

Interphase FISH Analysis of 9p21 Deletion in Childhood Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Thesis

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree
in Clinical and Chemical Pathology

By

Mona Mohamed Abd ElAziz

M.B., B.Ch

Mansoura University

Under Supervision of

Prof. Dr. Hoda Mohamed El Gendi

Professor of Clinical and Chemical Pathology

Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University

Dr. Dina Aziz Khattab

Assistant Professor of Clinical and Chemical Pathology

Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University

Dr. Mohamed Tarif Mohamed Hamza

Lecturer of Clinical and Chemical Pathology

Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University

Faculty of Medicine

Ain Shams University

2013

List of Contents

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
List of Abbreviations.....	i
List of Tables	iii
List of Figures	iv
List of Photos	vi
Introduction	1
Aim of the Work.....	3
Review of Literature	
Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	4
• Definition	4
• Incidence and epidemiology	4
• Etiology and risk factors	5
• Genetic aberrations in childhood acute leukaemia	8
• Pathophysiology.....	19
• Classification.....	21
- FAB Classification Of ALL	21
- WHO Classification Of ALL	24
- Immunophenotypic Classification	25
- Cytogenetic and Molecular Classification	25
• Diagnosis.....	27
- Clinical Diagnosis	28
- Laboratory Diagnosis	28
• Differential Diagnosis	36
• Prognostic Indicators	37
• Treatment	40
- Remission Induction.....	40
- Intensification (Consolidation) Therapy	41
- Allogeneic Hematopoietic Stem-Cell Transplantation.....	41

List of Contents (Cont...)

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
- Continuation Treatment	42
- Treatment Directed To The Central Nervous System	42
• Minimal Residual Leukemia	42
Chromosome 9 and Tumorigenesis	45
• Structure of Chromosome 9	44
• Genes on 9p21 Region	45
• Cell Cycle Inhibitors and Cancer	52
• Malignancies and Chromosome 9p21 Deletion.....	55
- Chromosome 9p21 Deletions In Hematologic Neoplasms	55
- Chromosome 9p21 Deletions In Some Solid Tumors	58
• Methods used for Detection of 9p21 Abnormalities.....	62
- Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization	62
- Real time PCR.....	67
- Comparative Genomic Hybridization	68
Subjects and Methods	71
Results	83
Discussion	98
Summary	104
Conclusion	106
Recommendations	107
References	108
Arabic Summary	—

List of Abbreviations

ALL	: Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
AML	: Acute myeloid leukemia
AP	: Acid phosphatase
AT	: Ataxiatelangiectasia
BM	: Bone marrow
CALLA	: Common ALL antigen
CBC	: Complete blood cell count
CD	: Cluster of differentiation
CGH	: Comparative genomic hybridization
CML	: Chronic myelogenous leukemia
CR	: Complete remission
CSF	: Cerebrospinal fluid
DW	: Distilled water
EBV	: Epstein-Barr virus
EDTA	: Ethylene diamine tetra acetic acid
FAB	: French, American, and British
FCL	: Follicular center lymphoma
FCS	: Fetal calf serum
FISH	: Fluorescence in situ hybridization
FLT3	: FMS-related tyrosine kinase-3
Hb	: Hemoglobin
HM	: Hepatomegaly
HS	: Highly significant
Ig	: Immunoglobulin
IPT	: Immunophenotyping
IR	: Incomplete remission
LDH	: Lactate dehydrogenase
LN	: Lymphadenopathy
LOH	: Loss of heterozygosity
MALT	: Mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
MPO	: Myeloperoxidase
MRD	: Minimal residual disease
MTAP	: Methylthioadenosine phosphorylase
MTS-2	: Multiple tumor suppressor 2

List of Abbreviations (Cont...)

NB	: Neuroblastoma
NOS	: Not otherwise specified
NS	: Non- significant
PB	: Peripheral blood
S	: Significant
SBB	: Sudan black
SIg	: Surface immunoglobulin
SM	: Splenomegaly
SSC	: Standard saline citrate
TCR	: T cell receptor
TdT	: Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase
TF	: Transcription factor
TK	: Tyrosine kinase
TLC	: Total leucocytic count
TSG	: Tumor suppressor genes
WBC	: White blood cell
WCPP	: Whole chromosome painting probe
WHO	: World Health Organization

List of Tables

<i>Table No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Table (1):	The most frequent translocations in childhood ALL.....	10
Table (2):	World Health Organization classification of ALL.....	25
Table (3):	Selected karyotypic changes in acute lymphoblastic leukemia and associated features	27
Table (4):	Immunologic classification of acute lymphoblastic leukemia	33
Table (5):	Clinical and prognostic impact of ALL phenotype.....	34
Table (6):	Prognostic factors in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia	40
Table (7):	Demographic, clinical and Laboratory characteristics of all studied patients.....	89
Table (8):	Distribution of clinical & hematological data of all studied patients.	91
Table (9):	Distribution of clinical & hematological data of 9p21 deletion in positive patients.	92
Table (10):	Comparison between 9p21deletion positive versus negative patients as regards age, sex and clinical findings.....	93
Table (11):	Comparison between 9p21deletion positive versus negative patients as regards laboratory findings and patients outcome	94

List of Figures

<i>Figure No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Figure (1):	Prevalence of genetic changes in ALL with respect to different age groups.....	9
Figure (2):	Karyotype by G-banding: Male karyotype by G-banding showing high hyperdiploidy	13
Figure (3):	Translocation (12:21).....	16
Figure (4):	Chromosomal translocation results in formation of BCR-ABL fusion protein	17
Figure (5):	FAB classification of ALL	24
Figure (6):	Diagnosis of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	28
Figure (7):	Peripheral blood smear of a child with ALL showing darkly-stained lymphoblasts	30
Figure (8):	Bone marrow smear from a patient with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.....	31
Figure (9):	A translocation between the long arm of chromosome 22 and the long arm of chromosome 9.....	35
Figure (10):	SKY-imaging of the chromosomes from a leukemic cell positive for dic (9;20) and with trisomy 21	35

List of Figures (Cont...)

<i>Figure No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Figure (11):	The ideogram of chromosome 9	45
Figure (12):	The genomic organization of the human CDKN2A, gene.....	47
Figure (13):	The Ink4a–Arf network.	49
Figure (14):	Genomic organization of the 9p21	52
Figure (15):	General technique of FISH	65
Figure (16):	Clinical finding and Risk score in relation to results of FISH (+/- for deletion 9p21).....	95
Figure (17):	Laboratory finding in relation to results of FISH.....	95
Figure (18):	Laboratory finding in relation to results of FISH.....	95

List of Photos

<i>Photo No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page No.</i>
Photo (1):	Metaphase FISH analysis negative for 9p21 deletion.....	96
Photo (2):	Interphase FISH analysis negative for 9p21 deletion.....	96
Photo (3):	Metaphase FISH analysis positive for heterozygous deletion of region 2 band 1 of chromosome 9.....	97

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

(...رَبِّ أَوْزَعْنِي أَنْ أَشْكُرَ نِعْمَتَكَ الَّتِي
أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيَّ وَ عَلَى وَالِدَيَّ

وَأَنْ أَعْمَلَ صَالِحاً تَرْضَاهُ وَأَدْخِلْنِي
بِرَحْمَتِكَ فِي عِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ)

صدق الله العظيم

النمل.. آية رقم ١٩



Acknowledgement

*First and foremost, I thank **Allah** who gave me the strength to fulfill this work,*

- + I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Prof. Dr. Hoda Mohamed El Gendi**, Professor of Clinical and Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University, for her valuable supervision, encouragement and constant help. I have the honor to complete this work under her supervision.*
- + I am grateful to **Dr. Dina Aziz Khattab**, Assistant Professor of Clinical and Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University for her constant supervision and honest assistance.*
- + Also, I want to express my gratitude to **Dr. Mohamed Tarif Mohamed Hamza**, Lecturer of Clinical and Chemical Pathology, Faculty of Medicine – Ain Shams University, His moral support cannot be praised enough with words.*
- + Last but not least, I would like to express my deep thanks and gratitude to all members of my Family of helping and supporting me all the time.*

Mona Mohamed Abdel Aziz

INTRODUCTION

*A*cute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is a malignant disease resulting from the accumulation of genetic alterations of B or T lymphoid precursor cells (*Meshinchi and Arceci, 2007*). It is considered the most common cancer among persons under 15 years of age and accounting for > 30% of all childhood malignancies (*Ries et al., 1999*).

Pediatric ALL is one of the success stories of cancer research and treatment. Not only this fatal disease is now curable in the majority of patients, who have access to appropriate therapy and support (*Pui, 2004*), but much of its cellular and molecular biology has been uncovered (*Cogen and Franco, 2003; Pui et al., 2004*).

A number of clinical and laboratory features evident at diagnosis, have prognostic value for predicting the outcome of patients treated for ALL. The identification of these prognostic factors has provided a mean of stratifying patients into different risk groups and “tailoring” treatment accordingly (*Carrol, 2003; Bhatias, 2004*).

Molecular characterization of the genetic changes has yielded a wealth of information on the mechanism of leukemogenesis. These findings have also allowed the development of sensitive techniques such as fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) for identification of underlying molecular defects, which can be applied to evaluate disease prognosis,

monitor response to treatment and predict minimal residual disease (*Lee et al., 2007*).

Genetic alterations of tumor suppressor genes (TSG) such as p53, RB gene, p15 and p16 contribute to leukemic transformation of hemopoietic stem cells or their committed progenitors by changing cellular functions (*Krug et al., 2002; Berlin et al., 2003*).

Alterations of the 9p21 locus have been implicated in many types of cancer including ALL, indicating a role for the tumor suppressor genes CDKN2A (MTS1) and CDKN2B (MTS2), which encode for p16^{INK4a} and p15^{INK4b}, respectively. Loss of cell proliferation control and regulation of the cell cycle are known to be critical to cancer development (*Sarina et al., 2009*).

Both p16^{INK4a} and p15^{INK4b} tumor suppressor genes counteract the activity of cyclins, cyclin dependent kinase (cyclin D – CDK 4/6 complexes) and other regulatory proteins of the cell cycle such as p53 and pRb. Dysregulation of cell cycle control is crucial in the development and progression of ALL. Thus, deletions of p16 or p15 located at 9p21 may play a role in leukemogenesis, have a prognostic significance and provide new targets for therapeutic interventions (*Lee et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2007; Sarina et al., 2009*).

AIM OF THE WORK

The present work aims to detect del 9p21 in pediatric ALL patients, by FISH technique; in order to evaluate the impact of such deletion on patients response to therapy and to correlate it to standard prognostic factors.

ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA

DEFINITION:

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is a malignant (clonal) disease of the bone marrow in which early lymphoid precursors proliferate and replace the normal hematopoietic cells of the marrow. ALL may be distinguished from other malignant lymphoid disorders by the immunophenotype of the cells, which is similar to B- or T-precursor cells. Immunochemistry, cytochemistry, and cytogenetic markers may also aid in categorizing the malignant lymphoid clone (*Seiter, 2013*).

ALL is considered the most common cancer in children and is among the most curable of the pediatric malignancies (*Alison et al., 2006*).

INCIDENCE AND EPIDEMIOLOGY:

I. Age

ALL is the most common cancer diagnosed in children and represents 23% of cancer diagnoses among children younger than 15 years. There has been a gradual increase in the incidence of ALL in the past 25 years. A sharp peak in ALL incidence is observed among children aged 2 to 3 years (>80 per million per year), with rates decreasing to 20 per million for ages 8 to 10 years. The incidence of ALL among children aged 2 to 3 years is approximately fourfold greater than that for infants and is nearly tenfold greater than that for adolescents aged 16 to 21 years (*Shah and Coleman, 2007*).