



## WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Advances in Treating Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

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*Program will begin shortly*

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1



**BEATING  
CANCER  
IS IN  
OUR BLOOD.**

## ADVANCES IN TREATING MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS

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Weill Cornell Medicine  
New York, NY



2

**DISCLOSURES**

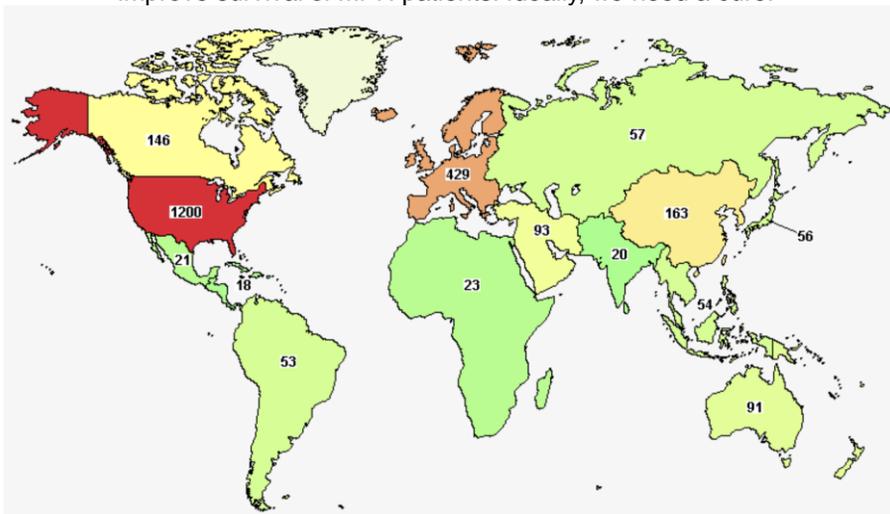
Advances in Treating Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

**Ghaith Abu-Zeinah, MD has affiliations with PharmaEssentia.****BEATING CANCER IS IN OUR BLOOD.**

3

**As of 1/19/21, there are 1763 clinical trials worldwide registered in clinicaltrials.gov to advance MPN treatment**

We need treatments to improve quality of life, prevent complications, and improve survival of MPN patients. Ideally, we need a cure!



<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/results/map?cond=myeloproliferative+neoplasm&map=>

4

## Outline

- MPN diagnosis, symptoms and complications
- Treatment of PV
- Treatment of ET
- Treatment of MF

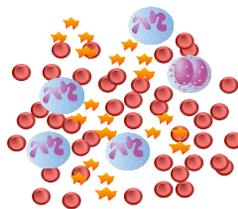
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## Classical Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN) are classified into 3 major subtypes

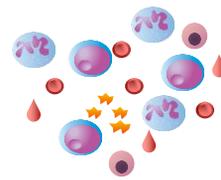
**Essential Thrombocythemia (ET)**



**Polycythemia Vera (PV)**



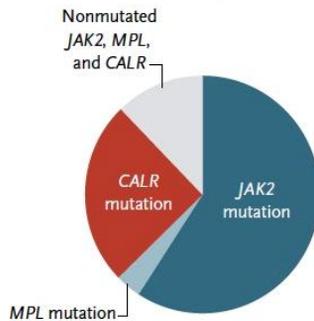
**Primary Myelofibrosis (PMF)**



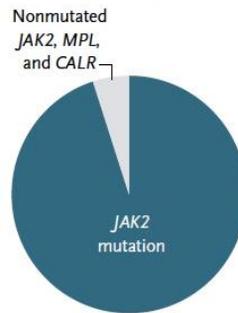
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## >90% of MPNs share driver mutations in JAK2, CALR, or MPL

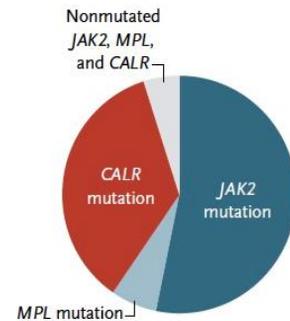
### Essential Thrombocythemia (ET)



### Polycythemia Vera (PV)



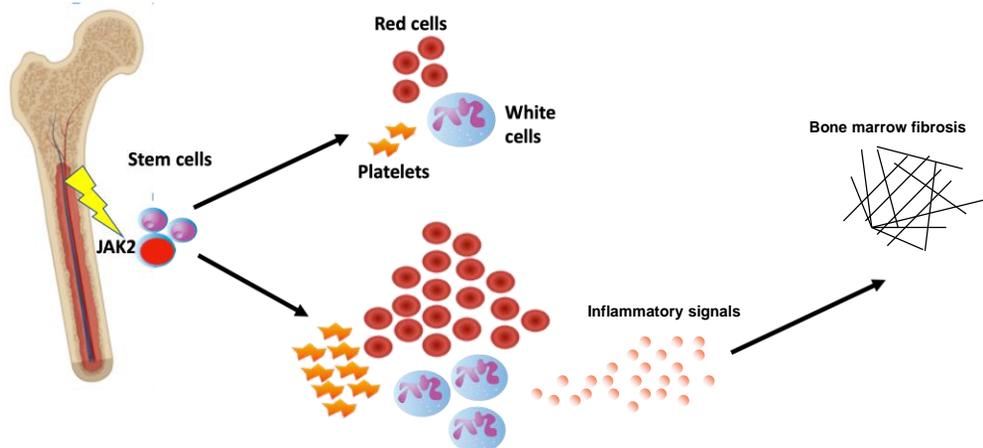
### Primary Myelofibrosis (PMF)



Klampfl T. et al. NEJM 2013

7

## Driver mutations occur in blood stem cells and lead to overproduction of cells, inflammation and fibrosis



8

**First step towards optimal treatment is making an accurate diagnosis  
Bone marrow histology is crucial!**

Essential  
Thrombocythemia  
(ET)

Polycythemia Vera  
(PV)

Essential thrombocythemia

Polycythemia vera

Overt Myelofibrosis

Primary  
Myelofibrosis  
(PMF)

Rumi E, Cazzola M, Blood 2017
Courtesy of Geoffrey Mikita

9

## MPNs can impair quality of life

### MPN Landmark Study

"My MPN symptoms reduce my quality of life."

<p><b>MF 81%</b></p>	<p><b>PV 66%</b></p>	<p><b>ET 56%</b></p>
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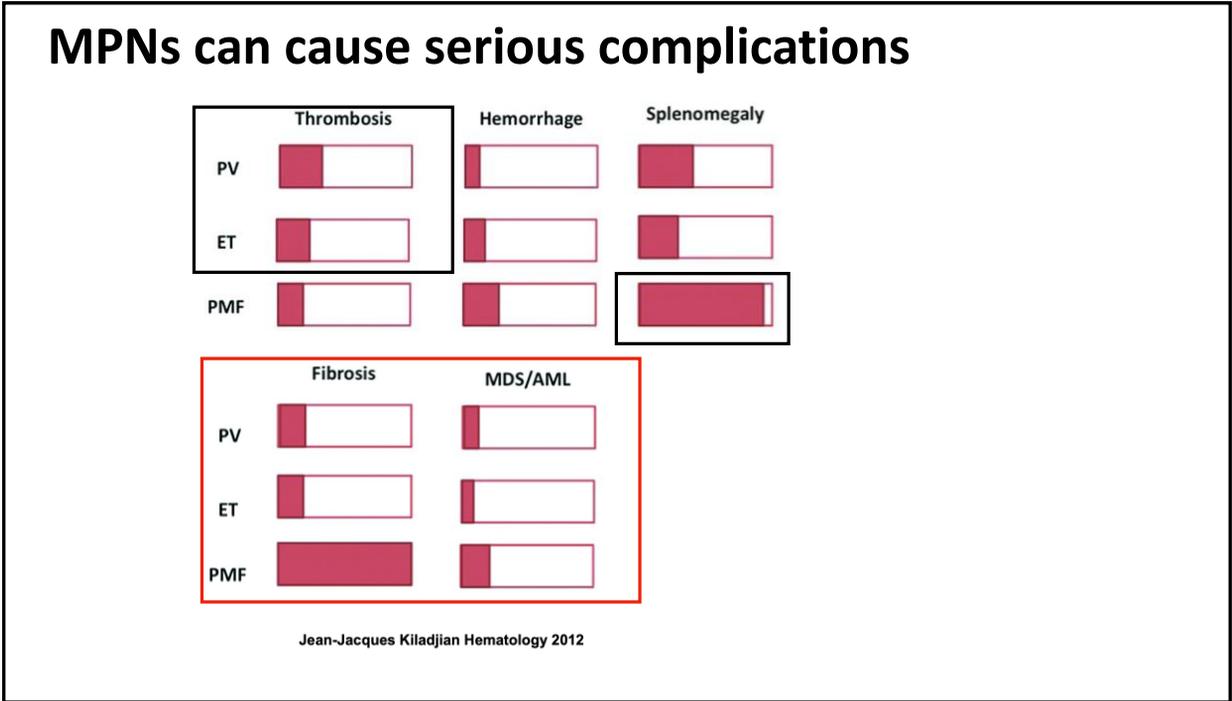
= Remaining percentage of MPN patients who responded "neither agree nor disagree," "disagree" or "strongly disagree."

Data adapted from MPN-SAF, Robyn S et al. Blood 2011

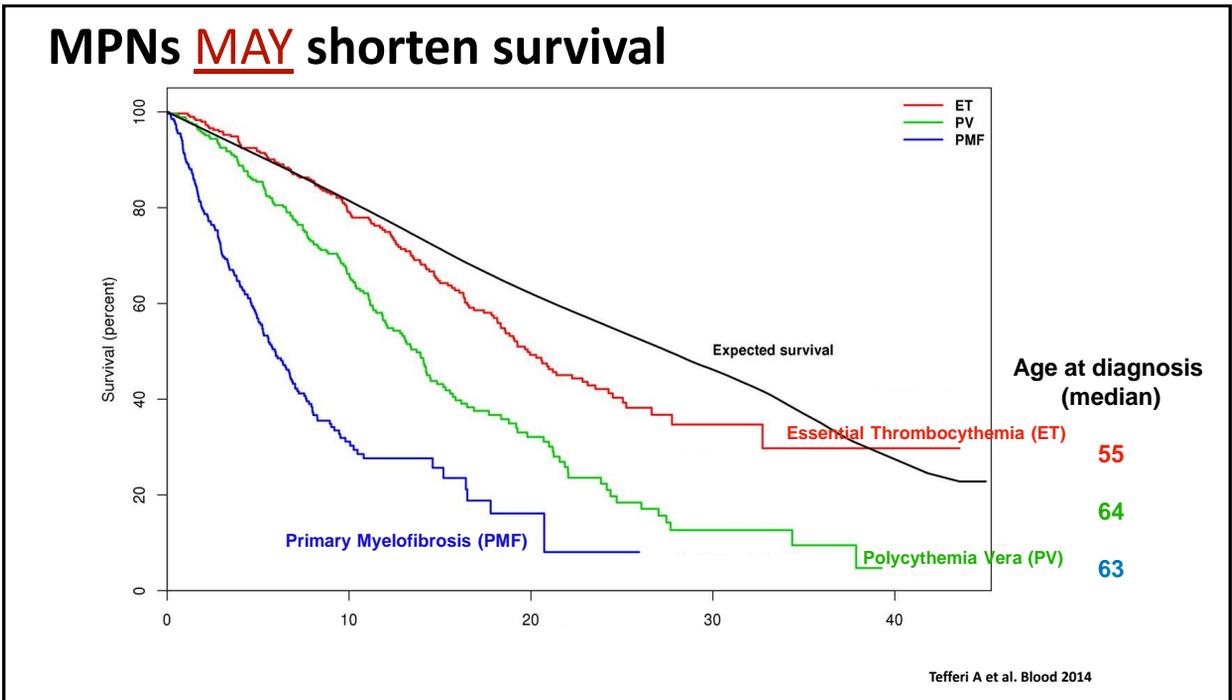
Mesa R, Miller CB, Thyne M, et al. Myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs) have a significant impact on patients' overall health and productivity: the MPN Landmark survey. BMC Cancer. 2016;16:167.

Courtesy of Maureen Thyne, PA-C

10



11



12

## Disease-modifying treatments are needed in MPN treatment

- A disease-modifying treatment is one that not only improves symptoms, spleen size, blood counts, and prevents complications, but also prevents natural progression and enforces disease regression.
- By doing so, a disease-modifying treatment is potentially capable of inducing long-term remission and improving survival.

13

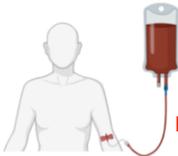
## Outline

- MPN diagnosis, symptoms and complications
- Treatment of PV
- Treatment of ET
- Treatment of MF
- COVID-19 and MPN

14

# PV initial treatment approach: What do guidelines recommend? What do we recommend?

PHLEBOTOMY (PHL)



## National guidelines

Initial treatment by risk group	
<b>Age &lt; 60</b> <b>No thrombosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess for new blood clots and major bleeding</li> <li>Manage cardiovascular risk factors</li> <li>Aspirin</li> </ul>
<b>Low risk</b>	
<b>RISK of THROMBOSIS</b>	
<b>High risk</b> <b>Age 60+</b> <b>+ thrombosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess for new blood clots and major bleeding</li> <li>Manage cardiovascular risk factors</li> <li>Aspirin</li> <li>Hydroxyurea or interferons</li> </ul>

NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Myeloproliferative Neoplasms, 2019

23

Weill Cornell practice

? + INTERFERON (IFN)

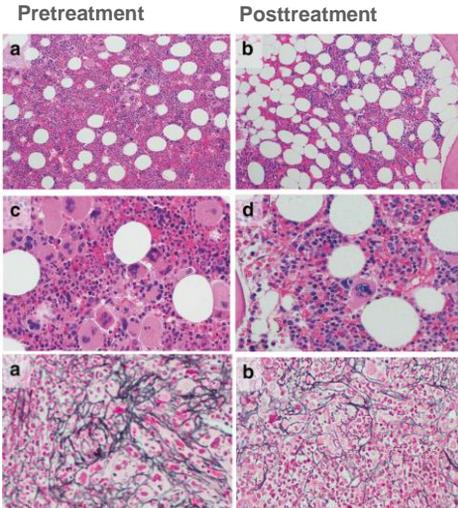
IFN or Hydroxyurea (HU)

15

2

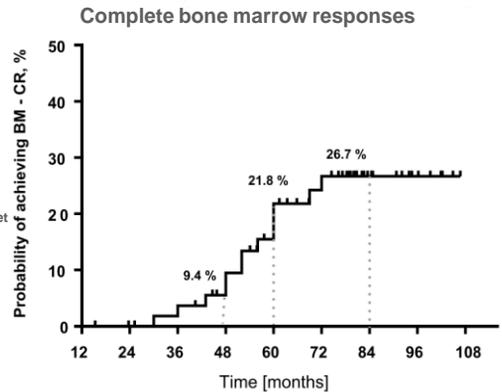
## IFN in PV is disease-modifying

Histologic response



Pizzi M, Silver RT, et al. Modern Pathology. 2015

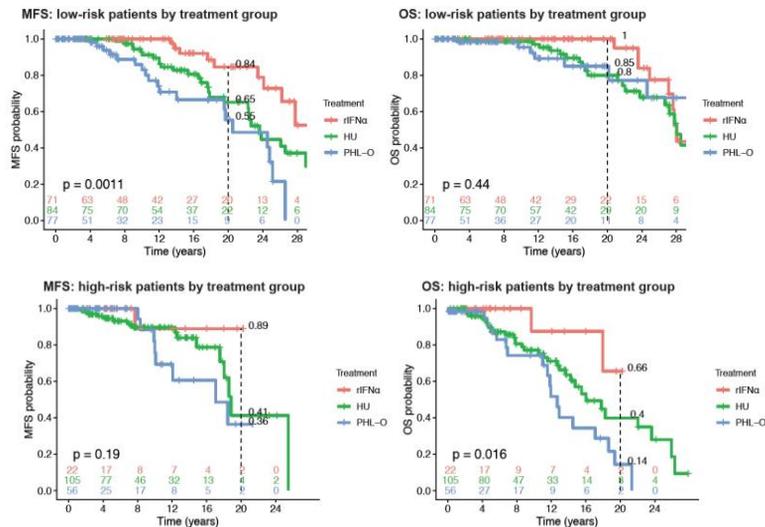
Silver RT et al. Blood 2011



Masarova L et al. Hematol Oncol. 2017

16

# IFN is associated with improved survival outcomes in PV



Abu-Zeinah G et al. Oral abstract at the 2020 annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology  
 Manuscript accepted to *Leukemia*

17

## Side effects leading to discontinuation of treatment (IFN vs HU)

	IFN (n = 199)	HU (n = 285)
<b>Time on therapy (patient-years)</b>	1137	1671
<b>Organ system adverse events, n (%)</b>		
<b>Hematologic</b>		
Anemia	2 (1.0)	3 (1.0)
Neutropenia	0 (0.0)	1 (0.4)
Thrombocytopenia	1 (0.5)	7 (2.5)
Other	2 (1.0)	7 (2.5)
<b>Allergy &amp; Immunology</b>		
Allergic response	2 (1.0)	1 (0.4)
Autoimmune disorder	2 (1.0)	0 (0.0)
<b>Musculoskeletal</b>		
Arthralgia	4 (2.0)	0 (0.0)
Myalgia	3 (1.5)	0 (0.0)
Other	1 (0.5)	2 (1.0)
<b>Gastrointestinal</b>		
Mucositis oral	0 (0.0)	3 (0.7)
Nausea & Vomiting	0 (0.0)	5 (1.8)
Other	1 (0.5)	2 (0.7)
<b>Neuropsychiatric</b>		
Agitation	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)
Depression	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)
Peripheral neuropathy	3 (1.5)	4 (1.4)
Other	1 (0.5)	1 (0.4)
<b>Constitutional</b>		
Fatigue & Malaise	5 (2.5)	3 (0.7)
Fever	1 (0.5)	1 (0.4)
Other	2 (1.0)	1 (0.4)
<b>Cardiopulmonary</b>		
Cardiomyopathy	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)
Heart failure	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)
Pericarditis	1 (0.5)	0 (0.0)
<b>Skin &amp; soft tissue</b>		
Rash	1 (0.5)	1 (0.4)
Skin ulceration	1 (0.5)	9 (3.2)
Other	0 (0.0)	6 (2.1)
<b>Total of events</b>	37 (18)	57 (20)
<b>Total of patients</b>	25 (13)	46 (16)

• 13% had IFN discontinued for side effects.

• 16% had HU discontinued for side effects.

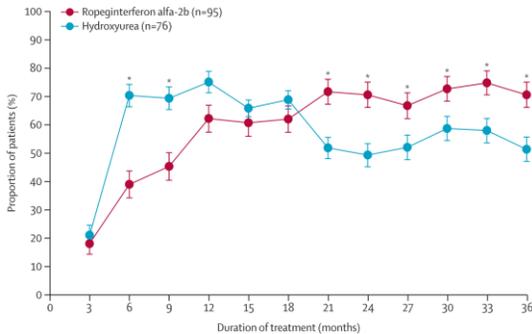
Abu-Zeinah G et al. Oral abstract at the 2020 annual meeting of the American Society of Hematology  
 Manuscript accepted to *Leukemia*

18

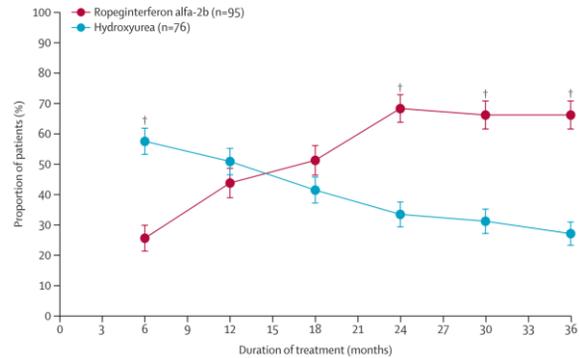
# Ropeg-IFN is possibly better than HU in a randomized trial of high-risk PV (CONTI-PV)

Ropeginterferon  $\alpha$ -2b (Ropeg-FN) is a longer-acting, biweekly dosed form of Interferon-alpha

## Complete hematologic response



## Partial molecular response



Gisslinger H et al. Lancet Hematology 2020

19

# PV initial treatment approach: What do guidelines recommend? What do we recommend?

	Initial treatment by risk group	
	Low risk	High risk
NCCN	PHL-O	HU or IFN
ELN	PHL-O	HU or IFN
WCM	<b>IFN &gt; PHL-O</b>	<b>IFN &gt; HU</b>

PHL-O causes chronic iron deficiency, Chronic iron deficiency is associated with:

1. Fatigue
2. Decline in physical performance
3. Cognitive impairment

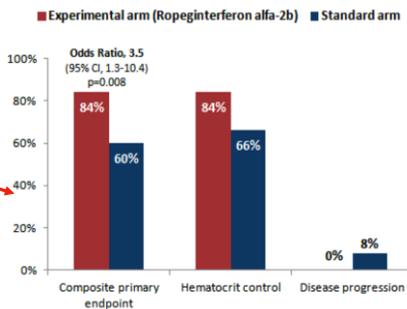
Ginzburg et al, Leukemia 2018

Bose P et al. NCCN 2020 Myeloproliferative Neoplasms.  
Barbui T, et al. Leukemia 2018

PHL-O increased fibrosis risk

Abu-Zeinah et al. ASH 2020  
Najean Y et al. Br. J. Haematol. 1994

IFN > PHL-O in recent randomized trial of low-risk PV  
Better hematocrit control, less progression at 1 year

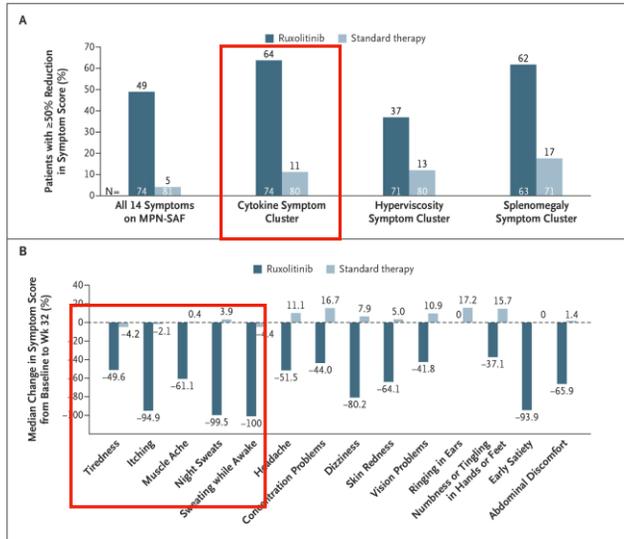
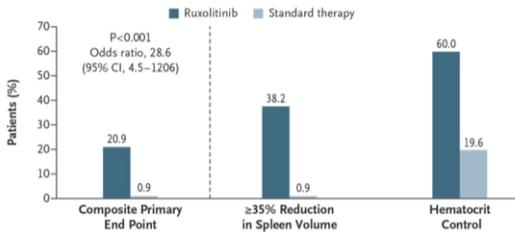


Barbui T et al. EHA oral abstract 2020

20

## Second-line treatments and clinical trials in PV: Ruxolitinib

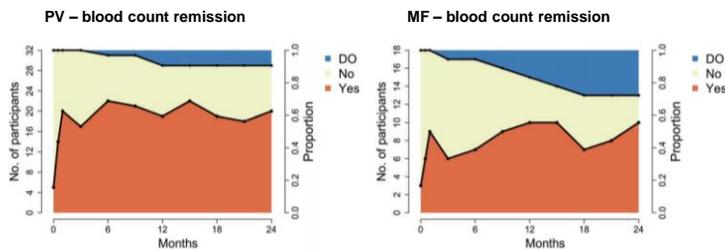
RESPONSE trial: Ruxolitinib versus "Standard therapy"



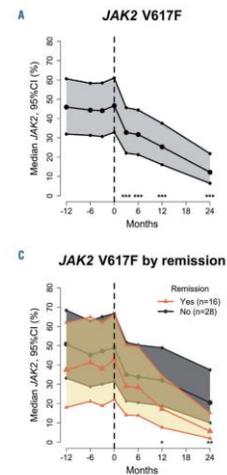
Vannucchi et al. N Engl J Med. 2015

21

## Second-line treatments and clinical trials in PV: Rux+IFN for patients refractory to IFN alone



Sørensen et al. Haematologica. 2020



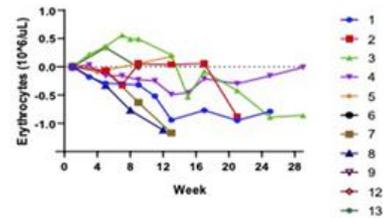
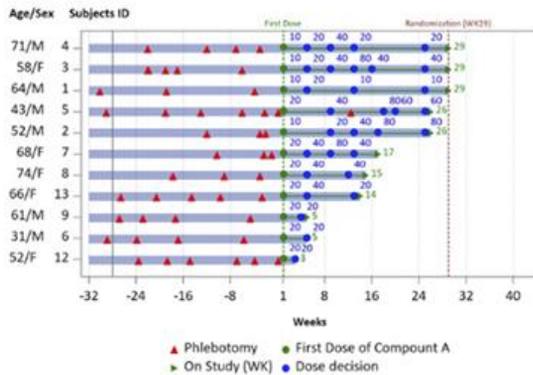
22

# Second-line treatments and clinical trials in PV: PTG-300 hepcidin mimetic

634.MYELOPROLIFERATIVE SYNDROMES: CLINICAL | NOVEMBER 5, 2020

## PTG-300 Eliminates the Need for Therapeutic Phlebotomy in Both Low and High-Risk Polycythemia Vera Patients

Marina Kremyanskaya, Yelena Ginzburg, MD, Andrew T. Kuykendall, MD, Abdulraheem Yacoub, MD, Jay Yang, MD, Suneel K Gupta, PhD, Frank Valone, MD, Sarita Khanna, PhD, Srdan Verstovsek, MD PhD, Ronald Hoffman, MD



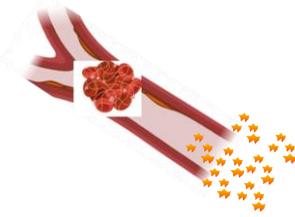
23

## Outline

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24

## Risk adapted treatment of ET by IPSET-thrombosis score: Interferon or HU is recommended first line for high-risk ET



Risk factor	HR	Score
Age > 60 years	1.50	1
Cardiovascular risk factors	1.56	1
Previous thrombosis	1.93	2
JAK2V617F	2.04	2

Low risk implies a score = 0–1; intermediate risk, score = 2; and high risk, score ≥ 3

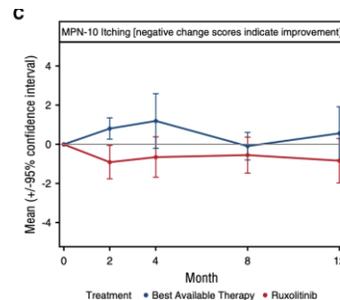
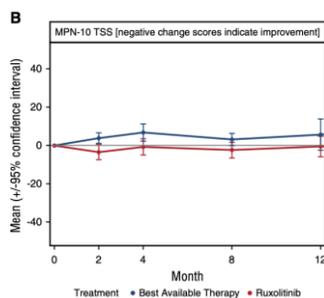
- **Low- Intermediate risk (0-2):** Low dose ASA for select cases
- **High risk patients (>=3):**
  - Low dose ASA
  - **First line** Hydroxyurea (HU) or **Interferon (rIFNα)**
- **Special considerations to prompt cytoreductive treatment:**
  - Plt count > 1500 x10<sup>9</sup>/L (or less with acquired von willebrand disease)
  - myeloproliferative symptoms exist
  - Young women desiring pregnancy

Barbui T et al.  
the European LeukemiaNet recommendations. Leukemia 2018

25

## Second-line treatments and clinical trials in ET: MAJIC-ET trial: For HU resistant or intolerant patients, **Ruxolitinib is NOT superior** to best available therapy (BAT)

- BAT = HU(71.1%), anagrelide (48.1%), and interferon (40.4%).
- No evidence of improvement in complete response within 1 year reported in **27 (46.6%) ruxolitinib** patients vs **23 (44.2%) with BAT** (P 5 .40). At 2 years, rates of thrombosis, hemorrhage, and transformation were not significantly different.



Harrison C, et al. Blood 2017

26

## Second-line treatments and clinical trials in ET: Ropeg-IFN

NIH U.S. National Library of Medicine

**ClinicalTrials.gov**

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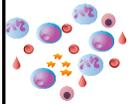
**Ropeginterferon Alfa-2b (P1101) vs. Anagrelide in Essential Thrombocythemia Patients With Hydroxyurea Resistance or Intolerance**

27

## Outline

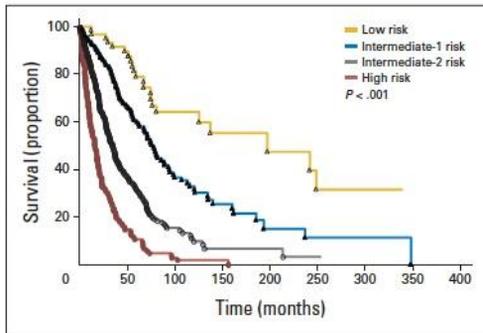
- MPN diagnosis, symptoms and complications
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- Treatment of ET
- **Treatment of MF**
- COVID-19 and MPN

28



## Management of PMF depends on prognosis/risk: DIPSS-plus is a widely used risk score in clinic and clinical trials

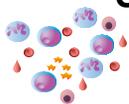
DIPSS-plus stratified OS of PMF patients



Clinical factor	Points
Age >65	1
WBC >25 x10 <sup>3</sup> /μL	1
Hgb <10 g/dL	2
Circulating blasts ≥1%	1
Constitutional symptoms	1
<b>PLUS:</b>	
• Platelet count <100 x10 <sup>3</sup> /μL	1
• Anemia requiring transfusion	1
• Unfavorable karyotype	1

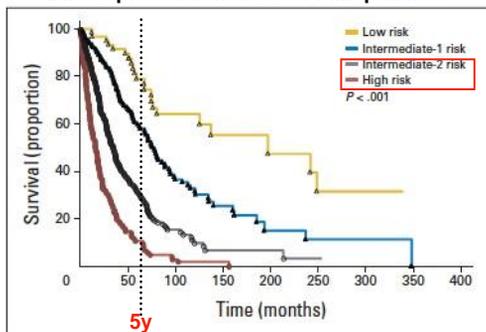
Gangat N, et al. JCO 2011

29

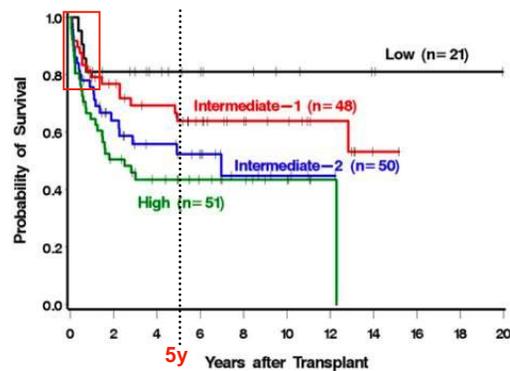


## Stem cell transplant is currently the only potentially curative therapy but is not suitable for all patients

DIPSS-plus stratified OS of PMF patients



HSCT for PMF: OS after transplant by DIPSS plus score



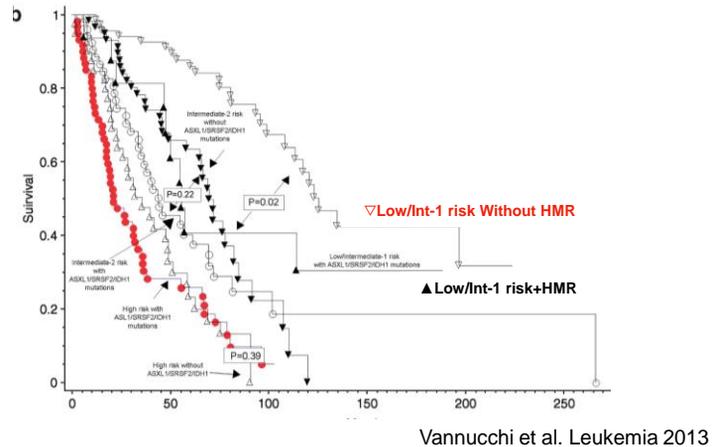
Gangat N, et al. JCO 2011  
Scott BL, et al. Blood 2012

30

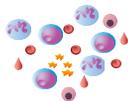
## Molecular risk should be considered in the management of MF

- High molecular risk (HMR): mutations in **ASXL1**, **SRSF2**, **IDH1/2**, **EZH2**.  
ASXL1 portends worse outcome independent of DIPSS

Gene	Overall Frequency (%)
JAK2	59.2
<b>ASXL1</b>	<b>21.7</b>
TET2	9.7
<b>SRSF2</b>	<b>8.5</b>
DNMT3A	5.7
MPL	5.2
<b>EZH2</b>	<b>5.1</b>
CBL	4.4
<b>IDH1/2</b>	<b>2.6</b>



31



## Risk-adapted treatment guidelines for myelofibrosis

- Low to intermediate-1 risk** (by IPSS/DIPSS/DIPSS-plus score)
  - Observation alone for asymptomatic patients
  - First line HU for symptomatic splenomegaly
  - Ruxolitinib for highly symptomatic splenomegaly or constitutional symptoms
  - consider **Interferon (rIFN $\alpha$ )**
- Intermediate-2 to High risk** (by IPSS/DIPSS/DIPSS-plus score)
  - Allogeneic **stem cell transplant (SCT)** for eligible patients
  - First line **Ruxolitinib** for splenomegaly

### Additional considerations:

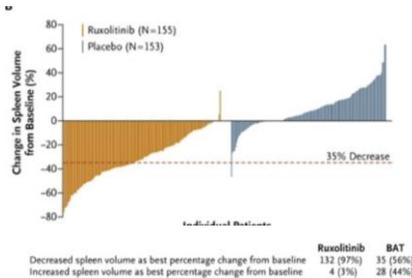
- Anemia treatment with transfusion and ESAs, +/- prednisone, androgens, iMids,

Barbui T et al; the European LeukemiaNet recommendations. Leukemia 2018

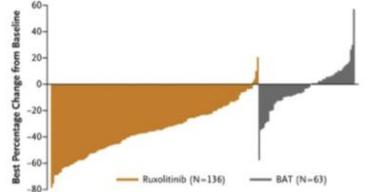
32

**JAK inhibitor, Ruxolitinib was first FDA approved (2011) treatment for MF based on symptom and spleen size improvements.  
Fedratinib later approved (2019)**

**COMFORT I**

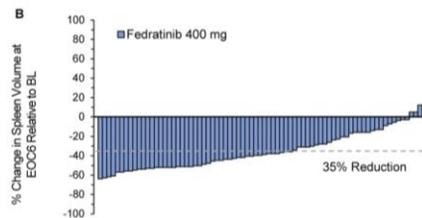
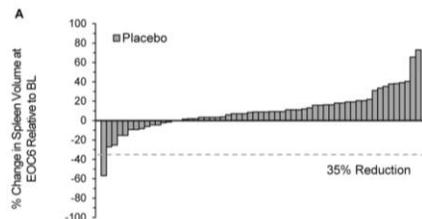


**COMFORT II**



Verstovsek et al. N Engl J Med. 2012  
Harrison C, et al. N Engl J Med. 2012

**JAKARTA Trial**



Pardanani et al. JAMA Oncol. 2015

33

**What about Interferon in Myelofibrosis?**

**WCM experience:**

- IFN should be used at low doses for sufficient duration (>12mo).
- Patients who are most likely to benefit are those with:
  - low-grade (grade 1-2) BM fibrosis,
  - No massive splenomegaly (<10cm on exam),
  - lower DIPPS score (low-int 1),
  - absence of high molecular risk mutations.

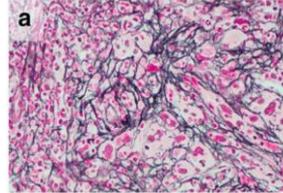
Silver RT et al. Blood 2011  
Silver RT, the 10th international Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms and Chronic Myeloid Leukemia  
Silver RT et al. Cancer 2017

34

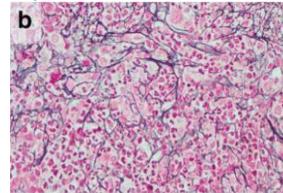
## rIFN- $\alpha$ may delay progression of early MF

- **Patients:**
  - 17 Primary MF patients with Low (11) and Intermediate-1 (6) DIPSS.
  - "early" by virtue of grade 1-2 bone marrow reticulin fibrosis
- **Results**
  - >80% had clinical benefit or stable disease (2 CR, 7 PR, 1 CI, 4 SD, 3 PD)
  - Improvement in marrow morphology occurred in 4 patients

Before rIFN- $\alpha$



3 years after rIFN- $\alpha$



Silver RT et al. Blood 2011  
Silver RT, the 10th international Congress on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms and Chronic Myeloid Leukemia  
Pizzi M et al. Mod Path 2015

35

## HMR correlates with poor response to rIFN- $\alpha$ in early MF

DIPSS Prognostic	IWG-MRT Response: No. of Patients (%) <sup>b</sup>						
	Total	CR	PR	CI	SD	PD	Died
Prognostic Risk							
Low	22 (73)	1 (3)	8 (27)	2 (6)	4 (13)	4 (13) <sup>c</sup>	3 (10)
Intermediate-1	8(27)	1 (3)	1 (3)	2 (6)	3 (10)	0 (0)	1 (3)
Total	30	2 (6)	9 (30)	4 (13)	7 (23)	4 (13)	4 (13)

Mutation	No. of Responses						
	Total	CR	PR	CI	SD	PD	Death
<b>JAK2</b>							
Single mutation	5	1	2			1	1
ASXL1	1				1		
ASXL1 + MISC	1					1	
DNMT3A	2			1	1		
MISC	1			1			
SH2B3	1				1		
TET2	4			1	2	1	
TET2 + MISC	1	1					
WT1	1				1		
<b>CALR</b>							
Single mutation	2	2					
ASXL1 + SETBP1	1						1
MISC	1	1	1				
SETBP1 + KDM6A + FLT3	1					1	
TET2	1	1					
<b>MPL</b>							
Single mutation	1	1					
SRSF2 + TET2	1						1
Total	25	2	7	3	6	4	3

Silver RT et al. Cancer 2017

36

## Therapies in the clinical trial pipeline for Myelofibrosis:

- JAK inhibitor: pacritinib
- BET inhibitor: CPI-0610
- Bcl-xl/ Bcl2 inhibitor: navitoclax
- Telomerase inhibitor: imetelstat
- TGF-beta pathway inhibitors: vactosertib, luspatercept, AVID 200
- Many others....

37

## How do we select the most promising therapies for myelofibrosis to advance in clinical trials?

- It is difficult to study overall survival in a clinical trial in MPN. It would require several years and many patients because of the chronicity of these diseases.
- **Symptom and spleen size** responses are important but are not optimal endpoints to decide if a treatment is disease modifying and potentially life-prolonging
- **Molecular responses** (reduction in JAK2, CALR, MPL mutation burden) do not strongly correlate with clinical responses.
- **Marrow fibrosis reversion** is hypothesized but not proven to be translated to a survival benefit.
- **We need a reliable biomarker** to predict disease-modifying benefits of drugs and patients at risk of progression

38

## Outline

- MPN diagnosis, symptoms and complications
- Treatment of PV
- Treatment of ET
- Treatment of MF
- COVID-19 and MPN

39

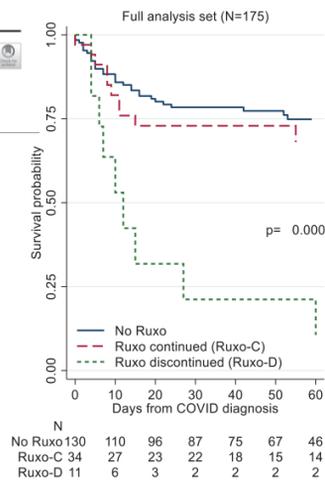
## Treatment of MPN during COVID-19: Lessons learned

Leukemia  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41375-020-01107-y>

### ARTICLE

Chronic Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

**High mortality rate in COVID-19 patients with myeloproliferative neoplasms after abrupt withdrawal of ruxolitinib**



Barbui et al. Leukemia 2020

40

# COVID-19 vaccination recommendations from the CDC

## Vaccination of persons with underlying medical conditions

mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to persons with underlying medical conditions who have no contraindications to vaccination (see 'contraindications' section below). Clinical trials

### *Contraindications*

CDC considers a history of the following to be a contraindication to vaccination with both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components (including polyethylene glycol [PEG])\*
- Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to polysorbate (due to potential cross-reactive hypersensitivity with the vaccine ingredient PEG)\*



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

CDC recommendations: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>

41

# Thank you for your attention!



### Acknowledgements

**Our patients!**  
Richard T Silver, MD  
Maureen Thyne, PA-C  
Joseph Scandura, MD/PhD  
Ellen Ritchie, MD  
Andrew Schafer, MD

### Funding



42

## Q&A SESSION

Advances in Treating Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

- **Ask a question by phone:**
  - Press star (\*) then the number 1 on your keypad.
- **Ask a question by web:**
  - Click “Ask a question”
  - Type your question
  - Click “Submit”

Due to time constraints, we can only take one question per person. Once you’ve asked your question, the operator will transfer you back into the audience line.

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43

## LLS EDUCATION & SUPPORT RESOURCES

### HOW TO CONTACT US:

To contact an **Information Specialist** about disease, treatment and support information, resources and clinical trials:



**Call:** (800) 955-4572

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET

**Chat live online:** [www.LLS.org/InformationSpecialists](http://www.LLS.org/InformationSpecialists)

Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET

**Email:** [infocenter@LLS.org](mailto:infocenter@LLS.org)

All email messages are answered within one business day.



### CLINICAL TRIAL SUPPORT CENTER

Work one-on-one with an LLS Clinical Trial Nurse Navigator who will help you find clinical trials and personally assist you throughout the entire clinical-trial process.

[www.LLS.org/Navigation](http://www.LLS.org/Navigation)

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**NUTRITION CONSULTATIONS**  
Our registered dietitian has expertise in oncology nutrition and provides free one-on-one consultations by phone or email.  
[www.LLS.org/Consult](http://www.LLS.org/Consult)



44

LLS EDUCATION & SUPPORT RESOURCES



Online Chats

Online Chats are free, live sessions, **moderated by oncology social workers**. To register for one of the chats below, or for more information, please visit [www.LLS.org/Chat](http://www.LLS.org/Chat).



Education Videos

View our free education videos on disease, treatment, and survivorship. To view all patient videos, please visit [www.LLS.org/EducationVideos](http://www.LLS.org/EducationVideos).



Patient Podcast

**The Bloodline with LLS** is here to remind you that after a diagnosis comes hope. To listen to an episode, please visit [www.TheBloodline.org](http://www.TheBloodline.org).

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LLS EDUCATION & SUPPORT RESOURCES

877.557.2672

LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY

### Help With Finances

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) offers financial assistance\* to help individuals with blood cancer.

The **LLS Patient Aid** Program provides financial assistance to blood cancer patients in active treatment. Eligible patients will receive a \$100 stipend. Visit [www.LLS.org/PatientAid](http://www.LLS.org/PatientAid)

The **Urgent Need** Program, established in partnership with Moppie's Love, helps pediatric and young adult blood cancer patients, or adult blood cancer patients who are enrolled in clinical trials, with acute financial need. The program provides a \$500 grant to assist with non-medical expenses, including utilities, rent, mortgage, food, lodging, dental care, child care, elder care, and other essential needs. Visit [www.LLS.org/UrgentNeed](http://www.LLS.org/UrgentNeed)

The **Susan Lang Pay-It-Forward Patient Travel Assistance** Program provides blood cancer patients a \$500 grant to assist with transportation and lodging-related expenses. Visit [www.LLS.org/Travel](http://www.LLS.org/Travel)

The **Co-Pay Assistance** Program offers financial support toward the cost of insurance co-payments and/or insurance premiums for prescription drugs. Visit [www.LLS.org/CoPay](http://www.LLS.org/CoPay)

\*Funding for LLS's Co-pay Assistance Program is provided by pharmaceutical companies. Funding for other LLS financial assistance programs is provided by donations from individual donors, companies, and LLS campaigns.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) offers the following financial assistance programs to help individuals with blood cancer: [www.LLS.org/Finances](http://www.LLS.org/Finances)



To order free materials: [www.LLS.org/Booklets](http://www.LLS.org/Booklets)

**BEATING CANCER IS IN OUR BLOOD.**





**THANK YOU**

**We have one goal: A world without blood cancers**

 **LEUKEMIA &  
LYMPHOMA  
SOCIETY**