

# Iron-Deficiency Anemia and Homoeopathy

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## Definition

The name itself is explanatory. The most common cause of anemia is iron deficiency (Psora). Iron is needed to form hemoglobin. Iron is mostly stored in the body in the hemoglobin. One third of iron is also stored as ferritin and hemosiderin in bone marrow, spleen, and liver.

## Causes

The following may cause iron-deficiency anemia-

### Diet poor in iron

Iron is obtained from foods in diet, however, only 1 mg of iron is absorbed for every 10 to 20 mg of iron ingested. An imbalanced iron-deficient diet may suffer from some degree of iron-deficiency anemia. (Causa occasionalis)

### Body changes

An increased iron requirement and increased red blood cell production is required when the body is going through changes such as growth spurts in children and adolescents, or during pregnancy and lactation. (Psora)

## Gastrointestinal tract abnormalities

Malabsorption of iron is common after some forms of gastrointestinal surgeries. Majority of the iron taken in by foods is absorbed in the upper small intestine. Any abnormalities in the gastrointestinal tract could vary iron absorption and result in iron-deficiency anemia. (Psora/ Syphilis/ Sycosis)

## Blood loss

Loss of blood can cause a decrease of iron and result in iron-deficiency anemia. Sources of blood loss may include GI bleeding, menstrual bleeding, or injury. (Causa occasionalis/ Psora)

## Symptoms

Most common symptoms of iron-deficiency anemia may include.

- Abnormal paleness or lack of color of the skin
- Irritability
- Lack of energy or tiring easily (fatigue)
- Increased heart rate (tachycardia)
- Sore or swollen tongue
- Enlarged spleen
- A desire to eat peculiar substances such as dirt or ice (a condition called pica)

However, each individual may experience symptoms differently the symptoms of iron-deficiency anemia may simulate other blood conditions or medical problems.

## Diagnosis

Iron-deficiency anemia may be questionable from general findings on a complete medical history and physical examination, such as complaints of tiring easily, abnormal paleness or lack of color of the skin, or a tachycardia.

- Blood tests –CBC/ Haemogram
- Bone marrow aspiration and biopsy

## Treatment

It is based on-

- Age, overall health, and medical history
- Extent of the anemia
- Cause of the anemia
- Patient's tolerance for specific medications, procedures, or therapies
- Expectations for the course of the anemia

Treatment may include-

### Iron-rich diet

- Worthy sources of iron are-meats - beef, pork, lamb, liver, and other organ meats
- Poultry - chicken, duck, turkey, liver (especially dark meat)
- Fish - shellfish, including clams, mussels, and oysters, sardines, anchovies

- Leafy greens of the cabbage family, such as broccoli, kale, turnip greens, and collards
- Legumes, such as lima beans and green peas; dry beans and peas, such as pinto beans, black-eyed peas, and canned baked beans
- Yeast-leavened whole-wheat bread and rolls
- Iron-enriched white bread, pasta, rice, and cereals

### Iron supplements

Iron supplements can be taken over several months to increase iron levels in the blood. Iron supplements can cause irritation of the stomach and discoloration of bowel movements. They should be taken on an empty stomach, or with orange juice, to increase absorption.

## Biochemistry of Iron

Iron is present in many foods and absorbed into the body through the stomach. During this process of absorption, oxygen combines with iron and is transported into the plasma portion of blood by binding to transferrin. From there, iron and transferrin are used in the production of hemoglobin, stored in the liver, spleen, and bone marrow, and utilized as needed by all body cells.

The following is a list of foods that are good sources of iron.

Iron-Rich Foods	Quantity	Approximate Iron Content (milligrams)
Beef liver	3 ounces	7.5
Bran flakes	1/2 cup	2.8
Cashew nuts	1/2 cup	2.65
Chickpeas	1/2 cup	3.0
Clams	2 ounces	4.2
Egg	1	1.0
Green beans	1/2 cup	1.0
Green peas	1/2 cup	1.5
Ground beef	3 ounces	3.0
Kidney beans	1/2 cup	2.2
Lima beans	1/2 cup	2.3
Oysters	3 ounces	13.2
Peanuts	1/2 cup	1.5
Pork roast	3 ounces	2.7
Potato	1	1.1
Prune juice	1/2 cup	5.2
Prunes	1/2 cup	1.9
Raisins	1/2 cup	2.55
Roast beef	3 ounces	1.8
Sardines	3 ounces	2.5
Shrimp	3 ounces	2.6
Spinach	1/2 cup	2.4
Sweet potato	1/2 cup	1.0
Turkey, dark meat	3 ounces	2.0
Walnuts	1/2 cup	3.75

## Homoeopathic Therapeutics

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis abies-c. **ABROT.** **ABSIN.** **ACET-AC.** acetan. **ACON.** **ALET.** **ALUM.** alumin-p. alumn. **AM-C.** **AMBR.** **ANT-C.** **ANT-T.** aq-mar. **ARG-MET.** arg-n. ars-i. ars-s-f. **ARS.** art-v. aur-ar. bar-c. **BELL.** **BRY.** cadm-met. calam. calc-ar. **CALC-P.** **CALC.** calen. carb-an. **CARB-V.** **CARBN-S.** card-b. caust. cent-u. **CHIN.** **CHININ-AR.** chlor. cina cob-n. **COCC.** coch. **CON.** **CUPR.** **CYCL.** dig. **FERR-AR.** **FERR-I.** **FERR-M.** ferr-p. **FERR-S.** **FERR.** franz. gent-l. geum glech. **GRAPH.** grat. **GUAR.** **HELL.** **HELON.** **HEP.** ign. **IP.** **KALI-AR.** kali-bi. **KALI-C.** **KALI-FCY.** **KALI-P.** kali-perm. kali-s. lac-c. lach. lec. leon. **LYC.** **LYS.** **MANG.** **MED.** melis. merc. **MILL.** **NAST.** **NAT-C.** nat-hchls. **NAT-M.** nat-p. **NIT-AC.** **NUX-V.** olnd. peti. **PETR.** ph-ac. **PHOS.** phyt. pic-ac. **PLAT.** **PLB.** **PULS.** rham-cath. rub-t. rubu-fr. rumx. sabin. sacch-a. **SENEC.** **SEP.** **SIN-N.** **SPIG.** staph. **STRY-AF-CIT.** sul-ac. **SULPH.** tein. thuj. thymu. til. **URT-U.** ust. valer. vanad. verb. **XAN.** zinc-m. zinc.

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - every other day, symptoms agg. On alum.

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - winter, in **FERR.**

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - anger, from **NUX-V.** sacch-a.

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - emotions, from ign.

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - heart complaints, with abrot.

CLINICAL - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - stomach disorders, with **ABROT.**

Clinical - anemia, general - iron, deficiency, anemia - alternate days, symptoms, agg. alum.

Clinical - anemia, general - iron, deficiency, anemia - anger, from ferr. **Nux-v.**

Clinical - anemia, general - iron, deficiency, anemia - emotions, from ign. nat-m.

Clinical - anemia, general - iron, deficiency, anemia – splenic cean. rub-t.

Clinical - anemia, general - iron, deficiency, anemia - winter, in **Ferr.**

GENERALITIES - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - alternate days, symptoms agg. alum.

GENERALITIES - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - anger, from **Nux-v.**

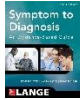
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GENERALITIES - ANEMIA - impaired production of red blood cells - iron deficiency, from, chlorosis - Winter, in **Ferr.**

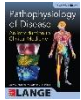
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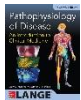
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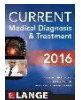
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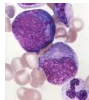
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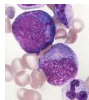
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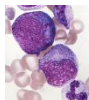
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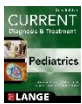
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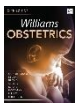
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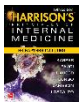
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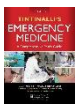
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