

# Pathology of hematolymphoid system

## Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

## Myelodysplastic syndrome

Dr. Tariq Aladily  
Professor  
Department of Pathology  
The University of Jordan  
[tnaladily@ju.edu.jo](mailto:tnaladily@ju.edu.jo)



School of Medicine



# MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS

- Was known as the myeloproliferative disorder
- Group of diseases where bone marrow became neoplastic

- Maturation is normal, but proliferation is high  
Mature RBCs + WBCs are normal but the immature are high
- Permanently active tyrosine kinase pathway, independent from growth factors  
mutation in tyrosine kinase pathway result in permanent growth pattern at the disease
- BM is hypercellular, peripheral blood shows cytosis  
During aging hematopoietic stem cells are replaced by fat
- Neoplastic stem cells in MPN often seeds to spleen, liver and occasionally INs, causing extramedullary hematopoiesis and thus hepatosplenomegaly
- Tendency to develop a "spent phase" after a long time, characterized by bone marrow fibrosis  
Decreased number of cells.

\* Tendency to transform to AML

↳ due to  
accumulation of  
mutations

Acute myeloid leukaemia



# CHRONIC MYELOID LEUKEMIA

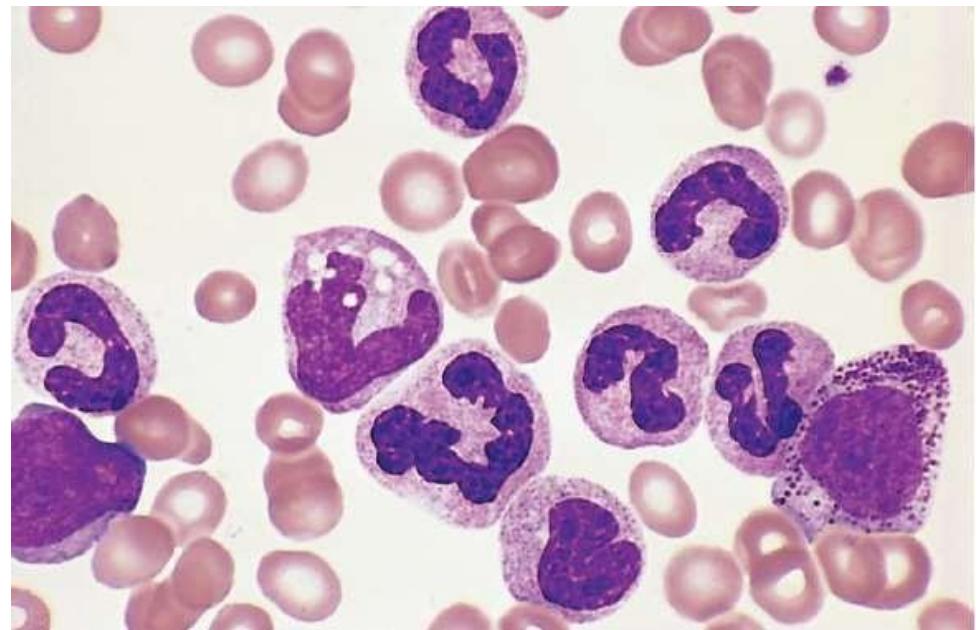
- Most common MPN
- Peak incidence is 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> decade *Can occur in any age even in Children.*  
*balanced translocation: translocation without the loss of genetic material. normally 42 / 46*
- Harbor t(9;22) (Philadelphia chromosome) results in fusion of Bcr/Abl genes and production of a tyrosine kinase that results in prolonged cell survival  
*to potent dominant*
- Mutation is present in all BM cells (myeloid, erythroid and megas)  
*↳ Hematopoietic stem cells with different effect on each*
- Symptoms: chronic non-specific: fatigue, heavy abdomen, weight loss  
*↳ Splenomegaly*
- Imatinib: tyrosine kinase inhibitor, specific for bcr/abl mutation  
*1<sup>st</sup> targeted drug  
↳ Affect only neoplastic cells.*
- Accelerated phase: develop in 50% of patients: worsening of symptoms, higher WBC count, thrombocytopenia, resistance to imatinib  
*↳ + worsening anemia*
- Blast crisis: in the other 50% of patients, transformation to acute leukemia (AML>ALL)  
*↳ Blasts become dominant  
Myeloblasts + lymphoblasts → acute leukemia*
- \* Spent phase: rarely develop  
*fibrotic bone marrow*



# MORPHOLOGY OF CML

## myeloid cells

- Leukocytosis, can be >100K
- Shift to left
- Basophilia, eosinophilia
- Thrombocytosis *At beginning is common*
- Anemia
- BM: increased myeloid and meg
- Spleen: EMH
- Blasts: low
- Leukemoid reaction: high WBC and shift to left, occurs in severe inflammation



# PRIMARY MYELOFIBROSIS

- Overt BM fibrosis, reducing capacity for hematopoiesis, leads eventually to cytopenia and massive EMH
- massive splenomegaly
- JAK-STAT signaling pathway is active in all cases

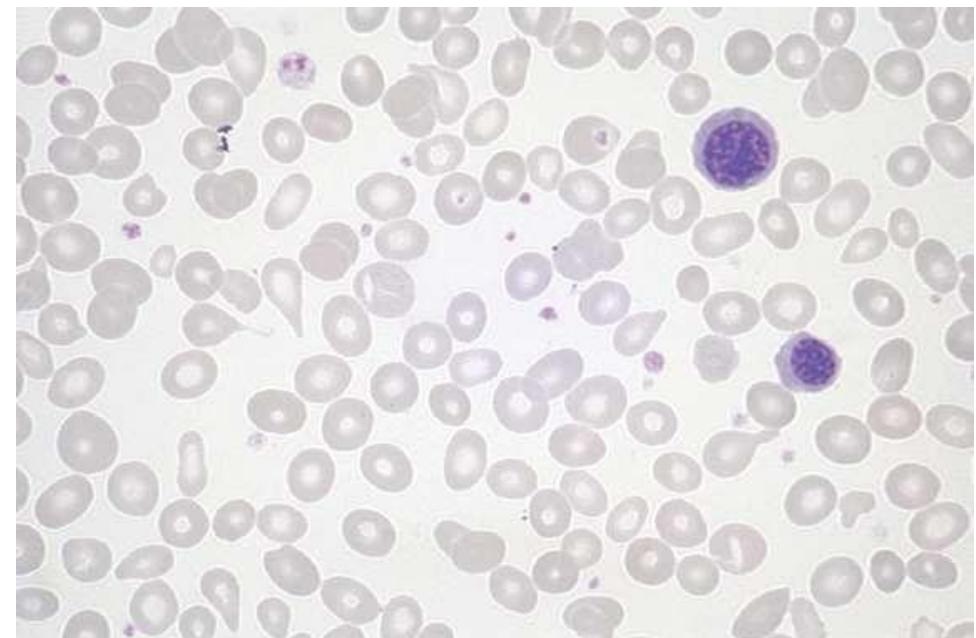
Mutation

- 50% have mutation in JAK2, 5% in MPL gene (thrombopoietin receptor), 50% have mutation in CALR gene → calreticulin → activates MPL
  - seen in polycythemia vera
  - Activates megakaryocytes
- Neoplastic megakaryocytes secrete platelet-derived growth factor and TGF-B, which activates fibroblasts in BM to deposit reticulin and collagen fibers, also causes angiogenesis by proliferation of endothelial cells → dilated small blood vessels.
- RBC production is impaired, RBCs appear as tear-drop, patients have moderate to severe anemia



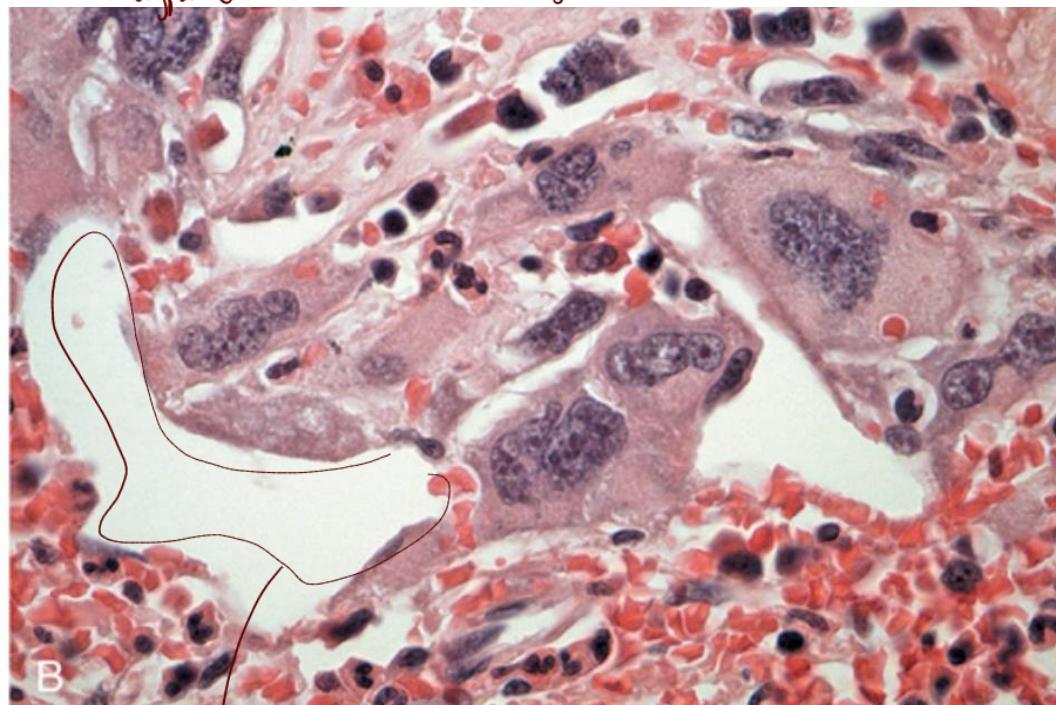
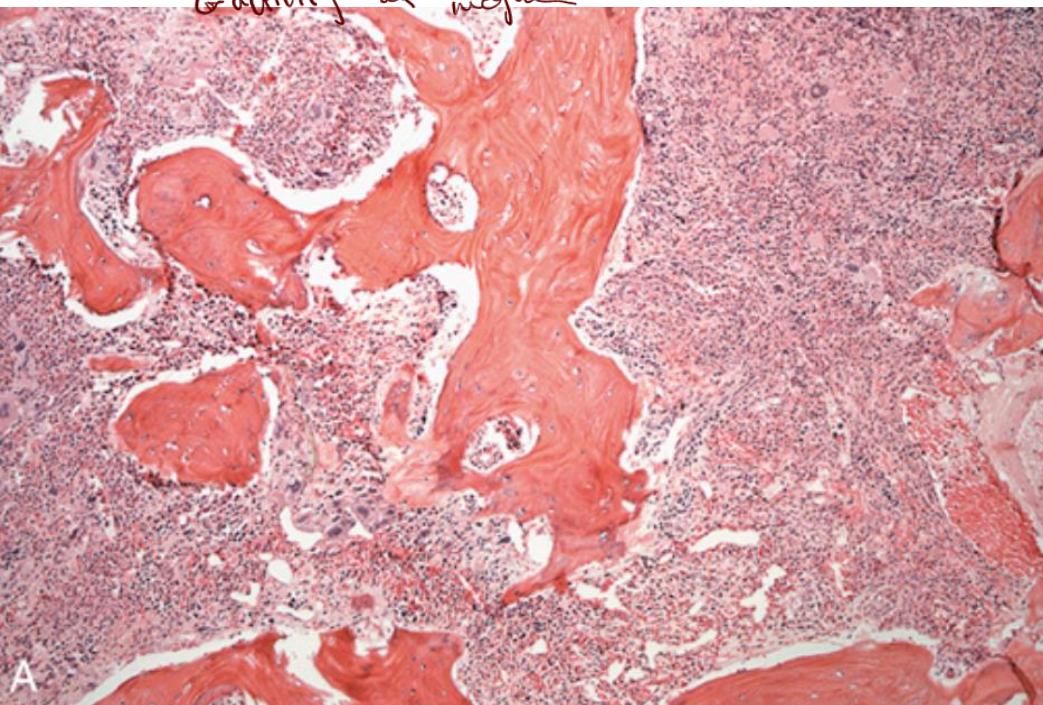
# MORPHOLOGY

- Peripheral blood: tear-drop cells, nucleated RBCs, shift to left (leukoerythroblastic anemia)  
precursor at both myel and erythroid  
unknown reason
- WBC: can be normal or increased
- Plt: high, then low  
Because  
mega - are the dominant cell  
after fibrosis



PMF: left: hypercellular and thick bone trabeculae, right: clusters of abnormal megakaryocytes with large and hyperchromatic "cloud-like" nuclei. Note the dilated sinusoid

- \* filled with Hematopoietic cells (no fat cells)
- \* Bone osteoid material is thicker than normal
- Graininess at mega-



- \* High power view
- \* clst of mega-- that are long
- \* larger nuclei about 50% of cell volume
- \* hyperchromatic and irregular.

Cloud like

sinusoid due  
androgenesis and  
the activity of mega--



# CLINICAL FEATURES

- Non-specific symptoms, weight loss, anemia, massive <sup>star</sup> splenomegaly, gout, bleeding, infection  
*Thrombocytopenia or even thrombocytosis large number of platelets that are not functioning well*
- Worse outcome than CML and P Vera. 4-5 years survival  
*Chronic Myeloid Leukemia*
- Frequent transformation to AML (5-20%)
- JAK2 inhibitor: decreases splenomegaly and symptoms  
*Control*

*In  
single proliferative*



# ESSENTIAL THROMBOCYTHEMIA

Megacaryocytic proliferation and thrombocytosis

- Predominantly thrombocytosis (occasional leukocytosis)
- JAK2 mutation is sometimes positive, but NO bone marrow fibrosis
- Splenomegaly is positive in 50%
- Good outcome

The last disease of the myeloproliferative diseases is the PV.



# MYELODYSPLASTIC SYNDROME MDS

- Main feature is defective maturation, ineffective hematopoiesis, high risk for transformation to AML
- BM is replaced by a clonal progeny of transformed stem cell that has an capacity to differentiate into 3 cell lines but with abnormal morphology and function  
\* can't eat the bone marrow.
- Hallmark of MDS: hypercellular BM, peripheral cytopenia and morphologic dysplasia can affect any cell line 3 all characterized by abnormal shape and 1 or 2 or 3 decreased number.
- Tendency for accumulating more mutations and transform to AML
- Most cases are idiopathic, rarely follows chemo or radiotherapy (therapy related)
- Most patients are old

In the 8th decade



# PATHOGENESIS

very variable

Single chromosome

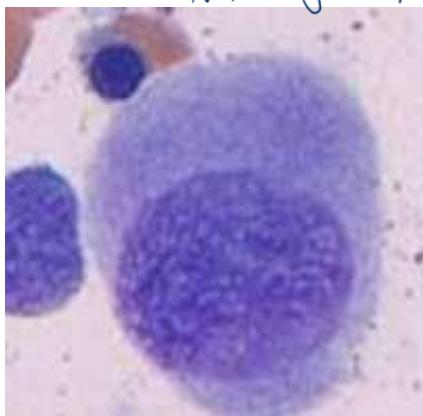
- Chromosomal aberration in 50% of cases: monosomy 5, monosomy 7, deletions of 5q, 7q, 20q, trisomy 8
- Mutations in epigenetic factors that regulate DNA methylation and histone modifications
- RNA splicing factors: abnormal RNA processing → ring sideroblasts
- Transcription factors *can be mutated*
- 10% have P53 mutation

mutation  
special for RNA  
splicing



# MORPHOLOGY

- Erythroid: macrocytic anemia, megaloblastoid nuclei, ring sideroblasts (iron accumulation inside mitochondria) *Immature* *Almost identical to Megaloblastic anemia*
- Myeloid: decreased granulation, hyposegmented nuclei of neutrophils *1-2 lobes*
- Megakaryocytes: small, hypolobated nuclei
- Myeloblasts: can be increased, but <20% of nucleated cells *Normally 2%* *if reaches 20% → AML*



Iron Accumulates in the mitochondria around the nucleus

Ring sideroblast  
Nucleated RBCs with a ring of blue dots

# SYMPTOMS

- Refractory anemia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia
  - Improve with iron, Vit B12
  - tendency to bleed
  - tendency to develop infection
- Survival 9-29 months

