Introduction to Hematolymphoid malignancies

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How to make the diagnosis of hematolymphoid neoplasms?

- Clinical History/physical examination
- Morphology (BM biopsy, PB smear, lymph node)
- Immunophenotyping:
 - Immunohistochemistry
 - Flow cytometry
- Genetics:
 - Karyotyping and FISH
 - Molecular methods such as gene sequencing



Clinical History/physical examination (myeloid neoplasm)

- Fatigue and weakness, fever, infection, abnormal bleeding.
- Abnormal CBC: Cytosis (reactive, AML or MPN) or cytopenia (infection, nutritional, drug effect, AML, MDS).
- Physical exam:
 - Pale conjunctiva (anemia).
 - Splenomegaly, hepatomegaly (possible MPN).
 - Blood clot/thrombosis (high platelet count).
 - Ecchymoses, purpura, or petechiae.

Clinical History/physical examination (lymphoid neoplasm)

- Lymphadenopathy
- Mediastinal mass
- Splenomegaly
- Soft tissue/extranodal mass: Expanding MALT, brain or skin lesions.
- B symptoms (fever, night sweats, weight loss).
- If BM involved: weakness, fatigue, infection, bleeding.
- Plasma cell neoplasm can cause bone lesion and pathologic fracture.
- Secretion of Ig fragments or antibodies: autoimmune cytopenia or organ damage.



When and how do we do BM biopsy?

- Evaluation of hematologic/myeloid neoplasm.
- Staging lymphomas.
- BM failure.
- Monitoring therapy for minimal residual disease.

- It's been done from posterior iliac crest, using Jamshidi needle.
- Obtain core biopsy and aspirate smears.



Morphology

Normal BM cellularity %: 20 y/o: 20% fat/ 80% cells 50 y/o: 50% fat/ 50% cells 80 y/o: 80% fat/ 20% cells



Bone Marrow Cellularity

- Hypercellular bone marrow for age:
 - Acute leukemia
 - Myeloproliferative neoplasm
 - Myelodysplastic neoplasm/syndrome
 - BM involvement by plasma cell neoplasm/lymphoma/carcinoma
 - Reactive cases such as nutritional deficiency

- Hypocellular bone marrow for age:
 - Aplastic anemia
 - Hypoplastic MDS
 - Paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria
 - Genetic disorders (such as Fanconi anemia)
 - Fibrotic bone marrow
 - Post treatment





Courtesy Dr. Lori Soma

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Phenotyping

- Immunohistochemistry: can be done on formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue
- Flow cytometry:
 - Fresh tissue
 - Rapid turn-around time
 - Very sensitive
 - Semi-quantitative method

Phenotyping

CD138

Flow Cytometry

Flow cytometry

- Pattern of antigen expression in leukemia and lymphomas is well established.
- Leukemia:
 - Markers of immaturity: CD34, TdT.
 - Myeloid markers: CD117, CD13, CD15, CD33, MPO.
- Lymphoma:
 - B-cell markers: CD19, CD20.
 - Clonality: Kappa versus lambda.
 - T-cell markers: CD2, CD3, CD4, CD5, CD7, CD8.

Flow Cytometry

SSC-H

Markers usually used in myeloid neoplasm:

- CD34: Blast/stem cell marker
- CD117, CD33, CD13, MPO: Myeloid markers
- CD14, CD64: Monocytic marker
- Glycophorin A: Erythroid marker
- CD41, CD61: Meg marker

Markers usually used in immature lymphoid neoplasm:

- CD34, TdT, HLADR, CD10
- B cells: CD19, CD22, CD20
- T cells: CD3, CD2, CD5, CD7

Immunophenotype

- B cells: CD19, CD20, Pax5
- B-cell clonality: Kappa or lambda light chains
- T cells: CD3, CD2, CD4, CD7, CD8
- CD5+ abnormal B-cell: CLL, mantle cell lymphoma, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.
- CD10+ abnormal B-cell: Follicular lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.
- CD5 and CD10 negative abnormal Bcell: marginal zone lymphoma, Hairy cell leukemia, diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

Genetics

- Karyotyping:
 - Requires dividing cells (culture 24-48 h) and review of metaphase spread
 - Identification of numeric and structural abnormalities
 - Low resolution and sensitivity

The abnormality seen by Nowell & Hungerford on chromosome 22, Now known as the Philadelphia Chromosome.

Genetics

- Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH)
 - Design probes for abnormal chromosomal structure (rearrangement, deletion, etc).
 - Faster than conventional karyotyping
 - Must know what you are looking for.

Clonality

Genetic/Molecular

- Some of the non-Hodgkin B-cell lymphomas harbor translocation between IgH enhancer/promoter on Chr 14 and an oncogene/anti-apoptosis, resulting in overexpression of the gene:
 - Burkitt lymphoma: t(8;14) cmyc
 - Follicular lymphoma: (14;18) Bcl2
 - Mantle cell lymphoma: (11;14) cyclin D1

Genetics

- Molecular studies (often PCR based):
 - Fast TAT
 - Very sensitive
 - Recent large panels (myeloid or lymphoid) allow for screening of many genes using high throughput sequencing.

