



*Hematology*

*438 teamwork*

# | Acute leukemia

**Color index:**

**Red: Important**

Gray: notes

Blue: extra

 [Editing file](#)



# Acute leukemia

Aggressive malignant hematopoietic disorders Accumulation of > 20% blasts in the bone marrow.

- Accumulation of abnormal blasts (**Immature** precursors of WBC) in bone marrow and blood leading to:



Bone marrow failure (anemia ,neutropenia & thrombocytopenia "low blood platelet count")



Organ infiltration ( hepatosplenomegaly ,lymphadenopathy )

- **Leukemia** = Means “white blood” in greek.
- Classified by FAB "French-American-British" classification systems in 1976
- 2001 & 2008
- Named by pathologist Virchow in 1845
- Reclassified by World Health Organization in 2001 & 2008

## epidemiology

- **AL** represent about 8% of neoplastic disease & cause about 4% of malignancy related deaths !
- **AML** has an incidence of 2 – 3 per 100 000 per year in children, rising to 15 per 100 000 in **adults**.
- **ALL** has an incidence of 30 per million & represent about 76% of **childhood** leukemia .

→ Pathoma

Anemia (fatigue); thrombocytopenia (bleeding); neutropenia (infection)

# Pathogenesis

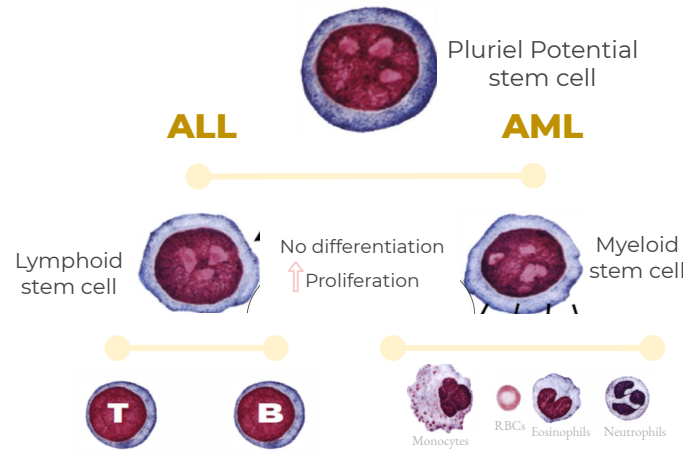
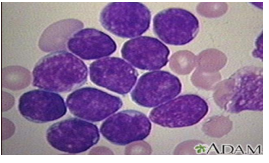
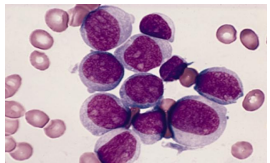


Unknown mechanism

Genetic alteration in the immature precursors



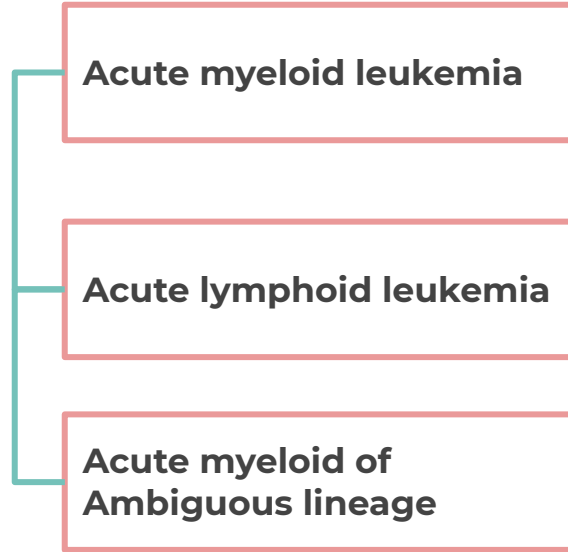
Block of differentiation, Enhanced proliferation & Decreased apoptosis



Stem cells shouldn't be found in blood normally and if present they should be in scanty amount otherwise there is an abnormality  
Every cell has type of leukemia, if it :  
Mature → chronic leukemia  
Immature → acute leukemia

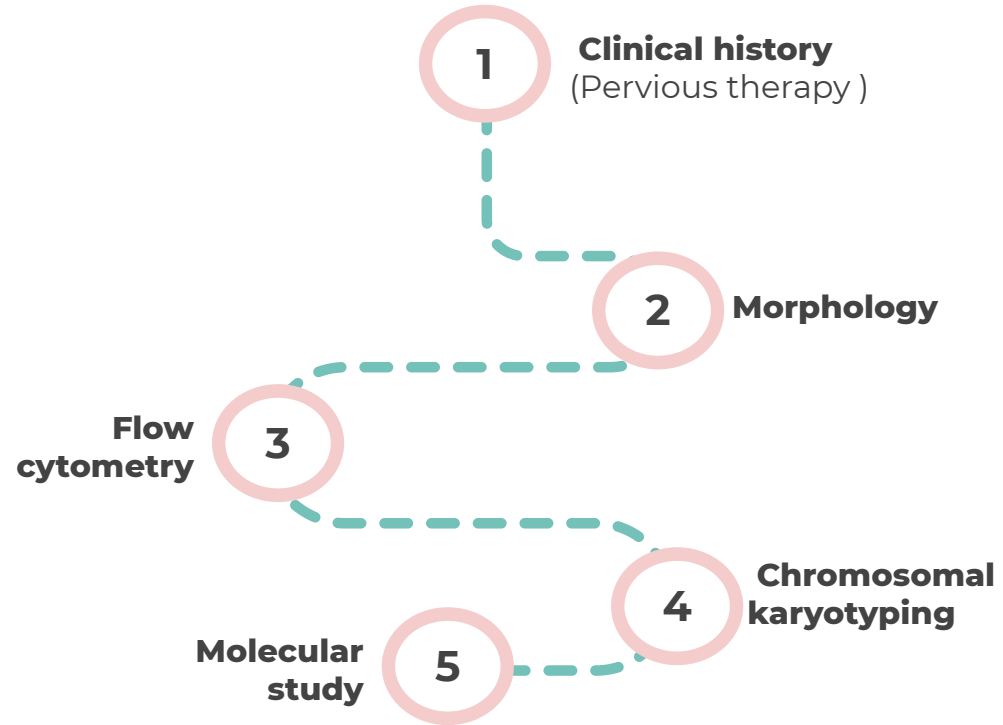
# Classification of Acute leukemia

Based on the phenotype of the blasts.

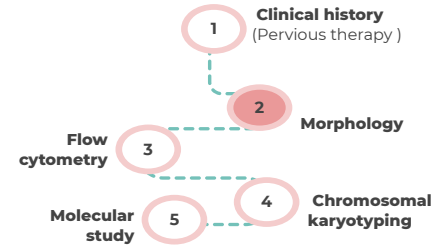


# basis of classification

All of those test should done to the patient



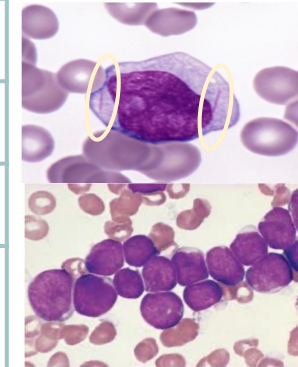
# Light microscopy



→ **Blast count** : it should be **>20%** out of the total cells in bone marrow.

→ **Blast morphology**:

	Myeloblast	Lymphoblast
Size	Medium/ large	Small/ medium
Nucleus	Round, oval or irregular	Round
Nucleolus	Prominent	Not prominent
Cytoplasm	Abundant , granular <b>Aur rods is charestristic</b>	Scanty, agranular maybe <b>vacuolated</b>



**Myeloblast**  
very malignant cells  
**Auer rods**

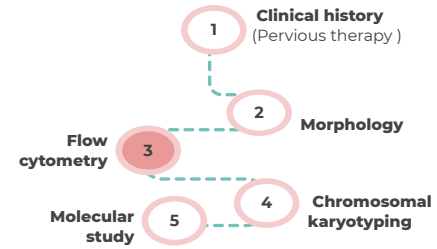
**Lymphoblast**  
There's **NO** cytoplasm

→ Pathoma

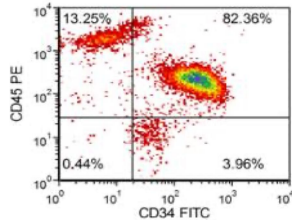
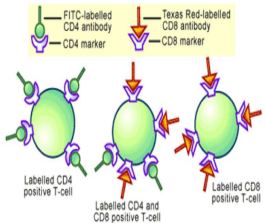
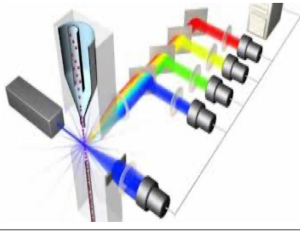
Crystal aggregates of MPO may be seen as Auer rods

# Flow cytometry

→ Laser based technology allows for cells counting & detection of their surface & cytoplasmic markers by suspending them in a stream of fluid followed by analysis through electronic system.



## BASIS OF CLASSIFICATION



### Stem Cell Markers:

- CD34 & TDT

#### Myeloid

- MPO  
"Myeloperoxidase"

- **CD33**  
- **CD14**  
- **CD64**

- **CD13**  
- **CD41**  
- **CD235a**

#### B-Lymphoid

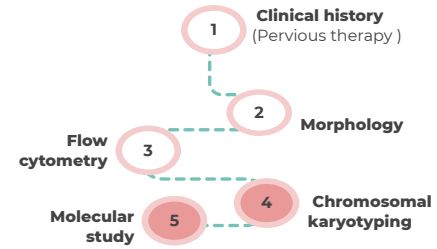
- **CD10**  
- **CD19**  
- **CD22**  
- **CD79a**

#### T-Lymphoid

- **CD3**  
- **CD4**  
- **CD5**  
- **CD7**  
- **CD8**

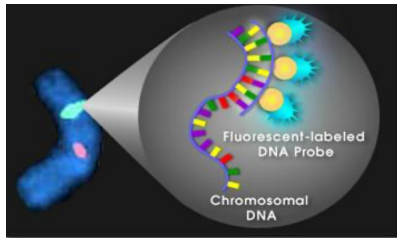
# Chromosomal karyotyping

→ Set of the chromosomes from one cell during metaphase to study the **numerical** (deletion & trisomy) and **structural** (translocation & inversion) abnormality

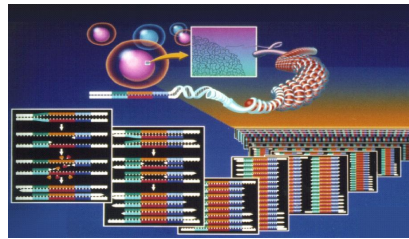


# molecular studies

→ Several techniques used to detect and localize the presence or absence of specific DNA sequences on chromosomes



Fluorescent In-Situ Hybridization (FISH)



Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

## Recurrent genetic abnormalities

### AML

Molecular	Karyotype
AML1-ETO	<b>t (8;21)</b>
CBFB-MYH11	<b>t (16;16) or inv(16)</b>
PML-RARA	<b>* t (15;17)</b>
MLL1-MLL	t (9;11)

### ALL

Molecular	Karyotype
BCR-ABL1	t (9;22)
AF4-MLL	t (4;11)
ETV6-RUNX1	t (12;21)
IL3-IGH	t (5;14)

\* Most serious type of leukemia (M3: Promyelocytic)

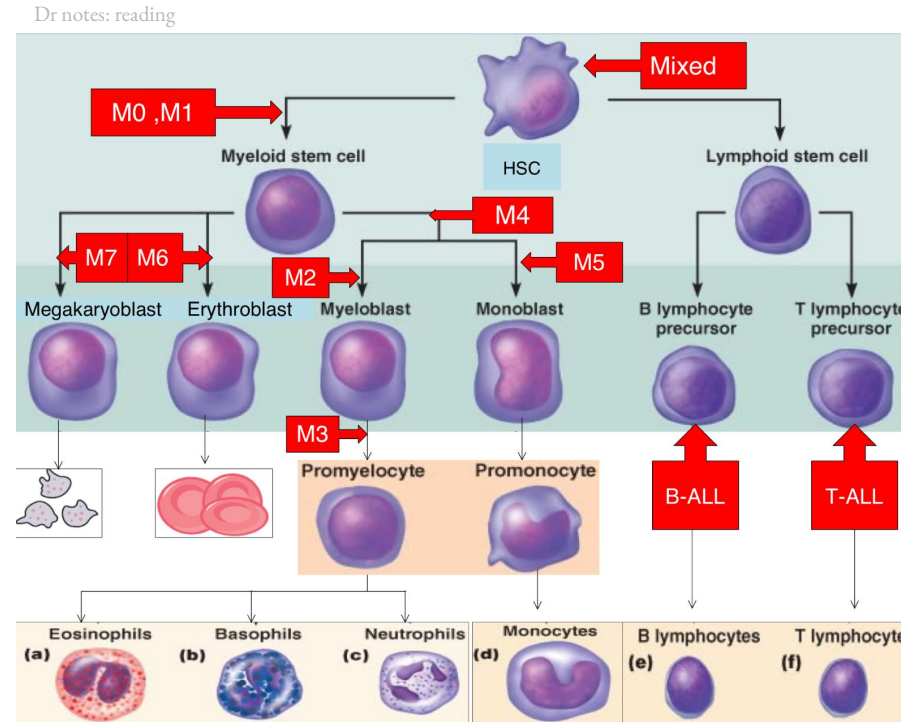
# Acute myeloid leukemia

→ Group of hematopoietic neoplasms caused by proliferation of malignant *myeloid blasts* in bone marrow and blood.

→ The blast  $\geq 20\%$  or **t(8;21)** **t(16;16)** or **t(15;17)**.

→ More in Adults (do occur in infants)

→ **Worse** than ALL



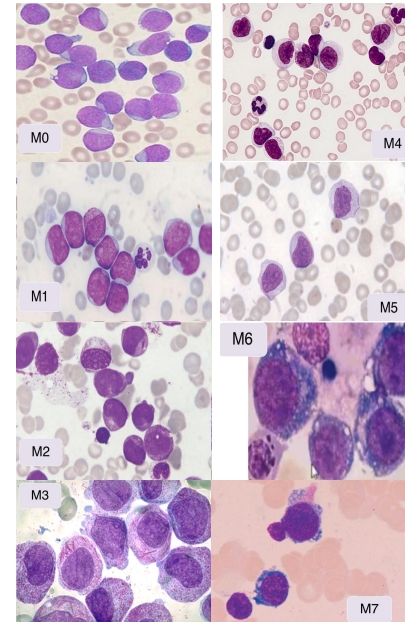


# AML classification

## FAB classification

## WHO classification

Subtype	Feature	Genetic in WHO	Notes
<b>M0</b>	Minimal differentiation		
<b>M1</b>	Without maturation		
<b>M2</b>	With maturation	<b>t(8;21)</b>	
<b>M3</b>	<b>Promyelocytic</b>	<b>t(15;17)</b>	<b>DIC</b>
<b>M4</b>	Granulocytic and monocytic	<b>t or inv(16;16)</b>	<b>Gum hypertrophy</b>
<b>M5</b>	Mono Plastic ( M5a ) Monocytic ( M5b )	<b>t(9;11)</b>	
<b>M6</b>	Erythroid		CD235a
<b>M7</b>	Megakaryocyte		CD41
<b>M8</b>	Basophilic		



- FAB classification is based on microscopic features (morphology)  
- In M6 myeloid leukemia (Erythroid leukemia) there will be excessive production of immature RBCs which will die quickly and the patient will present with severe anemia

# AML classification

## FAB classification

## WHO classification

01

AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities

1- t(8;21)

2- t(16;16)

3- t(15;17)

- Prognosis: Good

02

Myelodysplasia related AML

- Blasts  $\geq 20\%$
- Significant **dysplasia**
- Prognosis: poor

03

Therapy related AML

- Blasts  $\geq 20\%$
- **Previous chemotherapy** “Around 5-7 years”
- Prognosis: poor

04

AML, not otherwise specified (FAB)

- Blasts  $\geq 20\%$
- Genetic: N
- No dysplasia
- Prognosis: Standard

# Clinical Features of AML

01

## Pancytopenia

Acute onset

↓ **WBC** → **Infection** WBC ↓ in mature cells such as neutrophils  
> Fever > Septic shock

↓ **Hemoglobin** → **Anemia**

> Fatigue > Headache  
> Pallor > SOB

↓ **Platelets** → **Bleeding**

> Bruises > Epistaxis  
> Menorrhagia

03

## Leucostasis

- increased blood viscosity

02

## Organ infiltration

- Hepatosplenomegally.
- Lymphadenopathy (**rare**)

- CNS disease.
- **Gum hypertrophy**
- Myeloid sarcoma

Gum hypertrophy is a sign that indicates bad prognosis



More with Acute Monoblastic Leukemia

04

## Disseminated Intravascular Coagulation (DIC)

Activation of coagulation system  
(Widespread)



Fibrin deposition  
(Intravascular)



- ★ Bleeding (85%)
- ★ Thrombosis (15%)



Consumption of  
Platelet  
Coagulation factors

More with Acute Promyelocytic leukemia (**M3**)

Acute Promyelocytic leukemia (M3) t(15;17) is an emergency condition due to DIC

# Prognosis

**Better prognosis**

**Primary**

Better than secondary

**Age**

< 60 years

**Genetics**

- > t(8;21)
- > inv(16;16)
- > t(15;17)

# Treatment

## Chemotherapy

→ AML

Same protocol  
M0-M8 but not M3

### ATRA

(all-trans-retinoic acid,  
a vitamin A derivative)

or arsenic

M3

Stem cell  
transplantation

Treatment of M3 type myeloid leukemia (promyelocytic leukemia) is by all trans retinoic acid which corrects the t(15;17) translocation



# Case study

- 1 - Adult male
- 2- fatigue → anemia
- 3- fever → infection → ↓ WBC
- 4 - nose bleeding and Multiple bruises → low platelet
- 5 - hepatosplenomegaly → Organ infiltration



65 years old **male** presented to ER with **fatigue**, **fever** and **nose bleeding** for 2 weeks.



## Examination :

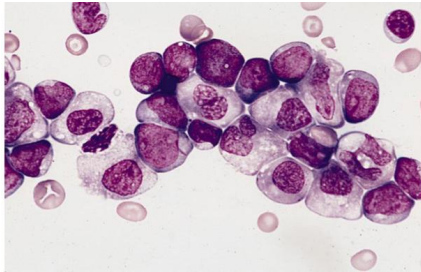
Moderate hepatosplenomegaly  
Multiple bruises.



**CBC** : WBC :40 x10<sup>9</sup>/L      **Hemoglobin**: 7g/dL      **Platelets**: 51 x10<sup>9</sup>/L



## Blood smear & bone marrow:

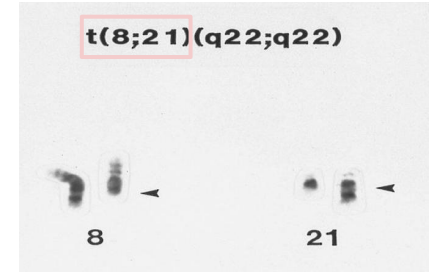


## Flow cytometry :

+ve	CD34	CD13	CD33	CD117	<b>MPO</b> (Myeloperoxidase)
-ve	<b>CD3</b>	CD10	CD19	CD79a	

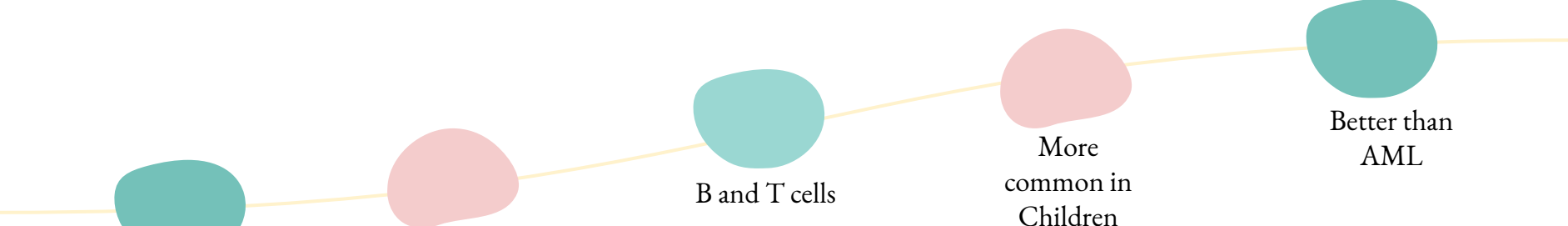


## Karyotype :



**Diagnosis: Acute Myeloid Leukemia with maturation (M2) \*FAB with t(8;21) \*WHO**

# Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)



proliferation of malignant lymphoid blasts

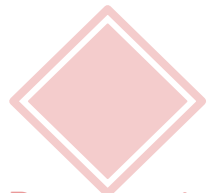
in bone marrow & blood.

B and T cells

More common in Children

Better than AML

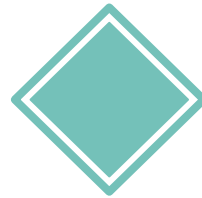
## Clinical Features of ALL



Pancytopenia

Acute onset

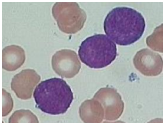
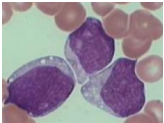
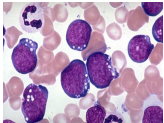
- ↓ **WBC** → **Infection**
  - > Fever
  - > Septic shock
- ↓ **Hemoglobin** → **Anemia**
  - > Fatigue
  - > Headache
  - > Pallor
  - > SOB
- ↓ **Platelets** → **Bleeding**
  - > Bruises
  - > Epistaxis
  - > Menorrhagia



Organ infiltration

- Hepatosplenomegaly.
- **Lymphadenopathy (very common)**
- CNS disease.
- Testicles involvement
- **Mediastinal mass**  
Characteristic for T-ALL

## Morphological subtypes (FAB)

	L1	L2	L3 (Burkitt's)
Morphology	Homogenous	Heterogeneous	Homogenous
Size	Small	Variable	Small
Cytoplasm	Little	More	<b>Vacuolated</b>
Nucleoli	Not Prominent	Prominent	Prominent
Genetics	Variable	Variable	<b>t(8;14) c-myc</b>
			

Burkitt's lymphoma is the fastest growing tumor

## Immunophenotypic Subtypes (WHO)

	B cell	T cell
Markers	CD19 CD10 CD79a	<b>CD3</b>
Percentage	<b>80%</b>	20%
Age	Younger	Older
Clinical		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Mediastinal mass</li> <li>&gt; CNS relapse</li> </ul>
WBC count	Less	Higher
Prognosis	Better	<b>Worse</b>
Genetics	T(9;22) T(4;11) T(12;21)	

### L3 (Burkitt's) :

- > mature lymphoid neoplasm
- > a type of lymphoma **not** Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia

# Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)

	B-ALL			T-ALL			
<b>Precursor cell</b>	CD34 TdT		B-ALL	̑CD3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Both CD4 &amp; CD8</li> <li>&gt; None</li> </ul>	T-ALL
<b>Mature cell</b>	Surface Immunoglobulin	CD19 CD20 CD79a	Burkitt's	̑CD3	CD2 CD5 CD7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; CD4 only</li> <li>&gt; CD8 only</li> </ul>	T-Cell Lymphoma

→ Pathoma

TdT is absent in myeloid blasts and mature lymphocytes.

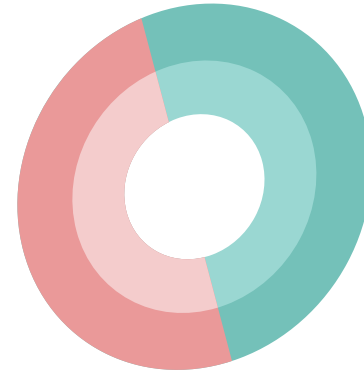


# PROGNOSIS

	Better	Worse
Age	2-10 yrs	Less or more
Gender	Female	Male
WBC count	<b>Low</b>	<b>High</b>
Cell type	B cell	T cell
B-all phenotype	Common	Others
B-ALL genetics	Hyperdiploidy t(12;21)	Hypodiploidy t(9;22)
CNS involvement	No	Yes

# Treatment

**Chemotherapy**  
high cure rate



**Stem cell  
transplantation**

# REMEMBER !

- Acute leukaemia is a fatal neoplastic condition
- 20% or more blasts = Acute leukaemia
- Diagnosis requires special investigations
- **Auer rods = AML**
- **AML M3 = DIC & target therapy**
- **Gum hypertrophy = mostly M4 or M5,**
- **Mediastinal = T-ALL**
- Subtypes of AML (M0-M8) + cytogenetic abnormalities
- Subtypes of ALL (T or B cell)
- Main lineages markers are MPO, CD19 and CD3
- Stem cell markers are CD34, TDT
- FAB classification based mainly on morphology
- WHO classification focused more on genetics

# Quiz

Key answers:  
1-B 2-C 3-C 4-D 5-C 6-B

1-Gum hypertrophy mostly seen in;

- A. Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
- B. Acute monoblastic leukemia
- C. Chronic leukemia
- D. Burkitt's lymphoma

2- 27 years male come to your clinic with fever and bone pain and pale face. On examination CBC shows increased WBCs with 40% blast, microscopic examination show, very malignant cells with granular cytoplasm and Auer rods. What is the translocation in the patient? *(from dr.notes)*

- A. t(9;22)
- B. t(5;14)
- C. t(5;17)
- D. t(8;14)

3- Burkitt's lymphoma cytogenetic abnormality?

*(from dr.notes)*

- A. t(8;16)
- B. t(5;18)
- C. t(8;14)
- D. t(8;21)

4- Which one following is associated with worse prognosis in acute leukemia? *(from dr.notes)*

- A. Low WBC count
- B. 6 years female
- C. B cells type
- D. CNS involvements

5- B- ALL genetics in Better prognosis:

- A. t(9;22)
- B. t(5;14)
- C. t(12;21)
- D. t(8;14)

6- DIC associated with:

- A. M1
- B. M3
- C. M5
- D. M4

# THANKS











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