

# When to ORDER SPEP and how to INTERPRET RESULTS

## WHEN TO ORDER AN SPEP:

- Unexplained anemia, back pain
- Osteopenia, osteolytic lesions, spontaneous fractures
- Renal insufficiency with bland urinary sediment
- Heavy proteinuria or Bence Jones proteinuria
- Hypercalcemia with normal PTH
- Hypergammaglobulinemia
- Immunoglobulin deficiency
- Unexplained peripheral neuropathy
- Recurrent infections
- Elevated ESR or serum viscosity
- Peripheral blood smear showing rouleaux

If clinical suspicion remains high for plasma cell disorder and SPEP is negative → obtain serum free light chain ratio (SFLCR)

## CRAB SYMPTOMS\*\*:

- C – Ca<sup>2+</sup> >2.8
- R – creatinine >177 umol/L or GFR <40mL per min
- A – hemoglobin <100g/L or 20g/L below normal
- B – lytic lesions

\*\*Attributable to plasma cell disorder

## OTHER SPEP RESULTS

### POLYCLONAL GAMMOPATHY (reactive)

Investigate for other causes including:

- Liver disease
- Connective tissue disease I
- Infection

### OLIGOCLONAL GAMMOPATHY (usually reactive)

Repeat test in 6 – 12 months if clinically indicated (see top box "When to order an SPEP")

### ELEVATED FREE LIGHT CHAINS - NORMAL RATIO (reactive)

Investigate for other causes including:

- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Connective tissue disease
- Infection

