Example Diagnostic Algorithm:
**Absolute & Functional Iron Deficiency**

**Absolute Reticulocyte Count**

- **High**
  - **Comorbidity present**
    - 1. Cardiovascular disease
    - 2. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
    - 3. Cancer
    - 4. Other chronic illness
    - 5. Chronic Renal Failure
      - Fe/TIBC, Ferritin
        - **Low/Low, High**
          - Yes
          - **Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency** present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective).
          - Look for source of blood loss
          - Replace iron
        - **Low/Low, Low**
          - Yes
          - **Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency** present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective).
          - Look for source of blood loss
          - Replace iron
      - **Low/High, Low**
        - Recheck Fe parameters; may need repeat Fe Rx, especially if evidence of renewed bleeding.
        - Follow
      - **Low/High, High**
        - Complete response
        - Incomplete response
        - Follow
        - Incomplete response
  - **High**
    - Hemolysis, Acute Bleeding
    - **High**
      - Hemolysis, Acute Bleeding
    - **Low**
      - Fe/TIBC, Ferritin
        - **Low/Low, Low**
          - Yes
          - **Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency** present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective).
          - Look for source of blood loss
          - Replace iron
        - **Low/Low, High**
          - Yes
          - **Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency** present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective).
          - Look for source of blood loss
          - Replace iron
      - **Low/High, Low**
        - Recheck Fe parameters; may need repeat Fe Rx, especially if evidence of renewed bleeding.
        - Follow
      - **Low/High, High**
        - Complete response
        - Incomplete response
        - Follow
        - Incomplete response
  - **Low**
    - Otherwise well
      - Fe/TIBC, Ferritin.
      - **Low/Low, Low**
        - Yes
        - **Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency** present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective).
        - Look for source of blood loss
        - Replace iron
      - **Low/Low, High**
        - Yes
        - **Concomitant Functional Iron Deficiency** present. Replace IRON IV. (Oral largely ineffective).
        - Look for source of blood loss
        - Replace iron
      - **Low/High, Low**
        - Recheck Fe parameters; may need repeat Fe Rx, especially if evidence of renewed bleeding.
        - Follow
      - **Low/High, High**
        - Complete response
        - Incomplete response
        - Follow
        - Incomplete response

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