EXTENSION OF 2016 WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) CLASSIFICATION INTO A NEW SET OF CLINICAL, LABORATORY, MOLECULAR, AND PATHOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS: FROM DAMESHEK TO VAINCHENKER, GREEN, AND KRALOVICS

*Jan Jacques Michiels,1,2,3 Hendrik De Raeve,4 Francisca Valster,3 Vincent Potters,3 Yonggoo Kim,5,6 *Myungshin Kim5,6

1. International Hematology, Blood and Coagulation Research Center, Goodheart Institute and Foundation in Nature Medicine, Freedom in Science and Education Erasmus Tower, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2. International Collaboration and Academic Research on Myeloproliferative Neoplasms: ICAR.MPN, Rotterdam, Netherlands
3. Department of Hematology and Pathology, BRAVIS Hospital, Bergen op Zoom, Netherlands
4. Department of Pathology, OLV Hospital Aalst and University Hospital Brussels, Brussels, Belgium
5. Department of Laboratory Medicine, College of Medicine, the Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea
6. Catholic Genetic Laboratory Center, Seoul St. Mary’s Hospital, College of Medicine, the Catholic University of Korea, Seoul, Korea

*Correspondence to goodheartcenter@upcmail.nl and microkim@catholic.ac.kr

Authors’ Contributions: Jan Jacques Michiels and Francisca Valster collected the clinical, laboratory, molecular, and pathological (CLMP) data. Hendrik De Raeve and Vincent Potters performed the bone marrow studies. Yonggoo Kim and Myungshin Kim translated the World Health Organization (WHO) classification into the CLMP classification of myeloproliferative neoplasms.

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ABSTRACT

Improved Clinical, Laboratory, Molecular, and Pathological (CLMP) 2017 criteria for myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN) define the JAK2V617F trilinear MPNs as a broad continuum of essential thrombocythaemia (ET), polycythaemia vera (PV), masked PV, and post-ET or post-PV myelofibrosis (MF). Normal versus increased erythrocyte counts (5.8x1012/L) on top of bone marrow histology separate JAK2V617F ET and prodromal PV from early and classical PV. Bone marrow histology of the JAK2V617F trilinear MPNs show variable degrees of normocellular megakaryocytic, erythrocytic megakaryocytic and erythrocytic megakaryocytic granulocytic (EMG) myeloproliferation, peripheral cytoses, and splenomegaly related to JAK2V617F allele burden. MPL515 thrombocythaemia displays predominantly normocellular megakaryocytic proliferation. CALR thrombocythaemia initially presents with megakaryocytic followed by dual granulocytic and megakaryocytic myeloproliferation without features of PV. The megakaryocytes are large, mature, and pleomorphic with hyperlobulated nuclei in JAK2V617F ET and prodromal, classical, and masked PV. The megakaryocytes are large to giant with hyperlobulated staghorn-like nuclei in MPL515 thrombocythaemia. The megakaryocytes are densely clustered, large, and immature dysmorphic with bulky (bulbous) hyperchromatic nuclei in CALR thrombocythaemia and MF.

Keywords: Myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPN), essential thrombocythaemia (ET), polycythaemia vera (PV), primary megakaryocytic granulocytic myeloproliferation (PMGM), thrombocythaemia, myelofibrosis (MF), JAK2V617F, JAK2 exon 12; MPL515, calreticulin, triple negative.
Figure 1: Changing concepts of PVSG-WHO classification of myeloproliferative neoplasms into CLMP criteria of JAK2V617F mutated essential thrombocythaemia, polycythaemia vera, and myelofibrosis and JAK2 wildtype CALR or MPL mutated thrombocythaemia and myelofibrosis: from Dameshek to Vainchenker, Kralovics and Michiels 1950–2017.

Left) The Dameshek (1950) one cause hypothesis of PV as a trilinear MPD due to one stimulus or the lack of an inhibitor of haematopoiesis in the bone marrow.

Vainchenker9,10 JAK2V617F mutation: driver cause of trilinear PV: three phenotypes of MPN ET, PV, and MF12,13

Right) The Hannover and Rotterdam Bone Marrow Classifications of the MPD recognised prefibrotic ML and AMM as a distinct entity of prefibrotic and fibrotic stages of PMGM without features of PV.

ML=JAK2neg ET/MF: MPL515ET/MF18,19 JAK2neg PMGM4 no PV features = ML 1951 CALR PMGM22,24

Dameshek3 Ph+CGL, t9;21, BCR/ABL 1960-1982* Phneg MPD4 ML and AMM without PV features → PMGM4

INTRODUCTION

The diagnostic clinical and bone marrow criteria of polycythaemia vera (PV) between 1940 and 1950 were plethoric appearance, splenomegaly, elevated erythrocyte count >6x10¹²/L, elevated platelet count, elevated haematocrit (Ht), and pathognomonic bone marrow features showing a panmyelosis with increased erythrocytic megakaryocytic granulocytic (EMG) trilinear haematopoiesis.1 About one-third of PV patients develop splenomegaly and myelofibrosis (MF) after follow-up of 15–30 years.2,3 The combination of a persistent increase of platelet counts (>350x10⁹/L) and a monilinear proliferation of large mature megakaryocytes in the bone marrow is diagnostic for essential thrombocythaemia (ET).4 Dameshek3 speculated on the possible causal interrelation among myeloproliferative disorders (MPD) showing trilinear bone marrow features in PV, the dual increase of megakaryocytes and fibroblasts in AMM and unilinear megakaryopoiesis in ML. Right middle) The Hannover and Rotterdam Bone Marrow Classifications of the MPD recognised prefibrotic ML and AMM as a distinct entity of prefibrotic and fibrotic stages of PMGM without features of PV.4 Bottom) ML defined by Dameshek in 1951 can readily be translated into JAK2-negative MPL mutated ET and MF and CALR ET associated with PMGM without features of PV.

(haemoglobin [Hb] >18 g/dL, Ht >0.52 in males and Hb >16 g/dL, Ht >0.47 in females) and in 18 patients with masked PV (inapparent PV) with normal erythrocyte, Hb, and Ht values. RCM was increased in patients with classical PV with no or minor splenomegaly. RCM was increased in masked or inapparent PV patients due to significant splenomegaly and hypersplenism.7 The PVSG defined idiopathic or AMM of spleen and bone marrow as primary MF (PMF). As MF is a secondary event in all variants of MPD, the Hannover and Rotterdam Bone Marrow Classification discovered prefibrotic ML and fibrotic stages of AMM as the third distinct MPD entity of primary megakaryocytic granulocytic myeloproliferation (PMGM) without features of PV (Figure 1).4

### MOLECULAR AETIOLOGY OF JAK2V617F TRILINEAR MYELOPROLIFERATIVE DISORDERS

The one cause hypothesis of Dameshek2 that PV is a trilinear MPD has been confirmed by Vainchenker’s discovery in 2005 that the acquired JAK2V617F mutation is the driver cause of three MPD phenotypes: ET, PV, and MF (Figure 1).5-10

**Figure 2: The sequential occurrence of CLMP defined essential thrombocythaemia, polycythaemia vera, and myelofibrosis related to JAK2 allele burden in JAK2V617F mutated trilinear myeloproliferative neoplasms.**

Upper) The discovery of the somatic JAK2V617F gain mutation can explain the three sequential phenotypes of ET, PV, and MF. A slight increase (changes) in the JAK2V617F kinase activity in heterozygous mutated MPN is enough to produce the clinical phenotype of ET. Increasing levels of JAK2V617F kinase activity in trilinear MPN due to mitotic recombination resulting in heterozygous/homozygous and predominantly homozygous mutated MPN is associated with early, overt, and advanced PV, respectively (Vainchenker and Constantinescu 2005,9 Villeval et al. 2006.10) Lower) Dynamics of the JAK2V617F disease processes in PV as a broad spectrum (Tables 1 and 2) ranging from normocellular ET, prodromal PV mimicking ET and the definitive increase in red cells (>5.8x10¹²/L) followed by masked PV, PV complicated by fibrosis and splenomegaly, spent phase PV and blastic transformation. Designed by Michiels et al. 2006-2016. Right) Initial stage of JAK2V617F mutated ET and prodromal PV with normal RCM and erythrocytes <5.7x10¹²/L versus manifest PV with definitive increase of RCM and erythrocytes >5.8x10¹²/L.4,37 EPO: erythropoietin; ET: essential thrombocythaemia; RCM: red cell mass; PV: polycythaemia vera; MF: myelofibrosis; MPN: myeloproliferative neoplasms.
Vainchenker and Constantinescu\(^9\) proposed the concept that low \(V617F\) constitutional kinase activity in heterozygous mutated \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutated patients is enough to produce the ET phenotype and that higher \(V617F\) constitutional kinase activity in \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutated heterozygous/homozygous or homozygous mutated patients is needed to produce the PV phenotype (Figure 2).\(^9,10\) The \(JAK2^{V617F}\) dosage hypothesis has been confirmed at the bone marrow haematopoietic stem cell level by the demonstration that endogenous erythroid colonies (EEC) from ET patients are mainly heterozygous for the \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutation, whereas all PV patients are either hetero/homozygous or mainly homozygous for the \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutation (Figure 2).\(^11\)

Michiels and Medinger\(^12\) studied RCM in relation to erythrocyte count in World Health Organization (WHO)-defined ET patients (24 patients) and PV patients (46 patients) with no or minor splenomegaly. The \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutation load in 24 ET patients was zero in 10 patients and positive in 14 patients; this mutation load ranged from 3-20%, 20-42%, and >50% in six, five, and two cases, respectively. The \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutation load in 36 evaluable PV patients ranged from 3-20% and from 20-50% and was >50% in 5, 12, and 19 PV cases, respectively. Increased erythrocyte counts above normal levels (>5.8x10\(^{12}\)/L in males and >5.6x10\(^{12}\)/L in females) correlated with increased RCM in PV patients whereas ET patients had normal erythrocyte counts and RCM (Figure 2).\(^12\) Increased RCM and erythrocytes >5.8/5.6x10\(^{12}\)/L in PV were associated with Hb values from 14.6-18.9 g/L and Ht values from 0.46-0.57. Normal RCM in ET patients were related to erythrocyte counts of 4.6-5.4x10\(^{12}\)/L, Hb from 14.0–16.1 g/L, and Ht from 0.39-0.47,\(^13\) consistent with the diagnosis of ET or prodromal PV (Tables 1 and 2).

The mutation load in percentages of \(JAK2\) mutated granulocytes in a large retrospective Italian study of \(JAK2^{V617F}\) trilinear MPNs was low in 250 ET patients (median: 18%), significantly higher in 212 PV patients (median: 42%) and 18 post-ET MF patients (median: 42%), and predominantly high (>50%) in post-PV MF (median: 93%) patients.\(^14\) A \(JAK2\) allele burden >50% (homozygous) was recorded in 2% of 250 ET patients, in 41% of 212 PV patients, in 72% of 18 post-ET patients, and in 93% of 55 post-PV patients.\(^14\) The correctness of the \(JAK2\) dosage hypothesis has been confirmed in patients with hereditary ET caused by the heterozygous germline gain of function mutations \(JAK2^{V617F}\) and \(JAK2^{R564Q}\) in the \(JAK2\) gene.\(^15-17\) Affected hereditary ET patients heterozygous for the \(JAK2^{V617F}\) and \(JAK2^{R564Q}\) germline mutations have a clinical ET phenotype with normal values for Hb, Ht, erythrocytes, thrombopoietin (TPO), and erythropoietin (EPO) levels. The response to EPO in the EEC assay was normal in congenital \(JAK2^{V617F}\) and \(JAK2^{R564Q}\) but increased in acquired \(JAK2^{V617F}\).\(^15-17\)

**JAK2 WILDTYPE MPL\(^{515}\) MUTATED MEGAKARYOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA OR ESSENTIAL THROMBOCYTHAEMIA (FIGURE 1)**

With the advent of the \(JAK2^{V617F}\) discovery, two variants of \(JAK2^{V617F}\) MPN have been discovered: \(MPL^{515}\) mutated ET and MF\(^{4,18,19}\) and \(CALR\) mutated ET and MF in PMGM patients.\(^{19-23\text{ (Figure 1)}}\) \(MPL^{W51S}\) and \(MPL^{W51K}\) as the driving cause of MPN in large series of ML, or ET and MF patients occurred with a frequency rate of approximately 1% and 5%, respectively.\(^18,19\) In a European study\(^19\) of 176 cases with the \(MPL^{515}\) mutation, the \(MPL^{W51S}\) mutation occurred in 110 cases, and the \(MPL^{W51K}\) mutation in 58 cases. The overall mutation levels were lower (25%) in \(MPL^{W51S}\) (n=106) compared with the level of 37% in cases with \(MPL^{W51K}\) (n=32). Of the 138 \(MPL^{515}\) cases (ET, n=99; MF, n=36; ratio of ET versus MF: 2:1), the median \(MPL^{W51S}\) mutation levels were significantly lower (21%) in ET than those (46%) in MF patients. The 29 homozygous \(MPL^{515}\) positive cases had a diagnosis of MF in 15 patients and ET in 12 patients.

The presence of clustered small and giant megakaryocytes with deeply lobulated staghorn like nuclei in \(MPL^{515}\) mutated ET are not seen in \(JAK2^{V617F}\) positive normocellular ET, prodromal PV, masked PV, and PV.\(^{20,21}\) The pleomorphic megakaryocytes in \(JAK2^{V617F}\) mutated ET in bone marrow biopsy were not larger but similar in size to medium to large megakaryocytes (pleomorphic) in prodromal and overt PV. Erythropoiesis in \(MPL\) thrombocythaemia is reduced whereas a local increase of erythropoiesis in areas of loose clustered pleomorphic megakaryocytes is present in \(JAK2^{V617F}\) normocellular ET and prodromal PV. LAF score, serum EPO, and ferritin levels are normal in \(MPL\) MPN cases and increased in \(JAK2^{V617F}\) MPN cases.\(^{20,21}\)
Table 1: International Clinical, Laboratory, Molecular, and Pathobiological (2017 CLMP) criteria for diagnosis of JAK2V617F mutated essential thrombocythaemia, prodromal polycythaemia vera, masked polycythaemia vera due to splenomegaly, and post essential thrombocythaemia myelofibrosis.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CLM criteria</th>
<th>Bone marrow cellularity and pathology</th>
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<tr>
<td>ET 1. Platelet count of &gt;350x10^9/L 2. Heterozygous JAK2V617F low JAK2 mutation load 3. Normal erythrocytes &lt;5.8x10^12/L males; &lt;5.6x10^12/L females 4. Normal haemoglobin and hematocrit</td>
<td>Normocellular bone marrow (&lt;60%), M proliferation and clustering of medium sized to large (pleomorphic) mature megakaryocytes No proliferation of granulopoiesis and no or some increase of erythropoiesis. RF 0 or 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prodomal PV 1. Platelet count of ≥350x10^9/L; Normal erythrocytes. &lt;5.8x10^12/L males; &lt;5.6x10^12/L females. 2. JAK2V617F intermediate to high JAK2 mutation load 3. Low EPO, increased LAP score 4. Spontaneous EEC</td>
<td>Increased cellularity (60–80%) due to variable degrees of EM proliferation and no increase of granulopoiesis. Proliferation and clustering of medium sized to large (pleomorphic) mature megakaryocytes. RF 0 or 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefibrotic hypercellular ET Masked PV or myelofibrosis 1. Platelet count of ≥350x10^9/L 2. Hb ≥12g/dL 3. JAK2V617F; high JAK2 mutation load 4. Slight or moderate splenomegaly 5. No preceding or allied CML, PV, PMGM, RARS-T, or MDS</td>
<td>Hypercellular trilinear EMG = masked PV, Hypercellular megakaryocytic granulocytic (MG=ET-MF)</td>
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</table>

CLM: Clinical, Laboratory, and Molecular; ET: essential thrombocythaemia; PV: polycythaemia vera; EPO: erythropoietin; EEC: endogenous erythroid colony formation; Hb: haemoglobin; CML: chronic myeloid leukaemia; PMGM: primary megakaryocytic granulocytic myeloproliferation; MDS: myelodysplastic syndrome; RARS-T: refractory anaemia with ringed sideroblasts associated with marked thrombocytosis; EMG: erythrocytic megakaryocytic granulocytic; RF: reticuline fibrosis; MF: myelofibrosis.

MEGA KARYOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA AND CALR THROMBOCYTHAE MIA WITHOUT POLYCYTHAEMIA FEATURES

CALR as the driving cause of ML, or PMGM (Figure 1) has been detected in the majority of JAK2V617F WHO-defined ET and PMF cases by Kralovics; this was the second groundbreaking event in MPN molecular research that prompted us to revise and simplify the 2016 WHO and European Clinical, Molecular and Pathological (ECMP) MPN classifications into a new set of Clinical Laboratory, Molecular and Pathologic (CLMP) criteria for JAK2, MPL, and CALR mutated MPNs (Tables 1, 2, and 3). The MPN research laboratory of Kralovics discovered somatic mutations of 52-bp deletion in one patient, of 1-bp deletion in one patient, and recurrent 5-bp insertion in four PMF patients.

Following sequencing and mutation screening in a cohort of 896 MPN patients, CALR mutations were detected in 78 of 311 (25%) ET patients, in 72 of 203 (35%) PMF patients, and in none of 382 PV patients. A total of 36 types of somatic CALR mutations (insertions and deletions) caused a frameshift reading frame with the resulting mutant CALR protein that shares a novel sequence in exon 9 with the C-terminal becoming positively charged amino acids, whereas the C-terminal of non-mutant CALR protein is negatively charged. Mutations of Type 1 (52-bp deletion) and mutations of Type 2 (5bp-insertions) accounted for 53% and 31.7% of all CALR cases. Other CALR variant mutations were observed at low frequencies or only in a single JAK2 wildtype ET or MF patient.

A large cohort of 1,235 ET and PMF patients carried the JAK2V617F, MPL515, and CALR exon 9 mutation in 63.4%, 4.4%, and 23.5% of cases, respectively, and 8.8% were triple negative for these clonal markers. CALR mutations mutually excluded both JAK2V617F and MPL515 mutations since all CALR mutated ET and MF patients were negative for JAK2V617F, exon 12 JAK2, and MPL mutations. The CALR mutation was detected in 195 of 289 (67%) JAK2/MPL wildtype ET, and in 105 of 120 (80%) JAK2/MPL wildtype MF.
The **CALR** mutation was found in none of the 45 chronic myeloid leukaemia patients, 73 of myelodysplastic syndrome patients, 64 of chronic myelomonocytic leukaemia patients, and in 3 of 24 refractory anaemia with ringed sideroblasts associated with marked thrombocytosis (RARS-T) patients. The 24 RARS-T patients carried the **JAK2** \textit{V617F} in 10 cases, **MPL** in 2 cases, **CALR** in 3 cases, and **SF3B1** in 16 cases.\(^2\) The UK MPN study Group of Dr Tony Green and co-workers detected the **CALR** somatic mutation in 110 of 158 JAK2/MPL wildtype MPN samples (80 of 112 ET, and 18 of 32 MF samples) in none of 511 JAK2\textit{V617F} or exon 12 JAK2 mutated MPNs and in 10 of 120 myelodysplastic syndrome samples: RA in 5 of 53 cases, RARS in 3 of 27 cases, RA with excess blasts in 2 of 17 cases, CMML in 1 of 33 cases, and atypical CML in 1 of 29 cases.\(^3\) The somatic **CALR** mutation was not found in 502 solid tumours, 1,015 cell lines, and 505 controls.\(^3\)

The 52-bp deletions (**CALR** Type 1) eliminate almost all negatively charged amino acids, whereas the 5-bp insertions (**CALR** Type 2) retain approximately half of the negatively charged amino acids.\(^4\) Such genetic differences in Type 1 and Type 2 **CALR** mutations predict different clinical phenotypes. **CALR** Type 1 deletions occur more frequently in MF than in ET.\(^5\) The USA–Italian study of Tefferi and Vanucci\(^6\) divided 1,027 ET patients into a test (\(n=402\)) and validation cohort (\(n=625\)). Among 402 ET patients, 227 (57%), 11 (3%), and 114 (28%) harboured JAK2, MPL, and CALR mutations, respectively and 12% were triple negative.\(^6\) The 114 **CALR** ET patients were Type 1 in 51 (45%) and Type 2 in 44 (39%). Male sex was associated with Type 1, younger age with Type 2 variants, and platelet counts were significantly higher in Type 2 versus Type 1 **CALR** ET in the test and validation (\(n=111\)) cohorts of **CALR** ET patients.\(^7\) A large French study by Cabagnols et al.\(^8\) of 368 **CALR** MPN patients analysed the association of **CALR** Type 1 and Type 2 in ET (\(n=251\)) and MF (\(n=64\)) patients. The ratio of **CALR** ET to MF patients was 3.9.\(^9\) The relative frequency of **CALR** Type 1 versus **CALR** Type 2 in 251 ET patients was 51% versus 39% and in 64 MF patients it was 70% versus 13%; the median age was 61 years in Type 1 and 52.5 years in Type 2 patients; and the mean platelet count was 731 \(\times 10^9/L\) in **CALR** Type 1 and 870 \(\times 10^9/L\) in **CALR** Type 2 MPN patients.\(^7\) A higher allelic burden was more frequent in **CALR** MF (5/35=14.3%) than in ET (6/158=3.8%). **CALR** MF patients with a low allelic burden (<25%) were only observed in ET (19/158=11.9%). **CALR** ET and MF patients were younger and had higher platelet counts than JAK2 ET patients in several studies.\(^10\) The relative frequency of **CALR** Type 1 versus **CALR** Type 2 in 251 ET patients was 51% versus 39% and in 64 MF patients it was 70% versus 13%; the median age was 61 years in Type 1 and 52.5 years in Type 2 patients; and the mean platelet count was 731 \(\times 10^9/L\) in **CALR** Type 1 and 870 \(\times 10^9/L\) in **CALR** Type 2 MPN patients.\(^7\) A higher allelic burden was more frequent in **CALR** MF (5/35=14.3%) than in ET (6/158=3.8%). **CALR** MF patients with a low allelic burden (<25%) were only observed in ET (19/158=11.9%). **CALR** ET and MF patients were younger and had higher platelet counts than JAK2 ET patients in several studies.\(^10\) Leukocyte alkaline phosphatase scores in the recent study of Kondo et al.\(^11\) was normal to decreased in **CALR** MPN. Increased LAP scores are a prominent feature of JAK2\textit{V617F}, ET, PV, and masked PV.\(^4\) In the original Austrian study by Kralovics of 186 **CALR**, 576 JAK2, and 35 **MPL** mutated ET

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Table 2: International Clinical Molecular and Pathological criteria for the diagnosis of JAK2 mutated classical polycythaemia vera, masked polycythaemia vera due to splenomegaly or exon 12 PV versus primary or secondary erythrocytoses.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CLM criteria (A: major; B: minor)</th>
<th>Bone marrow pathology</th>
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<tr>
<td>A1) Erythrocytes (&gt;5.8 \times 10^{12}/L) in males; (&gt;5.6 \times 10^{12}/L) in females. Increased RCM optional</td>
<td>PV: Increased cellularity (60-100%) due to increased EM in early stage and trilinear EMG proliferation (panmyelosis)</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2) JAK2\textit{V617F} intermediate high mutation load</td>
<td><strong>Endogenous erythroid colony formation</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>A3) Low serum EPO level. Increased LAP score</td>
<td>Grading of reticuline fibrosis/myelofibrosis(^4,7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B1) Platelets (&gt;350 \times 10^9/L)</td>
<td>Prefibrotic: RF-0/1 = MF-0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B2) Leukocytes (&gt;10 \times 10^9/L) and raised LAP-score or increased CD11b expression</td>
<td>Early fibrotic: RF-2 = MF-1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B3) Splenomegaly on echogram (&lt;12 cm). Masked PV is defined by JAK2\textit{V617F} mutation, normal Hb, HT, and erythrocytes (&lt;5.6 \times 10^{12}/L), splenomegaly, and increased RCM due to splenomegaly and EMG bone marrow pathology.(^2,3,7)</td>
<td>Fibrotic: RCF 3/4 = MF-2/3</td>
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CLM: Clinical, Laboratory, and Molecular; PV: polycythaemia vera; Hb: haemoglobin; Ht: haematocrit; RCM: red cell mass; EMG: erthrocytic megakaryocytic granulocytic; RF: grading fibrosis; MF: myelofibrosis.
patients, the overall survival (OS) at 10 years was 96.9% for CALR ET patients and 91.1% in JAK2\(^{V617F}\) ET patients.\(^29\) In the Italian ET study of 89 CALR, 369 JAK2\(^{V617F}\), and 25 MPL\(^{515}\) mutated and 93 wildtype ET patients, the frequencies of microvessel symptoms were 24.7%, 27.4%, 56%, and 21.5%, respectively,\(^30\) whereas the frequencies of major thrombosis at diagnosis, in the preceding 2 years and during follow-up were 13.5%, 30.1%, 40.0%, and 16% in CALR, JAK2, MPL, and wildtype ET patients, respectively.\(^30\) The large cross-sectional Korean study of 407 MPN patients (111 PV, 179 ET, and 117 MF) by Michiels et al.\(^6\) translated the 2016 WHO classes of ET, PV, and MF patients into four distinct CLMP classes (EM, prodromal PV) in 13.5% of cases; trilinear proliferation in 29.1% of cases; dual proliferation in 26.2% of cases when the simplified and improved EuroAsian CLMP criteria in 26.2% of cases were applied.\(^31\)

The mean age of CALR mutated MPN patients (57.5 years) was 8.5 years younger than in JAK2 mutated MPN patients (66 years).\(^31\) Exon 12 JAK2 mutated MPN patients presented with increased erythrocyte counts \(>5.8x10^{12}/L\), normal platelet counts of \(<350x10^{9}/L\), and no anaemia consistent with the diagnosis of erythrocythemic PV (Figure 2).\(^31\) CALR mutated MPN (ET and MF) patients presented with normal to decreased values for Hb, Ht, and erythrocytes (upper limit \(<5.8/5.6x10^{12}/L\) (Figure 2). Erythropoiesis in bone marrow histology studies was normal or reduced in all cases of CALR and MPL mutated MPN.\(^32\)

The values for Hb, Ht, and erythrocyte counts in 2016 WHO-defined JAK2\(^{V617F}\) mutated MPN cases ranged from anaemic in MF, normal in ET, and increased in PV when the CLMP criteria are applied (Tables 1 and 2). Bone marrow lineage proliferation profile in 265 WHO-defined JAK2 mutated MPN revealed monolinar megakaryocytic proliferation in 29.1% of cases; dual proliferation of erythropoiesis and megakaryopoiesis (EM, prodromal PV) in 13.5% of cases; trilinear proliferation of erythropoiesis, megakaryopoiesis, granulopoiesis (EMG, classical PV) in 31.3% of cases; and granulopoiesis megakaryopoiesis (JAK2 MF) in 26.2% of cases when the simplified and improved EuroAsian CLMP criteria in Tables 1, 2, and 3 were applied.\(^31\) Bone marrow lineage proliferation profile in 56 CALR mutated MPN cases revealed E and EG in zero, monolinar megakaryocytic in 66%, and dual GM in JAK2/MPL wildtype, but CALR mutated MPN in 34%\(^31\) (formerly diagnosed as ML by Dameshek\(^3\) or PMGM myeloproliferation [MNP] by Michiels et al.\(^4\)).

The JAK2 allele burden in WHO defined JAK2\(^{V617F}\) mutated MPN (ET, PV, MF) from the Korean cross-sectional MPN study\(^31\) was widely distributed from 1.8–98.6%. The allele burden in exon 12 JAK2

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**CLINICAL, LABORATORY, MOLECULAR, AND PATHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASMS**

The large cross-sectional Korean study of 407 WHO-defined MPN patients (111 PV, 179 ET, and 117 MF)\(^31\) translated the 2016 WHO classes of ET, PV, and MF patients into four distinct CLMP classes of JAK2\(^{V617F}\), exon 12 JAK2, MPL\(^{515}\), and CALR mutated MPN. The three driver mutations were detected in 82.6% of 407 MPN patients and showed a distribution frequency of three distinct MPNs: JAK2 in 275 patients (67.5%), CALR in 55 patients (13.7%), and MPL in 6 patients (1.5%). The clinical phenotypes in 275 JAK2 mutated MNP were PV in 101 cases, ET in 95 cases, and MF in 79 cases. The clinical phenotypes in 56 CALR mutated MPN were PV in no cases, ET in 40 cases, and MF in 16 cases.\(^31\) The clinical phenotypes in six MPL cases were ET in three and MF in three. The seven cases of exon 12 JAK2 were diagnosed as PV in its purity and none as ET or MF.\(^31\)
mutated MPN remained <50%, which is completely in line with the heterozygosity of mutated exon 12 at the EEC level.\textsuperscript{33} JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} mutated ‘forme fruste’ PV (prodromal PV), early PV, and exon 12 PV patients presented with EM bone marrow neoproliferation without fibrosis (MF 0/1).\textsuperscript{31} The allele burden in EM and EGM of the two JAK2 mutated MPNs was significantly higher in JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} (84.9%) than in exon 12 JAK2 (44.5%) MPN. The mean values of the JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} allele burden in megakaryocyte (=ET), GM (=MF), EM (=PV), and EGM (=PV) bone marrow proliferations were 37.5%, 68.9%, 76%, and 89.2%, respectively. The JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} EM and EGM molecular pathologic (MP) groups are associated with high allele burden and increased erythrocytes (>5.8x10\textsuperscript{12}/L, Figure 2), which is consistent with the diagnosis of classical PV. The normocellular megakaryocytic molecular genetic-pathologic (GP) groups in various clonal MPNs are associated with normal erythrocytes and leucocytes consistent with the diagnosis JAK2 or CALR mutated thrombocythaemia and have the lowest allele mutation burden.\textsuperscript{31} JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} EGM and GM molecular GP groups have the highest allele burden and most pronounced leucocytosis, whereas allele burden and leucocytosis are much less pronounced in the CALR GM GP group. The grade of fibrosis in the Korean study\textsuperscript{31} was divided into minimal (MF 0/1) and overt (MF 2/3), according to standardised criteria.\textsuperscript{4,29,34} The frequency of overt fibrosis in JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} and CALR-mutated and triple-negative MPN patients were 22.2%, 27.1%, and 29.3%, respectively. JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F}-GM and CALR-GM bone marrow histology showed a high rate of overt fibrosis (46.0 and 42.1%), followed by JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F}-M (17.5%), CALR-M (17.2%), and JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} EGM (10.4%; p<0.001). None of the JAK2-EM (‘forme fruste’ and early PV and exon 12 PV) patients presented overt fibrosis. Bone Marrow Fibrosis (BMF) Grade MF 0/1 versus Grade 2/3 appeared to be a main adverse prognostic factor when associated with JAK2\textsuperscript{V617F} and triple negative MPN disease.\textsuperscript{31}

Table 3: Clinical Laboratory, Molecular and Pathological criteria for hypercellular essential thrombocythaemia associated with primary megakaryocytic, granulocytic myeloproliferation caused by calreticulin mutations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CM criteria PMGM or CALR thrombocythaemia</th>
<th>Pathological criteria of PMGM or CALR MGM</th>
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<tr>
<td>A1) No preceding or allied other subtype of myeloproliferative neoplasm PV, CML, MDS.</td>
<td>Normocellular M proliferation stage in a normocellular bone marrow, no increase of granulopoiesis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>A2) Presence of CALR mutation</td>
<td>Hypercellular MG proliferation stage with no increase or relative or absolute reduction of erythropoiesis and erythroid precursors. Abnormal dense clustering and increase in atypical medium sized, large to giant immature megakaryocytes containing bulbous (cloud-like) hypolobulated nuclei and definitive maturation defects.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical stages of CALR thrombocythaemia</td>
<td>Grading RF and MF\textsuperscript{4,37}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1) Early clinical normocellular prefibrotic M stage: Hb &gt;12g/dL, slight-to-moderate splenomegaly Normal or decreased LAP score</td>
<td>MF 0 Prefibric CALR MGM, no reticulin fibrosis RF 0/1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2) Intermediate clinical MG hypercellular pre/early fibrotic stage: slight anaemia Hb &lt;12 to &gt;10 g/dL, decreasing platelet count, splenomegaly, increased LDH</td>
<td>MF 1 Early fibrotic CALR MGM slight reticulin fibrosis RF 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3) Advanced MG MF stage: anaemia Hb &lt;10 g/dL, tear drop erythrocytes, increased LDH, increased CD34+ cells, pronounced splenomegaly, normal or decreased platelet counts, leucocytosis, or leukaemia.</td>
<td>MF 2 Fibrotic CALR MGM increase RF Grade 3 and slight to moderate collagen fibrosis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>MF 3 Advanced fibrotic CALR MGM with collagen fibrosis-osteosclerosis</td>
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The combination of A1 + A2 and P1 establishes JAK2 wildtype PMGM or CALR thrombocythaemia and various clinical stages (C1, C2, C3) with sequential stages of normocellular CALR thrombocythaemia (M) and hypercellular thrombocythaemia (MG) related to the degree of myelofibrosis.

CLM: Clinical, Laboratory, and Molecular; Hb: haemoglobin; PV: polycythaemia vera; CML: chronic myeloid leukaemia; PMGM: primary megakaryocytic granulocytic myeloproliferation; MDS: myelodysplastic syndrome; EMG: erythrocytic megakaryocytic granulocytic; RF: reticuline fibrosis; MF: myelofibrosis; LDH: lactate dehydrogenase.
Constantinescu, Kralovics, and Vainchenker measured STAT5 transcriotional activity in CALR mutated and wildtype Ba/F3 cells along with a cytokine receptor TpoR, EpoR, and GCSFR. CALR mutants Type 1 and 2, but not wildtype CALR, did induce STAT5 activation via TpoR (MPL) and GCSFR, but not via EpoR, and not by CALR mutants lacking exon 9. The STAT5 activation via GSCFR was much weaker than via TpoR (MPL). CALR mutants Type 1 and 2 could not induce TpoR (MPL) activation in the absence of the JAK2 gene. In transiently HEK293 cells, CALR mutants induced dimerisation of JAK2 in the presence of TpoR (MPL), but not of EpoR. The extracellular domain of TpoR (MPL), but not of EpoR, was indispensable for CALR mutant induced activity and the D1D2 distal part of the extracellular TpoR domain and its associated N-glycosylation sites but not the TPO binding site in the D3D4 domain of TpoR control CALR mutant activity, which was more pronounced for CALR del52 (Type 1) than for CALR ins5 (Type 2) mutants. The Asn residues N117 and N178 present in D1D2 are key players in TpoR (MPL) activation by CALR mutants. Knocking down either MPL/TpoR or JAK2 in megakaryocytic progenitors from CALR thrombocythaemia patients inhibited cytokine-independent (spontaneous) megakaryocyte colony formation. Using a retrovirus mouse bone marrow transplant model clearly showed the induction of an MPL-mediated thrombocythaemia in CALR mutated mice. CALR del52 Type 1 mutation and, to a lesser extent, CALR ins5 Type 2 mutation induced thrombocythaemia due to megakaryocytic myeloproliferation in the early post-bone marrow transplant period. The CALR-thrombocythaemia disease was transplantable into secondary recipients. After 6 months, CALR del2 Type 1 thrombocythaemia mice, in contrast to rare in CALR ins5 transduced mice, developed a MF phenotype associated with splenomegaly and marked osteosclerosis mimicking the natural history of CALR thrombocythaemia into MF, myeloid metaplasia of the spleen, and hypocellular MF in patients with JAK2/MPL wildtype PMGM (Table 3). Araki et al. found that expression of CALR mutants in UT-7/TPO and YT-7/EPO cells induces TPO independent growth of UT-7/TPO cells but not of UT-7/EPO cells. C-MPL (TpoR) is required for this TPO-independent growth of UT-7/TPO cells. The CALR mutant specific carboxyterminal terminus portion (DID2) binds to the P-domain of the CALR mutant to allow the N-domain of the mutant CALR to interact with c-MPL (TpoR), thereby explaining the gain-of function activity of CALR mutants Type 1 and 2. CALR mutants activate the JAK2 downstream pathway via binding to c=MPL (TpoR) in UT-7/TPO cells and in TOP-independent megakaryopoiesis in induced pluripotent stem cells and this induction was blocked by JAK2 inhibitors.

CONCLUSION

The cross sectional Korean MPN research study on GP characteristics could translate the 2016 WHO classification into a new set of improved EuroAsian CLMP criteria for the diagnosis and staging of MPN (Tables 1, 2, and 3). The 2017 CLMP criteria will pick up asymptomatic latent, masked, early stage, and symptomatic overt stages of thrombocythemia and polycythaemias 5-10 years earlier compared to the 2008—2016 WHO classifications. Prefibrotic JAK2 normocellular thrombocythaemia, prodromal PV, and the sequential stage of classical PV and masked advanced PV as well as prefibrotic normocellular MPL thrombocythaemia and CALR thrombocythaemia ET in the complete absence of any signs of PV are poorly or not defined by the 2016 WHO classification. The EuroAsian CLMP criteria in Tables 1, 2, and 3 are based on detailed analysis and interpretation of recent advances in the molecular aetiology and pathobiology of JAK2 trilinear MPN, exon 12 PV, MPL thrombocythaemia, and CALR thrombocythaemia and MF, which have important prognostic and therapeutic implications. The diagnostic differentiation staging related to the natural history of prefibrotic (MF 0/1) and fibrotic (MF 2/3) JAK2, MPL, and CALR mutated MPNs should be based on bone marrow megakaryocyte morphology, bone marrow cellularity due to increased erythropoiesis and/or granulopoiesis, JAK2, MPL, and CALR mutation load, and the degree of anaemia, bone marrow fibrosis, and splenomegaly.

REFERENCES

4. Michiels JJ et al. The 2001 World Health Organization (WHO) and updated European clinical and pathological (ECP)