

Patient Blood Management

dalla teoria alla pratica



PATIENT BLOOD MANAGEMENT
ASST OVEST MILANESE

Fisiopatologia del metabolismo del ferro e implicazioni terapeutiche

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Iron: essential but potentially dangerous

easily exchange electrons
 $\text{Fe}^{3+} \leftrightarrow \text{Fe}^{2+}$
useful redox properties



key-component of enzymes
crucial for O_2 transport and
energy production (Hb,
cytochromes...)



free radicals generation
 $(\text{Fe}^{2+} + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{Fe}^{3+} + \text{OH}^- + \text{OH}\cdot)$



strict regulation of body iron content needed

low



anemia

neuromuscular impairment

excess

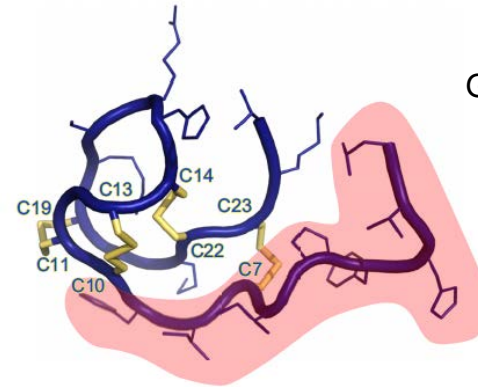


iron overload
toxic organ damage

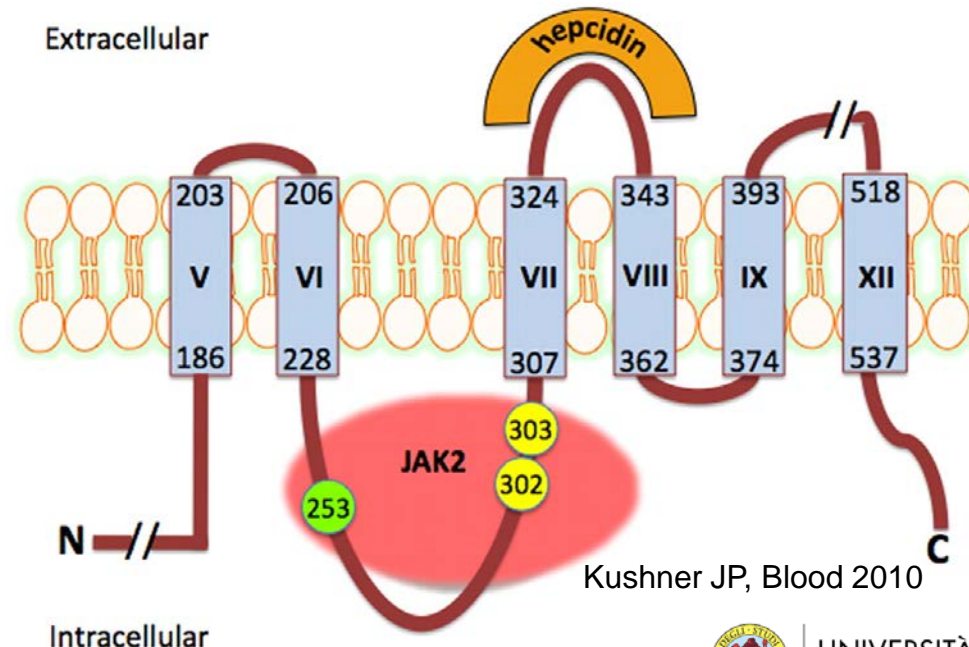
THE HEPCIDIN-FERROPORTIN AXIS

DTHFPICIFCCGCHRSKCGMCKT

Ganz T, Physiol Rev 2013

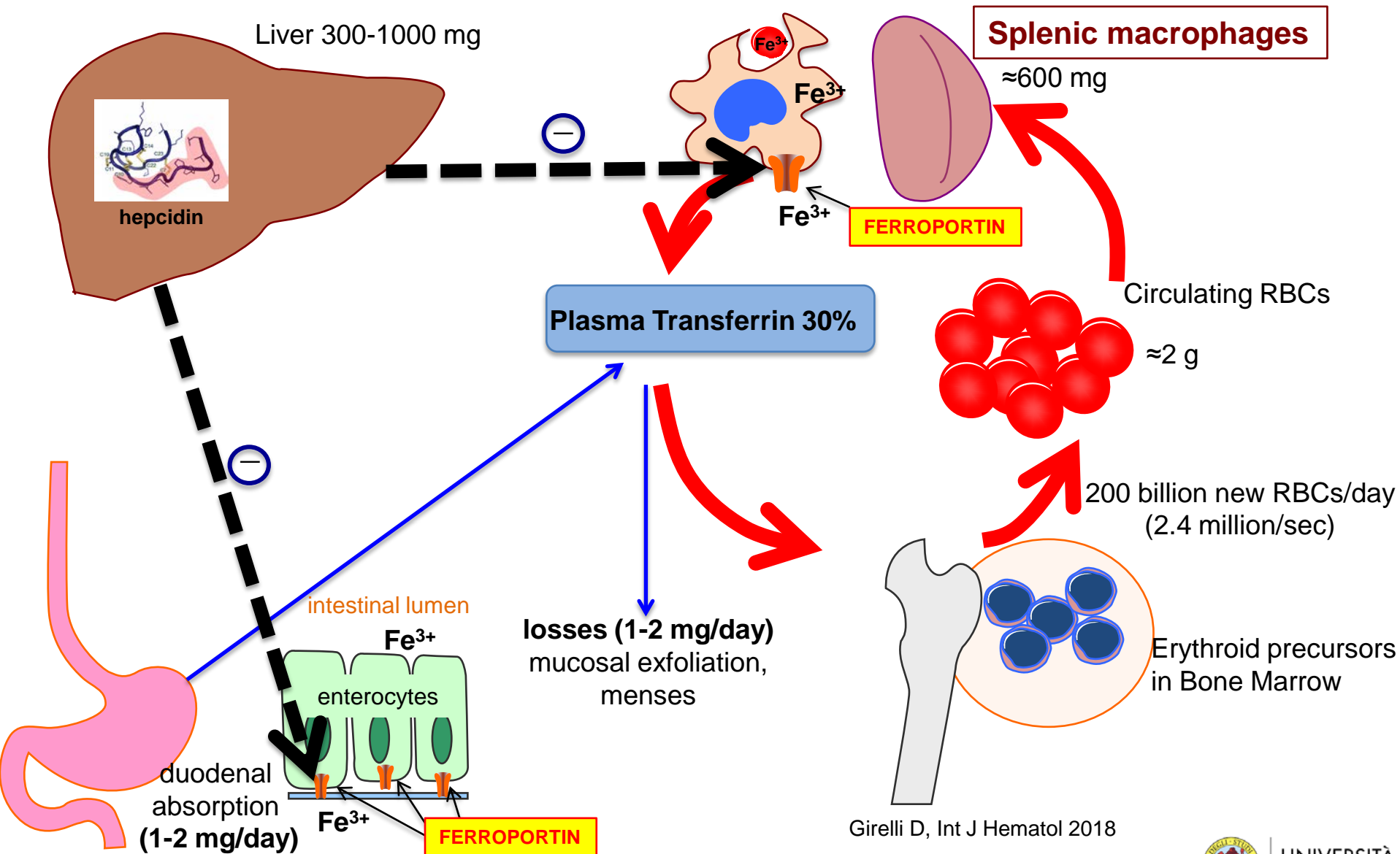


- **Hepcidin**: small peptide mainly produced by the liver
- interact with its receptor (Ferroportin, the only known iron exporter from the cells, ubiquitous but highly expressed in duodenal cells, macrophages, hepatocytes)



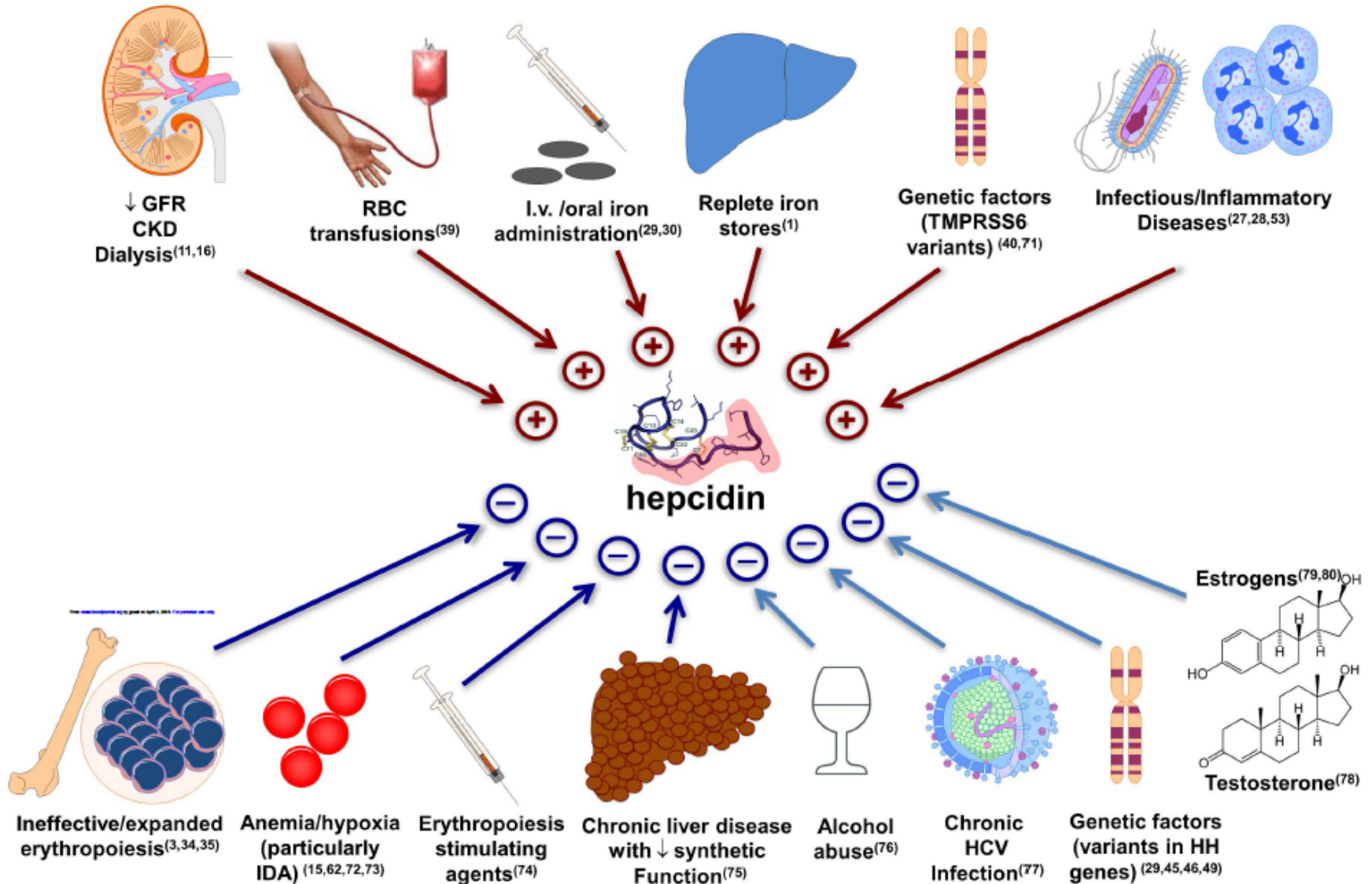
Kushner JP, Blood 2010

Systemic “ecological” iron homeostasis



Girelli D, Int J Hematol 2018

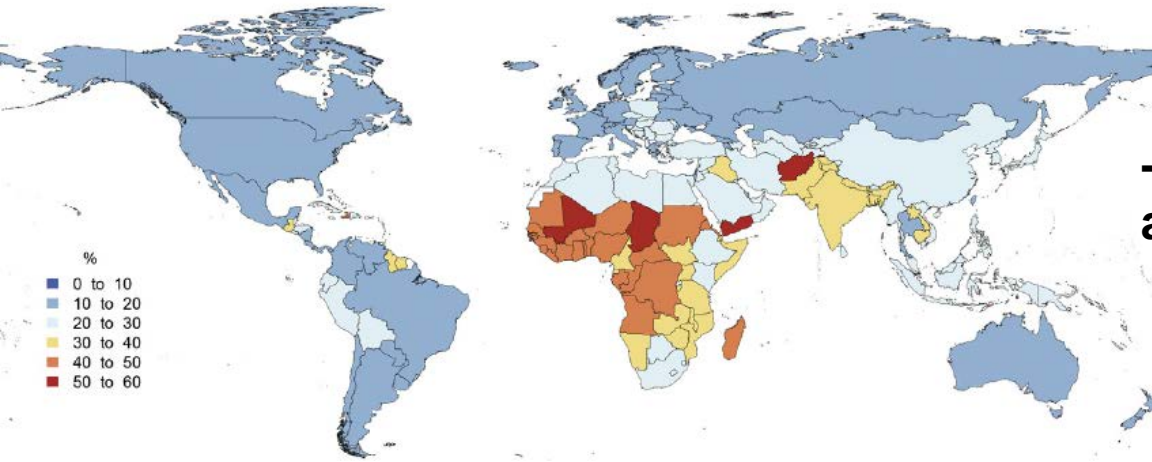
Clinical conditions influencing serum hepcidin levels



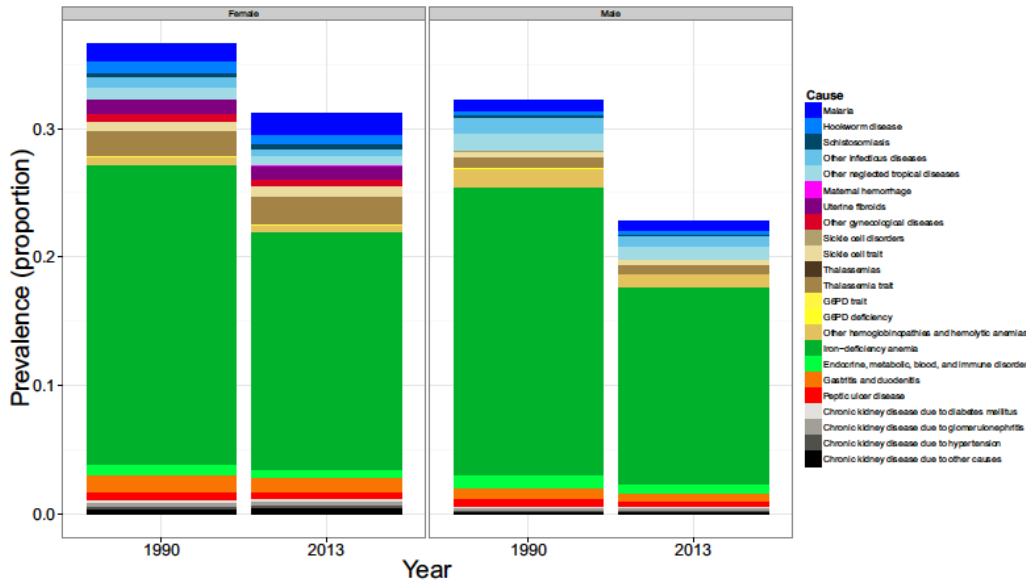
Girelli D, Blood 2016

Anemia (and Iron Deficiency): one of most frequent disease worldwide

Anemia prevalence in 2013, all ages



- 27% of world's population is affected by anemia



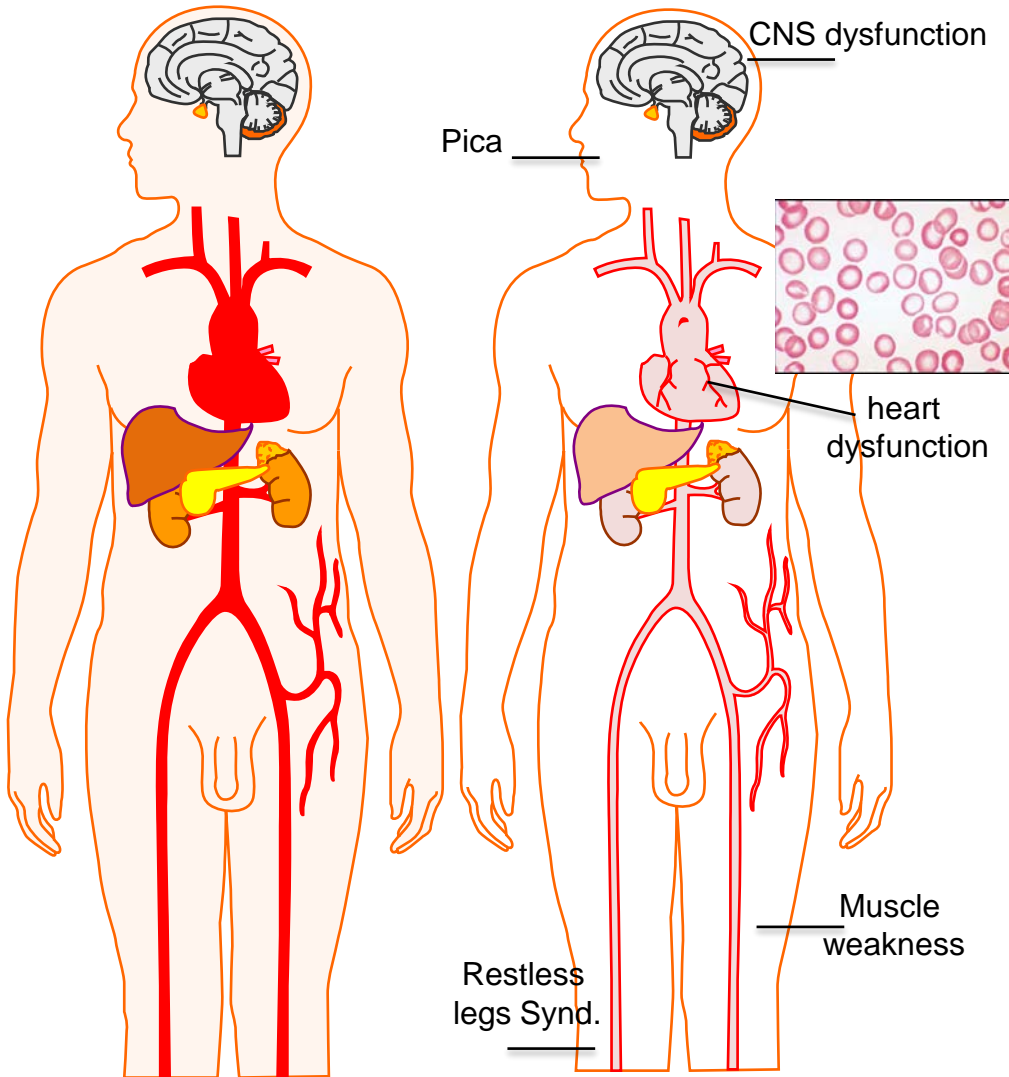
- Iron Deficiency (■) = dominant cause ($\geq 60\%$)

- Mainly due to socio-economic reasons

(but iron replacement therapy not always easy as it seems)

Kassebaum N, Hematol Oncol Clin N Am 2016

Oral iron therapy: the frontline of IDA treatment



Normal

Iron Deficiency Anemia



Effective
Inexpensive

BUT
LESS THAN IDEAL:

- GI AEs (35-59%) → non-adherence common

Oral iron supplements increase hepcidin and decrease iron absorption from daily or twice-daily doses in iron-depleted young women

Key Points

- Iron supplements at doses of 60 mg Fe as FeSO₄ or higher increase hepcidin for up to 24 hours and are associated with lower iron absorption on the following day.

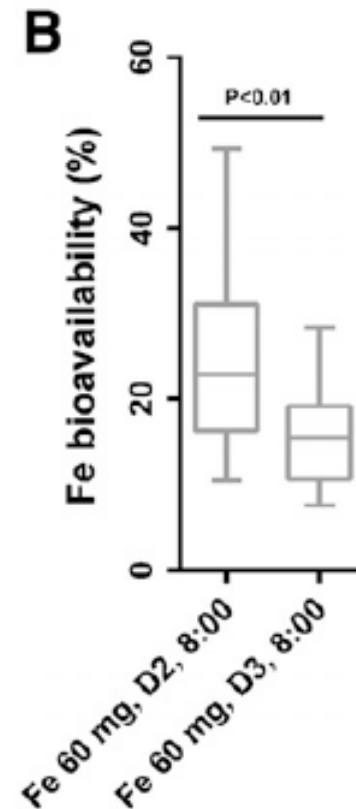
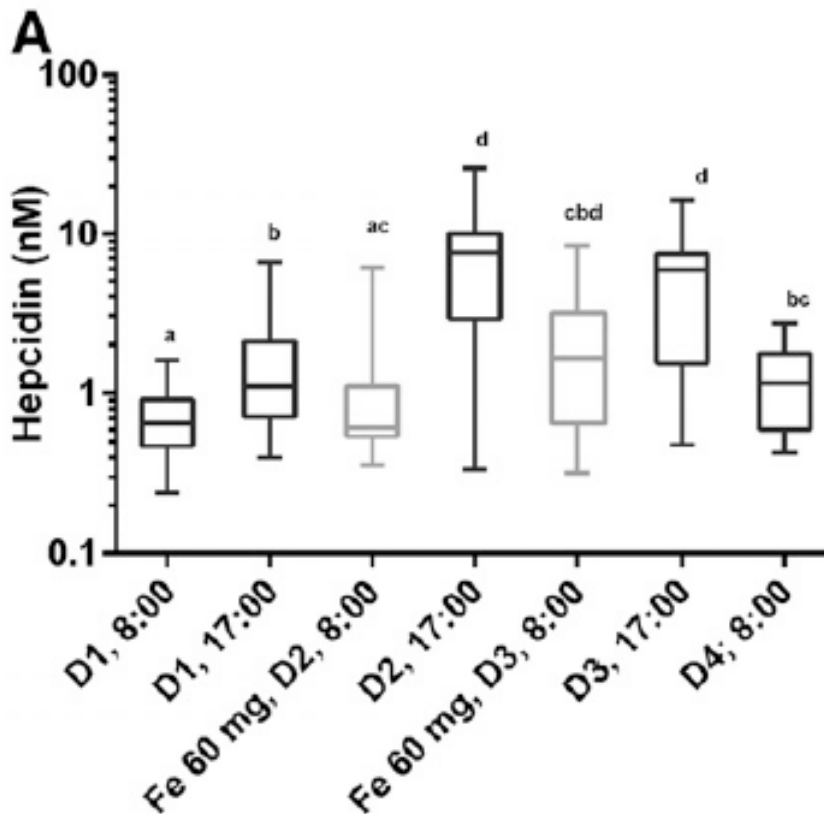
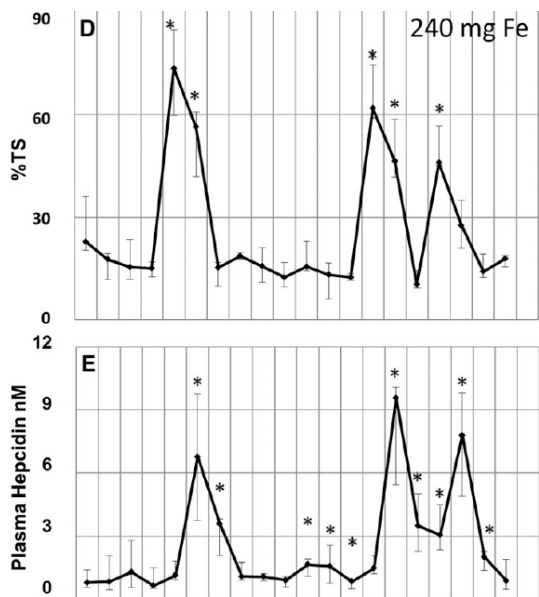
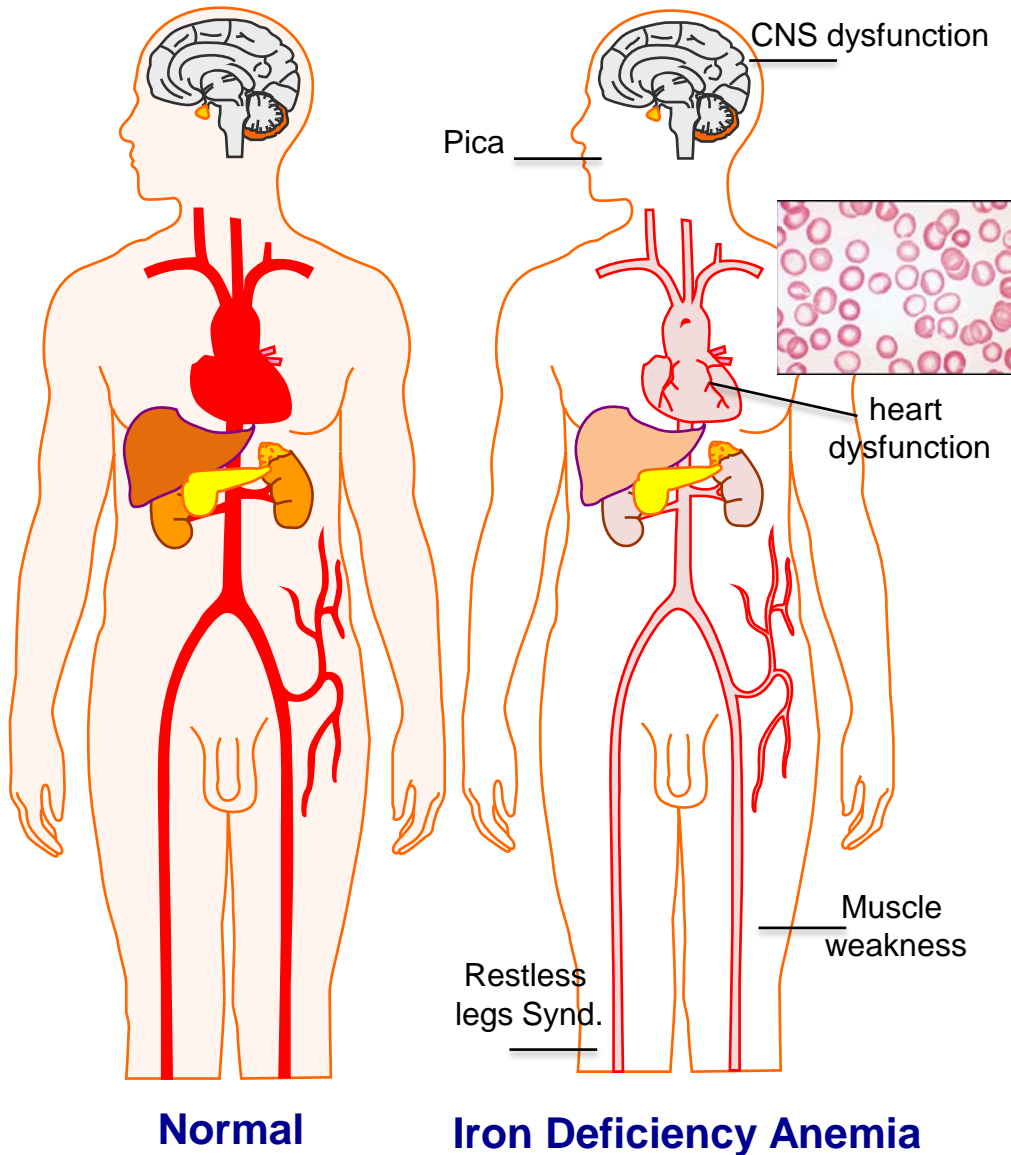


Figure 3. A supplemental iron dose of 60 mg Fe results in an increase in hepcidin after 24 hours and in a decreased iron absorption from the consecutive dose

Moretti D, Blood 2015

Oral iron therapy: the frontline of IDA treatment

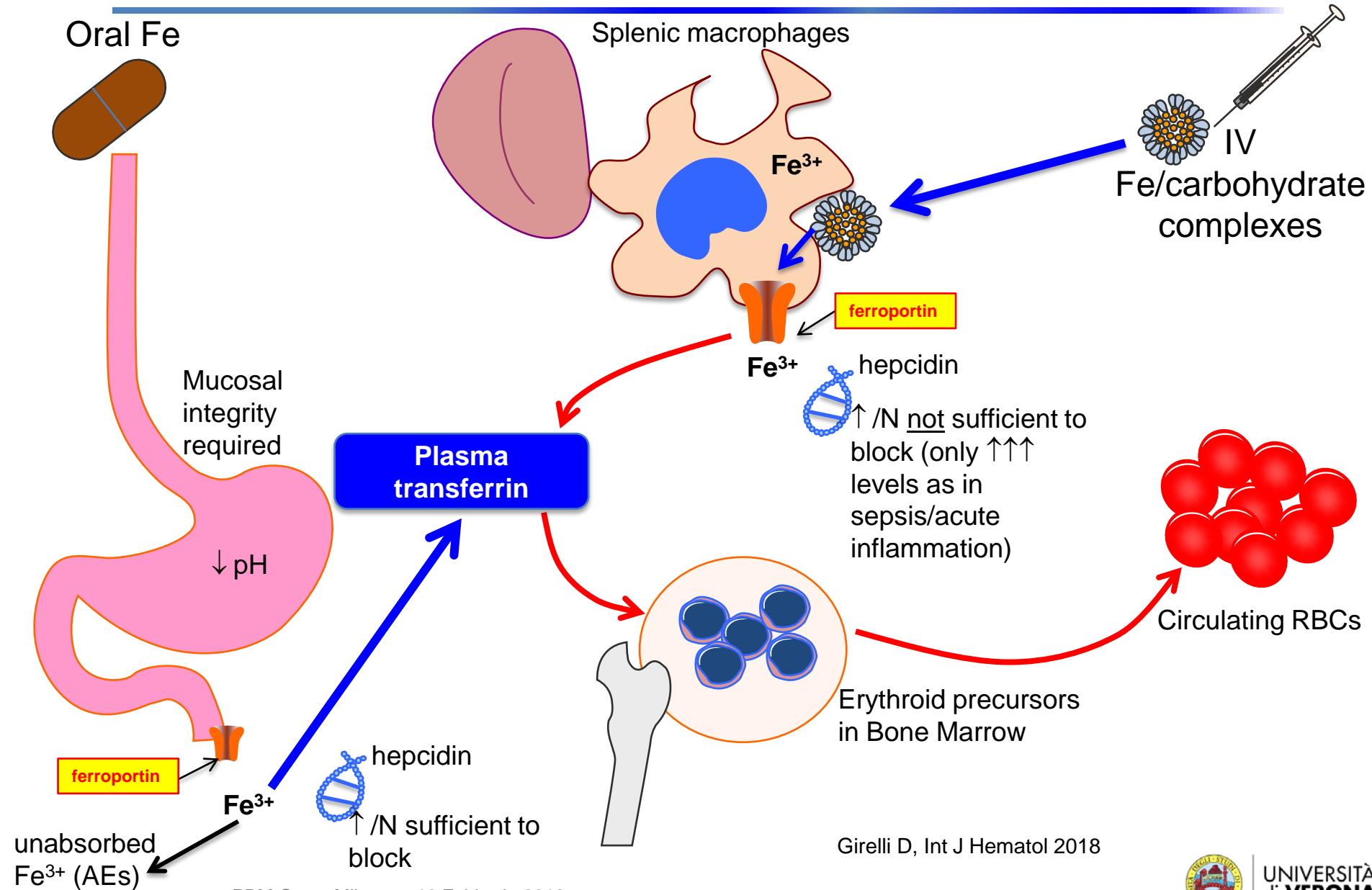


Effective
Inexpensive

BUT
LESS THAN IDEAL:

- GI AEs (35-59%) → non-adherence common
- **Need of prolonged administration (3 months for replacing iron stores)**
- **Poorly absorbed in certain conditions**

Different pharmacokinetic between oral and IV iron, revisited in the hepcidin era



Established indications to i.v. iron

condition	examples/comments
Failure of oral iron	non-adherence, AEs
Malabsorption	celiac disease, gastritis (atrophic, autoimmune, Hp+), bariatric surgery, genetic IRIDA
Severe IDA	generally accepted threshold: Hb < 8 g/dl
End-stage Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)	(+ ESAs)
Inflammatory Bowel Diseases	IDA in active disease
Pregnancy	severe IDA in II-III trimester
Heart Failure (HF)*	Systolic HF (LVEF ≤ 45%)

*Iron deficiency (even without anemia): serum ferritin <100 µg/L or <300 µg/L, if TSAT ≤20%

Camaschella C, NEJM 2015 (adapted)

i.v. iron: historical (and chemical perspective)

History of i.v. iron

1947: Fe-Saccharide



1954: Fe-Dextran(HMW)



1991: Fe-Dextran(LMW)



1999: Fe-Gluconate



2000: Fe-Sucrose

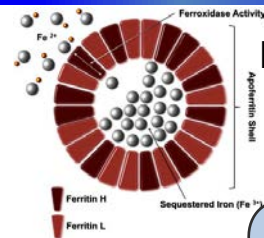
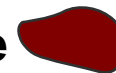
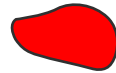


>2009: Ferumoxytol

Fe-isomaltoside

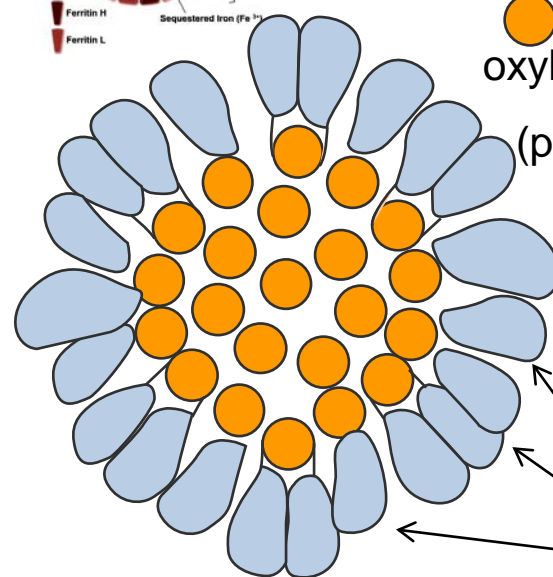
Fe-Carboymaltose

“New”
⚡ risk



human ferritin

8-25 nm



● Fe³⁺
oxyhydroxide

(polynuclear CORE)

carbohydrate shell
(stabilizer)

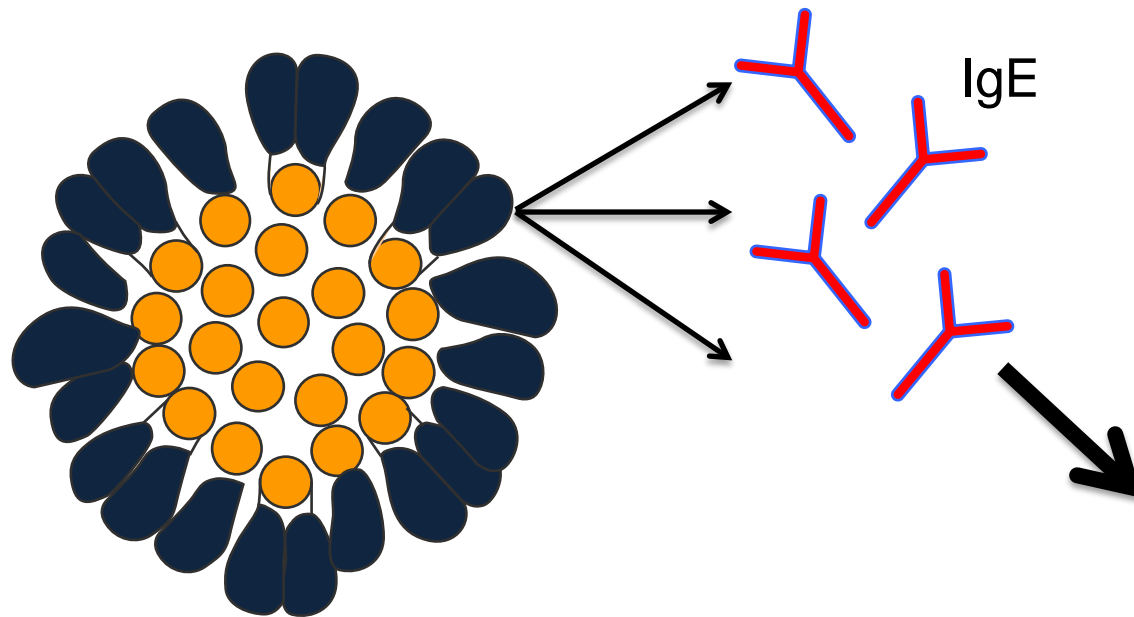
unique for each compound

Key differences in:
 ✓ Immunogenicity
 ✓ Strength of stabilization

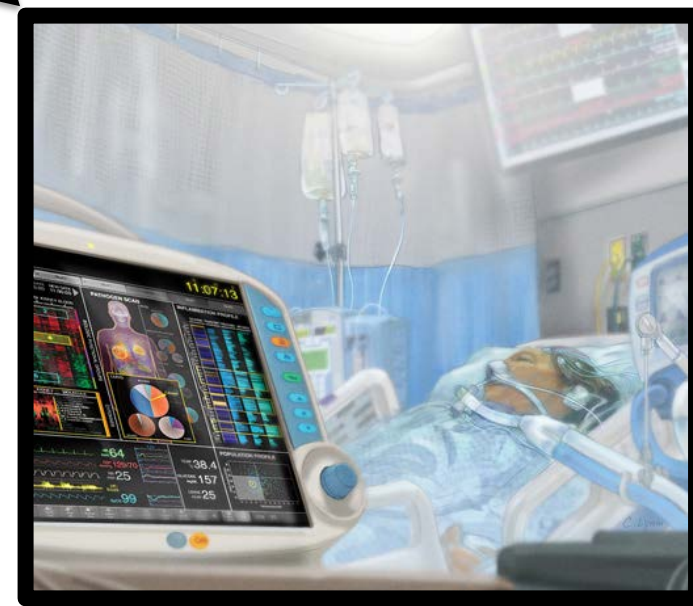
Girelli D, Int J Hematol 2018



HMW dextran: the only truly immunogenic i.v. iron drug



Anaphylaxis



1954: Fe-Dextran(HMW)

Retrospective analysis of > 30 million doses of i.v. iron:
virtually all life-threatening AEs by i.v. iron are due to HMW-dextran

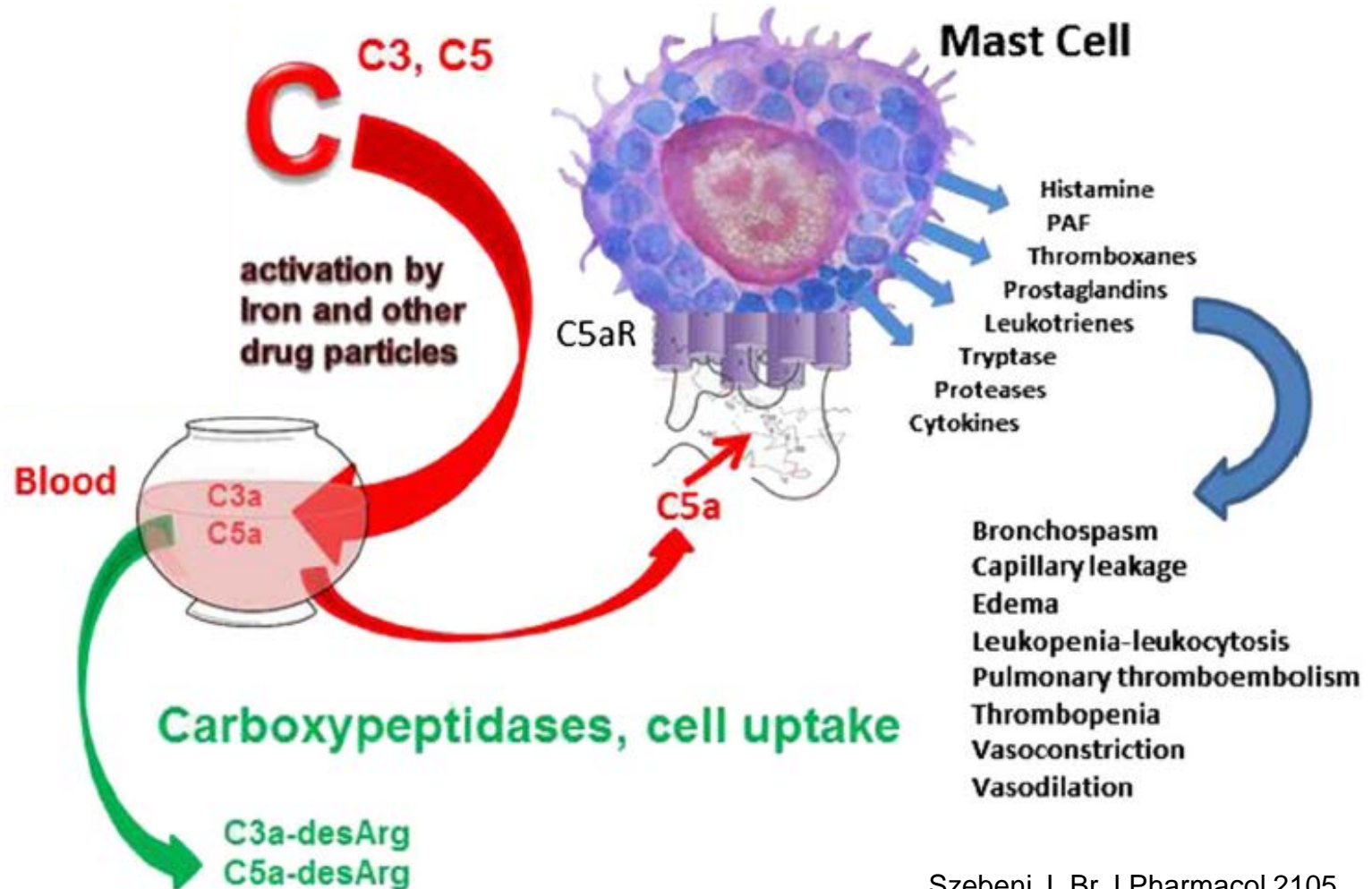
Certhow GM, Nephrol Dial Transplant 2006



definitively removed form the market

Other mechanism(s) for i.v. iron SAEs

Complement activation-related pseudo-allergy



Szebeni J, Br J Pharmacol 2105

Meta-analysis of 103 trials using non-HMW-dextran iron

The Safety of Intravenous Iron Preparations:
Systematic Review and Meta-analysis



Table 2. Severe adverse events reported with IV iron relative to any comparator (placebo, no iron, oral iron)

Severe adverse events	RR (95%)
All iron studies	1.04 (0.93-1.17)
SAE by compound	
Ferric carboxymaltose	0.82 (0.64-1.06)
Ferric gluconate	1.12 (0.96-1.30)
Ferumoxytol	1.04 (0.71-1.53)
Iron dextran(LMW)	1.05 (0.77-1.45)
Iron isomaltose/polymaltose	1.09 (0.43-2.80)
Iron sucrose	1.33 (0.96-1.83)
Infusion reactions	2.47 (1.43-4.28)*
Mortality	1.06 (0.81-1.39)
Infections	1.17 (0.83-1.65)
Gastrointestinal	0.55 (0.51-0.61)*

Serious AEs can occur with any preparation but are no more frequent than comparators, and extremely rare <1:200,000 doses (major transfusional reactions = 1:21,000).

Only minor infusion reactions consistently reported

No fatal reactions or anaphylaxis reported in 103 trials composing 10 390 treated with IV iron. Adapted from Avni et al²⁶ with permission.

*Significant.

Avni T, Mayo Clin Proc 2015

Minor infusion reactions



5 min, no intervention

Auerbach M, Hematology 2016

≈1:200

Flushing ± myalgias (chest or lumbar) ± nausea ± nasal congestion without sustained hypotension

Almost invariably self-limited

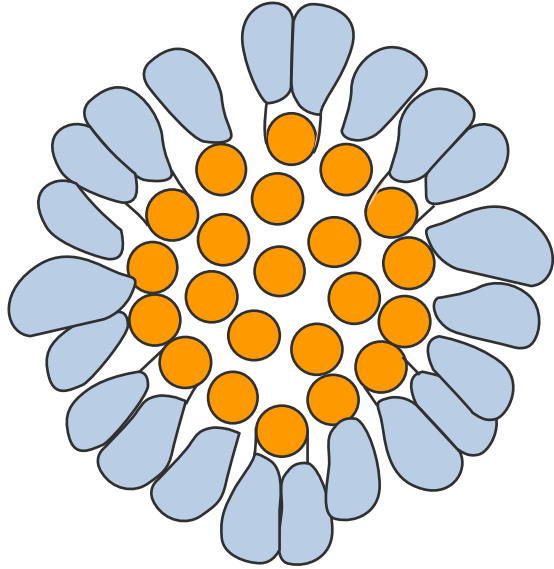
Can be aggravated by treatment with antihistamines (do not treat)

Do not recur with re-challenge

Macdougall IC, Kidney Int 2016

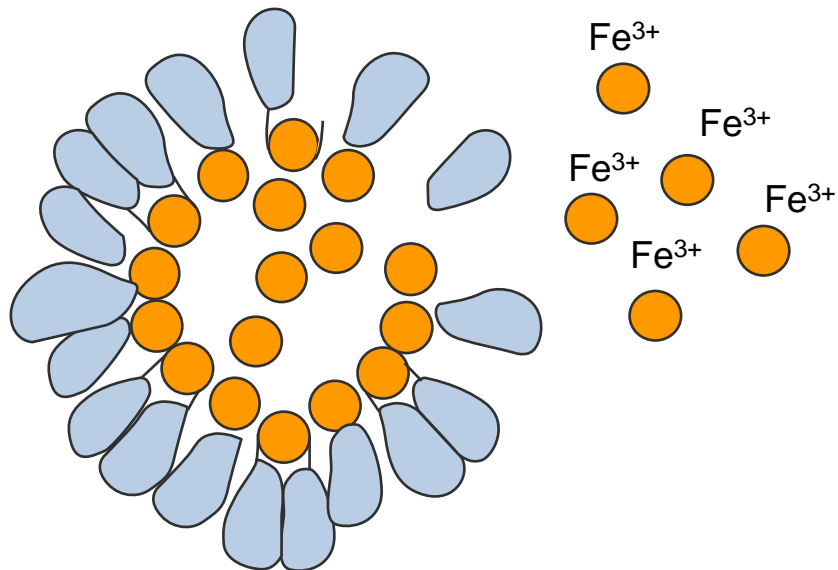
Stability of i.v. iron/complex is crucial for infusion reactions

Stable complex

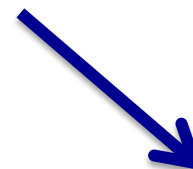


Stability of i.v. iron/complex is crucial for infusion reactions

Unstable complex



Release of free iron
in plasma before
phagocytosis



Acute
hemodynamic
toxicity



Amount of released free iron is dose-dependent → poor stability limits the total dose of elemental iron that can be safely administered per single infusion

Erythema
Flushing
Hypotension
(not sustained)



Auerbach M, Hematology 2016

Currently used i.v. iron preparations

Drug	Brand name	Stability	Maximum single dose	Total replacement dose in single infusion (1-1,5 g)	Minimum administration time
Fe-Gluconate 	Ferlixit®	low	125 mg	no (repeated access needed)	30-60 min
Fe-Sucrose 	Venofer®	low-moderate	200 mg	no (idem)	30 min

Ganzoni's formula and simplified schemes

Ganzoni formula:

Total body iron deficit/cumulative iron dose (mg) =

body weight* (kg) x (target Hb – actual Hb in g/L) x 0.24** + iron depot (mg)***

*Use ideal body weight in overweight patients. If underweight, use actual body weight

**The factor 0.24= 0.0034 x 0.07 x 1,000:

For this calculation the iron content of haemoglobin = 0.34%,

blood volume = 7% of the bodyweight, and

1,000 is the conversion from g to mg

***Iron depot:

<35 kg body weight: iron depot = 15 mg/kg body weight

≥35 kg body weight: iron depot = 500 mg

For example a 70 kg female with Hb 80 g/L has an iron deficit of:

$70 \times (150 - 80) \times 0.24 + 500 = 1676 \text{ mg}$ i.e. approx. 1700 mg

Estimated cumulative iron dose

Hb g/L	Body weight 35 kg to <70 kg*	Body weight ≥70 kg*
<100 g/L	1,500 mg	2,000 mg
≥100 g/L	1,000 mg	1,500 mg

When using FCM →

*Use ideal body weight in overweight patients. If underweight, use actual body weight

validated on Evstatiev R, Gastroenterology 2011

<https://www.easycalculation.com/medical/iron-deficit-calculator.php>

Extended indications for i.v. iron

condition	examples/comments
ID/IDA in elderly	If comorbidities/polypharmacy (including PPI) prevent adherence to (or effectiveness of) long-term oral iron
Perioperative anemia	Patient Blood Management strategies to prevent RBCs transfusions
IDA in cancer	± ESAs
Restless leg syndrome*	
Mountain Sickness*	(prevention)
Heavy Uterine Bleeding*	

* Auerbach M, Hematology 2016 (adapted)

Take-home messages

- ✓ **New (“third generation”) i.v. iron drugs are characterized by higher stability of the carbohydrate shell and by improved safety profiles**
- ✓ **They allow easy and convenient schedules, with complete replacement of iron in 1 or 2 administrations.**
- ✓ **This drives a paradigm shift in the treatment of one of the most common disease worldwide, with extending indications (to be confirmed).**

The Verona Interdisciplinary Group on Iron Disorders



Participants Units

1. Internal Medicine
2. Clinical Chemistry & Molecular Biology
3. Blood Bank / Transfusional Service
4. Radiology
5. Pathology
6. Gastroenterology

Fabiana Busti, Paola Capelli, Annalisa Castagna, Michela Corbella, Massimo Delledonne, Giorgio Gandini, Alejandro Giorgetti, Giacomo Marchi, Oliviero Olivieri, Roberto Pozzi-Mucelli, Monica Rizzi, Alice Vianello, Luciano Xumerle.



<http://www.gimferverona.org>



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