Table 22.5.5.1 Distinction between iron-deficiency anaemia and anaemia of chronic disorders

|  | **Iron deficiency** | **Anaemia of chronic disorders** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Red cells | Hypochromic microcytic | Normochromic or slightly microcytic |
| **Bone marrow** | | |
| Sideroblasts | Absent | Absent |
| Storage iron | Absent | Present or increased |
| Serum iron | Low | Low |
| Total iron-binding capacity | Normal or high | Low or normal |
| Percentage saturation | Low | Normal |
| Serum ferritin | Low | Normal |

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