

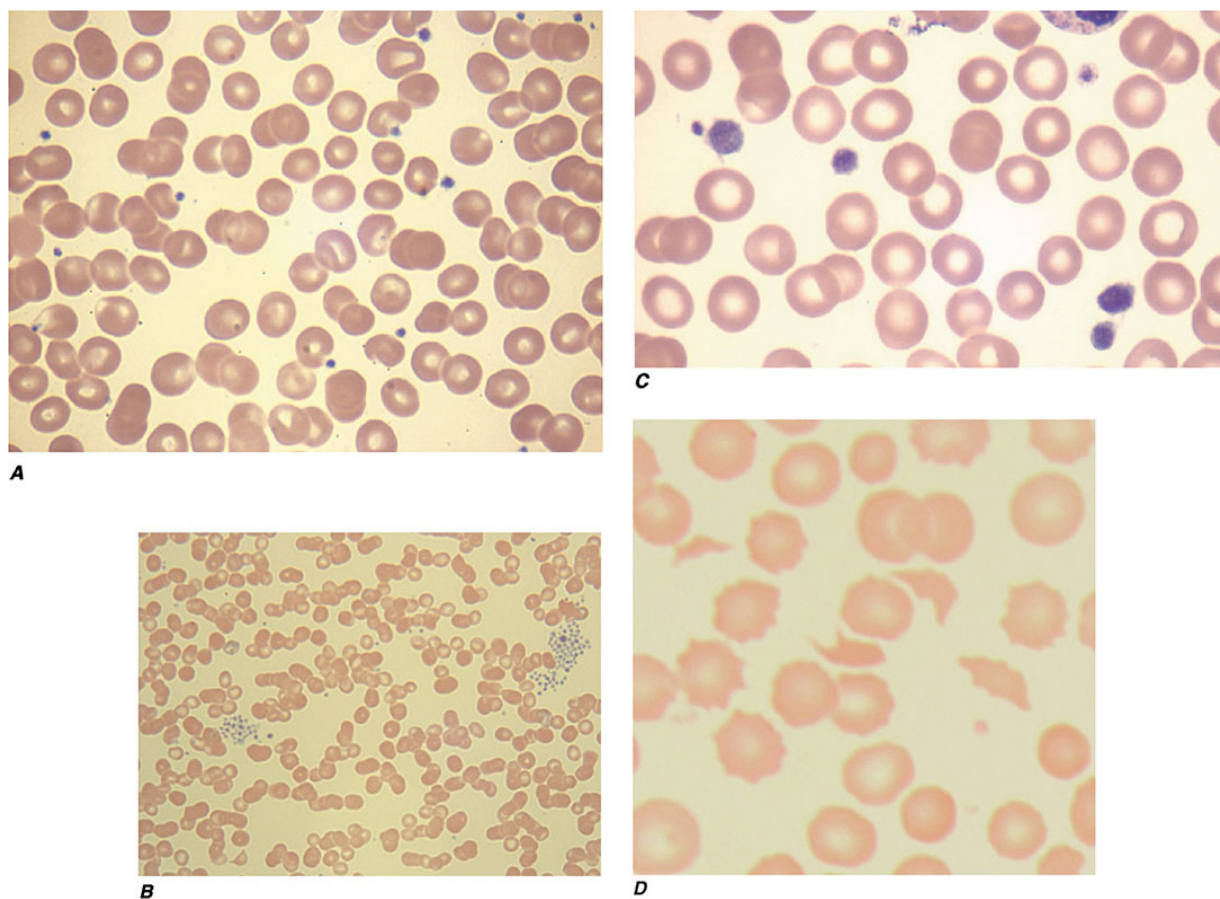


FIGURE 115-1 Photomicrographs of peripheral blood smears. **A.** Normal peripheral blood. **B.** Platelet clumping in pseudothrombocytopenia. **C.** Abnormal large platelet in autosomal dominant macrothrombocytopenia. **D.** Schistocytes and decreased platelets in microangiopathic hemolytic anemia.

APPROACH TO THE PATIENT

Thrombocytopenia

The history and physical examination, results of the CBC, and review of the peripheral blood smear are all critical components in the initial evaluation of thrombocytopenic patients ([Fig. 115-2](#)). The overall health of the patient and whether he or she is receiving drug treatment will influence the differential diagnosis. A healthy young adult with thrombocytopenia will have a much more limited differential diagnosis than an ill hospitalized patient who is receiving multiple medications. Except in unusual inherited