An elevated haematocrit

Accompanying increase in white cell and platelet counts

History of vaso-occlusive symptoms

Possibility of POLYCYTHEMIA VERA

Check for JAK-2 mutation

Refer to haematologist for definitive management

History of smoking

Symptoms related to the secondary causes (see table)

Possibility of SECONDARY POLYCYTHEMIA

Request investigations based on the symptoms and signs

Refer to the appropriate specialist

Mild increase

Possibility of RELATIVE POLYCYTHEMIA

Exclude dehydration or diuretics as a cause and repeat after an interval

Symptoms related to the secondary causes (see table)

Possibility of SECONDARY POLYCYTHEMIA

Request investigations based on the symptoms and signs

Refer to the appropriate specialist

Symptoms related to the secondary causes (see table)