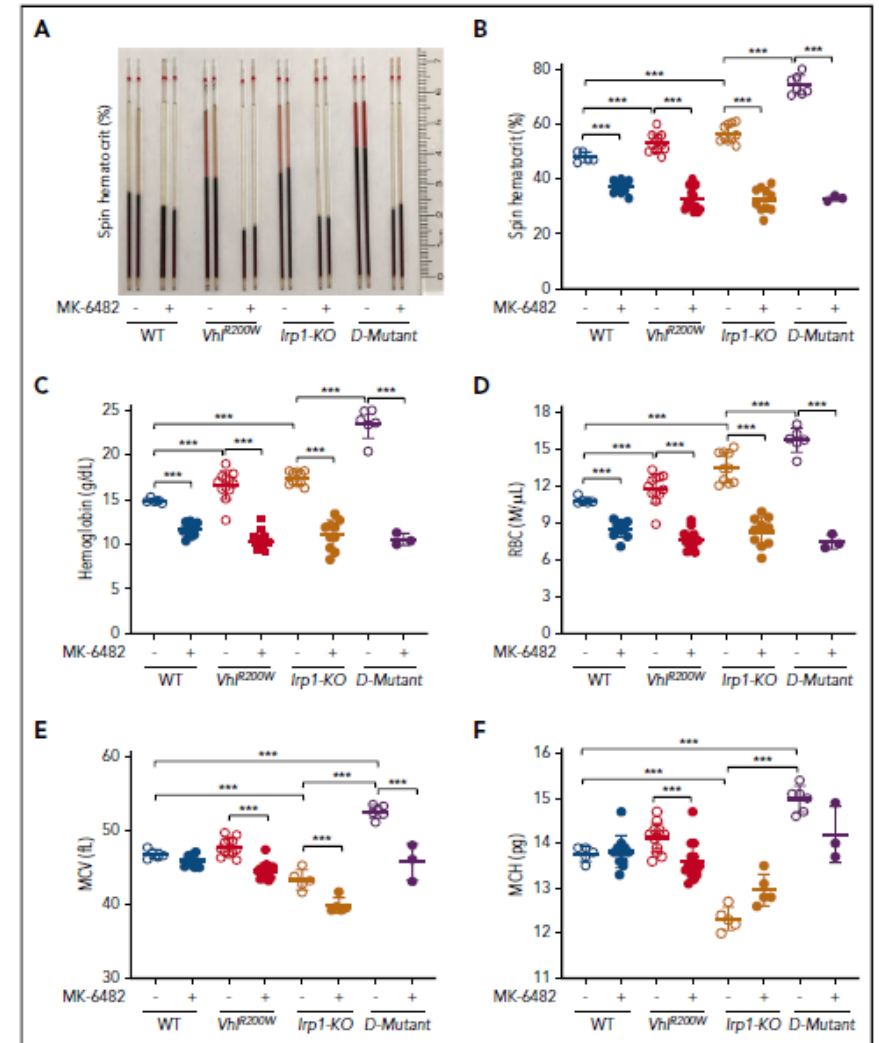


Figure 2. MK-6482 reversed polycythemia in *Vhl*<sup>R200W</sup>, *Irp1*-KO, and double-mutant *Vhl*<sup>R200W</sup>/*Irp1*-KO mice.

# HIF2a- inhibitors for CE due to O<sub>2</sub>-sensing defects ?

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## FDA approves belzutifan for cancers associated with von Hippel-Lindau disease

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On August 13, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration approved belzutifan (Welireg, Merck), a hypoxia-inducible factor inhibitor for adult patients with von Hippel-Lindau (VHL) disease who require therapy for associated renal cell carcinoma (RCC), central nervous system (CNS) hemangioblastomas, or pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (pNET), not requiring immediate surgery.

**Content current as of:**  
08/13/2021

**Regulated Product(s)**  
Drugs



Probably high potential to represent an efficient treatment option in all types CE to O<sub>2</sub>-sensing defects (not in the case of EPO mutation)

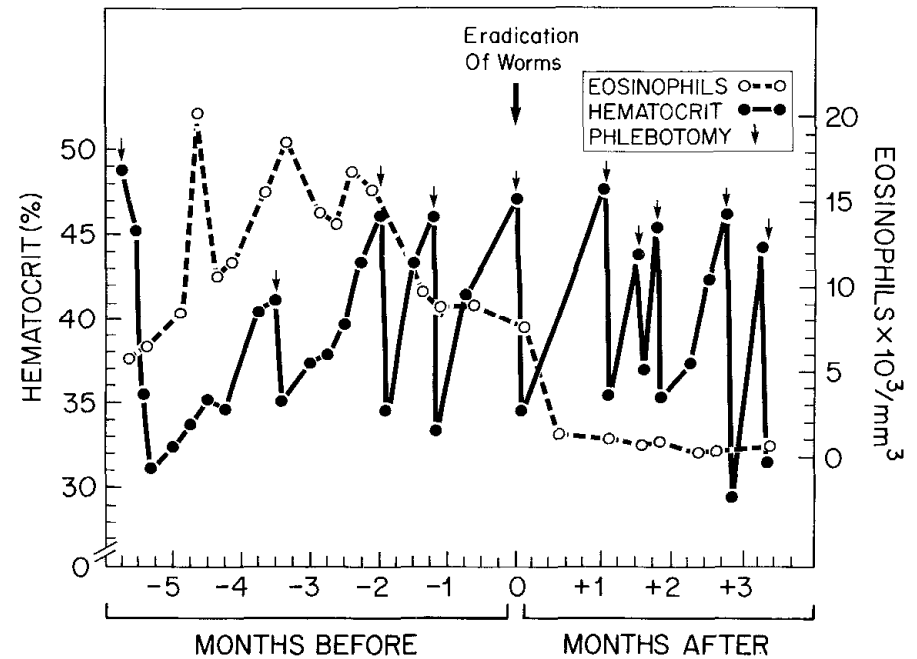
# Anything else ?

Walterspiel JN, et al. J Pediatr 1985

Volume 107  
Number 4

## *Erythropoietin-induced congenital erythrocytosis: Treatment with myelosuppressive agents and hookworm infestation*

Juan N. Walterspiel, M.D., George R. Buchanan, M.D.,  
Gerhard A. Schad, Ph.D., and Ugo Carpentieri, M.D.  
Dallas and Galveston, Texas, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



**Figure.** Hematocrit and eosinophil count from time of final *Ancylostoma duodenale* transfer (beginning of curve) until 3½ months after eradication of worms.

# Summary

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## Pathogenesis

1. Increasing knowledge on etiology and pathophysiology of CE
2. Etiology in the majority of cases with presumed CE still unexplored
3. Polygenic pathogenesis may play a role

## Clinical data

1. Extremely rare → clinical data extremely sparse → collaborative approaches needed
2. No systematic treatment data available.
3. Clinical trials difficult to establish

## Treatment

1. Phlebotomy easily performed, but
  - ❖ Thresholds unknown
  - ❖ May even worsen the clinical course in some types of CE
2. Among new options, HIF2a- inhibitors most promising

