

# Métabolisme du fer et syndromes myélodysplasiques

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IRSD, Toulouse

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Agence Nationale de la Recherche

**ANR**

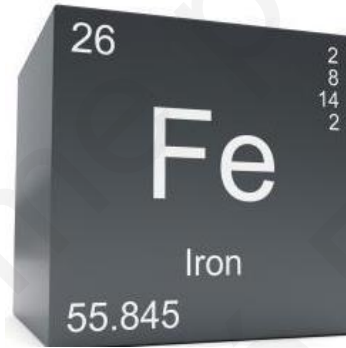


Université  
de Toulouse

**envt** | école  
nationale  
vétérinaire  
toulouse



# Iron is life. No iron = no life!



3-5 g of iron in an adult human body

2/3

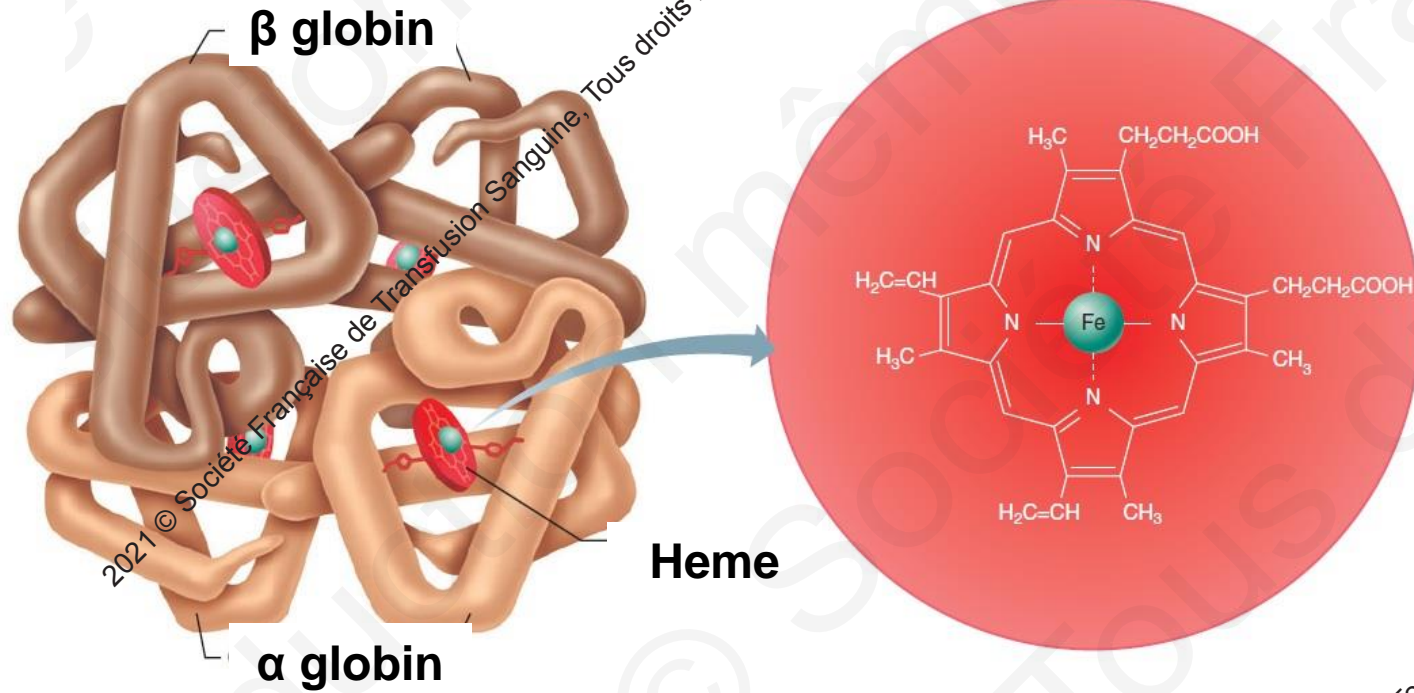


O<sub>2</sub> transport

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# Iron binds oxygen to ensure its transport and storage



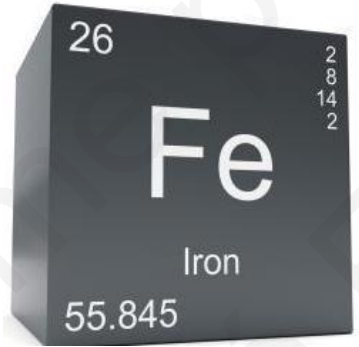
270 millions of hemoglobin / RBC

1080 Atoms of iron / RBC

2,4 million RBCs / second

Over 2 billion atoms of iron required per second in the bone marrow ( $>5\mu\text{g}$ )

# Iron is life. No iron = no life!



3-5 g of iron in an adult human body

1/3

2/3

Metabolism

e- transfer

DNA replication synthesis

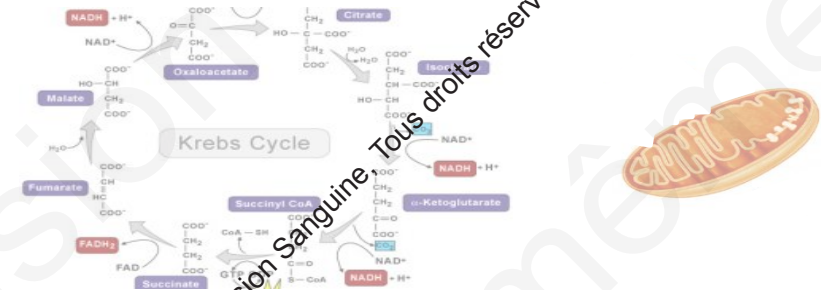
Production of free radicals

O<sub>2</sub> transport

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# The iron paradox

Essential



Metabolism

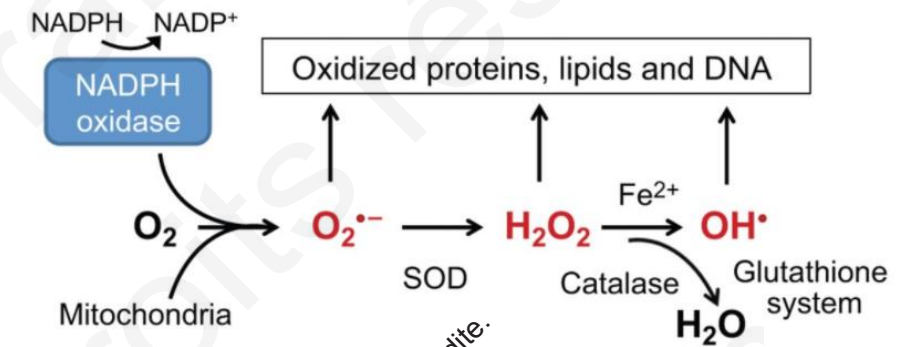
- Hemoprotein (Redox enzymes, cytochromes, catalases....)
- Iron-sulfur cluster proteins (NADH or succinate deshydrogenase...)



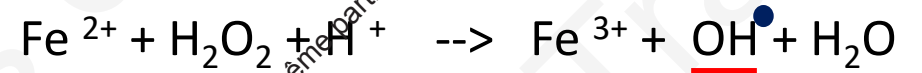
DNA replication synthesis

- Ribonucleotide reductase

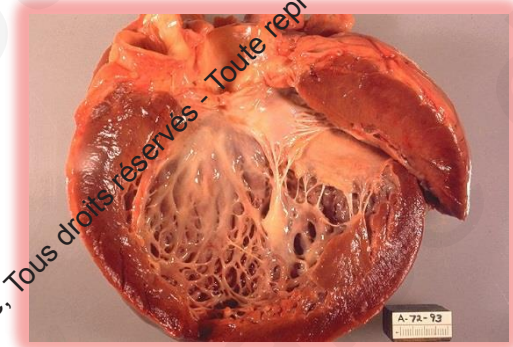
But toxic



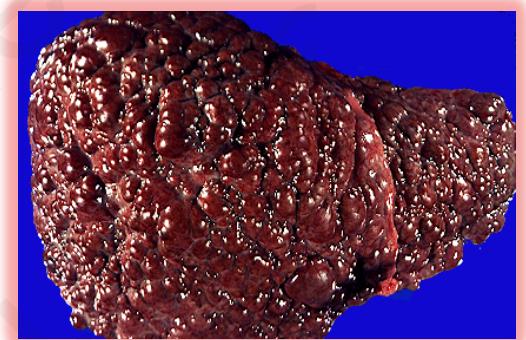
Fenton reaction



Free radicals



Cardiomyopathy



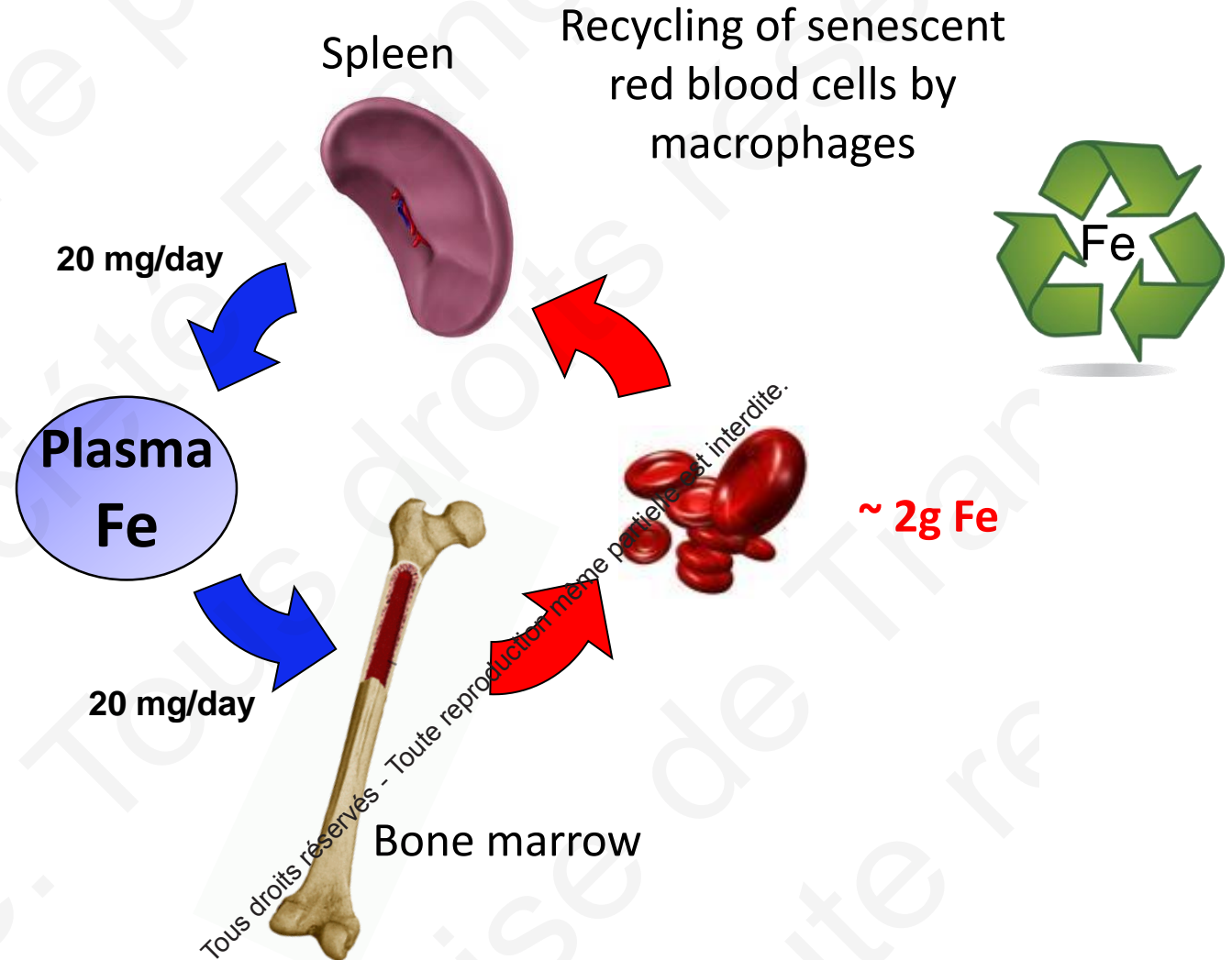
Cirrhosis

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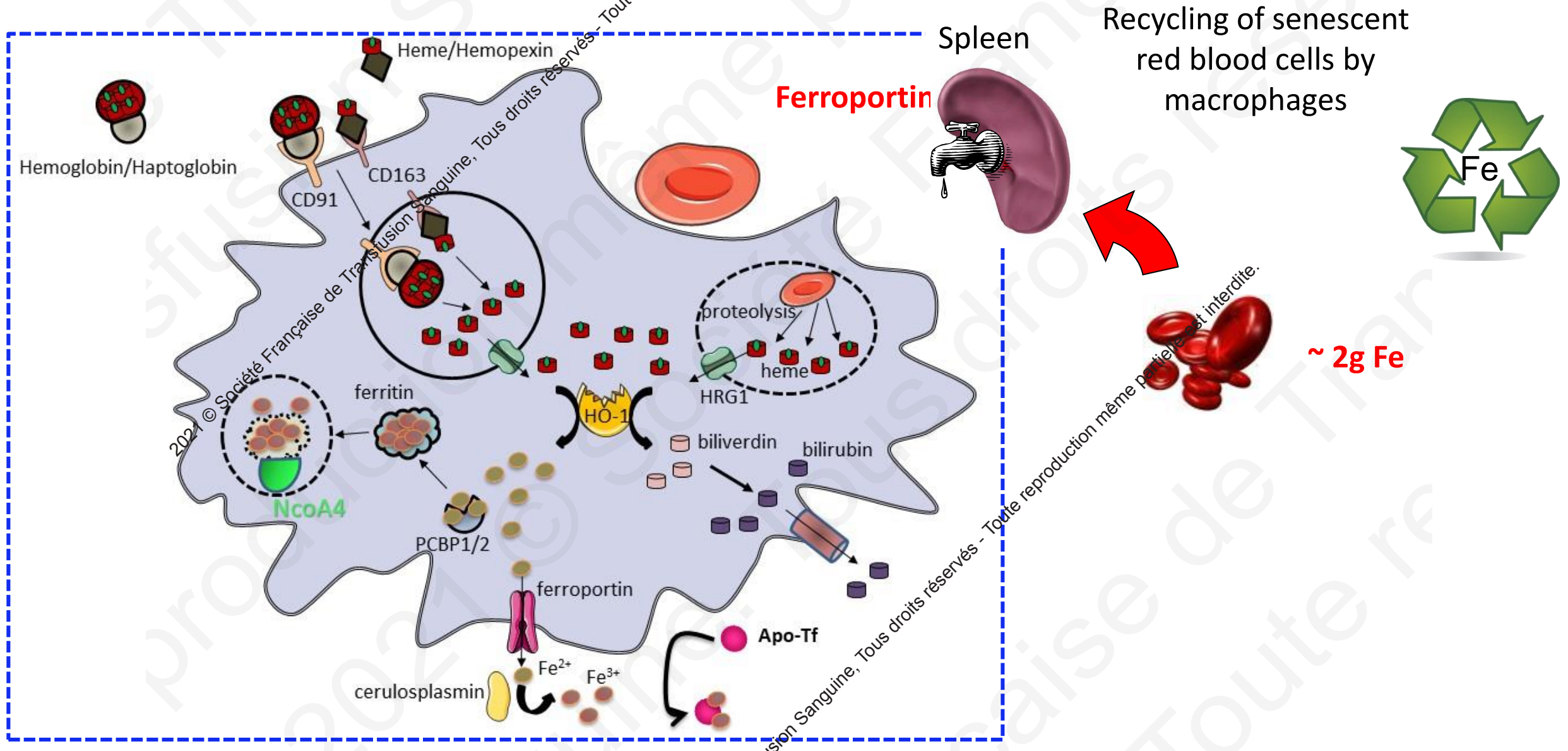


# Iron is essential for fundamental biological processes

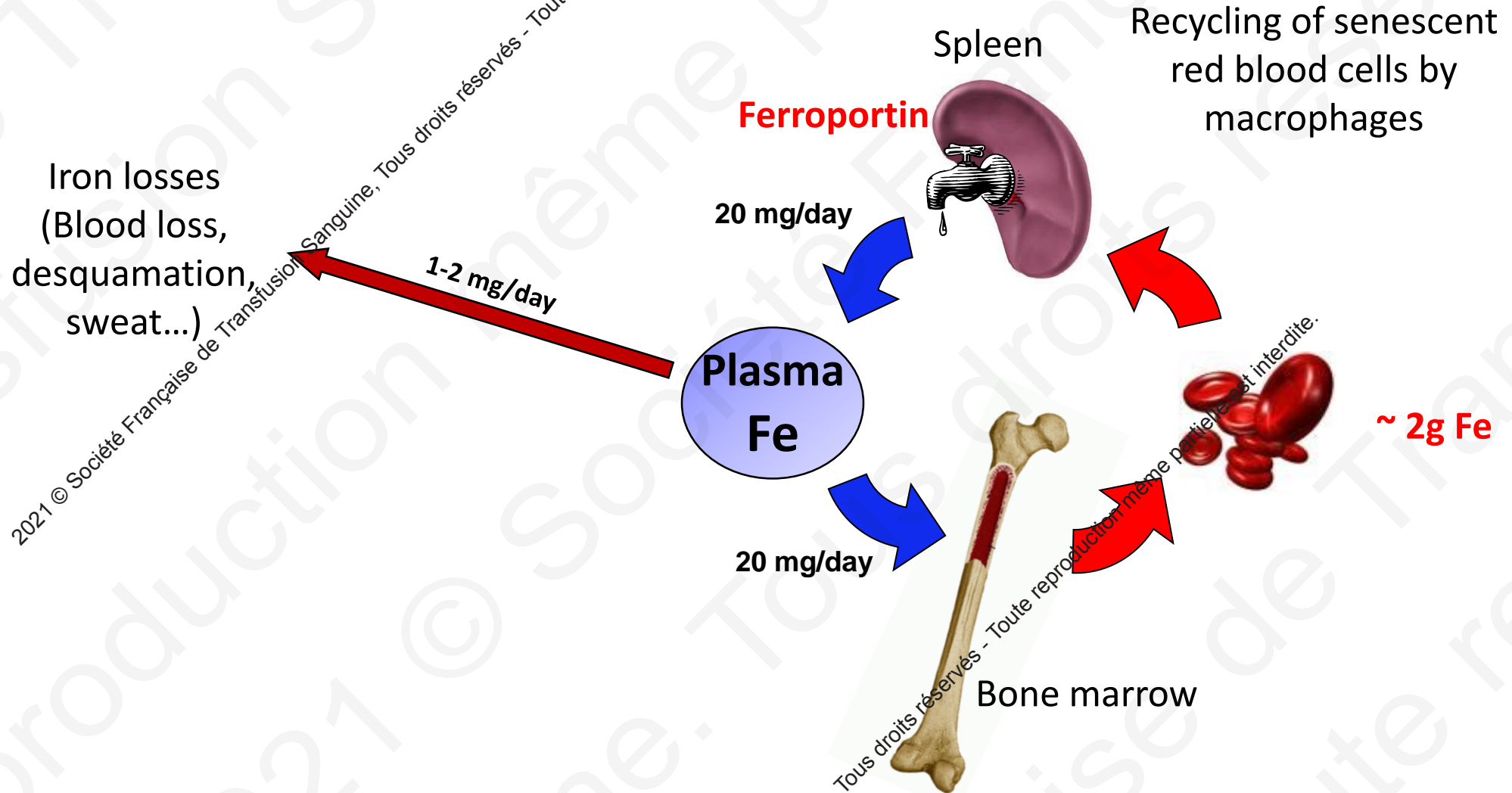
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# Iron is essential for fundamental biological processes

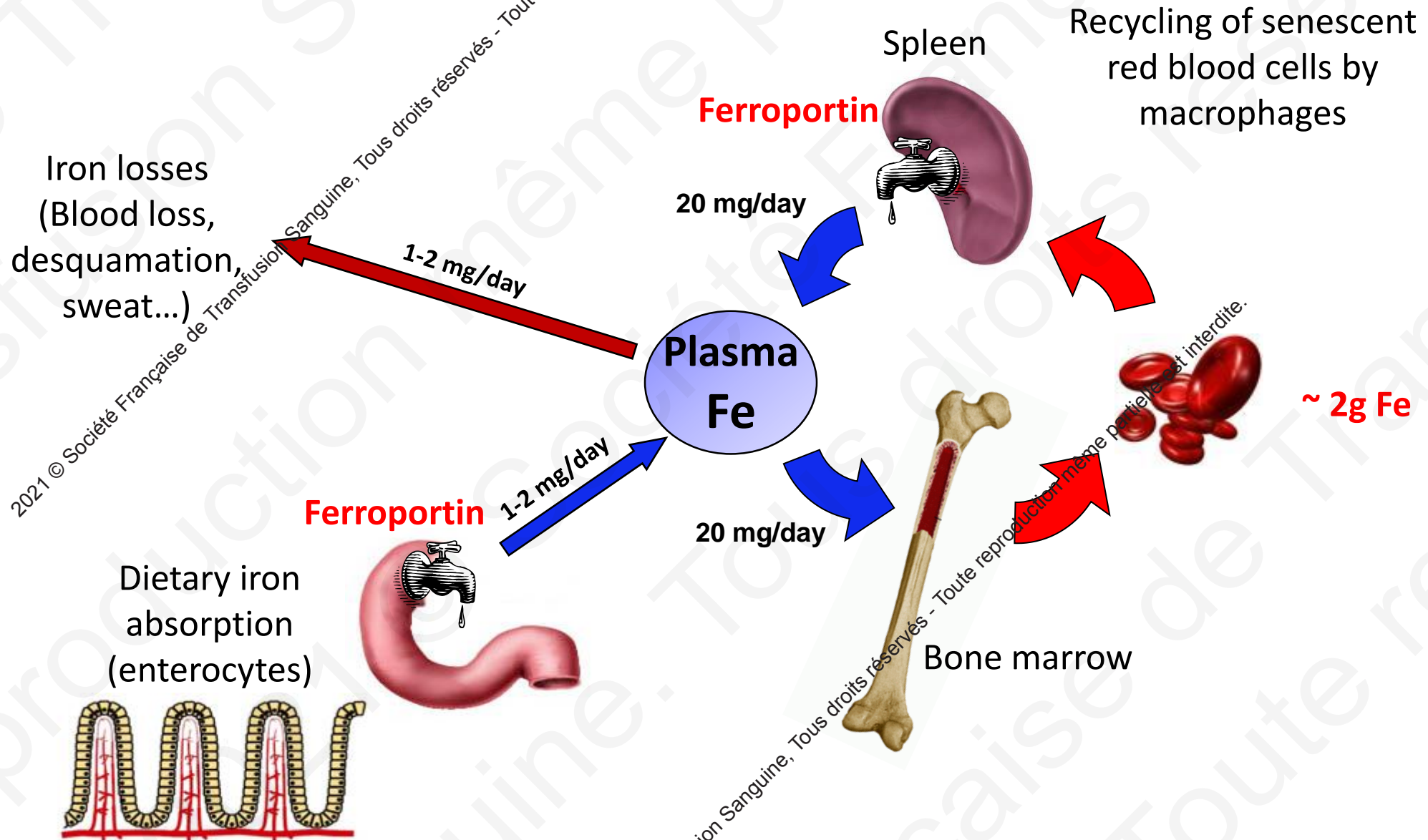


# Iron is essential for fundamental biological processes





# Iron is essential for fundamental biological processes



# Iron is essential for fundamental biological processes

Iron losses  
(Blood loss,  
desquamation,  
sweat...)

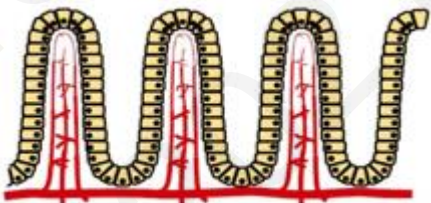
1-2 mg/day

Plasma Fe

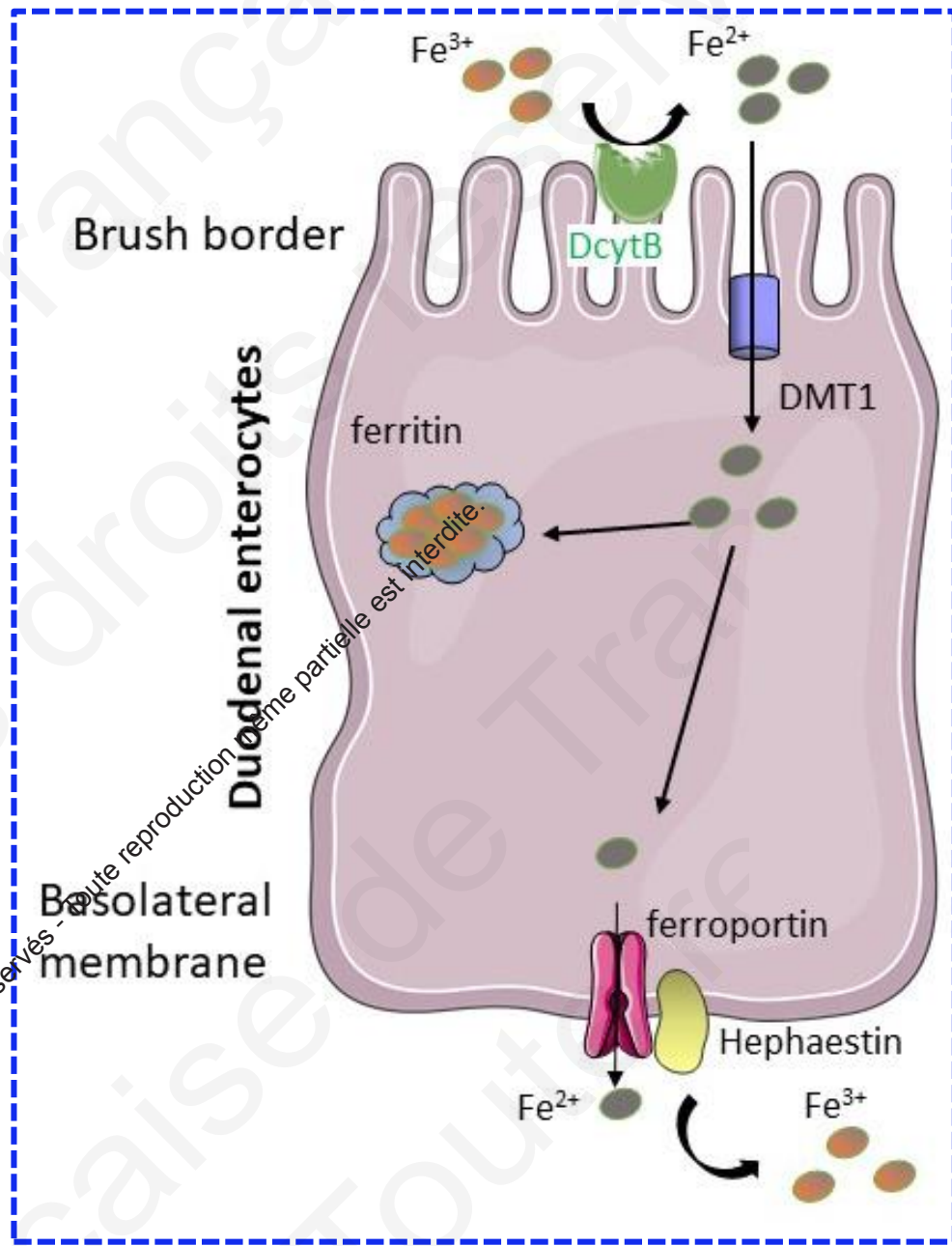
Ferroportin

1-2 mg/day

Dietary iron  
absorption  
(enterocytes)

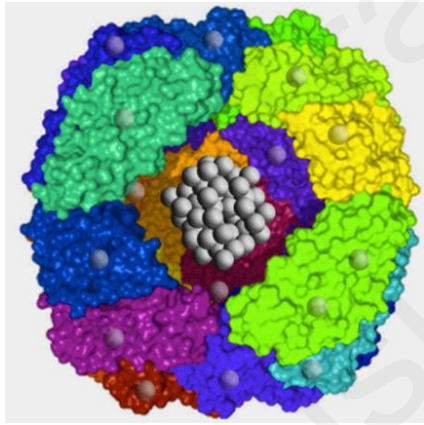


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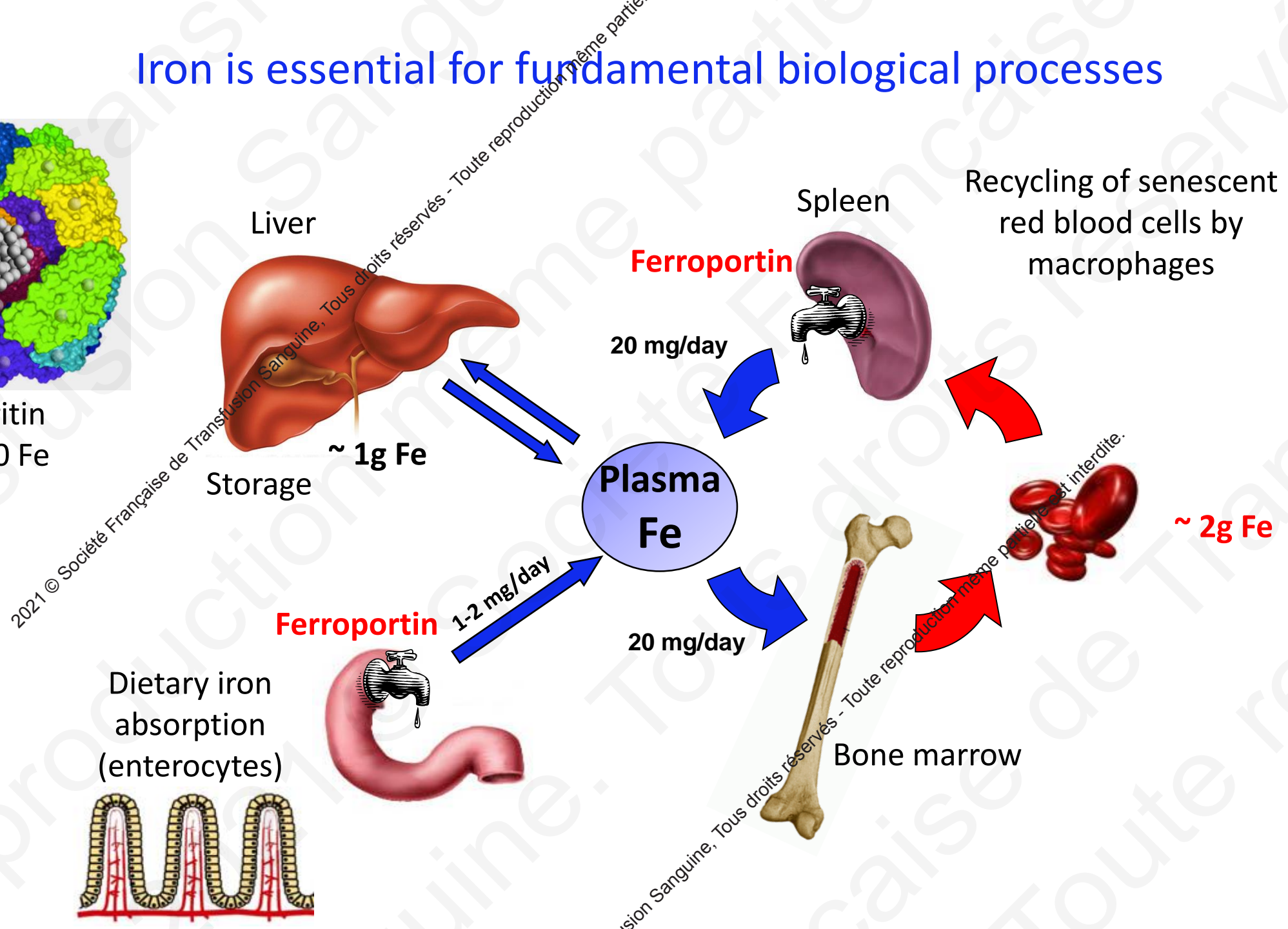


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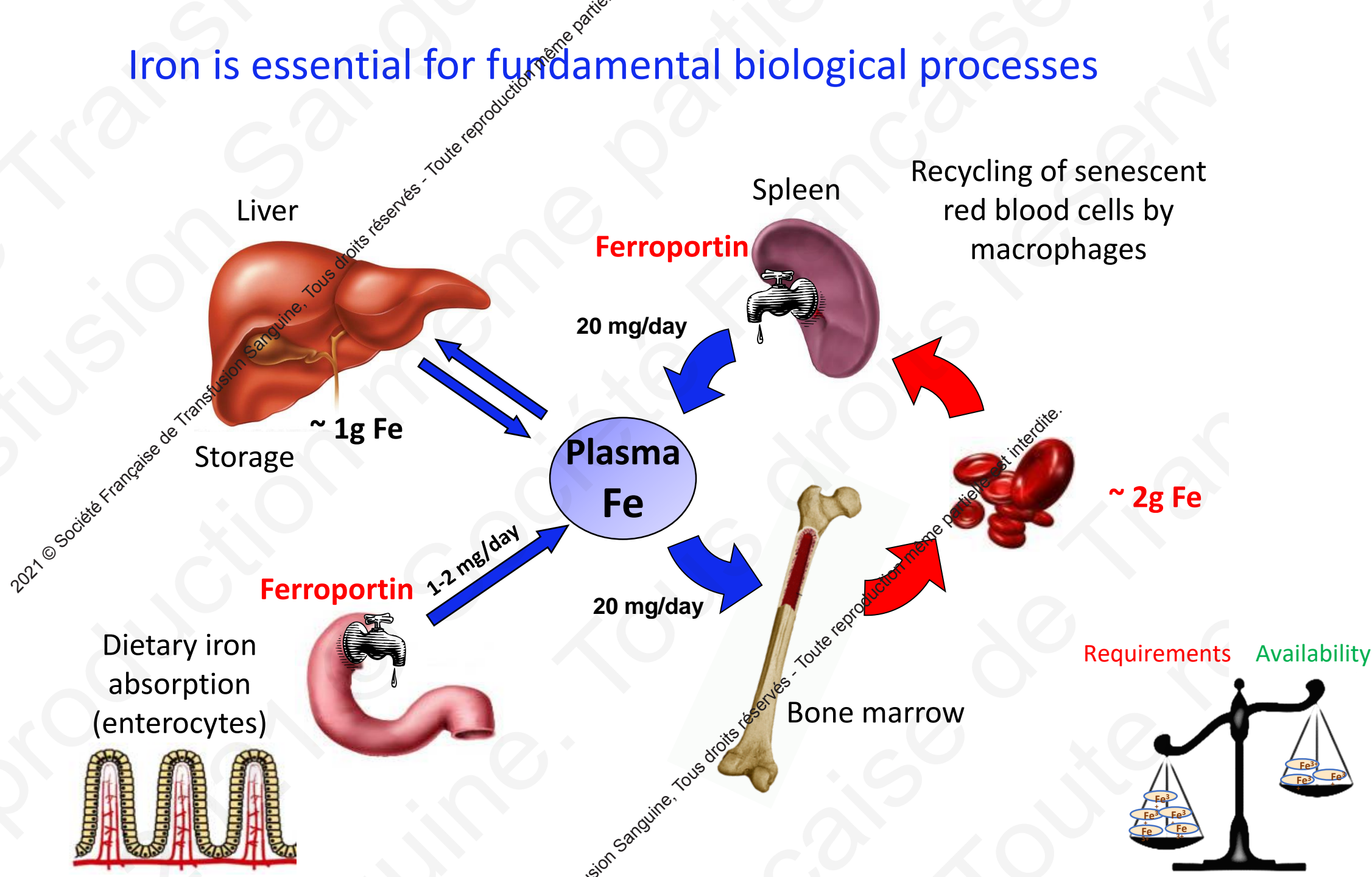


Ferritin  
4500 Fe



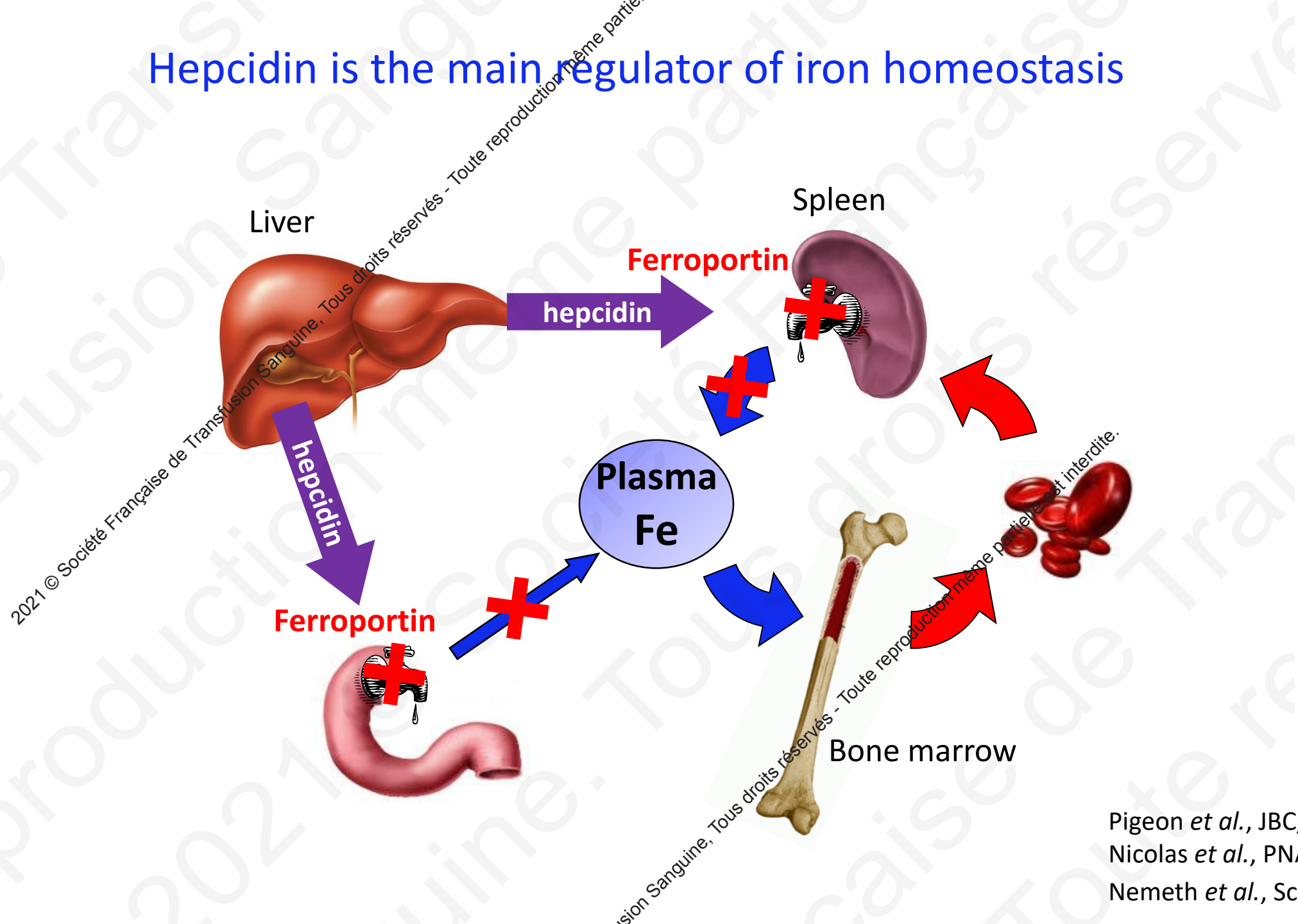


# Iron is essential for fundamental biological processes





# Hepcidin is the main regulator of iron homeostasis



Pigeon *et al.*, JBC, 2001  
Nicolas *et al.*, PNAS, 2001  
Nemeth *et al.*, Science, 2004

# Hepcidin is the main regulator of iron homeostasis

↑ hepcidin



↓ iron absorption



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# Hepcidin is the main regulator of iron homeostasis

↑ hepcidin

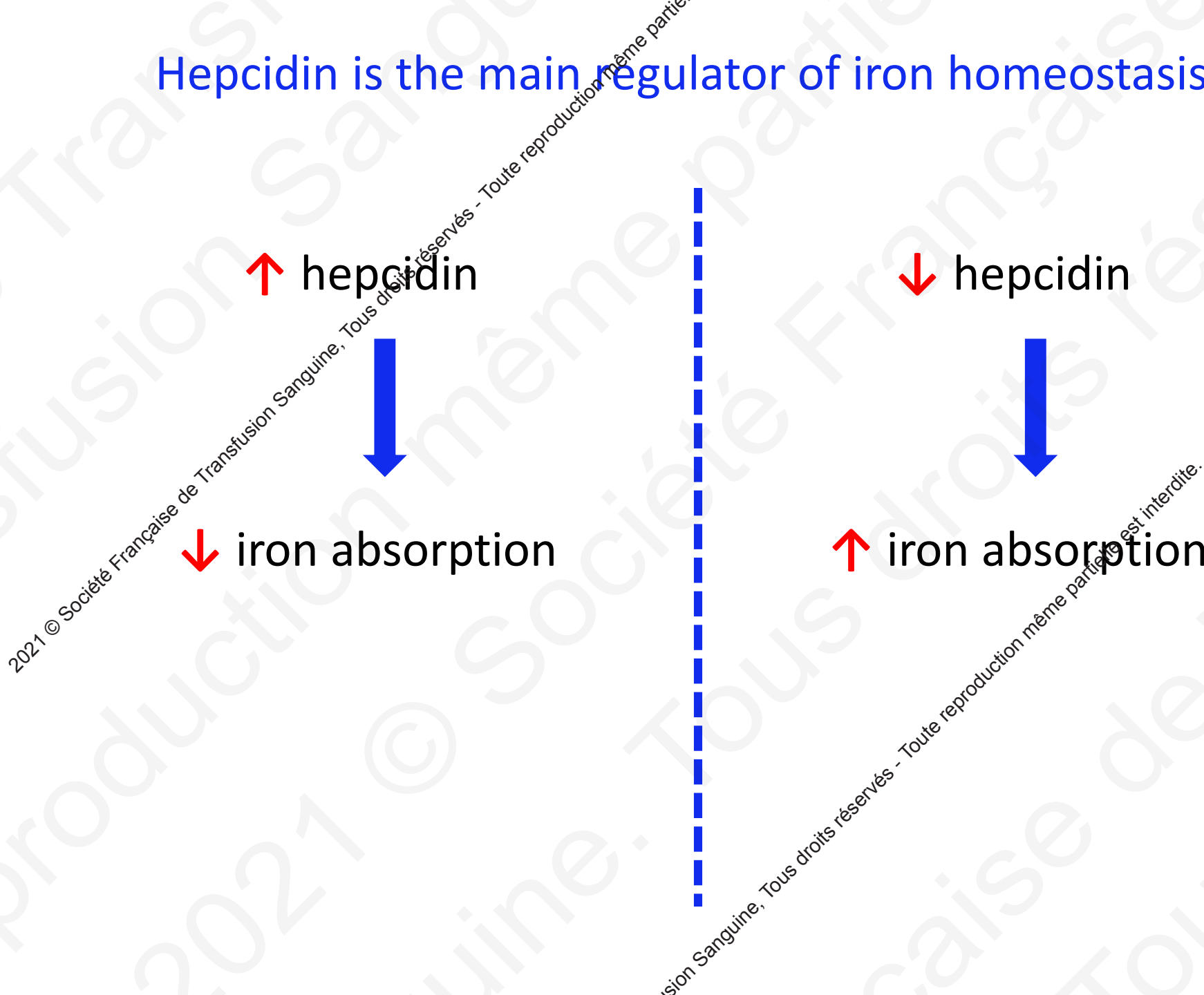


↓ iron absorption

↓ hepcidin



↑ iron absorption



# Hepcidin is the main regulator of iron homeostasis

↑ hepcidin



↓ iron absorption



anemia

↓ hepcidin



↑ iron absorption

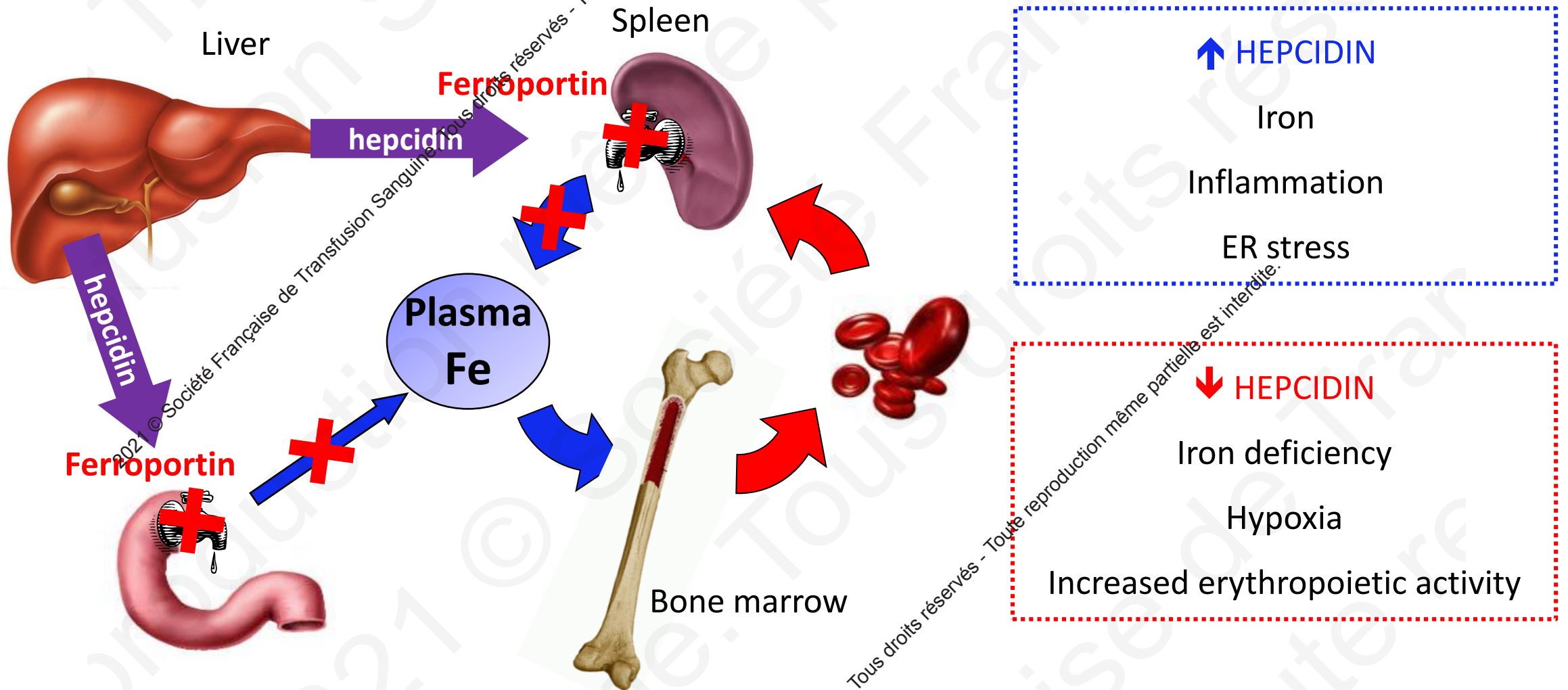


iron overload

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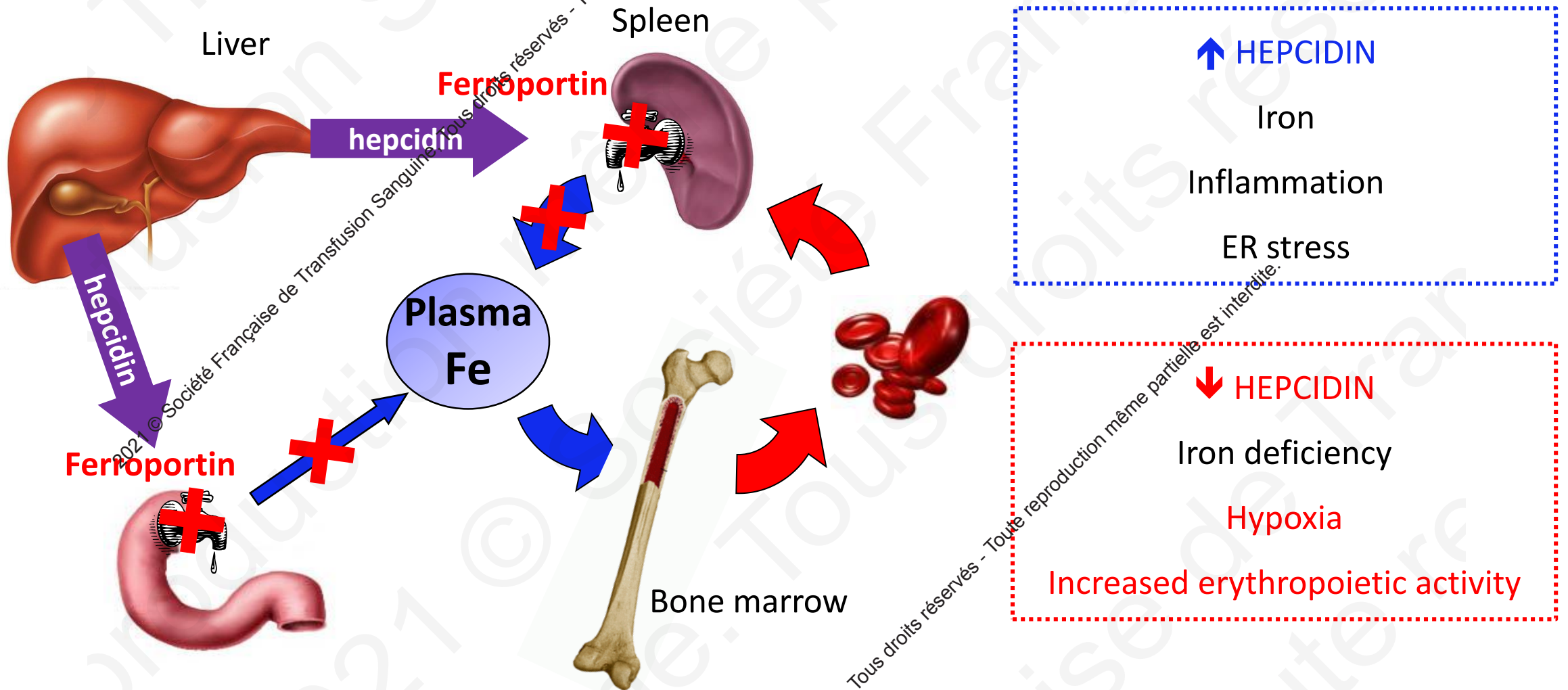
# Signals directing the production of hepcidin



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# Signals directing the production of hepcidin

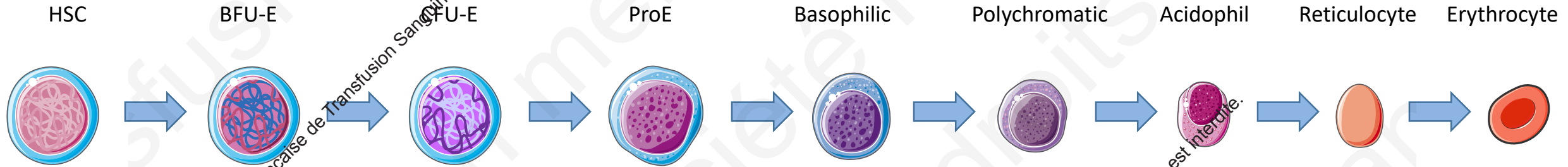


# Erythropoiesis

Bone marrow

Blood

Erythroblasts



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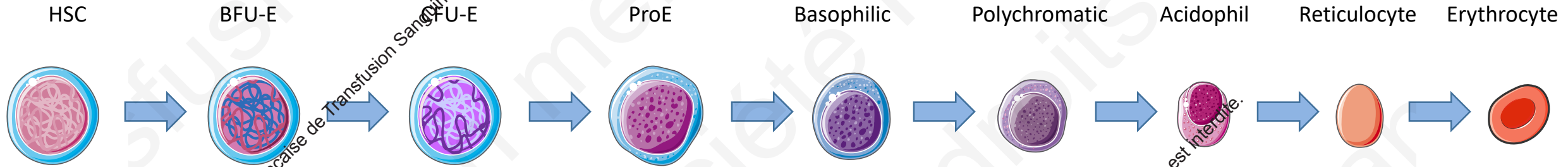
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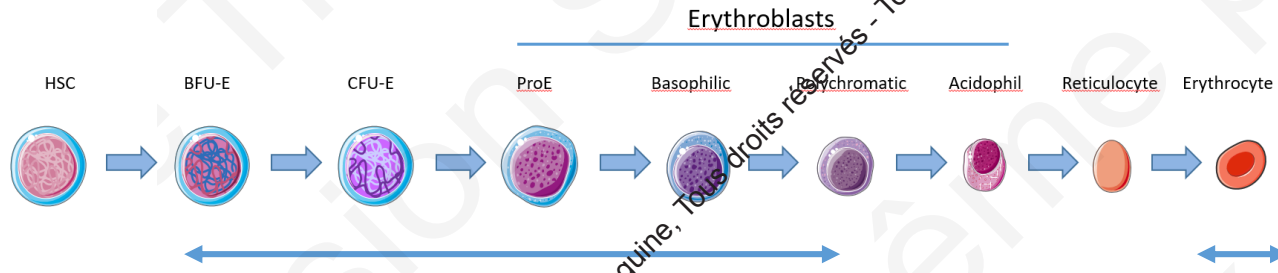
Erythropoietin (EPO) dependance



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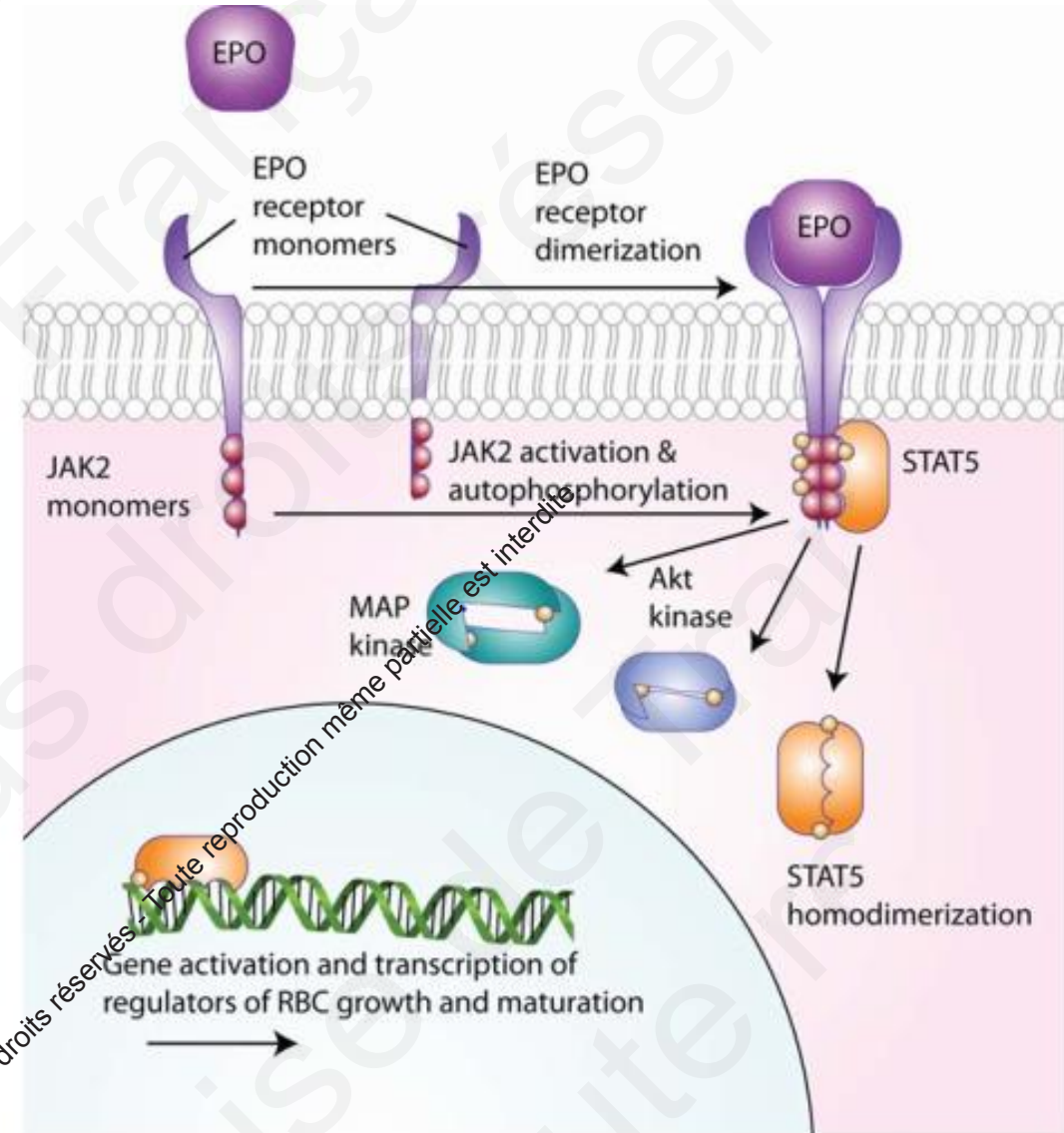
# EPO is the master regulator of erythropoiesis



➤ Erythroid differentiation

➤ Erythroid proliferation

➤ Red cells survival

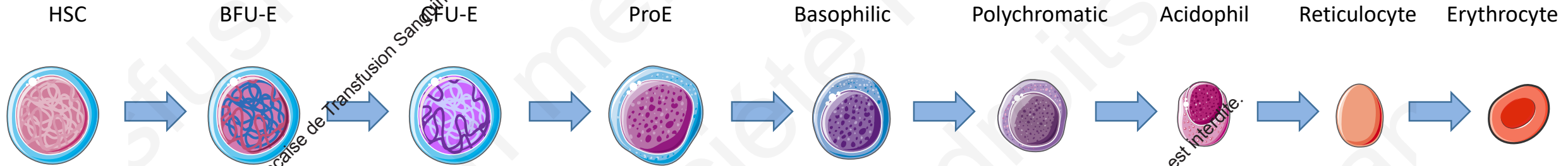


# Erythropoiesis

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Blood

Erythroblasts



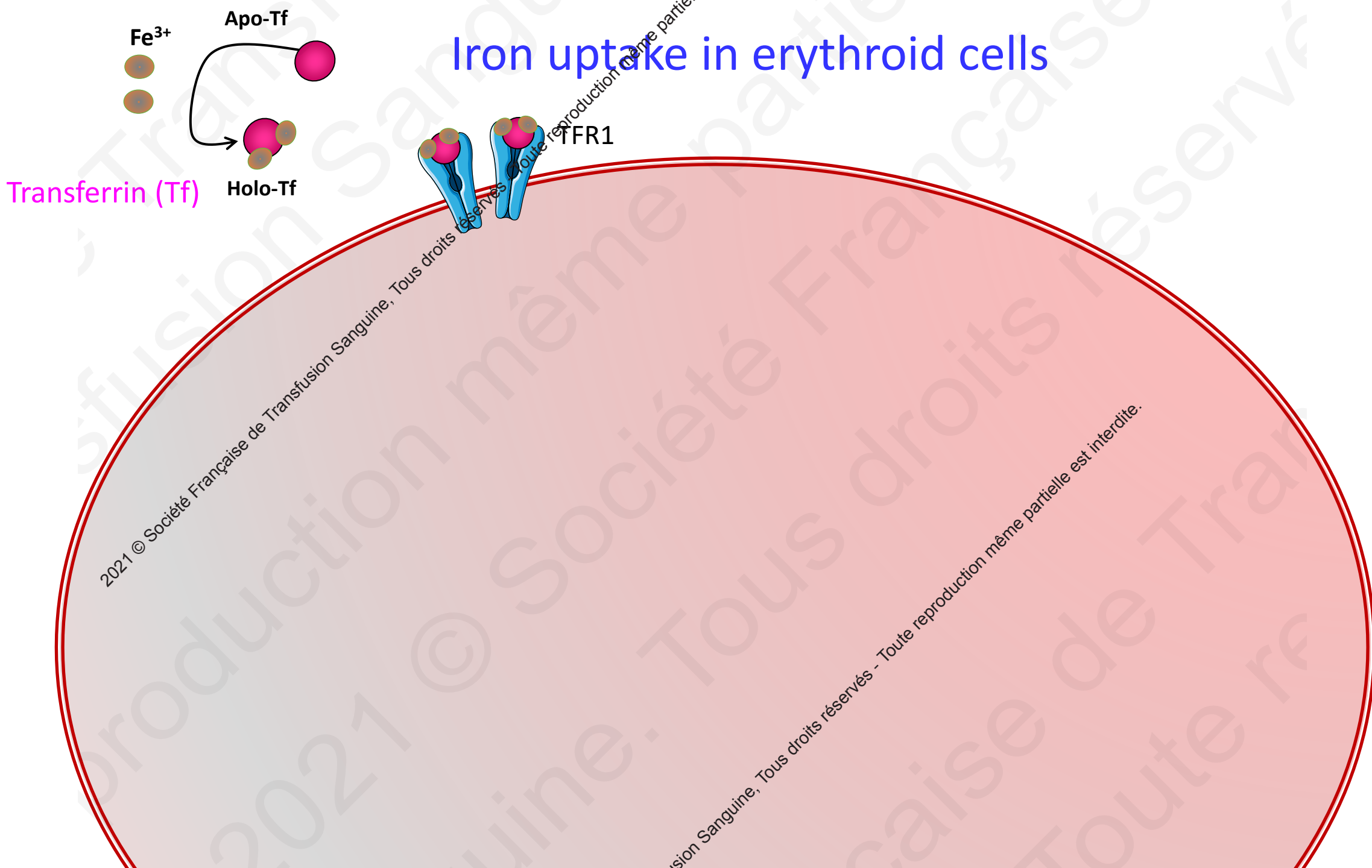
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EPO dependance

Iron dependance (~25mg/day)

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# Iron uptake in erythroid cells



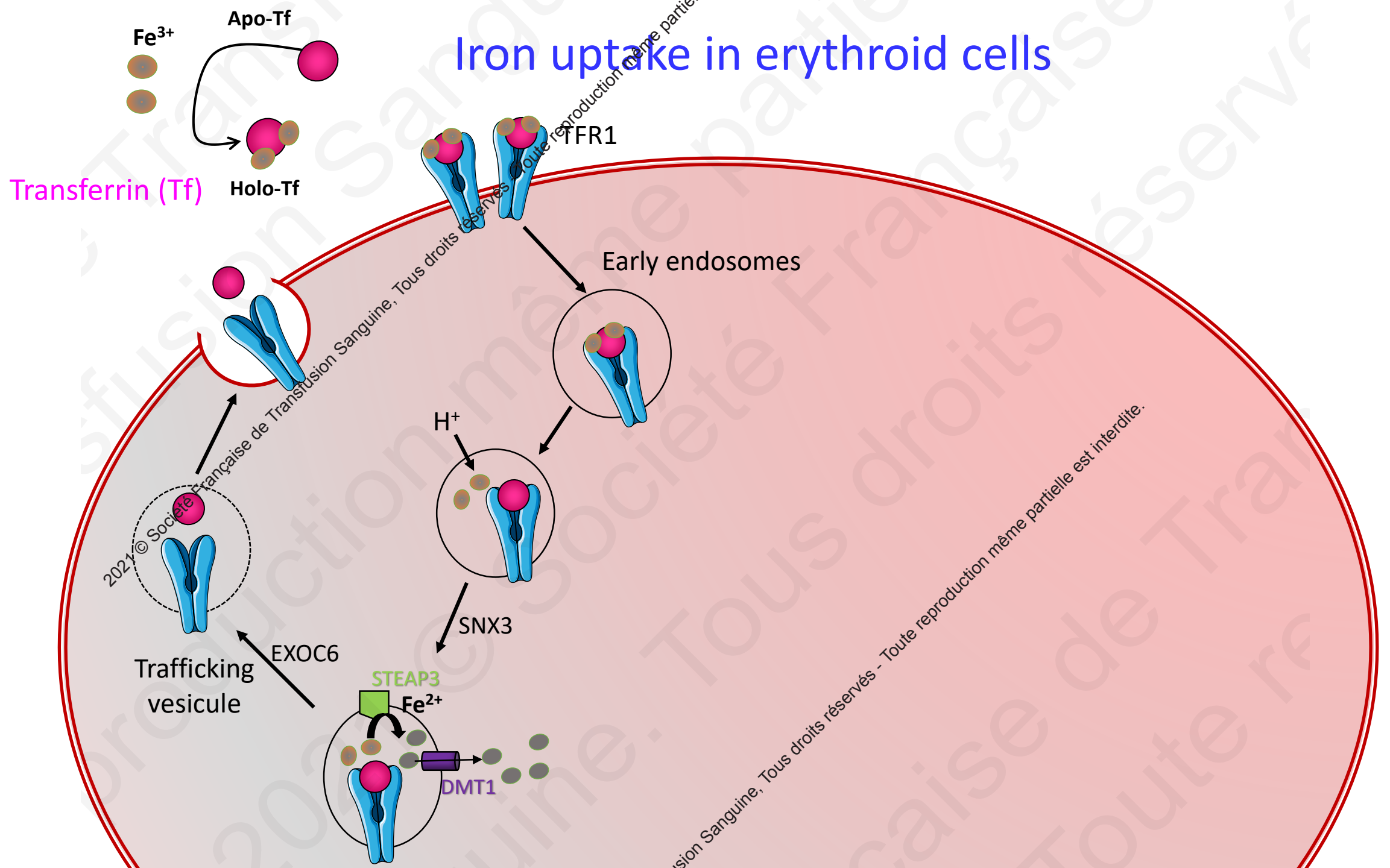
Fe<sup>3+</sup>  
Apo-Tf  
Holo-Tf

Transferrin (Tf)

TFR1

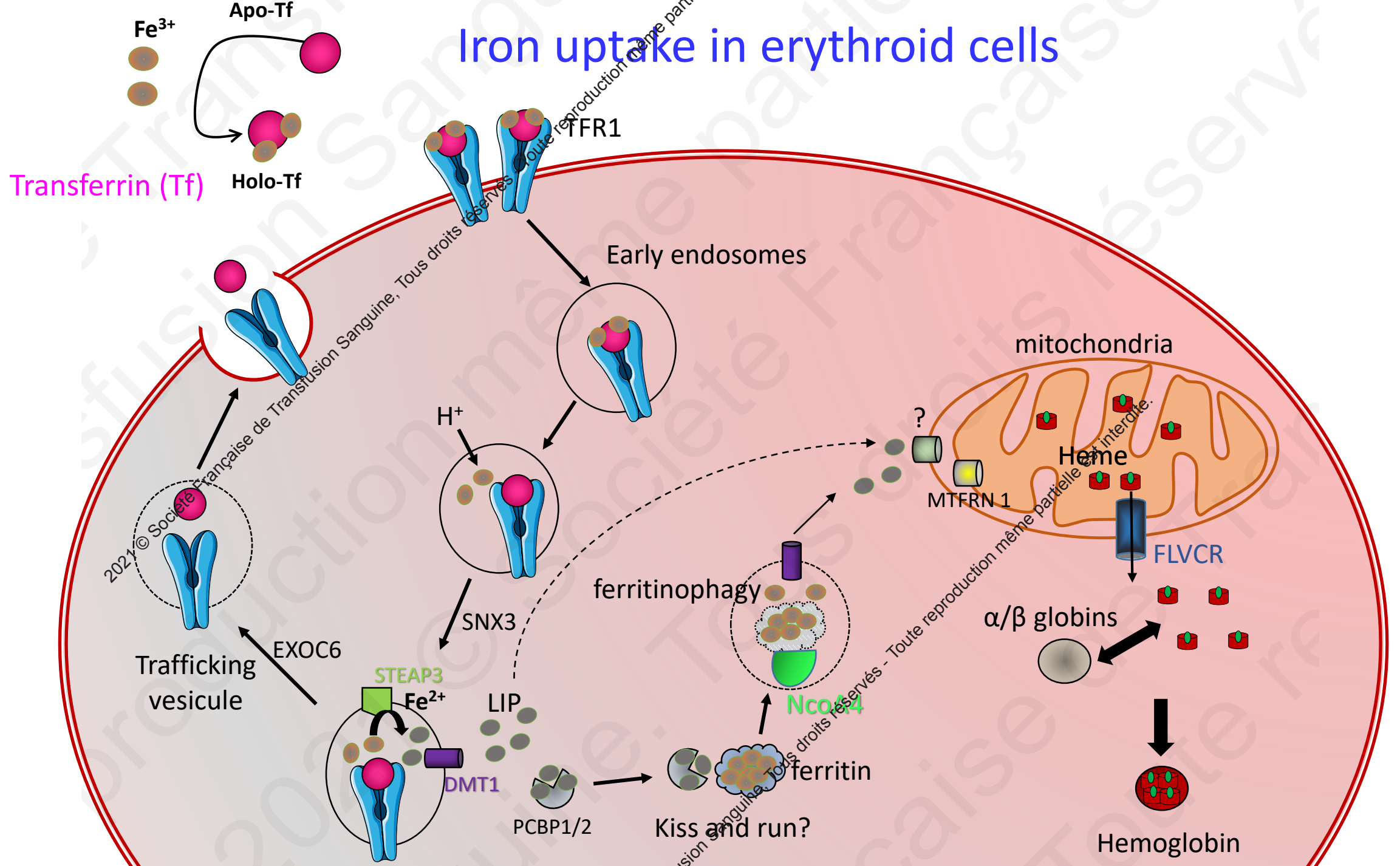
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# Iron uptake in erythroid cells

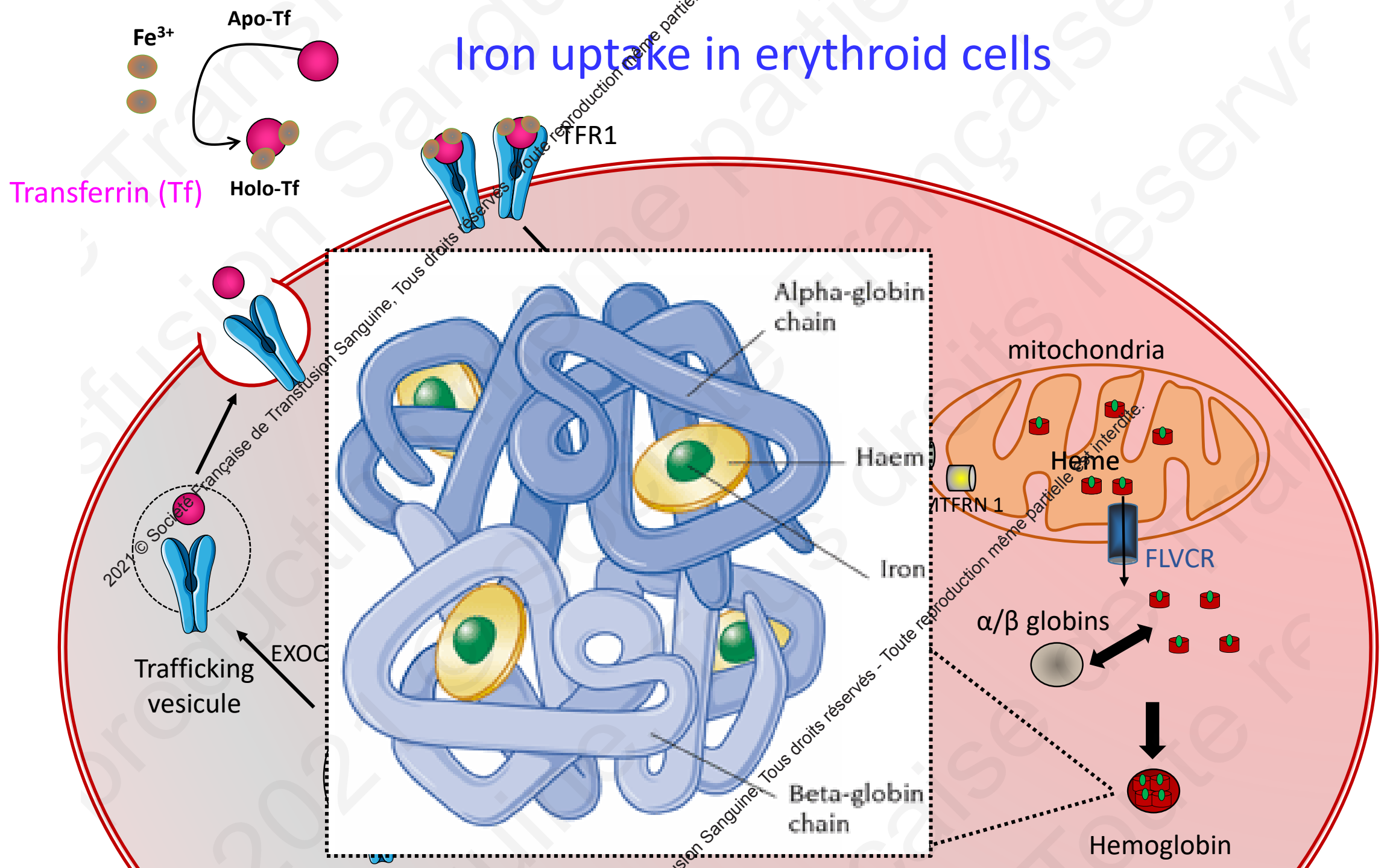




# Iron uptake in erythroid cells



# Iron uptake in erythroid cells



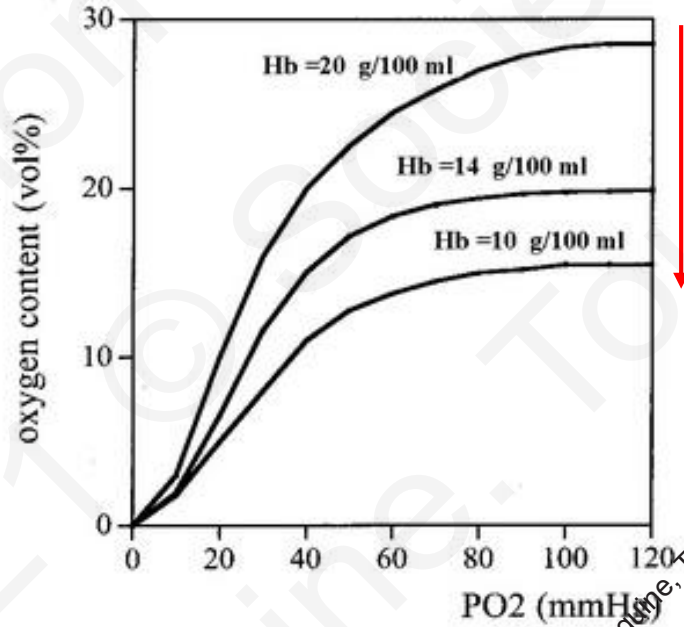


III. Niklas Elmehed. © Nobel Media. William G. Kaelin Jr. Prize share: 1/3  
 III. Niklas Elmehed. © Nobel Media. Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe Prize share: 1/3  
 III. Niklas Elmehed. © Nobel Media. Gregg L. Semenza Prize share: 1/3

# Hypoxia

- Decreased tissue oxygen supply (generalized or local)
- Physiological response: altitude, strenuous effort...
- Pathological condition: **anemia** (hemorrhage, hemolysis...), ischemia, **↓ hemoglobin concentration**, **↓ Hb oxygen-carrying capacity**, **↓ Hb-O<sub>2</sub> dissociation**, genetic mutations

Description	pO <sub>2</sub>
Physiological	10%
Modest Hypoxia	2.5%
Moderate Hypoxia	0.5%
Severe Hypoxia	0.1%
Anoxia	0



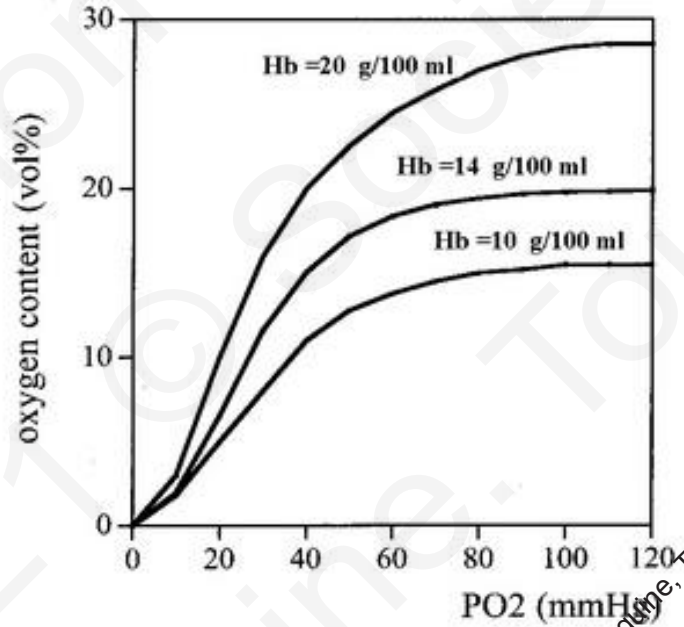


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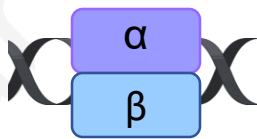
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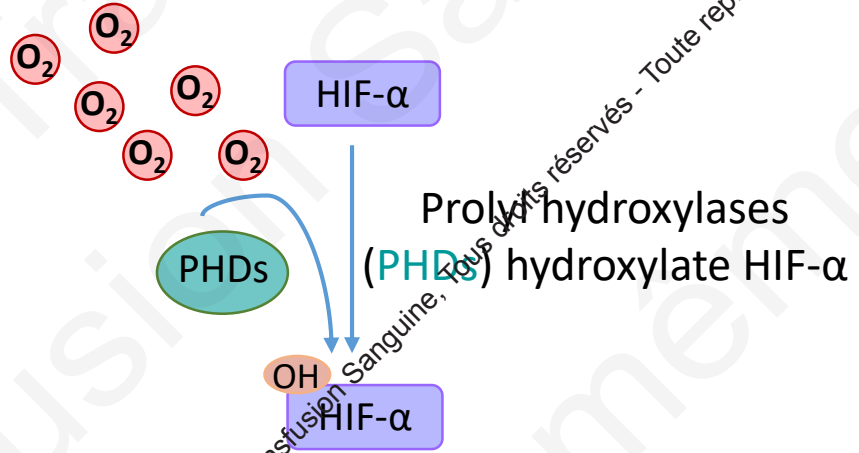
Hypoxia Inducible Factor  
HIF



α sub-unit: specificity  
 HIF-1α  
 HIF-2α  
 HIF-3α

β sub-unit: constitutively expressed  
 HIF-1β (a.k.a ARNT)

## Normoxia



## Hypoxia

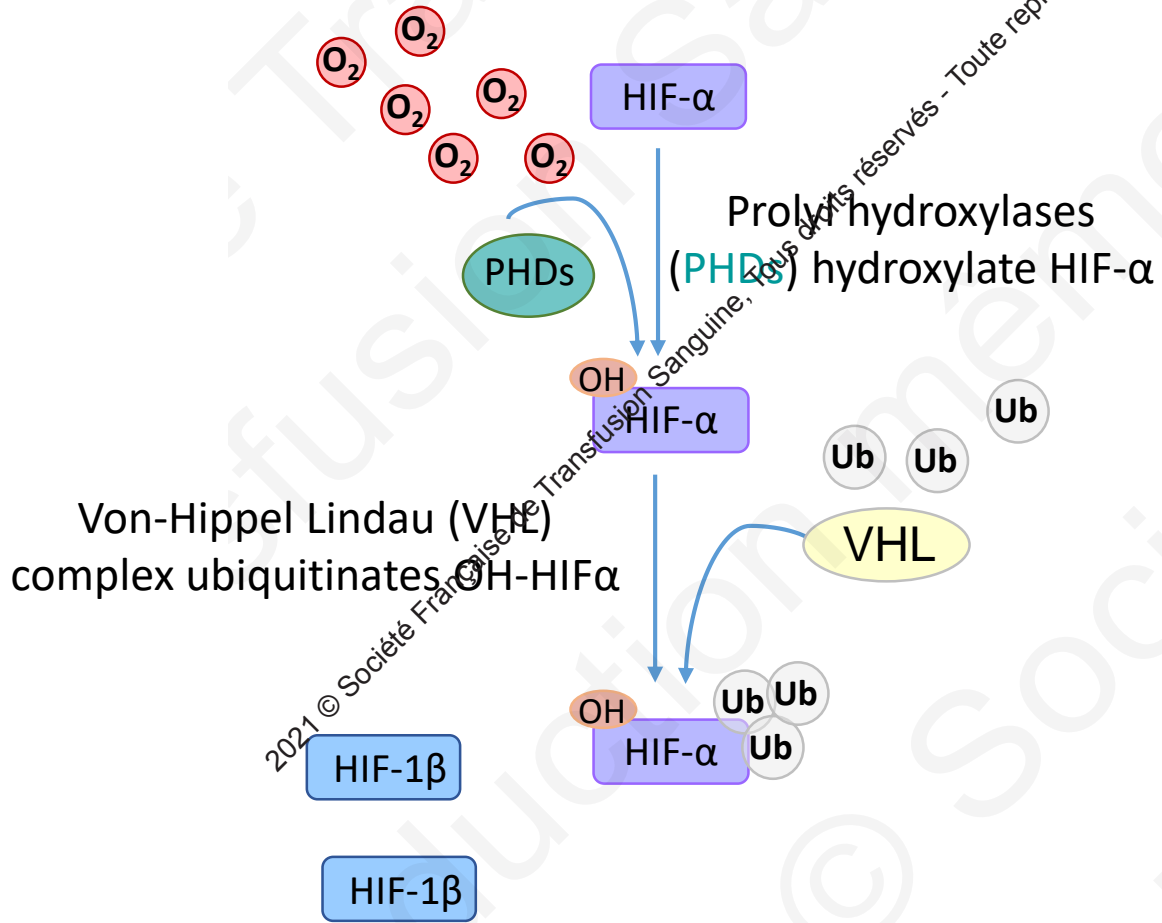
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# Normoxia

# Hypoxia

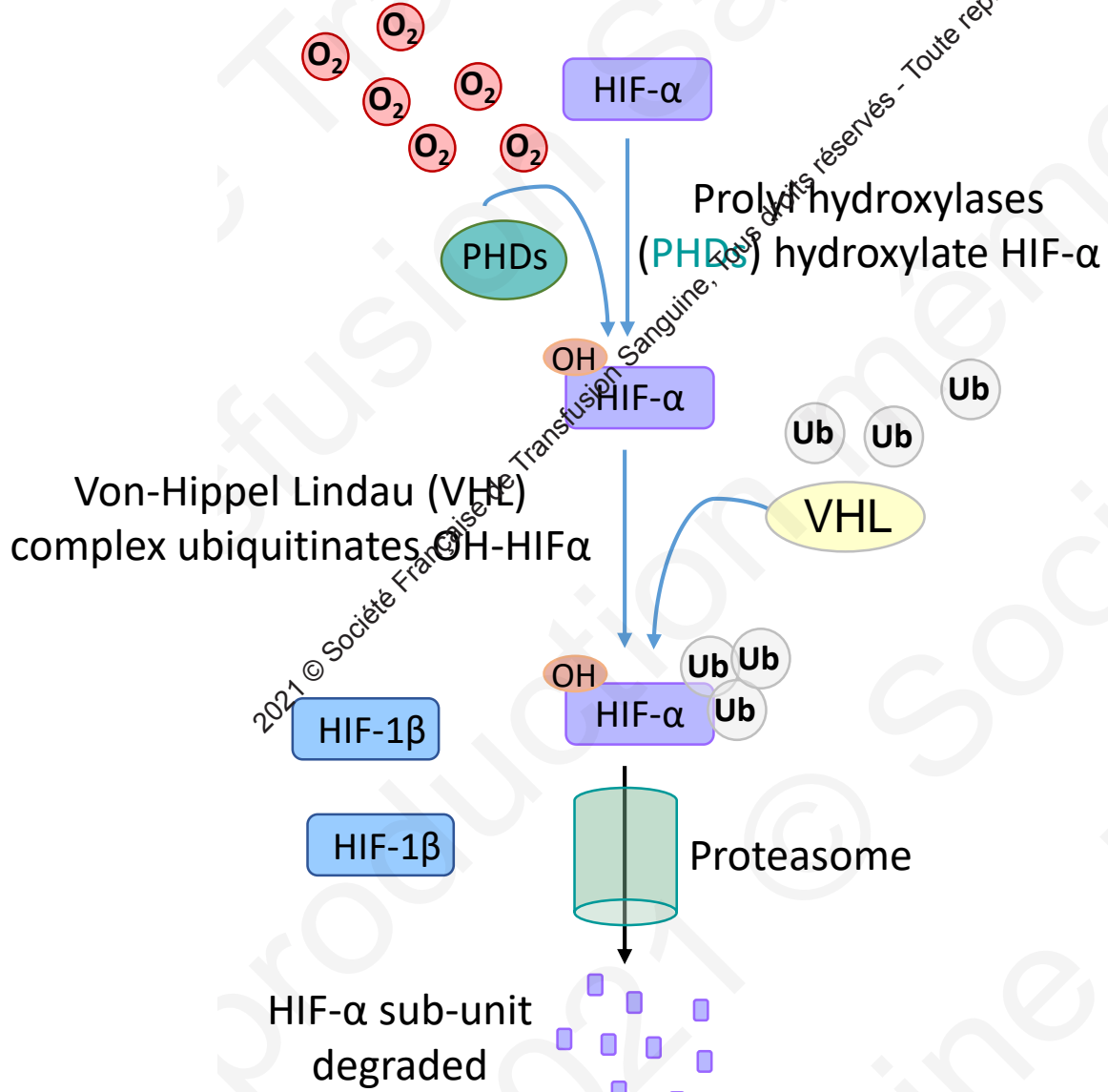


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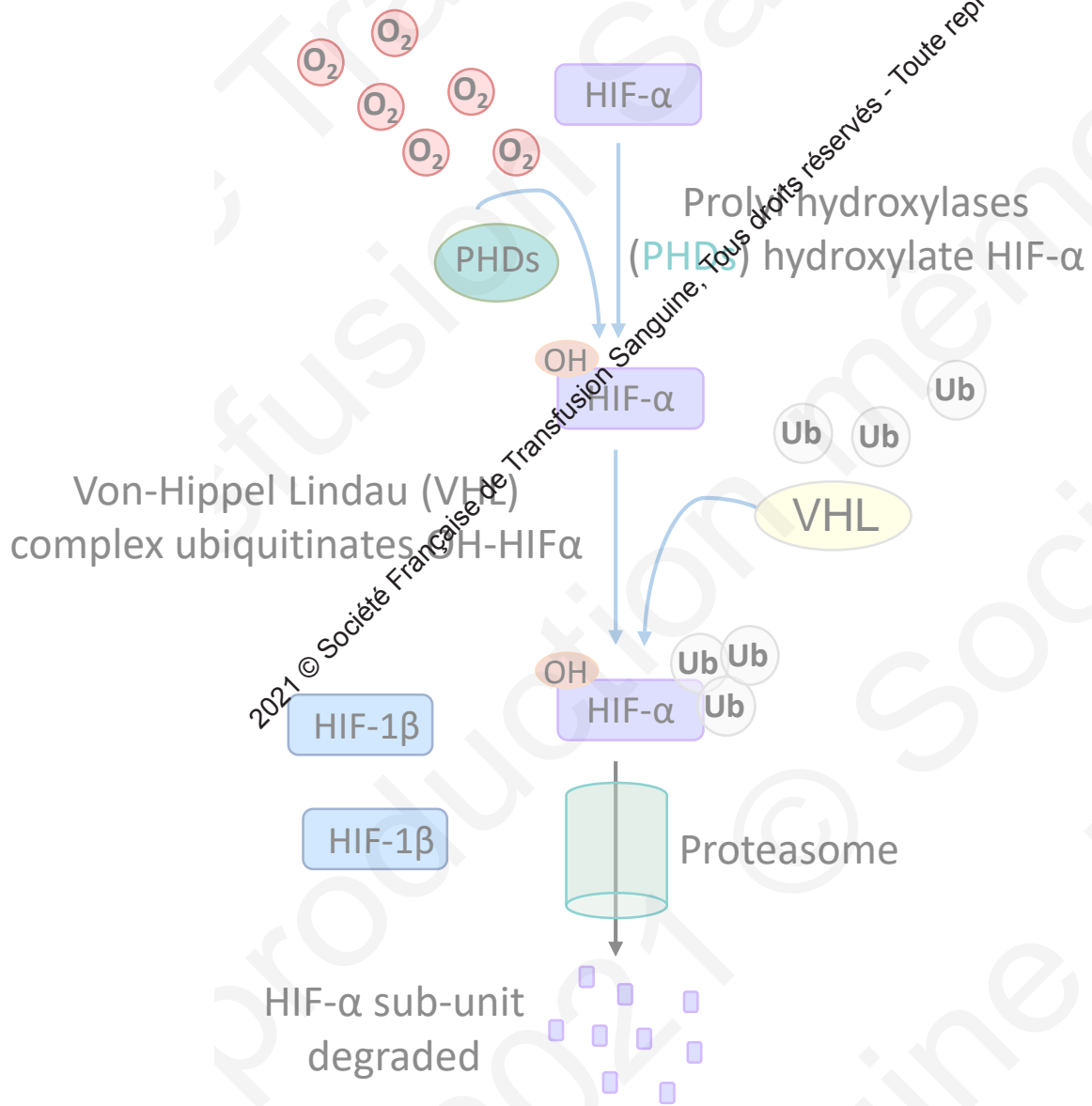
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# Normoxia

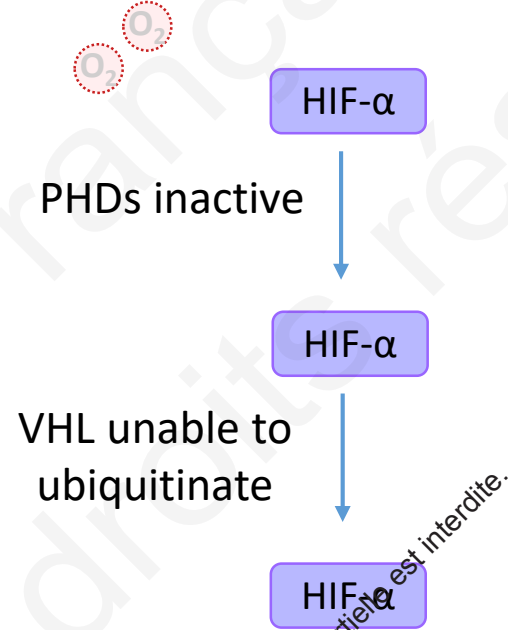
# Hypoxia



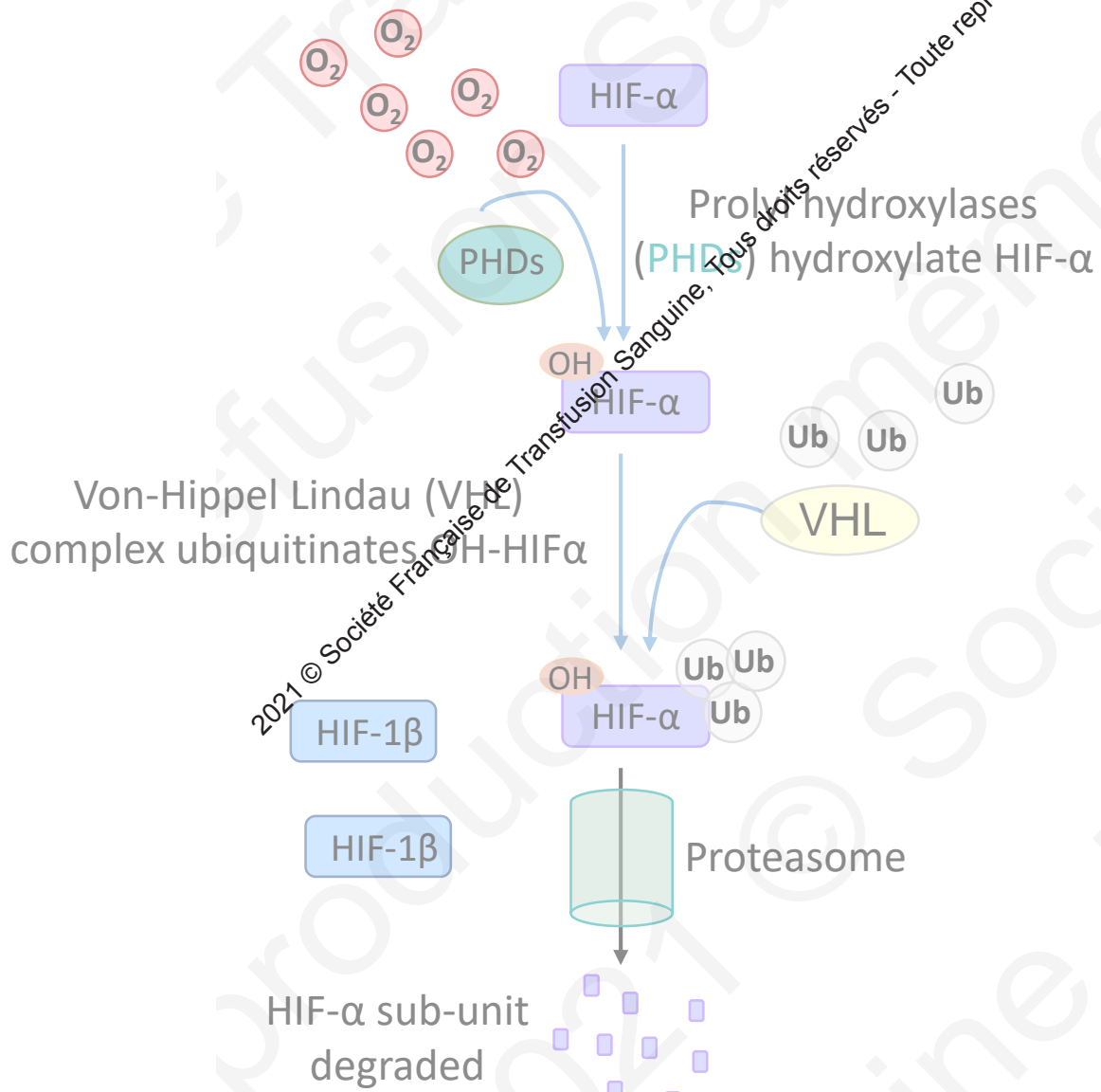
# Normoxia



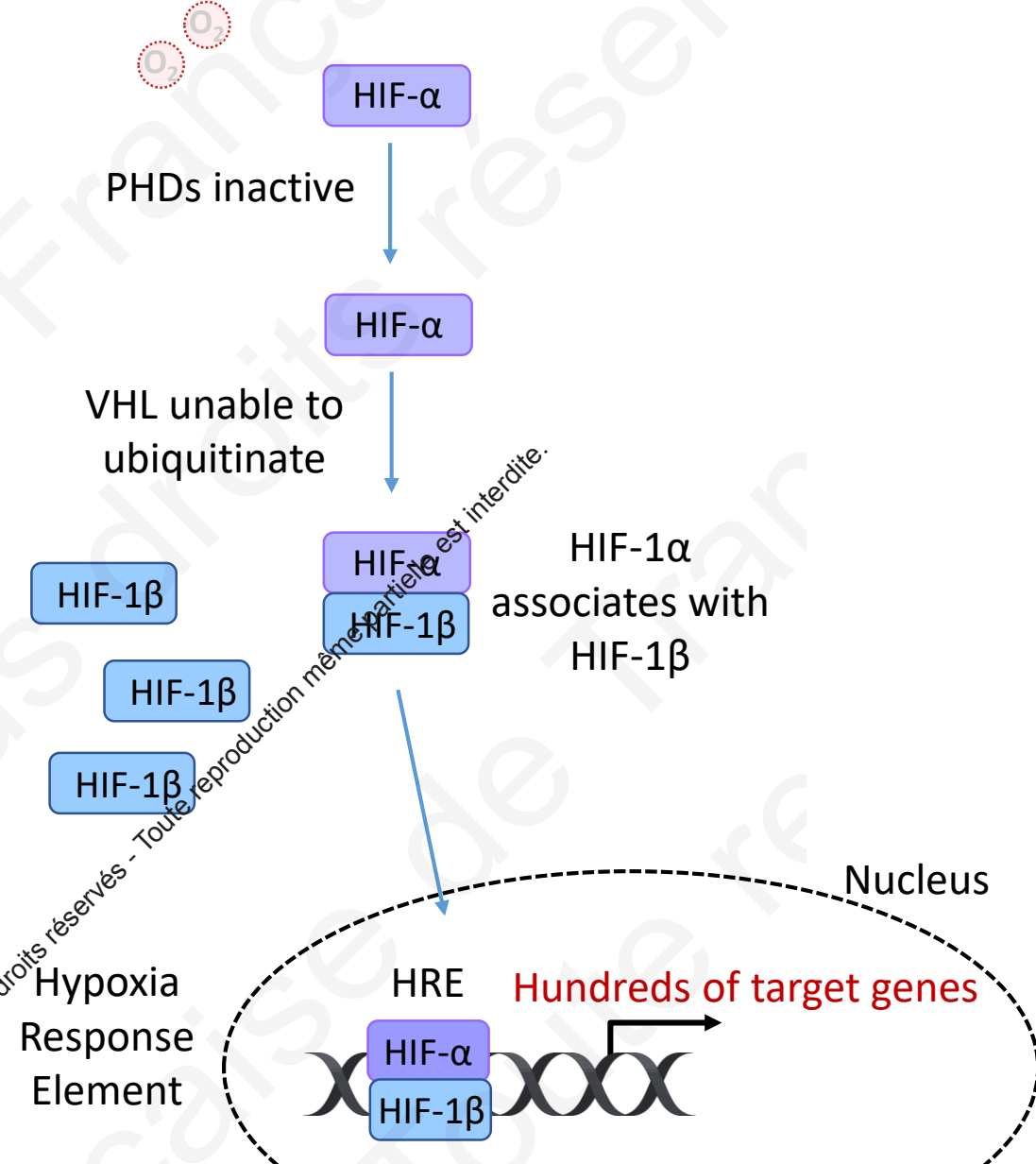
# Hypoxia



# Normoxia

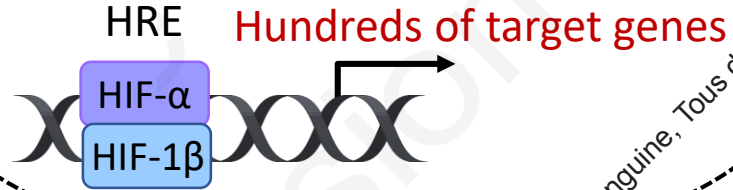


# Hypoxia



# Hypoxia-regulated genes

Nucleus



## Genes controlling cellular oxygen homeostasis

Oxygen consumption

Erythrocyte production

Angiogenesis

Mitochondrial metabolism

## Hallmarks of cancer

Metabolic reprogramming

Cell proliferation

Invasion and metastasis

Apoptosis

Resistance to therapies

Epigenetic (methylation and acetylation)

Non coding RNAs (miRNAs, lncRNAs)

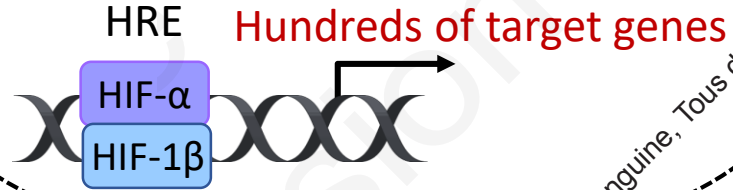
Biological clock

Cellular vesicles



# Hypoxia-regulated genes

Nucleus



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**Erythrocyte production**

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Mitochondrial metabolism

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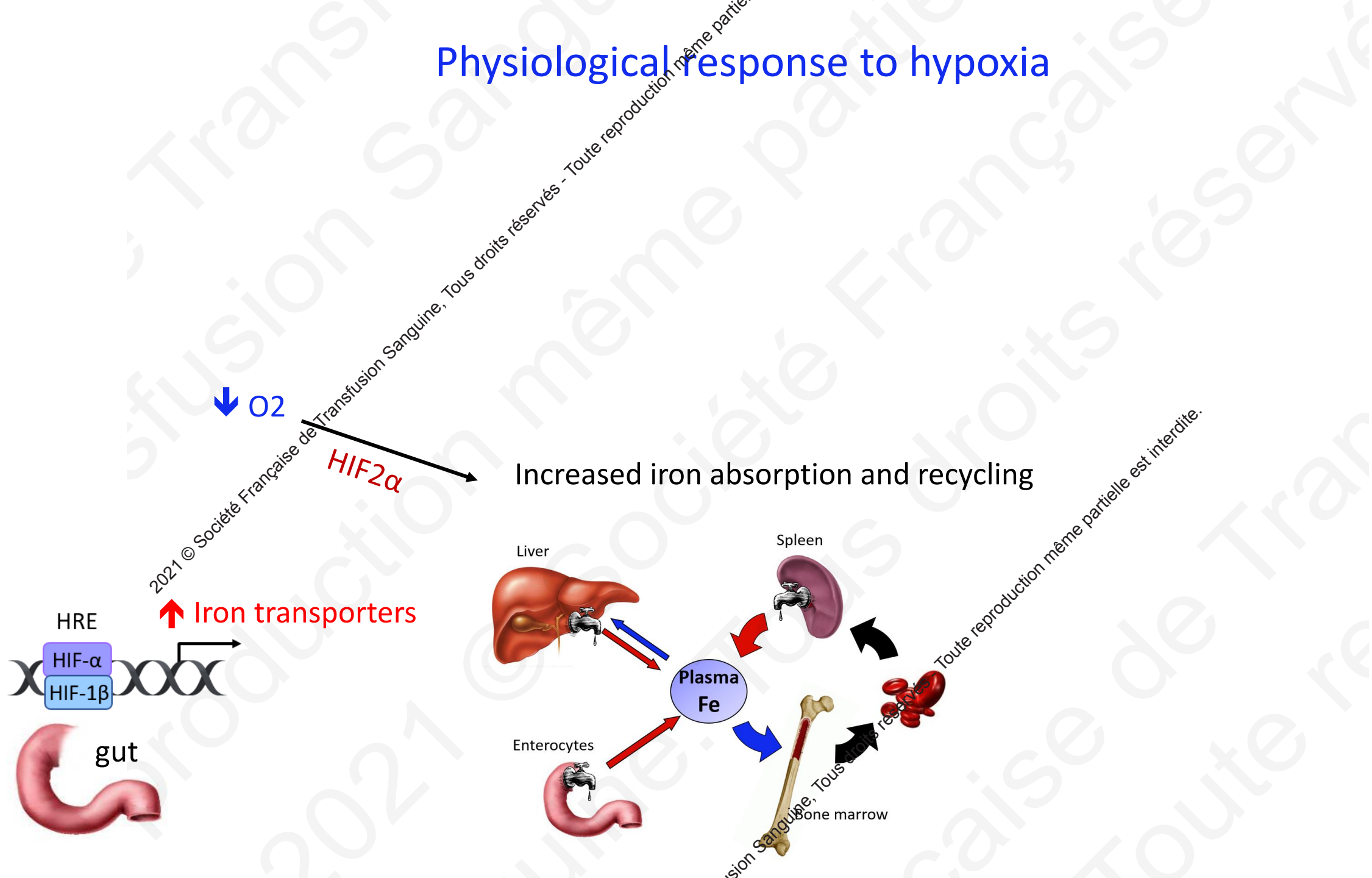
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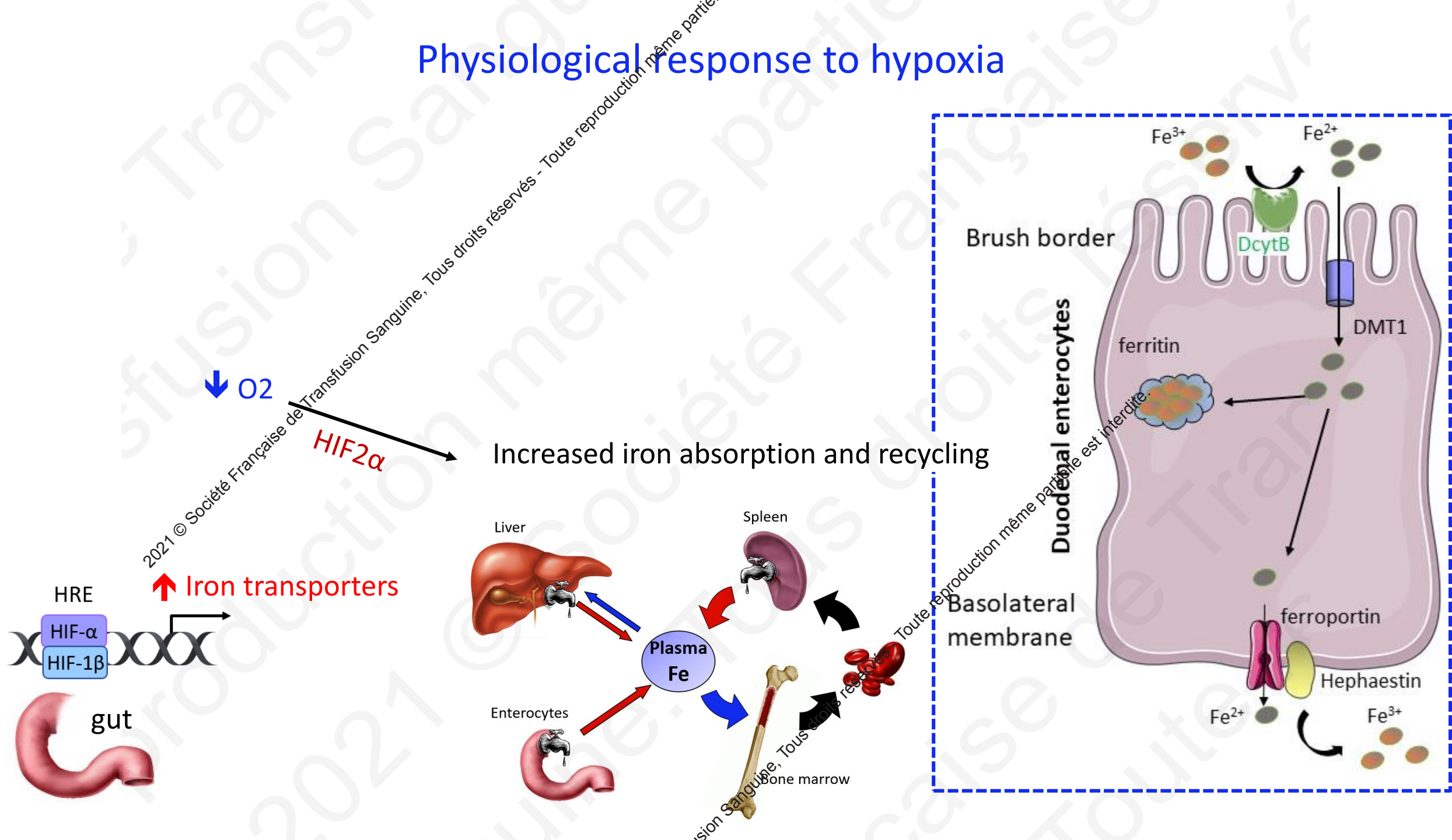
Biological clock

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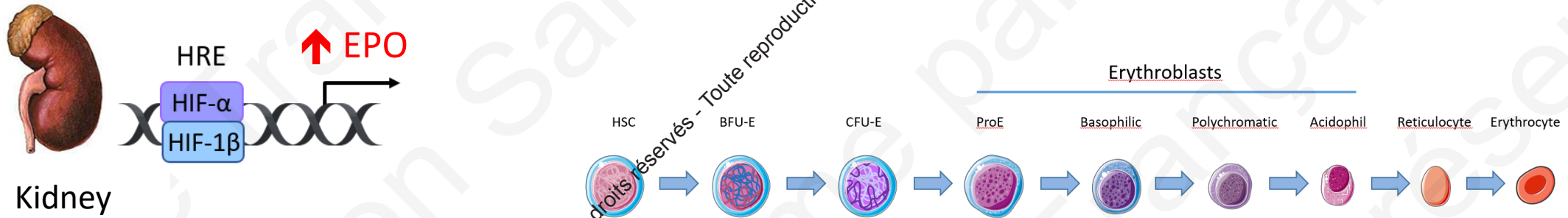
# Physiological response to hypoxia



# Physiological response to hypoxia



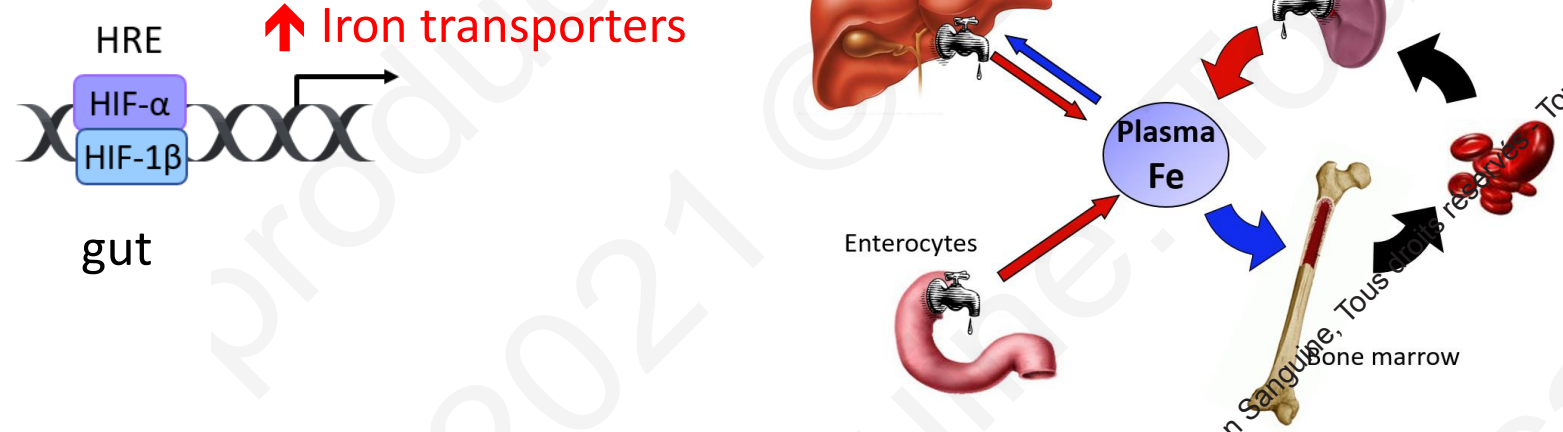
# Physiological response to hypoxia



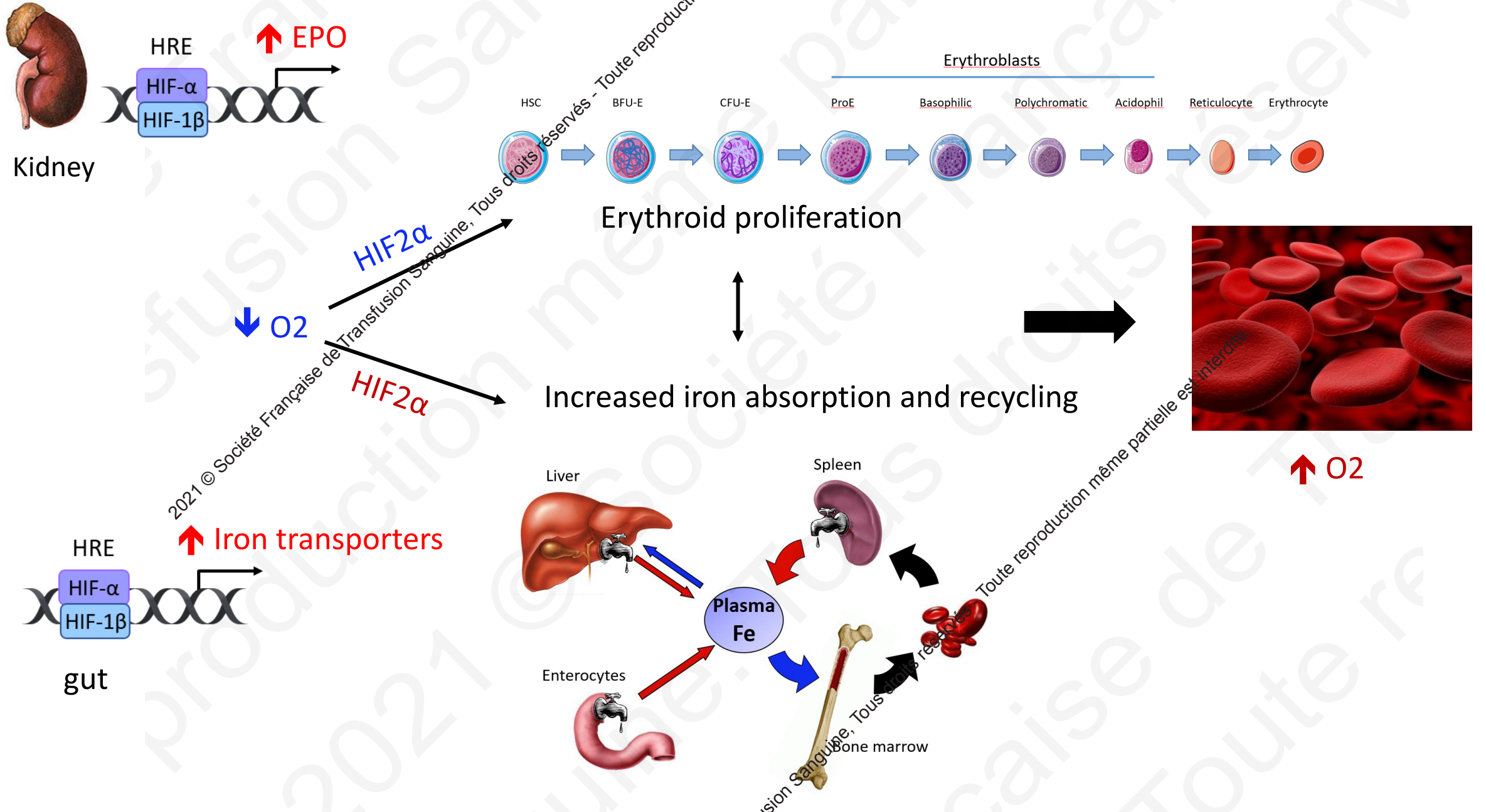
Erythroid proliferation



Increased iron absorption and recycling



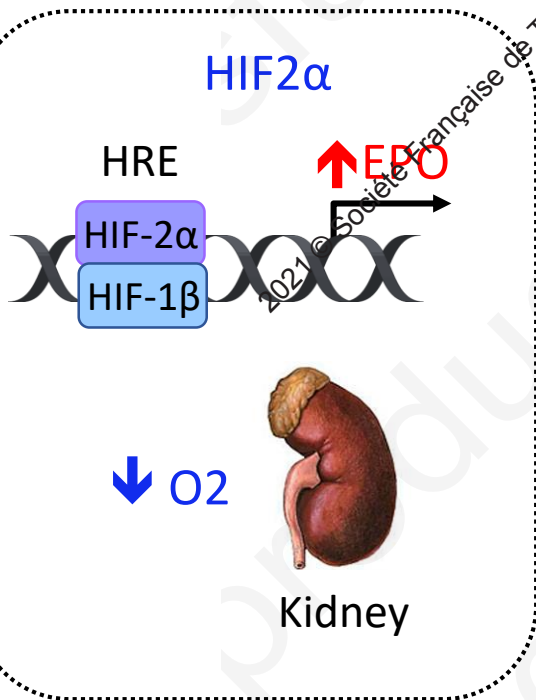
# Physiological response to hypoxia





# Hypoxia stimulates EPO production and erythropoiesis

Erythropoietic stimulation  
(anemia, hypoxia)



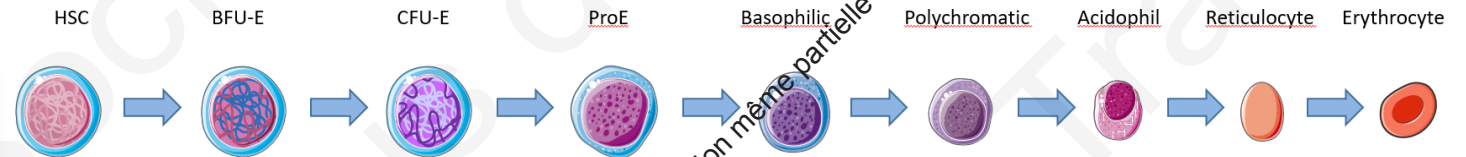
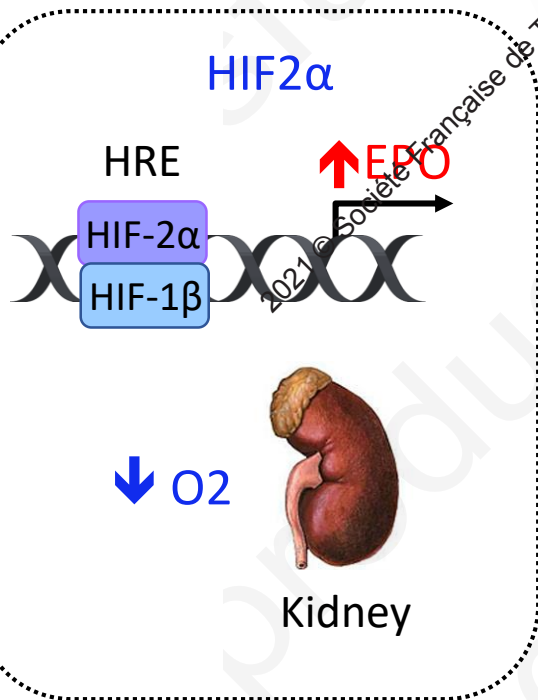
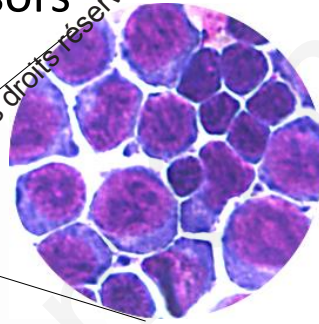
Kidney

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# Hypoxia stimulates EPO production and erythropoiesis

Erythropoietic stimulation  
(anemia, hypoxia)

Erythroid precursors



Erythroid proliferation

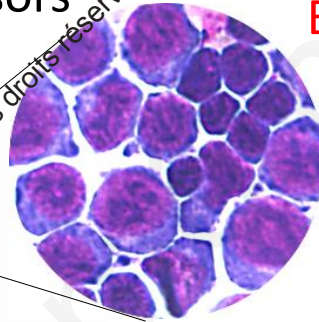


# The "erythroid regulator" erythroferrone

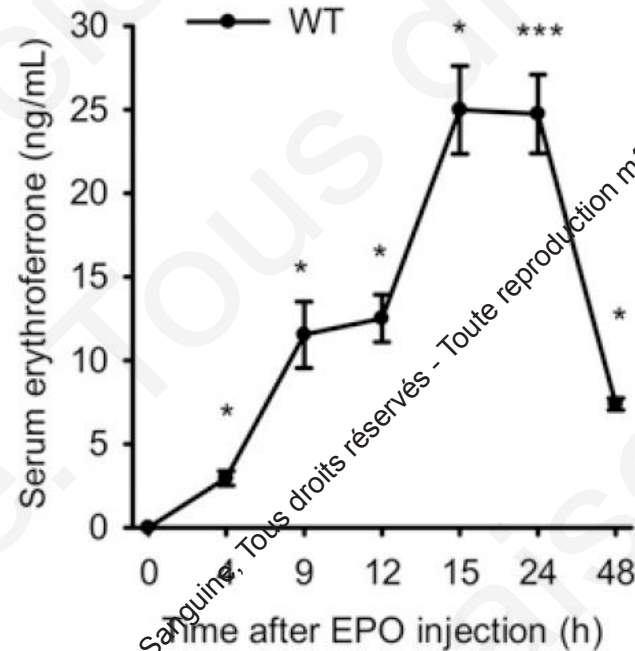
Erythropoietic stimulation  
(anemia, hypoxia)

EPO

Erythroid precursors



Erythroferrone (ERFE)

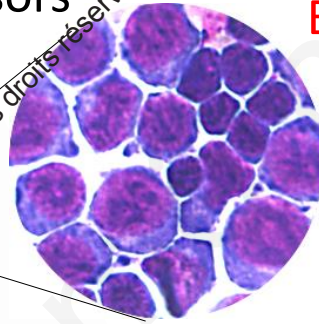


# The "erythroid regulator" erythroferrone

Erythropoietic stimulation  
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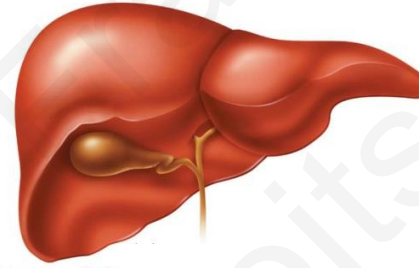
EPO

Erythroid precursors



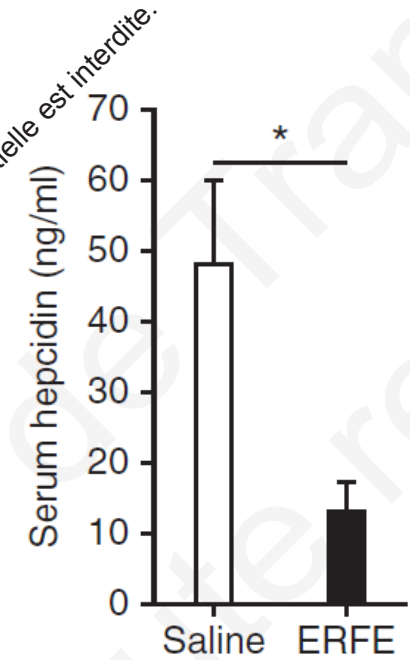
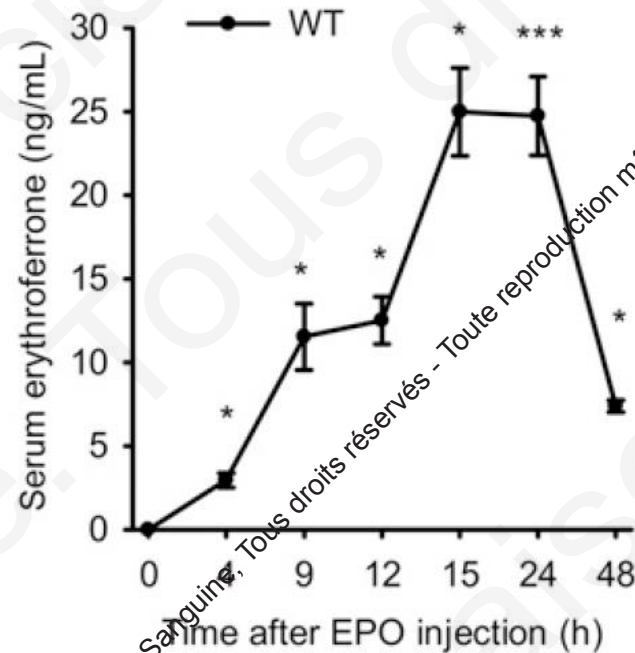
Erythroferrone (ERFE)

Liver



↓ Hepcidin

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Kautz, Nat Genet 2014



# The "erythroid regulator" erythroferrone

Erythropoietic stimulation  
(anemia, hypoxia)

Erythroid precursors

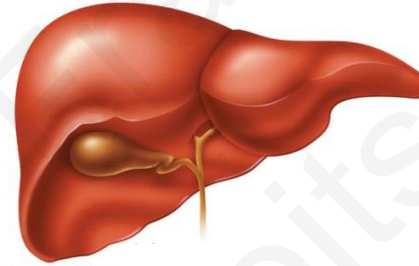
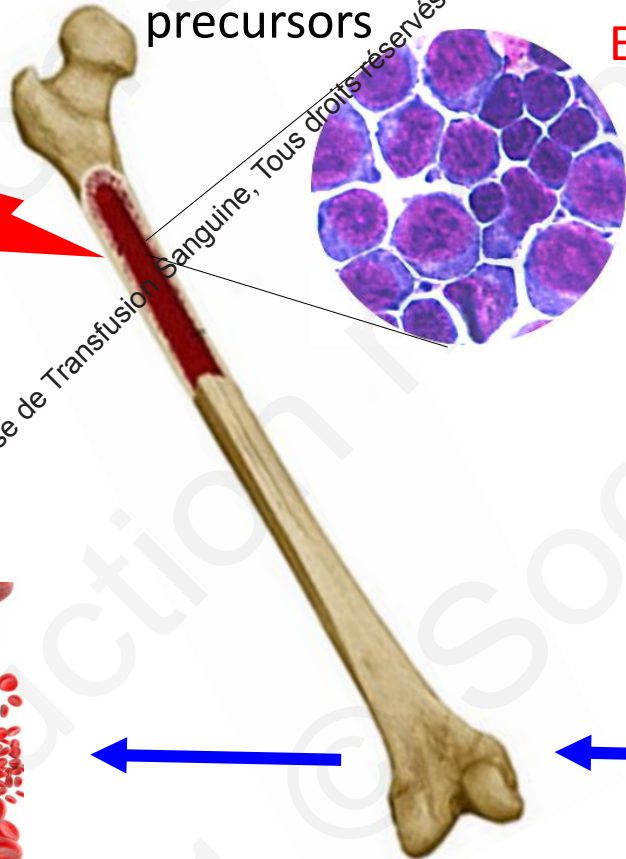
Erythroferrone  
(ERFE)

Liver

↓ Hepcidin

↑ iron availability

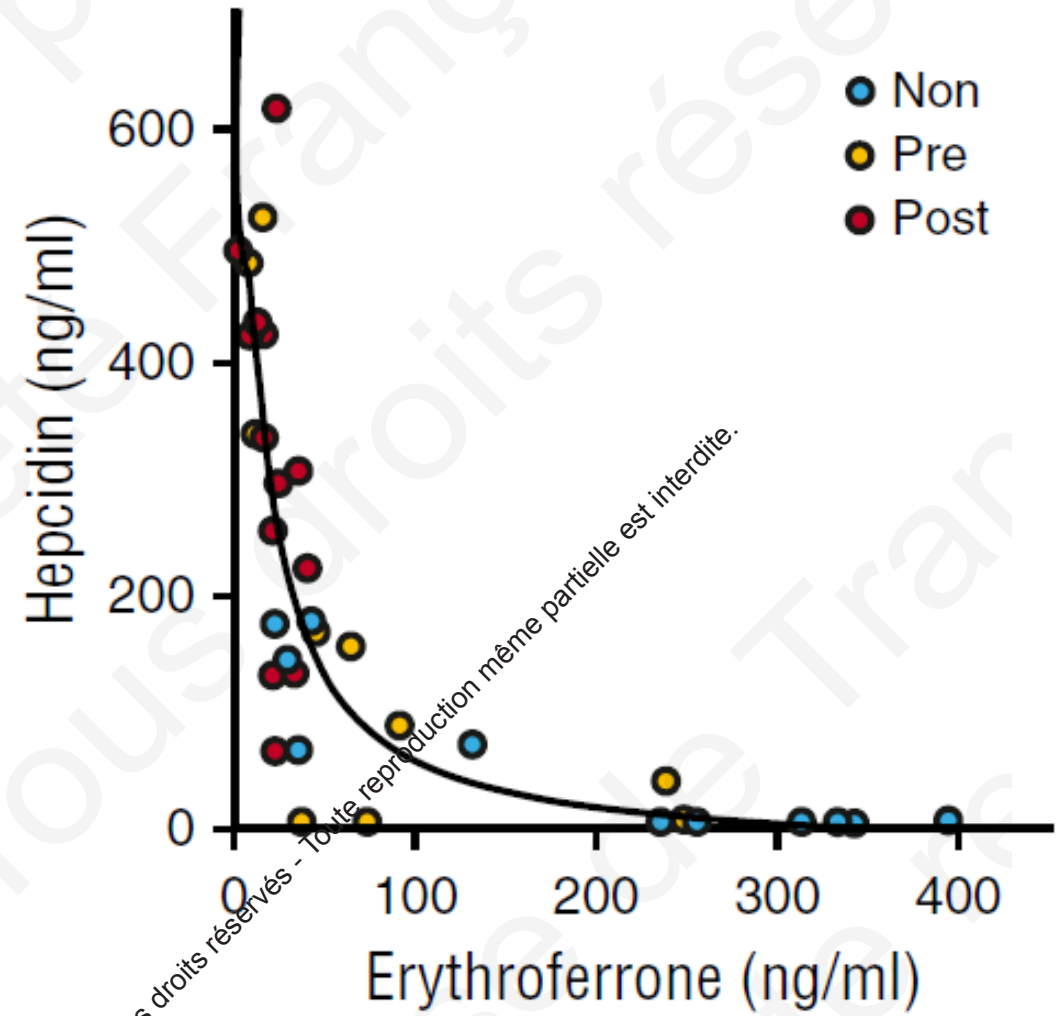
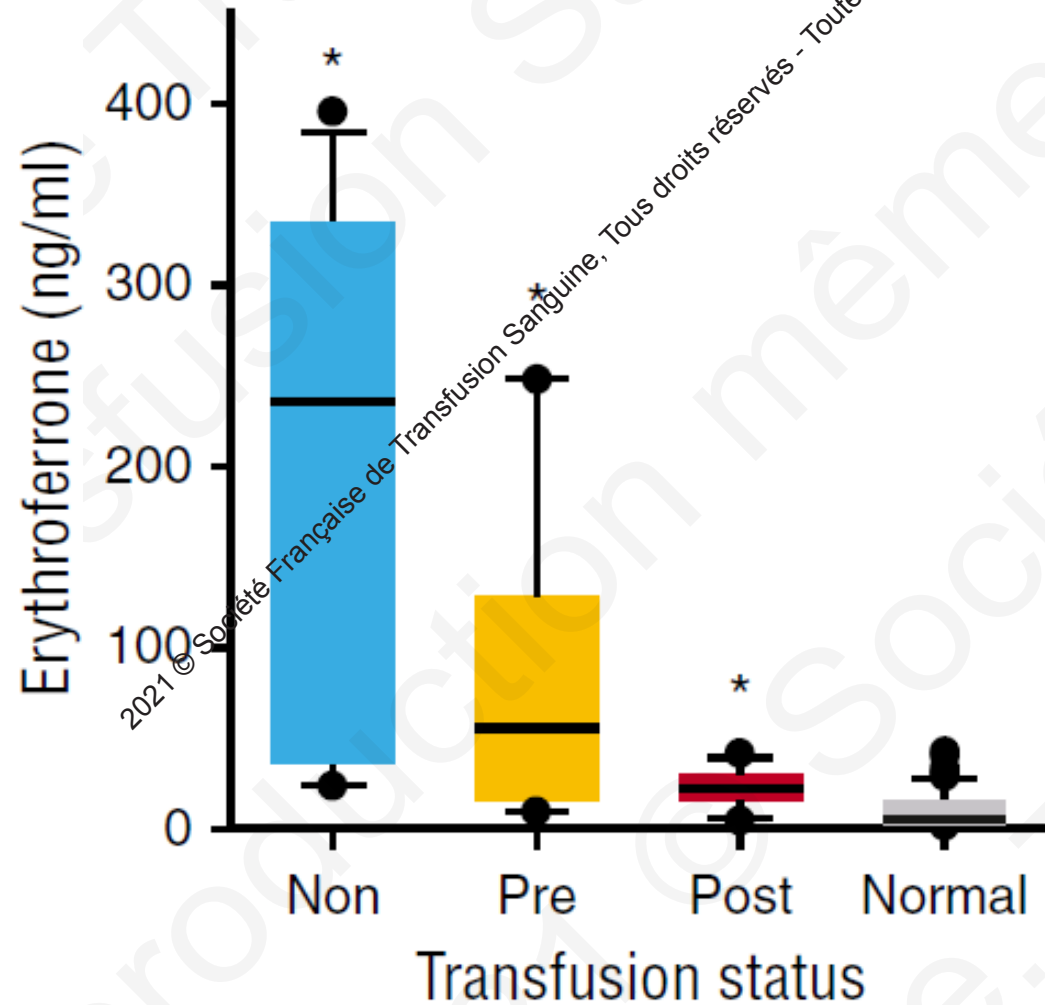
New red blood cells synthesis



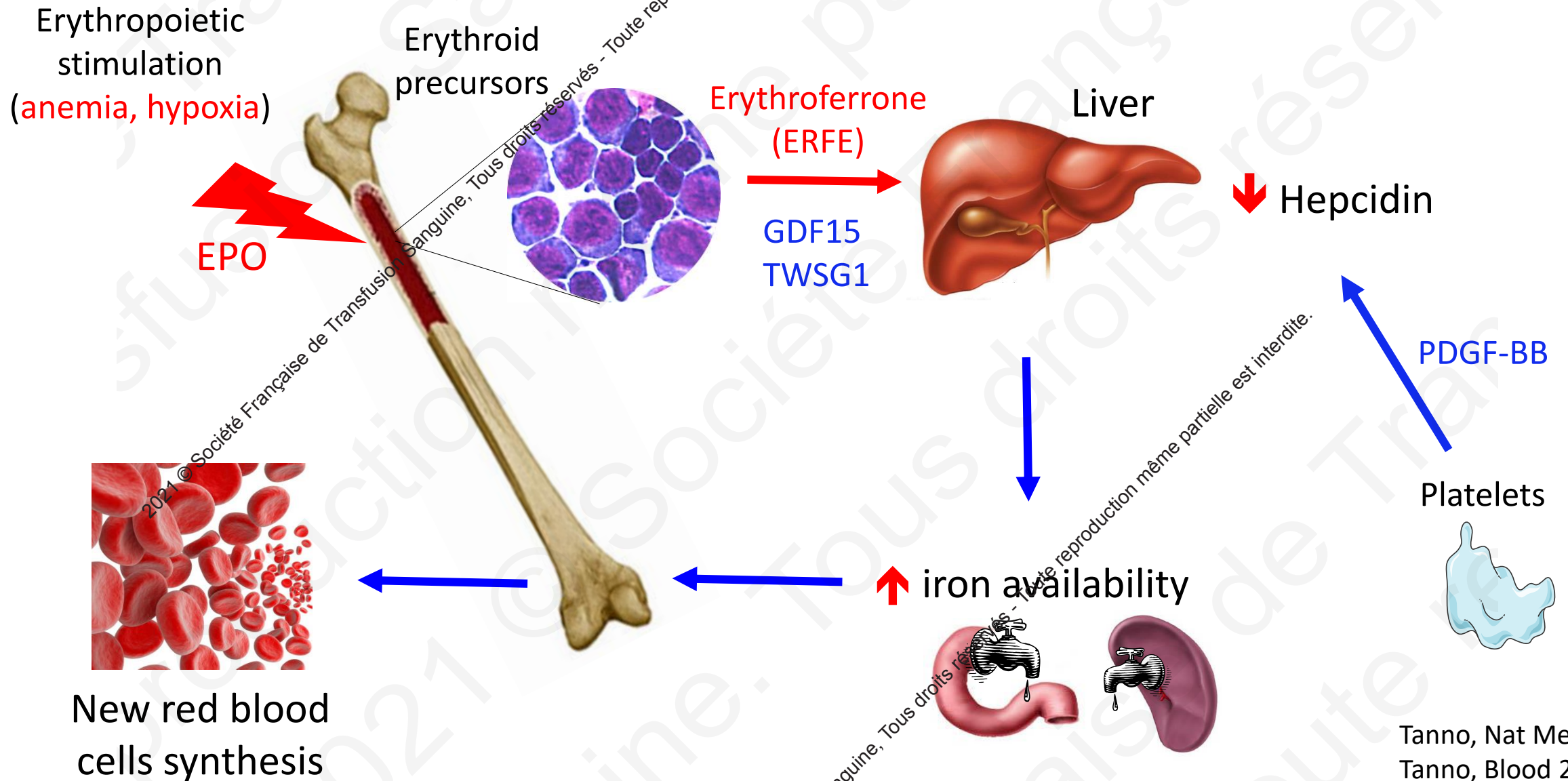
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# Circulating ERFE levels are elevated in patients with $\beta$ -thalassemia



# Hypoxia stimulates iron absorption through the inhibition of hepcidin



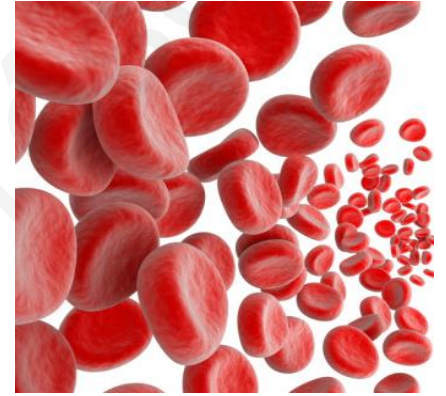
## Disorders of iron homeostasis are common

### ➤ Iron restriction (iron insufficiency in tissues)

#### ➤ Anemia of inflammation

- infections, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer...

#### ➤ Anemia of chronic kidney disease



## Disorders of iron homeostasis are common

### ➤ Iron restriction (iron insufficiency in tissues)

#### ➤ Anemia of inflammation

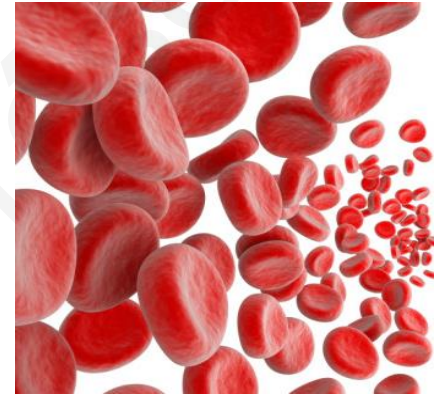
- infections, inflammatory bowel disease, cancer...

#### ➤ Anemia of chronic kidney disease

### ➤ Iron overload (toxicity from excess iron)

#### ➤ Hereditary hemochromatosis (1:300)

#### ➤ Iron-loading anemias (e.g. $\beta$ -thalassemia, myelodysplastic syndromes)



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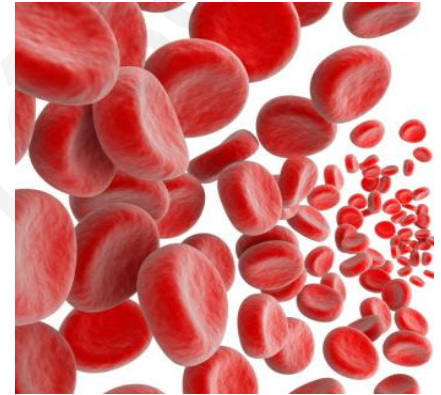
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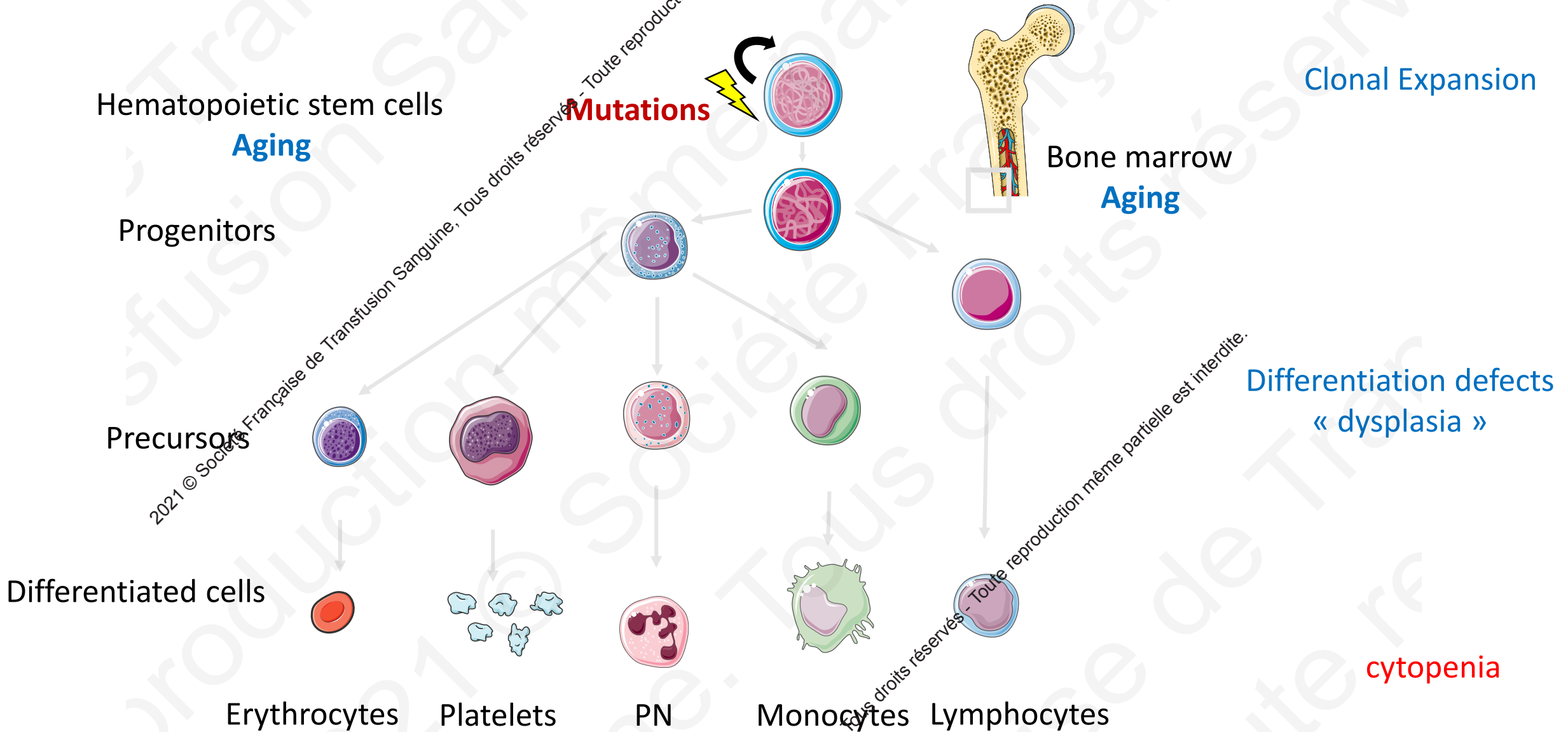
Current treatments ineffective, costly and burdensome for the patients



New therapeutic strategies are much needed



# Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)

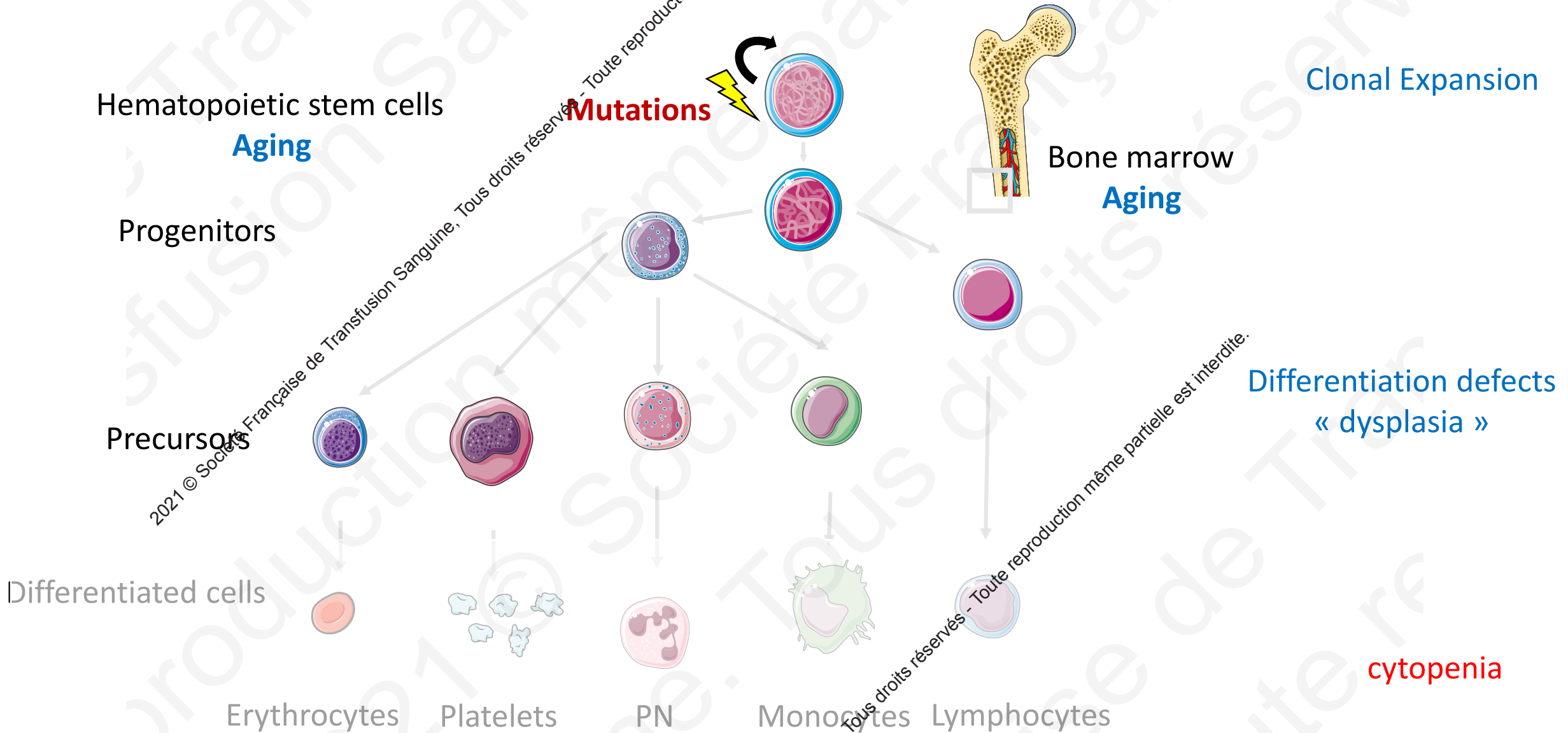


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80% of MDS patients present with anemia

# Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)



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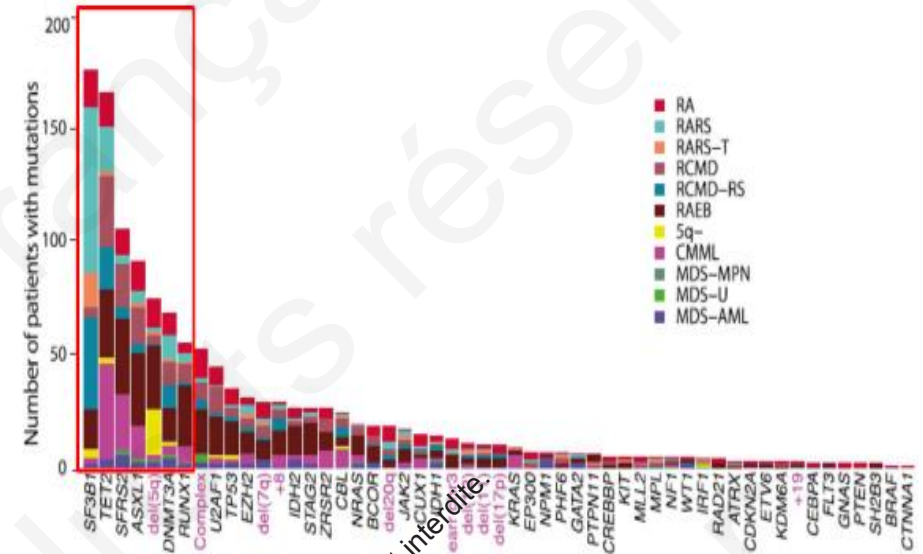
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80% of MDS patients present with anemia

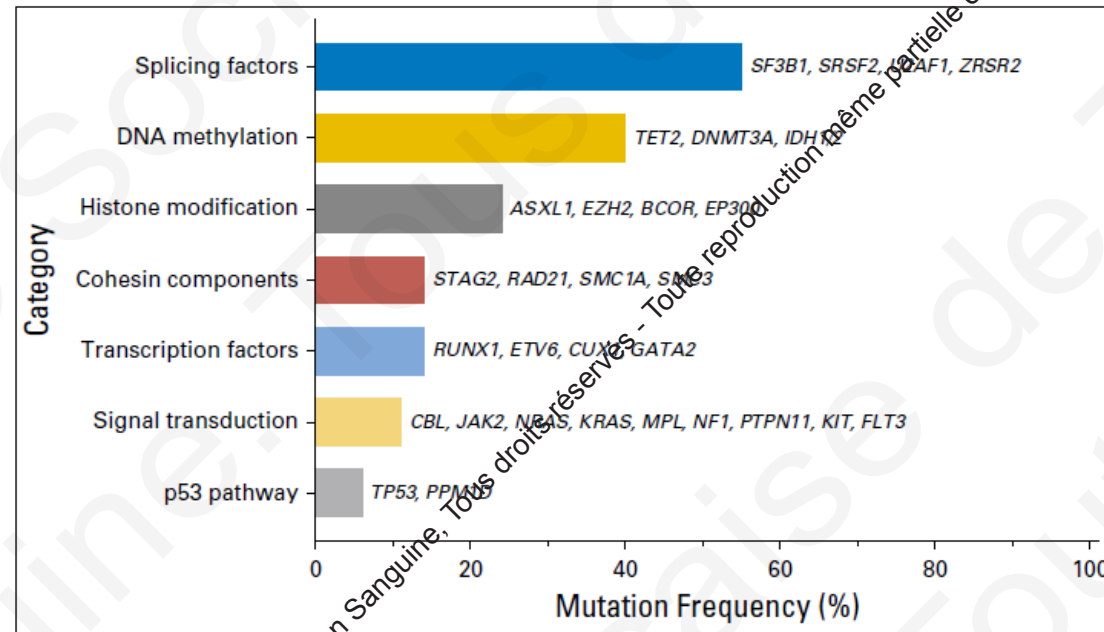
# Classification of MDS (WHO 2016)

6 groups of MDS depending on the type and number of cytopenia

- MDS single lineage
- MDS multi lineage
- MDS with ring sideroblasts (single or multi lineage)
- MDS with isolated del(5q)
- MDS with excess blasts
- MDS unclassified



Papaemmanuil, Blood, 2013



Kennedy and Ebert, JCO, 2017

# Classification of MDS (WHO 2016)

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- MDS single lineage
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Malcovati, Blood 2016

Ring sideroblasts  
(sidéroblastes en couronne)  
90% of patients carry mutations in SF3B1 gene

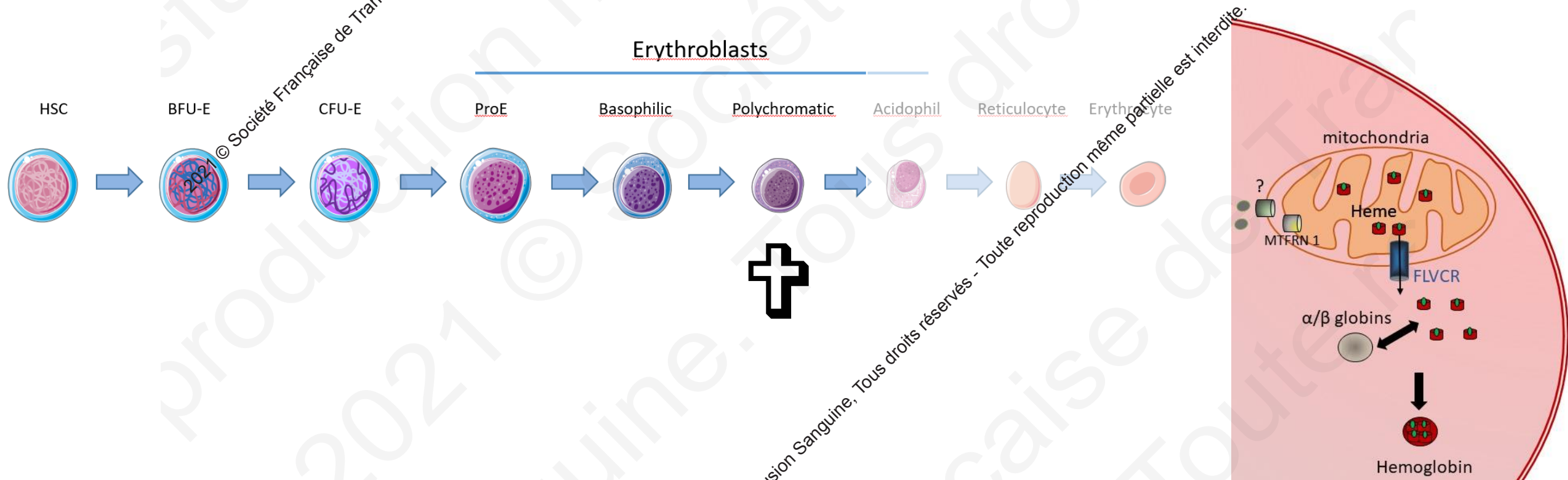
Hb < 8 g/dL

# Pathophysiology of MDS with ring sideroblasts

- Iron accumulation in mitochondria
- Premature cell death of erythroid precursors



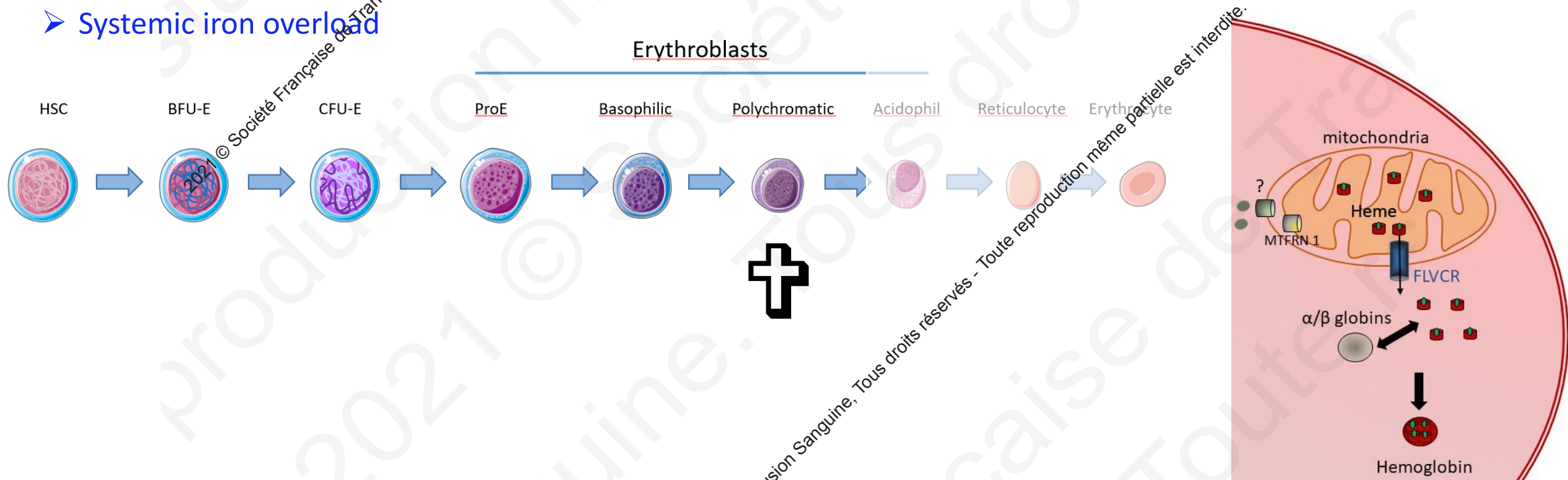
Insufficient production of red blood cells - **anemia**





# Pathophysiology of MDS with ring sideroblasts

- Iron accumulation in mitochondria
  - Premature cell death of erythroid precursors
  - Ineffective erythropoiesis
  - Systemic iron overload
- ➔ Insufficient production of red blood cells - **anemia**



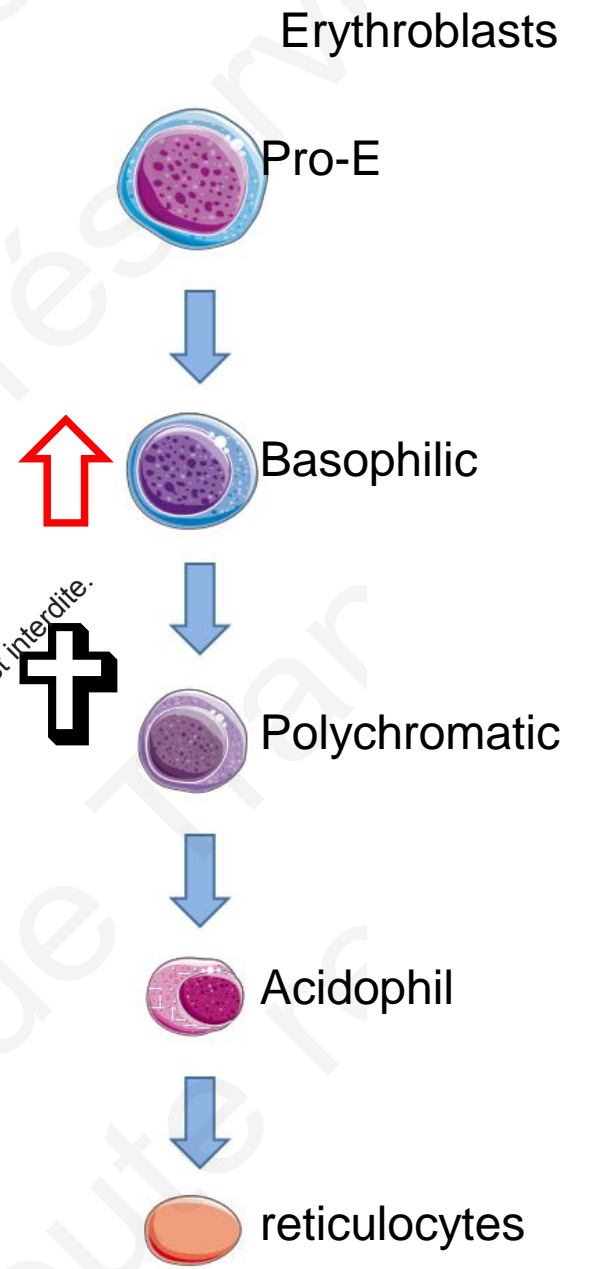
# Ineffective erythropoiesis in MDS

- Cytopenia caused by apoptosis of early erythroid progenitors

↑ Apoptosis of early erythroid progenitors

Anemia / hypoxia

HIF stabilized

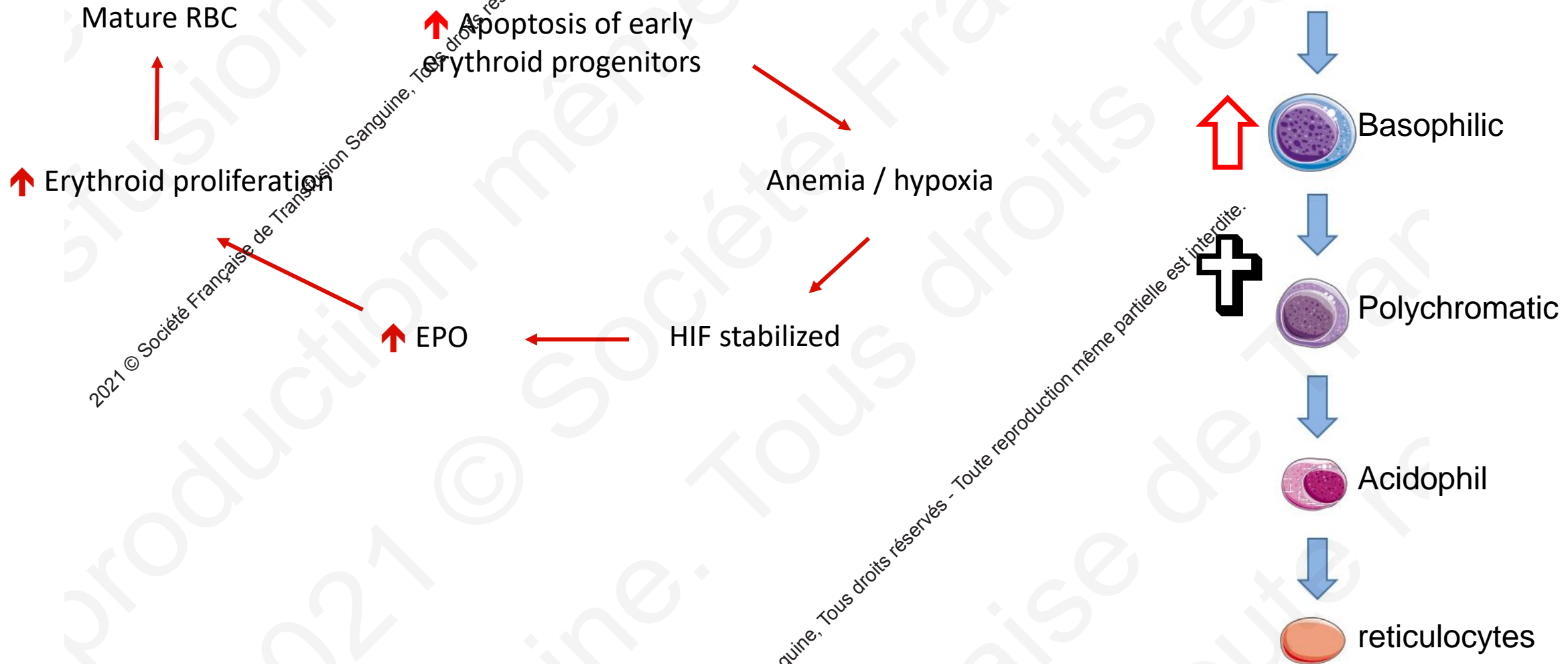


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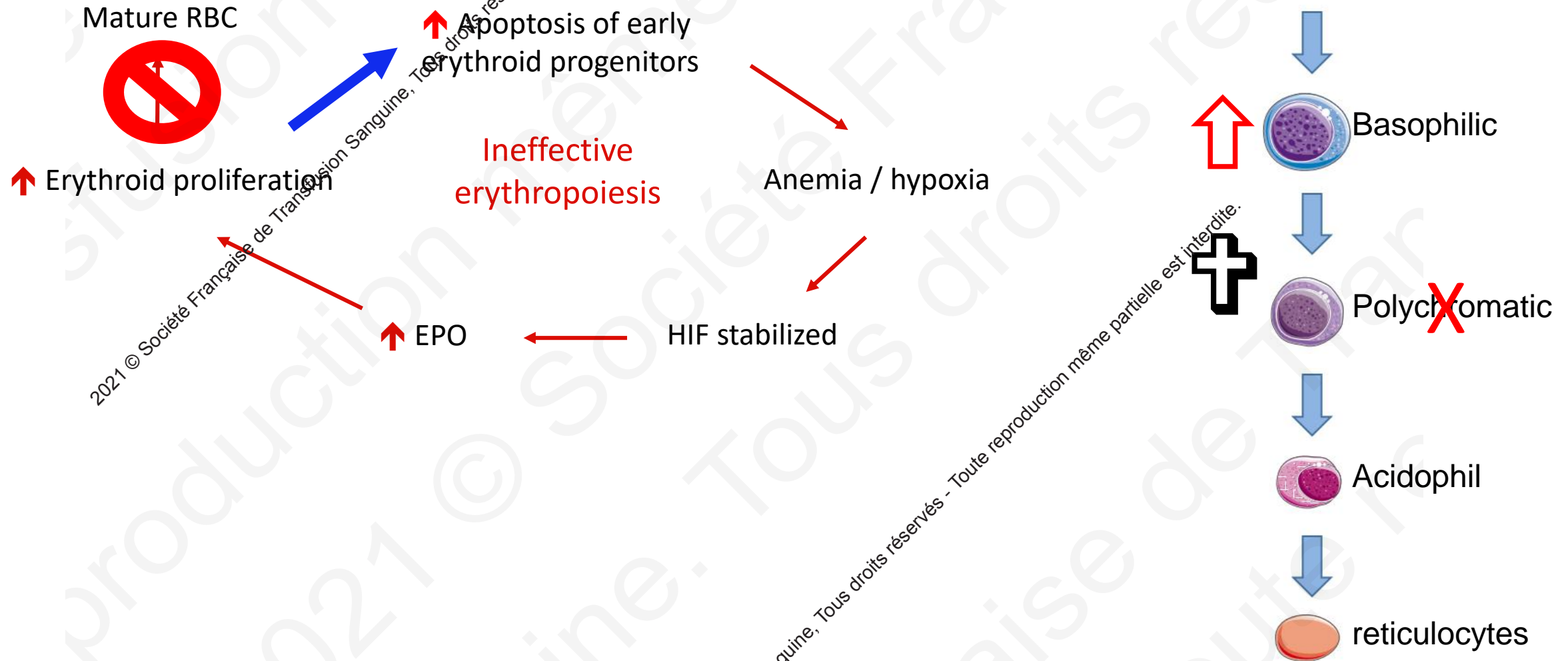
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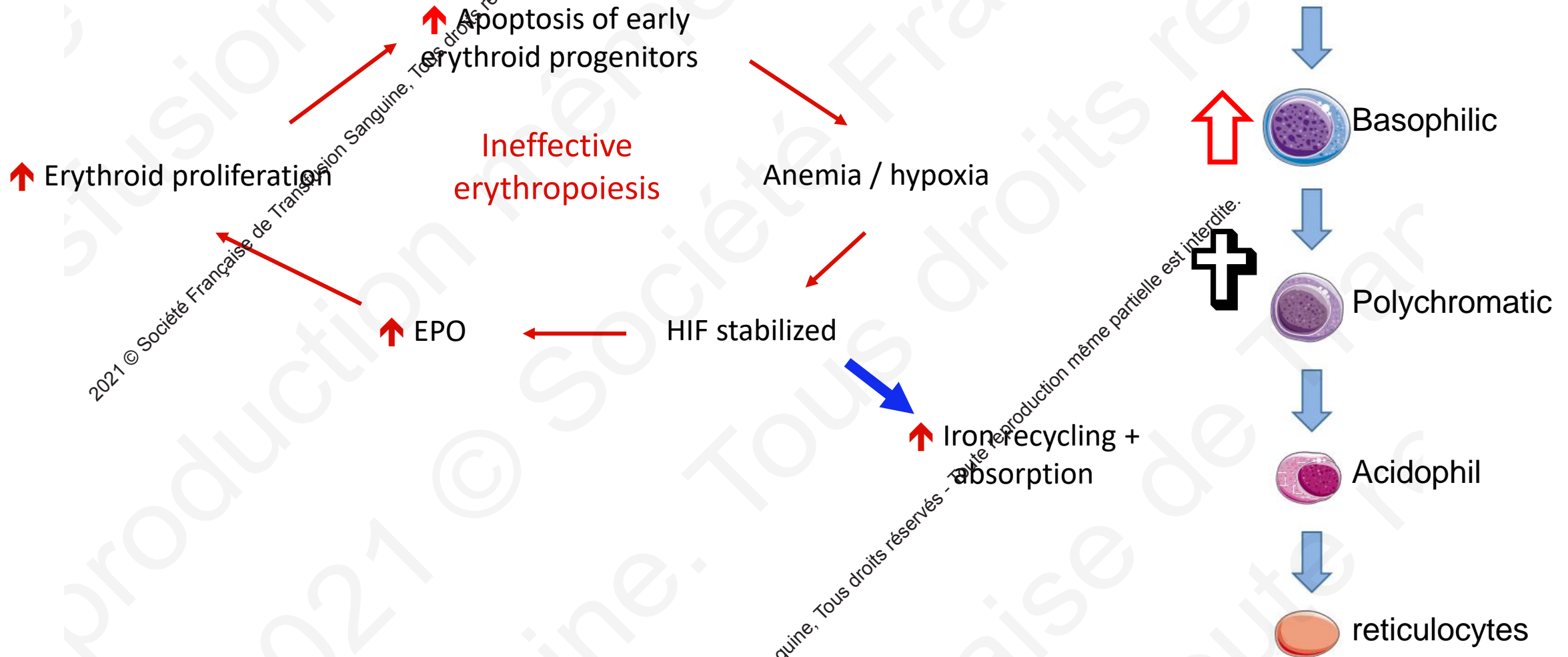
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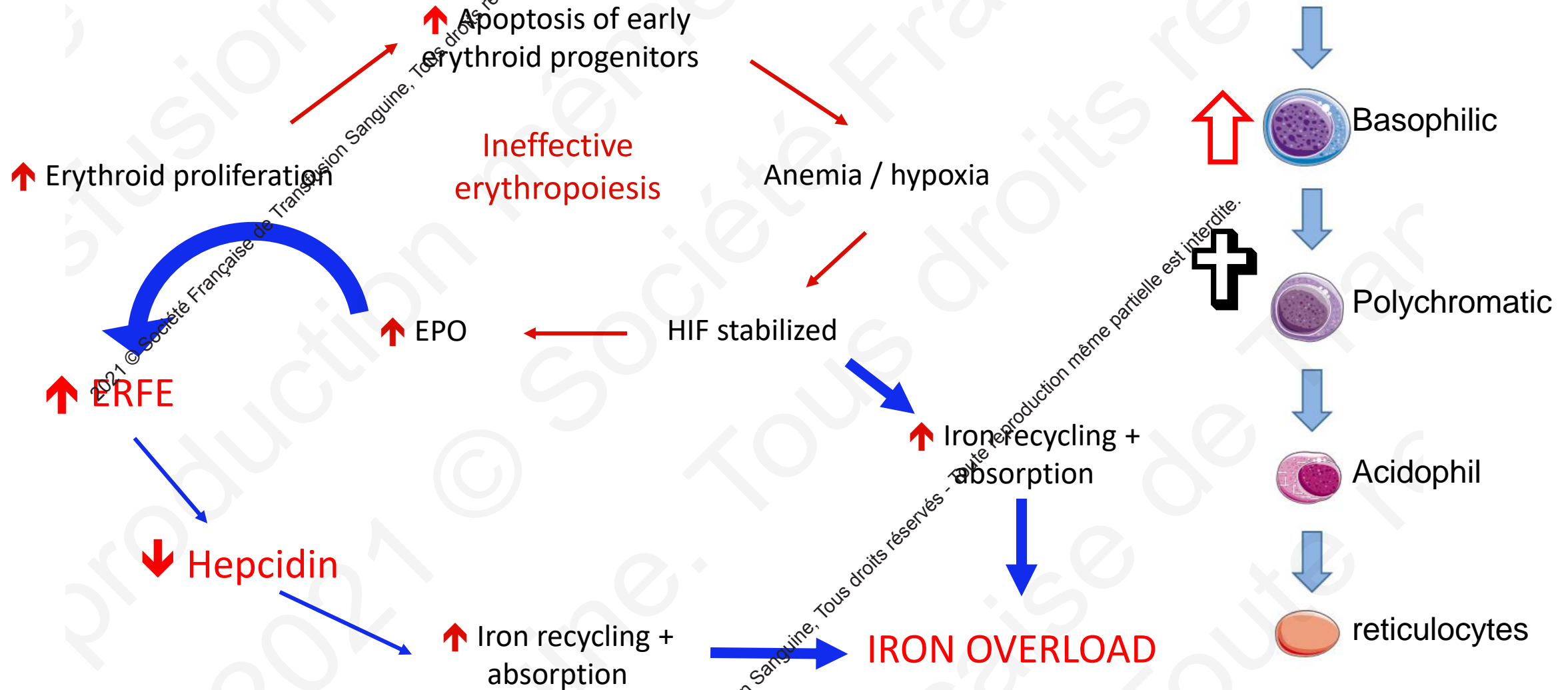
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# Ineffective erythropoiesis in MDS

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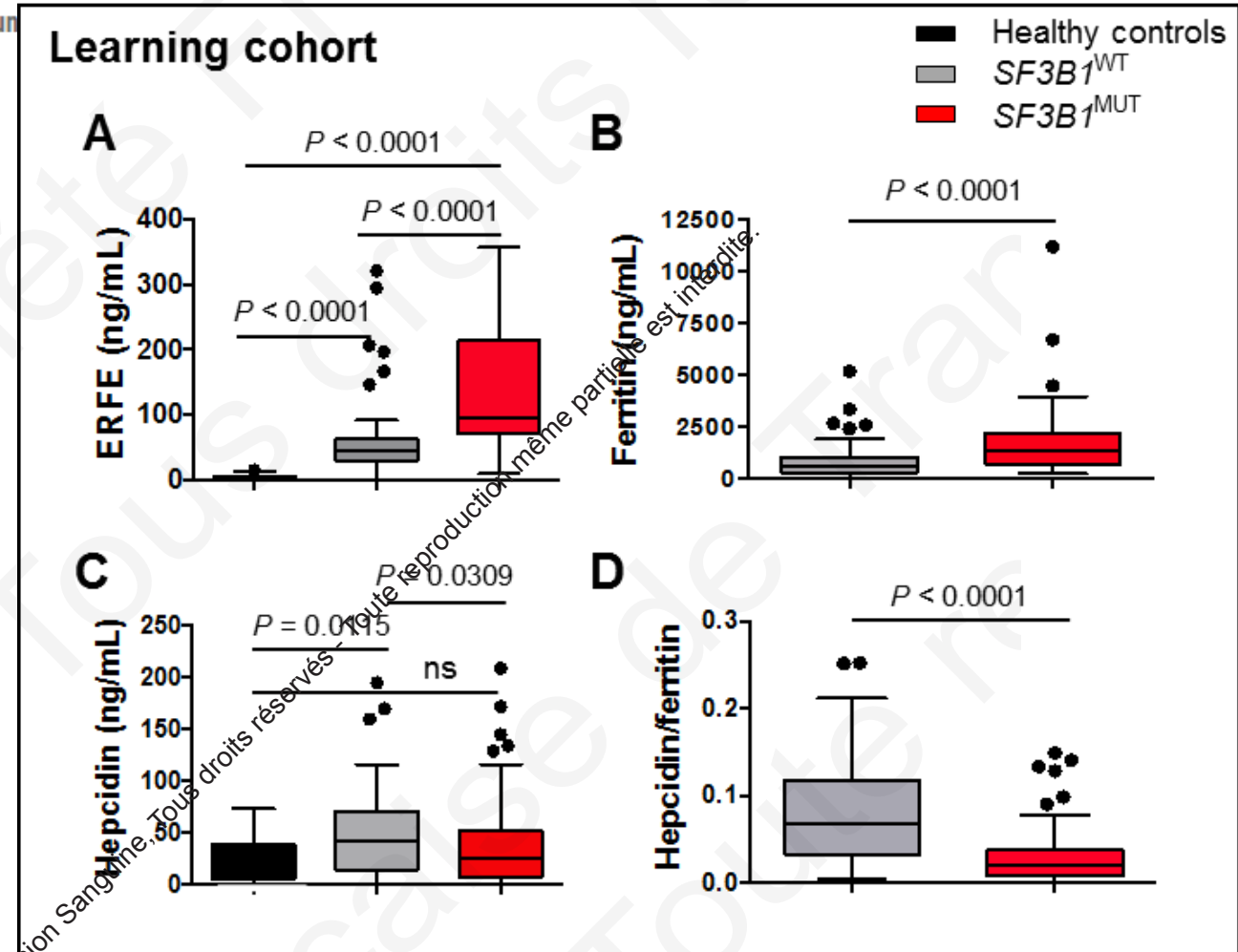
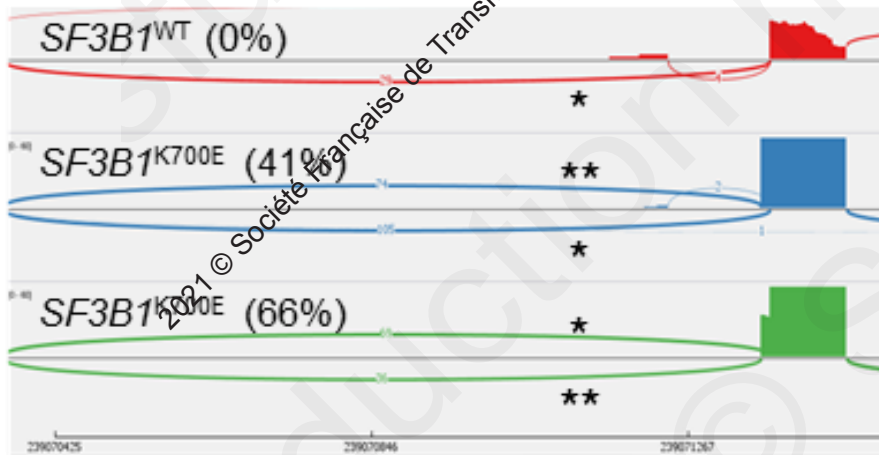


# Circulating ERFE levels are elevated in patients with MDS

RESEARCH ARTICLE | MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROME

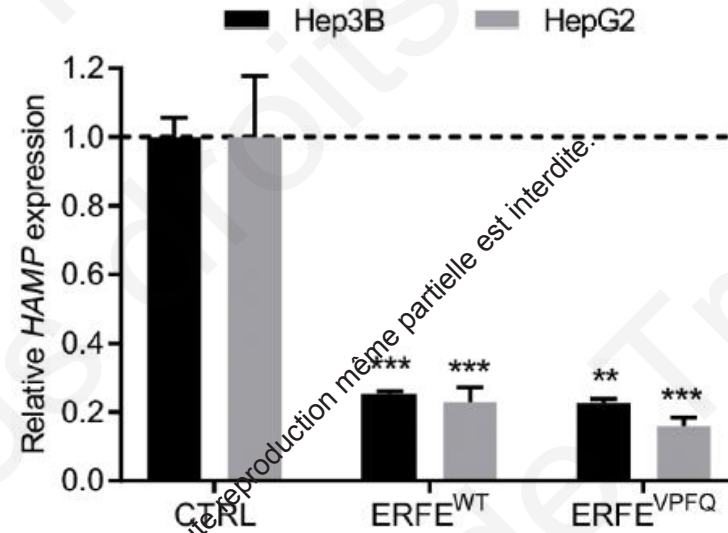
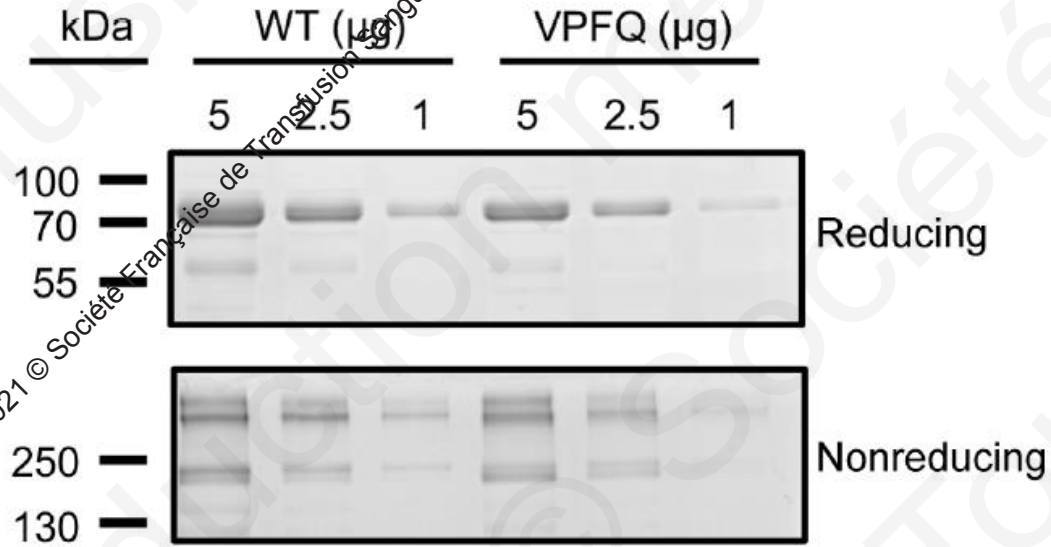
## A variant erythroferrone disrupts iron homeostasis in *SF3B1*-mutated myelodysplastic syndrome

Sabrina Bondu<sup>1,2,3,4,\*</sup>, Anne-Sophie Alary<sup>1,2,3,4,5,\*</sup>, Carine Lefevre<sup>1,2,3,4,6</sup>, Alexandre Houy<sup>7</sup>, Grace Jun



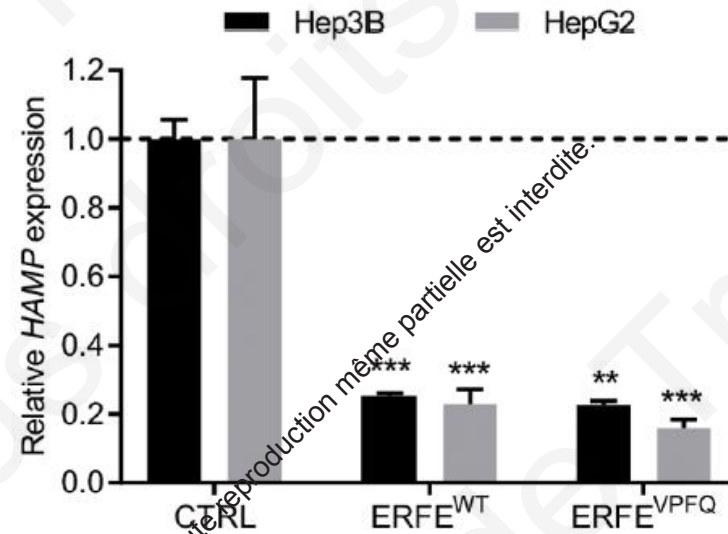
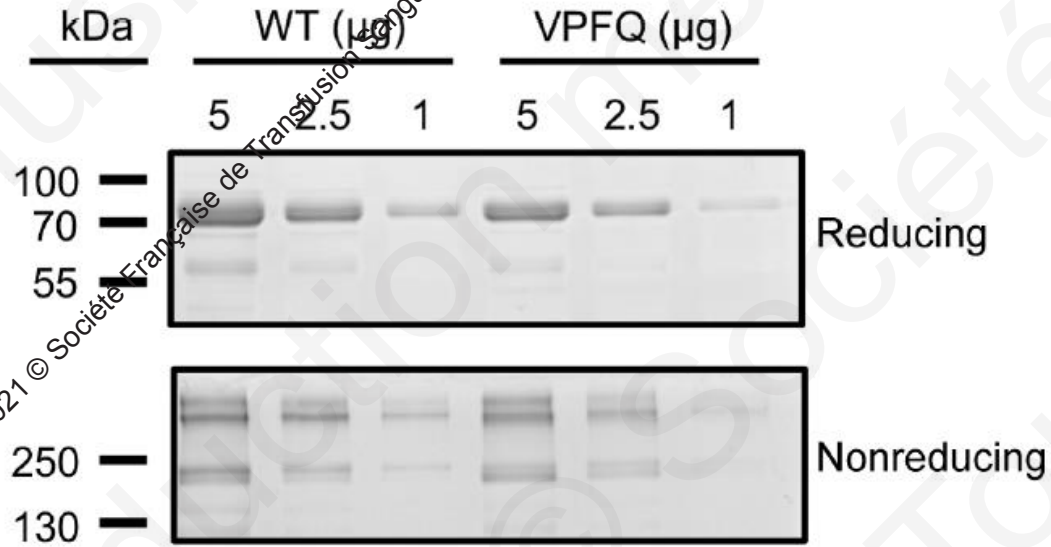
# ERFE<sup>VPFQ</sup>: an ERFE variant specific of clonal hematopoiesis

**N** ERFE<sup>WT</sup> **C**  
 MLFVRSQDKGVNGKKRSRGKAKKLLK FGLPGPPGPPGPQGPPGPIIPPEALLKEFQLLLKG  
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Bondu et al., Sci Transl Med 2019

# ERFE<sup>VPFQ</sup>: an ERFE variant specific of clonal hematopoiesis



Bondu et al., Sci Transl Med 2019

Development of a diagnostic tool based on the monitoring of ERFE<sup>VPFQ</sup>

# Systemic iron overload in MDS

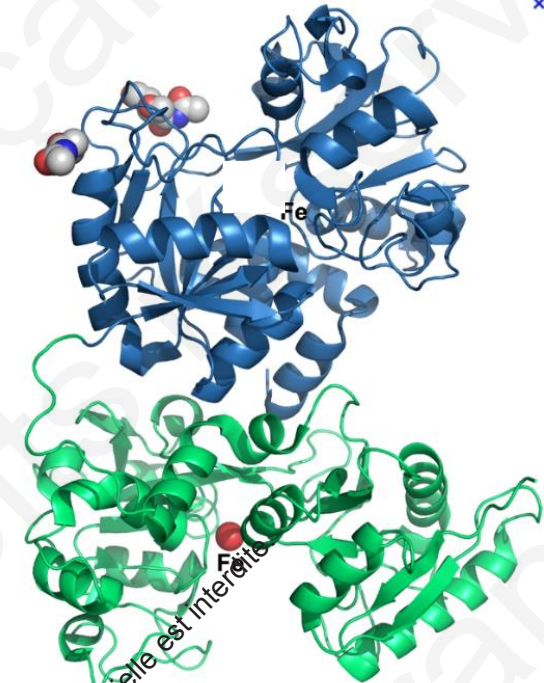
Increased iron absorption and recycling



Transferrin binding capacity is exceeded



Accumulation of NTBI (Non Transferrin Bound Iron)



Normal transferrin saturation: 30-40%

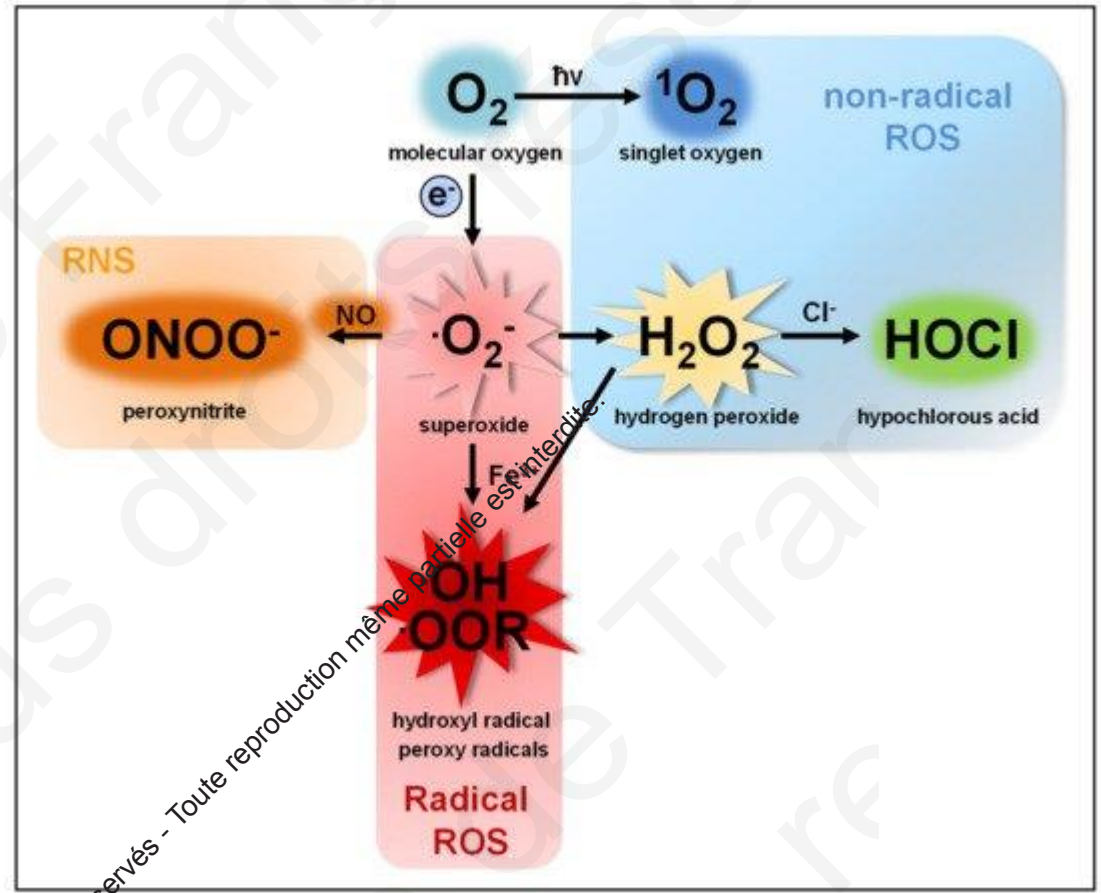
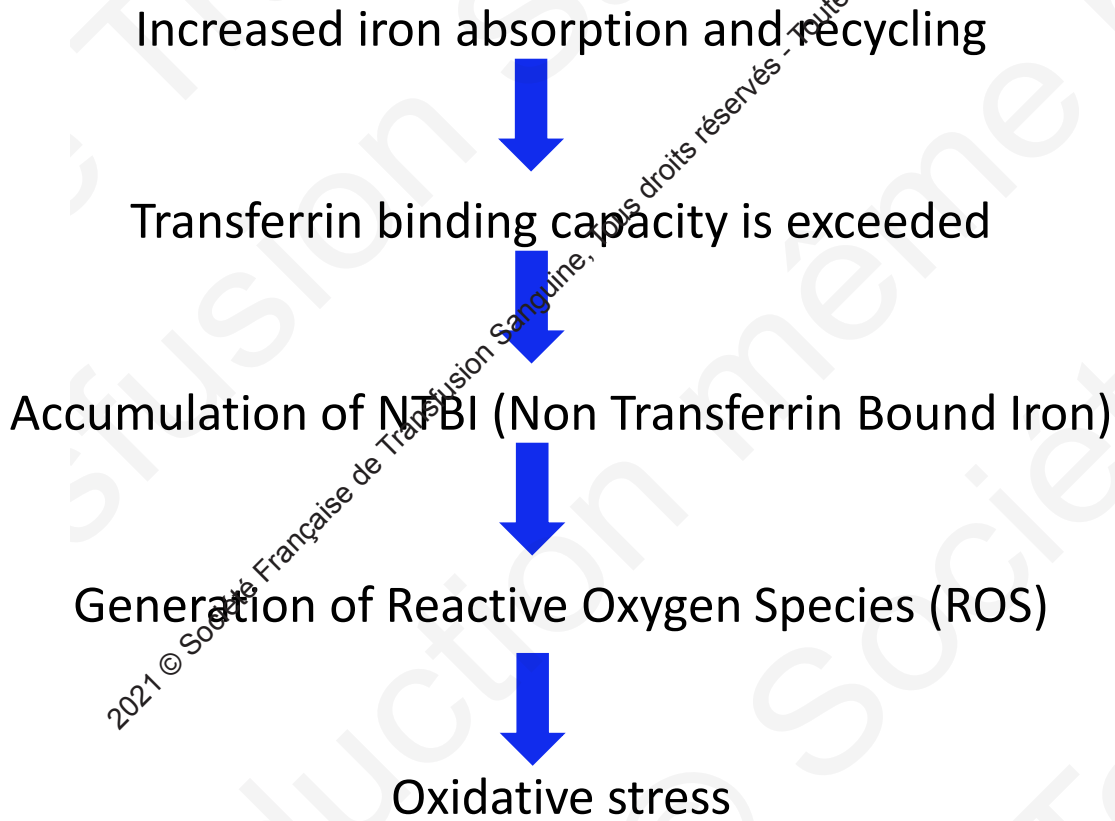
Tf sat > 50% = iron overload

Tf sat > 60-70% = NTBI

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# Systemic iron overload in MDS



# Systemic iron overload in MDS

Increased iron absorption and recycling



Transferrin binding capacity is exceeded



Accumulation of NTBI (Non Transferrin Bound Iron)



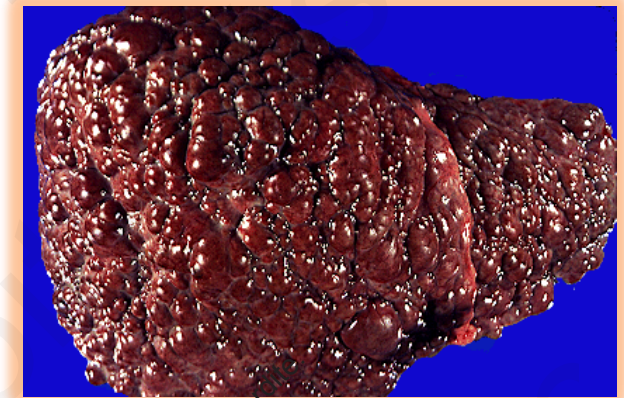
Generation of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS)



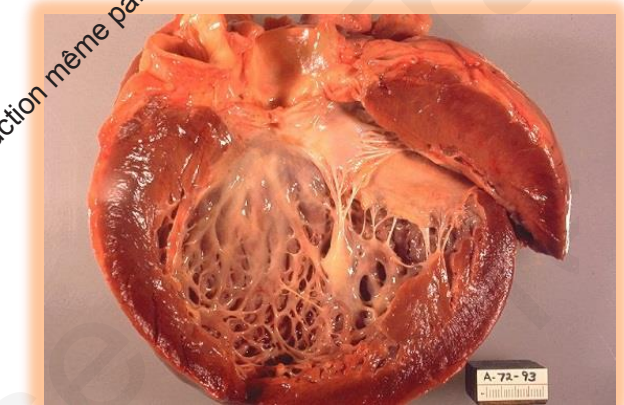
Oxidative stress



Cellular damage and organ dysfunction (liver, heart, pancreas)



Cirrhosis



Cardiomyopathy

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# Clinical consequences of iron overload in MDS

- **Overall survival** – increased risk of death every 500 $\mu$ g/L additional serum ferritin above 1000 $\mu$ g/L
- **Cardio-vascular functionality** – myocardial iron overload, vascular impairment, inflammation, ROS production, LDL oxidation, atherosclerosis
- **Liver functions** – fibrosis, cirrhosis, hepatocellular carcinoma
- **Predisposition to infections** – iron promotes pathogens growth and impairs immune cell response (macrophage, neutrophils, lymphocytes), cytokine production and nitric oxide formation
- **Erythropoiesis and leukemic progression** – iron excess may aggravate bone marrow failure and impairs erythroblast differentiation, RBC maturation and survival, epigenetic abnormalities and telomere erosion
- **Impact on bone marrow microenvironment**, MSCs, Immune cells, Bone cells

# Transfusional iron overload

Anemia



RBC transfusion



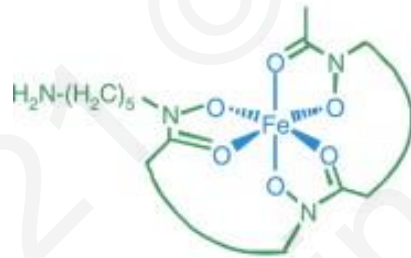
1 unit of pRBC = 250 mg of iron

Daily iron requirements = 1-2 mg

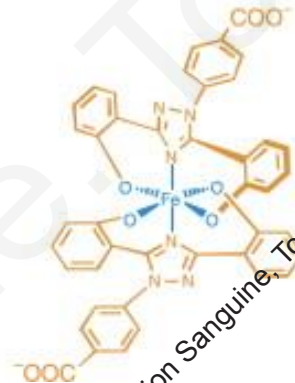
## ➤ Iron chelation

- Deferoxamine: short half life in parenteral administration, poor patient compliance
- Deferiprone: oral chelator. Limited studies in MDS
- Deferasirox: oral chelator. Superior efficacy but GI adverse events and renal insufficiency

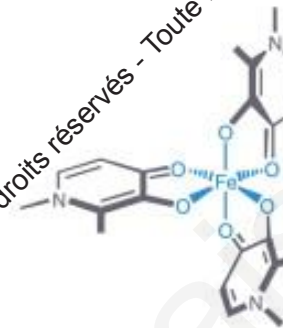
Deferoxamine (DFO)



Deferasirox (DFX)



Deferiprone (DFP)



## Summary

- MDS are a heterogenous group of clonal hematopoiesis characterized by dysplasia of at least one cell lineage and cytopenia in the bone marrow and the peripheral blood
- 80-90% of MDS patients present with anemia at diagnosis
- Premature cell death in MDS-RS results in ineffective erythropoiesis
- The erythroid hormone erythroferrone causes systemic iron overload
- Iron overload leads to tissue damage, organ dysfunction and increased morbidity and mortality

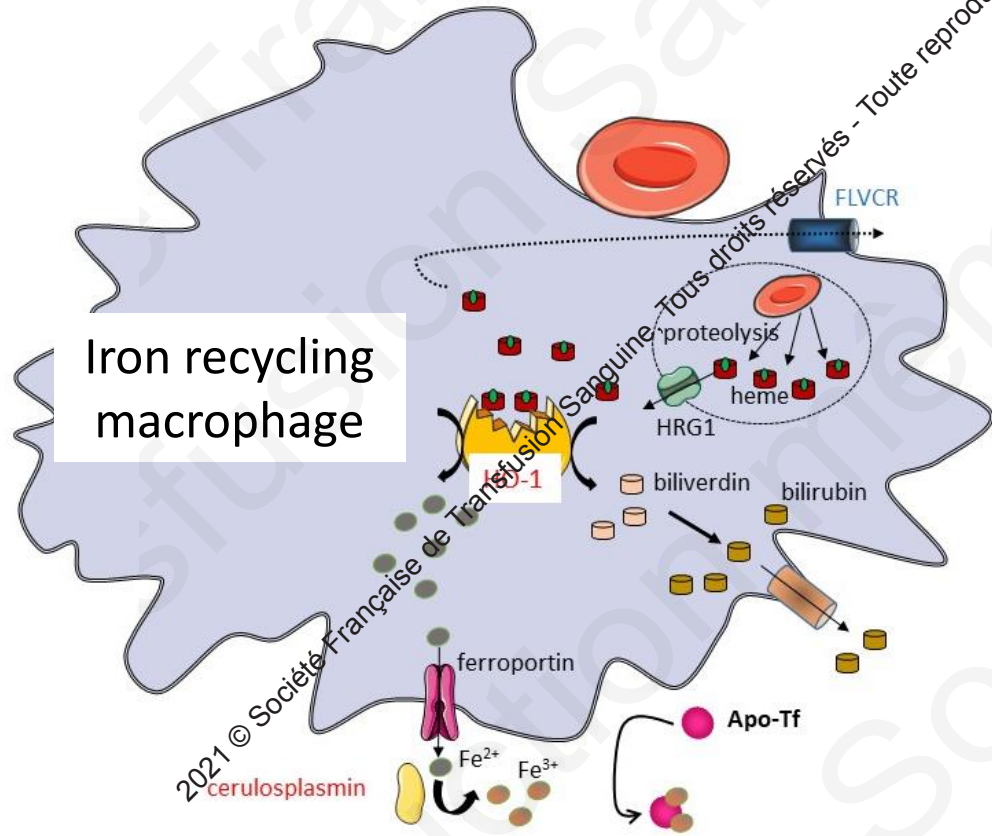


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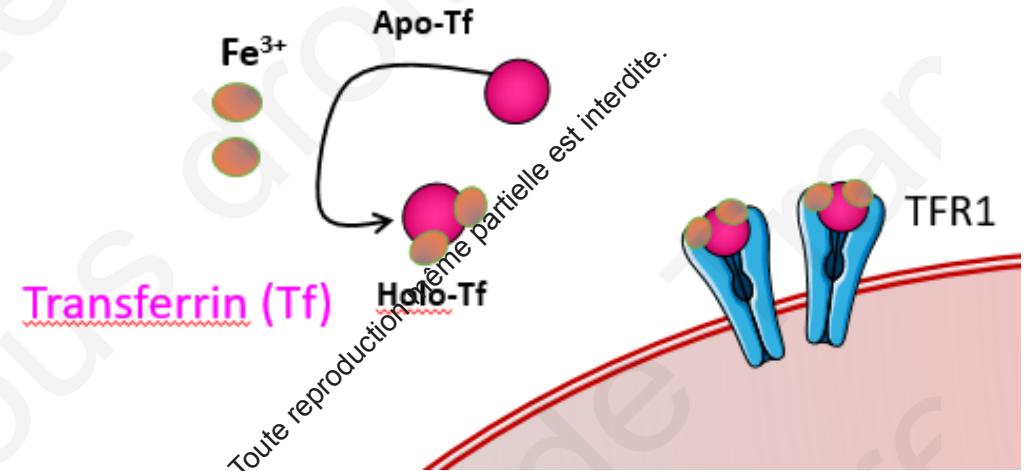
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# Regulation of iron related genes by HIF1 $\alpha$



- Heme oxygenase (HO-1)
- Ceruloplasmin (ferroxidase)

Increase iron recycling by macrophages



- **Transferrin and TFR1:** increase iron uptake into red cells

Rolfs, JBC 1997

Tacchini, JBC 1999

Mukhopadhyay, JBC 2000

Lee, JBC 1997