

# COMPREHENSIVE HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY REVIEW

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## BENIGN WHITE CELL DISORDERS

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# Land Acknowledgement

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center acknowledges the Coast Salish peoples of this land, the land which touches the shared waters of all tribes and bands within the Duwamish, Puyallup, Suquamish, Tulalip and Muckleshoot nations.



## DISCLOSURES

I have no disclosure or conflicts of interest  
I will discuss off-label use of some medications

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Michael Linenberger, MD



# OBJECTIVES

DIAGNOSE AND MANAGE CONGENITAL & ACQUIRED  
NETUROPENIA AND NON-CLONAL NEUTROPENIA

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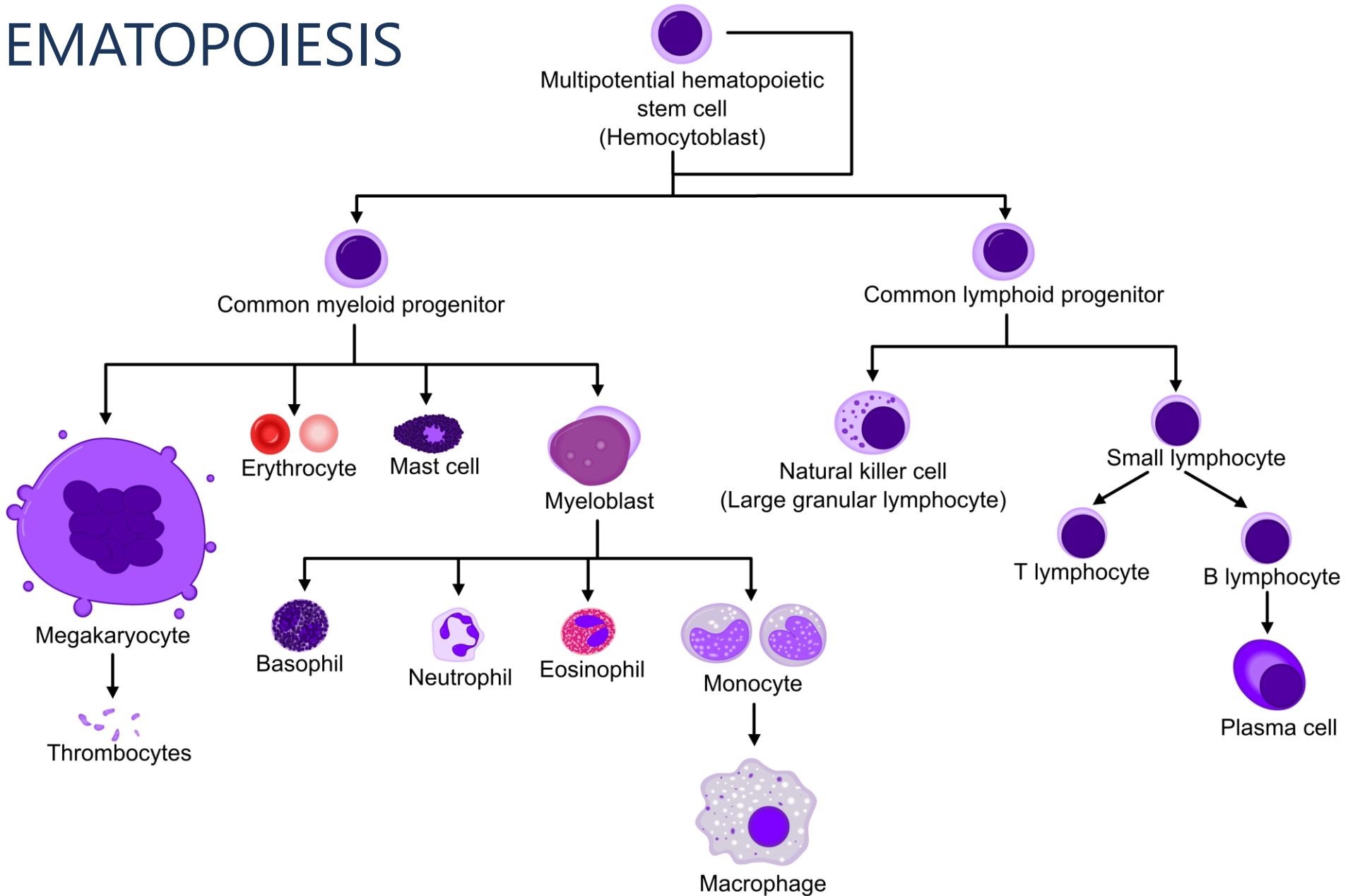
RECOGNISE CAUSES, EVALUATION AND TREATMENT OF  
EOSINOPHIL & MAST CELL DISORDERS

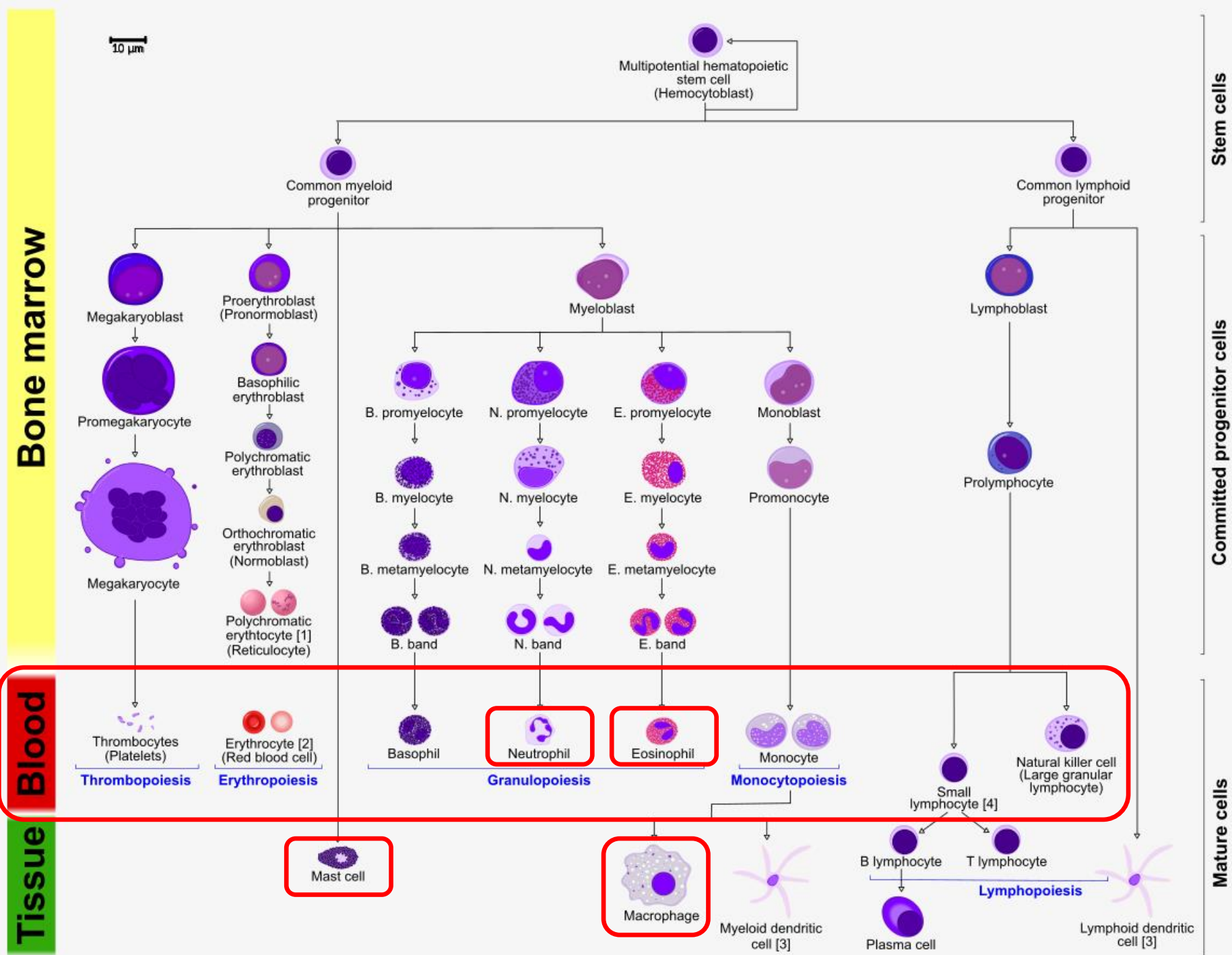
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UNDERSTAND THE PATHOBIOLOGY & MANAGEMENT  
OF HLH AND MACROPHAGE ACTIVATION SYNDROMES

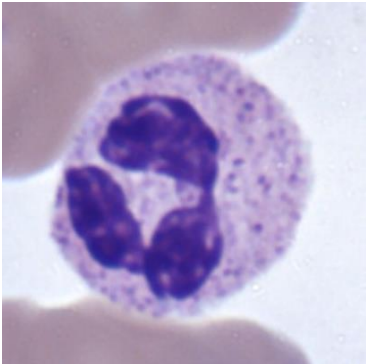
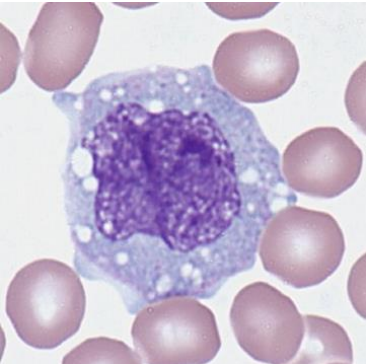
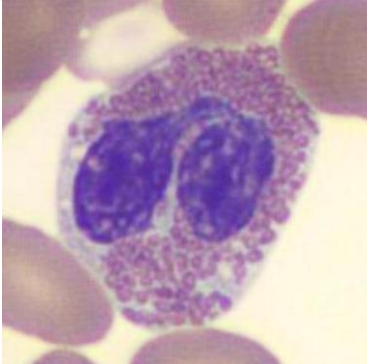


# HEMATOPOIESIS





# PERIPHERAL WHITE BLOOD COUNTS

|   | WBC                    | RANGE ( k/ $\mu$ L) | DIFFERENTIAL (%) |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                    | Total                  | 4 - 10              |                  |                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | Neutrophils            | 1.8 - 7             | 42 -70           |                                                                                      |
|  | Neutrophilic bands     | 0 – 0.2             | <2               |  |
|                                                                                    | Monocytes              | 0 – 0.8             | 0 – 8            |                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | Lymphocytes (T, B, NK) | 1 – 4.8             | 10 – 40          |                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | Eosinophils            | 0 – 0.5             | 0 – 5            |                                                                                      |
|                                                                                    | Basophils              | 0 – 0.2             | 0 - 2            |                                                                                      |



# CASE 1: NEUTROPENIA

- 42-year-old woman presents with fever and flank pain
- She had uncomplicated UTI about a week ago
- Past medical history:
  - Bipolar affective disorder, illicit substance and alcohol use, ? Rheumatoid arthritis
- Medications:
  - Ciprofloxacin (day 8), aspirin, risperidone (for the past 3 weeks) for recent acute maniac event, lithium, aspirin
- Exam:
  - Vitals: Temp: 38.6°C, BP: 110/66 mmHg HR: 110/min
  - Oriented, lethargic, left flank pain

# CASE 1: DATA

- Lab results:
  - Hgb: 13 g/dL, MCV 89 fL, normal RPI. WBC 5.4 k/ $\mu$ L. Platelets: 395 k/ $\mu$ L
  - Diff: neutrophils 0.3 k/ $\mu$ L, monocytes 0.9 k/ $\mu$ L, lymphocytes: 3.9 k/ $\mu$ L, eosinophils: 0.3 k/ $\mu$ L
- Urinalysis:
  - Esterase +, no WBC, 3+ RBC
  - Gram stain: gram negative rods
- Radiology:
  - Chest X-ray: normal
  - KUB: No obstruction

# ACQUIRED NEUTROPENIA

## DECREASED PRODUCTION

Medications (dose-dependent & idiosyncratic)  
Chronic idiopathic neutropenia (CIN)  
Nutritional deficiency (B12, folate)  
Infection (e.g. HIV, CMV, EBV, Parvo)  
Infiltration (e.g. T-LGL, fibrosis, myeloma)  
Primary hematopoietic disorders (MDS, AA)

## INCREASED CONSUMPTION

Bacterial infection  
Sepsis

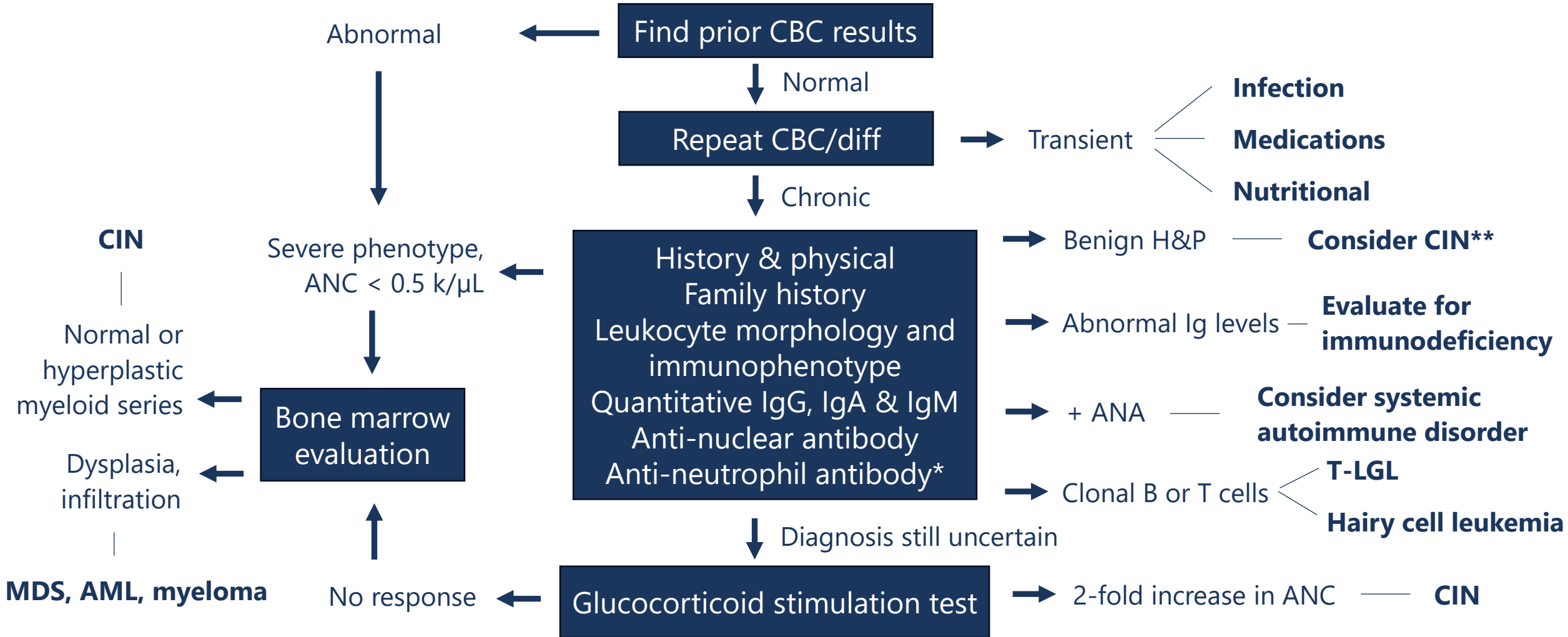
## INCREASED DESTRUCTION

Medication-related antibody mediated  
Medication-related idiosyncratic  
Post-infectious antibody mediated  
Auto-immune (e.g. RA, SLE)  
Immune (CIN)

## SEQUESTRATION

Hypersplenism  
Splenomegaly  
Myelokathexis (e.g. WHIM syndrome)

# DIAGNOSTIC APPROACH TO NEUTROPENIA



\*Granulocyte agglutinin & immunofluorescence test (GAT, GIFT): ~35%+ in adults with CIN

\*\*CIN: chronic idiopathic/immune neutropenia

# CASE 1: DATA

- Lab results:

- Hgb: 13 g/dL, MCV 89 fL, normal RPI. WBC 5.4 k/ $\mu$ L. Platelets: 395 k/ $\mu$ L
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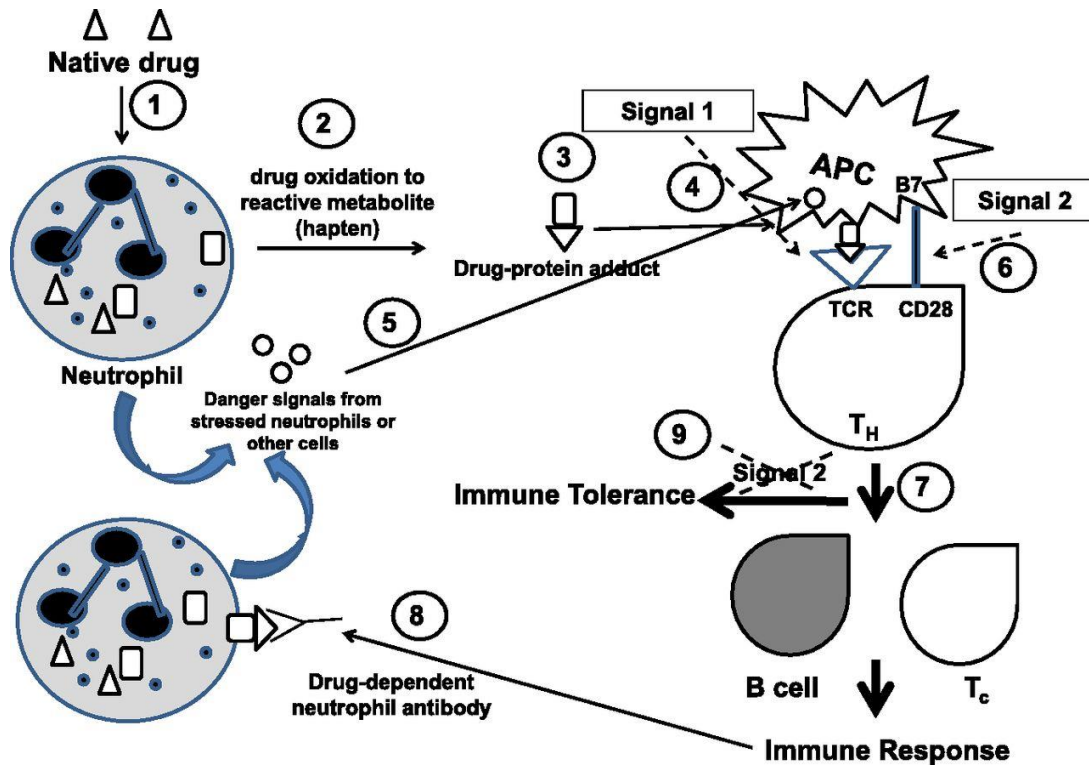
- Radiology:

- Chest X-ray: normal
- KUB: No obstruction

Several CBCs from the past: normal WBC/ANC

Repeat CBC 2 weeks later: normal ANC

# IDIOSYNCRATIC DRUG-INDUCED NEUTROPENIA



## Huber et al

Carbamazepine†  
Clozapine†  
Metamizole (dipyrone)†  
Sulfasalazine†  
Thiamazole†

## Medrano-Casique et al

Benzylpenicillin†  
Cefipime†  
Linezolid  
Meropenem†  
Metronidazole  
Piperacillin-tazobactam†  
Teicoplanin  
Tobramycin  
Torsemide  
Vancomycin†

## Andrés et al

Amoxicillin†  
Carbimazole†  
Clozapine†  
Cotrimoxazole†  
Cefotaxime  
Noramidopyrine  
Piperacillin-tazobactam  
Salazopyrine  
Ticlopidine†  
Valganciclovir

## Curtis

Cefipime  
Ceftriaxone‡  
**Ciprofloxacin‡**  
Clindamycin  
Ibuprofen  
Levetiracetam  
Piperacillin-tazobactam‡  
Quetiapine  
Sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim‡  
Tacrolimus  
Vancomycin‡  
Venlafaxine

†Five most frequently associated drugs.

‡Five most suspected drugs.

# MANAGEMENT OF MEDICATION-INDUCED NEUTROPENIA

- Withdraw all non-essential medications, herbals and OTC meds
- Expect ANC recovery within 1-2 weeks of medications removal
- Slower recovery for ANC < 0.1 k/ $\mu$ L, sepsis or severe infection
- Broad-spectrum antibiotics as indicated for fever and infection or prophylaxis (case-by-case basis)
- Marrow biopsy:
  - If abnormal RBC/platelets or delayed recovery
- G-CSF:
  - Beneficial for ANC < 0.1 k/ $\mu$ L (even without infection)
  - Consider for ANC < 0.5 k/ $\mu$ L in elderly w/wo infection, severe comorbidity, sepsis etc.

# AUTO-IMMUNE NEUTROPENIA

- Commonly seen in patients with RA, SLE, Sjogren's
- Medications: PTU, rituximab
- **Felty syndrome:** RA (usually severe), splenomegaly (90%) & neutropenia
  - Anti-G-CSF ab (70%) ± increased oligoclonal CTLs (LGLs)
- **SLE-associated neutropenia**
  - 25-50% incidence
  - Anti-SSA/Ro, anti-SSB/La, TNF-related apoptosis
- **Therapy:**
  - Glucocorticoids, methotrexate, cyclosporine
  - Low-dose G-CSF; *beware of symptom flare, leukocytoclastic vasculitis, splenomegaly*

# CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC (IMMUNE) NEUTROPENIA

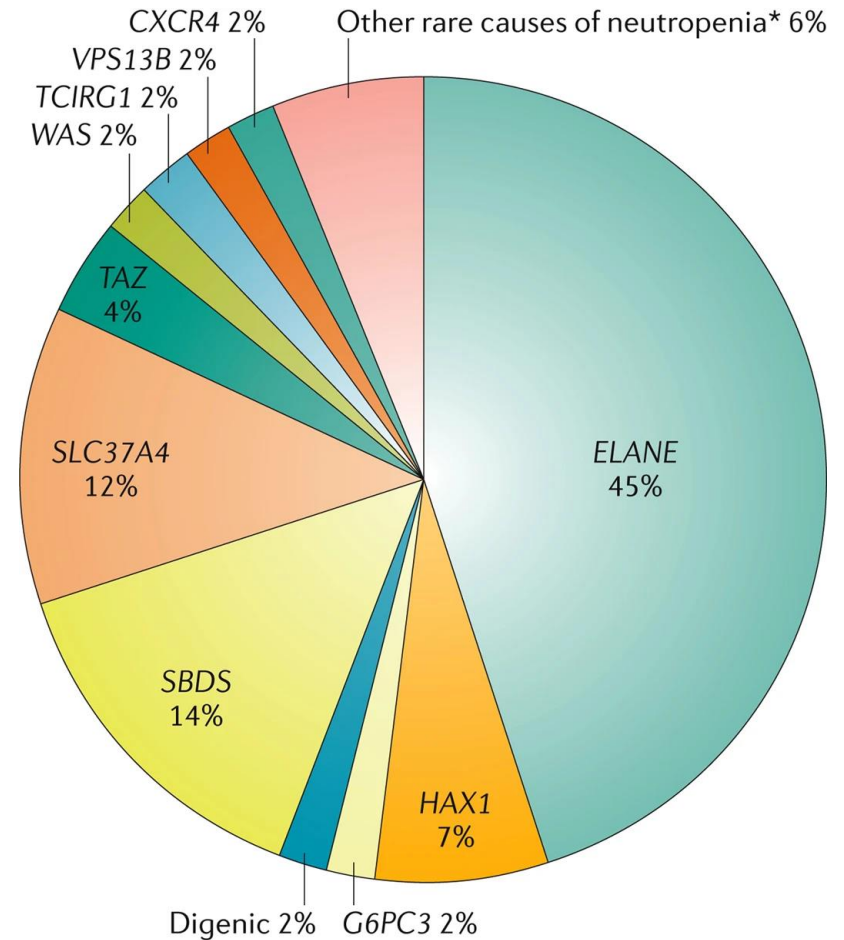
- **Diagnosis of exclusion:**
  - Chronic ANC < 0.5 k/ $\mu$ L
  - No associated auto-immune disorder, medication or infection
- **Prevalence:**
  - 1.7%, Females > males (2:1); adults > children; median age: 25 years
- **Etiology:**
  - Immune mechanism impairing neutrophil production in marrow
- **Therapy:**
  - Low dose G-CSF (1  $\mu$ g/kg/day)\*

| Events       | Mouth ulcers | Otitis | Cellulitis | Skin abscesses | Pneumonia | Sepsis | Peritonitis |
|--------------|--------------|--------|------------|----------------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| Before G-CSF | 235          | 213    | 56         | 211            | 84        | 23     | 3           |
| On G-CSF     | 82           | 73     | 18         | 44             | 22        | 1      | 0           |

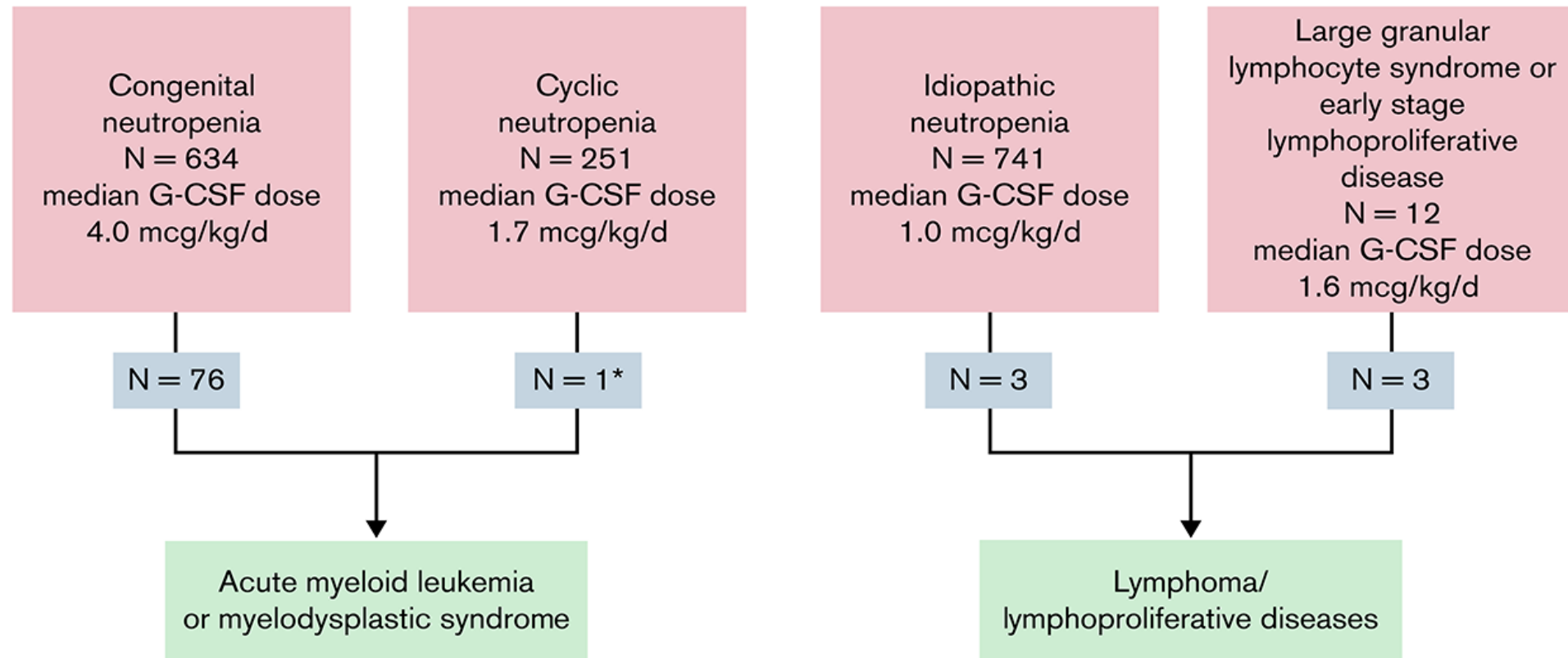
\*Data from SCNIR Registry

# CONGENITAL NEUTROPENIA

- Severe congenital neutropenia (SCN)
- Cyclic neutropenia
- Other inherited neutropenia syndromes
  - Schwachman-Diamond syndrome
  - WHIM syndrome\*
  - GATA2 deficiency/MonoMAC
  - Chediak-Higashi syndrome
  - Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome
  - Griscelli syndrome
- ACKR1/DARC-associated neutropenia (ADAN) (previously BEN & DANC)



# OUTCOMES IN SEVERE CHRONIC NEUTROPENIA TREATED WITH G-CSF

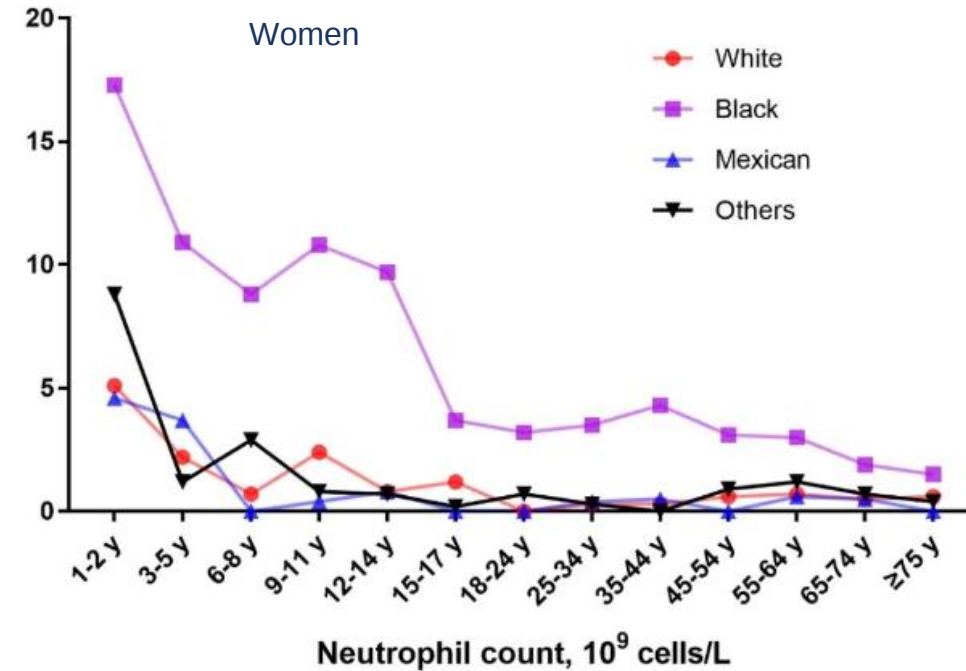
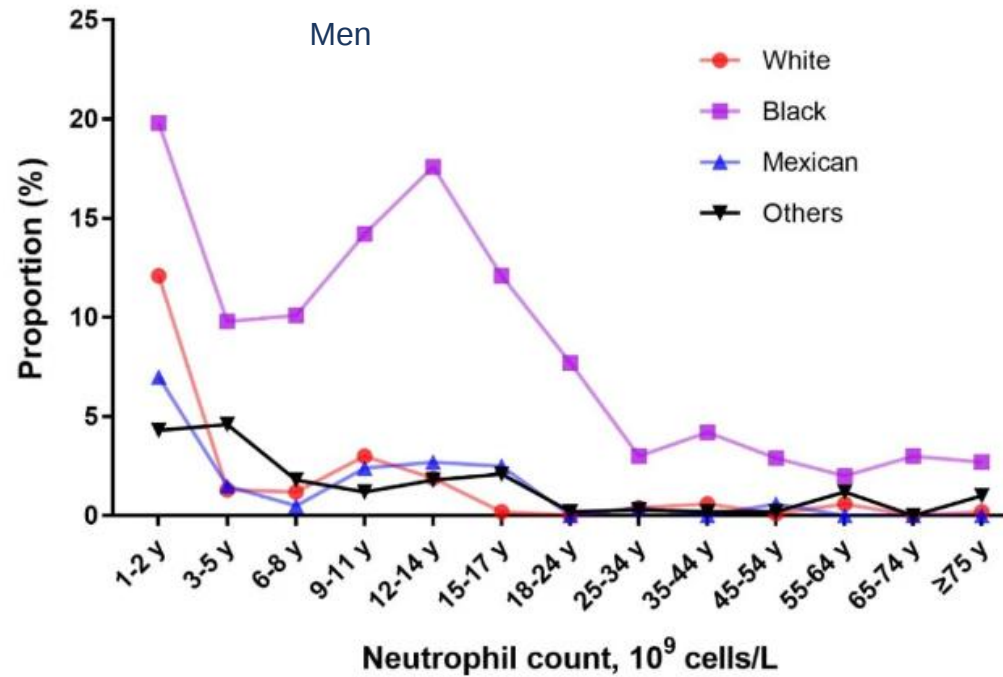


\*Patient also treated with cyclophosphamide

# PREVALANCE OF NEUTROPENIA IN US RESIDENTS

## POPULATION BASED ANALYSIS OF NHANES 2011-2018

Neutrophil count < 1.0 k/ $\mu$ L



## CASE 2: NEUTROPHILIA

- 36-year-old man from Croatia presents with **sporadic self-limiting abdominal pain** for the past 15 years; more frequent episodes over the past year (~once a month). No triggers, but associated with **fever, irritability, anxiety, muscle aches and testicular pain**. Resolves over 2 days. Weight loss of around 10 lbs.
- Multiple ED visits; leukocytosis: WBC ~ 13-15 k/ $\mu$ L; ANC 9.6-11 k/ $\mu$ L
- **Past medical history:**
  - Bipolar affective disorder, illicit substance and alcohol use, ? Rheumatoid arthritis
- **Medications:**
  - Codeine
- **Family/social history:**
  - Living in the US for 10 years. Works at Microsoft. Non-smoker.
- **Exam:**
  - Afebrile. No organomegaly. No skin rash. No lymphadenopathy.

## CASE 2: DATA

- **Lab results:**
  - Hgb: 13.6 g/dL, MCV 90 fL, normal RPI. WBC 13.4 k/ $\mu$ L. Platelets: 252 k/ $\mu$ L. Neutrophils 10.1 k/ $\mu$ L. No left shifted myeloid maturation.
  - ESR 45 mm/hr
  - Normal liver enzymes, lipase and renal functions
- **Urinalysis:**
  - 3+ protein
  - No WBC or RBCs
- **Radiology:**
  - CT abdomen: Prominent mesenteric lymph nodes. Normal liver, spleen and kidneys.

# NON-CLONAL NEUTROPHILIA

## SECONDARY /REACTIVE

Infections

Inflammation

Obesity, smoking

Tumor (secreting G-CSF)

Medications: lithium, steroids, G-CSF

## CONSTITUTIONAL

Down's syndrome

Transient myeloproliferative disorder (*GATA1*)

Hereditary chronic neutrophilia (*CSF3R*)

## DEMARGINATION/ DECREASED SEQUESTRATION

Asplenia

Corticosteroids

## PRIMARY NEUTROPHIL DISORDERS WITH NEUTROPHILIA

Auto-activation: Familial mediterranean fever

Abnormal trafficking: Leukocyte-adhesion deficiency

Abnormal phagocytosis: Chronic granulomatous disease

## CASE 3: EOSINOPHILIA

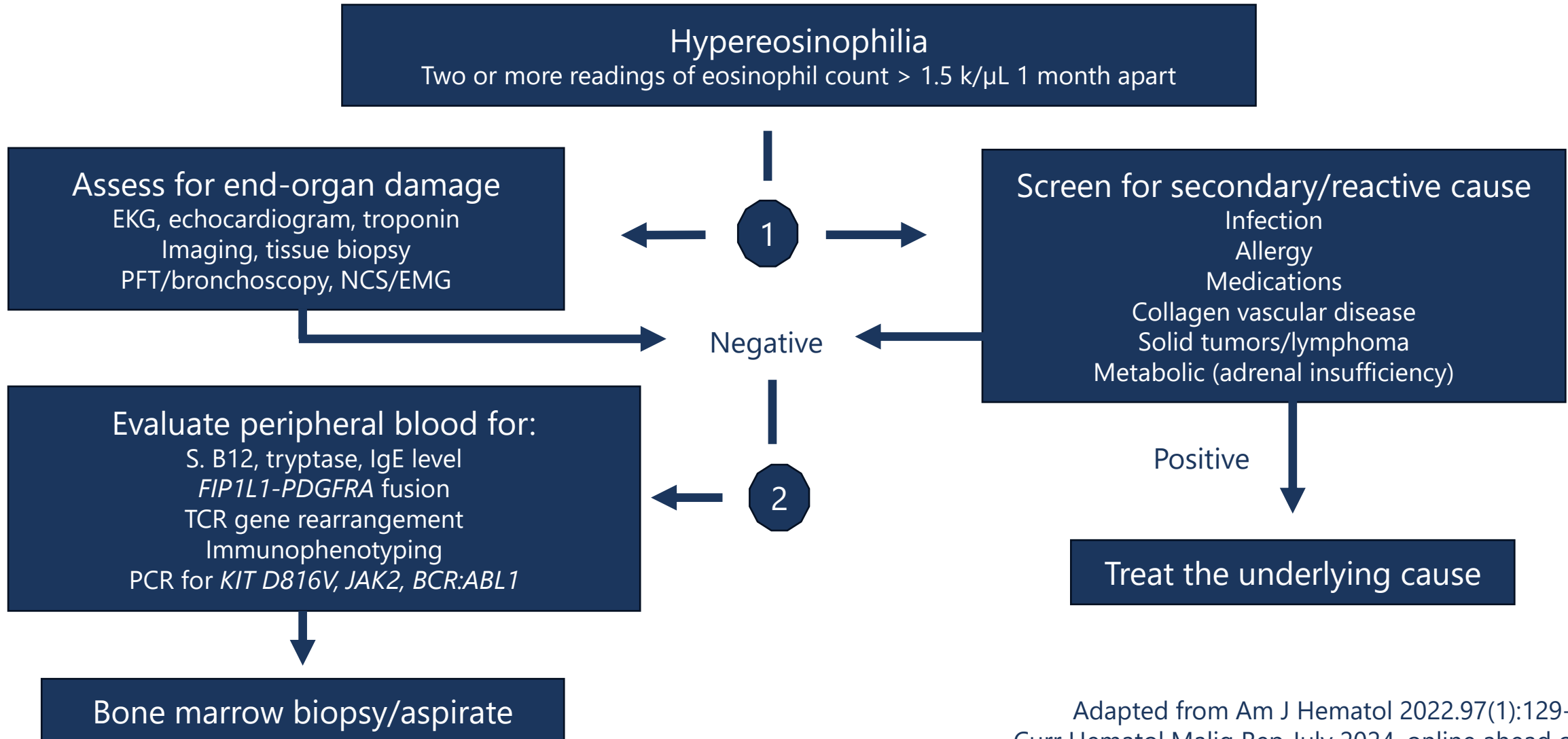
- 21-year-old man admitted to the hospital after having a **cardiac arrest**
  - Troponin I: 5.6 ng/mL, BNP: 10,050 pg/mL
  - Urine drug screen: + amphetamines
  - Echocardiogram: LVEF 15-20%, concentric LV hypertrophy, ballooning apex
  - On IABP

|                        | DAY 1       | DAY 2       | DAY 3       | 1 month prior |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| WBC, k/ $\mu$ L        | 15.8        | 18.3        | 16.1        | 15            |
| Hgb, g/dL              | 11.5        | 10.5        | 10          | 13            |
| PLTs, k/ $\mu$ L       | 120         | 115         | 105         | 150           |
| % neutrophils          | 40          | 42          | 38          | 35            |
| % eosinophils          | 45          | 40          | 48          | 50            |
| Eosinophil, k/ $\mu$ L | <b>7.11</b> | <b>7.32</b> | <b>7.73</b> | <b>7.5</b>    |

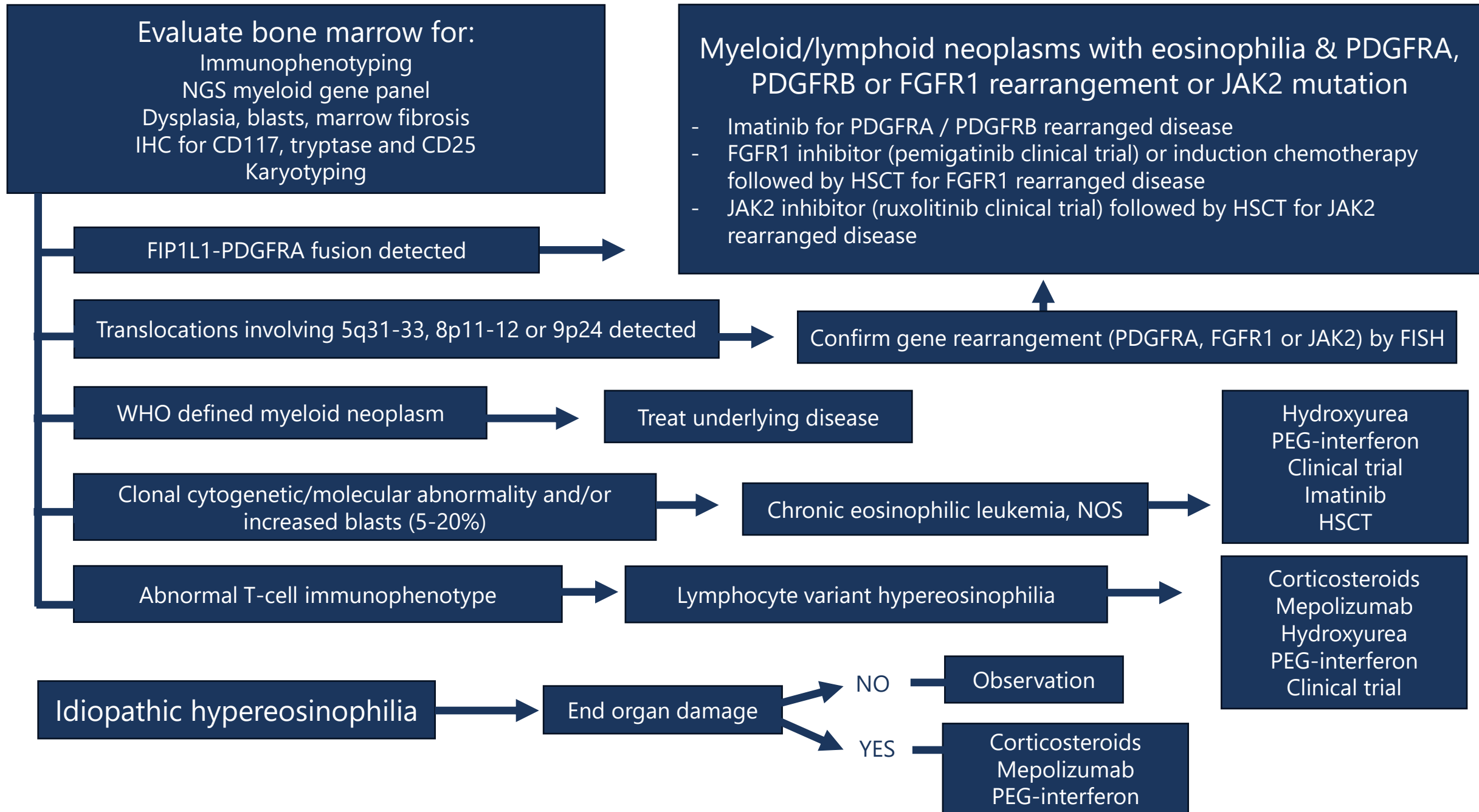
# HYPEREOSINOPHILIA

- Two or more readings of eosinophil count  $> 1.5 \text{ k}/\mu\text{L}$ , 1 month apart and/or pathologic confirmation of tissue hypereosinophilia
  - $> 20\%$  eosinophils on bone marrow section
  - Extensive tissue infiltration
  - Marked deposition of eosinophil granule proteins in tissue (e.g. eosinophil peroxidase)
- Hypereosinophilic syndrome (HES)
  - Hypereosinophilia with eosinophil-mediated organ dysfunction
  - Other potential causes of tissue damage should be excluded
  - Primary (neoplastic): underlying clonal stem cell or myeloid/eosinophilic neoplasm
  - Secondary (reactive): infections, allergy, Addison's, collagen-vascular disorders (e.g. EGPA)
  - Idiopathic: cause remains unknown despite thorough work-up

# APPROACH TO EOSINOPHILIA



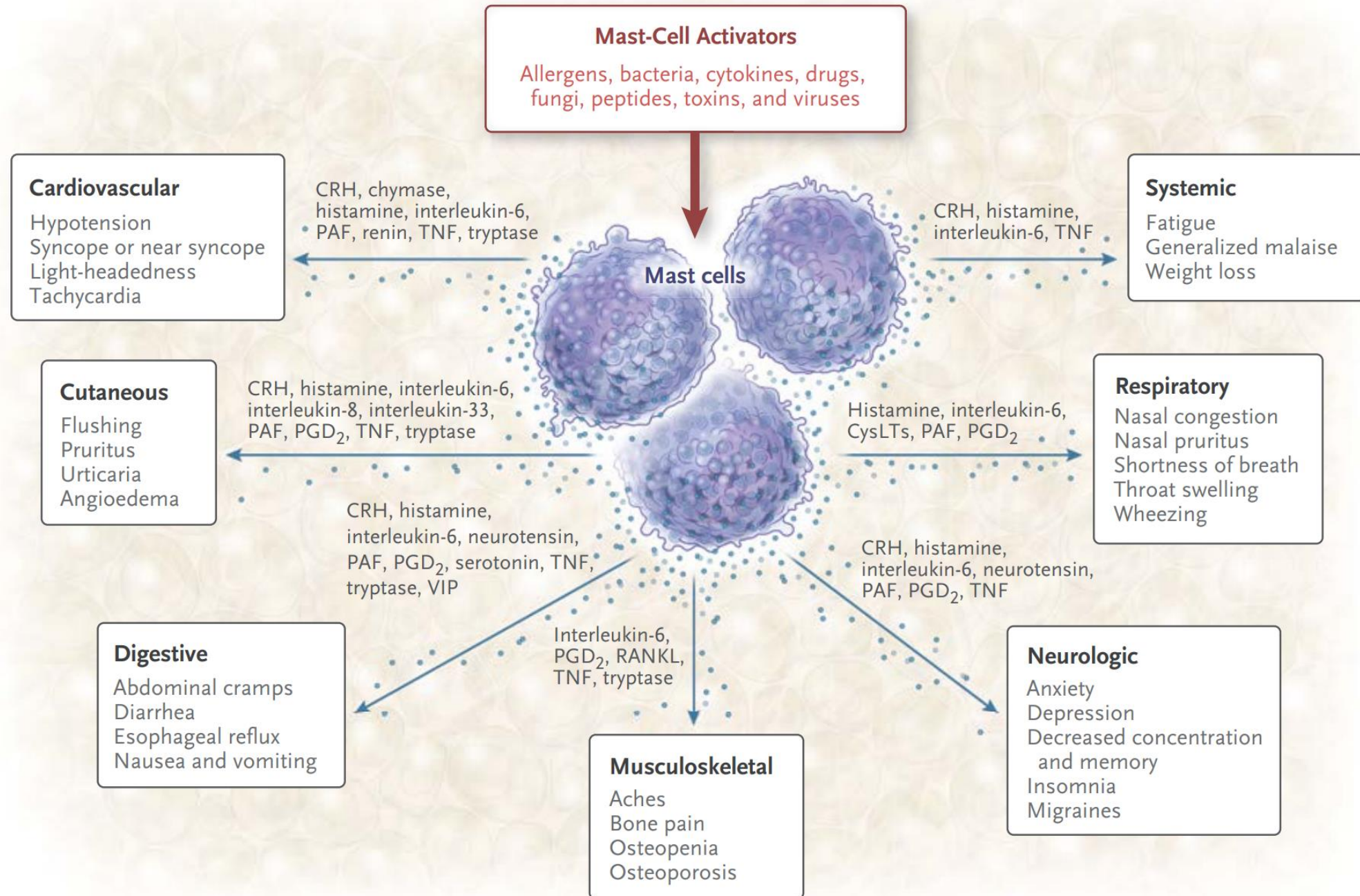
Adapted from Am J Hematol 2022.97(1):129-148 &  
Curr Hematol Malig Rep July 2024, online ahead of print



# CASE 3: MAST CELL DISEASE

- 60-year-old man with **episodic cramping abdominal pain, nausea and diarrhea**
- Likely triggers: stress and spicy food. Resolves over 5-7 days.
- Occasional episodes of flushing, presyncope, hive and itching
- **Past medical history:**
  - Gastric ulcer 6 months ago. Urticaria for 4-5 years
- **Medications:**
  - Omeprazole
- **Exam:**
  - Pigmented macular, dermatographism and Darier's sign +
- **Labs:**
  - Normal CBC & LFTs. Normal lipase and VIP
  - Tryptase 35 ng/mL; 24h urine histamine/creatinine: 2100 nmol/g





# MAST CELL DISEASE

- Two categories: **cutaneous** mastocytosis (CM) and **systemic** mastocytosis (SM)
- **Difficult to distinguish on clinical grounds**, because both disorders can have the same skin lesions, systemic symptoms, and complications
- **CM variants: usually indolent course**
  - Maculopapular CM
  - Diffuse CM
  - Mastocytoma of the skin
  - *Telangiectasis macularis perstans*\*
  - *Nodular mastocytosis*\*
- **SM variants: disparate clinical course**
  - Indolent SM
  - Smoldering SM
  - SM with aggressive myeloid neoplasm
  - Aggressive SM
  - Mast cell leukemia

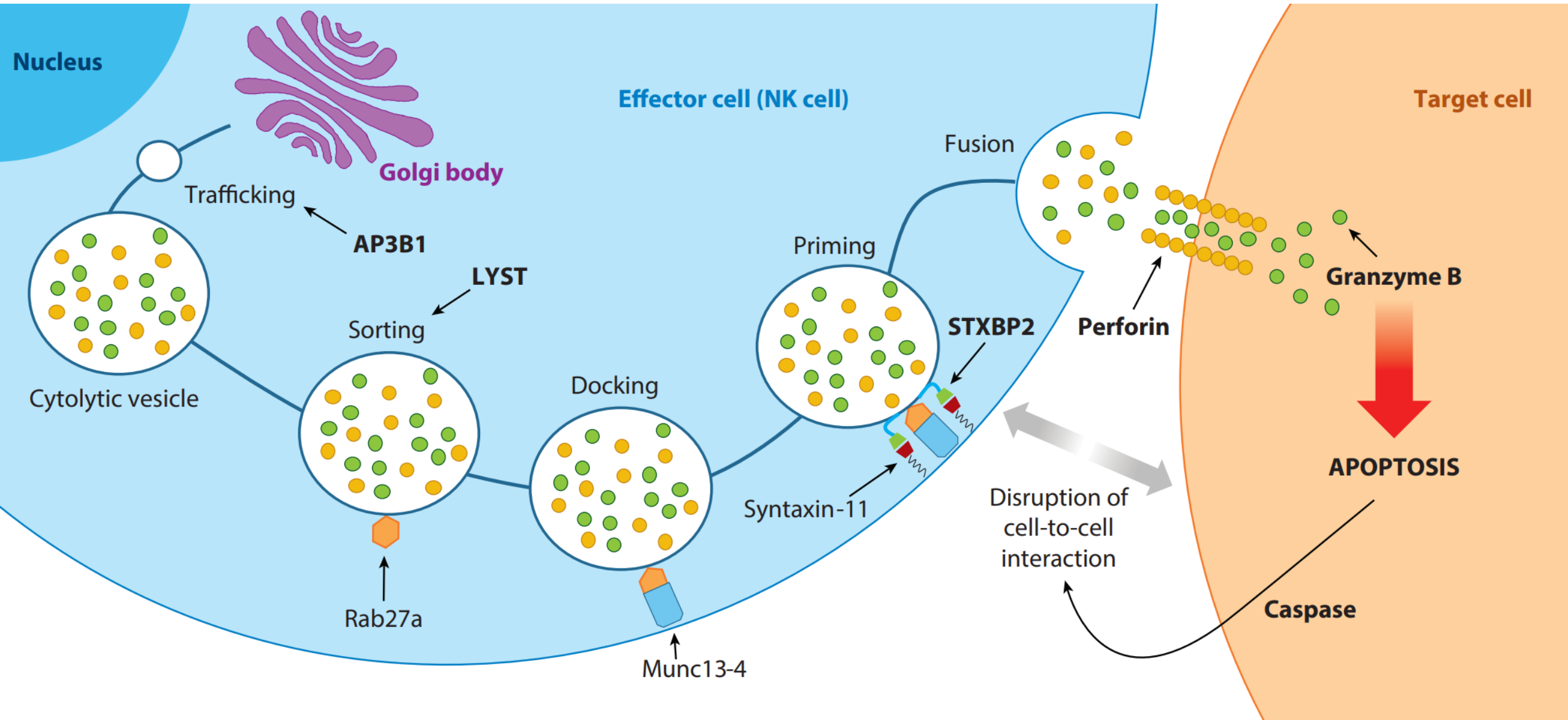
# SYSTEMIC MASTOCYTOSIS: DIAGNOSIS

- WHO diagnostic criteria
  - Major
    - Multifocal mast cell infiltrates (> 15 cells/infiltrate) in tissue other than skin
  - Minor
    - a. Bone marrow or extracutaneous tissue infiltrates: >25% are spindle-shaped or have atypical morphology
    - b. *KIT* D816V point mutation in bone marrow, blood or extracutaneous organ.
    - c. Mast cells co-express CD25 ± CD2 in addition to normal mast cell markers
    - d. Serum total tryptase persistently exceeds 20 ng/ml
- Diagnosis requires 1 major + 1 minor, or 3 minor criteria
- ICC and WHO subtype of SM variants: based on B\* & C\* findings
- Risk scoring for SM: [REMA](#) & [MAPS](#) scores

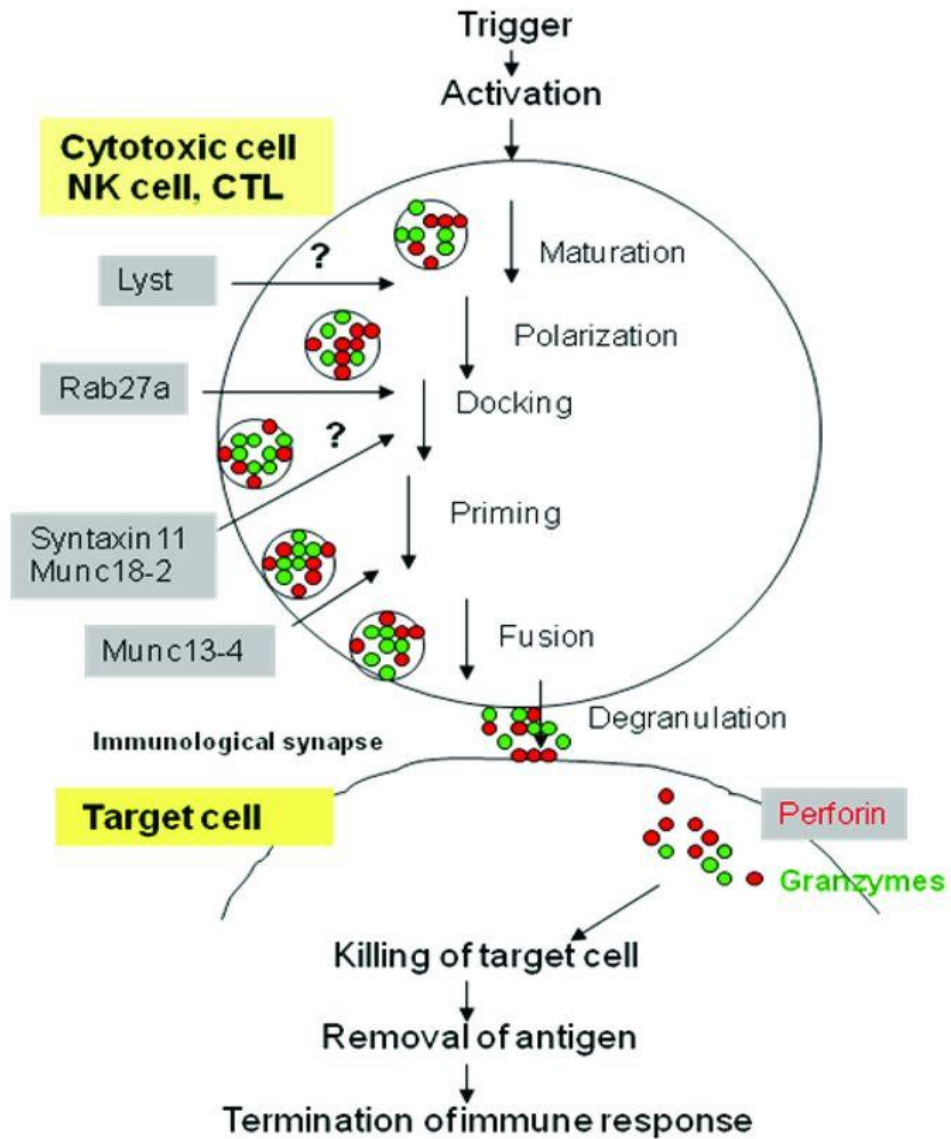
# SYSTEMIC MASTOCYTOSIS: TREATMENT

| Indolent/smoldering SM                                                                                                                              | Aggressive SM                                                                                                           | SM-AMN                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Avoid triggers of mast cell degranulation<br>Narcotics, EtoH, contrast dye, anesthetics                                                             | Avapritinib                                                                                                             | Integrate clinical, histologic, and molecular data to assess which disease component (SM or AMN) warrants immediate treatment                                                     |
| Symptom management<br>H1/H2 blockers, epinephrine, corticosteroids, leukotriene inhibitors, topical agents, ketotifen, cromolyn sodium, omalizumab, | Clinical trials<br>(e.g. bezuclastinib, BLU-263)                                                                        | For aggressive AMN (with low burden SM): treat the AMN as per standard of care (e.g. AHSCT) with symptom management of SM as indicated                                            |
| Avapritinib<br>For patients with moderate-to-severe symptoms despite optimal symptom-directed therapies                                             | Midostaurin or cladribine<br>Cladribine preferred if rapid debulking is indicated; midostaurin as maintenance post-HSCT | For SM causing organopathy (with indolent AMN): treat as aggressive SM; treat indolent AMN e.g. PV or ET with observation or treatment as per standard of care                    |
| Osteoporosis/osteopenia<br>Calcium & vitamin D, bisphosphonates, denosumab, vertebroplasty/kyphoplasty                                              | Imatinib<br>Eosinophilia with FIP1L1-PDGFR $\alpha$ or KIT D816V-negative                                               | Disease progression<br>Restage to assess dominant component, SM or AMN; appropriate salvage therapy including AHSCT as indicated, molecular assessment may guide targeted therapy |
| Perioperative management                                                                                                                            | Interferon- $\alpha$<br>Pegylated forms likely better tolerated $\pm$ prednisone                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Clinical trials<br>(e.g. bezuclastinib, BLU-263, masitinib)                                                                                         | Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplant (AHSCT)                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                   |

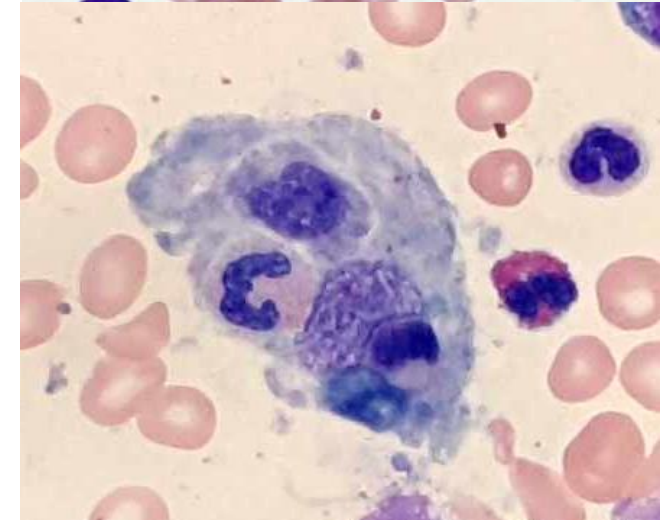
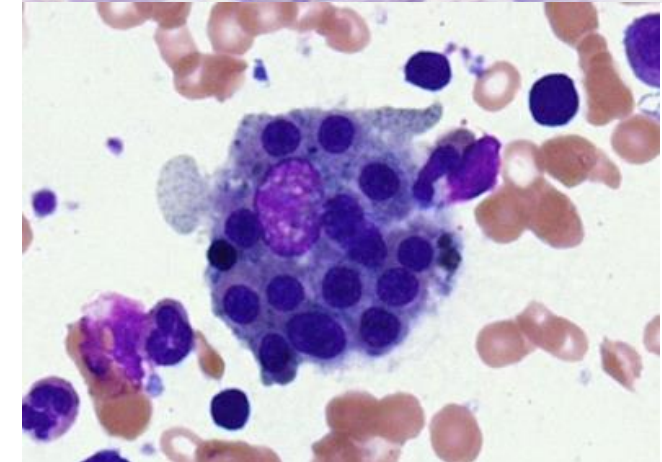
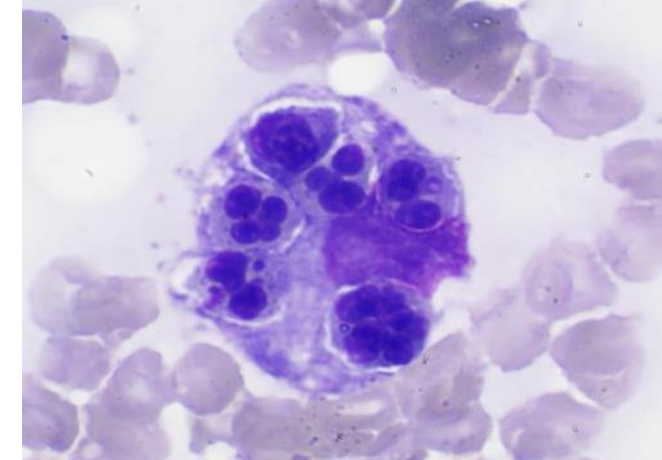
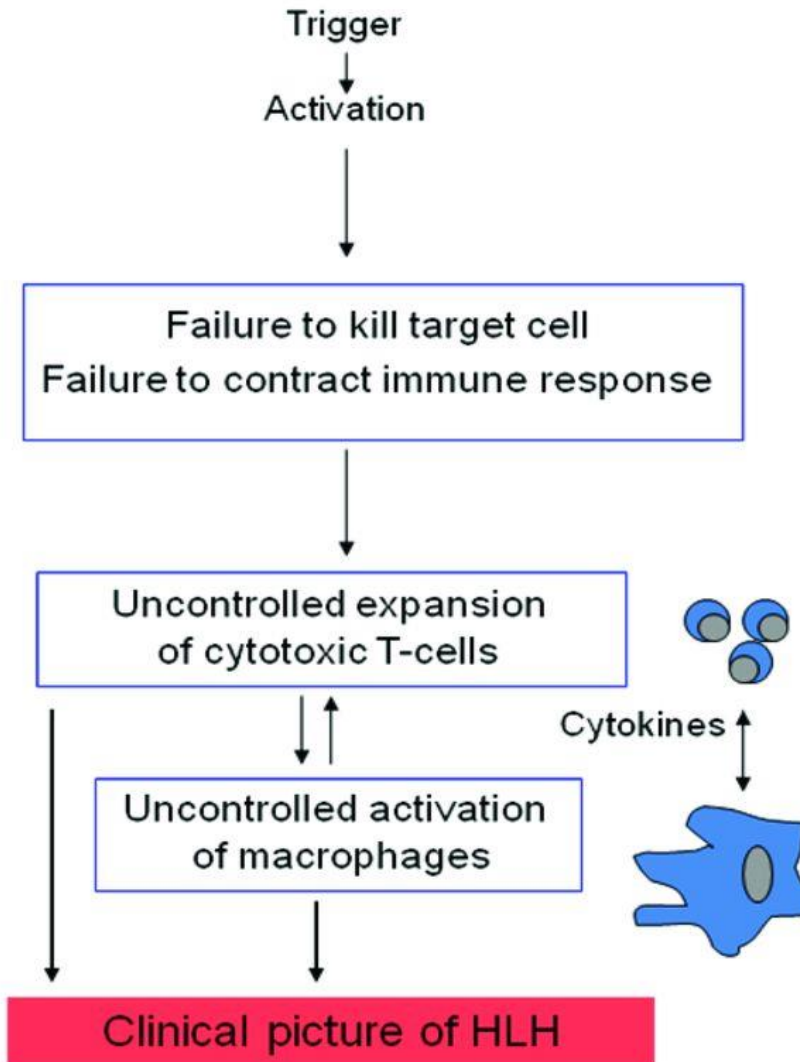
# CTL & NK-CELL CYTOTOXICITY: 'KISS OF DEATH'



## Normal immune response



## Uncontrolled and ineffective immune response in genetic HLH



# PRIMARY HLH: INHERITED CTL/NK-CELL DEFECTS

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## HLH ASSOCIATED WITH LYMPHOCYTE CYTOTOXIC DEFECTS

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FHL1: Unidentified gene on chromosome 9

FHL2: Perforin (*PRF1*) mutation

FHL3: Munc13-4 (*UNC13D*) mutation

FHL4: Syntaxin 11 (*STX11*) mutation

FHL5: Syntaxin binding protein (*STXBP2*)

## FHL WITH HYPOPIGMENTATION

Chediak-Higashi syndrome 1: *LYST* (= *CHS1*) mutation

Griscelli syndrome 2: *RAB27A* mutation

Hermansky-Pudlak syndrome: *HSP2* & *AP3B1* mutation

## FHL ASSOCIATED WITH INFLAMMASOME ACTIVATION DEFECTS

X-linked lymphoproliferative disorder type 1: *SH2D1A* mutation

X-linked lymphoproliferative disorder type 2: *BIRC4* mutation

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## sHLH/MAS TRIGGERS

### Medication

|               |
|---------------|
| Infliximab    |
| Sulfasalazine |
| Methotrexate  |
| Etoposide     |
| Etanercept    |
| NSAIDs        |
| Adalimumab    |

### Malignancy

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| Lymphoid/solid cancers         |
| Hodgkin lymphomas              |
| Leukemias                      |
| Multicentric Castleman Disease |

### Cell therapy

|       |        |                |
|-------|--------|----------------|
| CAR-T | CAR-NK | CAR-macrophage |
|-------|--------|----------------|

## Autoimmune diseases

### High frequencies

|                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Adult onset Still disease (10-40%)                      |
| Systemic juvenile idiopathic arthritis (sJIA) (10%-30%) |
| Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) (0.9~4.6%)           |
| Kawasaki disease (~2%)                                  |

### Others

|                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Systemic sclerosis         | Vasculitic syndrome  |
| Siogren syndrome           | Dermato-myositis     |
| Inflammatory bowel disease |                      |
| Enthesitis arthritis       | Rheumatoid arthritis |

## Infection

### Viruses

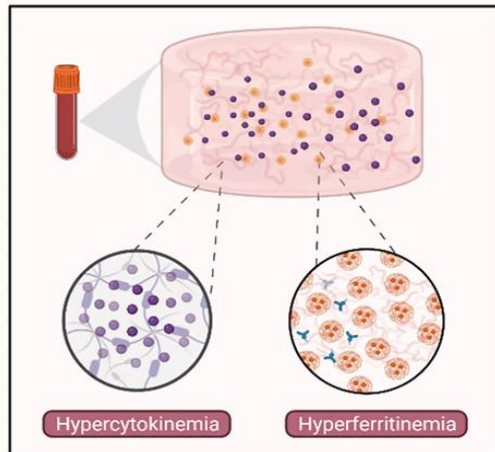
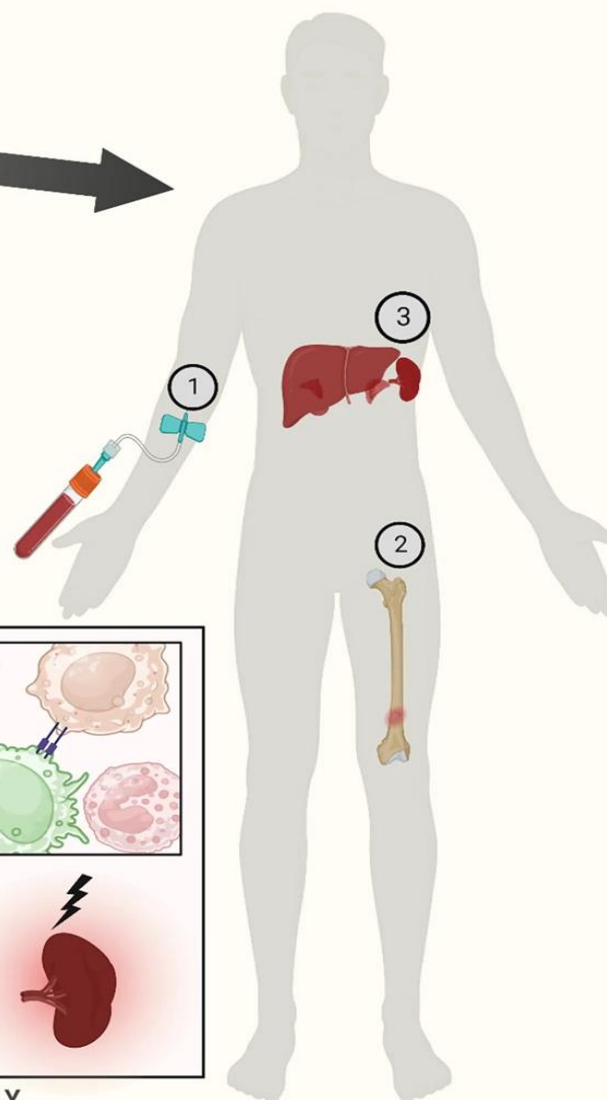
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|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Epstein-Barr virus (25%) | Herpes    | HIV         |
| Cytomegalovirus          | Varicella | Adenovirus  |
| COVID-19                 | Influenza | Enterovirus |
|                          |           | Coxsaki     |

### Bacteria

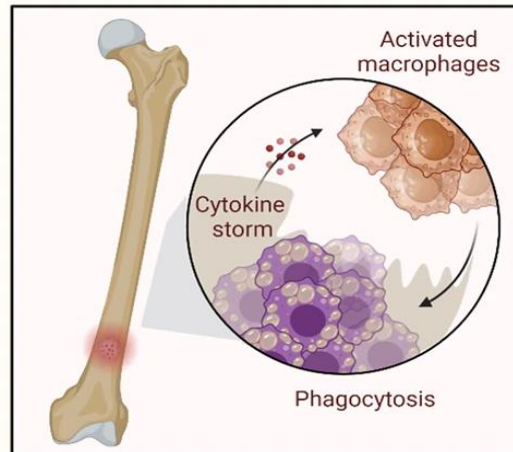
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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> | <i>Rickettsia</i>     |
| <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>      | <i>Pneumococcus</i>   |
| <i>Brucellosis</i>                | <i>Enterobacteria</i> |
|                                   | <i>Leptospirosis</i>  |

### Parasite/Fungi

|                   |                        |                     |                |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <i>Leishmania</i> | <i>Malaria</i>         | <i>Candida sp.</i>  | <i>Babesia</i> |
| <i>Toxoplasma</i> | <i>Aspergillus sp.</i> | <i>Fusarium sp.</i> |                |

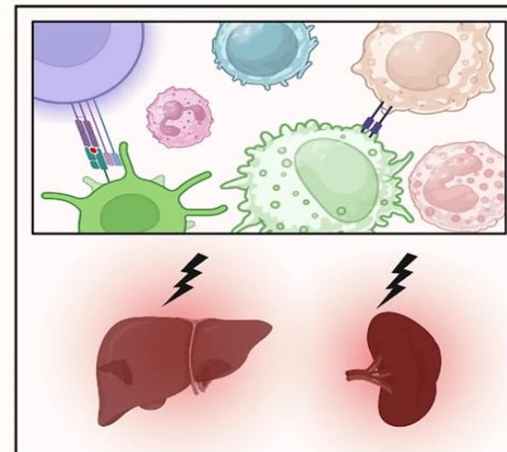


- 1) Ferritin > 500 ng/ml
- 2) Cytokine storms: ↑ IFN- $\gamma$ , TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-1, IL-6, IL-18, sCD25 (IL-2R $\alpha$ )



### 2) HEMOPHAGOCYTOSIS

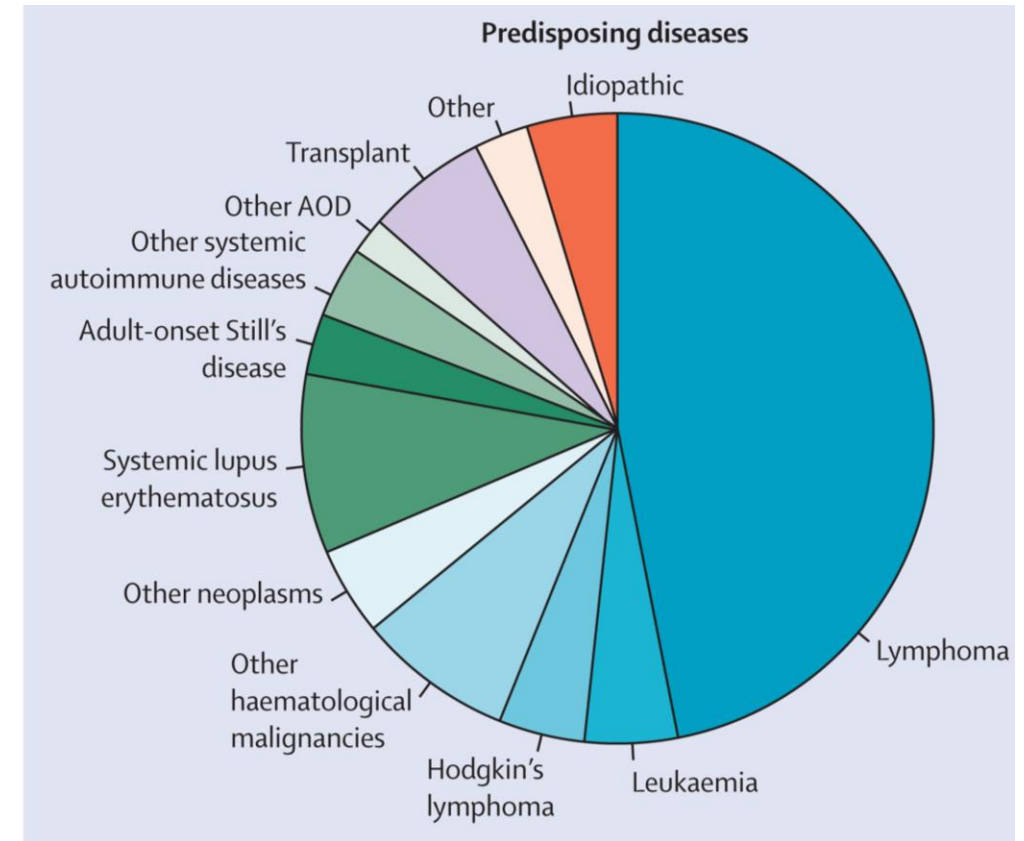
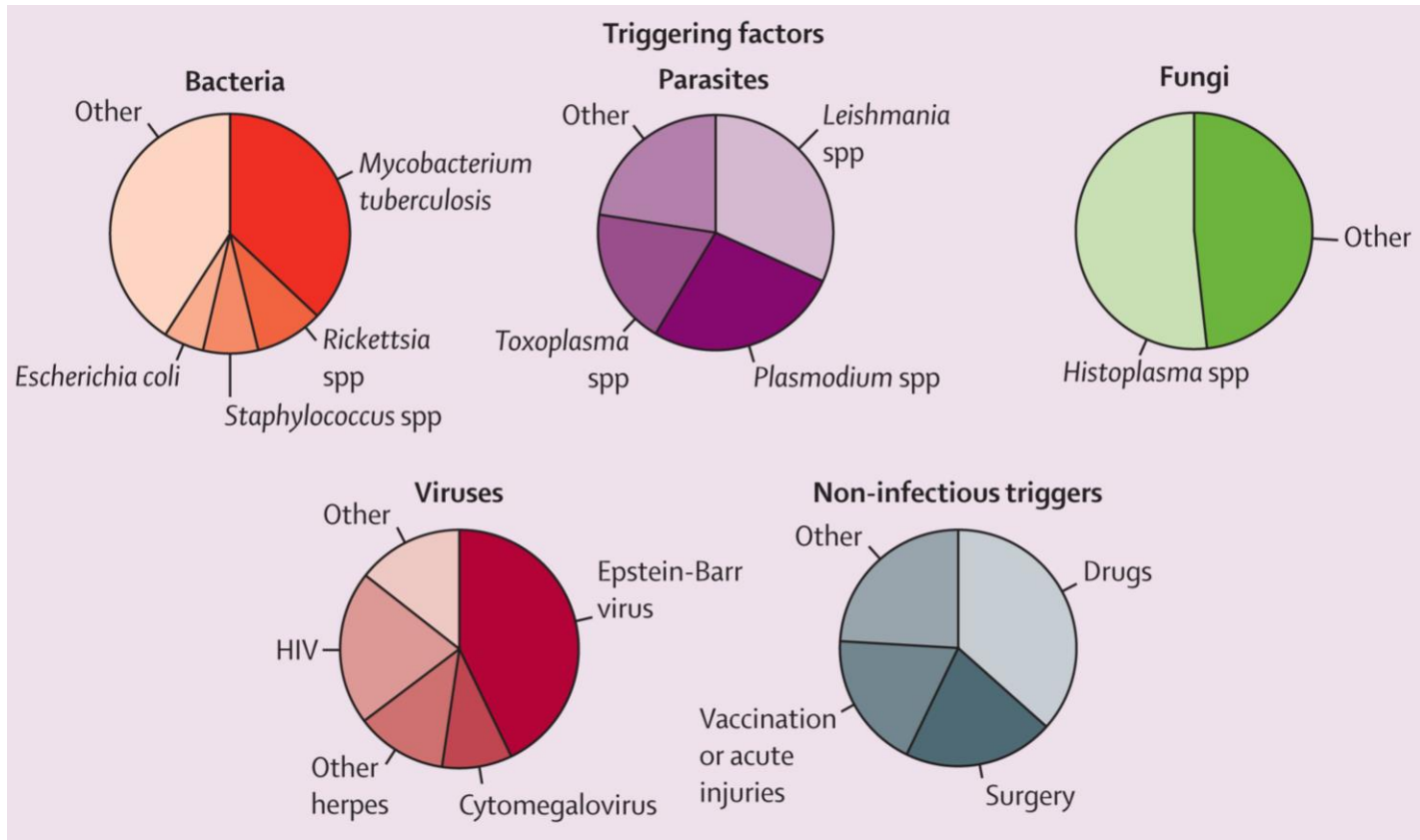
Bone marrow biopsy showing the phagocytosis of erythrocytes, lymphocytes or other hematopoietic precursors by activated macrophages as a result of cytokine storms



### 3) HEPATOSPLENOMEGALY

Cytokine storms caused by overaction and interactions of immune cells cause organ failure; enlargement of the liver and spleen is signature feature of MAS, correlation with ↑ ALT, AST, TG, ↓ albumin and fibrinogen

# SECONDARY HLH: TRIGERRING FACTORS AND PREDISPOSING DISEASES



| Criteria                     | HLH-04 <sup>a</sup>                   | HScore <sup>b</sup>                                        | 2016 sJIA MAS                                                 | MS score                   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fever (°C)                   | ≥38.5                                 | 0 (<38.4), 33 (38.4–39.4),<br>49 (>39.4)                   | Degree not specified                                          | NA                         |
| Ferritin (ng/mL)             | ≥500                                  | 0 (<2,000), 35 (2,000–6,000),<br>50 (>6,000)               | >684                                                          | 0.0001 × serum level       |
| Organomegaly                 | Splenomegaly                          | 0 (no), 23 (hepato- or<br>splenomegaly), 38 (both)         | NA                                                            | NA                         |
| Hematologic                  | Two or three out of<br>three lineages | 0 (one lineage), 24 (two lineages),<br>34 (three lineages) | Platelets ≤ 181 ×<br>10 <sup>9</sup> /L                       | −0.003 × platelet<br>count |
| Hemorrhagic                  | NA                                    | NA                                                         | NA                                                            | 1.54 (yes) or 0 (no)       |
| Triglyceride                 | ≥265 mg/dL <sup>c</sup>               | 0 (<1.5 mmol/L), 44<br>(1.5–4 mmol/L), 64 (>4 mmol/L)      | >156 mg/dL                                                    | NA                         |
| Fibrinogen                   | ≤1.5 g/L <sup>c</sup>                 | 0 (>2.5 g/L), 30 (≤2.5 g/L)                                | ≤360 mg/dL                                                    | −0.004 × serum level       |
| LDH                          | NA                                    | NA                                                         | NA                                                            | 0.001 × serum level        |
| AST                          | NA                                    | 0 (<30 IU/L), 19 (≥30 IU/L)                                | >48 units/mL                                                  | NA                         |
| CNS involved                 | NA                                    | NA                                                         | NA                                                            | 2.44 (yes) or 0 (no)       |
| Arthritis active             | NA                                    | NA                                                         | NA                                                            | −1.3 (yes) or 0 (no)       |
| Known immuno-<br>suppression | NA                                    | 0 (no), 18 (yes)                                           | NA                                                            | NA                         |
| Pathology                    | Hemophagocytosis                      | Hemophagocytosis: 0 (no), 35 (yes)                         | NA                                                            | NA                         |
| NK cell activity             | Low or absent                         | NA                                                         | NA                                                            | NA                         |
| sCD25                        | ≥2,400 units/mL                       | NA                                                         | NA                                                            | NA                         |
| Diagnosis                    | Five of eight<br>criteria             | Sum of scores > 169                                        | Fever + sJIA +<br>elevated ferritin +<br>two of four criteria | Sum ≥ −2.1                 |

<sup>a</sup>Hemoglobin < 90 g/L, platelets < 100 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L, neutrophils < 1.0 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L.

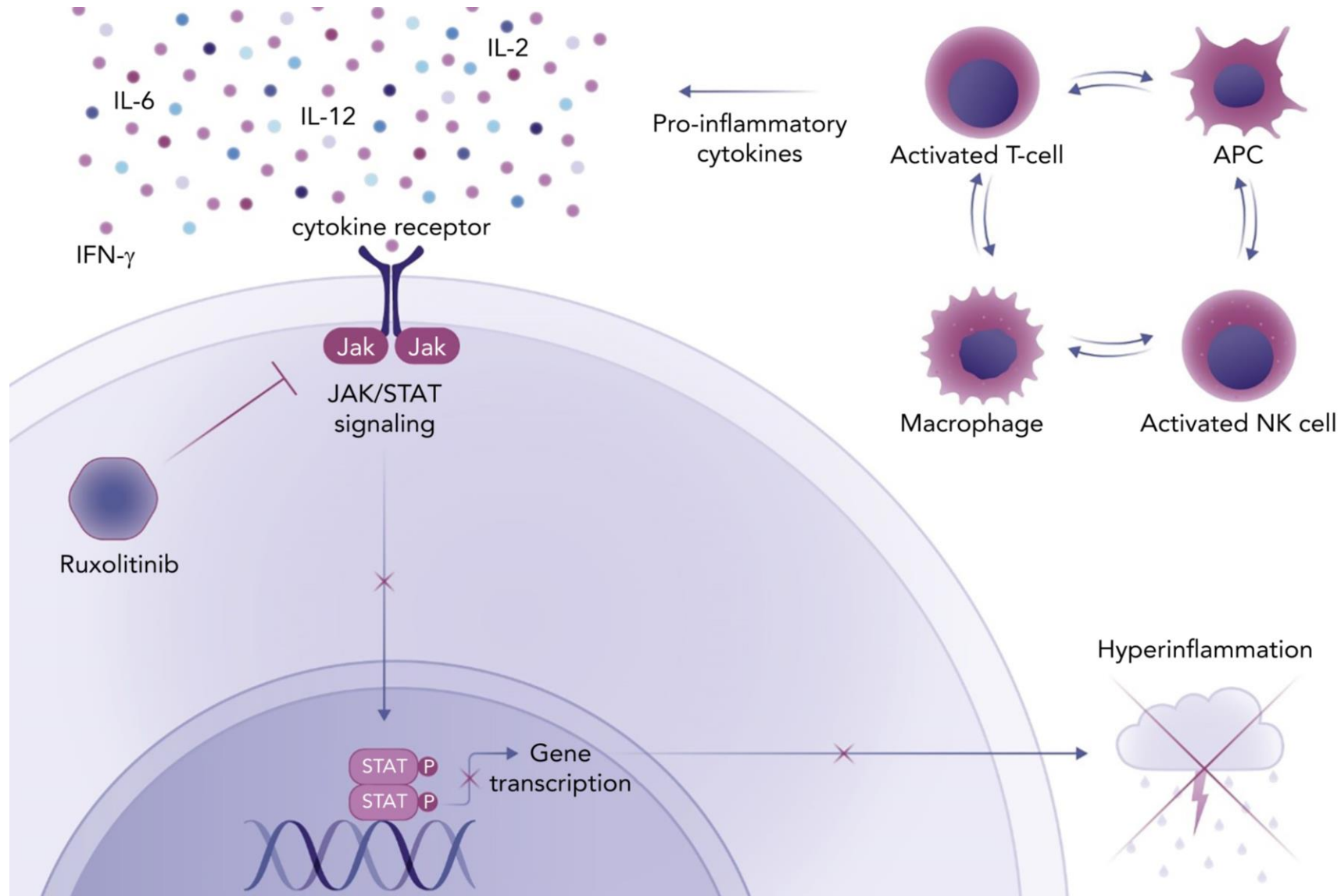
<sup>b</sup>Hemoglobin < 92 g/L, platelets < 110 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L, leukocytes < 5.0 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L.

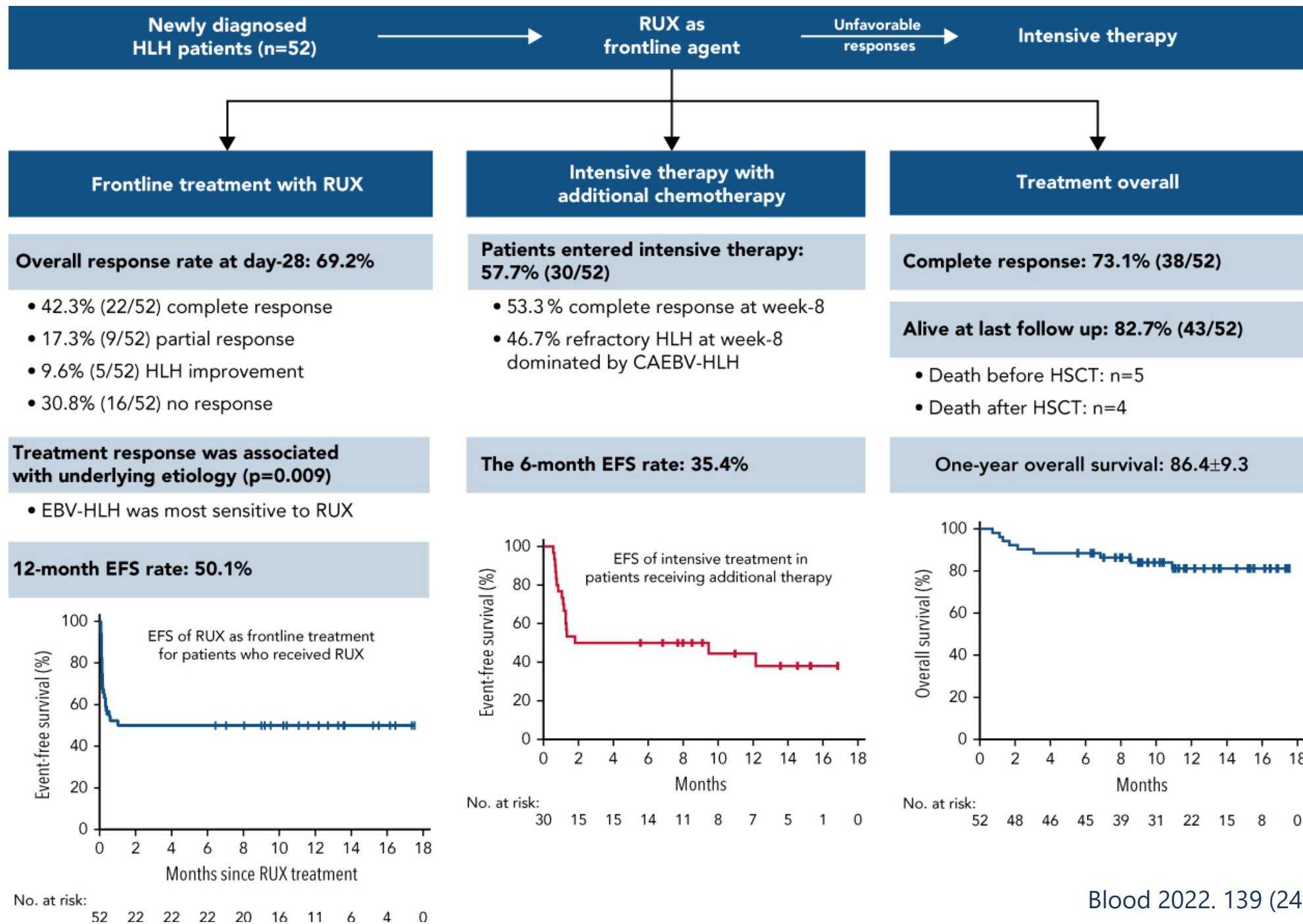
<sup>c</sup>Either high triglyceride and/or low fibrinogen (counts as one criterion).

# TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR HLH

| Type                   | Example                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cytotoxic agents       | Etoposide                                                                                                                       |
|                        | Cyclophosphamide                                                                                                                |
| Glucocorticoids        | Dexamethasone                                                                                                                   |
|                        | Methylprednisolone                                                                                                              |
| Calcineurin inhibitors | Cyclosporin A                                                                                                                   |
|                        | Tacrolimus                                                                                                                      |
| Cytokine blockade      | IL-1 (e.g., anakinra, a recombinant IL-1 receptor antagonist)                                                                   |
|                        | IL-6 (e.g., tocilizumab, an anti-IL-6 receptor monoclonal antibody)                                                             |
|                        | IL-18 (e.g., tadekinig alfa, a recombinant IL-18 binding protein)                                                               |
|                        | IFN- $\gamma$ (e.g., emapalumab, an anti-IFN- $\gamma$ monoclonal antibody)                                                     |
|                        | Janus kinase inhibitor (e.g., ruxolitinib, which blocks signaling of multiple cytokines, such as IFN- $\gamma$ , TNF, and IL-6) |
| Filtering              | Plasmapheresis                                                                                                                  |
|                        | Cytokine-absorbing filter technologies                                                                                          |
| B cell depletion       | Anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (e.g., rituximab)                                                                                 |

# HLH TREATMENT: SMARTER, NOT HARDER





# SUMMARY

Crucial to identify the causes and manage acquired neutropenias, while also considering the possibility of underlying primary congenital disorders



Reactive hypereosinophilia and mastocytosis can be pathological; targeted treatments now available for clonal disorders



HLH and MAS represent primary and acquired disorders driven by CTL/NK cell dysregulation and cytokine storms, resulting in multisystem complications. Early diagnosis is vital, and aggressive immunosuppression is key alongside treating the underlying cause



# Thank you