

**Table S1. Red blood cell parameters, spleen size and iron concentrations.**

	0h	4h	16h	24h	48h	72h	96h
RBC	10.4 $\pm$ 0.5	10.0 $\pm$ 0.5	10.6 $\pm$ 0.6	10.5 $\pm$ 0.6	10.6 $\pm$ 0.4	10.6 $\pm$ 0.2	10.8 $\pm$ 0.3
Hb	159 $\pm$ 8	167 $\pm$ 5	162 $\pm$ 2	163 $\pm$ 7	166 $\pm$ 7	169 $\pm$ 4	172 $\pm$ 4*
HCT	46 $\pm$ 2	45 $\pm$ 5	45 $\pm$ 3	46 $\pm$ 2	49 $\pm$ 1*	51 $\pm$ 2*	51 $\pm$ 1*
MCV	45 $\pm$ 1	46 $\pm$ 2	46 $\pm$ 2	45 $\pm$ 1	48 $\pm$ 1*	47 $\pm$ 1*	47 $\pm$ 1*
Spleen	64 $\pm$ 6	83 $\pm$ 22	78 $\pm$ 11	77 $\pm$ 9	127 $\pm$ 26*	137 $\pm$ 11*	111 $\pm$ 10*
Fe (Pl)	20 $\pm$ 4	21 $\pm$ 3	18 $\pm$ 6	33 $\pm$ 7*	23 $\pm$ 9	17 $\pm$ 7	26 $\pm$ 15

EPO was administered at 200 U/mouse; mice were sacrificed at indicated time intervals.  
RBC: Red blood cells (millions/ $\mu$ l); Hb: Hemoglobin (g/litre); HCT: Hematocrit (%); MCV: Mean cell volume (fl); Spleen: Spleen weight (mg); Fe (Pl): Plasma iron ( $\mu$ mol/l). Asterisk denotes statistical significance ( $p < 0.05$ );  $n = 4$ .