Board Review- Part 2A: Malignant HemePath

2/2/2018
Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia,
bcr/abl1 pos
Morphology-Chronic Phase

Peripheral blood

➢ Leukocytosis (median 100k/µL), due mainly to neutrophils (peak in myelocytes and PMNs); no significant dysplasia; blasts <2%

➢ Basophilia: invariably present; and eosinophilia

➢ Monocytes: can be increased in absolute numbers, but usually <3%

➢ Thrombocytosis common, thrombocytopenia rare
Peripheral Blood
BM: hypercellular

BM: increased immature cells

Paratrabecular cuff: 5-10 cells thick (normal 2-3)
BM: small megakaryocytes
BM: pseudo-Gaucher cells
Morphology-Accelerated Phase  
(any one of these criteria)

- Blasts 10-19% in PB or BM
- Basophils ≥20% in PB
- Plt <100k, unrelated to therapy
- Plt >1,000k, despite therapy
- Increasing WBC count and spleen size, unresponsive to therapy
- Evidence of clonal evolution (extra Ph, +8, +19, or i(17q))
Accelerated phase
Morphology- Blast Phase

- >20% blasts in PB or BM
- Extramedullary proliferation of blasts
- Large aggregates and clusters in BM bx

(acute leukemia: myeloid: 70%; lymphoid: 20-30%)
Myeloid blast phase
Lymphoid blast phase
Genetics/Molecular

- Ph: 90-95%
- Cryptic t(9:22) -> use PCR, RT-PCR, FISH
- BCR/ABL
  - M-bcr, p210, CML (almost always)
  - μ-bcr, p230, CML (rare), prominent neutrophilic maturation
  - m-bcr, p190, ALL, CML (rare)
    (p190: small amount in >90% of CML due to alternative splicing)
- AP or BP: additional cytogenetic changes in 80%: extra Ph, +8, or i(17q)
FISH for bcr-ABL1

Bcr probe: green
Abl1 probe: red

Bcr-ABL1 fusion: green + red -> yellow
Prognosis and Predictive Features

➢ Natural history: chronic phase -> AP and/or BP
➢ Median survival: 6 yrs with previous conventional therapy
➢ Prognostic parameters: age, spleen, blasts, basophil count, fibrosis
➢ STI517 (Gleevec): tyrosine kinase inhibitor yields 89-95% progression free survival in 5 yrs. Complete cytogenetic response of 70-90%
Gleevec: inhibitor of Tyrosin Kinase bcr-abl1

Phosphorylate Tyrosine on substrate

STI lacks phosphate groups
Loss of response/resistance to Imatinib

- Due to emergence of subclones of leukemic cells with point mutations that prevent binding of Imatinib to bcr-abl1
- Increase dose
- Consider alternate treatment: Desatinib, Nilotinib
- Consider stem cell transplant
Polycthemia Vera
WHO MAJOR CRITERIA

1. Hb >18.5g/dL in men and >16.5g/dL in women
2. Presence of JAK2 V617F or JAK2 Exon 12 mutation
WHO MINOR CRITERIA

- BM with panmyelosis (erythroid, granulocytic, and megakaryocytic hyperplasia)
- Low serum erythropoietin level
- Endogenous erythroid colony formation in vitro
Diagnosis of Polycythemia Vera

- Two major (1 and 2) and one minor, or
- First major (1) and two minor.
Polycythemia Vera
Clinical Signs and Symptoms

• Plethora, headache, dyspnea or orthopnea, eye complaints
• Epigastric discomfort – risk of Budd-Chiari syndrome
• Abnormal blood flow: MI, stroke
Polycythemia Stage

- Normoblastic erythroid proliferation in BM
- Normochromic, normocytic RBCs in PB
- If bleeding or phlebotomy-> RBCs hypochromic and microcytic
- Neutrophilia
- Basophilia
- Thrombocytosis (50%)
Polycythemia Stage

Megakaryocytes

- Increased, clustered (parasinusoidal and paratrabecular); sinusoids dilated
- Pleomorphic, nuclear hyperlobulation but not dysplastic
- No stainable iron in 95%
Spent Phase - Post-Polycythemic Myelofibrosis and Myeloid Metaplasia

- Red cell mass decreases
- BM cellularity decreases
- BM fibrosis (reticulin and collagen increased)
- Splenomegaly – with extramedullary hematopoiesis
Genetics

- Specific defects in only 20%
- +8, +9, del 20q, del 13q, del 1p
- No Philadelphia chromosome or BCR/ABL fusion gene
- Genetic defects increase during progression to MDS or AML
Prognosis

- Without therapy -> survival a few months
- With therapy survival -> survival >10 years
- Death due to thrombosis or hemorrhage
- MDS or AML in only 2% treated with non-cytotoxic agents
- MDS or AML in 10-20% treated with cytotoxic agents
Essential Thrombocythemia
Diagnostic criteria

Positive criteria (need all 4)

- Platelets $>450 \times 10^9/L$
- BM: proliferation of enlarged, mature megakaryocytes
- Not meeting criteria for: PV, primary myelofibrosis, CML, MDS, or other myeloid neoplasms
- JAK2 V617F pos, if negative-> no reactive thrombocytosis
Morphology Bone Marrow

- Normocellular or mildly hypercellular
- Giant megakaryocytes, clustered or scattered, with abundant mature cytoplasm, hyperlobulated nuclei
- Reticulin not increased
Genetics

- Only 5-10% with abnormal karyotype
- del (13q22), +8, +9
Prognosis and Predictive Factors

- 10-15 year survival common
- Splenectomy worsens survival (sequestration reservoir is eliminated and Plts increase)
- Transformation to MDS and AML in <5% and usually therapy-related
- Fibrosis may increase (DDX: Primary myelofibrosis)
Primary Myelofibrosis
PM

- Megakaryocytic proliferation with atypia, with bone marrow fibrosis (reticulin and/or collagen)
- Not meeting criteria for P. vera, CML, MDS, or other myeloid neoplasms
- JAK2 V617F or MPL W515K/L; in the absence of mutations-> no evidence of myelofibrosis due to other etologies
PM

- Initial prefibrotic stage - hypercellular bone marrow
- Fibrotic stage with leukoerythroblastic peripheral blood
- Hepatosplenomegaly with extramedullary hematopoiesis
Prefibrotic (Cellular) Stage

- Megakaryocytes large and dysplastic: “Cloud-like” or “balloon-like” lobulation of megakaryocytic nuclei
- Reticulin minimal or variable
- Blasts not increased
Fibrotic Stage

- Most diagnosed in this stage (70-80%)
- Splenomegaly and hepatomegaly
- Extramedullary hematopoiesis
- Leukoerythroblastic peripheral blood smear with “tear-drop” RBCs and nucleated RBCs; later leukopenia
- Bone marrow fibrosis (reticulin increased)
- Dilatated marrow sinuses with intrasinusoidal hematopoiesis
Primary Myelofibrosis

Peripheral blood smear

Teardrop cells
Reticulin stain
Cytogenetic abnormalities in 60%
None specific for PM
No Philadelphia chromosome or BCR/ABL fusion gene
13q, del(20q), partial trisomy 1q most common
Prognosis

- Survival range: months to decades
- Median survival: 3 to 5 years from Dx
- Adverse factors: >70 years, Hb <10g/dL, platelets <100 x 10^6/L, granulocytic immaturity, abnormal karyotypes
- Acute leukemia: 5-30% (some, but not all, may be cytotoxic therapy-related)
Prognosis

- Acute leukemia: 5-30%
- Some, but not all, may be cytotoxic therapy-related
Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia (CMML)
CMML: Diagnostic criteria

- Persistent monocytosis (>1 x 10^9/L) in PB
- No Ph or Bcr/Abl
- <20% blasts in PB or BM, 20% may include:
  - Myeloblasts
  - Monoblasts
  - Promonocytes
- May have dysplasia in one or more myeloid lineages (not necessary)
CMML: Diagnostic criteria

If dysplasia is minimal or absent, CMML can be diagnosed if:
- Monoclonal cytogenetic abnormality in marrow cells, or
- Monocytosis persistent for at least 3 mo, and
- All other causes of monocytosis are excluded
CMML: Clinical features

- In about 50%
  - WBC count normal or slightly decreased
  - MDS-like picture
- In about 50%
  - WBC count increased
  - MPN-like picture
CMML

- 50% of cases:↑ WBC with minimal dysgranulopoiesis
- 50% of cases: Normal WBC with absolute monocytosis, neutropenia and dysgranulopoiesis.

Degree of leukocytosis, neutrophilia and dysplasia is variable.
CMML: BM Morphology

- Hypercellular in >75% of cases
- Granulocytic proliferation
- Monocytic proliferation: positive for these non-specific esterases (NSE)
  - Alpha naphthyl acetate esterase
  - Alpha naphthyl butyrate esterase
CMML: BM Morphology
Butyrate
CMML: Classification

- CMML-1
  - PB blasts <5% of WBC and <10% of nucleated BM cells

- CMML-2
  - PB blasts 5-19% or BM blasts 10-19% or with Auer rods
  - May be at risk of rapid transformation to acute leukemia and poor prognosis

- AML
  - PB and/or BM blasts 20% or more
CMML: Immunophenotype

- CD33/13 (+), variable CD14/64/68
- Increased percentage of CD34(+) cells may be associated with early transformation to acute leukemia
- Plasmacytoid dendritic cells present
  - Characteristic phenotype: CD123/4/56/14/43/68
  - CD2/5 often present
CMML: Genetics

- Nonspecific cytogenetic abnormalities in 20-40%
  - +8
  - -7/del (7q)
  - Structural abnormalities of 12p
  - Abnormalities of 11q23 uncommon -> suggest acute leukemia
- i(17q)
  - More aggressive course
- RAS point mutations (40%)
CMML: prognosis/predictive factors

Prognosis
- Median survival 20-40 months
- 15-30% progress to acute leukemia

Predictive factors
- PB and BM blast percentage (most important factor)
- Splenomegaly
- Severity of anemia
- Degree of leukocytosis
Myelodysplastic Syndromes
Introduction

General:
- Stem cell disorder
- Dysplasia
- Ineffective hematopoiesis
- Blasts <20% in blood and BM
- Median age: 70 y/o
- Incidence: 3-5/100,000
Morphology

- Dyserythropoiesis
- Dysgranulopoiesis
- Megakaryocyte dysplasia
- BM: hypercellular (sometimes normal, or hypocellular)
- BM bx may have abnormal localization of immature precursors (ALIP): 5-8 immature cell cluster, 3 or more ALIPs per section -> (+); recheck smear and BM, note in report.
Dyserythropoiesis, Bone marrow aspirate
Dysgranulopoiesis

Circulating pseudo-Pelger-Huet neutrophils, with hypogranular cytoplasm, bilobed 'spectacle' nuclei, Blood smear
Dysplastic megakaryocytes, Bone marrow aspirate
International Prognostic Scoring System for MDS
(International MDS Working Group)

- **Blast count**
- **Karyotype:**
  - good: normal, -Y, -5q, -20q
  - poor: >=3 chromosomal abnormalities, chromosome 7
  - intermediate: others
- **Cytopenias**: Hb < 10 g/dL; N < 1,800 /mL; Plt < 100k /mL
- **Scores** (high means worse prognosis):
  - Low: 0
  - Int-1: 0.5-1
  - Int-2: 1.5-2
  - High: >= 2.5
## Recurrent Chromosomal Abnormalities in MDS

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<tr>
<td>-7 or del(7q)</td>
<td>t(11;16)</td>
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<td>-5 or del(5q)</td>
<td>t(3;21)</td>
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<tr>
<td>i(17q) or t(17p)</td>
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<td>t(6;9)</td>
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<td>del(9q)</td>
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Chromosomal Abnormalities Not Considered as Definitive in MDS

- +8
- del(20q)
- -Y
Refractory Anaemia (RA)

- Definition: unequivocal dyserythropoiesis
- Exclude: drug, toxin, viral, immunologic, congenital disorders, Vitamin (B12, folate) deficiency
- Blasts:
  - Blood<1%
  - BM<5%
Refractory Neutropenia (RN)

- **Definition:** >10% dysplastic neutrophils in PB or BM. Other cell lines show minimal dysplasia
- **Blasts:**
  - Blood<1%
  - BM<5%
- **Exclude:** drug, toxin, viral, immunologic disorders
- **Data on genetics and prognosis are insufficient**
Refractory Thrombocytopenia (RT)

- Definition: >10% dysplastic megakaryocytes in BM. Other cell lines show minimal dysplasia
- Blasts:
  - Blood<1%
  - BM<5%
- Exclude: drug, toxin, viral, immunologic disorders
- Data on genetics and prognosis are insufficient
Refractory anaemia with ring-sideroblasts (RARS)

- **Definition:**
  - RA plus presence of ring-sideroblasts (RS) in >15% of erythroid precursors
  - RS:
    - >=5 siderotic granules;
    - >=1/3 of nuclear circumference
  - Blasts in BM <5%
  - Rule out: antituberculosis (Isoniazid), alcoholism, congenital disorder (sideroblastic anemia), chemical exposure (lead, benzene)
Refractory anaemia with ringed sideroblasts (RARS)

PB: Dimorphic RBCs

BM: Erythroid hyperplasia

BM: Ring-sideroblasts
RCMD

- Morphology
  - Dysplastic changes in \( \geq 10\% \) of the cells in \( \geq 2 \) myeloid cell lines
  - Neutrophils may show
    - Hypogranulation and/or hypossegmentation
  - Erythroids may show
    - Cytoplasmic vacuoles
    - Marked nuclear irregularity
  - Blasts <5%
  - If RS\( \geq 15\% \) -> RCMD with RS
RCMD

- Genetics: up to 50% (-20q, +8, abnormality 5, 7, complex karyotypes)
- Median survival: 30 months, 10% transformed to AML in 2 yrs
RCMD: Bone marrow aspirate

Multilineage dysplasia:
Erythroid dysplasia
Neutrophils with hypolobulated nuclei
Refractory Anemia with Excess Blasts (RAEB)

- **Subtypes:**
  - RAEB-1, Blasts: <5% (blood) or 5-9% (BM)
  - RAEB-2, Blasts: 5-19% (blood) or 10-19% (BM)

***RAEB-1 and myeloblasts with auer rods should be upgraded to RAEB-2***
RAEB-1, bone marrow
RAEB-2

Two myeloblasts, one with an Auer rod, and a quadrinucleate normoblast
Abnormal localization of immature precursors (ALIP):
Immature myeloid cell clusters (5-8 cells) present in central portion of marrow away from usual locations (paratrabecular or perivascular) three or more clusters/section
ALIP

- Frequently present in RAEB
- Associated with rapid evolution to AML
- If found in other subtypes, blast count in aspirate may have been inaccurate
  - Re-evaluate
    - Peripheral blood smear
    - Bone marrow aspirate smear
RAEB

- Genetics: 30-50%, including +8, -5, del(5q), -7, del(7q), del(20q), or complex karyotypes
- Median survival:
  - RAEB-1: 16 months
  - RAEB-2: 9 months
Myelodysplastic syndrome with isolated del (5q)

- A myelodysplastic syndrome a/w an isolated del(5q)
- <5% blasts in PB and BM
Myelodysplastic syndrome with isolated del (5q)

- Clinical features
  - Refractory anemia, severe (accounts for most common symptoms)
  - Significant increase in platelet count, occasionally normal
Myelodysplastic syndrome with isolated del (5q)

- **BM Morphology**
  - Normocellular or hypercellular
  - Megakaryocyte number increase (or normal), many hypolobated
  - Variable degree of erythroid dysplasia
  - <5% blasts
  - Scattered aggregates of small lymphocytes
Myelodysplastic syndrome with isolated del (5q)

- Genetics
  - Del(5q), between bands q31 and q33
  - Break points and size of deletion are variable
  - No other cytogenetic abnormalities, by definition
Myelodysplastic syndrome with isolated del (5q)

- Prognosis and predictive factors
  - Long survival: median 145 months
  - Karyotypic evolution is uncommon (if additional cytogenetic abnormalities are found subsequently -> evolution to AML or higher grade MDS)
  - Significance of isolated del(5q) and >5% blasts is not clear
Numerous megakaryocytes of varying sizes with hypolobulated nuclei, bone marrow biopsy
Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and related neoplasms

- AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities
  - AML with t(8;21)(q22;q22.1);RUNX1-RUNX1T1
  - AML with inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22);CBFB-MYH11
  - APL with PML-RARA
  - AML with t(9;11)(p23.3;q23.3);MLLT3-KMT2A
  - AML with t(6;9)(p23;q34.1);DEK-NUP214
  - AML with inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2); GATA2, MECOM
  - AML (megakaryoblastic) with t(1;22)(p13.3;q13.3);RBM15-MKL1
- Provisional entity: AML with BCR-ABL1
- AML with mutated NPM1
- AML with biallelic mutations of CEBPA
- Provisional entity: AML with mutated RUNX1
- AML with myelodysplasia-related changes
- Therapy-related myeloid neoplasms
  - AML, NOS
  - AML with minimal differentiation
  - AML without maturation
  - AML with maturation
  - Acute myelomonocytic leukemia
  - Acute monoblastic/monocytic leukemia
  - Pure erythroid leukemia
  - Acute megakaryoblastic leukemia
  - Acute basophilic leukemia
  - Acute panmyelosis with myelofibrosis
  - Myeloid sarcoma
- Myeloid proliferations related to Down syndrome
  - Transient abnormal myelopoiesis (TAM)
  - Myeloid leukemia associated with Down syndrome
AML: Approach to Diagnosis

- Peripheral blood smear or bone marrow aspirate show leukemic promyelocytes -> acute promyelocytic leukemia (urgent treatment with ATRA)
- > 20% myeloblasts in BM (by flow cytometry) -> AML, NOS pending cytogenetics, FISH, and molecular studies
- Results of cytogenetics, FISH, and molecular studies at a later time -> may modify the AML diagnosis (AML with recurrent chromosomal abnormalities, AML with specific mutations)
AML, Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia, Minimally Differentiated (M0)

- No evidence of myeloid differentiation by morphology or light microscopy cytochemistry
- Myeloblast nature determined by immunologic markers and ultrastructural studies (ultrastructural cytochemistry)
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia, Minimally Differentiated (M0)

- No evidence of myeloid differentiation by morphology or light microscopy cytochemistry
- Myeloblast nature determined by immunologic markers and ultrastructural studies (ultrastructural cytochemistry)
- Not typically seen with current flow cytometry availability
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia, Minimally Differentiated

Cytochemistry

- Myeloperoxidase (MPO), Sudan Black B (SBB), and naphthol ASD chloroacetate esterase cytochemical stains are all negative (less than 3% positivity in all blasts)
AML M0

Negative MPO
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia, Minimally Differentiated

**Immunophenotype**

- Negative for myelomonocytic differentiation markers (CD11b, CD15, CD14, CD65)
- CD7, CD2, CD19 occasionally weakly positive (lymphoid differentiation)
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia, Minimally Differentiated

Genetics

- None specific
- Complex karyotypes, trisomy 13, trisomy 8, trisomy 4, monosomy 7
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia without Maturation (M1)

- No maturation (<10% granulocytic elements beyond myeloblasts)
- MPO or SBB positivity >3% of blasts
- Auer rods may be present
AML, M1
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia without Maturation

**Immunophenotype**

- CD13+, CD33+, CD117+, MPO+ (at least 2 of these myelomonocytic markers)
- CD11b-, CD14- (monocytic markers)
- CD3-, CD20-, CD79a- (lymphoid markers)
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia without Maturation

Genetics

- No specific chromosome abnormalities
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia with Maturation (M2)

- Granulocytic elements (beyond myeloblasts) at least 10% of bone marrow cells
- Monocytic elements <20% of bone marrow cells
M2 morphology
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia with Maturation

**Immunophenotype**

- CD13+, CD33+, CD15+
- Often CD34+, CD117+, HLA-DR+
Acute Myeloblastic Leukemia with Maturation

Genetics

- No specific findings
- $t(8;16)(p11;p13)$ associated with erythrophagocytosis
  [may be also in M5]
Acute myelomonocytic leukemia, AMML (M4)

- Blasts at least 20% (incl promonocytes)
- Monocytic elements 20%-80% of non-erythroid cells in bone marrow (if <20% but circulating monocytes at least 5 x 10^9/L, diagnosis is still AMML)
Morphology

- Monoblasts – round nuclei, lacy chromatin, one or more prominent nuclei. Abundant basophilic cytoplasm. Pseudopods. Some granules and vacuoles.

Monoblasts
Promonocytes
AMML

Morphology

- MPO+ (at least 3% of blasts)
- Monocytic elements: positive non-specific esterase
Butyrate
(non-specific esterase)
AMML

Immunophenotype

- CD13+, CD33+ (myeloid)
- CD14+, CD4+, CD11b+, CD11c+, CD64+, CD36+, lysozyme+ (monocytic)
AMML

Genetics

- Non-specific
- [Specific abnormalities are under AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities, such as inv(16) ]
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia (M5a/M5b)

- At least 80% of non-erythroid cells are monoblasts, promonocytes, and monocytes
- Promonocytes are blast equivalents
- Granulocytic elements <20%
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia

- Acute monoblastic leukemia – at least 80% monoblasts
- Acute monocytic leukemia – less than 80% monoblasts
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia

- Bleeding disorders most common presentation
- Cutaneous and gingival infiltration
- CNS involvement
- Extramedullary masses
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia

- Non-specific esterase activity strongly positive (but weak or even negative in 20%)
- MPO negative (promonocytes may have some positivity)
Acute Monoblastic Leukemia
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia

**Immunophenotype**

- CD13+, CD33+, CD117+, (variable myeloid)
- CD14+, CD4+, CD11b+, CD11c+, CD64+, CD68+, CD36+, lysozyme+ (monocytic)
- CD34 usually negative
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia

Genetics

- No specific finding
- [Abnormalities of 11q23 with acute monoblastic leukemia: included in AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities]
Acute Monoblastic/Monocytic Leukemia

Genetics

- \( t(8;16)(p11;p13) \) associated with acute monocytic leukemia, erythrophagocytosis by leukemic cells [may be also in AML-M2]
Acute Erythroid Leukemia (M6) aka Pure Erythroid Leukemia

Definition
- Acute leukemia characterized by predominant erythroid population
- >80% immature erythroid precursors with >30% promonoblasts
Acute Erythroid Leukemia do not include:

- AML, NOS
  - ≥50% erythroid precursors in BM
  - ≥20% myeloblasts in BM
- MDS
  - ≥50% erythroid precursors in BM
  - <20% myeloblasts in BM

[These cases may have been included under WHO 2008 as AML-M6, with myeloblasts as % of non-erythroid cells]
Acute Erythroleukemia

Morphology
- BM
  - Hypercellular
  - Megakaryocytic dysplasia
- Erythroid
  - All stages with left shift
  - Frequent dysplasia
    - megaloblastoid nuclei
    - multinucleated forms
- Cytoplasmic vacuoles
- Myeloblasts (very few)
  - Similar to those in AML M1 or M2
Acute Erythroleukemia

- Immunophenotype
  - Erythroid
    - MPO negative
    - Glycophorin A, hemoglobin A positive
  - Myeloblasts (very few)
    - CD13, CD33, CD117, MPO, +/-CD34 and HLA-DR
Acute Erythroid Leukemia

**Morphology**
- Medium to large-sized erythroblasts with round nuclei, fine chromatin and one or more nucleoli
- Deeply basophilic cytoplasm, agranular and often vacuolated
Acute Erythroid Leukemia

Cytochemistry

- PAS positive vacuoles
- MPO negative
- Alpha-naphthyl acetate esterase (NSE) and acid phosphatase positive

EM

- Free ferritin particles or siderosomes (heavily iron-laden lysosomes)
Acute Erythroid Leukemia

Genetics
- No specific chromosome abnormality
- Complex karyotypes common
  - Chromosomes 5 and 7 frequently affected
Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia (M7)

- **Definition**
  - Acute leukemia in which $\geq 50\%$ of the blasts are megakaryocytic lineage

- **Epidemiology**
  - Adults and children
  - 3-5% of AML
Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia

- Morphology
  - Megakaryoblast
    - Medium to large size
    - Round, slightly irregular nucleus
    - Fine reticular chromatin
    - One to three nucleoli
    - Basophilic cytoplasm
      - Agranular
      - Bleb or pseudopod formation
  - Blasts may occasionally be small resembling lymphoblasts

- images of cells showing typical morphology
Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia

- Immunophenotype
  - Platelet glycoproteins
    - CD41, CD61 (cytoplasmic more sensitive)
    - CD42 less frequent
  - Factor VIII
  - Myeloid markers
    - CD13 and CD33 often positive
    - MPO, CD34, CD45 and HLA-DR often negative
  - CD36 pos
  - Lymphoid marker
    - Aberrant CD7
Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia

- Genetics
  - No unique chromosomal abnormality in adults
  - Young men with germ cell tumors i(12p)
- Cell of origin
  - Precursor committed to the megakaryocytic lineage

Isochromosome (12p): unbalanced structural abnormality in which the arms of the chromosome 12 are mirror images of each other (12p).
Acute Myeloid Leukemia with Recurrent Cytogenetic Abnormalities
Acute Myeloid Leukemia with recurrent cytogenetic abnormalities t(8;21)(q22;q22) RUNX1-RUNX1T1

- 5-12% of all AMLs, 1/3 of AML-M2 cases
- May present with myeloid sarcoma
- Bone marrow blasts may be less than 20%
- Blasts may be pos for CD19 and CD56
- Good prognosis with high dose of Cytarabin (except for cases with KIT mutation)
Acute Myeloid Leukemia with recurrent cytogenetic abnormalities \( t(8;21)(q22;q22) \)
Acute Myeloid leukemia with
inv(16)(p13q22) or t(16;16)(p13;q22) ;
(CBFB/MYH11)

- Typically AML-M4e plus chromosome abnormality
  (occasional cases not AML-M4e)
- High complete remission rate with long term
disease-free survival with high dose of Cytarabin
  (except for cases with KIT mutation)
Acute Myeloid Leukemia with inv(16)(p13q22): Morphology and cytochemistry

Peripheral Blood: eosinophils not increased

BM: hypercellular, >20% blasts
(may be lower than 20% in some cases)
- Most striking abnormality:
  - eosinophils: immature granules, purple-violet in color,
  - obscure cell morphology
- Auer rods may be seen
- 3% or more blasts with MPO+
- NSE+
- Neutrophils: sparse
Acute Myeloid Leukemia with
inv(16)(p13q22)
Acute Myeloid Leukemia with inv(16)(p13q22)
Acute promyelocytic leukemia
t(15;17)(q22;q21) (PML/RARA)

Epidemiology:
- 5-8% AML; age: mid life
- Typical hypergranular and microgranular (hypogranular) APL: both with high risk for DIC
- Microgranular APL: high WBC with numerous promyelocytes
- Basophilic cytoplasm of APL cells in patients previously treated with ATRA (relapse)
- Excellent response to ATRA, arsenic trioxide
- Many case are FLT3-ITD pos without adverse impact
Acute promyelocytic leukemia, 
\( t(15;17)(q22;q21) \) (PML/RARA)

**Morphology and cytochemistry**
- Hypergranular APL: kidney-shaped, bilobed, dense large granules; “Faggot” cells: bundles of Auer rods
  - MPO: (++)
- Microgranular (hypogranular): bilobed promyelocytes, MPO(++) vs (- or + in monocytes of AMML)
- BM: hypercellular, abundant cytoplasm, convoluted nuclei
Acute promyelocytic leukemia, 
t(15;17)(q22;q21) (PML/RARα)

Hypergranular

Hypogranular
Acute promyelocytic leukemia, 
t(15;17)(q22;q21) (PML/RARa)

**Immunophenotype:**
CD33, homogenous, bright
CD13, heterogeneous
CD34(-)
HLA-DR(-)
CD15(-)
-Frequent CD2 and CD9 co-expression
-PML Ab stain (Immunocytochemistry): nuclear multigranular vs speckled in normal promyelocytes or other blasts of AMLs
Acute promyelocytic leukemia

Variant RARA translocations
-t(11;17)(q23;q12), ZBTB16 on chr11; several cases reported, no Auer rods, regular nuclei, pseudo Pelger-Huet, resistant to ATRA

-t(5;17)(q35;q12), NPM1 on chr 5; no Auer rods, respond to ATRA

-t(11;17)(q13;q21), NUMA on chr 11
Acute promyelocytic leukemia

Genetics:

t (15;17) (q22;q21)
Acute myeloid leukemia with 11q23 (MLL) abnormalities

- Typically AML, with monocytic / myelomonocytic feature (M4, M5), occasionally M1, M2
- Epidemiology: 5-6% of AML, more in children

[ Previous therapy, topoisomerase II inhibitors
->t-AML
Previous MDS-> AML with myelodysplasia-related changes]
Acute myeloid leukemia with 11q23 (MLL) abnormalities

Immunophenotype:

- Myeloid: CD13, CD33(+)
- Monocytic: CD14, CD4, CD11b, CD11c, CD64, CD36, Lysozyme(+)
- CD34(-)
Acute myeloid leukemia with 11q23 (MLL) abnormalities

Genetics:
- Human homolog of Drosophila trithorax gene, (MLL) at band 11q23
- More than 80 different partners for 11q,
- t(9;11): intermediate survival, superior to other 11q translocations, such as t(9;19) etc.
Acute myeloid leukemia with other recurrent chromosomal abnormalities

- inv(3)(q21;q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21;q26.2), a/w thrombocytosis (22% of patients), multilineage dysplasia, poor prognosis
- t(1;22)(p13q13): megakaryoblastic, children less than 3 y/o without Down syndrome, organomegaly, aggressive disease, may respond to intensive chemotherapy
- t(6;9)(p23;q34) (DEK/NUP214 fusion gene) a/w basophilia and multilineage dysplasia, poor prognosis
AML with Gene Mutations: FLT3

- FLT3: FMS-like tyrosine kinase-3, member of the class III receptor tyrosine kinase family
- Mutated gene leads to a constitutive activation of protein (leukemic transformation)
- FLT3-ITD Found in 28–34% of cytogenetically normal AML
- Associated significantly to worse clinical outcome
AML with Gene Mutations: NPM1

- **NPM1**: Nucleophosmin 1, nuclear protein with oncogenic and tumour-suppressive function
- Found in 25–35% of AML and predominantly in cytogenetically normal AML
- Associated to favorable prognosis (in absence of FLT3-ITD mutations)
AML with Gene Mutations: CEBPA

- **CEBPA**: CCAAT/enhancer-binding protein alpha, a transcription factor for differentiation of myeloid progenitors into neutrophils.
- Found predominantly in cytogenetically normal AML and in AML with 9q deletion.
- Associated with higher CR rate and better DFS and OS.
- Improved prognosis associated with AML with mutated CEBPA is associated with biallelic, but not single, mutations.
AML with BCR-ABL1

- A new provisional category of AML with BCR-ABL1 is added to recognize these rare de-novo AML cases that may benefit from TKI therapy.
- The diagnostic distinction between de novo AML with BCR-ABL1 and blast transformation of CML may be difficult without adequate clinical information.
AML with mutated RUNX1

- A provisional category of AML with mutated RUNX1 has been added to the classification for cases of de-novo AML with this mutation (i.e. not associated with MDS-related cytogenetic abnormalities).

- This new provisional disease category appears to represent a biologically distinct group with a possibly worse prognosis than other AML types.
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma

**Definition:** a neoplasm of lymphoblasts committed to the B-cell lineage.

-B-LBL: lymphoma mass, without or minimal blood and BM involvement
-B-ALL: lymphoblastic leukemia, extensive BM and blood involvement (>25% BM cells)
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

Clinical features:
-B-ALL: WBC decreased, normal or markedly elevated
  Anemia, thrombocytopenia
  Lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly
  Bone pain, arthralgias
-B-LBL: skin, bone, soft tissue, and lymph node
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
Bone Marrow

Bone marrow aspirate smear

Bone marrow biopsy
Lymphoblastic Lymphoma/Leukemia

Mediastinal mass: Lymphoblastic lymphoma

Peripheral blood: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

Cytochemical stains
TdT: positive
MPO, SBB: negative
PAS: nuclear is partially encircled by a rim of PAS reactivity
Precursor B-ALL

TdT
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

**Immunophenotype**
- TdT, HLA-DR
- CD19, CD79a, CD10, CD24
  - [Note that t(4;11)(q21;q23) cases are typically negative for CD10 and CD24]
- Variably positive for CD20 and CD22 (typically low)
- CD45 often negative
- Cytoplasmic Mu chain in pre-B ALL
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/ lymphoblastic lymphoma

**Genetics:**

- **t(9;22)(q34;q11.2)**
  - 3-4% of cases
  - in most childhood cases associated with a 190 kd BCR/ABL fusion tyrosin kinase
  - unfavorable prognosis (event-free survival was increased with Gleevec)

- **t(4;11)(q21;q23)**
  - associated with AF4/MLL
  - 2-3% of cases
  - unfavorable prognosis
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

**Genetics:**

- **t(1;19)(q23;p11.3)**
  - associated with PBX/E2A
  - 6% of cases (25% of pre-B ALL)
  - unfavorable prognosis (better now with intensive chemo)

- **t(12;21)(p13;q22)**
  - associated with TEL/AML1
  - not picked up with cytogenetics -> need FISH or PCR
  - 16-29% of cases
  - favorable prognosis
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

**Genetics:**

Hyperdiploidy (>50)
- 20-25% of cases
- favorable prognosis

Hypodiploidy (<50)
- 5% of cases
- unfavorable prognosis
Precursor B lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

**B-ALL:**
- Good prognosis in the pediatric group, 80% of patients cured
- Poorer prognosis in adult group with more unfavorable genetic results

**B-LBL:** median survival of 60 months
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma
**Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma**

**Definition**: a neoplasm of lymphoblasts committed to the T-cell lineage.

- **lymphoma**: mass, without or minimal blood and BM involvement
- **lymphoblastic leukemia**: extensive BM and blood involvement (>25% BM cells)
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

Clinical features:
- Leukemia: high WBC
- Lymphoma: large mediastinal mass (or other tissue mass), rapid growth, pleural fluid involvement
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia
Precursor T Lymphoblastic Lymphoma
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

Cytochemistry:

Acid phosphatase

TdT

PAS: nuclear
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

**Immunophenotype:**
-TdT: +
-cCD3, the only lineage specific marker
-CD4,8: double – or +
-Variable surface: CD1a,2,3,5,7,10,79a,13,33,117 (rare)
-TCR: may have rearrangement, not lineage specific
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

**Genetics:**

TCR loci (1/3 of T-ALL):
- 14q11.2 (alpha, delta)
- 7q35 (beta)
- 7p(14-15) (gamma)

Genes:
- MYC (8q24.1)
- TAL (1p32)
- RBTN1 (LMO1) (11p15)
- RBTN2 (LMO2) (11p13)
- HOX11 (10q24)
- LCK (1p34.3-35)
Precursor T lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoblastic lymphoma

Prognosis:
- Poor in pediatric patients compared to B lymphoblastic leukemia which is curable
- In adult patients: survival comparable to B-ALL with current treatment (Hyper CVAD), typically not curable