To the Editor:

Kwong and Cheng\(^1\) recently reported a case of chronic neutrophilic leukemia (CNL) with absence of Philadelphia (Ph) chromosome and no bcr rearrangement. They showed the clonal nature of CNL by the methylation status of the X-linked hypoxanthine phosphoribosyl transferase (HPRT) gene. The clonal myeloproliferative nature of CNL was first documented in our report of a case of polycythemia vera (PV) terminating in CNL.\(^2\) Similar associations have been published since then,\(^3,4\) confirming a clinical connection between CNL and the well-recognized clonal myeloproliferative disorder, PV. The lack of bcr rearrangement in CNL was first demonstrated by us,\(^5,6\) well before the case referred to by Kwong and Cheng,\(^7\) thus confirming that CNL, which can be mistaken for Ph-negative chronic myeloid leukemia, is a different myeloproliferative disorder.

Gilles Lugassy
Hematology Institute
Barzilai Medical Center
Ashkelon, Israel

REFERENCES

Clonality of chronic neutrophilic leukemia [letter; comment]

G Lugassy