Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN)

Dr. Bushra AlTarawneh, MD
Anatomical pathology
Mutah University
School of MedicineDepartment of Microbiology & Pathology
HLS lectures 2022

The 2016 WHO Classification of MPN

Chronic myeloid leukemia, BCR-ABL1-positive

Chronic neutrophilic leukemia

Polycythemia vera

Primary myelofibrosis (PMF)

Primary myelofibrosis, prefibrotic/early stage Primary myelofibrosis, overt fibrotic stage

Essential thrombocythemia

Chronic eosinophilic leukemia, not otherwise specified (NOS)

Myeloproliferative neoplasm, unclassifiable

Myeloproliferative Neoplasms † Proliferation Only, ass/specific clonal mutation.

- ▶ A group of disorders characterized by the presence of mutated, constitutively activated tyrosine kinases or other related molecules in signaling pathways → lead to growth factor independence.
- Tyrosine kinase Mutations do not impair differentiation.
- So the most common consequence is increase in production of one or more mature blood elements
 - * No Dys Plastic / Abnormal Cells.

Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

- ► The neoplastic progenitors tend to seed secondary hematopoietic organs (spleen, liver, & LNs) → hepatosplenomegaly (neoplastic extramedullary hematopoiesis).
- MPNs often transform to AML

Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

- Four major diagnostic entities are recognized:
- 1) Chronic myeloid leukemia (CML). (Translocation

- 3) Primary myelofibrosis (PM).

 Hat (1) in Number.

 4) Essential thrombocythemia (ET).

 (Component of Blood Hat (1) in Number.

 (M) of Trans. Fo

Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

- CML is separated from the others by its characteristic BCR-ABL fusion gene → produces a constitutively active BCR-ABL tyrosine kinase.
- ► The most common genetic abnormalities in "BCRABL-negative" MPNs are activating mutations in the tyrosine kinase JAK2.
- all MPNs have variable propensities to transform to:
- 1) a "spent phase": resembling primary myelofibrosis + cy topenia
- 2) a "blast crisis" identical to AML
- Both triggered by the acquisition of other somatic mutations

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)

Pathogenesis

- CML is distinguished from other MPN by the presence of a chimeric BCR-ABL gene, derived from portions of the BCR gene on chr. 22 & the ABL gene on chr. 9
- 95% of cases, the BCR-ABL gene is the product of a
 balanced t(9;22) translocation that moves ABL from chr. 9
 to a position on chr. 22 adjacent to BCR.
- Translocation identified in some B-ALL.

CML - Pathogenesis BCR ABL BCR Philadelphia ABL Chromosome 22 Chromosome Chromosome 9 Chromosome 9

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)

Pathogenesis

- ► The growth factor dependence of CML progenitors is greatly decreased by constitutive signals generated by BCR-ABL → mimic the effects of growth factor receptor activation.
- Because BCR-ABL does not inhibit differentiation, the early disease course is marked by <u>excessive</u> production of relatively normal blood cells, <u>particularly granulocytes &</u> platelets.

1. CBC 2. Blood film

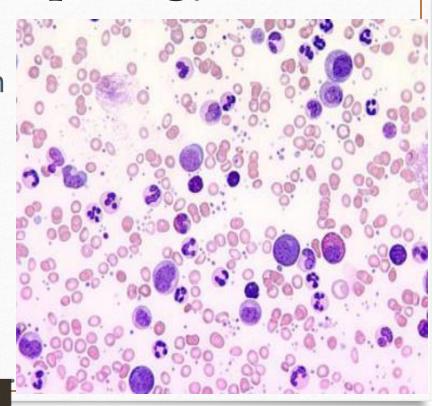
3. B.M aspirate

CML - Morphology

*Sternum-Babies

Peripheral blood

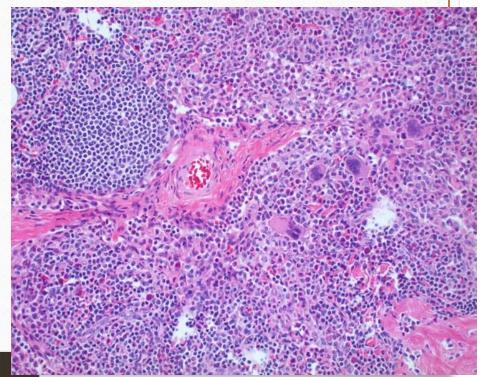
- Leukocyte count is ↑↑ (often >100,000 cells/µL).
- Circulating cells are predominantly neutrophils, metamyelocytes & myelocytes.
- Basophils, eosinophils & platelets are increased



CML - Morphology

BM & spleen

- The bone marrow is hypercellular, ↑ numbers of maturing granulocytic & megakaryocytic precursors.
- ▶ Spleen resembles BM → extensive extramedullary hematopoiesis.



- Peaks in 4th & 5th decades.
- Initial symptoms usually are nonspecific (e.g., easy fatigability, weakness, weight loss).
- Sometimes the 1st symptom is a dragging sensation in the abdomen → splenomegaly.
- Necessary to distinguish CML from a leukemoid reaction (infection, stress, chronic inflammation..)

 Confirm diagnosis by presence of Translocation

CML - Clinical features

Slowly progressive disease

Median survival is 3 years without treatment

Can progress to accelerated phase

Anemia, thombocytopenia & additional genetic mutations.

- Progress to blast phase:
- 1) 70% AML
- 2) 30% ALL





Polycythemia Vera (PCV)

- ► Excessive proliferation of erythroid, granulocytic, and megakaryocytic elements → panmyelosis
- ► Most clinical signs & symptoms are related to an absolute increase in red cell mass. ↑100 ♦
- Must be distinguished from <u>relative</u> polycythemia → results from hemoconcentration. Dehydration, trauma, hypovolomia / [VE]
 Unlike <u>reactive absolute</u> polycythemia, PCV is associated
- ▶ Unlike reactive <u>absolute</u> polycythemia, PCV is associated with low serum erythropoietin → a reflection of growth factor-independent growth of the neoplastic clone.

PCV - Pathogenesis

- Strongly associated (>97%) with activating point mutations in the tyrosine kinase JAK2.
- JAK2 normally acts in the signaling pathways downstream of the erythropoietin receptor.
- ▶ The most common JAK2 mutation → lowers the dependence of hematopoietic cells on growth factors for growth and survival.

PCV - Morphology

- ► The major anatomic changes in PCV stem from increases in blood volume and viscosity.
- ► Hemoglobin levels (Hb > 18,5 g/dl (♂), > 16.5 g/dl (♀))
- Congestion of many tissues is characteristic.
- Hepatomegaly & small foci of extramedullary hematopoiesis.
- ▶ Spleen usually is slightly enlarged → vascular congestion.

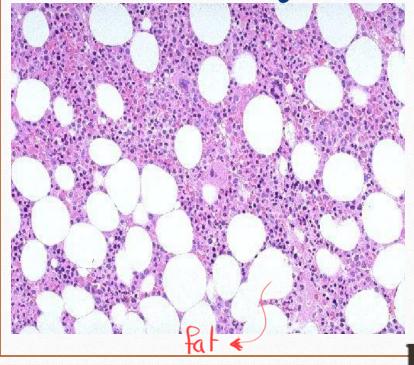
PCV - Morphology

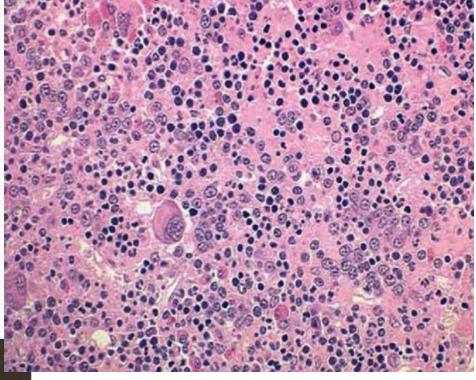
- ▶ Thromboses & infarctions are common → the increased viscosity and vascular stasis.
- ▶ Platelets produced from the neoplastic clone often are dysfunctional → elevated risk of thrombosis and bleeding Hemorrhages; often in GIT, oropharynx or brain.
- The peripheral blood often shows basophilia.

PCV - Morphology

- The bone marrow is hypercellular owing to increased numbers of erythroid, myeloid, and megakaryocytic forms.
 PCV often progresses to a spent phase where the marrow is
- ▶ PCV often progresses to a spent phase where the marrow is largely replaced by fibroblasts & collagen → increase extramedullary hematopoiesis.

PCV - Morphology Normal Cellularity = 100 - (Patient age)





- Insidious, usually in late middle age.
- Patients are plethoric & often cyanotic.
- ▶ Pruritus → Histamine released from the neoplastic basophils.
- Thrombotic and hemorrhagic tendencies & hypertension. Headache, dizziness, GIT (hematemesis &melena) common.

PCV - Prognosis

- Without treatment, death occurs from vascular complications within months.
- ► The median survival is increased to about 10 years by lowering the red cell count to near normal → repeated phlebotomy.
- ▶ Prolonged survival → a propensity to evolve to a "spent phase" (resembling PM) ~10 years.
- Extensive marrow fibrosis, hematopoiesis shifts to the spleen, which enlarges markedly.