

# Pathology of hematolymphoid system

## Acute Leukemia

## Histiocytic tumors

Professor Tariq Aladily  
Department of Pathology  
The University of Jordan  
tnaladily@ju.edu.jo



School of Medicine





# ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA

- Occur at all age groups, but more common in elderly
- ❑ Heterogenous, diagnosis is made by morphologic, immunophenotypic and karyotype studies
- ❑ Prognosis depends most importantly on type of mutations (molecular and cytogenetic studies)
- ❑ Symptoms are accelerated, become significant within few weeks
- ❑ Symptoms are related to anemia, thrombocytopenia and neutropenia
- ❑ Involvement of LN, spleen and solid organs is rare. When occurs, it is called myeloid sarcoma (acute monoblastic leukemia)



# **PATHOGENESIS**

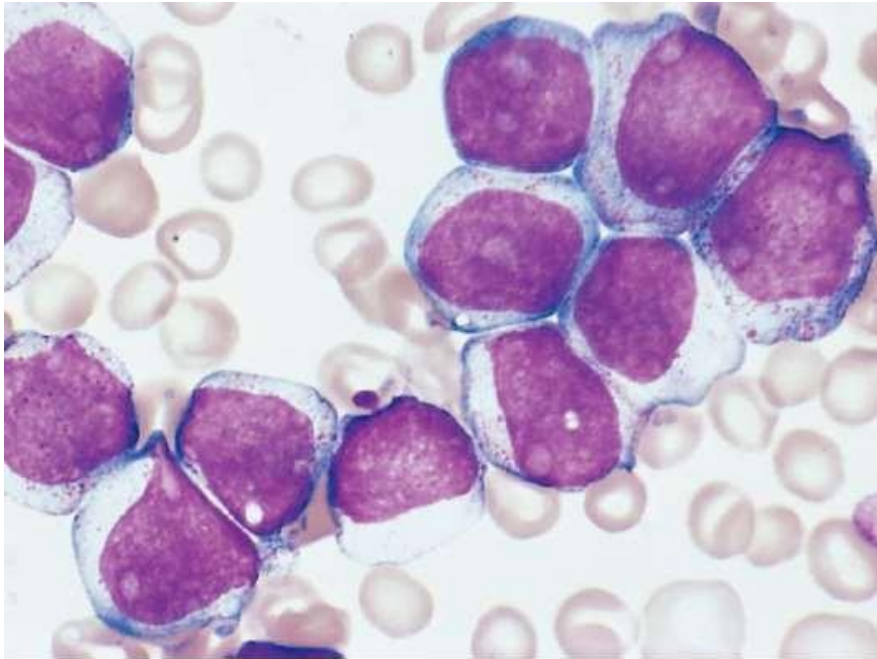
- Mutations in genes of transcription factors required for maturation and differentiation of myeloblasts
- Additional mutations in tyrosine kinase pathways (RAS)
- Epigenetic mutation is common (20%); mutation is isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) produces an oncometabolite that blocks enzyme of epigenome and interferes with myeloblast differentiation



# WHO-CLASSIFICATION

- Therapy related AML: occurs after treatment with chemo or radiotherapy
  - AML with recurrent cytogenetic mutation
  - AML with myelodysplasia: occurs de novo or complicates MDS
  - AML-Not otherwise specified
- Diagnosis of AML: 20% blasts in peripheral blood or bone marrow (of nucleated cells)





- **Morphology:** large cells, high N/C ration, fine granules in cytoplasm, fine chromatin, prominent nucleoli
- **Auer rods:** small pink rods present in cytoplasm, represent peroxidase enzyme
- Myeloblasts express CD34, myeloperoxidase (MPO), CD13, CD33
- Sometimes: monoblast, erythroblast, megakaryoblast



# OUTCOME

- Generally poor, <30% responds to chemotherapy
  - Worse than ALL
  - P53 mutation: worse outcome
  - IDH inhibitors are new promising drugs

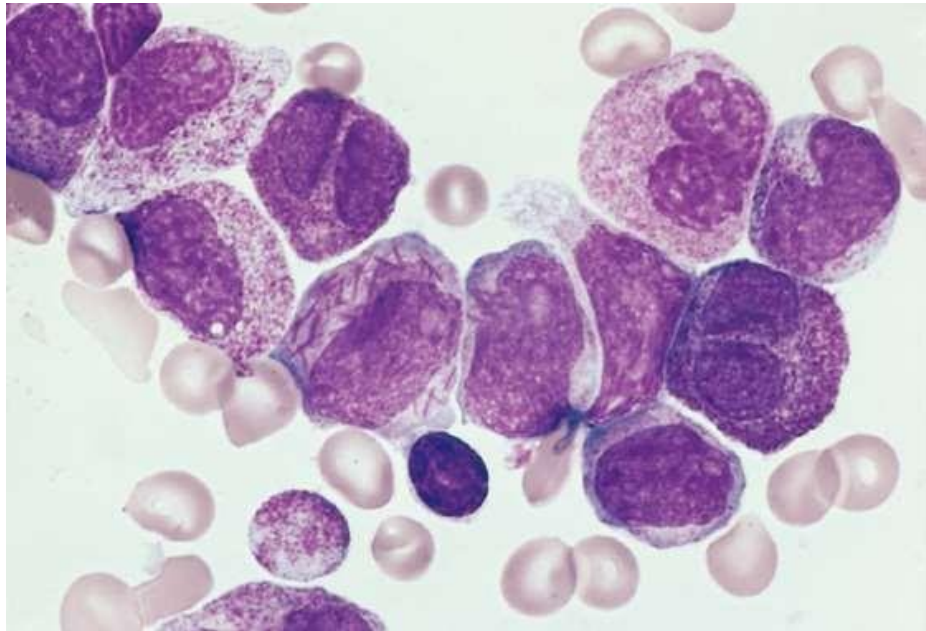


# ACUTE PROMYELOCYTIC LEUKEMIA

- Also called AML-M3
- Maturation is arrested at promyelocyte stage
- Leukemic cells appear similar to promyelocytes (heavy cytoplasmic granules, numerous Auer rods, negative for CD34)
- Carry recurrent mutation: t(15;17) fusion between PML gene (chrom 15) with alpha retinoic acid receptor (RARA) on chrom 17. Chimeric fusion gene produces a protein that blocks promyelocyte maturation by inhibiting the action of retinoic acid.
- All trans-retinoic acid (ATRA), a vitamin A analogue, overcomes this block. Effect is synergistic with arsenic trioxide (degrades oncoprotein)
- Malignant promyelocyte secrete tissue factor, causing DIC







- **APL:** malignant promyelocytes show numerous cytoplasmic granules and Auer rods. The nuclei are commonly cleaved.



# PRECURSOR B AND T CELL NEOPLASMS

- Lymphoblastic lymphoma when occurs in solid tissue (T>B)
- Acute lymphoblastic leukemia when circulates peripheral blood and involve bone marrow (B>T)
- B-ALL is the most common childhood malignancy
- Neoplastic cells are lymphoblasts, the most immature lymphoid cell. Aggressive neoplasms, express CD34 and TDT
- T-ALL is less common, presents in adolescents, involving thymus, more common in boys
- B-ALL tends to disseminate to solid organs (brain, testis, spleen)



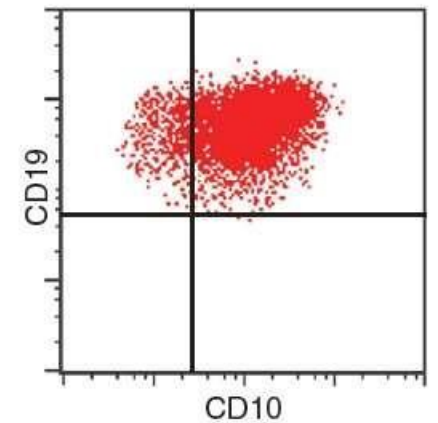
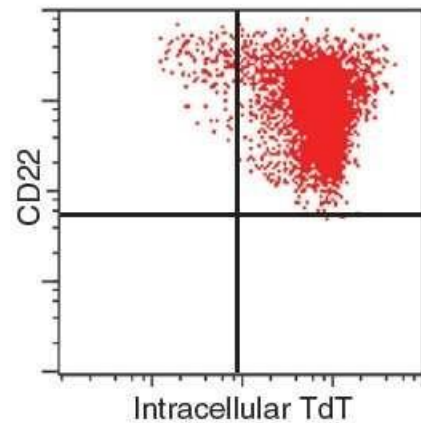
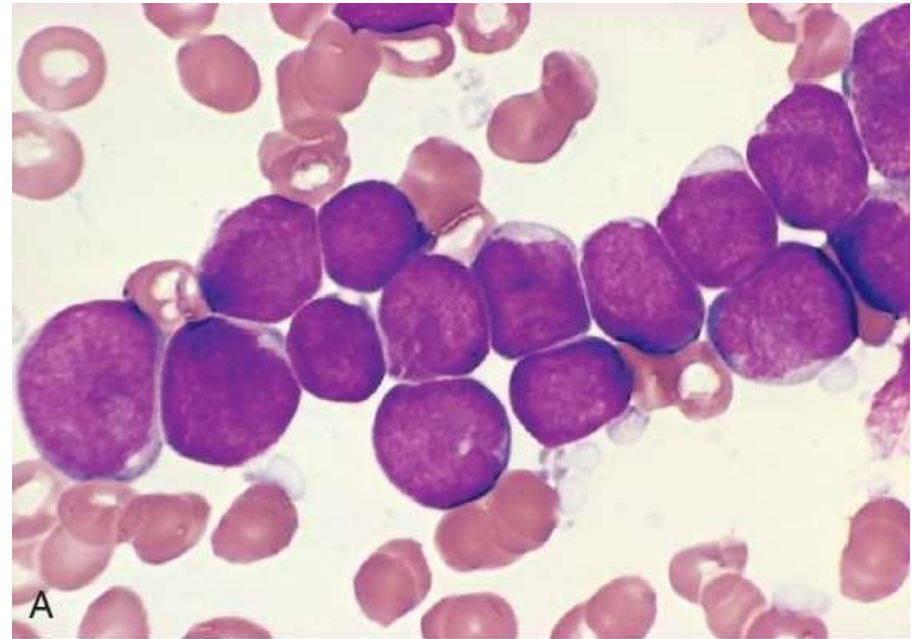
# PATHOGENESIS

- Mutations in transcription factors for genes responsible for maturation of blasts
  - In B-LL, mutation in PAX5 gene
  - Mutations in RAS signaling and tyrosine kinase proteins promoting cell survival
  - Most childhood B-ALL have hyperdiploidy (>50 chromosomes) and t(12;21), involving ETV6 and **RUNX1** genes, creating new transcription factor
- Adult B-ALL exhibits t(9;22) between ABL and BCR genes, similar to chronic myeloid leukemia, creating a new tyrosine kinase protein (imatinib)
- T-ALL shows mutation in NOTCH1 gene (70% of cases), PTEN gene (tumor suppressor) and CDKN2A (promotes cell cycle)



# MORPHOLOGY OF ALL

- Blasts are large, high N/C ratio
- Chromatin is open (pale)
- Nucleolus sometimes present
- Cytoplasm is not granular



# CLINICAL FEATURES

- Anemia, thrombocytopenia
  - Bone pain
  - Lymphadenopathy and hepatosplenomegaly
  - Testicular enlargement
  - Mediastinal mass (T-ALL)
  - CNS involvement
- Damage to solid organs secondary to leukemic infiltration
- Favorable prognostic factors in B-ALL: hyperdiploidy, low WBC count, age between 2-10 years
- Poor prognostic factors in B-ALL: age < 2 years, age in adolescents or adults, WBC count >100k



# LANGERHANS CELL HISTIOCYTOSIS

- Neoplasm of dendritic cells
- Langerhans cells express CD1a and Langerin
- Langerin is a transmembrane protein, attached to Birbeck granules (tennis racket shape under electron microscope)
- Proliferating Langerhans cells appear large and vacuolated, similar to macrophages
- Pathogenesis: acquired mutation in serin/threonine kinase BRAF, leads to hyperactivity of this kinase



# MULTISYSTEMIC LCH

- Occurs mostly in children less than 2 years
- Multiple cutaneous lesion, composed of LCs
- Hepatosplenomegaly and lymphadenopathy
- Pulmonary lesions
- Osteolytic lesions
- Extensive bone marrow infiltration leads to pancytopenia
- Treated with chemotherapy



# UNISYSTEM LCH

- AKA eosinophilic granuloma
- Affects a single organ, most commonly bone, then skin, lung, stomach
- Can be unifocal or multifocal
- Unifocal is commonly asymptomatic, can cause pain
- Multifocal unisystem disease presents in children, commonly affects calvaria bone, extends to pituitary gland causing diabetes insipidus, exophthalmos (Hand- Schuller-Christian triad).
- Proliferating LCs are admixed with numerous eosinophils, lymphocytes, plasma cells and neutrophils
- Treatment: unifocal: surgical excision, multifocal: chemotherapy, sometimes spontaneous regression

