

Nuclear extrusion by erythroblasts in the peripheral blood of a splenectomized patient

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The patient was a 43 year old man who had been hospitalized because of extensive second and third-degree burns. He developed a severe hemolytic anemia over 3 weeks after the burn accident; antiglobulin tests were negative, and there was no evidence of direct thermal injury to the red cells. He had been splenectomized 25 years earlier for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma of the spleen. In the absence of the "pitting" function of the spleen denucleation of late erythroblasts could be observed in peripheral blood smears.

"Through a marvel of evolved expertise, late erythroblasts are empowered to expel their spent pyknotic nucleus".

Jandl JH.

Blood: pathophysiology.

Blackwell Scientific Publ.: Oxford-Vienna, 1991.

