

Disorders of White Blood Cells and Lymphoid Tissues

The haemopoietic system produces all blood cells including their precursors and their derivatives. The number of WBC in the peripheral circulation normally ranges from 5000–10000 cells/ul. of blood.

Neoplastic Disorders of Haemopoietic System and Lymphoid Tissues

The Neoplastic disorders include: Leukemias, Lymphomas, Multiple Myeloma.

Leukemias

Leukemias are malignant tumors of the haemopoietic stem cells characterized by diffuse replacement of bone marrow by neoplastic cells.

Treatment:

In addition to removal of the causative agent like drug, infection; current treatment is administration of recombinant haemopoietic growth factors such as granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF). These factors stimulate neutrophil production by the bone marrow.

The leukemic cells proliferate mainly in bone marrow, circulate in the blood and infiltrate the spleen, lymph nodes, and other organs.

Lymphopenias are much less common; they are associated with congenital immunodeficiency diseases, or are acquired in association with specific clinical status, such as treatment with corticosteroids. About 50–70% of WBC are granulocytes (neutrophils, eosinophils, and basophils) about 20–30% are lymphocytes and about 2%–8% are monocytes. Total WBC count reduces to 1000 cells/ul. In some cases the total WBC count reduces to 200–300 cells/ul. Reduction in the WBC number leads to increased susceptibility to infections which may be severe enough to cause death.

Etiology and pathogenesis

The mechanisms that cause neutropenia can be broadly divided into two categories:

- 1) The removal of neutrophils from circulation is accelerated due to:
 - Inflammation
 - Idiopathic
 - Infection
 - Immune destruction
- 2) Clinical Symptoms:
 - The initial symptoms are malaise, chills, and fever, followed by marked weakness and fatigue. In acute cases are characterized by replacement of the bone marrow with immature cells and rapidly fatal.
 - The pathogenesis of clinical disease in all relates to the progressive accumulation in the bone marrow of lymphoblasts. Defect in neutrophil production due to:
 - Exposure to radiation
 - Cytotoxic drugs administration

Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL): This type of leukemia is characterized by accumulation of lymphoblasts. Severe reduction in the number of granulocytes in the blood is known as agranulocytosis.