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### **Clinical Image**

# Erythrophagocytosis by Neutrophils in Paroxysmal Cold Hemoglobinuria

Sampagar A<sup>1</sup>, Bartakke S<sup>2\*</sup>, Lukade U<sup>3</sup> and Sethuratnam S<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Pediatrics, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital, India <sup>2</sup>Department of Clinical Hematology, Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital, India <sup>3</sup>Department of Pathology, Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital, India

\*Corresponding author: Sandip Bartakke, Department of Clinical Hematology, Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital, Pune, India

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Paroxysmal Cold Hemoglobinuria (PCH) is the most common cause of acute autoimmune hemolytic anaemia in children [1,2]. The presence of marked erythrophagocytosis by neutrophils is a relatively rare observation on blood smears, but it is a prominent feature of PCH [3-5]. This case highlights the necessity for clinicians to be aware of the importance of erythrophagocytosis in diagnosis of PCH.

A 4-year-old boy presented with 4 days history of fever, jaundice and dark colored urine. On examination, he had pallor and icterus. A complete blood count was remarkable for haemoglobin of 41 gm/l, a white cell count of 27.1 x10% and a platelet count of 367x10%. The reticulocyte count was 2%. Serum lactate dehydrogenase was significantly elevated at 4700 U/L. His serum creatinine was 2.0 mg/ dl and urine analysis showed presence of hemoglobin.

The peripheral blood smear showed occasional spherocytes and neutrophilic leucocytosis. Approximately 22% of neutrophils showed



Figure 1:



Figure 2:



#### Figure 3:

erythrophagocytosis. The direct antiglobulin test was strongly positive with complement and was negative with polyspecific antihuman globulin. The above laboratory results were suggestive of intravascular haemolysis due to cold-reactive autoantibody. The diagnosis of PCH was confirmed by positive Donath- Landsteiner antibody test.

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