



The Prevalence and Prognostic Impacts of Nucleophosmin Mutations in Adult Patients with De Novo Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Naglaa Mostafa Hassan¹, Noha El-Sayed²*⁽⁰⁾, Khaled Aboul-Enein¹⁽⁰⁾, Lamyaa Nabeeh Al-Fadally¹, Reem Nabil¹⁽⁰⁾

¹Department of Clinical Pathology, National Cancer Institute, Cairo University, Giza, Egypt; ²Department of Microbial Biotechnology, Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Division, National Research Centre, Dokki, Giza, Egypt

Abstract

Citation: Hassan NM, El-Sayed N, Aboul-Enein K, Al-Fadally LN, Nabil R. The Prevalence and Prognostic Impacts of Nucleophosmin Mutations in Adult Patients with De Novo Acute Myeloid Leukemia. Open Access Maced J Med Sci. 2021 Aug 31: 9(A):632-638. https://doi.org/10.3889/oamjms.2021.6172 Keywords: Acute myeloid leukemia; Nucleophosmin; Mutation; Real-time polymerase chain reaction "Correspondence: Noha El-Sayed Ibrahim, Department of Microbial Biotechnology. Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Division, National Research Centre, Dokki, Giza, Egypt. E-mail: nohaelsayed856@gmail.com Received: 11-Apr-2021 Revised: 20-Jul-2021 Accepted: 21-Aug-2021 Copyright: © 2021 Naglaa Mostafa Hassan, Noha El-Sayed, Khaled Aboul-Enein, Lamyaa Nabech Al-Fadally, Reem Nabil Funding: This research did not receive any financial support Competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing Interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests: This is an open-access article distributed

under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0)

Edited by: Slavica Hristomanova-Mitkovska

BACKGROUND: Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is known as cancer of the blood and bone marrow (BM) and is regarded as the commonest acute leukemia in adult patients.

AIM: In this study, the aim to investigate the nucleophosmin mutations and their prognostic impacts in patients that were recently diagnosed with AML.

METHODS: We have included patients who were newly diagnosed with AML and presented to the medical oncology clinics, National Cancer Institute, Cairo University, during the period from August 2016 to December 2018. To assess the laboratory and hematological outcomes of our patients, total RNA was extracted from BM and converted to cDNA then the expression of nucleophosmin 1 (NPM1) type A mutation was done by real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Comparative analysis was also conducted to study outcomes between the gene mutation groups.

RESULTS: We have included 89 AML patients in our study with a median age of 43 years (18–77). NPM1 gene mutation was detected in 37.1% of our patients by conventional PCR technique and agarose gel electrophoresis, of which 18% were NPM1 type A mutation. No significant differences were noticed between our patients based on their NPM1 gene mutation status (wild and mutant) in terms of sex, hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, and complete remission (CR). Lymphadenopathy was the only significant factor (p = 0.023). Surprisingly we found 9/33 patients had NPM1 mutation with recurrent cytogenetic abnormality. We found no statistical significance between mutation A and mutation non-A groups in any of the studied outcomes as sex, clinical and laboratory data, and CR.

CONCLUSION: NPM1 gene mutation A was relatively low among our population but did not significantly affect the outcomes.

Introduction

Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) is known as cancer of the blood and bone marrow (BM) and is regarded as the commonest acute leukemia in adult patients [1]. The disease has a characteristic heterogeneous pattern as it infiltrates marrow BM and other relevant tissues by proliferative, clonal leukemic cells that are abnormally differentiated and possess poor morphological structures, immunophenotype, cytochemistry, cytogenetics, in addition to other molecular abnormalities. It may result from gene mutation or overexpression [2], [3], [4].

Essential cell processes as controlling the duplication of the centrosomes, ribosome biosynthesis and export, protein synthesis and transportation, programming nucleosome and histone, in addition to cellular proliferation, regulation of the genome stability, and DNA amendment is done by nucleophosmin (NPM) which is also known as nucleolar protein NO38, nucleolar phosphoprotein B23, or numatrin by interacting with the p53 and alternative reading frame tumor suppressors [5], [6]. Mutations in the NPM1 gene

can cause various NPM1 mutant products that can lead to serious leukemoid reactions as these are basically found in the cytoplasm of the leukemic cells [7]. Various mutations have been discovered concerning the NPM1 gene with the commonest one known as NPM1 type A mutation (NPM1-mA) which is attributable to 70% to 80% of the cases with mutations. In the same context, in 5–10% of NPM1 mutations-induced AML, other types of mutations as type B and type D could be also detected [8].

The clinical significance of NPM1-mutationsrelated AML is that extramedullary involvement has been associated with higher proportions of patients in these groups. Such involvement is responsible for many clinical characteristics as lymphadenopathy, gingival hyperplasia, and the presence of myeloid sarcoma [8], [9]. Leukemic infiltration of the skin has been also associated with kinds of mutations which can be referred to as leukemia cutis [10]. Although data obtained from previous studies suggested that such clinical features mainly occur secondary to matrix metalloproteases up-regulation [11], no exact mechanisms have fully explained the phenomenon. Although many studies have been published in this field, the outcomes regarding the prognostic values and prevalence are hugely variable based on the studied population. Consequently, in this study, we aim to investigate the NPM mutations and their prognostic impacts in patients that were recently diagnosed with AML.

Materials and Methods

Study population

We recruited 89 patients that had de novo AML and were located in the 18-77 age range. They were 52 males (58.4%) and 37 females (41.6%). All these patients presented to the medical oncology clinics, National Cancer Institute (NCI), Cairo University, during the period from August 2016 to December 2018. Approval from the institutional review board (IRB) was also obtained (MD2010013006.3. Issue date: March 3. 2013) before conducting this study. During treatment, patients' response to treatment was assessed clinically and by BM examination at days 14 and 28. The response is categorized as complete remission (CR), partial response, or refractory to treatment. CR was defined following the standard criteria by Döhner et al. [12] which required an absolute neutrophil count of 1.5×10^{9} /L. platelet count of 100×10^{9} /L or more. no blasts in peripheral blood (PB), BM cellularity of more than 20%, no Auer rods, <5% BM blasts and no extramedullary leukemia. Disease-free survival (DFS) for our patients was measured from the date of CR to the date of relapse or death from any cause.

BM

Total cellular RNA extraction from human After obtaining the patient's consent, total RNA

was extracted from the BM of all the study groups using QIAamp RNA blood Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Quantitation and purity assessment for RNA samples were done using the Nano Drop[®] (ND)-1000 spectrophotometer (Nano Drop Technologies, Inc. Wilmington, USA).

Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR)

Conversion of RNA to cDNA was done by using the QuantiTect Reverse Transcription Kit (QIAGEN). A 10 μ l of 2× RT master mix was pipetted into each tube. The volume of the RNA sample was adjusted according to the concentration of RNA in the sample to make the concentration of cDNA 50 ng/ μ l and was then completed by nuclease-free H₂O until the total volume per reaction reached 20 μ l. Thermal cycling conditions for optimization of reverse transcription kits were as follows: 25° C for 10 min, 37° C for 120 min, 85° C for 5 s [13], [14].

Amplification of cDNA to detect NPM mutation type A expression by using the ipsogen NPM1 mutA MutaQuant Kit (cat no. 67751) allowed the quantification of NPM1 mutA transcripts by RT-qPCR, depending on the already-characterized NPM1 genotype of the sample to be analyzed. The kit included primers and probes spanning NPM1 exons 11 and 12 exclusively to detect NPM1 mutations in cDNA. Control primers and probes that were included to detect plasmids specific for ABL and NPM1 mutA to normalize NPM1 copy numbers in samples. gPCR allowed for accurate guantification of PCR products during the exponential phase of the PCR amplification process. qPCR data could be rapidly obtained, without post-PCR processing, by RT detection of fluorescent signals during and/or after PCR cycling [15].

Statistical analysis

The study data have been analyzed by using IBM[©] SPSS[©] Statistics version 22 (IBM[©] Corp., Armonk, NY, USA). Data expression and presentation were done based on the nature of the raw data for the study variables as follows: we presented the numerical ones in mean (standard deviation) or median (range). On the other hand, we presented gualitative data as frequency (percentage). Besides, we also used Chi-square or Fisher's exact tests to interpret and examine the correlation between the qualitative variables of this study. Whenever data were not normally distributed, we, depending on the Mann-Whitney test which is a non-parametric t-test, initiated a comparison between two groups to find which variables were significant between the two groups where a p < 0.05 was marked significant. It should also be noted that all of the conducted tests were done on a two-tailed basis.

Results

Patients' characteristics

We have included 89 AML patients in our study. The median age for these patients was 43 years old (range: 15–77). Hepatomegaly and splenomegaly were encountered in 13 (14.6%) and 13 (14.6%) patients, respectively, while lymphadenopathy was found in 20 (22.5%) patients. Regarding the hematological findings in our patients, the median WBCs, and platelet counts were 15.3×10^{9} /L (0.10–358.6 × 10^{9} /L), and 33×10^{9} /L (4–290 × 10^{9} /L), respectively, while the median Hb level was 7.8 (3.5–14) g/dL. Besides, BM was hypercellular in 82%, normocellular in 15.7%, and

hypocellular in 2.2% of our patients. The median of PB blasts percentages was 49% (1-98%), while a median of 73% (20-97%) was noticed within the BM. As for the immunophenotyping, all our cases were positive for CD13 and CD33 while CD34 was detected in 51 cases (57.3%), and 88 (98.9%) cases were positive for MPO. In the same context, 28 cases were positive for monocytic markers CD14, CD4, CD64 (31.5%), and only one case was positive for megakaryocytic markers CD41, CD61 (1.1 %). According to the World Health Organization (WHO) classification recurrent genetic abnormalities were detected in 30.3% of our AML patients. Such abnormalities are presented in Table 1. Regarding patients' response to treatment, 58% of patients died befor 28th day of treatment while 33% achieved CR after 28th day of starting chemotherapy and 9% had a refractory pattern.

Table 1: Molecular and cytogenetic analysis findings and classification of AML cases according to the FAB and WHO classification

Genetics and classification	n = 89	Percent
FLT3 mutation		
Wild ITD Wild TDK	37	41.6
Mutant ITD Wild TDK	28	31.5
Wild ITD mutant TDK	20	22.5
NPM1 mutation		
Wild	56	62.9
Mutant	33	37.1
Conventional cytogenetic*		
Normal karyotype	39	53.5
Abnormal Karyotype	34	38.2
FAB classification		
AML without differentiation (M0)	1	1.1
AML without maturation (M1)	14	15.7
AML with maturation (M2)	31	34.8
Acute promyelocytic leukemia (M3)	14	15.7
Acute myelomonocytic leukemia (M4)	22	24.7
Acute monoblastic leukemia (M5)	6	6.7
Acute megakaryocytic leukemia (M7)	1	1.1
WHO classification		
AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities		
AML with t(8,21)(q22;q22); RUNX1-RUNX1T1	7	7.9
AML with t(15;17)(q22;q12); PML-RARA	14	15.7
AML with inv(16)(p13.1q22); CBFB-MYH11	6	6.7
AML not otherwise specified		
AML without differentiation	1	1.1
AML without maturation	14	15.7
AML with maturation	25	28.1
Acute myelomonocytic leukemia	15	16.9
Acute monoblastic leukemia	6	6.7
Acute megakaryocytic leukemia	1	1.1
Response to treatment		
Early dead	52	58
CR	29	33
Refractory	8	9
Refractory	8	9

FAB: French-American-British, AML: Acute myeloid leukemia, NPM1: Nucleophosmin tandem duplication, TDK: Tyrosine kinase domain, *n = 73 AML cases.

Genetic analysis and classification

Within our AML patients, normal karyotye was found in 43.8% while 38.2% had abnormal karyptype. Gene mutation status showed that 41.6% of cases were Wild internal tandem duplication (ITD) wild tyrosine kinase domain (TDK), 31.5% were mutant ITD wild TDK while 22.5% were wild ITD mutant TDK. All the relevant genetic profiles are presented in Table 1. NPM1 gene mutation was detected in (33/89) 37.1% of our patients by conventional PCR technique and agarose gel electrophoresis. Among mutant NPM1 gene, we found NPM1 mutation A mRNA transcripts expression in 6/33 (18%) patients ranged between 140-2060% NCN (NCN = [mutACN/ABLCN] × 100) which was less than the least standard sample (not within the standard curve) (Table 2).

Table 2: Expression of NPM1 mutation A mRNA transcripts by quantitative $\ensuremath{\mathsf{RT-PCR}}$

Case	NCN%
1	139.8
2	744.06
3	835.3
4	1450.1
5	1623.64
6	2159.5

NPM1: Nucleophosmin 1, RT-PCR: Real-time polymerase chain reaction.

NPM1 mutations and the clinical and molecular features

Regarding the clinical significance, no significant differences were noticed between our patients based on their NPM1 gene mutation status (wild and mutant) in terms of sex, hepatomegaly, and splenomegaly (p = 0.375, 0.429, and 0.429,respectively). On the other hand, lymphadenopathy was the only significant factor (p = 0.023). We found 9/33 (27%) patients with NPM1 mutation had recrrent cytogenetic abnormality (2,5 and 2 patients with t(8;21), t(15:17) and inv16 respectively). Besides, no statistical significance was estimated regarding the laboratory data or achieving CR between the two groups (Table 3). The previous outcomes were also compared based on the presence of NPM1 mutation A status as patients were divided into NPM1-mutant non-A (n = 27), and NPM1mutant A (n = 6). No statistical significance was found between the two groups in any of the studied outcomes as sex, clinical, and laboratory data (Table 4). Besides, among the patients with muta A type mutations (n = 6), we found that only one patient (16.7%) was positive for t(8;21), another one (16.7%) with normal cytogenetics while neither of these patients were positive for inv. 16. No statistical significance was found between patietns with NPM1-mutant non-A and NPM1-mutant A in any of these variables. Further details are presented in Table 4. Regarding the treatment outcomes, dead or refractory patients accounted for 70% and 83.3% while patients that achieved CR accounted for 30% and 16.7% among patients within the NPM1-mutant non-A and NPM1-mutant A groups, respectively. However, we found no statistical significance between the two groups regarding this outcomes (p = 0.487).

Discussion

Genetic mutations possess crucial roles in the development, prognosis, and pathogenesis of AML. However, it is not necessary to detect such mutations in all AML patients [1]. NPM1 gene mutations frequently

Table 3: Comparing patients' characteristics according to their NPM1 gene mutation results

Patients' characteristics	NPM (%)		p-value
	Wild (n = 56)	Mutant (n = 33)	
Sex			
Male	35 (62.5)	17 (51.5)	0.375
Female	21 (37.5)	16 (48.5)	
Hepatomegaly	· · /	()	
Negative	47 (83.9)	29 (87.9)	0.429
Positive	9 (16.1)	4 (12.1)	
Splenomegaly			
Negative	47 (83.9)	29 (87.9)	0.429
Positive	9 (16.1)	4 (12.1)	
Lymphadenopathy			
Negative	39 (70.9)	30 (90.9)	0.023*
Positive	16 (29.1)	3 (9.1)	
BM Cellularity			
Hypercellular	43 (76.8)	30 (90.9)	0.207
Normocellular	11 (19.6)	3 (9.1)	
Hypocellular	2 (3.6)	0	
FAB			
AML-M0	0	1 (3)	0.235
AML-M1	8 (14.3)	6 (18.2)	
AML-M2	19 (33.9)	12 (36.4)	
AML-M3	9 (16.1)	5 (15.2)	
AML-M4	15 (26.8)	7 (21.2)	
AML-M5	4 (7.1)	2 (6)	
AML-M7	1 (1.8)	0	
CD34			
Negative	25 (44.6)	13 (39.4)	0.663
Positive	31 (55.4)	20 (60.6)	
MPO			
Negative	1 (1.8)	0	1
Positive	55 (98.2)	33 (100)	
Monocyte markers			
Negative	37 (66.1)	24 (72.7)	0.638
Positive	19 (33.9)	9 (27.3)	
Flt3			
Wild ITD wild TDK	21 (38.9)	16 (51.6)	0.392
mutant ITD wild TDK	18 (33.3)	10 (32.3)	
Wild ITD mutant TDK	15 (27.8)	5 (16.1)	
t (8.21)			
Negative	51 (91.1)	31 (93.9)	1
Positive	5 (8.9)	2 (6.1)	
PML RARA			
Negative	47 (83.9)	28 (84.8)	1
Positive	9 (16.1)	5 (15.2)	
Inv. 16			
Negative	52 (92.9)	31 (93.9)	0.607
Positive	4 (7.1)	2 (6.1)	
Cytogenetics	. ,	• •	
Normal	24 (53.3)	15 (53.6)	1
Abnormal	21 (46.7)	13 (46.4)	
Response to treatment		- (-)	
Early dead	33 (59)	19 (58)	0.267
CR	20 (36)	9 (27)	
Refractory	3 (5)	5 (15)	

*p-value ≤ 0.05 is significant, AML: Acute myeloid leukemia, NPM1: Nucleophosmin 1, ITD: Internal tandem duplication, TDK: Tyrosine kinase domain, CR: Complete remission, BM: Bone marrow.

occur in hematopoietic tumors as it plays a major role in various cellular processes as gene fusion which result from chromosome translocation [16]. NPM1 genetic mutations lead to harmful cytoplasmic localization of nucleoplasmin proteins [7]. Although such mutations have been reported to be frequently associated with the development of AML, no aberrant unusual keratotyping has been associated [7]. We analyzed the level of expression of NPM mutation A mRNA using RT-PCR studied on 89 patients that were newly diagnosed with adult AML in the medical oncology department at the NCI to gain insight into its correlated clinical characteristics in AML and different laboratory findings and its impact on prognosis.

We found that the prevalence of NPM1 mutations in our population was 37.1% in our AML patients which is similar to the results by Ivey *et al.* [17], which found NPM1 gene mutation in 30% to 35% of his studied AML patients, Thiede *et al.* [18] reported a rate of 27.47% in their patients and with Mahmood

Table 4: Comparing patients' characteristics according to the type of NPM1 gene mutations

Patients' characteristics	NPM (%)		p-valu	
	Non A (n = 27)	Muta A (n = 6)		
Sex				
Male	14 (51.9)	3 (50)	1	
Female	13 (48.1)	3 (50)		
Hepatomegaly				
Negative	24 (88.9)	5 (83.3)	1	
Positive	3 (11.1)	1 (16.7)		
Splenomegaly				
Negative	24 (88.9)	5 (83.3)	1	
Positive	3 (11.1)	1 (16.7)		
Lymphadenopathy		. ,		
Negative	25 (92.6)	5 (83.3)	0.464	
Positive	2 (7.4)	1 (16.7)		
BM Cellularity	· /	x - 7		
Hypercellular	25 (92.6)	5 (83.3)	0.464	
Normocellular	2 (7.4)	1 (16.7)		
FAB	- ()	()		
AML-M0	1 (3.7)	0	0.716	
AML-M1	6 (22.2)	0	010	
AML-M2	9 (33.3)	3 (50)		
AML-M3	4 (14.8)	1 (16.7)		
AML-M4	5 (18.5)	2 (33.3)		
AML-M5	2 (7.4)	0		
AML-M7	1 (3.7)	0		
CD13 (positive)	27 (100)	6 (100)	NA	
CD33 (positive)	27 (100)	6 (100)	NA	
CD34	27 (100)	0(100)	IN/A	
Negative	12 (44.4)	1 (16.7)	0.364	
Positive	15 (55.6)	5 (83.3)	0.004	
CD14_CD4_CD64	10 (00.0)	0 (00.0)		
Negative	20 (74.1)	4 (66.7)	0.918	
Positive	7 (25.9)	2 (33.3)	0.010	
CD41 61 (negative)	27 (100)	6 (100)	NA	
Flt3	27 (100)	0 (100)	11/1	
Wild ITD wild TDK	13 (52)	3 (50)	0.381	
mutant ITD wild TDK	13 (52) 7 (28)	3 (50)	0.301	
Wild ITD mutant TDK	5 (20)	3 (50) 0		
t (8.21)	5 (20)	v		
Negative	26 (96.3)	5 (83.3)	0.335	
Positive	1 (3.7)	1 (16.7)	0.000	
PML RARA	1 (0.7)	(10.7)		
Negative	23 (85.2)	5 (83.3)	1	
Positive			1	
nv. 16	4 (14.8)	1 (16.7)		
	25 (02 6)	6 (100)	1	
Negative	25 (92.6)	6 (100)	1	
Positive	2 (7.4)	0	0.011	
Cytogenetics (normal)	14 (58.3)	1 (25)	0.311	
Response to treatment	10 (70)	5 (00.0)	0.45-	
Dead/Refractory	19 (70)	5 (83.3)	0.487	
CR	8 (30)	1 (16.7) 11: Nucleophosmin 1, ITD: Ir		

"p-value \$ 0.05 is significant, AML: Acute myeloid leukemia, NPM1: Nucleophosmin 1, 11 D: Internal tandem duplication, TDK: Tyrosine kinase domain, CR: Complete remission, BM: Bone marrow.

et al. [19] who found NPM1 mutation in 26.9% AML patients. Other studies have also reported similar results [7], [18], [20], [21], [22], [23]. On the other hand, Pazhakh *et al.* [24] estimated NPM1 mutations in a lower percentage (17.5%) of AML patients, and Döhner *et al.* [25] recorded NPM1 mutations in a higher percentage (48%) of normal karyotypic AML patients which was consistent with Kassem *et al.* [26], and Nafea *et al.* [27] who found that the mutation was detected in higher percentage (45.8% and 47.9% respectively). This discrepancy may be due to different populations, different sample sizes, and selection criteria or may be due to different approached techniques.

Regarding the study outcomes, we did not find any significant differences in terms of sex, hepatomegaly, and splenomegaly based on NPM1 mutation results. Only lymphadenopathy occurred significantly more frequently in patients with wild NPM1 genes while other laboratory data were not, as mentioned before. In the same context, Boissel *et al.* [28] reported that no significant difference between mutant and non-mutant NPM1 groups in terms of sex (p = 0.375) was estimated. On the other hand, Mahmood *et al.* [19] reported the opposite as their study found significance in terms of the female gender, higher hemoglobin level, and platelet counts which were associated with the NPM1 mutation group. Similarly, Falini *et al.* [8], and Döhner *et al.* [24] estimated statistical significance, and according to which, they claimed that lymphadenopathy and gingival hyperplasia were associated with NPM1 mutations. These results can be explained by the presence of such mutations in M4 and M5 French-American-British (FAB) subtypes which are usually associated with lymphadenopathy and gum hyperplasia. However Kassem *et al.* [26], and Boonthimat *et al.* [20], reported that no significant clinical outcomes were correlated with the presence of NPM1 genetic mutations.

Falini *et al.* [29] showed that NPM mutation was more common in M5 (14/23) and M4 (9/20) subtypes while it was absent in M0 (0/2) which is inconsistent with our results as we found NPM1 mutation more in M2. In the same context, Döhner *et al.* [25] and Falini *et al.* [8] also reported that M4and M5 subtypes were significantly associated with higher proportions of NPM1 mutations as detected in their patients. The same results were also reported by previous studies [18], [26], [27], [30]. On the other hand, Pazhakh *et al.* [24] estimated that the occurrence of NPM1 mutation was mostly found in M3, M4, M5, and M3V patients. M1 subtype was the commonest (34%) as reported by Verhaak *et al.* [22] in their population.

We also found that gene mutations occurred in 53.6% of our population with normal karyotypes. This rate is variable among previous studies and can be ranging between 40% and 60% of AML patients. Regarding prognosis, we found that among our AML patients with mutant NPM1 genes, 73% died before day 28 which may be due to old age, secondary infections, and late diagnosis. Therefore, we could not estimate the correlation between the NPM1 mutant gene and the early response to treatment in AML patients. Mahmood et al. [19] estimated the CR rates in NPM1-mutation AML to be 72% while the median DFS was 16.1 months. Previous reports also estimated consistent findings [7], [8], [18], [25], [31], [32]. On the contrary, Wang et al. [33] and Boonthimat et al. [20] reported that no association was found between the presence of NPM1 mutations and the prognosis of AML patients.

The prevalence rate of NPM1 mutation A was 18% of our AML patients with mutant NPM1 genes, and 6.7% of all our AML patients which is similar to the findings by Falini *et al.* [30] and much lower than other previous studies [25], [34], [35] which may be attributable to the differences in patients' baseline demographics and inclusion criteria. We did not find any significance regarding the clinical and laboratory features among patients with type A NPM1 mutations. However, NPM1 gene mutation A was higher in some variables as FAB classification M2 (50%) and M4 (33%), despite not being statistically significant. Quan *et al.* [36], on the other hand, reported that M5 subgroups were associated with higher NPM1 mutation A more than M2 and M4.

Conclusion

The frequency of NPM1 gene mutation was comparable to previous investigations while NPM1 gene mutation A was relatively low among our population. Besides, we could evaluate some relations of NPM1 mutation with initial laboratory prognostic parameters as blood count, BMA findings, FAB classification, karyotyping, and gene mutations. However, we could not evaluate its relation to response to treatment nor survival as many early deaths in our adult AML patients occurred. Consequently, more studies with larger samples are recommended and also to illustrate the frequency of non A mutant NPM1 gene and their prognostic roles.

Ethics Approval

All eligible individuals agreed to voluntary participation and signed an informed consent form. The study was approved by the research ethics committee of irb, NCI, Cairo University, Approval No. MD2010013006.

Author Contributions

Participated in research design: Naglaa Mostafa Hassan, Khaled Aboul-Enein. Sample collection and clinical evaluations: Lamyaa Nabeeh Al- Fadally, Reem Nabil. Conducted experiments: Lamyaa Nabeeh Al- Fadally, Reem Nabil, Noha El-Sayed Ibrahim. Analysis of data: Naglaa Mostafa Hassan, Khaled Aboul-Enein. Literature search: Noha El-Sayed Ibrahim, Lamyaa Nabeeh Al- Fadally, Reem Nabil. Wrote or contributed to the writing of the manuscript: Noha El-Sayed Ibrahim, Reem Nabil. revision of the article: Naglaa Mostafa Hassan, Khaled Aboul-Enein. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Availability of Data and Materials

The authors have ready to send data and the detailed scientific materials if it is useful for readings.

References

- Kouchkovsky I, Abdul-Hay M. Acute myeloid leukemia: A comprehensive review and 2016 update. Blood Cancer J. 2016;6(7):e441. https://doi.org/10.1038/bcj.2016.50 PMid:27367478
- Döhner H, Weisdorf DJ, Bloomfield CD. Acute myeloid leukemia. N Engl J Med. 2015;373(12):1136-52. https://doi.org/10.1056/ nejmra1406184
 PMid:26376137
- Gregory TK, Wald D, Chen Y, Vermaat JM, Xiong Y, Tse W. Molecular prognostic markers for adult acute myeloid leukemia with normal cytogenetics. J Hematol Oncol. 2009;2:23. https:// doi.org/10.1186/1756-8722-2-23 PMid:19490647
- Burnett A, Wetzler M, Löwenberg B. Therapeutic Advances in Acute Myeloid Leukemia. J Clin Oncol. 2011;29(5):487-94. https://doi.org/10.1200/jco.2010.30.1820 PMid:21220605
- Falini B. Acute myeloid leukemia with mutated nucleophosmin (NPM1): Molecular, pathological, and clinical features. In: Nagarajan L, editor. Acute Myelogenous Leukemia: Genetics, Biology and Therapy. New York: Springer; 2010. p. 149-68. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-0-387-69259-3 9
- Lindström M. NPM1/B23: A multifunctional chaperone in ribosome biogenesis and chromatin remodeling. Biochem Res Int. 2011;2011:195209. https://doi.org/10.1155/2011/195209 PMid:21152184
- Falini B, Mecucci C, Tiacci E, Alcalay M, Rosati R, Pasqualucci L, *et al.* Cytoplasmic nucleophosmin in acute myelogenous leukemia with a normal karyotype. N Engl J Med. 2005;352(3):254-66. https://doi.org/10.1056/nejmoa041974 PMid:15659725
- Falini B, Nicoletti I, Martelli MF, Mecucci C. Acute myeloid leukemia carrying cytoplasmic/mutated nucleophosmin (NPMc+ AML): Biologic and clinical features. Blood. 2006;109(3):874-85. https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2006-07-012252 PMid:17008539
- Falini B, Lenze D, Hasserjian R, Jaehne D, Soupir C, Liso A, et al. Cytoplasmic mutated nucleophosmin (NPM) defines the molecular status of a significant fraction of myeloid sarcomas. Leukemia. 2007;21(7):1566-70. https://doi.org/10.1038/ sj.leu.2404699

PMid:17443224

 Luskin MR, Huen AO, Brooks SA, Stewart C, Watt CD, Morrissette JJ, *et al.* NPM1 mutation is associated with leukemia cutis in acute myeloid leukemia with monocytic features. Haematologica. 2015;100(10):e412-4. https://doi.org/10.3324/ haematol.2015.129346

PMid:26113416

 Xian J, Shao H, Chen X, Shuaishuai Z, Quan J, Zou Q, et al. Nucleophosmin mutants promote adhesion, migration and invasion of human leukemia THP-1 cells through MMPs up-regulation via Ras/ERK MAPK signaling. Int J Biol Sci. 2016;12(2):144-55. https://doi.org/10.7150/ijbs.13382 PMid:26884713

 Döhner H, Estey EH, Amadori S, Appelbaum FR, Büchner T, Burnett AK, *et al.* Diagnosis and management of acute myeloid leukemia in adults: Recommendations from an international expert panel, on behalf of the European LeukemiaNet. Blood. 2010;115(3):453-74. https://doi.org/10.1182/ blood-2009-07-235358
PMid:19880497

 Sabry D, Mostafa A, Mekawey D, Altaib Z, Shamaa A, Hany A, et al. An experimental model: Intrauterine adhesion versus subendometrial fibrosis. Biomed Res. 2018;29(17):3311-8. https://doi.org/10.4066/biomedicalresearch.29-18-849

 Sanders R, Mason DJ, Foy CA, Huggett JF. Evaluation of digital PCR for absolute RNA quantification. PLoS One. 2013;8(9):e75296. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal. pone.0075296

PMid:24073259

- Kumar D, Mehta A, Panigrahi MK, Nath S, Saikia KK. NPM1 mutation analysis in acute myeloid leukemia: Comparison of three techniques-sanger sequencing, pyrosequencing, and real-time polymerase chain reaction. Turk J Haematol. 2018;35(1):49-53. https://doi.org/10.4274/tjh.2017.0095 PMid:29129825
- Grisendi S, Bernardi R, Rossi M, Cheng K, Khandker L, Manova K, et al. Role of nucleophosmin in embryonic development and tumorigenesis. Nature. 2005;437(7055):147-53. https://doi. org/10.1038/nature03915
 PMid:16007073

Ivov A Hills PK Simps

- Ivey A, Hills RK, Simpson MA, Jovanovic JV, Gilkes A, Grech A, et al. Assessment of minimal residual disease in standardrisk AML. N Engl J Med. 2016;374(5):422-33. https://doi. org/10.1056/nejmoa1507471
 PMid:26789727
- Thiede C, Koch S, Creutzig E, Steudel C, Illmer T, Schaich M, et al. Prevalence and prognostic impact of NPM1 mutations in 1485 adult patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML). Blood. 2006;107(10):4011-20. https://doi.org/10.1182/ blood-2005-08-3167

PMid:16455956

- Mahmood R, Altaf C, Malik HS, Khan SA. Clinico-Haematologic association and prognostic relevance of NPM1 and FLT3-ITD mutations in acute Myeloid Leukaemia. Pak J Med Sci. 2019;35(1):23-8. https://doi.org/10.12669/pjms.35.1.285 PMid:30881390
- Boonthimat C, Thongnoppakhun W, Auewarakul CU. Nucleophosmin mutation in Southeast Asian acute myeloid leukemia: Eight novel variants, FLT3 coexistence and prognostic impact of NPM1/FLT3 mutations. Haematologica. 2008;93(10):1565-9. https://doi.org/10.3324/haematol.12937 PMid:18641025
- Suzuki T, Kiyoi H, Ozeki K, Tomita A, Yamaji S, Suzuki R, *et al.* Clinical characteristics and prognostic implications of NPM1 mutations in acute myeloid leukemia. Blood. 2005;106(8):2854-61. https://doi.org/10.1182/blood-2005-04-1733 PMid:15994285
- Verhaak RG, Goudswaard CS, van Putten W, Bijl MA, Sanders MA, Hugens W, *et al.* Mutations in nucleophosmin (NPM1) in acute myeloid leukemia (AML): Association with other gene abnormalities and previously established gene expression signatures and their favorable prognostic significance. Blood. 2005;106(12):3747-54. https://doi.org/10.1182/ blood-2005-05-2168 PMid:16109776
- 23. Chou WC, Tang JL, Lin LI, Yao M, Tsay W, Chen CY, et al.

Nucleophosmin mutations in de novo acute myeloid leukemia: The age-dependent incidences and the stability during disease evolution. Cancer Res. 2006;66(6):3310-6. https://doi. org/10.1158/0008-5472.can-05-4316 PMid:16540685

- Pazhakh V, Zaker F, Alimoghaddam K, Atashrazm F. Detection of nucleophosmin and FMS-like tyrosine kinase-3 gene mutations in acute myeloid leukemia. Ann Saudi Med. 2011;31(1):45-50. https://doi.org/10.5144/0256-4947.2011.45
 PMid:21245599
- Döhner K, Schlenk RF, Habdank M, Scholl C, Rücker FG, Corbacioglu A, *et al.* Mutant nucleophosmin (NPM1) predicts favorable prognosis in younger adults with acute myeloid leukemia and normal cytogenetics: Interaction with other gene mutations. Blood. 2005;106(12):3740-6. https://doi.org/10.1182/ blood-2005-05-2164

PMid:16051734

- Kassem N, Hamid A, Atia T, Baathallah S, Mahmoud S, Moemen E, *et al.* Novel mutations of the nucleophosmin (NPM-1) gene in Egyptian patients with acute myeloid leukemia: A pilot study. J Egypt Natl Canc Inst. 2011;23(2):73-8. https:// doi.org/10.1016/j.jnci.2011.09.003 PMid:22099964
- Nafea DA, Rahman MA, Boris D, Pérot C, Laporte JP, Isnard F, et al. Incidence and prognostic value of NPM1 and FLT3 gene mutations in AML with normal karyotype. Open Hematol J. 2011;5:14-20. https://doi.org/10.2174/1874276901105010014
- Boissel N, Renneville A, Biggio V, Philippe N, Thomas X, Cayuela JM, *et al.* Prevalence, clinical profile, and prognosis of NPM mutations in AML with normal karyotype. Blood. 2005;106(10):3618-20. https://doi.org/10.1182/ blood-2005-05-2174
 PMid:16046528
- Falini B, Bolli N, Liso A, Martelli MP, Mannucci R, Pileri S, et al. Altered nucleophosmin transport in acute myeloid leukaemia with mutated NPM1: Molecular basis and clinical implications. Leukemia. 2009;23(10):1731-43. https://doi.org/10.1038/ leu.2009.124 PMid:19516275

- Falini B, Martelli MP, Bolli N, Sportoletti P, Liso A, Tiacci E, et al. Acute myeloid leukemia with mutated nucleophosmin (NPM1): Is it a distinct entity? Blood. 2011;117(4):1109-20. https://doi. org/10.1182/blood-2010-08-299990 PMid:21030560
- Shamaa S, Laimon N, Aladle DA, Azmy E, Elghannam DM, Salem DA, et al. Prognostic implications of NPM1 mutations and FLT3 internal tandem duplications in Egyptian patients with cytogenetically normal acute myeloid leukemia. Hematology. 2014;19(1):22-30. https://doi.org/10.1179/16078454 13y.0000000085

PMid:23540998

- Rau R, Brown P. Nucleophosmin (NPM1) mutations in adult and childhood acute myeloid leukaemia: Towards definition of a new leukaemia entity. Hematol Oncol. 2009;27(4):171-81. https:// doi.org/10.1002/hon.904
 PMid:19569254
- Wang L, Xu WL, Meng HT, Qian WB, Mai WY, Tong HY, et al. FLT3 and NPM1 mutations in Chinese patients with acute myeloid leukemia and normal cytogenetics. J Zhejiang Univ Sci B. 2010;11(10):762-70. https://doi.org/10.1631/jzus.b1000052 PMid:20872983
- Schnittger S, Kern W, Tschulik C, Weiss T, Dicker F, Falini B, et al. Minimal residual disease levels assessed by NPM1 mutation-specific RQ-PCR provide important prognostic information in AML. Blood. 2009;114(11):2220-31. https://doi. org/10.1182/blood-2009-03-213389 PMid:19587375
- Ottone T, Ammatuna E, Lavorgna S, Noguera N, Buccisano F, Venditti A, *et al.* An allele-specific RT-PCR assay to detect Type A mutation of the nucleophosmin-1 gene in acute myeloid leukemia. J Mol Diagn. 2008;10(3):212-6. https://doi. org/10.2353/jmoldx.2008.070166 PMid:18403613
- Quan J, Gao YJ, Yang ZL, Chen H, Xian JR, Zhang SS, *et al.* Quantitative detection of circulating nucleophosmin mutations DNA in the plasma of patients with acute myeloid leukemia. Int J Med Sci. 2015;12(1):17-22. https://doi.org/10.7150/ijms.10144 PMid:25552914