Editorial

On behalf of the General Medicine department I am very proud to write the editorial for this edition of Chettinad Health City Medical Journal, on the occasion of our fourth annual conference Chetmedicon-2017. The theme of the conference is "Recent Advances in Hematology And their Management (RAHAM)". The issue has five review articles on the practical aspects of hematology apart from the latest developments in this field. In addition the abstracts of papers and posters presented in conference have been included in the issue.

Though there is a progressive decrease in the incidence of Iron deficiency anemia, it still remains the most common cause of anemia. Children and the women in reproductive age group population are affected world-wide, especially in the developing countries. In their article "An overview of iron deficiency anemia" the authors have described in detail about the causes, and elucidated the evidence based management of the condition.

Generally hemoglobinopathies are described as congential disorders due to defect in the quality (Sickle cell anaemia) and quantity (thalassemia) of the globin chains of hemoglobin. But these disorders can also manifest as acquired disorders as in myelodyplastic syndrome and certain hematological malignancies. In the article, "Acquired hemoglobin disorders", the authors discuss the changes in hemoglobin which may lead to high or low affinity to Oxygen;and have also elaborated on acquired globin chain disorders.

Pancytopenia is not a primary disease entity but it is only a laboratory diagnosis. It is a manifestation of varying disorders ranging from bone marrow failure to peripheral sequestration and destruction of formed elements of blood. A systematic approach is needed to find out the etiology for an appropriate management. In their article "Pancytopenia: a physician's perspective" the authors have analyzed in detail the various aspects of pancytopenia.

AIHA (autoimmune hemolytic anemia) poses to be a disease of diagnostic challenge and a physician's night-mare. Unless there is an awareness, this uncommon entity goes undiagnosed with high morbidity. The authors of "AIHA" have elaborated the approach to the diagnosis and treatment of the condition in this issue.

Clonal proliferation of B cells leading to abnormal immunogobin production ends up in various plasma cell disorders. Often the patients with these conditions are asymptomatic, requiring a battery of investigations to classify and treat. The authors have highlighted the approach to the diagnosis and the management of plasma cell disorders in the article "An overview of plasma cell disorders".

I hope this issue may revise and enrich your knowledge in the hematological disorders.

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