

Table 3 Haematological parameters and serum vitamin B<sub>12</sub> levels

Variable	Total (n = 838)	Normal B <sub>12</sub> (n = 177)		B <sub>12</sub> hypovitaminosis (n = 287)		B <sub>12</sub> deficiency (n = 374)		P-value
	No.	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Haemoglobin level <sup>a</sup>								
Low	33	10	30.3	8	24.2	15	45.2	0.30
Normal	805	167	20.7	279	34.7	359	44.6	
Folic acid level <sup>b</sup>								
Low	10	3	30.0	4	40.0	3	30.0	0.62
Normal	827	174	21.0	283	34.2	371	44.8	
Ferritin level <sup>c</sup>								
Low	233	42	18.0	95	40.8	96	41.2	0.04
Normal	605	135	22.3	192	31.7	278	46.0	
Mean corpuscular volume <sup>d</sup>								
High	4	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	100.0	0.20
Normal	666	137	20.6	229	34.4	300	45.0	
Low	168	40	23.8	58	34.5	70	41.7	
Peripheral blood smear								
Normal	672	136	20.2	231	34.4	305	45.4	0.07
Hypochromic	94	30	31.9	29	30.9	35	37.2	
Hypersegmented	72	11	15.3	27	37.5	34	47.2	

<sup>a</sup>Normal: females 14 ± 2 g/dL, males 16 ± 2 g/dL; low: females < 12 g/dL, males < 14 g/dL.

<sup>b</sup>Normal: > 2.5 ng/mL.

<sup>c</sup>Normal: females 14–150 µg/L, males 17–230 µg/L.

<sup>d</sup>High: > 100 fL; normal: 80–100 fL; low: < 80 fL.