

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	viii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	xi
INTRODUCTION.....	1
MATERIALS AND METHODS.....	8
Subjects.....	8
Determination of hemoglobin.....	11
Determination of hematocrit.....	11
Determination of vitamin E content in plasma	12
Hemolysis of erythrocytes in hydrogen peroxide	14
Osmotic fragility test.....	15
Determination of density distribution of the red cells.....	16
Study of blood picture.....	18
Preparation of erythrocyte membrane.....	19
Protein determination of solubilized erythro- cyte membrane.....	20
SDS Polyacrylamide gel-electrophoresis of erythrocyte membrane.....	21
Differential thermal analysis of erythrocyte membrane.....	28

	Page
Study of bone marrow picture.....	28
RESULTS.....	30
Effect of vitamin E depletion on plasma vitamin E level.....	30
Effect of vitamin E on growth.....	30
Effect of vitamin E deficiency on hematocrit and hemoglobin concentration of the peripheral blood.....	35
Effect of vitamin E on erythrocyte susceptibility to hemolysis by H ₂ O ₂	36
Effect of vitamin E on osmotic fragility....	36
Density distribution of the red cells.....	41
Plasma bilirubin level.....	41
Light microscopic study of erythrocytes.....	46
Proteins and glycoproteins of erythrocyte membrane.....	46
Study of bone marrow picture.....	53
DISCUSSION.....	67
SUMMARY.....	87
REFERENCES.....	89

ABSTRACT

Vitamin E deficiency can affect many species of animals in various distinct ways . One of the first consequences of this deficiency in man and related primates is anemia . In monkeys, depletion of plasma vitamin E level is accompanied by a concomitant increase in erythrocyte susceptibility to hemolysis by hydrogen peroxide . Anemia is manifested by moderate decrease in hemoglobin concentration, hematocrit, red cell number and life time of red blood cells . During the anemic phase, plasma bilirubin is normal and no splenomegaly is observed. Erythrocytes of deficient animals are denser than those of control and the fragiligram profile indicates a heterogeneous cell population of decreased osmotic fragility . Normal peripheral blood picture and blood indices as well as an absence of reticulocytosis are observed . Upon one dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, there is no difference in erythrocyte membrane proteins and glycoproteins between deficient and control animals under both sulfhydryl reducing and non reducing conditions . The bone marrow picture shows an accumulation of orthochromatic normoblasts and multinucleation of this late stage of erythroid precursors .

One hypothesis to account for the above phenomena is that vitamin E is involved in the differentiation of rapidly dividing cells, in particular in those stages during which segregation (translocation) or nuclei are necessary. Absence of vitamin E leads to a block in the process of enucleation of orthochromatic normoblasts,, thereby reducing the number of red cells exported into the peripheral system. Anemia is thus due to a bone marrow failure (ineffective erythropoiesis) and is not associated with detectable intra- or extravascular hemolysis.