

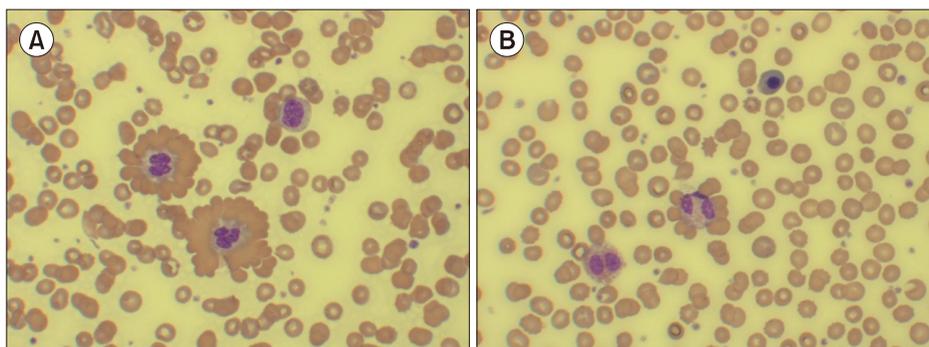
## Neutrophil-erythrocyte rosettes in direct antiglobulin test-negative autoimmune hemolytic anemia

Hee Sue Park<sup>1</sup>, Kyeong Seob Shin<sup>1,2</sup>, Bo Ra Son<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Laboratory Medicine, Chungbuk National University Hospital, <sup>2</sup>Department of Laboratory Medicine, Chungbuk National University College of Medicine, Cheongju, Korea

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**Correspondence to** Bo Ra Son, M.D., Department of Laboratory Medicine, Chungbuk National University College of Medicine, 1 Chungdaero, Seowon-gu, Cheongju-si, Chungbuk 28644, Korea, E-mail: [brson@cbungbuk.ac.kr](mailto:brson@cbungbuk.ac.kr)



An 83-year-old woman was transferred for antifungal therapy for candidemia that occurred during an intracerebral hemorrhage treatment at another hospital. At admission, complete blood count results were as follows: hemoglobin, 8.8 g/dL; white blood cell (WBC),  $18.51 \times 10^9/L$ ; neutrophil,  $16.66 \times 10^9/L$ ; platelet,  $52 \times 10^9/L$ ; and elevated C-reactive protein (CRP) and procalcitonin, 32.47 mg/dL and 6.60 ng/mL, respectively. After anidulafungin treatment, WBC count and CRP level were normalized, but hemoglobin level continued to decrease. Test results for anemia were as follows: ferritin, 741.82 ng/mL; iron, 198  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ; transferrin saturation, 87.6%; total iron-binding capacity, 226  $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ; folate, 6.4 ng/mL; vitamin B12,  $>2,000$  pg/mL; lactate dehydrogenase, 538 U/L; total bilirubin, 4.99 mg/dL; collected reticulocyte count, 3.4%; and haptoglobin, 24 mg/dL. The direct antiglobulin test for IgG+ C3d was negative; hematuria was not observed. Considering these findings, autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA) was suspected, and peripheral blood (PB) smear conclusively showed frequent neutrophil-erythrocyte rosettes [composite image of PB smear, Wright-Giemsa staining,  $\times 400$ ; (A) red blood cell (RBC) rosettes around neutrophils. (B) Few nucleated RBC were observed, but schistocyte or spherocytes were not observed]. The neutrophil-erythrocyte rosettes formation is a very rare AIHA phenomenon. This phenomenon is caused by the interaction between neutrophil Fc receptors and IgG-decorated RBCs.