



A RARE VARIANT OF APML WITH PML_RARA NEGATIVE

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ABSTRACT **Introduction** Acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) is a unique subtype of acute myeloid leukemia. It is a M3 subtype of AML according to FAB and APL with translocation between chromosomes 15 and 17 {t(15;17)} in WHO. According to national cancer SEER registry (from 1992 to 2007), the age-adjusted annual incidence of APL was 0.23 per 1,00,000 persons.

KEYWORDS :

Case Study

A 30-year-old male with no prior comorbidities presented with easy fatigability, palpitation, and bruises for 15 days. On examination, he was found to have pallor and bruises over the limbs. Investigation revealed anemia. Peripheral blood smear showed 25% blast cells promyelocyte. Fibrinogen -83mg/dl. Bone marrow aspirate revealed 78% blast cells promyelocytes. Flow cytometry showed acute promyelocytic anemia (APML)(CD11c, CD13, CD33, MPO, CD117, CD45 positive).

Investigations

PBS - showed 25% Blast + Promyelocytes

PT- 15 sec

INR -1.3

aPTT-36.7

Fibrinogen – 83mg/dl

BM aspirate - s/o 78% blast + promyelocytes.

Flow cytometry consistent with acute promyelocytic leukemia (APML)(CD11c, CD13, CD33, MPO, CD117, CD45 positive)

Leukemia genetic profile

AMLETO t(8;21)- Negative

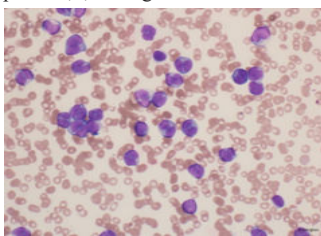
NPM1 gene mutation – Negative

INV16(p13q22)/t(16;16) (p13;q22) – Negative

BCL-ABL – Negative

FLT3-ITD- Negative

PML-RARA type bcr 1,2,3 – Negative



Faggots Cells

Test Name	Results	Units	Ref. Interval
LEUKEMIA DIAGNOSTIC PANEL (Flow Cytometry)			
BASIC MARKERS			
T-cell markers**			
CD3 ⁺ cyt ⁺	0.7	negative	negative
CD4 ⁺	0.7	negative	negative
B-cell markers**			
CD19 ⁺	0.2	negative	negative
CD22 ⁺ cyt ⁺	0.1	negative	negative
Myeloid markers**			
CD11b ⁺	52.4	Dim pos	Positive
CD13 ⁺	65.2	Dim to Med	Positive
CD14 ⁺	0.7	negative	negative
CD15 ⁺	12.2	negative	negative
CD33 ⁺	98.6	Bright	Positive
CD38 ⁺	2.3	negative	negative
CD41 ⁺	0.2	negative	negative
CD61 ⁺	0.6	negative	negative
CD64 ⁺	0.7	negative	negative
CD71 ⁺	2.1	negative	negative
SRB ⁺	84.5	Dim pos	Positive
Plasma cell markers**			
CD38 ⁺	0.1	negative	negative
CD117 ⁺	44.2	Dim pos	Positive
TdT ⁺	1.5	negative	negative
Other markers**			
CD45 ⁺	99.6	Dim pos	Positive
HLA-DR ⁺	0.6	negative	negative

FLUORESCENCE IN-SITU HYBRIDIZATION (FISH) RARA Gene Break Apart Rearrangement Assay			
Result Summary Negative	Specimen Peripheral blood	Reason for Referral Not provided	
Interpretation The result is negative for RARA gene rearrangement.	Method FISH analysis performed on 200 interphase nuclei.	Probe Vysis LSI RARA (17q21.1) Dual color, Break Apart Probe	
Result (FISH 2020) nuc ish (5 RARA sep 3 RARA+2x5 RARA con 3 RARA+2x200) 200/200 (100%) interphase nuclei show 2Y fusion signals for RARA gene rearrangement.			
Additional Information This RARA break-apart probe is useful for detecting variant RARA translocations with partners other than PML, such as t(5;17) and t(11;17). Testing is recommended when FISH for t(15;17) is negative but extra RARA signals are seen to distinguish variant RARA translocations from trisomy 17. If indicated, follow-up metaphase FISH may be added to identify rearrangement partner chromosomes as an aid to therapy selection. Testing is also useful for verifying RARA status when morphology is suspicious for APL but t(15;17) FISH is negative (Adams et al., 2015; Iaccarino et al., 2019).			

DISCUSSION

A 30yr old male presented with easy fatigability, palpitation and bruises of 15days duration. His laboratory evaluation revealed anemia and PBS showed 25% Blast + Promyelocytes. Bone marrow aspirate suggestive of 75% blast + promyelocytes and flow cytometry consistent with APL. However leukemic genetic panel showed negative including PML RARA type bcr 1,2,3.

Treatment

In view of suggestive morphology (faggots cells) and typical clinical and laboratory findings, patient was started on ATRA and Inj ATO. He has shown response to therapy with declining levels of promyelocytes and blasts.

CONCLUSION

Such genetic derangements are usually, but not always, detectable by fluorescence in situ hybridization especially using smaller probes. Diagnosis in such cases established by RT-PCR and Translocation-based comparative genomic hybridization. In general, patients with variations identified as ATRA-sensitive are treated with standard ATRA - based therapy. Patients with variants known to be resistant to ATRA are treated with standard AML induction therapy.

REFERENCES

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- Br J Haematol 1999; 106:591 Arber DA, Orazi A, Hasserjian R, et al. The 2016 revision to the World Health Organization classification of myeloid neoplasms and acute leukemia. Blood 2016; 127:2391.