

INTRODUCTION

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Children with iron deficiency anemia may have aberrations in immune function that may predispose to infection, but past reports are clouded by the inappropriateness of controls and the possible co-existence of other forms of malnutrition and/or infection.

While there is widespread belief that iron deficiency predisposes to infection susceptibility, there is some clinical and a good deal of experimental evidence to the contrary, at least with respect to bacterial infections.

To further clarify the relationship between immune function and iron deficiency, we constructed this work for assessment of cellular immune function in iron deficient subjects of a limited age group in whom other forms of malnutrition and intercurrent infections were absent.