



Association of Physician Assistants in Oncology

Making Sense of Molecular Mutations in Hematologic Malignancies

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> Banner MDAnderson Cancer Center Making Cancer History*

Disclosures

Advisory Board/Consultant – Gilead, Bristol Meyers Squib, Stemline



Learning Objectives

- 1. Discuss common mutations used to diagnose
- hematologic malignancies
- 2. Describe mutations useful in risk-stratification
- 3. Understand targetable mutations and approved medications



Mutations in hematology



- Prognosis
- Response (MRD)
- Target
- ► Noise (CHIP)

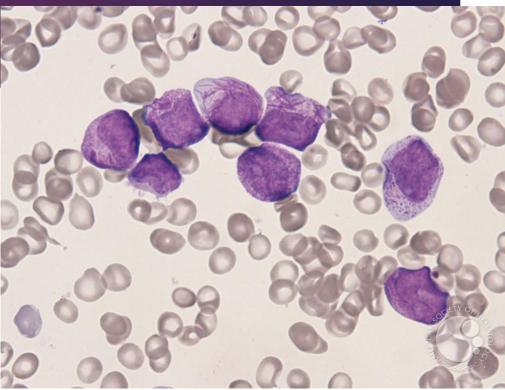


"... AND YOU CANNOT CHANGE A THING, AS YOU ARE COMPLETELY CONTROLLED BY YOUR GENES."



Case 1

- 44yo woman presents to the ED with bleeding gums and a nonblanching erythematous rash on her lower extremities. Labs as follow:
- ► CBC: WBC 1.9>7.2<5
- ► INR 2.6 PTT 48 Fibrinogen 93
- Peripheral smear is below.
- Which of the following mutations is most likely in the WBCs?
 - A. BCR/ABL
 - B. JAK2
 - C. BCL2
 - D. PML/RARA
 - ▶ E. TP53

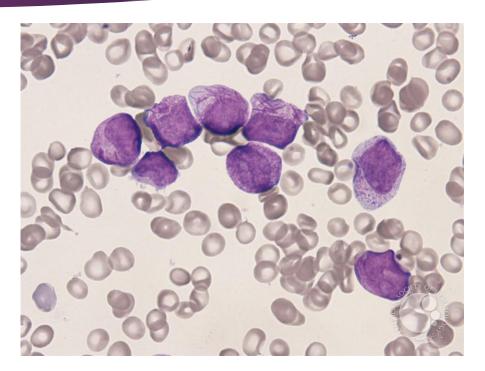


Marco Gambassi ASH image #5910



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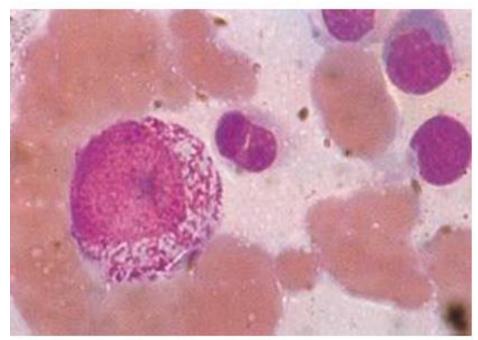


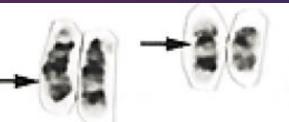
Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL)

APL

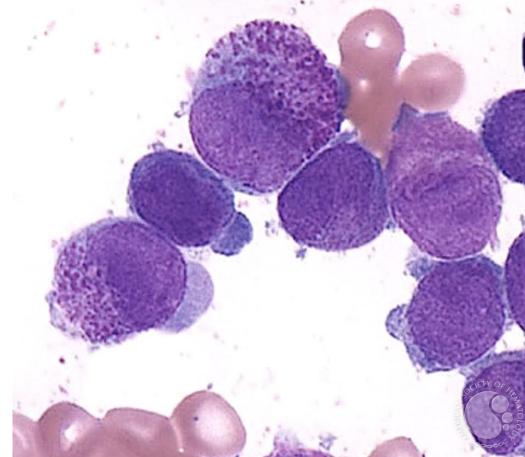
PML/RARA

Promyelocytic Leukemia – Retinoic Acid Receptor





t(15;17)(q22;q12)





Aggressive early care for APL

- Early mortality (within days of diagnosis) ~5-10%
 - Bleeding
 - Bleeding
 - Intracranial bleeding
- Start ATRA as soon as suspected
 - If wrong, no harm done (as long as HCG negative)
 - Do not wait for testing results to start but send t(15;17)

- Long-term cure rate >95% (Low/Int risk)
 - ATRA/Arsenic (Lo-Coco NEJM 2013)
- Aggressive blood product transfusion to decrease bleeding risk
- Monitor for differentiation syndrome (elevated WBC, fever, effusions, etc)



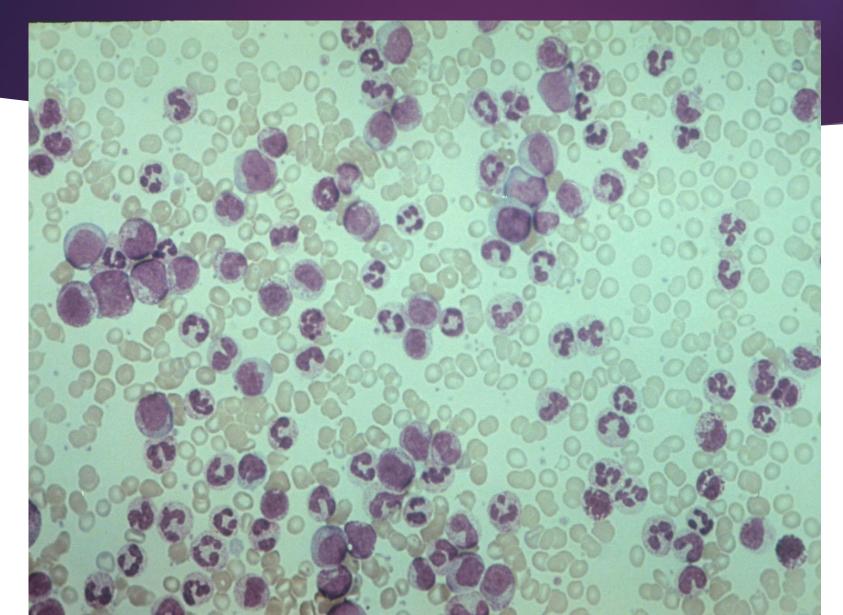
ATRA = All trans retinoic acid

56yo admitted with abdominal pain and leukocytosis (Case 2)

- 3 months of gradually increasing abdominal pain, L>R
- ► Temp 100.8°F HR 110bpm
- Abdomen TTP in the LUQ, spleen palpable 8cm below the costal margin

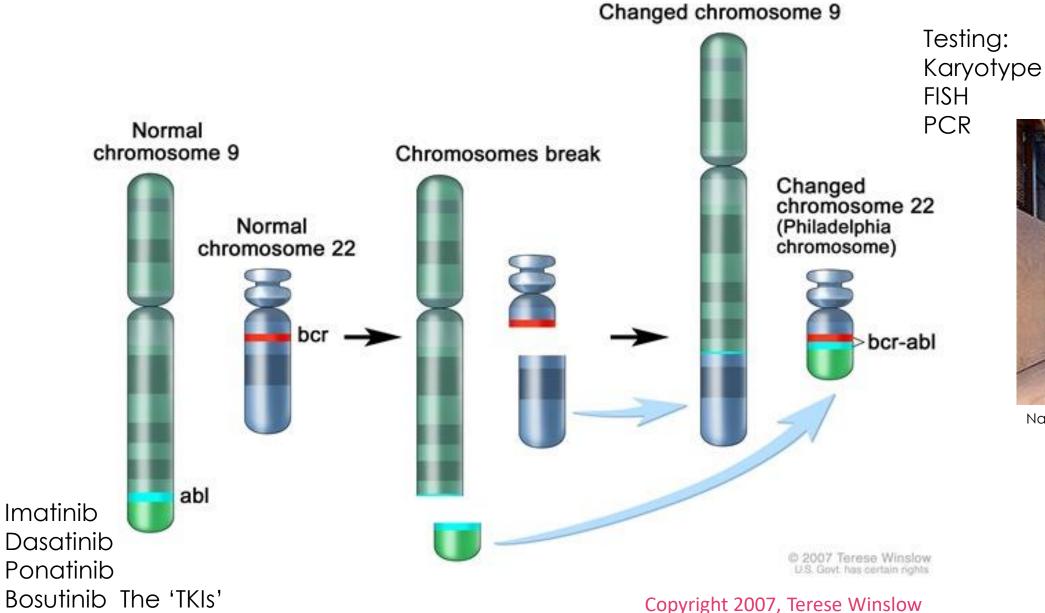


What is the most likely mutation?



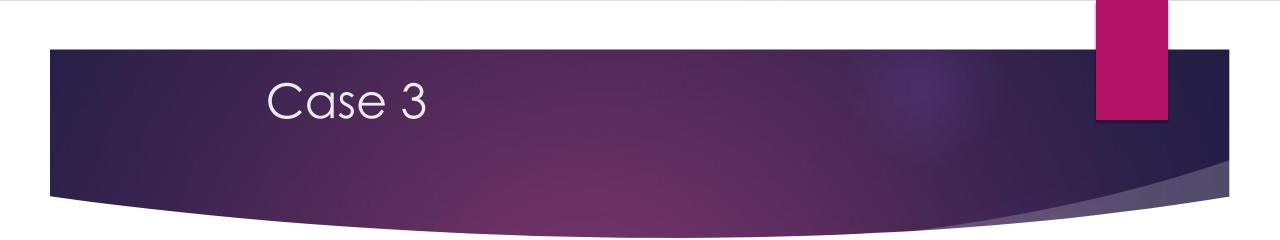


CML: BCR/ABL1 fusion gene, the result of a genomic rearrangement



National park service image





32yo resident presents with sore throat and fever

Cervical adenopathy is present on exam





Peripheral Smear

- 92% Blasts
- 4% Lymphocytes
- ► 4% Neutrophils
 - Flow cytometry showed these blasts to be positive for CD19, CD20, and TdT consistent with lymphoblasts.
- Which of the following mutations is most common in this disease?
 - A. CRLF2
 - ► B. BCR/ABL
 - ► C. CBFB/MYH
 - D. IGH/MYC
 - ► E. EZH2



Image courtesy of Peter Maslak

Blast



Peripheral Smear

- 92% Blasts
- ► 4% Lymphocytes
- ► 4% Neutrophils
- Flow cytometry showed these blasts to be positive for CD19, CD20, TdT consistent with lymphoblasts.
- Which of the following mutations is most commons in his presentation?
 - A. CRLF2
 - ► B. BCR/ABL
 - C. CBFB/MYH
 - D. IGH/MYC
 - E. EZH2

B CML R ALL B L



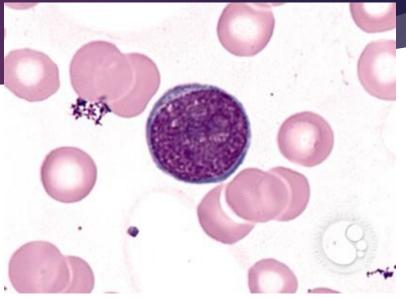


Image courtesy of Peter Maslak

He is diagnosed with Ph+ ALL

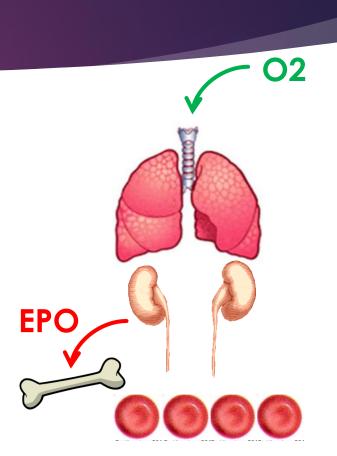
 BCR/ABL can be targeted with TKIs such as ponatinib, dasatinib, imatinib, etc just like CML

Case 4 - Presentation

- 65yo woman is referred for 'abnormal labs'
- Nonsmoker, no OSA, no history of pulmonary disease. She does not live at altitude.
- She reports pruritis but no other symptoms
- O2 saturation 98% RA
- ▶ Hb = 19 Hct = 57%
- ► WBC 19k Plt 440k

You recommend checking for which of the following mutations?

A. TP53 B. IDH2 C. FLT3 D. JAK2 E. COVID





Case 4 – Diagnostics: Polycythemia Vera

- ► EPO = 5 (2-18)
- ► JAK2 V617F mutation positive
- (Potential causes of secondary polycythemia include altitude, lung disease/hypoxia, renal cell carcinoma and hepatocellular carcinom as well as testosterone/anabolic steroid use or exogenous EPO)

JAK2= Janus Kinase



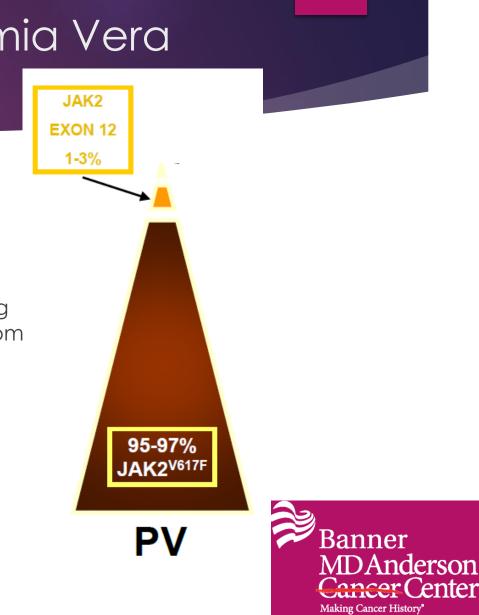
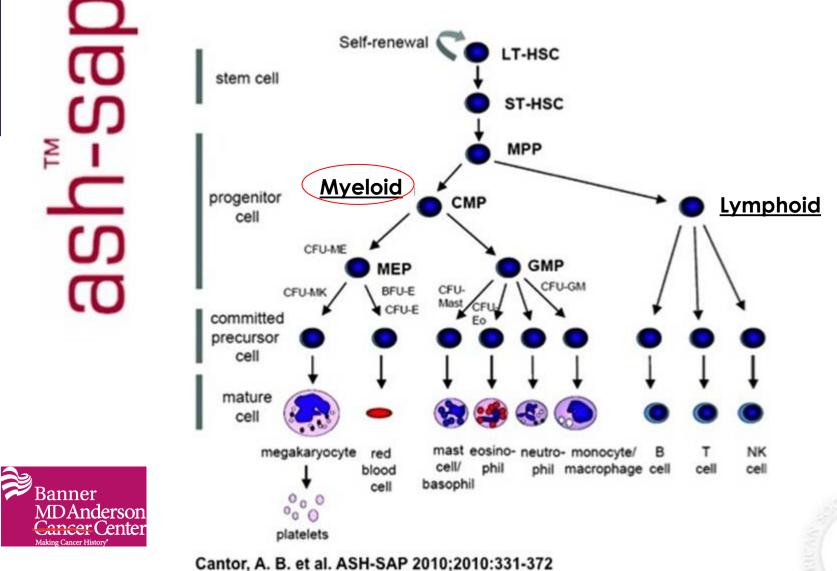




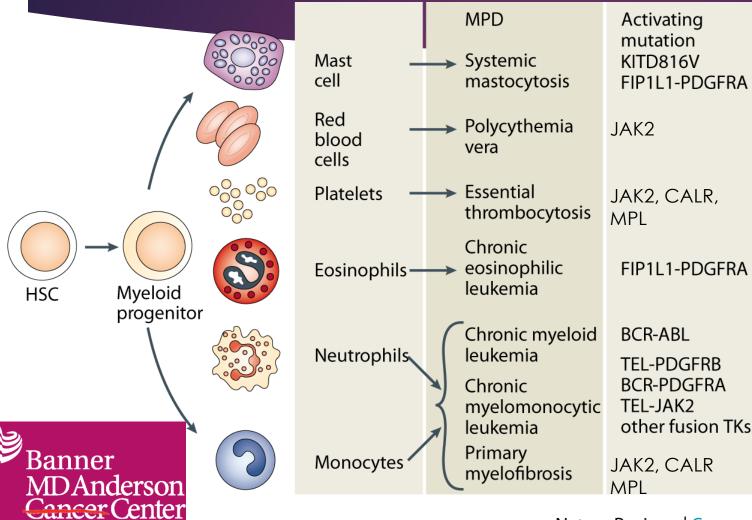
Figure 12-3 Classical hierarchal map of hematopoietic development





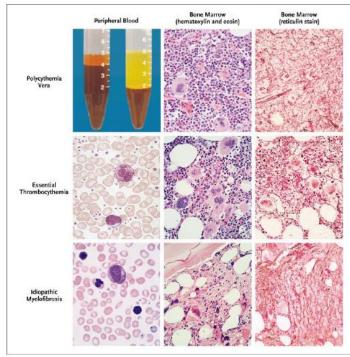
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Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN)



Making Cancer History

Lab Features of PV, ET, and MF



Campbell P and Green A. N Engl J Med 2006;355:2452-2466

Nature Reviews | Cancer

Case 4 – Treatment: Back to the Future

- ▶ Goal Hct is <45% (better than <50% in randomized trial by Marchioli et al. NEJM 2013 368:22)
 - Phlebotomy
 - Hydroxyurea

ASA



Ancient Greek Painting



Photograph from the Burns Archive 1860

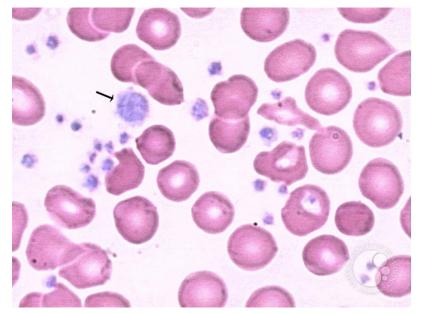


Case 5 - Presentation

- 55yo man presents with fatigue, and abnormal labs prior to upcoming hernia surgery.
- He has no active infections. He has no organomegaly. His hernia is easily reducible without associated erythema or tenderness.
- ► CBC: 27>45%<750
- ▶ N65%, L25%, M8%, E2%

Which of the following is the best next diagnostic test?

- A. EPO
- B. BCR/ABL
- C. Ferritin
- D. Cdiff toxin
- E. PML/RARA



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Making Cancer Histor

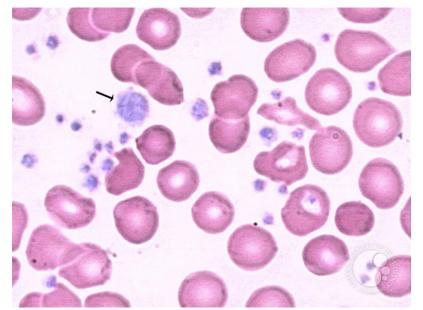
Anderson

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Making Cancer Histor

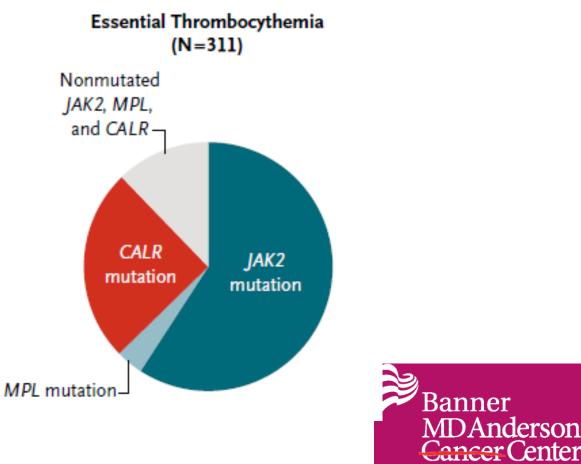
Anderson

Case 5 – Calreticulin (CALR) the 'other' mutation

- JAK2 V617F mutation negative
- BCR/ABL negative
- CALR positive
- Bone Marrow increased megakaryocytes, some are increased in size but not abnormal. No increase in fibrosis.
- Diagnosis of Essential Thrombocythemia

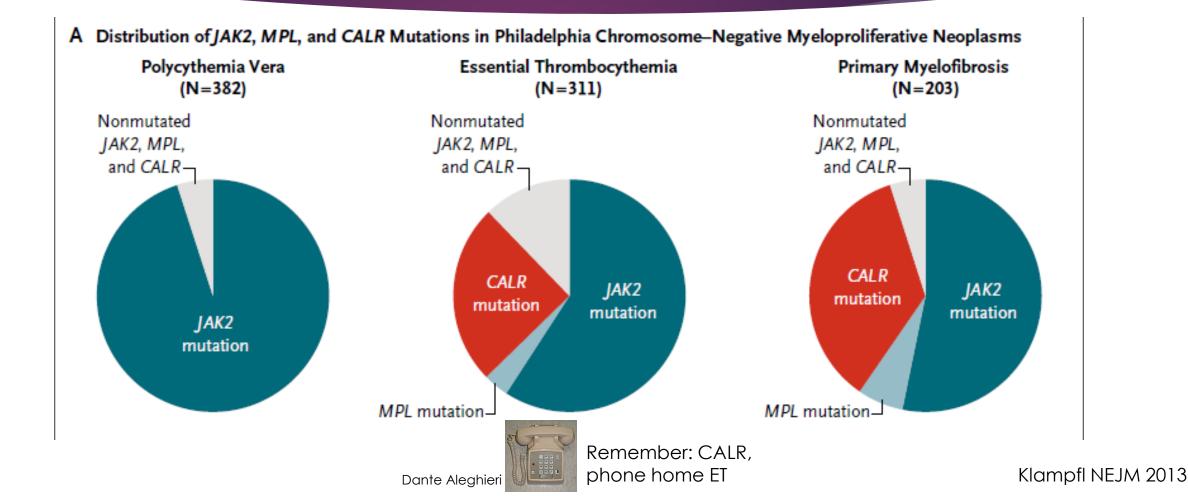
Exclusion of CML with negative BCR/ABL is a requirement for MPN diagnosis!

(CML can present with thrombocytosis)



Making Cancer History

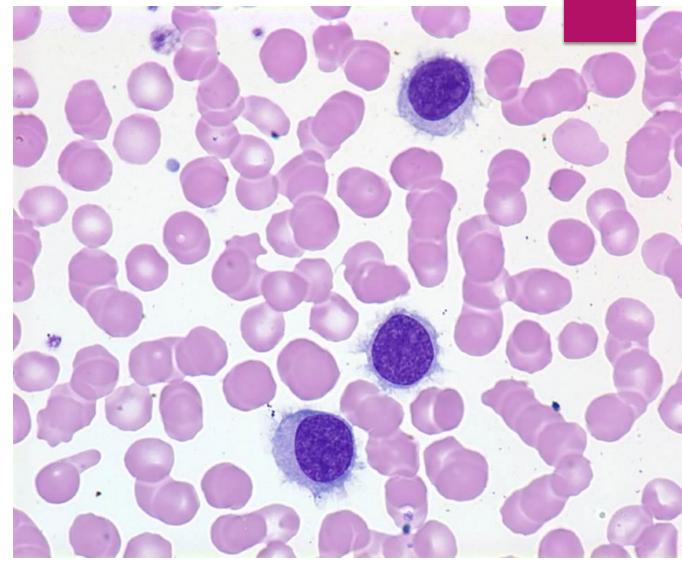
Calreticulin in ET and MF (not PV)



Case 6

- 54yo man presents with pancytopenia.
- ► CBC 1.8>10.1<88
- Splenomegaly present on exam
- Peripheral smear is shown

What mutation is most likely to be found?



Peter Maslak. ASH Image #4234

Hairy Cell Leukemia

BRAF V600E mutation identified in ~100% of patients with typical hairy cell leukemia; not usual in other lymphoproliferative disorders¹
 BRAF inhibitors (vemurafenib) with activity in hairy cell leukemia^{2,3}





1. Arcaini, L., et al., The BRAF V600E mutation in hairy cell leukemia and other mature B-cell neoplasms. Blood, 2012. **119**(1): p. 188-91.

2. Follows, G.A., et al., Rapid response of biallelic BRAF V600E mutated hairy cell leukaemia to low dose vemurafenib. Br J Haematol, 2013. 161(1): p. 150-3.

3. Dietrich, S., et al., BRAF inhibition in refractory hairy-cell leukemia. N Engl J Med, 2012. 366(21): p. 2038-40.

Hairy Cell Leukemia

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Hairy = BRAf

Arcaini, L., et al., The BRAF V600E mutation in hairy cell leukemia and other mature B-cell neoplasms. Blood, 2012. **119**(1): p. 188-91.
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 Dietrich, S., et al., BRAF inhibition in refractory hairy-cell leukemia. N Engl J Med, 2012. **366**(21): p. 2038-40.



Many other common mutations in diagnosis

- Chronic Neutrophilic Leukemia (CNL) = CSF3R
- Myelofibrosis = JAK2 (50%) or CALR or MPL (or triple negative)
- Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma/Waldenströms = MYD88, CXCR4
- Systemic mastocytosis = KIT D816V
- MDS with ringed sideroblasts and MDS/MPN with RS-T = SF3B1
- CMML = 80% with SRSF2, TET2 and/or ASXL1





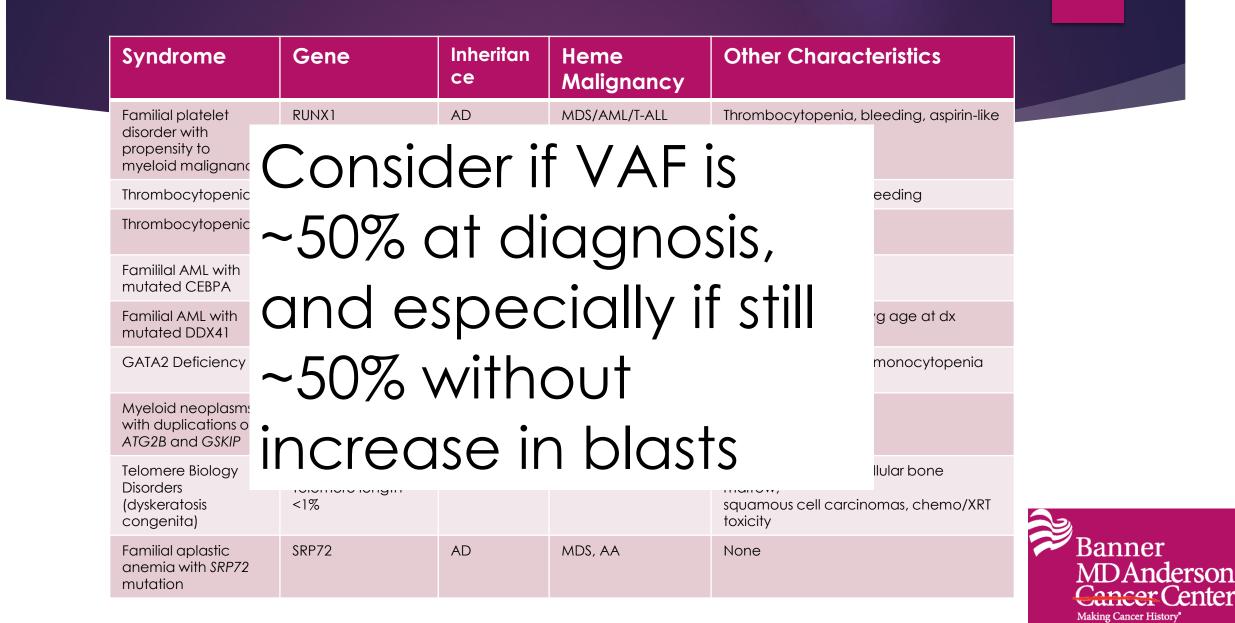
Adapted from Bannon et al. Int J Mol Sci 2016.

Germline mutations with predisposition to hematologic malignancy

Syndrome	Gene	Inheritance	Heme Malignancy	Other Characteristics
Familial platelet disorder with propensity to myeloid malignancy	RUNX1	AD	MDS/AML/T-ALL	Thrombocytopenia, bleeding, aspirin-like platelet dysfunction
Thrombocytopenia 2	ANKRD26	AD	MDS/AML	Thrombocytopenia, bleeding
Thrombocytopenia 5	ETV6	AD	MDS/AML, CMML, B-cell ALL, MM, AA	
Famililal AML with mutated CEBPA	СЕВРА	AD	AML	None
Familial AML with mutated DDX41	DDX41	AD	MDS/AML, CMML	None; AML remains avg age at dx
GATA2 Deficiency	GATA2	AD	MDS/AML, CMML	None or neutropenia, monocytopenia (MonoMAC)
Myeloid neoplasms with duplications of ATG2B and GSKIP	ATG2B, GSKIP	AD	AML, ET, CMML, myelofibrosis, CML, aCML	None
Telomere Biology Disorders (dyskeratosis congenita)	TERC, TERT Telomere length <1%	AD, AR	MDS/AML, AA	Macrocytosis, hypocellular bone marrow, squamous cell carcinomas, chemo/XRT toxicity
Familial aplastic anemia with SRP72 mutation	SRP72	AD	MDS, AA	None
Fanconi Anemia	Multiple (complementation groups) FANCA> FANC> FANCG> BRCA2> BRIP1 DEB or MMC assay – abnormal	AR	MDS/AML, AA	Short stature, café au lait macules, skeletal malformations, microcephaly Squamous cell carcinomas, chemo/XRT toxicity
Familial B-cell ALL	PAX5	AD	ALL	None
Germline SH2B3 mutation	SH2B3	AR	ALL	None
Li-Fraumeni Syndrome	TP53	AD	Familial ALL (hypodiploid)	Young-onset solid tumors(breast, brain)
Familial CLL	POTI	AD	CLL	Solid Tumors (brain, melanoma)

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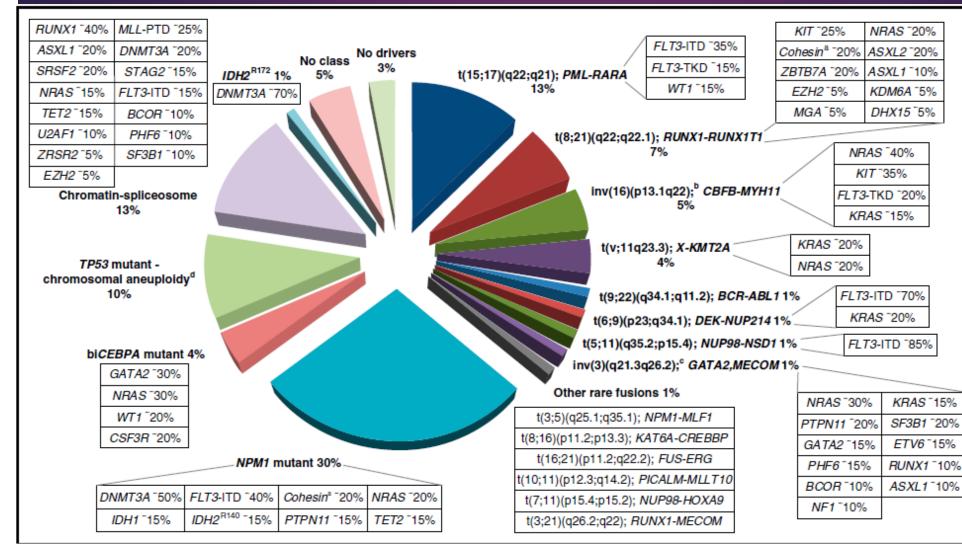
Germline mutations with predisposition to hematologic malignancy





Mutations and risk-stratification in hematology

Expanding Genetic Landscape of AML



Optimal treatment of AML requires cytogenetic and molecular data

Dohner et al. Blood 2017. 129:424.

ICC of Myeloid Neoplasms: AML

- Acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) with t(15;17)(q24.1;q21.2)/PML::RARA ≥10%
- APL with other *RARA* rearrangements^{*} ≥10%
- AML with t(8;21)(q22;q22.1)/RUNX1::RUNX1T1 ≥10%
- AML with inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22)/CBFB::MYH11 ≥10%
- AML with t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3)/MLLT3::KMT2A ≥10%
- AML with other *KMT2A* rearrangements^{**} ≥10%
- AML with t(6;9)(p22.3;q34.1)/DEK::NUP214 ≥10%
- AML with inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2)/GATA2; MECOM(EVI1) ≥10%
- AML with other *MECOM* rearrangements*** ≥10%
- AML with other rare recurring translocations (see Supplemental Table 5) ≥10%
- AML with t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2)/BCR::ABL1[‡] ≥20%
- AML with mutated NPM1 ≥10%
- AML with in-frame bZIP CEBPA mutations ≥10% ◆
- AML and MDS/AML with mutated TP53⁺ 10-19% (MDS/AML) and ≥20% (AML)
- AML and MDS/AML with myelodysplasia-related gene mutations 10-19% (MDS/AML) and ≥20% (AML)
 - Defined by mutations in ASXL1, BCOR, EZH2, RUNX1, SF3B1, SRSF2, STAG2, U2AF1, or ZRSR2
- AML with myelodysplasia-related cytogenetic abnormalities 10-19% (MDS/AML) and ≥20% (AML)
 - Defined by detecting a complex karyotype (≥3 unrelated clonal chromosomal abnormalities in the absence of other class-defining recurring genetic abnormalities), del(5q)/t(5q)/add(5q), -7/del(7q), +8, del(12p)/t(12p)/add(12p), i(17q), -17/add(17p) or del(17p), del(20q), and/or idic(X)(q13) clonal abnormalities
- AML not otherwise specified (NOS) 10-19% (MDS/AML) and ≥20% (AML)
- Myeloid Sarcoma

Arber DA, et al. International Consensus Classification of Myeloid Neoplasms and Acute Leukemia: Integrating Morphological, Clinical, and Genomic Data. Blood. 2022 Jun 29:blood.2022015850. doi: 10.1182/blood.2022015850.

Mutations and karyotype likely matter more than number of blasts

> Bacher U, et al. Prognosis in patients with MDS or AML and bone marrow blasts between 10% and 30% is not associated with blast counts but depends on cytogenetic and molecular genetic characteristics. Leukemia. 2011 Aug;25(8):1361-4. doi: 10.1038/leu.2011.80.

Prognosis: European Leukemia Net

Favorable: t(8;21), inv(16) – the CBF NPM1 and biallelic CEBPA

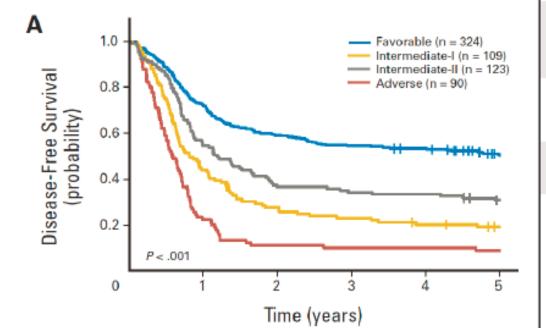


 Table 1. European LeukemiaNet Standardized Reporting System for Correlation of Cytogenetic and Molecular Genetic Data in AML With Clinical Data¹²

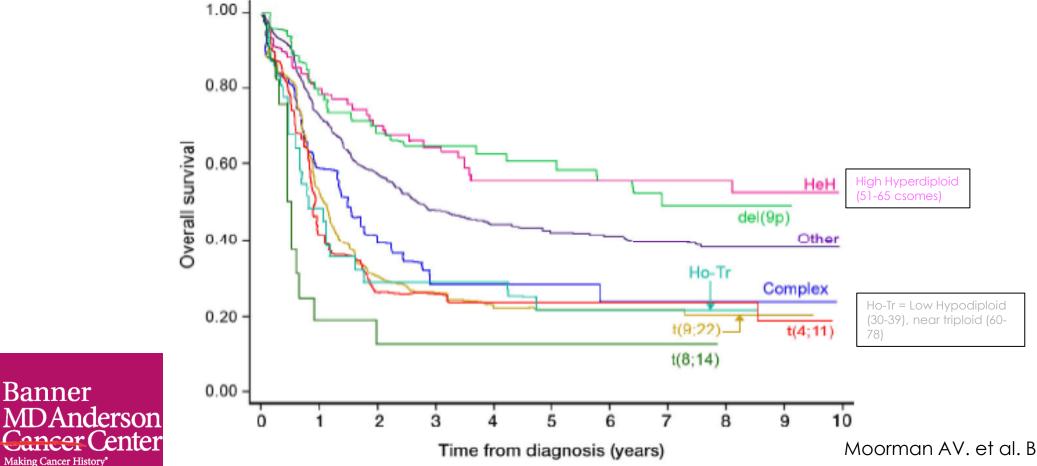
Genetic Group	Subsets
Favorable	t(8;21)(q22;q22); RUNX1-RUNX1T1 inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22); CBFB-MYH11 Mutated NPM1 without FLT3-ITD (normal karyotype) Mutated CEBPA (normal karyotype)
Intermediate-I	Mutated NPM1 and FLT3-ITD (normal karyotype) Wild-type NPM1 and FLT3-ITD (normal karyotype) Wild-type NPM1 without FLT3-ITD (normal karyotype)
Intermediate-II	t(9;11)(p22;q23); MLLT3-MLL Cytogenetic abnormalities not classified as favorable or adverse
Adverse	inv(3)(q21q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21;q26.2); <i>RPN1-EVI1</i> t(6;9)(p23;q34); <i>DEK-NUP214</i> t(v;11)(v;q23); <i>MLL</i> rearranged -5 or del(5q) -7 abnl(17p) Complex karyotype*

Abbreviations: AML, acute myeloid leukemia; ITD, internal tandem duplication. *Complex karyotype is defined as three or more chromosome abnormalities in the absence of one of the WHO designated recurring translocations or inversions: t(8;21), inv(16) or t(16;16), t(15;17), t(9;11), t(v;11)(v;q23), t(6;9), inv(3) or t(3;3).

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Mrózek K, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2012 Dec 20;30(36):4515-23. doi: 10.1200/JCO.2012.43.4738.

Survival by Cytogenetic Subgroup in ALL: MRC UKALL XII/ECOG 2993



Moorman AV. et al. Blood 2007. 109:3189

Not quite Philly

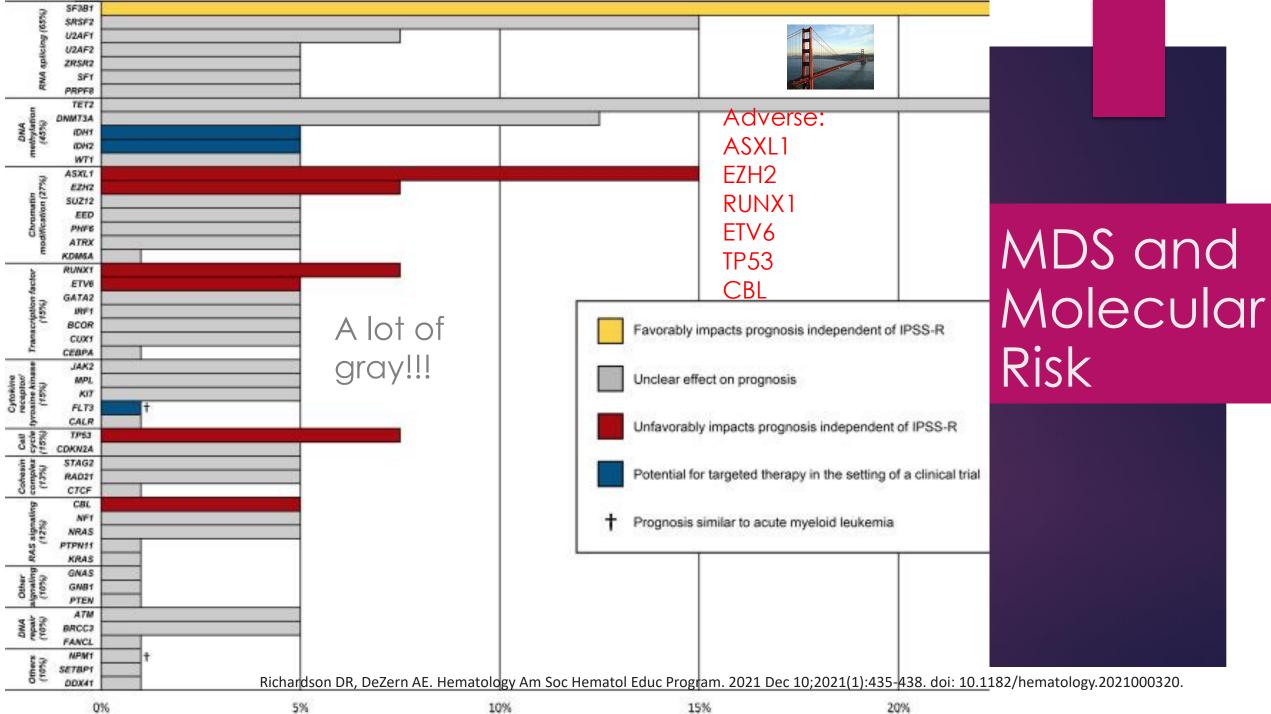
'Ph-like' ALL (25% of AYA ALL)

- Cytokine receptor-like factor 2 (*CRLF2*) gene (most common at 35-75% of Ph-Like)
- V-abl Abelson murine leukemia (ABL)
- Viral oncogene homolog gene-class fusions (ABL1, ABL2, CSF1R, PDGFRB, PDGFRA),
- Janus kinase 2 (*JAK2*) gene,
- Erythropoietin receptor (EPOR) gene rearrangements, JAK/STAT-activating aberrations,
- Ras pathway mutations (KRAS, NRAS, NF1, PTPN11),
- ▶ other fusions (*NTRK3*, *PTK2B*, *BLNK*, *FLT3*)

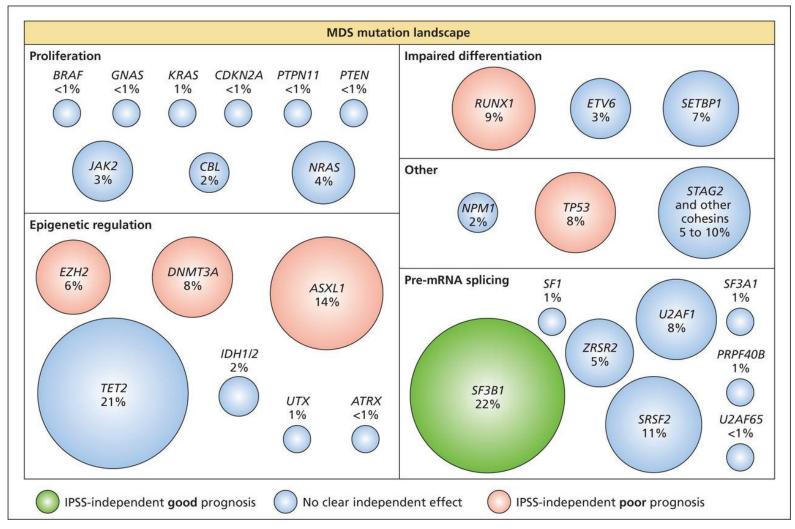
Rocky, in Philly – does a lot of **CRL**s

Ph-Like: More likely to have MRD and require Allo SCT

Płotka A, Lewandowski K. BCR/ABL1-Like Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia: From Diagnostic Approaches to Molecularly Targeted Therapy. Acta Haematol. 2022;145(2):122-131. doi: 10.1159/000519782.



Recurrent somatic mutations in MDS, including approximate frequency of the most common recurrent somatic mutations in MDS and their prognostic significance.

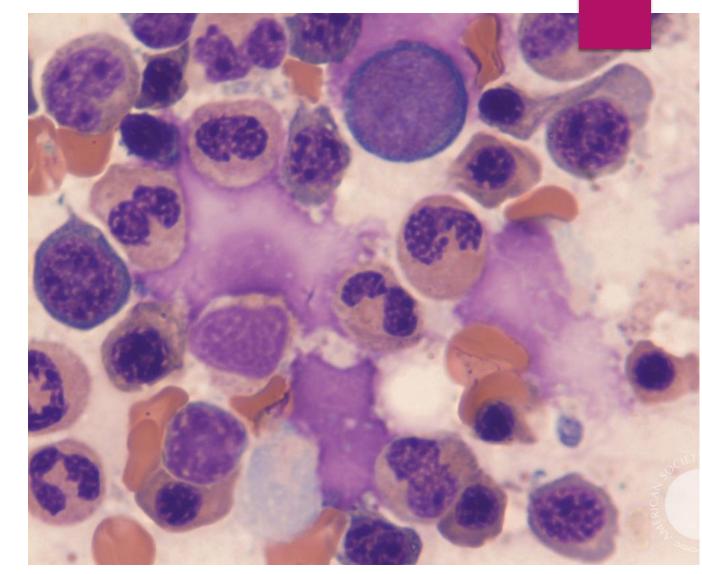


Phillip Scheinberg et al. ASH 2016;2016:489-520



Morphology Still Matters!

- MDS changes in marrow with a mutation: Risk stratify
- Mutations without MDS changes: CCUS/CHIP
- Cytopenias without mutations or MDS changes: ICUS



ASH #61623



What about MRD?

Nazaré, Portugal

Summary of European Leukemia Network Molecular MRD **Recommendations**

- MRD assessment should reach a level of detection (LOD) of 10⁻³ or lower (first pull on marrow is optimal)
- Leukemia-specific PCRs (NPM1, PML/RARa, CBF/MYH are preferred over less-specific (WT1, EVI1)

If NGS is used for MRD, emerging variants not present at diagnosis should be reported
only if significantly above background noise

Heuser Blood 2021. 138(26): 2753-2767.
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Log Reduction	Percent Reduction	Exponent
1 Log	90% (10% left)	10-1
2 Log	99% (1% left)	10-2
3 Log	99.9% (0.1% left)	10-3
4 Log	99.99% (0.01% left)	10-4

el of evidence

Summary of European Leukemia Network Molecular MRD Recommendations

- MRD assessment should reach a level of detection (LOD) of 10⁻³ or lower (first pull on marrow is optimal)
- Leukemia-specific PCRs (NPM1, PML/RARa, CBF/MYH are preferred over less-specific (WT1, EVI1)
- ▶ If NGS is used for MRD, emerging variants not present at diagnosis should be reported only if significantly above background noise

Using NGS as MRD, consider all mutations as potential MRD markers except:

- ▶ Germline mutations (~50%) should not be used
- DTA mutations (DNMT3A, TET2, ASXL1) should be excluded as CHIP related (NEJM 2018; 378:1189-1199)

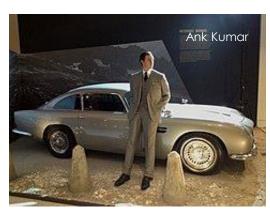
el of evidence

- Signaling pathway mutations (FLT3, KIT, KRAS, NRAS): low negative predictive value
- Patients treated with targeted agents (FLT3i, IDHi) should include the target and other mutations present at baseline

Heuser Blood 2021. 138(26): 2753-2767.

Quant PCR in AML

- NPM1 mutated AML
- Send PCR in peripheral blood after 2 cycles of chemotherapy (Ivey et al. NEJM 2016)
- Send PCR from marrow at end of consolidation
- Send from marrow or blood regularly during follow up (q3m in marrow, q6weeks PB) x 2 years
- CBF AML (inv 16 = CBF/mYH PCR)
- Send from PB after 2 cycles
- Send BM at end of consolidation
- PB every 4-6 weeks x 2 years after consolidation



3 log reduction after 1st consolidation cycle Jourdan et al. Blood 2013. 121:2213

Aim for 007!

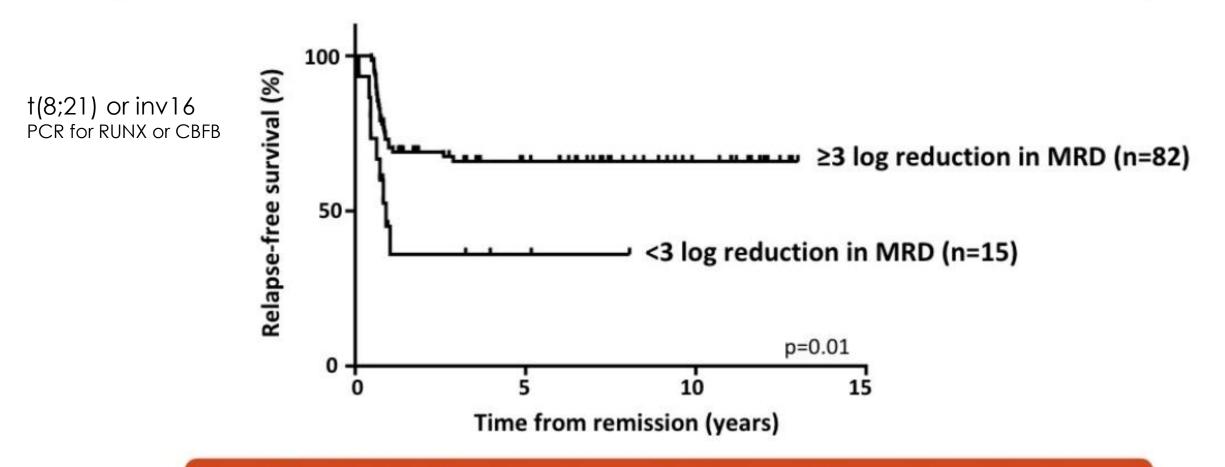
- APL
- Most important MRD end point is end of consolidation (often send between cycles 3 and 4 of ATO)
- End of induction marrow PCR may not reflect disease burden**

Heuser Blood 2021. 138(26): 2753-2767.

MRD monitoring of AML

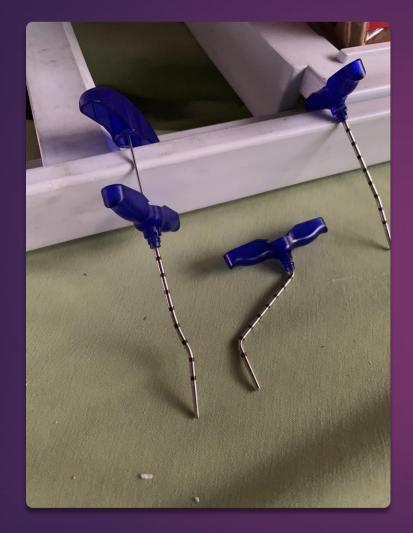
- Measure depth of response from initial therapy
- Risk stratify to direct use of consolidative Allo SCT
- Monitoring during maintenance/post SCT and end of therapy to predict relapse
- Use the most sensitive test
- Run MRD on first tube pulled from marrow

End of treatment MRD predicts risk of relapse



Higher risk of relapse in patients who did not achieve ≥3 log reduction in MRD transcripts at end of chemotherapy (60.0% vs 32.9%, p=0.046)

Puckrin et al. Abstract #113090



How can we improve treatment as a result of mutation identification?



On target Mutations help optimally treat AML

Current targeted medicines available:

- FLT3 + = midostaurin, gilteritinib
- ▶ IDH2 + = enasidenib
- IDH1 + = ivosidenib
- Many others in clinical trials
 - ► Magrolimab (?TP53)
 - Menin Inhibitors (KMT2A rear and NPM1)
 - MDM2 inhibitor

Stein, EM et al. Blood. 2017 Aug 10;130(6):722-731. Enasidenib in mutant IDH2 relapsed or refractory acute myeloid leukemia.

<u>Stone, RM et al. N Engl J Med.</u> 2017 Aug 3;377(5):454-464.

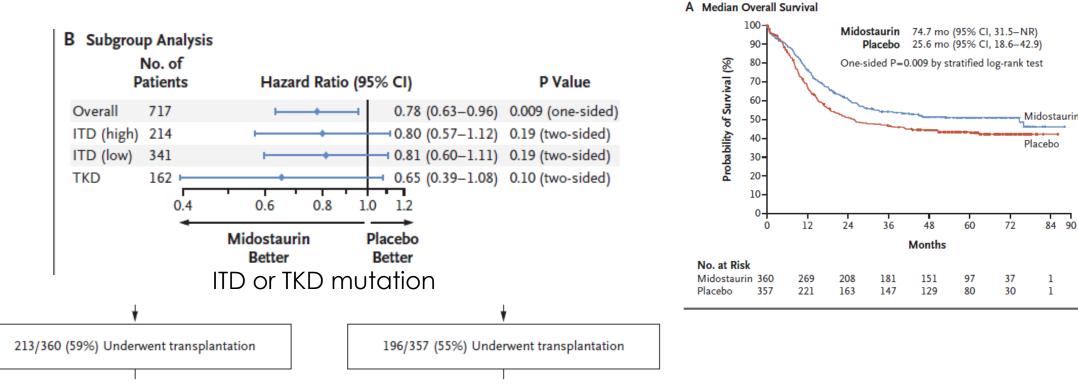
Midostaurin plus Chemotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia with a FLT3 Mutation.

FLT3 and Midostaurin in AML

Midostaurin plus Chemotherapy for Acute Myeloid Leukemia with a *FLT3* Mutation

R.M. Stone, S.J. Mandrekar, B.L. Sanford, K. Laumann, S. Geyer, C.D. Bloomfield,
C. Thiede, T.W. Prior, K. Döhner, G. Marcucci, F. Lo-Coco, R.B. Klisovic, A. Wei,
J. Sierra, M.A. Sanz, J.M. Brandwein, T. de Witte, D. Niederwieser, F.R. Appelbaum,
B.C. Medeiros, M.S. Tallman, J. Krauter, R.F. Schlenk, A. Ganser, H. Serve,
G. Ehninger, S. Amadori, R.A. Larson, and H. Döhner





Of randomized pts, 50-60% were transplanted in both groups

Stone et al. NEJM 2017. 377:454

IDH (isocitrate dehydrogenase)

- ▶ IDH2 mutation (R140) increases with age
- IDH2 mutations in 12% of AML (more in pts with normal karyotype)
- ▶ 10% with mutation in IDH1
- ► Can be seen in combination with NPM1 (except IDH2^{R172})
- ▶ IDH1 and IDH2 may identify patients likely to respond to Bcl2 inhibition
- R140 and R172 are positions within the active enzymatic site
 - Cause synthesis of 2-hydroxyglutarate (leads to histone hypermethylation) 'neomorphic activity' (alpha-ketoglutarate reduced to R-2-HG)
 - R-2-HG leads to <u>differentiation arrest</u> of hematopoietic cells

Dohner et al. NEJM 2015

DNA METHYLATION

TET2

TUMOR-SUPPRESSOR

GENES

PTEN

Block of degradation (e.g., MDM2)

TP53

TP53

Transcriptional

deregulation

Cofactor

Transcription

factor

IDH1 IDH2

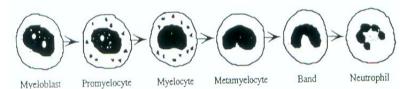
DNMT3





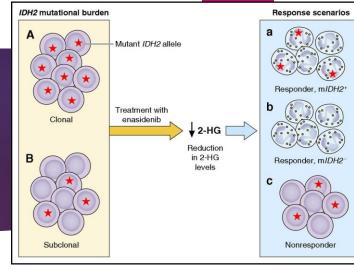
Enasidenib (AG-221)

- Phase I/II study; Relapsed/refractory AML
- ▶ N= 176, ≥18yo (Median 67yo (19-100yo); 43% normal karyotype
 - ▶ 53% with \geq 2 prior therapies
- 100mg PO daily (reduces 2-HG by >90% in serum) as monotherapy
 - 2-HG levels are not predictive of response, however
- ORR 40.3%, median response duration 5.8 months
 - ~50% achieved CR (Median OS 19m after CR)
- Efficacy is via differentiation of myeloblasts not cytotoxicity



Ivosidenib (AG-120) is an IDH1 mutant inhibitor

Stein, EM et al. Blood 2017. Epub

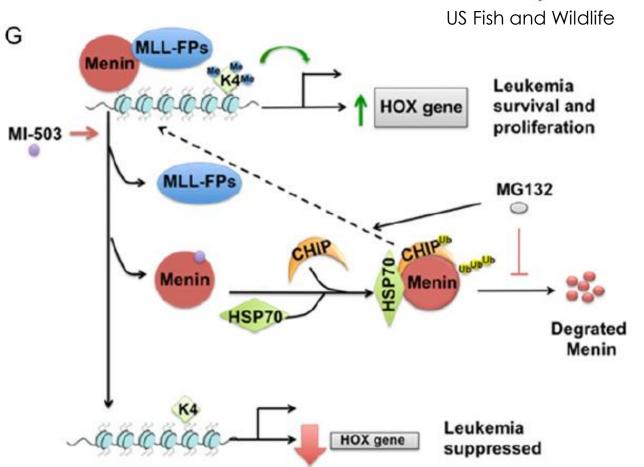


Wouters, B. Blood 2017

Hyperbilirubinemia138IDH differentiation syndrome117Anemia107Thrombocytopenia85TLS53	Adverse Event (Gd 3/4)	% pts
syndrome107Anemia107Thrombocytopenia85	Hyperbilirubinemia	8
Thrombocytopenia 8 5		7
	Anemia	7
TLS 5 3	Thrombocytopenia	5
	TLS	3
Anorexia 3 2	Anorexia	2
Leukocytosis 2 1	Leukocytosis	1
Fatigue 2 1	Fatigue	1

HOX-boxing leukemia cells, by Menin

- MLL translocations lead to fusions (MLL-FP) with >10 partner genes leading to chemoresistant features.
- The chimeric proteins form complexes that upregulate HOX and MEIS1 genes (that are leukemogenic)
- Menin is a key member of the complex and localizes it to the chromatin.
- NPM1 mutations lead to dysregulation of the interaction between wtMLL and menin.
- At BMDACC menin inhibitor trial open and enrolling
 - Differentiation syndrome seen



Wu Y et al. Disruption of the menin-MLL interaction triggers menin protein degradation via ubiquitinproteasome pathway. Am J Cancer Res 2019. 9(8):1682-1694





Questions?

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