Lymphomas in the Spleen
Outline

- Normal histology of the spleen
- Lymphomas in the spleen:
  - Splenic marginal zone lymphoma (0.9% of B cell lymphomas)
  - Hepatosplenic T cell lymphoma (1.4% of T cell lymphomas)
  - Splenic B cell lymphoma/leukemia, unclassifiable (provisional entity)
  - Other lymphomas (not covered here)
- Case studies
NORMAL HISTOLOGY OF THE SPLEEN
Gross Anatomy

- Normal weight 150 g, SD 25 g
- Hilus, where it is penetrated by vessels and nerves which follow the extensive branching network of fibrous trabeculae.
- Accessory spleens occur in about 10 percent of individuals
- Following traumatic rupture, small nodules of splenic tissue may grow on the peritoneal surface as implants (splenosis)
Normal spleen

(a) Diagram showing the renal surface, gastric surface, hilum, splenic artery, and splenic vein.

(b) Diagram showing the capsule, trabecula, vascular sinusoid, red pulp, germinal center, primary follicle, marginal zone, periarterial lymphatic sheath (PALS), and white pulp.
White Pulp

- Comprises the lymphoid compartment of the spleen and consists of both follicular B-cell-rich areas as well as T-cell-rich periarteriolar lymphoid sheaths.
Primary and Secondary B-Cell Follicles

MARGINAL ZONE

- Surrounds the primary follicle and the mantle zone of secondary follicles
- Consists of a corona of medium-sized lymphoid cells with prominent pale cytoplasm
Spleen: Periarteriolar area

The T cells predominate in the periarteriolar lymphoid sheath (labeled red with Leu-22/CD43). The follicles, which tend to occur at arterial branch points, are labeled blue (L26/CD20).
Sinusoids

- Are lined by tapered endothelial cells separated by slit-like spaces and surrounded by distinctive ring fibers and bridging fibers
- Stain endothelial markers (FVIII)

PAS stain highlights the distinctive ring fibers and bridging fibers
Splenic macrophages

Macrophages are preferentially located in the marginal zone and red pulp cords of the spleen (labeled brown with KP-1/CD68).
Splenic Marginal Zone Lymphoma
SMZL: Definition

- B-cell neoplasm
- Small lymphocytes that surround and replace the splenic white pulp germinal centers, efface the follicle mantle and merge with a peripheral (marginal) zone of larger cells including scattered transformed blasts
- Both small and larger cells infiltrate the red pulp
- Hilar lymph nodes and BM are often involved
- Peripheral blood: may show villous lymphocytes
- May account for most cases of otherwise unclassifiable chronic lymphoid leukemias that are CD5(-)
- Most patients >50 y/o, F=M
Spleen: white pulp expansion with red pulp infiltration
White pulp/central zone: small round lymphocytes, surrounds, or, more commonly replaces reactive germinal centers with effacement of the normal follicle mantle.

White pulp/peripheral zone: small to medium-sized cells with more dispersed chromatin and abundant pale cytoplasm resemble marginal zone cells and are interspersed with transformed blasts.

Red pulp: always infiltrated, small nodules of larger cells and sheets of the small lymphocytes, which often invade sinuses.
- Sinuses are dilated
- Lymphoma surrounds and replaces germinal centers
SMZL, splenic hilar lymph node
SMZL, bone marrow involvement

- Nodular interstitial infiltrate, cytologically similar to that in the lymph nodes.
- Occasionally neoplastic cells surround reactive follicles, but this is not a consistent finding.
When present, usually but not always, have short polar villi

Some may appear plasmacytoid

SMZL, villous lymphocytes in PB
Other small B-cell lymphoma/leukemias: CLL, HCL, MCL, FL, LPL

Nodular pattern on BM excludes HCL, but BM morphology may not be sufficient to distinguish from others

PB villous lymphocytes are helpful

Flow cytometry of PB or BM very helpful
SMZL: Immunophenotype

- Positive: sIgM, sIgD, CD20, CD79a
- Negative: CD5, CD10, CD23, CD43, cyclin D1, CD103
SMZL: Genetics-Antigen Receptor Genes

- IgH and Ig light chain genes are rearranged
- Most cases have somatic mutation
- Intraclonal variation: ongoing mutations
SMZL: Genetics-Cytogenetics

- Allelic loss of 7q21-32: 40% of cases. Dysregulation of $CDK6$ was reported.
- No $BCL2$ rearrangement. No t(14;18).
- No $BCL1$ rearrangement. No t(11;14).
- Trisomy 3 and t(11;18), common in MALT, are uncommon in SMZL. Trisomy 3 reported in 17 cases; no t(11;18) confirmed cases.
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma

- Extranodal and systemic lymphoma usually of cytotoxic T-cells of the γδ type
- Marked sinusoidal infiltration seen in the spleen, liver and bone marrow
- Patients present with marked hepatosplenomegaly but no lymphadenopathy
- Bone marrow almost always involved
- More common in immunosuppressed patients
Sinusoidal infiltrate

Liver Biopsy
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma

Spleen, 59y/o woman with fatigue.

Diffuse infiltration in sinusoids of red pulp.
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma

- **Immunophenotype**
  - CD3+, CD4-, CD8-, CD5-
  - TCRδ1+, TCRαβ-
  - Positive for cytotoxic protein TIA-1

- **Genetics**
  - TCR γ gene rearrangement
  - Isochromosome 7q in all cases studied
  - Sometimes other abnormalities such as trisomy 8
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma
Bone marrow Flow Cytometry

Blast-like cell

Large Cells
By Light Scatter

CD2 pos CD5 neg

CD4 neg CD8 neg

CD3 pos CD7 pos

CD3 pos γδ T-cells
Hepatosplenic T-cell Lymphoma

Panel B, lane 1

- Trisomy 8: Red chromosome 8 centromere
- Isochromosome 7: Green: chromosome 7 Centromere Red: 7q3.1

Clonal V-delta-1-J-delta-1 rearrangement (Panel B, lane 1)
Prognosis

- Variable
- Some pts respond well to therapy and others die of disseminated disease despite aggressive therapy
Splenic B cell lymphoma/leukemia, unclassifiable
Splenic B cell lymphoma/leukemia, unclassifiable

- Small B-cell clonal lymphoproliferations involving the spleen, but which do not fall into any of the other types of B-cell lymphoid neoplasms recognized in the WHO classification.

- Two subtypes:
  - Splenic diffuse red pulp small B-cell lymphoma
  - Hairy cell leukaemia-variant (HCL-v)
Splenic diffuse red pulp small B-cell lymphoma

- Diffuse pattern of involvement of the red pulp, characteristic intrasinusoidal aggregates
- In contrast to SMZL, the tumour shows an absence of follicular replacement, biphasic cytology or marginal zone infiltration. The neoplastic infiltrate is composed of a monomorphous population of small to medium-sized lymphocytes, with round and regular nuclei.
Hairy cell leukaemia-variant (HCL-v)

- Cases of B chronic lymphoproliferative disorders that resemble classic HCL but exhibit variant features (i.e. leukocytosis, presence of monocytes, cells with prominent nucleoli, cells with blastic or convoluted nuclei, and/or absence of circumferential shaggy (hairy contours)

- Variant immunophenotype (i.e. absence of CD25, annexin-1, or TRAP)
Case 1: patient CG

30 y/o male, PMHx of liver disease of unknown etiology and hemolytic anemia
Peripheral smear

- Macrocytic anemia, severe
- Leukopenia, mild
- Thrombocytopenia, mild
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<tr>
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Aspirate smear
Bone Marrow core biopsy
BM flow Data

- T-cells: 25%
  - 20% abnormal
    - (+) CD3 (-) CD5
    - (+) CD7 (-) CD4
    - (+) CD56 (-) CD8
  - 5% normal
Liver Biopsy

Sinusoidal infiltrate
CD79/B-cell marker
Liver biopsy

- IHC
  (+) CD3  (-) CD20
  (-) TdT  (-) MPO

- Flow cytometry
  30% of all cells are T-cells
  (+) CD3  (-) CD5
  (+) CD7  (-) CD4
  (+) CD56 (-) CD8
Diagnosis

- Hepatosplenic T cell lymphoma
  (with significant autoimmune hemolysis)
Case 2: patient VC
Clinical History

- A 42 year-old Hispanic man with a history of hemophagocytosis (diagnosed with bone marrow), responded to therapy, now with recurrent hemophagocytosis and splenomegaly.
- Splenectomy was performed (2,050 gm)
Spleen: H&E, 40x
Spleen: CD3, 40x
Spleen: CD4, 40x
Spleen: CD8, 40x
Spleen: CD30, 40x
Spleen: ALK-1, 40x
Diagnosis

- Peripheral T cell lymphoma, NOS
Case 3: patient JB
Bone Marrow Case

- 49 year old white male with abdominal distension x 6 months, found to have splenomegaly, and pancytopenia. No lymphadenopathy is noted.
- WBC=2.6, Hgb=5.5, Plt=16K, MCV=98.6, Retic 2.1%
- Lymph 68%, NRBC 3
Peripheral Blood Smear
Bone Marrow Biopsy
Bone Marrow Biopsy
Bone Marrow Biopsy
Flow Cytometry Study
Flow Cytometry Study
Flow Cytometry Study
Flow Cytometry Study
Flow Cytometry Study
Flow Cytometry Study
Flow Cytometry Study
Diagnosis

- Flow cytometry:
  Lymphocytic subpopulation pos for CD19, CD20, **CD22, CD11c, CD25, CD103, FMC7, Lambda light-chain restriction** (strong intensity of CD22, CD11c)

- DX: hairy cell leukemia

- Tests not performed:
  - Tartrate resistant acid phosphotase (TRAP)
  - Reticulin stain
  - EM
Hairy Cell Leukemia  Bone marrow-Reticulin stain
Hairy Cell Leukemia

TRAP stain
Hairy Cell Leukemia: scanning EM
Hairy Cell Leukemia: transmission EM

Ribosome lamellar complexes: double tubule structures composed of protein, unknown role in pathogenesis of HCL
Hairy Cell Leukemia
Morphology in Spleen, Liver, Lymph Node

-Spleen:
  Infiltrate red pulp cord
  White pulp atrophic
  RBC lakes
-Liver: sinusoidal and portal infiltrates
-LN: paracortical, sparing of follicles
Hairy Cell Leukemia

Spleen
Hairy Cell Leukemia

Spleen: red cell lakes
Hairy Cell Leukemia: Spleen
Hairy Cell Leukemia: Liver