



**FIGURE 3-14.** Diagnostic approach to polycythemia. The italicized common conclusions are made using the various procedures listed. Primary absolute polycythemia is diagnosed by exclusion of causes listed above it (i.e., when splenic contraction is unlikely, the hydration status is normal; no hypoxia is found from pulmonary, cardiac, or hemoglobin disorders; and the kidneys are normal). PCV, Packed cell volume; PO<sub>2</sub>, partial pressure of oxygen.