# Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in AML: Understanding the NPM1 Mutation

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## Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde



## Jekyll vs Hyde



- Age
- Classification
- Outcomes with various chemotherapeutic approaches
- Impact as in setting of mutations (including FLT3)
- Impact in setting of MRD positivity or negativity
- Efficacy with maintenance therapy
- Pertinence to novel therapeutics

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#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Cytoplasmic Nucleophosmin in Acute Myelogenous Leukemia with a Normal Karyotype

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## **NPM1 structure, function, features**

### **Biology and Function**

- Multifunctional ubiquitous shuttling protein
- Primarily localized to nuceolus in WT form
- Mutant form relocalized to cytosol

### **Features in AML**

- Most common genetic lesion in adult AML (30-40%)
- Typically associates with normal karyotype
- Genetically defined AML subtype per ICC-2022 and WHO 2022, irrespective of blast %
- AML driver mutation, not observed in clonal hematopoeisis
- Frequently co-occurs with mutant FLT3, IDH1/2, DNMT3A



### **NPM1m AML Generally Considered Favorable Risk**

### Table 6. 2022 ELN risk classification by genetics at initial diagnosis\*

Risk category†	Genetic abnormality	
Favorable	<ul> <li>t(8;21)(q22;q22.1)/RUNX1::RUNX1T1†,‡</li> <li>inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22)/ CBFB::MYH11†,‡</li> <li>Mutated NPM1†,\$ without FLT3-ITD</li> <li>bZIP in-frame mutated CEBPA  </li> </ul>	
Intermediate	<ul> <li>Mutated NPM1†,\$ with FLT3-ITD</li> <li>Wild-type NPM1 with FLT3-ITD (without adverse-risk genetic lesions)</li> <li>t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3)/MLLT3::KMT2A†,¶</li> <li>Cytogenetic and/or molecular abnormalities not classified as favorable or adverse</li> </ul>	
Adverse	<ul> <li>t(6;9)(p23.3;q34.1)/DEK::NUP214</li> <li>t(v;11q23.3)/KMT2A-rearranged#</li> <li>t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2)/BCR::ABL1</li> <li>t(8;16)(p11.2;p13.3)/KAT6A::CREBBP</li> <li>inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2)/ GATA2, MECOM(EV11)</li> <li>t(3q26.2;v)/MECOM(EV11)</li> <li>t(3q26.2;v)/MECOM(EV11)</li> <li>t(3q26.2;v)/MECOM(EV11)</li> <li>complex karyotype,** monosomal karyotype††</li> <li>Mutated ASXL1, BCOR, EZH2, RUNX1, SF3B1, SRSF2, STAG2, U2AF1, and/or ZRSR2‡‡</li> <li>Mutated TP53<sup>a</sup></li> </ul>	

### NPM1m, normal karyotype, FLT3 neg/low



Angenendt, et al. J Clin Oncol 2019; 37:2632

Dohner, et al. Blood 2022; 140:1345

## **NPM1m AML with Adverse Cytogenetics**

(FLT3-ITD negative or low)



# **NPM1** Mutation Burden May Associate with Adverse Outcomes

VAF  $\ge$  0.44 (high) vs < 0.44 (low)



Patel, et al. Blood 2018; 131:2816

### **NPM1** Mutational Co-occurences



# Secondary Mutations in Presence of *NPM1*m Associate with Inferior Outcomes



Chan and Lancet, et al. Blood Adv 2024; 8:1075

### Effect of Secondary Mutations on Outcome in NPM1m AML by Age



Chan and Lancet, et al. Blood Adv 2024; 8:1075

### **Or Do They?**



Eckardt, et al. Leukemia 2023; 37:2282

## Effect of MRD in NPM1m AML

- qPCR after 2 cycles of chemotherapy





Ivey, et al. N Engl J Med 2016; 374:422

### **NPM1 MRD Overcome with Allo HCT?**



Balsat, et al. J Clin Oncol 2016; 35:185

### HMA/Ven outcomes with NPM1m



Lachowiez, et al. Blood Adv 2020; 4:1311

### **NPM1m MRD in HMA/Ven Treated Patients**



Overall survival

Othman, et al. Blood 2024; 143:338

### Beneficial Effect of Oral Azacitidine Maintenance in NPM1m AML



MRD+ to MRD- conversion rate in *NPM1*m patients: 63% with oral Aza 33% with placebo

### Döhner, et al. Blood 2022; 140:1674

## Menin Inhibitors – Role in NPM1m AML?



### Alterations with upregulated HOX

Issa, et al. Leukemia 2021; 35:2483

## Phase 1 Menin Inhibitor Ziftomenib (KO-539)

Best Overall Response N (%)	200 mg	600 mg
<i>NPM1</i> -m Phase 1a + 1b	(n=6)	(n=20)
CR	1 (16.7)	7 (35.0)
CR/CRh	1 (16.7)	7 (35.0)
CRc	1 (16.7)	8 (40.0)
MRD negativity	1 (100.0)	4/6 (67) <sup>1</sup>
ORR	2 (33.3)	9 (45.0)
<i>KMT</i> 2A-r Phase 1a + 1b	(n=14)	(n=18)
CR/CRh	0	1 (5.6)
CRc	0	2 (11.1)
MRD negativity	0	2 (100.0)
ORR	0	3 (16.7)

Age >18 years, AML only, Ph1 included all genotypes, Ph1b (*KMT2Ar*, *NPM1m*)

**TRAEs:** DS (25% G3, DLT), febrile neutropenia (13% G3 TEAEs)

RP2D (NPM1-m): 600 mg daily

Current development for *KMT2Ar* in combination not as single-agent

**NPM1-m:** median DoR 8.2 months (95% CI: 1.0 to NE)

Data Cut KMT2Ar: 24-Oct-2022 NPM1-m:12-Apr-2023

<sup>1</sup> MRD was assessed for 5/7 CRc patients; 3 of those 5 patients (60%) tested were MRD negative CRc includes CR, CRh, CRi, CRp ORR includes CR, CRh, CRi, CRp, MLFS, DoR, duragtion of response

Erba HP, et al> Blood 2022; 140:153 Fathi, et al. 2023 EHA Congress Abstract LB2713

## **Other Potential Interventions for NPM1m AML**



Pianigiani, et al. Blood Adv 2022; 6:5938

## Summary

- NPM1m AML is clinically heterogeneous
- Key adverse co-occurring factors include
  - Poor-risk cytogenetics
  - FLT3 ITD mutations
  - ? Secondary-like mutations
- MRD monitoring in *NPM1m* AML is relevant and useful
- HMA/Ven regimens appear effective in NPM1m AML
- Novel therapies being developed to target *NPM1m* AML







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