THROMBOCYTOSIS AND INV(3) (q21q26)

To the Editor:

Bernstein et al.\textsuperscript{1} reported four patients with acute nonlymphocytic leukemia (ANLL) with abnormalities of the long arm of chromosome 3 and elevated platelet counts. They hypothesized that a locus of 3q may be responsible for thrombopoiesis. Three of their four patients presented a paracentric inversion in 3q that had not been described previously.

Among 22 patients with anomalies of the 3q,\textsuperscript{2} we found one case of ANLL with thrombocytosis (platelet count $700 \times 10^9$/liter) and a paracentric inversion inv(3) (q21q26) in marrow cells. This anomaly is identical to the one reported by Bernstein et al. Excluding the chronic myeloproliferative disorders in which thrombocytosis is a regular feature, the thrombocyte count in our case of inv(3) (q21q26) was the highest in our series, in which 4 of 10 patients with ANLL had a platelet count above $200 \times 10^9$/liter. As already pointed out by Bernstein and colleagues, the association of thrombocytosis and inv(3) (q21q26) thus seems to be rather strong, possibly stronger than with other structural anomalies of 3q.

Cristina Mecucci, M.D.
Herman Van Den Berghe, M.D.
Centre for Human Genetics
University of Leuven
B-3000 Leuven, Belgium

REFERENCES


Thrombocytosis and inv(3)(q21q26) [letter]

C Mecucci and H Van den Berghe