

Inherited and Acquired Marrow Failure

Comprehensive Hematology & Oncology Review Course 2024

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Marrow failure

• Hematopoiesis is unable to meet the physiologic demands for healthy blood cells production.



This talk is about:

- Inherited
 - Classical Inherited Bone Marrow Failure Syndromes (IBMF)
 - Hereditary hematologic malignancy predisposition syndromes (HHMPS)
- Acquired
 - Acquired aplastic anemia
 - PNH

Hypocellular marrow initial laboratory evaluation

Studies I recommend regardless of clinical suspicion

PERIPHERAL BLOOD	DIAGNOSIS
Flow cytometry for PNH	Acquired aplastic anemia
Chromosomal breakage testing	Fanconi anemia
Telomere lengths by flow-FISH	Short telomere syndrome
Immunoglobulins, lymphocyte subsets	Inborn error of immunity, GATA2 deficiency
Pancreatic isoamylase	Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome
HLA typing on patient and potential familial donors	
BONE MARROW	
Morphologic review (including iron staining)	MDS, GATA2 deficiency
Routine karyotype	MDS, IBMF/MMPS
FISH	MDS, IBMF/MMPS
Chromosome genomic array	6p CN-LOH in aAA, IBMF/MMPS, risk stratification nl karyotype MDS, 7q LOH in SAMD9/9L disorders
Multi-gene genetic testing for somatic mutations in myeloid malignancy genes	
CULTURED SKIN FIBROBLASTS	
Germline multi-gene genetic testing	Inherited bone marrow failure and hematologic cancer predisposition syndrome

Acquired PNH clones may distinguish acquired AA from IBMF/HHMPS

- Detectable by flow cytometry in ~ 50% of acquired AA
- PNH clones appear to distinguish aAA from IBMF/HHMPS (~ 100% PPV)
 - Mutant HSPCs escape autoimmune attack

Authors	Year	Flow cytometry sensitivity	PNH + IBMF/MMPS	PNH + aAA	PPV and NPV for aAA
DeZern A. et al.	2014	> 0.01-0.1%	0/20 (0%)	61/132 (46%)	PPV 100% NPV 54%
Shah YB. et. al	2021	> 0.05-0.1%	0/9 (0%)	58/126 (46%)	PPV 100% NPV 48.5%
Narita A. et al	2022	> 0.02% grans> 0.037% erythroids	9/21 (42%)	32/91 (35%)	PPV 78% NPV 17%

PNH clones may distinguish acquired aplastic anemia (aAA) from the inherited syndromes

- Detectable by flow cytometry in ~ 50% of acquired aplastic anemia
- PNH clones (> 1% in granulocytes) appear to distinguish aAA from these inherited syndromes (~ 100% PPV)

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Narita A. et al	2022	> 0.02% grans> 0.037% erythroids	9/21 (42%)	32/91 (35%)	PPV 78% NPV 17%
		> 0.1%	1/21 (5%)		PPV 91%

Testing by multi-parameter flow cytometry on PB is more sensitive than on BM sample

DeZern A et al. Eur J Haematol 2014:92. Shah YB et al. Blood Adv 2021:5. Narita A et al. Blood Adv 2022: 6. Borowitz MJ et al. Cyto B Clin Cytom 2010:78.

Acquired 6p CN-LOH^{MHC} distinguishes acquired AA from IBMF/HHMPS

- Present in ~10-15 % of acquired AA
- Occurs in <1% of patients with MDS or in normal aging
- 6p CN-LOH appears to distinguish acquired AA from IBMF/HHMPS (100% PPV)
 - Loss of HLA class I alleles disrupts antigen presentation and allows immune escape

Katagiri T et al. Blood 2011:118. Betensky M et al. Cancer Genet 2016:209. Afable MG et al. Blood 2011:117. Mohamedali AM et al. Leukemia 2015:29. Score J et al. Leukemia 2015:29. Babushok DV et al. BJH 2014:164. Shah YB et al. Blood Adv 2021:5.

Idiopathic acquired aplastic anemia

- Biphasic age distribution
- Presumed 2^{ndary} to immunologic destruction of HSCs
- Severity "classical" definition
 - Modified Camitta's criteria^{1,2}
- Severity 'practical" definition
 - Severe neutropenia/transfusions

Camitta's Criteria

Marrow Cellularity
<25% OR
25-50% with <30% residual hematopoietic cells
AND Cytopenias (at least 2 of 3)
ANC < 500 X 10 ⁹ /L
Plts < 20 X 10 ⁹ /L
Absolute retic count <60 X 10 ⁹ /L

Camitta BM Blood 1976:48. Killlick S BJH 2016:172.

Immune suppressive therapy (IST)

Horse is better than rabbit ATG¹



Response to IST is age-dependent²

• Adding GM-CSF, G-CSF, and IL-3 doesn't improve response or survial³



Scheinberg P et al. NEJM 2011: 365(35).
 Bacigalupo A. Blood 2017: 129 (11).
 Gurion R et al. Haematologica 2009: 94(5).

Eltrombopag (Epag) for acquired aplastic anemia

- Small molecule TPO mimetic that bypasses IFN-γ-mediated inhibition of endogenous EPO to stimulate c-MPL¹
- Relapsed/refractory Phase 2 + extension study (43 patients)²
 - Epag 150 mg po daily
 - Hematologic response 40% (17/43) @ 12 wks
- Upfront therapy
 - Phase 1-2 study (92 patients; median f/up 2 yrs)³
 - CR 58% and OR 94% @ 6 months
 - RCT hATG/CsA/Epag (n=96) vs. hATG/CsA (n=101)⁴
 - CR 68%% vs. 41% and OR 68%% vs. 41% at 6 months
- No improvement in ORR or CR at 6 months in pediatric patients (<18 yo)⁵
 - 1. Alvarado LJ. et al. Blood 2019: 139(19).
 - 2. Desmond R et al. Blood 2014: 123(12).
 - 3. Townsley M et al. NEJM 2017: 376(16).
 - 4. Peffault de Latour R et al. NEJM 2022: 386.
 - 5. Groarke EM et al. BJH 2021: 192(3).

Immune suppressive therapy (IST) ± eltrombopag (EPAG)



Peffault de Letour R. et al. NEJM 2022: 386.

- Phase 1-2 study (92 patients; median f/up 2 yrs) CR 58% and OR 94% @ 6 months
- Addition of EPAG showed no improvement in ORR or CR at 6 months in pediatric patients (<18 yo)

Desmond R et al. Blood 2014: 123(12). Townsley M et al. NEJM 2017: 376(16). Groarke EM et al. BJH 2021:192

Late complications of IST treated patients

- Relapse in ~ 1/3 of responders¹
- IST without EPAG
 - 29% (24/84) with normal blood counts & off IST longterm, median follow-up 11.3 yrs²
- IST with EPAG³
 IST + EPAG vs. IST
 - EPAG promotes early hematologic response.
 - @ 6 months ORR 81% vs 67%
 - Response is not maintained after EPAG is stopped
 - @ 12 months ORR 56 vs. 57%
 - Incidence of high risk clonal evolution was similar between groups → occurred earlier in EPAG+IST
- MDS/AML evolution in 10-15% of cases^{1,2,3}



 IST + EPAG relapses occur "early" (6 months) and "late" (after 2 yrs) when EPAG and CSA dosing changes.

Time (years)

- Study evaluating sirolimus (NCT02979873) to prevent relapse after stopping CSA.
 - 1. Young N et al. Blood 2006: 108(8).
 - 2. Frickenhofen N et al. Blood 2003: 101(4).

Patel BA et al.

3. Patel BA et al. Blood 2022: 139 (1).

HSCT in the elderly (1)



51-60 yo vs, 61 to 71 yo
 OS 89% vs. 82%, p=0.82



Flu 30mg/m2 D -7 to -4 CY 300 mg/m2 D-7 to -4 Alemtuzumab 0.2 mg/kg D-7 to -3 GVHD Ppx CSA





Sheth VS. et al. Blood Advances 2019: 20(3).

HSCT in the elderly (2)

Retrospective study of 499 SAA

- n=79, > 60 yo
- 89.6% received prior IST

		#
	1411251115	00
Interval from diagnosis to treatment	≤12 yr	307
	>12 yr	192
Donor	Matched unrelated	187
	HLA-identical sibling	275
	Missing	37
Graft source	Bone marrow	266
	Peripheral blood	233
Regimen	Cy + ATG	91
	Cy + Flud \pm ATG	92
	TBI 200 + Cy + Flud + ATG	57
	TBI 200 + Cy \pm ATG	28
	Alkylating agent + Flud \pm ATG	65
	Alemtuzumab	60
	Flud + Cy + alemtuzumab	40
	Alemtuzumab + other	20
	Other non-TBI regimen	73
	Other TBI regimens	18
	Missing	15
GVHD prophylaxis	CNI + MMF	117
	CNI + MTX	246
	$CNI \pm other drug$	67
	Other	43
	Missing	26
HSCT year	2005-2009	191
	2010-2014	308
Age, yr	Median (range)	499
		100

3 yr OS 56% for entire cohort
59% MRD and 52% MURD



EBMT registry data

European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation

IST

HLA matched sibling BMT

Matched URD BMT (MURD)



Upfront MUD/mMUD allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation EBMT 2010-2018



17

12

>40

76% (56-97%)

2-year OS

2-year GVHD free relapse free survival



	Groups	Total n	n	24 months
Age	<15	25	18	91% (78-100%)
	15-24	19	12	89% (76-100%)
	25-40	7	3	71% (38-100%)
	>40	14	8	64% (39-89%)

Petit AF et al. AJH 2021.

Upfront Haplo-HCT with PT-CY

- Single center prospective Ph 2 trial
- Patients enrolled 27
- Median age 25 (range 3-63)
- Flu/Cy/ATG/TBI 200-400 cGy
- GVHD prophylaxis- PTCY/Tac/MMF
- 4 × 10⁸ nucleated marrow cells/kg of the recipient ideal body weight
- First 7 patients received 200 cGy TBI
- 5-year OS 100 % in pts receiving 400 cGY
- CI Gr 2-4 Ac GVHD at D100 7%
- CI Ch GVHD at 2 years 4%



Figure 2. Cumulative incidences of acute and chronic GVHD.

Upfront treatment for severe aAA



Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria

- Clonal expansion of HSCs with somatic mutation in *PIGA x* chromosome
 - Lack GPI-Linked proteins
- Clinical triad
 - Intravascular hemolysis, thrombosis, bone marrow failure
- Diagnosis Absent or reduced GPIlinked proteins
 - Mean clone size >70% in classical PNH (vs. 11% in BMF with associated PNH clone)



CD59

Membrane inhibitor of reactive lysis Inhibits assembly of the membrane attack complex

CD55

Decay accelerating factor

Inhibits the formation and stability of the C3 convertases

Risk factors for thrombosis in PNH

- PNH granulocytes clone size ($\geq 50\%$)
 - Each 10% rise in the granulocyte clone size associated with ~
 1.6 higher odds of thrombosis
 - $-LDH \ge 1.5 \times ULN$
 - High disease activity (abdominal pain, dyspnea, chest pain, hemoglobinuria, male erectile dysfunction)
 - Prior thromboembolic events

Complement Inhibitors



FDA approved therapies for PNH in 2024

Medication	Eculizumab	Ravulizumab	Pegcetacoplan	Iptacopan	Danicopan
Mechanism	C5 inhibition Blocks IVH	C5 inhibition Blocks IVH	C3 inhibition Blocks IVH and EVH	Factor B inhibitor Blocks IVH and EVH	Factor D Inhibitor Blocks IVH and EVH
Approved Label	PNH patients to reduce hemolysis	Adult PNH patients	Adult PNH patients	Adult PNH Patients	Add on therapy to ecu/ravu for adult PNH patients with EVH
Dosing	 IV infusion Loading weekly x 4 doses Maintenance q2 wks 	 IV infusion Loading q2 weeks x 2 doses Maintenance q8 wks 	 SQ infusion, patient- administered Twice weekly 	• Oral agent BID	• Oral agent TID
Vaccination needs	Meningococcal	meningococcal	Meningococcus, strep, neiserria, HIB	Meningococcus, strep, neiserria, HIB	Meningococcus, strep, HIB

Classification of IBMF/HMPS (modified from 2023 NCCN MDS Guidelines)

Why do we need to diagnose IBMF/HHMPS?

Consider heritable causes

- Younger age
- Non-severe disease
- Family history and/or personal history of congenital anomalies (absence of this does not exclude a heritable cause)
- Member of family with known inherited cause
- Antecedent macrocytosis or cytopenias
- Chromosomal 7 abnormalities & trisomy 8 MDS in peds/young adults
 - GATA2 deficiency
 - SAMD9/9L (MDS with chromosome 7 abnormalities) may account for ~ 20% of pediatric MDS¹

Somatic versus constitutional (aka germline)?

- Same genes can have somatic OR constitutional mutations
- Variant allele frequency (VAF) does not definitively distinguish somatic vs. germline
- Test non-hematopoietic tissue (skin fibroblasts) or test other family members
- Panel genetic testing designed for somatic vs. germline genetic mutations are not always equivalent

Examples: RUNX1 GATA2 ETV6 CEBPA **DDX41** BRCA1/2 BRAF **TP53** MPL JAK2 CSF3R SAMD9/SAMD9L Ras pathway genes

Fanconi anemia

- Hypersensitivity to genetic damage induced by DNA cross-linking agents
- All AR except FANC B is x-lined recessive and FANCR is AD
 - US estimates ~ 1/130,000 live births
- Congenital anomalies ~1/3 lack congenital anomalies
- Hypocellular marrow ± cytopenias
- Predisposition to cancer (AML; oral, esophageal, vulvar SCC, HCC)
- Radiosensitivity (DNA damage) café au lait spot

Phenotype-genotype cohort study in Altintas B. et al Haematologic 2023: 108

short stature

FA Diagnosis

Chromosomal breakage test (aka chromosome fragility)

- Screen for Fanconi anemia
 - Genetic testing does not replace this assay
 - Somatic mosaicism in lymphocytes
 in ~ 10-25% of FA patients

Genetic testing

Image courtesy of Lisa Moreau, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Nicolleti E et al. Ann Hematol 2020:99.

FA surveillance and treatment

- Avoid tobacco and radiation
- Surveillance for solid tumors in all adults early detection key!
- Monitor bone marrow failure and leukemia/MDS
- Androgens (oxymetholone 0.5-1 or danazol 2-4 mg/kg/day)
 - Stimulates erythroid progenitors and increases telomerase gene expression¹
 - Erythroid and trilineage responses in ~ $60-80\%^2$
 - Monitor LFTs, liver US (hepatic adenomas and peliosis hepatis), virilization
- HSCT
- Chemotherapy non-DNA damaging chemotherapy

2020 Fanconi anemia guidelines for diagnosis and management

https://www.fanconi.org/explore/clinical-care-guidelines

Diamond Blackfan Anemia Diagnosis

- Congenital pure red cell aplasia
 - Misnomer can see neutropenia and thrombocytopenia
 - BM with absent or reduced erythroid precursors
- eADA elevated in 75-90% of cases
 90% PPV and NPV compared to other IBMF syndromes¹
- ~ 50% have physical abnormalities (excepting short stature)
- Genetic testing

Genes mutated in Diamond Blackfan Anemia

RPS19	25%
Large deletions	10-25%
RPL5 - cleft-lip	7%
RPL26	6.6%
RPL11 –	5%
classic triphalangeal thumb	
RPL35a	3%
RPS10	3%
RPS24	2.4%
RPS17	1%
RPS7, RPS15, RPS 27, RPS27a, RPS28, RPS29, RPL9, RPL15, RPL18, RPL26, RPL27, RPL31,	rare
TSR2 (x-linked)	rare
GATA2 (x-linked)	rare
EPO	rare

- Mutations present in one of 20 RP (autosomal dominant), or TSR2, GATA1, EPO
- No molecular defect in ~ 20-30% of cases

DBA treatment and surveillance

- ~80% response to corticosteroids
 - Starting dose 1-2 mg/kg/day¹
 - ~40% will remain on corticosteroids long-term
- Anemia spontaneously remits in ~ 20% of patients (often at onset of puberty)
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation
- Age-appropriate cancer screening
 - Odd ratio for colon cancer- 45;odds ratio for osteogenic sarcoma 42²

Shwachman Diamond Syndrome (SDS)

- Majority of cases are autosomal recessive
- Bone marrow failure, bone malformations, pancreatic insufficiency, cognitive disorders, and cancer predisposition
 - Hypocellular marrow
 - Neutropenia is most common hematopoietic abnormality
 - Pancreatic insufficiency improves in >50% of patients with aging
 - Serum pancreatic isoamylase (pediatric and adult patients) and serum trypsinogen (pediatric patients) are often low.
- Biallelic mutations in SBDS in ~ 90% of patients
 - Involved in joining 60S & 40S subunits in the assembly of 80S ribosome

Short telomere syndrome phenotypes

Representative disorders	Key clinical features
Dyskeratosis congenita (DC)	Mucocutaneous triad (nail dysplasia, abnormal skin pigmentation, and oral leukoplakia), bone marrow failure, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary arteriovenous malformations, liver disease, avascular necrosis of hips or shoulders, urethral stenosis, lacrimal duct stenosis, esophageal stenosis, cancer, and/or developmental delay
Aplastic anemia*	Progressive multi-lineage cytopenias, non-immune mediated
MDS and AML*	
Hepatic disease*	Cryptogenic cirrhosis, noncirrhotic portal hypertension (nodular regenerative hyperplasia), hepatopulmonary syndrome
Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis*	May occur in absence of DC-associated features. ~30% of familial PF and 3-5% of sporadic IPF. Other pulmonary phenotype – pulmonary AVMs

Utility of telomere length testing in the diagnosis of hypocellular marrow failure

Lymphocyte telomere lengths:

- > age-adjusted 50th percentile excludes a STS
- < age-adjusted 1st percentile in patients < 40 yo strongly supports a STS (lacks specificity)

Based on data from Alder JK et al. PNAS 2018:115 and courtesy of Mary Armanios, Johns Hopkins University

Age- and telomere length-dependent presentations of STS

• STS are also associated with genetic anticipation.

Armanios M. et al. Nat Rev Genetics 2012: 13(10).

GATA2 deficiency syndrome

- Autosomal dominant
 - Most mutations are de novo
- Multiple clinical syndromes
 - Familial AML/MDS
 - Isolated cytopenias
 - Lymph edema and MDS (Emberger's syndrome)
 - MonoMac (monocytopenia, opportunistic infections, viral associated cancers, B and NK cell lymphopenia)
- Rheumatologic manifestations¹
- Lifetime risk of MDS/AML ~75-90%
- Marrow megakaryocyte morphology and absent hematogones (by flow) may be a clues

Bigley V et al. Sem Cell Dev Bio 2019.

7%

0-<6

6-<12

Age

(years)

12-19

Familial platelet disorder with associated myeloid malignancy (FPD-MM)

- Autosomal dominant due to mutations in RUNX1
- Mild/moderate thrombocytopenia
- Mild bleeding tendency platelet dense granule deficiency
- Family history of MDS/AL
- ~40% lifetime risk for MDS/AML/T-ALL, median age ~30 years

Germline DEAD-box helicase 41 mutations (DDX41) Most common germline myeloid malignancy predisposition syndrome in adults

- Tumor suppressor gene in myeloid neoplasms
- Involved in the splicing of pre-mRNAs, rRNAs and innate immunity signaling
- Germline mutations associated with HHM¹
 - ~3-5% incidence in adult patients with MDS/AML^{3,4}
 - Somatic mutations are rare
 - Mean age of onset of MDS or AML 62 years-old (long-latency)^{1,2,3}
 with a male predominance (~75%)⁻
 - Characterized by normal karyotype and 2nd somatic mutation in DDX41 (often R525H)^{3,4}

^{1.} Polprasert C. et al. Cell 2015: 27. 2. Lewinsohn M. et al. Blood 2016: 127. 3. Makishima H. et al Blood 2022 Online. 4. Sebert M. et al. Blood 2019: 134.

SAMD9/9L disorders

- On chromosome 7; gain of function mutations
- Act as growth suppressors and overexpression leads to cytopenias
- Multi-system disorder, including adrenal hypoplasia, chronic diarrhea, immunodeficiency, genital underdevelopment, neurologic abnormalities
- ~ 10-20% of pediatric MDS
- Highest rate of somatic mosaicism in a human disease to date

Germline predisposition occurs in MDS patients of all ages

• ~7% of patients with MDS harbor deleterious germline mutations

• Age at presentation is a surrogate for the biologic pathway involved.

22 yo male was referred for hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for MDS characterized by monosomy 7 (IPSS-R high risk). The patient's 24 year-old sister is reportedly healthy apart from recurrent herpes stomatitis. She is a 10/10 HLA allele-match to the patient. He has no other siblings. His mother is 44 years of age and has mild thrombocytopenia. His father is 51 years of age and is healthy.

- A. Genetic testing of peripheral blood
- B. Telomere length testing
- D. Bone marrow aspirate and biopsy
- E. Genetic testing of cultured skin fibroblasts
- F. Platelet aggregometry

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21 yo male referred for mild chronic thrombocytopenia and macrocytic anemia. Serum B12 and folate levels normal. PMH notable for recurrent perineal warts. Brother was diagnosed with monosomy 7 MDS at 15 yo and is now two years post an HLA-matched sib HSCT. Mother is 45 yo and has mild thrombocytopenia. Exam was unremarkable.

Lab		Reference Range
HGB	10.8 g/dL	12-16 g/dL
MCV	104 fL	80-100 fL
WBC	5300/µL	4300-10,000/μL
ANC	4000/µL	1800-7,000/μL
Lymphocytes	1100/µL	1000-4800/µL
Monocytes	0/μL	0-800/µL
PLT	125,000/μL	150,000-400,000/μl

Marrow - hypocellular for age with normal blast percentage and atypical megakaryocytes. No immunophenotypic abnormalities. Routine karyotype 46, XY.

- A. Platelet aggregometry
- B. Genetic testing
- C. Serum folate and B12 levels
- D. Chromosomal microarray
- E. Telomere length testing

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Which of the following is not a feature described in the genetic syndrome affecting this family?

- A. Alveolar proteinosis
- B. Atypical mycobacterial infections
- C. Recurrent genital HPV infections
- D. Lymphedema
- E. Recurrent bacterial infections

The End

Features of select iBMF/HMPS that may present with hypocellular marrows

Syndrome	Congenital findings	Malignancy risk	Screening test	Genetics	Other hints
Fanconi anemia	Ear abnormalities, heart defects, short stature, skin pigmentation (café-au-lait spots or hypopigmentation), skeletal anomalies (thumbs, arms), TE fistula, triangular facies, urogenital defects	AML, MDS, GYN CA, Head and neck CA, and others	Increased chromosome breakage	FANCA, C, G account for 95% of cases	Sensitivity to chemotherapy
GATA2 deficiency	Lymphedema, immunodeficiency w/ atypical mycobacterial infections	AML, MDS		GATA2	Megakaryocyte atypia, pediatric MDS with monosomy 7, del7q, trisomy 8, der(1;7)
SAMD9/SAMD9L disorders	MIRAGE (SAMD9): MDS, infection, restriction of growth, adrenal hypoplasia, genital phenotypes, and enteropathy. Ataxia-pancytopenia syndrome (SAMD9L): cerebellar atrophy & white matter hyperintensities, gait disturbance, nystagmus	AML, MDS		SAMD9, SAMD9L	Pediatric MDS with monosomy 7, del7q, or CN-LOH 7q
Short telomere syndromes	Young adults: infections, nail dystrophy, oral leukoplakia, skin hyperpigmentation Adults: emphysema, early hair graying, immune deficiency, liver fibrosis/ cirrhosis, macrocytosis, pulmonary AVMs & HPS	AML, MDS Rectal adenocarcinoma SCC anus/oral cavity/tongue	Short telomere lengths (correlates w/ phenotype)	DKC1, RTEL1 TERT, TERC TINF2,, RTEL1 account for majority of cases	
Shwachman- Diamond Syndrome	Pancreatic insufficiency (can improve with age), skeletal abnormalities	AML, MDS	Low pancreatic isoamylase(>3 yo) and low fecal elastase (peds & adults)	SBDS, SRP54, ELF1, DNAJC21	Isolated neutropenia. somatic mutations in EIF6 & TP53

Epag and clonal evolution in aAA

- Impact on malignant evolution uncertain
 - 19% (16/83) of rSAA treated with single-agent Epag early cytogenetic clonal evoluation¹
- Longer follow-up needed