To the Editor:

Recently Rubin et al.1 described a t(3;21)(q26;q22) in three patients with a blastic phase of a Philadelphia chromosome (Ph')-positive chronic myeloid leukemia (CML).

We revised 511 cases of CML from our files and we found an identical t(3;21) reciprocal translocation in one case. The patient, a 57-year-old man, developed a blastic crisis after 1 1/2 years of treatment with busulfan for a typical CML with Ph'. Cytogenetic investigations in chronic phase showed a 46,XY,t(9;22)(q34;q11) karyotype. Karyotypic evolution, including double Ph', trisomy 8, and a t(3;21)(q26;q22) appeared, at the time of the blastic crisis. Thus, our observation confirms that this chromosomal anomaly is an uncommonly occurring, but definitely nonrandom event during the blastic crisis of some cases of Ph'-positive CML.

Finally, it is remarkable that these four cases of CML with t(3;21)(q26;q22) including our patient were males.

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REFERENCES

Blastic phase of Ph1-positive chronic myeloid leukemia and t(3;21) [letter]

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