Diagnosis and Management of AML in Adults: 2017 ELN Recommendations from an International Expert Panel

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In recognition of their multiple contributions over the years to the field of AML, we would like to dedicate this manuscript in memoriam to Professor Thomas Büchner and Professor David Grimwade.

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Abstract
The first edition of the European LeukemiaNet (ELN) recommendations for diagnosis and management of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) in adults published in 2010 has found broad acceptance by physicians and investigators caring for patients with AML. Recent advances, for example, in the discovery of the genomic landscape of the disease, in the development of assays for genetic testing and for detecting minimal residual disease, as well as in the development of novel anti-leukemic agents, prompted an international panel to provide updated evidence- and expert opinion-based recommendations. The recommendations include a revised version of the ELN genetic categories, a proposal for a response category based on minimal residual disease status, and criteria for progressive disease.

1. Introduction
In 2010, an international expert panel, on behalf of the European LeukemiaNet (ELN), published recommendations for diagnosis and management of acute myeloid leukemia (AML). These recommendations have been widely adopted in general practice, within clinical trials, and by regulatory agencies. During recent years, considerable progress has been made in understanding disease pathogenesis, and in development of diagnostic assays and novel therapies. This article provides updated recommendations that parallel the current update to the World Health Organization classification of myeloid neoplasms and acute leukemia. For diagnosis and management of acute promyelocytic leukemia readers are referred to the respective recommendations.

2. Methods
The panel included 22 international members with recognized clinical and research expertise in AML. The panel met three times. Literature searches, categorization of evidence and arrival at consensus were done as previously. Relevant abstracts presented at the 2013-2015 meetings of the American Society of Hematology, and the 2013-2016 meetings of the American Association for Cancer Research, the European Hematology Association, and the American Society of Clinical Oncology were reviewed.

3. WHO classification
The current update of the WHO classification provides few changes to the existing disease categories (Table 1). Most importantly, a new category “myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition” was added (Table 2).
AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities. The molecular basis of AML with inv(3)(q21.3;q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2) was revisited showing that repositioning of a GATA2 enhancer element leads to overexpression of the MECOM (EVI1) gene and to haploinsufficiency of GATA2. A new provisional entity “AML with BCR-ABL1” was introduced to recognize that patients with this abnormality should receive therapy with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor. Distinction from blast phase of chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) may be difficult; preliminary data suggest that deletion of antigen receptor genes (immunoglobulin heavy chain and T-cell receptor), IKZF1, and/or CDKN2A may support a diagnosis of AML rather than CML blast phase. AML with mutated NPM1 and AML with biallelic mutations of CEBPA have become full entities; the latter category was restricted to cases with biallelic mutations, since recent studies have shown that only those cases define the entity and portend a favorable outcome. Both entities now subsume cases with multilineage dysplasia, since presence of dysplasia lacks prognostic significance. Finally, a new provisional entity “AML with mutated RUNX1” (excluding cases with myelodysplasia-related changes) was added; it has been associated with distinct clinico-pathologic features and inferior outcome.

AML with myelodysplasia-related changes. Presence of multilineage dysplasia, preexisting myeloid disorder, and/or myelodysplasia-related cytogenetic changes remain diagnostic criteria for this disease category. Deletion 9q was removed from the list of myelodysplasia-related cytogenetic changes, since – in addition to its association with t(8;21) – it also frequently occurs in AML with NPM1 and biallelic CEBPA mutations.

AML, not otherwise specified (NOS). The former subgroup acute erythroid leukemia, erythroid/myeloid type (≥50% bone marrow erythroid precursors and ≥20% myeloblasts among non-erythroid cells) was removed; myeloblasts are now always counted as percentage of total marrow cells. The remaining subcategory AML, NOS, pure erythroid leukemia requires >80% immature erythroid precursors with ≥30% proerythroblasts. French-American-British (FAB) subclassification does not seem to provide prognostic information for "AML, NOS" cases if data on NPM1 and CEBPA mutations are available.

Myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition (synonyms: familial myeloid neoplasms; familial myelodysplastic syndromes/acute leukemias). Inclusion of this new category reflects the increasing recognition that some cases of myeloid neoplasms, including myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) and AML, arise in association with inherited or de novo germline mutations (Table 2). Recognition of familial cases requires that physicians take a thorough patient and family history, including information on malignancies and previous bleeding episodes. Awareness of these cases is of clinical relevance, since patients may need special clinical care. Affected patients, including their families, should be offered genetic counseling with a counselor familiar with these disorders.
4. Molecular landscape

The advent of high-throughput sequencing techniques has allowed new insights into the molecular basis of myeloid neoplasms.\(^{31-37}\) Similar to most sporadic human malignancies, AML is a complex, dynamic disease, characterized by multiple somatically acquired driver mutations, co-existing competing clones, and disease evolution over time.

The Cancer Genome Atlas AML sub-study profiled 200 clinically annotated cases of de novo AML by whole-genome (n=50) or whole-exome (n=150) sequencing, along with RNA and microRNA sequencing and DNA-methylation analysis.\(^{31}\) Twenty-three genes were found to be commonly mutated, and another 237 were mutated in two or more cases, in non-random patterns of co-occurrence and mutual exclusivity. Mutated genes were classified into one of nine functional categories: transcription factor fusions, the \(NPM1\) gene, tumor suppressor genes, DNA methylation-related genes, signaling genes, chromatin modifying genes, myeloid transcription factor genes, cohesin complex genes, and spliceosome complex genes.

The use of genetic data to inform disease classification and clinical practice is an active field of research. Recently, 1540 patients intensively treated in prospective trials, were analyzed using targeted resequencing of 111 myeloid cancer genes, along with cytogenetic profiles.\(^{37}\) Patterns of co-mutations segregated AML cases into 11 non-overlapping classes, each with a distinct clinical phenotype and outcome. Beyond known disease classes, three additional, heterogeneous classes emerged: AML with mutations in chromatin and RNA-splicing regulators; AML with \(TP53\) mutations and/or chromosomal aneuploidies; and, provisionally, AML with \(IDH2^{R172}\) mutations.

Mutant allele fractions can be used to infer the phylogenetic tree leading to development of overt leukemia. Clonal evolution studies in patients and patient-derived xenograft models indicate that mutations in genes involved in regulation of DNA modification and of chromatin state, most commonly \(DNMT3A, TET2,\) and \(ASXL1,\) are often present in pre-leukemic stem or progenitor cells and occur early in leukemogenesis.\(^{38-41}\) Such mutations are present in ancestral cells capable of multi-lineage engraftment, may persist after therapy, lead to clonal expansion during remission, and cause recurrent disease.

Recent studies in large, population-based cohorts have identified recurrent mutations in epigenetic regulators (\(DNMT3A, ASXL1, TET2,\)) and less frequently in splicing factor genes (\(SF3B1, SRSF2\)) to be associated with clonal hematopoietic expansion in elderly seemingly healthy subjects.\(^{42-46}\) The term “clonal hematopoiesis of indeterminate potential” (CHIP)\(^{47}\) has been proposed to describe this phenomenon which seems associated with increased risks of hematologic neoplasms. Preliminary data indicate that the rate of progression of CHIP to hematologic disease may be similar to the rate of progression of other pre-malignant states, such as monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance to multiple myeloma.
5. Diagnostic procedures

5.1 Morphology

At least 200 leukocytes on blood smears and 500 nucleated cells on spiculated marrow smears should be counted. A marrow or blood blast count of \( \geq 20\% \) is required, except for AML with t(15;17), t(8;21), inv(16) or t(16;16). Myeloblasts, monoblasts, and megakaryoblasts are included in the blast count. In AML with monocytic or myelomonocytic differentiation, monoblasts and promonocytes, but not abnormal monocytes, are counted as blast equivalents.

5.2 Immunophenotyping

Table 3 provides a list of markers helpful for establishing the diagnosis of AML,\(^48\) as well as specific lineage markers useful for defining mixed-phenotype acute leukemia.\(^3,4\)

5.3 Cytogenetics and molecular cytogenetics

Conventional cytogenetic analysis remains mandatory in the evaluation of suspected AML. Eight balanced translocations and inversions, and their variants, are included in the WHO category “AML with recurrent genetic abnormalities”.\(^3,4\) Nine balanced rearrangements and multiple unbalanced abnormalities are sufficient to establish the WHO diagnosis of “AML with myelodysplasia-related changes” when \( \geq 20\% \) blood or marrow blasts are present (Table 1). Other rare balanced rearrangements are recognized.\(^49,50\) Although considered disease-initiating events, they do not formally define disease categories. They involve genes, for example, encoding epigenetic regulators (e.g.,\( KMT2A\) (MLL),\( CREBBP\),\( NSD1\)) or components of the nuclear pore complex (\( NUP98\),\( NUP214\)) (Figure 1). Some rearrangements are cytogenetically cryptic, such as t(5;11)(q35.2;p15.4);\( NUP98\)-\( NSD1\), which occurs in \( \sim 1\% \) of AML in younger adults and predicts a poor prognosis.\(^51-53\) Recent studies have highlighted the potential of novel sequencing technologies to discover additional AML-associated fusion genes.\(^54-56\)

If cytogenetic analysis fails, fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) is an option to detect gene rearrangements, such as\( RUNX1-RUNX1T1\),\( CBFB-MYH11\),\( KMT2A\) (MLL), and\( EVI1\) gene fusions, or loss of chromosome 5q, 7q, or 17p material.

5.4 Molecular genetic testing

Diagnostic work-up should include screening for (a) mutations in\( NPM1\),\( CEBPA\), and\( RUNX1\) genes, since they define disease categories (provisionally for\( RUNX1\)), (b) mutations in\( FLT3\) (both for internal tandem duplications [ITD] together with data on the mutant-to-wild type allelic ratio,\(^57-60\) and tyrosine kinase domain [TKD] mutations at codons D835 and I836); activating mutations of\( FLT3\) are not only prognostic, but may beneficially be affected by tyrosine kinase inhibition,\(^61\) and (c) mutations in\( TP53\) and\( ASXL1\), since they consistently have been associated with poor prognosis (Table 4).\(^62-70\)
Molecular testing by reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) for recurring rearrangements (Table 4) can be useful as described below.

Although only a few of the recently identified molecular markers inform current clinical practice, the above list will likely be expanded with testing for single genes replaced by gene panel diagnostics, or diagnostic platforms that simultaneously test for gene mutations and gene rearrangements.55,56

If AML with germline predisposition is suspected, molecular testing should be performed in a specialized laboratory using a dedicated gene panel that includes the currently known predisposing alleles (Table 2).71

5.5 Biobanking

If possible, pretreatment leukemic marrow and blood should be stored within a biobank. Informed consent preferably should allow a broad array of correlative laboratory studies including analysis of germline DNA. Pretreatment samples should include nucleic acid (DNA and RNA, stored at -80°C) and viable cells (stored at -196°C). Optimally a plasma sample, a methanol/acetic acid-fixed cell pellet (from cytogenetic analysis), and frozen cell pellets from various time points during and after treatment (e.g., at time of complete remission [CR], relapse, and for minimal residual disease (MRD) monitoring at defined time points during remission) should be obtained and stored under appropriate conditions.

Buccal swabs and sputum have been previously recommended for the analysis of germline DNA; samples should preferably be obtained during remission to reduce the risk of contaminating DNA from leukemic cells. Skin fibroblasts may be the preferred tissue source. A skin biopsy can be performed using a punch biopsy or by taking a small biopsy at the site of skin incision during bone marrow aspiration or biopsy. When obtained at diagnosis, skin cells should be grown from the biopsy to avoid contamination of the specimen with leukemic cells; alternatively, the biopsy can be taken during remission without growing of fibroblasts. Other sources include finger nails and hair follicles, although the amount of DNA that can be extracted may be limited. Finally, bone marrow fibroblasts can be grown from viably frozen mononuclear cells.72

5.6 Other diagnostic tests (see Table 4)

6. Prognostic factors

6.1 Pre-treatment factors

Recent studies have explored the relative contribution of genetic and clinical variables to prediction of event-free survival (EFS) and overall survival (OS).36,37,73,74 Genomic lesions account for about two thirds of explained variation, with the other third contributed by demographic, clinical, and treatment variables. However, models incorporating all these
factors and aimed at predicting whether a patient with a given set of covariates will have a longer remission or life expectancy than another patient with a different set of covariates are correct in only 75-80% of cases. This emphasizes the need not only to identify other pre-treatment prognostic factors but also to focus on post-treatment events, in particular the presence of MRD (Section 6.2).

6.1.1 Patient-related factors

Increasing age is independently associated with poorer outcomes. Performance status, general health, and specific co-morbidities modulate the effect of age on tolerance of chemotherapy (see also Section 9 and 9.3), while specific age-related AML-associated genetic abnormalities increase the likelihood of resistance, as do previous MDS, chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML), myeloproliferative neoplasm (MPN), or prior exposure to cytotoxic therapy for other disorders. Hence, age should not be the sole determinant of treatment decisions.

6.1.2 AML-related genetic factors

Genetic abnormalities are powerful prognostic factors. Results from conventional cytogenetics and from NPM1, FLT3, and CEBPA mutational screening are currently being used in routine practice following 2010 ELN recommendations. Recent data have led to several changes in these recommendations (Section 6.3 and Table 5). RUNX1 mutations although occurring with unfavorable features, such as older age, antecedent myeloid disorder, and concurrent gene mutations (e.g., SRSF2, ASXL1) identify patients with poor prognosis. Likewise, ASXL1 mutations are more common in older patients and associated with inferior survival. TP53 mutations are associated with complex karyotype, monosomal karyotype, and specific chromosomal aneuploidies (e.g., -5/5q-, -7/7q-), and predict for very poor outcome. TP53 mutation and complex karyotype provide independent prognostic information, with the combination of both having the worst outcome.

The prognostic impact of many markers is context-dependent with the effect of a given abnormality dependent on the presence/absence of another. Simple examples of such gene-gene interactions are that a NPM1 mutation conveys a “favorable” prognosis only in the absence of a FLT3-ITD (or FLT3-ITD with a low allelic ratio), while mutations in both ASXL1 and RUNX1 confer a particularly poor prognosis. Furthermore, tightly correlated clusters of mutated genes, i.e., mutations in RNA-splicing (SRSF2, SF3B1, U2AF1, ZRSR2), chromatin (ASXL1, STAG2, BCOR, KMT2APTD, EZH2) or transcription (RUNX1) regulators are found in high-risk MDS, high-risk MPN as well as secondary AML, indicating gene signatures identify high-risk myeloid disorders that cross conventional diagnostic boundaries.
In core-binding factor (CBF) AML, in particular in AML with t(8;21), the presence of *KIT* mutations, especially if higher mutant *KIT* levels are present, appear to be associated with poorer prognosis. Nevertheless, presence of a *KIT* mutation should not assign a patient to a different genetic risk category; rather patients should be monitored for MRD, whose absence abrogates the effect of *KIT*. Although both types of CBF-AML are associated with mutations in signaling genes (*NRAS*, *KIT*, *NF1*, *FLT3*, *KRAS*), recent comprehensive mutation profiling studies have revealed a different spectrum of cooperating mutations (Figure 1).

AML with *RUNX1-RUNX1T1* is significantly enriched for mutations in chromatin modifying genes (42-44%), including *ASXL2*, and for mutations in cohesin complex genes (18-20%), while they are nearly absent in AML with *CBFB-MYH11*. Although a genetic marker may currently not be prognostic, its presence may provide a target for new therapies as with IDH1, IDH2, and MLL. Likewise, a recent study in primary human samples identified co-occurrence of biallelic *CEBPA* mutations and mutations in the granulocyte colony-stimulating factor receptor gene *CSF3R* (signaling through the JAK-STAT pathway) as uniformly responsive to JAK inhibitors.

### 6.2 Factors after diagnosis

#### 6.2.1 Monitoring of minimal residual disease

Two approaches can be used to detect MRD, i.e., multiparameter flow cytometry (MFC) and molecular techniques, including real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR), digital PCR and next-generation sequencing (NGS)-based technologies. Standardized RT-qPCR assays are now available to detect AML-associated genetic lesions (Table 4). Each methodology differs in the proportion of patients to whom it can be applied and in its sensitivity to detect MRD. It is expected that integrated evaluation of baseline factors and assessment of MRD will improve risk assessment and inform postremission therapy.

MRD can be assessed (1) at early timepoints, e.g., following induction and consolidation courses to assess remission status and determine kinetics of disease response, and (2) sequentially beyond consolidation to detect impending morphologic relapse. Remission status as assessed by MFC (which is informative in ~90% of AML patients) provides a more reliable predictor of outcome than conventional morphology-based CR assessment. MFC can be used to assess “CR without MRD” (CRMRD) (Section 7; Table 6). The depth of response assessed by MFC has been consistently shown to provide independent prognostic information and thus may inform risk stratification. Currently, analyses should be performed in experienced laboratories, until MFC techniques have been further standardized.

In approximately 60% of younger adults the leukemia cells are informative for a molecular marker that can be tracked by RNA-based RT-qPCR assays. Assay sensitivity depends upon
the relative expression of the target in leukemic blasts compared to standard housekeeping
genes (e.g., \( ABL1 \)) and varies according to the target, as well as between patients with the
same target.\(^9\) Assays for \( MLLT3-KMT2A \) are typically associated with the lowest sensitivity
\((-1 \times 10^3)\) due to relatively low level fusion gene expression,\(^10\) whereas assays for \( NPM1 \)
mutations achieve sensitivities of up to \( 1 \times 10^{-6}\) to due to the high level mutant allele
expression.\(^101\) Many studies have shown that kinetics of MRD response to frontline
therapy differs by molecular marker analyzed.\(^85\) For example, reduction in \( RUNX1\)-
\( RUNX1T1 \) is slower than in \( NPM1 \) transcript levels. Importantly, MRD status has been found
to be a better predictor of relapse risk than presence of cooperating mutations involving \( KIT \)
and \( FLT3\)-ITD in CBF-AML,\(^85\) or \( FLT3\)-ITD, \( DNMT3A \), and \( WT1 \) in \( NPM1\)-mutated AML.\(^106\)
These data support inclusion of molecular MRD assessment into routine care to help inform
transplant decisions in first remission.

Sequential MRD monitoring studies have shown that persistent high-level PCR-positivity or a
rising level of leukemic transcripts after an initial molecular response, invariably predict
relapse.\(^9\) Whether the opportunity thus provided for early intervention to prevent overt
relapse will be useful is under investigation. Preemptive therapy may be particularly relevant
with allogeneic hematopoietic-cell transplantation (HCT) where MRD status may inform
conditioning strategy, or post HCT measures aiming to avoid frank relapse.

Molecular markers can now be identified in virtually all cases. This has opened the way to
detection of MRD using NGS or digital PCR.\(^9\) Although currently investigational, studies
have already shown that mutational assessment at early timepoints can distinguish patients
at differing probability of relapse.\(^110,111\) Studies are needed to define which mutations are
reliable indicators of leukemic clones associated with clinical relapse from mutations that are
associated with pre-leukemic clones (e.g., \( DNMT3A, IDH1/2 \)) poorly predictive of relapse,
although persistent at high levels after chemotherapy and during remission.\(^106,112,113\)

### 6.3 2017 ELN genetic risk stratification

The original intention of the ELN genetic categories was to standardize reporting of genetic
abnormalities particularly for correlations with clinical characteristics and outcome. The
distinction between the intermediate-I and intermediate-II categories was based on genetic
characteristics, rather than on prognostic stratification. Although a subsequent study
demonstrated longer OS in the intermediate-I group than the intermediate-II group, the two
groups were prognostically indistinguishable in older patients, who constitute the majority of
cases of AML.\(^114\)

Given the above findings, the panel decided to simplify the ELN system by employing a three
group classification (favorable, intermediate, adverse) rather than the previous four group
system (Table 5). A few other changes have been made. Recent studies have shown that in
AML with NPM1 or biallelic CEBPA mutations, the presence of coexisting chromosomal abnormalities does not appear to modify the prognostic effect of the mutations;\(^{16,25,115}\) prognosis may be more influenced by concurrent gene mutations.\(^{37}\) Accordingly and as in CBF-AML, the categorization of these cases is now based on the primary leukemia-defining genetic subsets irrespective of the karyotype. The higher relapse rate and poorer OS associated with FLT3-ITD largely depends on the ITD allelic ratio. Most recent studies suggest that patients with NPM1 mutation and FLT3-ITD with a low (<0.5) allelic ratio (FLT3-ITD\(^{\text{low}}\)) have a similar (favorable) outcome as patients with a NPM1 mutation but no FLT3-ITD; thus, both groups are now considered favorable.\(^{57-60}\) In contrast, AML with wild type NPM1 and FLT3-ITD with a high (>0.5) allelic ratio (FLT3-ITD\(^{\text{high}}\)) has a poor prognosis and is placed in the adverse risk group,\(^{57}\) although the panel acknowledges that the natural course of AML with FLT3 mutation may change by use of FLT3 inhibitors. RUNX1, ASXL1, and TP53 mutations (Section 6.1), and monosomal karyotype\(^{116-120}\) have also been added to the adverse-risk group in recognition of their independent association with adverse risk. Although numerous studies have dealt with mutations in other genes, for example, DNMT3A, IDH1, IDH2, or genes in the chromatin/spliceosome group other than ASXL1 and RUNX1, the panel did not feel enough evidence has as yet accumulated to warrant their assignment to an ELN prognostic group.

7. Response criteria (Table 6) and outcome measures (Table 7)

The panel proposes a few new response categories. While recognizing these are arbitrarily defined, they reflect recent data and aim at harmonizing definitions used in different trials.

CR\(_{\text{MRD}}\): The category CR\(_{\text{MRD}}\) is proposed, since relapse is more likely in patients in CR or CRi with detectable residual disease.\(^{91,92}\) The best time to test for MRD in patients in CR by conventional criteria is not settled. Assessment of MRD after cycle 2 or even cycle 1 of induction allows earlier identification of poor responders.\(^{85,92,97,106}\) However, MRD can disappear after consolidation therapy. The frequency with which this occurs may differ in different molecular subsets and future assessment of these frequencies will likely inform therapeutic decisions.

Primary refractory AML. The panel proposes criteria for “primary refractory disease” (also commonly termed “induction failure”), since the definition of refractory disease currently differs in clinical practice and clinical trials. Failure to attain CR following exposure to at least two courses of intensive induction therapy defines patients to be “primary refractory”. Although possibly influenced by selection bias, CR rates from a second course of 7+3 can be 40-45%, which is often higher than the rate targeted by newer therapies.\(^{121}\) Regimens containing higher doses of cytarabine are generally considered as the best option for patients not responding to a first cycle of 7+3. The likelihood of CR with a second course of a higher
dose cytarabine-based regimen after failure of a first of the two cycles may be relatively lower than is the case with a second 7+3 after failure of a first.122,123

**Progressive disease (PD).** This proposed new category primarily applies to patients given less intense or single-agent targeted therapies. A uniformly accepted definition of PD should facilitate a standardized interpretation of new drug trials. Because criteria for PD are arbitrary, it is unknown whether PD augurs a poorer prognosis than stable disease and warrants investigation. In the interim, observation of PD does not necessarily imply a patient should be removed from a given therapy.

### 8. MDS-AML overlap/secondary AML

#### 8.1 Genetic basis

The related and partially overlapping clinical phenotypes of MDS and AML are reflected in the genetic bases of the two diseases.31,37,78,79,80,124 A subset of mutations are highly specific for *de novo* AML, while another set of mutations is specific for secondary AML and are found commonly in MDS. Genetic analyses of a panel of genes mutated in myeloid malignancies, and perhaps the addition of gene expression and DNA-methylation profiling, have the potential to inform the distinction between MDS and AML, and to determine which cases of AML arose from an antecedent MDS.37,80,81 The prognoses of patients with clinically-diagnosed *de novo* AML whose gene mutation profile resembles those of patients with clinically-diagnosed secondary AML is more like secondary than *de novo* AML.81

Mutations associated with secondary AML occur in genes encoding SRSF2, SF3B1, U2AF1, and ZRSR2 (splicing factors); ASXL1, EZH2, and BCOR (epigenetic regulators); and STAG2 (a member of the cohesin complex).81 In such cases, these mutations likely occur during an MDS phase, remain in the clone that progresses to acute leukemia, and often persist in clonal remission following chemotherapy. Similarly, mutations in ASXL1, EZH2 and SRSF2 genes have been shown to identify patients with primary myelofibrosis who are at risk for leukemic transformation and who have particularly poor outcomes.82,125 In contrast, *NPM1* mutations, and CBF- and *KMT2A*-rearrangements are highly specific for *de novo* AML.81

Genetic features in MDS that are associated with prognosis and progression to AML, include mutations in *TP53*, *RUNX1*, *ETV6*, *EZH2*, and *ASXL1*.78-80,124,126 *TP53* mutations are associated with a particularly poor survival, including following allogeneic HCT.127

#### 8.2. Blast count

Given the biologic overlap between secondary AML and MDS any minimum blast percentage used to distinguish AML from MDS with higher blast counts (i.e., MDS with excess blasts-2 [MDS-EB2]) must be arbitrary. Thus, this minimum has decreased from 30% in the FAB system to 20% in the WHO system with many AML clinical trial groups allowing entry of
patients with >10% blasts. Bone marrow failure is the usual cause of death in both AML and MDS-EB2, and most of the latter die without “progression to AML”, with data suggesting the natural history of MDS-EB2 is more similar to AML than to lower risk MDS.\textsuperscript{128,129} These observations suggest it best to determine eligibility for an “AML” or “MDS” study based on disease- and patient-specific factors rather than on a fixed blast percentage. Integration of data from molecular genetics into future classification systems will be useful to refine current diagnostic algorithms and support a more biologically precise disease classification.

9. Current therapy

The general approach to current therapy has not changed substantially in recent years. Initial assessment evaluates whether a patient is considered a candidate for intensive induction chemotherapy. Although assessment of risk of treatment-related mortality (TRM) after intensive therapy is usually most relevant in older patients (commonly above the age of 65 years), age is merely one, and not the most important predictor, of TRM.\textsuperscript{130-135} Furthermore, TRM rates are declining due to improved supportive care and to better health status in older patients.\textsuperscript{136,137} Therefore, age alone should not be the decisive determinant to guide therapy. Although few randomized trials have addressed the question and these trials have been small, there are suggestions older, medically fit patients may benefit more from “intensive” than “non-intensive” induction therapy, subject to the constraints of selection bias.\textsuperscript{137} Hence, while recognizing firm criteria to consider older patients (or any patients) unfit for intensive induction therapy cannot be provided, the panel feels these should include only factors such as poor performance status and significant co-morbidities and, in the case of conventional regimens such as 7+3, adverse ELN cytogenetics/molecular genetics (Table 5), since in these instances the benefit may not outweigh the risk. Results from cytogenetics should be obtained preferably within 5 to 7 days. Results from NPM1 and FLT3 mutational screening should be available within 48 to 72 hours (at least in patients eligible for intensive chemotherapy), and results from additional molecular genetics within the first treatment cycle. Abnormal renal or liver function should not be considered solely but in the context of other co-morbidities and, although dose reduction may be called for, should not per se exclude patients from administration of intensive therapy. Several systems to quantify co-morbidities and/or risk of TRM after intensive induction therapy have been proposed (see section 9.3).

9.1 Intensive induction therapy

With three days of an anthracycline and seven days of cytarabine (commonly referred to as “7+3” regimens), CR is achieved in 60-80% of younger adults and in 40-60% of older adults (60 years or above) (Table 8).\textsuperscript{1,2,138}
9.1.1 Anthracycline dose level
Randomized studies have indicated that daunorubicin at 45 mg/m² daily x3 is associated with a lower CR rate and a higher relapse rate than 90 mg/m² daily x3 when daunorubicin is used in a single induction cycle.139-141 This clear dose-effect relation seems much less prominent in patients >65 years of age. However, another comparison found that 90 mg/m² of daunorubicin daily x3 in a first induction cycle was not superior to daunorubicin at 60 mg/m² daily x3.142 In this study both groups received additional daunorubicin at 50 mg/m² for 3 days once in CR which added significant toxicities to the high-dose schedule and may have obscured or counteracted the benefit of the 90 mg/m² during the first cycle. A recent exploratory analysis from this study suggests the potential for improved outcomes among patients with FLT3-ITD with anthracycline intensification, although this finding requires further validation.143 Current evidence suggests that the dose of daunorubicin should not be less than 60 mg/m².

In patients 50-70 years of age daunorubicin (80 mg/m² for 3 days) or idarubicin (12 mg/m² for 4 days) were compared with the usual idarubicin schedule (12 mg/m² for 3 days). Although the CR rate was slightly higher with 4 days of idarubicin, there were no differences between the 3 arms in rates of relapse, EFS, or OS.144

9.1.2 Cytarabine dose
Recent studies123,145 confirm earlier ones demonstrating increased toxicity without improvement in efficacy with higher dose cytarabine (2000-3000 mg/m²). A randomized trial found that FLAG-IDA produced a lower relapse rate than daunorubicin-cytarabine with or without etoposide, but was also associated with more deaths in remission resulting in similar OS.123 Only one randomized study has shown prolonged OS (52% vs 43% at 6 years) with cytarabine at 3000 mg/m² (every 12hrs, days 1, 3, 5, 7) compared with 100 mg/m² (daily x7) in cycle I, but only in patients <46 and not 46-60 years of age.146 The bulk of evidence indicates that cytarabine at doses >1000 mg/m² should not be included in induction regimens.147 Furthermore, neither this study nor any others have shown that particular cytogenetic subsets benefit from such high cytarabine doses (see also Section 9.2.1).

9.1.3 Role of other drugs
FLT3 inhibitors. The RATIFY trial evaluated intensive induction and consolidation chemotherapy plus midostaurin or placebo followed by a one-year midostaurin/placebo maintenance phase in 717 patients aged 18 to 60 years with FLT3-mutated AML.61 Use of midostaurin increased the CR rate when all CRs reported within 30 days of ending protocol therapy were considered (66% vs 59%, P=.045). The trial met its primary endpoint in improving overall survival (HR 0.77; P=.0074), regardless of whether patients received allogeneic HCT. Thus, patients with FLT3-mutated AML may be considered to receive intensive chemotherapy in combination with midostaurin.
**Gemtuzumab ozogamicin (GO).** The role of GO, an antibody-toxin (calicheamicin) conjugate that targets CD33 positive AML, is complicated. Two randomized studies using a single GO dose during chemotherapy in patients primarily age <60 years failed to show a survival advantage, although the first used a suboptimal daunorubicin dose (45 mg/m²) in the GO arm vs 60 mg/m² in the control arm. Both studies suggested the addition of GO was associated with longer relapse-free survival (RFS) in the favorable-risk subset of CBF-AML. The second study extended this finding to survival in some patients with intermediate-risk cytogenetics. Two studies in older patients (median age, 61 and 67 years), one using a single 3 mg/m² GO dose and the other using 3 mg/m² GO on days 1, 4, and 7 of induction found survival benefit with GO, largely attributable to fewer relapses in patients with favorable- or intermediate-risk cytogenetics. An individual patient data meta-analysis of these four studies and a fifth published in abstract form reinforced these conclusions. In contrast, one large study in patients age 61 to 75 found shorter survival (P=.071) in the GO arm largely reflecting higher early mortality in patients age 70 to 75. The dose and schedule of GO may be critical for the benefit-toxicity ratio. GO is currently only available in clinical trials and through a compassionate use program sponsored by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

**CPX-351.** CPX-351 is an encapsulation in nano-scale liposomes of cytarabine and daunorubicin at a synergistic 5:1 molar ratio. Phase 2 studies suggested a beneficial effect of the agent in first-line treatment of secondary and therapy-related AML, and in the poor-risk stratum (by the European Prognostic Index [EPI]) of relapsed AML. A subsequent phase 3 trial randomized 309 patients age 60 to 75 years with high-risk AML, defined as AML with myelodysplasia-related changes or therapy-related AML, to CPX-351 or “7+3”. CPX-351 produced a higher response rate (CR/CRi, 47.7% vs 33.3%; P=.016, and longer OS (HR 0.69, P=.005 with medians of 9.6 vs 6 months and 2-year survival rates of 31% and 12%). Results were similar after accounting for allogeneic HCT. Thus, CPX-351 may improve therapy of older patients with high-risk features.

**Purine analogs.** In one study, cladribine (at 5 mg/m² days 1-5) added to 7+3 in adults up to age 60 produced a higher CR rate and better OS than 7+3, particularly in patients age 50-60 and those with adverse-risk cytogenetics. However, the relatively low CR rate (56%) and median OS (14 months) in the control arm have raised questions, and independent confirmation is awaited. In the intensive arm of their AML16 trial in older patients (median age, 67), the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) cooperative group randomized 806 patients between daunorubicin (50 mg/m² days 1-3) and either cytarabine (100 mg/m² days 1-10) or clofarabine (20 mg/m² days 1-5). Rates of CR (66-71%), relapse (68-74% at 3 years) and OS (22-23% at 3 years) were essentially identical.
9.2 Intensive postremission therapy

9.2.1 Conventional postremission therapy

Postremission strategies comprise intensive chemotherapy and high-dose therapy followed by autologous or allogeneic HCT (Table 8). Assessment of residual disease by RT-qPCR or MFC is critical in monitoring patients in morphological remission to inform further therapy (Section 6.2).

Conventional intensive consolidation

Consolidation regimens include single-agent cytarabine at high doses and multiagent chemotherapy which lead to similar outcomes. Administration of up to four cycles of high-dose cytarabine (HiDAC; 2000-3000 mg/m², commonly 6 doses per cycle) has been widely used. Recent trials have questioned the need for such high doses. One study randomized 933 patients, 15-60 years of age, between consolidation with mitoxantrone and cytarabine at 3000 mg/m² (every 12 hours for 6 days) versus a similar chemotherapy program, but with intermediate-dose cytarabine (IDAC) at 1000 mg/m² for consolidation with no differences in outcome.161 Similarly, in a study with multiple randomizations in induction, the postremission comparison between cytarabine 3000 mg/m² and 1500 mg/m² (n=657) showed no difference in survival.123 A third study in 781 complete responders (15-64 years of age) failed to show a benefit for 3 cycles of cytarabine at 2000 mg/m² (every 12 hours for 5 days) compared with 4 cycles of a multiagent chemotherapy consolidation that contained 200 mg/m² cytarabine by 24-hour continuous infusion for 5 days.162 None of these studies have identified a benefit of the high-dose cytarabine regimens in cytogenetically favorable-risk AML. In a smaller study in patients 15-50 years of age, no difference in survival was noted between 4 cycles of cytarabine at 3000 mg/m² and a combination of multiple cytotoxic agents.163

Altogether, there is no convincing evidence that cytarabine regimens at 3000 mg/m² are more effective than regimens at intermediate-dose levels at 1000-1500 mg/m², with or without the addition of an anthracycline.147 Open questions remain regarding the optimal number of cycles of consolidation therapy. In most studies 2-4 cycles have been given after attainment of CR. In one randomized study 2 cycles of postremission treatment following 2 induction cycles was not inferior to 3 postremission cycles.123 Intensified postremission chemotherapy in high-risk patients, especially older patients is without clear benefit.164

Intensive chemotherapy followed by autologous HCT

One cycle of intensive chemotherapy followed by autologous HCT using peripheral blood CD34+ cells offers condensed treatment. In one randomized study autologous HCT provided better RFS and similar OS as conventional consolidation chemotherapy.165 Recent data addressing the value of autologous HCT come from retrospective analyses accounting for the “lead time bias” consequent to the need for transplanted patients to live a minimum amount of time in order to receive a transplant. In these studies autologous HCT leads to
better EFS and RFS than chemotherapy.\textsuperscript{16,166,167} This effect is mainly apparent in favorable- and intermediate-risk disease (mainly by 2010 ELN criteria) where outcome after autologous HCT approaches results after allogeneic HCT if OS is the endpoint. Limiting autologous HCT to patients who are MRD negative might improve results.

\textit{Maintenance therapy}

At the present time, maintenance chemotherapy is not part of standard AML treatment given a lack of convincing evidence of benefit.\textsuperscript{168,169}

\subsection*{9.2.2 Allogeneic hematopoietic-cell transplantation}

AML is the most frequent indication for allogeneic HCT with a 10\% annual increase in transplants performed worldwide.\textsuperscript{170-172} Expanded use of mismatched and unrelated donors as well as cord blood means a donor can be found for most patients. Further, non-myeloablative or reduced-intensity conditioning (RIC) regimens allow allogeneic HCT in patients aged up to 75 years. Nonetheless, in reality only a minority of AML patients undergo transplantation because of older age, comorbidities, toxicity of prior therapy, inability to achieve a remission, and early relapse or refractory leukemia.\textsuperscript{173}

\textit{Indications}

The decision to perform allogeneic HCT depends on the assessment of the risk-benefit ratio (i.e., non-relapse mortality [NRM]/morbidity vs reduction of relapse risk) based on cytogenetic and molecular genetic features as well as patient, donor and transplant factors.\textsuperscript{174-177} AML with favorable-risk genetics are not \textit{a priori} assigned to allogeneic HCT in first CR.\textsuperscript{57-59,77,174,177} Allogeneic HCT is generally recommended when the relapse incidence without the procedure is expected to be >35-40\%. The higher the expected relapse risk, the more risk of NRM may be accepted. Especially in the adverse genetic group, it is generally assumed, although not unambiguously demonstrated that the transplant should be performed as soon as CR has been achieved. Allogeneic HCT is the only curative option for patients with primary refractory disease.

Sequential MRD monitoring by RT-qPCR or MFC provides a reliable guide to management. Patients with persistent MRD or with early MRD reoccurrence can receive salvage therapy and proceed to transplant before hematologic relapse, or may proceed directly to transplant depending on the likelihood of success with salvage therapy. Although allogeneic HCT often produces superior outcomes to chemotherapy it does not abrogate the negative effect of unfavorable genetics or pre-transplant MRD.\textsuperscript{99,178} Patients without MRD or adverse genetics but with high risk of NRM could receive chemotherapy only or autologous transplantation in CR1.\textsuperscript{179,180}

\textit{Myeloablative vs reduced-intensity conditioning}
RIC potentially extends the curative graft versus leukemia (GVL) effect to patients of older age or to young patients with significant comorbidities.\textsuperscript{181-184} Conditioning intensity varies. For instance, busulfan/fludarabine is more dose-intensive than fludarabine/low-dose total-body irradiation (TBI).\textsuperscript{185} Currently, more than 30\% of allogeneic transplants are performed using RIC and have yielded encouraging results.\textsuperscript{186} Although RIC and ablative conditioning have produced similar survival in patients aged 40-60 in first CR,\textsuperscript{179} a trial of the Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN 0901) randomizing 218 patients (+54 with MDS) aged 18-65 and with hematopoietic-cell transplant comorbidity index (HCT-CI) scores associated with <20-30\% NRM between RIC (typically fludarabine/busulfan) and more ablative (typically busulfan/cyclophosphamide) regimens suggests an advantage for more ablative regimens.\textsuperscript{187} This emphasizes the importance of randomized trials in transplantation with broad eligibility criteria to avoid selection bias. Currently, myeloablative regimens are generally recommended for healthy younger patients and RIC in elderly patients or in younger patients with severe comorbidities. Outcomes after myeloablative conditioning using busulfan/cyclophosphamide appears to be equivalent, if not superior, to outcomes after cyclophosphamide/TBI.\textsuperscript{188-190}

\textit{Comorbidities and risk scores}

Several transplant-related models have been developed to optimize decision-making about suitable candidates for allogeneic HCT.\textsuperscript{191} The HCT-CI is a validated tool that sums a patient’s comorbidities into a single score that predicts the likelihood of NRM given a myeloablative or RIC regimen.\textsuperscript{192} A Disease Risk Index based on disease stage and cytogenetics has been developed that predicts the likelihood of disease recurrence following myeloablative or RIC regimens, independent of age, conditioning intensity, graft source, and donor type.\textsuperscript{193} The modified European Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (EBMT) risk score was designed to predict OS rather than just NRM or relapse, and includes age, disease stage, donor source, gender mismatch, and time from diagnosis.\textsuperscript{194} Recent reports suggest that a combination of the HCT-CI and the EBMT score may provide improved prediction of NRM and OS.\textsuperscript{195,196}

\textit{New modalities}

Partial or complete T-cell depletion and post-transplant cyclophosphamide may reduce the risks of acute and chronic graft-versus-host disease (GvHD).\textsuperscript{197-200} The biggest challenge remains prevention of post-transplant relapse.\textsuperscript{201} Preparative regimens including novel agents or radio-labeled monoclonal antibodies,\textsuperscript{202} or therapy during the early post-transplant period with tyrosine kinase inhibitors or hypomethylating agents (HMA) are being tested.\textsuperscript{203-205} Furthermore, cell-based therapies are being developed to enhance the GVL effect, such as natural killer cell enrichment or adoptive transfer, and the use of genetically engineered antigen-specific T-cells that target AML-specific antigens.\textsuperscript{206-211}
9.3 Older patients not considered candidates for intensive chemotherapy

Some AML patients will not tolerate intensive chemotherapy. Several risk scoring systems are available that use patient-specific and disease-specific factors to make the choice of intensive or alternative treatment. The relevance of systems originally designed to forecast NRM after allogeneic HCT is under investigation.

Treatment alternatives for unfit patients are limited to best supportive care (BSC), low-intensity treatment, or clinical trials with investigational drugs. Low-intensity options are either low-dose cytarabine (LDAC) or therapy with HMA (Table 8). LDAC is generally well-tolerated and produces CR rates in the order of 15-25%; however, OS (median, 5-6 months) is unsatisfactory.

Therapy with HMA has been evaluated in randomized trials. An increase in median OS with decitabine versus mostly LDAC (7.7 vs 5.0 months) was observed. The AZA-AML-001 trial compared azacitidine with three conventional care regimens in patients aged ≥65 with >30% blasts: LDAC (158 patients), 7+3 (44 patients), or BSC only (45 patients); azacitidine increased the median survival (10.4 vs 6.5 months). Azacitidine may be particularly advantageous in AML with adverse cytogenetics. Superiority of azacitidine over conventional care regimens was previously shown in AML with 20-30% blasts. Up to six courses may be needed to observe maximal response with azacitidine or decitabine, although patients without response after three courses are unlikely to respond with further therapy. HMA seem to alter the natural course of AML in some patients who do not achieve CR. Thus, hematologic improvement can also yield clinical benefit, i.e., a reduction in transfusions and improved quality of life (QoL).

Treatment of unfit and most older patients with AML is currently unsatisfactory. We strongly recommend enrolling these patients in clinical trials.

10. Relapsed disease and primary refractory disease

Treatment of patients with relapsed or primary refractory disease requires a balanced assessment of the likely benefit of further therapy versus the potential complications associated with salvage chemotherapy.

10.1 Prognostic markers

Factors influencing survival were incorporated in the EPI score applicable to adults aged between 15-60 years. Poor outcome is associated with shorter CR1 duration, increasing age at the time of relapse, non-favorable karyotype at initial diagnosis, or history of prior allogeneic HCT.


10.2 Salvage treatment

No specific salvage regimen has emerged as the standard for treating primary refractory or relapsed AML.\textsuperscript{221-229} Enrollment to a clinical trial should therefore be the priority for such patients whenever possible. Table 8 provides recommendations for salvage regimens in patients considered fit for intensive therapy.

In younger adults (16-49 years), a second CR can be achieved with intensive salvage therapy in about 55% in the absence of prior allogeneic HCT.\textsuperscript{230} Two-thirds are able to proceed to allogeneic HCT in CR2, resulting in a 40% 5-year OS. Response rates are lower (~20-30%) in more unselected adult patients with relapsed/refractory disease.\textsuperscript{225} Benefit may also be derived from allogeneic HCT in the presence of active disease, with CR2 achieved in 42% and long-term survival observed in 9-22%.\textsuperscript{231-234}

Another approach for patients with refractory or active disease is to use a short course of chemotherapy such as FLAMSA (fludarabine, cytarabine and amsacrine) immediately prior to RIC and allogeneic HCT. With this approach, CR rates after allogeneic HCT of 70-90% are achieved, with expected 4-year survival ranging between 32-45%.\textsuperscript{234,235} The possible constraint of selection bias should again be noted; nonetheless, at least 20% of patients with primary refractory disease can still be cured with allogeneic HCT.\textsuperscript{236}

Outcome for patients relapsing after allogeneic HCT during first or second CR is particularly poor.\textsuperscript{237,238} The Center for International Blood and Marrow Transplant Research (CIBMTR) recently found,\textsuperscript{237} 3-year OS was 4%, 12%, 26%, and 38% for relapses within 1-6 months, 6 months-2 years, 2-3 years, and ≥3 years after allogeneic HCT, respectively. Lower mortality was independently associated with longer time from HCT to relapse and a first HCT using RIC; and inferior outcome associated with age >40 years, active GvHD, adverse cytogenetics, mismatched unrelated donor, and use of cord blood for first HCT.\textsuperscript{237} Outcomes may be better if patients receive chemotherapy to reduce disease burden followed by donor lymphocyte infusion (DLI), rather than chemotherapy alone.\textsuperscript{239,240} Use of HMA has modest efficacy in AML relapsing post-HCT, producing CR rates of ~15%;\textsuperscript{241} responses may be higher when combining DLI and azacitidine.\textsuperscript{242} Responses have been observed in relapses after HCT, including extramedullary manifestations, using CTLA-4 blockade with ipilimumab.\textsuperscript{243} The value of using a different donor for the second transplant remains unproven.\textsuperscript{238}

In patients not fit for intensive salvage chemotherapy, effective treatment options are lacking. Azacitidine and decitabine induce CR rates of 16-21% and median survival times of 6-9 months in older patients with relapsed/refractory AML,\textsuperscript{226-228} median post-relapse survival after therapy with LDAC is 5-6 months.\textsuperscript{229} For patients in second or third relapse, various therapeutic options are associated with CR rates of ~20% and median OS outcomes of only 3 months,\textsuperscript{224} stressing the need for enrollment into clinical trials.
11. Therapy-related AML

11.1 Biology of t-AML

Therapy-related myeloid neoplasms (t-MN) are a distinct category within the WHO classification including cases of t-MDS and t-AML. t-AML is a well recognized clinical syndrome occurring as a late complication following cytotoxic therapy for a primary neoplasm or a non-neoplastic disorder.\textsuperscript{244,245} Currently comprising ~7% of all newly-diagnosed AML, the incidence of t-AML is rising due to increasing numbers of cancer survivors at risk and changes in treatment.\textsuperscript{125,246,247}

These neoplasms have been thought to be the direct consequence of mutational events induced by cytotoxic therapy. Association between type of prior exposure and phenotype of t-AML support a direct role of prior cytotoxic therapy. The more common subtype, seen in ~75% of patients, typically occurs 5-7 years after first exposure to alkylating agents or radiation, is often preceded by MDS, and is frequently accompanied by chromosomes 5 and/or 7 abnormalities, complex karyotype, and $TP53$ mutation. In general, t-AML is associated with more adverse genetic lesions.\textsuperscript{248-251} In a study analyzing mutation hotspots of 53 genes in 70 t-MN (28 t-MDS, 42 t-AML), $TP53$ was the most commonly mutated gene in t-MDS (35.7%) and t-AML (33.3%).\textsuperscript{251} Some individuals develop t-AML after treatment with topoisomerase II inhibitors; their latency period is often only 1-3 years, antecedent MDS is rare, and balanced rearrangements involving $KMT2A$ ($MLL$ at 11q23), $RUNX1$ at 21q22, or $PML/RARA$ are common. The distinction between these two subtypes has become less evident due to the use of multiagent chemotherapy, often in combination with radiotherapy.

An alternative mechanism is suggested by cases with a pre-existing myeloid clone that is resistant to chemotherapy.\textsuperscript{252} Cases of t-AML were identified in which the exact $TP53$ mutation found at diagnosis was already present at low frequency in blood or bone marrow many years before t-AML development.\textsuperscript{252} Similarly, somatic mutations in $PPM1D$, a serine/threonine phosphatase that negatively regulates p53,\textsuperscript{253} have been found in blood of patients with breast, ovarian, and lung cancer.\textsuperscript{254-257} In ovarian cancer, the frequency of $PPM1D$ mutations in blood was significantly associated with prior chemotherapy, and the variant allele frequency increased during chemotherapy.\textsuperscript{254} These data suggest a model in which hematopoietic progenitor cells carrying mutations in the TP53 pathway undergo selective pressure by cytotoxic therapy, ultimately leading to t-AML.

Some cases of t-MN have been shown to be associated with germline mutations in cancer susceptibility genes.\textsuperscript{258,259} In a recent study of survivors of breast cancer developing t-AML, many patients had personal or family histories suggestive of inherited cancer susceptibility; 10 of 41 (21%) patients studied carried germline mutations in $BRCA1$, $BRCA2$, $TP53$, or
CHEK2 genes. The identification of such preexisting conditions will facilitate screening and counseling of patients prior to treatment for their primary disease.

11.2 Treatment of t-AML
The survival of patients with t-MN has remained poor mainly due to sequelae of prior therapy, and to adverse disease-related features. Therapy may be compromised by a higher treatment-related morbidity and mortality. There is still little prospective treatment data, since these patients have often been excluded from frontline clinical trials. Clinical trials should allow enrollment of patients with t-MN. Allogeneic HCT should be considered, due to the poor results with conventional chemotherapy.

12. Clinical trials
12.1 Necessity for biobanking
We strongly recommend storage of biosamples (see Section 5.5) be done in all clinical trials. Such biobanking can be performed as part of an interventional trial, or within a non-interventional biobanking or registry study.

12.2 Trial design
Trials of new therapies have traditionally been disease-specific, proceeding through phase 1 (determination of maximum tolerated dose, MTD), phase 2 (determination of efficacy) and phase 3 (randomized comparison of new and standard therapies). Recent challenges to this paradigm have arisen.

Early drug development
“Basket trials”. Basket trials test therapies that target a specific genetic mutation or a deregulated pathway found in a tumor regardless of its origin. Enrollment might include patients with AML and other tumor types provided their cells contain the aberration.

MTD vs “Optimal Biologic Dose” (OBD). When a drug’s ability to modulate its target appears fundamental to its clinical activity, phase 1 studies might seek to identify the OBD rather than the MTD. Randomization between OBD and MTD might be considered in phase 2 to shed light on which approach is preferable.

Combined phase 1-2 designs. To accelerate drug development many phase 1 protocols now include an expansion phase which focuses on efficacy. On the assumption of a relation between efficacy and toxicity, multiple outcome designs simultaneously base dose finding on toxicity and efficacy, with a dose declared admissible for further study if associated with relatively low probabilities of toxicity and high probabilities of efficacy.

“Pick-a-winner designs” to accelerate drug development
The conventional distinction between the single-arm phase 2 trial and the larger (randomized) phase 3 study has been questioned. The frequent failure of therapies found
“promising” in single-arm phase 2 trials to translate into truly successful treatments because of various biases in phase 2 is well known. Because these biases can only be addressed by randomization, there has been increasing interest in randomized phase 2 designs, also known as “selection” or “pick-a-winner” designs. Here, randomization between a standard and a new treatment begins sooner than currently. A first stage enrolls a relatively small number of patients, thus allowing more agents to be investigated in a given time. Treatments that meet a particular efficacy criterion are carried forward against the standard into a larger second stage, analogous to standard phase 3 studies, while treatments not meeting these criteria drop out. One limitation of the design is that small sample sizes may preclude the identification of patients with biologically defined subsets of the disease that may benefit from a particular new agent.

Adaptive designs
Adaptive designs use incoming information from the early stages of a trial to affect conduct of later stages. Although designs such as the 3+3 and the Simon 2-stage are technically “adaptive”, newer designs make more frequent use of incoming information. An example is “adaptive randomization” in which patients are initially randomized 1:1 after which randomization probabilities change at various intervals, to reflect incoming results. An advantage is that fewer patients may receive an ultimately unsatisfactory therapy, while a disadvantage is a loss of power. Another example is the continuous reassessment method, which in phase 1 trials permits more account to be made of covariates other than dose than does the standard 3+3 design.

12.3 Endpoints
Overall survival and event-free survival
Table 7 lists outcome measures, and Table 9 recommended reporting criteria for phase 3 clinical trials. OS is the endpoint most commonly used for approval of new therapies. However, OS may be an imperfect indicator of a new drug’s efficacy because advances in rescue therapies and supportive care have made it possible to keep patients alive after AML has relapsed or failed to enter CR. In contrast, EFS includes relapse and failure to enter CR as well as death and thus may better reflect a single treatment’s efficacy. Furthermore, less time is required to assess EFS, and use of EFS facilitates cross-over designs, i.e., patients are randomly assigned to a sequence of treatments.

Incorporation of minimal residual disease
The utility of CR as a surrogate for OS has been questioned. Likewise, if CRs are short-lived, a higher CR rate may not result in meaningful improvements in EFS. Considerable evidence indicates that patients in CR by conventional criteria who have MRD as assessed by RT-qPCR or MFC are at higher risk of relapse and death than patients without MRD.
(Section 6.2.1). This suggests the potential utility of \( \text{CR}_{\text{MRD}} \) as a rapidly assessable endpoint that may serve as a surrogate for EFS or long-term survival provided these relationships can be confirmed and means to measure MRD can be harmonized.\(^{91,92}\)

**Quality of life**

Regulatory drug approval agencies accept improvement in QoL as well as in quantity of life as a criterion for new drug approval. Although QoL has received little attention, clinical observation suggests that patients who achieve CR may have improved QoL, for example, due to receipt of fewer transfusions and spending less time in medical facilities than patients who do not achieve CR, even if survival is not improved; the same may apply with CRi.\(^{281}\)

13. **Novel therapies**

AML is an important field for new drug investigation.\(^{2,265,282}\) Novel therapies are usually first evaluated in patients with relapsed/refractory disease or in older patients not considered candidates for standard intensive chemotherapy. Novel therapies in pre-clinical or clinical development may be categorized as protein kinase inhibitors, epigenetic modulators, new cytotoxic agents, mitochondrial inhibitors including apoptosis therapies, therapies targeting specific oncogenic proteins, therapeutic and immune checkpoint antibodies and cellular immunotherapies, and therapies targeting the AML microenvironment (Table 10).

Efforts to develop protein kinase inhibitors, inhibiting mutated forms of the FLT3 receptor have led to successive generations of FLT3 inhibitors.\(^{283}\) The first generation comprised tandutinib, sunitinib, midostaurin and lestaurtinib, the second sorafenib and quizartinib, and the third crenolanib and gilteritinib. These compounds differ not only in their ability to inhibit FLT3-ITD or TKD or even the wild type receptor, but also in their selectivity for FLT3 as well as their toxicity profiles. As discussed in Section 9.1, the phase 3 trial evaluating midostaurin in younger adult patients with \( \text{FLT3} \) mutations reached its primary endpoint, improvement of OS.\(^{61}\) Randomized trials evaluating intensive chemotherapy with other FLT3 inhibitors, such as lestaurtinib and sorafenib, failed to show an improvement in response rate and in OS.\(^{284-287}\) The trial with sorafenib in younger patients (not restricted to AML with \( \text{FLT3} \) mutations) showed an improvement in EFS, mainly reflecting results in patients without \( \text{FLT3}\)-ITD, that did not translate into a significant OS benefit.\(^{287}\) Randomized trials evaluating next-generation FLT3 inhibitors are ongoing.

Another rapidly expanding area is development of novel epigenetic therapies.\(^{288,289}\) Guadecitabine (SGI-110) is a second-generation HMA currently in phase III development.\(^{290}\) Guadecitabine is a dinucleotide of decitabine and deoxyguanosine that increases the \( \text{in vivo} \) exposure of decitabine by protecting it from inactivation by cytidine deaminase. One novel targeted approach is the inhibition of the metabolic enzymes IDH1 and IDH2 that are frequently mutated in AML.\(^{291}\) Early trial results with these inhibitors show durable responses
and appear promising. Other examples are targeting of BRD4, a member of the BET family of bromodomain epigenetic readers, or of MLL-rearranged leukemias.

In a randomized trial conducted in patients with relapsed and refractory AML, the topoisomerase II inhibitor vosaroxin in combination with IDAC demonstrated a small survival benefit in patients older than 60 years (7.1 vs 5.0 months); a benefit was not shown in younger patients, potentially due to the higher transplant rate (45.8% <60 years vs 20.2% ≥60 years).

Finally, targeted immunotherapy is an important novel approach. A variety of therapeutic antibodies directed against AML antigenic targets (e.g., CD33, CD123, CLEC12A), bispecific T-cell engagers or dual affinity re-targeting molecules as well as engineered chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells targeting the CD33 and CD123 antigens are currently in early clinical trial.

14. Management of special situations
14.1 Hyperleukocytosis
A recent systematic review assessed early mortality in patients with an initial white blood cell count ≥100x10^9/L and found neither leukapheresis nor hydroxyurea/low-dose chemotherapy influenced the early death rate. Hyperleukocytosis reflects a medical emergency. After immediate diagnostic testing patients should begin cytoreductive treatment without delay preferably with the planned induction regimen.

14.2 Others
There have been no new developments in management of central nervous system (CNS) AML, myeloid sarcoma, or pregnancy in AML since the 2010 ELN publication and readers are referred there for information.

15. Supportive care
15.1 Prophylactic anti-infectious treatment
For prophylaxis and treatment of infections, prevailing institutional infectious organisms and their drug-resistance pattern should primarily be considered. As noted in the 2010 ELN recommendations prophylaxis with a quinolone should be given.

A systematic survey of randomized trials in AML found “high-level evidence” supporting use of posaconazole to prevent invasive fungal infections during remission induction therapy and in patients with GvHD after allogeneic HCT. Micafungin can be used when azoles are strictly prohibited, although fluconazole is generally acceptable because it has a very low interaction with CYP3A4. There was insufficient evidence to guide antifungal prophylaxis in patients undergoing allogeneic HCT without GvHD or other high-risk factors.
15.2 Other issues

There have been few new developments regarding use of myeloid growth factors or transfusion support since the 2010 ELN recommendations to which the reader is referred. Neither growth factors nor granulocyte transfusions can be recommended outside the individual patient setting. In two randomized trials comparing prophylactic (at a count \(<10\times10^9/L\) versus therapeutic (only if bleeding) platelet transfusion, more grade 2-4 bleeding occurred in the therapeutic arms together with a slight excess in fatal (CNS) hemorrhage.\(^{298,299}\) Thus, prophylactic platelet transfusion at a count \(<10\times10^9/L\) remains the standard for patients with AML.

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Author's Contribution

All authors reviewed the literature and wrote first drafts of specific sections. HD and CDB assembled the sections and wrote the final version of the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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References


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292. Stein EM, DiNardo C, Altman JK, et al. Safety and efficacy of AG-221, a potent inhibitor of mutant IDH2 that

293. DiNardo C, de Botton S, Pollyea DA, et al. Molecular Profiling and Relationship with Clinical Response in Patients with IDH1 Mutation-Positive Hematologic Malignancies Receiving AG-120, a First-in-Class Potent Inhibitor of Mutant IDH1, in Addition to Data from the Completed Dose Escalation Portion of the Phase 1 Study (abstract]. *Blood*. 2015;126(23): Abstract 1306.


Figure 1: Molecular classes of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and concurrent gene mutations in adult patients up to the age of ~65 years.

Class definition is based on the study by Papaemmanuil et al.\textsuperscript{37} For each AML class denoted in the pie chart, frequent co-occurring mutations are shown in the respective boxes. Data on the frequency of genetic lesions are compiled from the data bases of the British Medical Research Council (MRC), the German-Austrian AML Study Group (AMLSG), and from selected studies.\textsuperscript{37,87,88,302} The structure of the pie chart is adopted from reference 50, generated by Dr. Adam Ivey (King’s College London, London, UK).

\textsuperscript{a} Cohesin genes including \textit{RAD21} (~10\%), \textit{SMC1A} (~5\%), and \textit{SMC3} (~5\%)
\textsuperscript{b} \textit{inv}(16)(p13.1q22) or \textit{t}(16;16)(p13.1;q22); \textit{CBFB-MYH11}
\textsuperscript{c} \textit{inv}(3)(q21.3q26.2) or \textit{t}(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2); \textit{GATA2-MECOM(EVI1)}
\textsuperscript{d} \textit{TP53} mutations are found in ~45\%, and complex karyotypes in ~70\% of this class.
Table 1. Myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition, acute myeloid leukemia and related precursor neoplasms, and acute leukemias of ambiguous lineage (World Health Organization [WHO] 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition (see Table 2)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acute myeloid leukemia and related neoplasms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Acute myeloid leukemia (AML) with recurrent genetic abnormalities</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with t(8;21)(q22;q22.1); RUNX1-RUNX1T1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22); CBFB-MYH11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute promyelocytic leukemia with PML-RARA&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3); MLL3-KMT2A&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with t(6;9)(p23;q34.1); DEK-NUP214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with inv(3)(q21.3q26.2) or t(3:3)(q21.3q26.2); GATA2,MECOM(EVI1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML (megakaryoblastic) with t(1;22)(p13.3;q13.3); RBM15-MKL1&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisional entity: AML with BCR-ABL1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with mutated NPM1&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with biallelic mutations of CEBPA&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisional entity: AML with mutated RUNX1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acute myeloid leukemia with myelodysplasia-related changes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Therapy-related myeloid neoplasms</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acute myeloid leukemia, not otherwise specified (NOS)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with minimal differentiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML without maturation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AML with maturation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute myelomonocytic leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute monoblastic/monocytic leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure erythroid leukemia&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute megakaryoblastic leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute basophilic leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute panmyelosis with myelofibrosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myeloid sarcoma</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myeloid proliferations related to Down syndrome</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transient abnormal myelopoiesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid leukemia associated with Down syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blastic plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasm</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Acute leukemias of ambiguous lineage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute undifferentiated leukemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed phenotype acute leukemia with t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2); BCR-ABL1&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed phenotype acute leukemia with t(v;11q23.3); KMT2A rearranged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed phenotype acute leukemia, B/myeloid, NOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed phenotype acute leukemia, T/myeloid, NOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Provisional entity: Natural killer (NK) cell lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adopted from reference 3; for a diagnosis of AML, a marrow blast count of ≥20% is required, except for AML with the recurrent genetic abnormalities t(15;17), t(8;21), inv(16) or t(16;16).

<sup>a</sup> Other recurring translocations involving RARA should be reported accordingly; e.g., AML with t(11;17)(q23;q12); ZBTB16-RARA; AML with t(11;17)(q23;q12); NUMA1-RARA; AML with t(5;17)(q35;q12); NPM1-RARA; or AML with STAT5B-RARA (the latter having a normal chromosome 17 on conventional cytogenetic analysis).

<sup>b</sup> Other translocations involving KMT2A (MLL) should be reported accordingly; e.g., AML with t(6;11)(q27;q23.3); MLLT4-KMT2A; AML with t(11;19)(q23.3;p13.3); KMT2A-MLLT1; AML with t(11;19)(q23.3;p13.1); KMT2A-ELL; AML with t(10;11)(p12;q23.3); MLLT10-KMT2A.

<sup>c</sup> Rare leukemia most commonly occurring in infants.

<sup>d</sup> Diagnosis is made irrespective of the presence or absence of multilineage dysplasia.

<sup>e</sup> ≥20% blood or marrow blasts AND any of the following: previous history of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS), or myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasm (MDS/MPN); myelodysplasia-related cytogenetic abnormality (see below); multilineage dysplasia; AND absence of both prior cytotoxic therapy for unrelated disease and aforementioned recurring genetic abnormalities; cytogenetic abnormalities sufficient to diagnose AML with myelodysplasia-related changes are:
- Complex karyotype (defined as 3 or more chromosomal abnormalities in the absence of one of the WHO-designated recurring translocations or inversions, i.e., t(8;21), inv(16) or t(16;16), t(9;11), t(v;11)(v;q23.3), t(6;9), inv(3) or t(3;3); AML with \(\text{BCR-ABL1}\));
- Unbalanced abnormalities: -7 or del(7q); -5 or del(5q); i(17q) or t(17p); -13 or del(13q); del(11q); del(12p) or t(12p); idic(X)(q13);
- Balanced abnormalities: t(11;16)(q23.3;p13.3); t(3;21)(q26.2;q22.1); t(1;3)(p36.3;q21.2); t(2;11)(p21;q23.3); t(5;12)(q32;p13.2); t(5;7)(q32;q11.2); t(5;17)(q32;p13.2); t(5;10)(q32;q21.2); t(3;5)(q25.3;q35.1).

Cases should be classified with the related genetic abnormality given in the diagnosis.

The former subgroup of acute erythroid leukemia, erythroid/myeloid type (≥50% bone marrow erythroid precursors and ≥20% myeloblasts among non-erythroid cells) was removed; myeloblasts are now always counted as percentage of total marrow cells. The remaining subcategory AML, NOS, pure erythroid leukemia requires the presence of >80% immature erythroid precursors with >30% proerythroblasts.

\(\text{BCR-ABL1}\) positive leukemia may present as mixed phenotype acute leukemia; treatment should include a tyrosine kinase inhibitor.
### Table 2. WHO classification of myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition and guide for molecular genetic diagnostics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Guide for molecular genetic diagnostics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition without a pre-existing disorder or organ dysfunction</strong></td>
<td><strong>Myelodysplastic predisposition/acute leukemia predisposition syndromes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acute myeloid leukemia with germline CEBPA mutation</td>
<td>CEBPA, DDX41, RUNX1, ANKRD26, ETV6, GATA2, SRP72, 14q32.2 genomic duplication (ATG2B/GSKIP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms with germline DDX41 mutation&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition and pre-existing platelet disorders</strong></th>
<th><strong>Cancer predisposition syndromes&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms with germline RUNX1 mutation&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Li Fraumeni syndrome (&lt;sup&gt;TP53&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms with germline ANKRD26 mutation&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Germline &lt;sup&gt;BRCA1/BRCA2&lt;/sup&gt; mutations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms with germline ETV6 mutation&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition and other organ dysfunction</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bone marrow failure syndromes</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms with germline GATA2 mutation</td>
<td>Dyskeratosis congenita (&lt;sup&gt;TERC, TERT&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms associated with bone marrow failure syndromes</td>
<td>Fanconi anemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms associated with telomere biology disorders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms associated with Noonan syndrome</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid neoplasms associated with Down syndrome&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*In part adopted from reference 6.*

<sup>a</sup> Recognition of familial myeloid neoplasms requires that physicians take a thorough patient and family history to assess for typical signs and symptoms of known syndromes, including data on malignancies and previous bleeding episodes. See also reference 27 how to identify, test, and counsel individuals and families suspected of having an inherited myeloid malignancy syndrome.

<sup>b</sup> Lymphoid neoplasms also reported.

<sup>c</sup> Molecular genetic diagnostics is guided by a detailed patient and family history<sup>27</sup>; diagnostics should be performed in close collaboration with a genetic counselor; patients with a suspected heritable myeloid neoplasm, who test negative for known predisposition genes, should ideally be entered on a research study to facilitate new syndrome discovery.

<sup>d</sup> Mutations in genes associated with cancer predisposition genes such as <sup>TP53</sup> and <sup>BRCA1/2</sup> appear to be frequent in therapy-related myeloid neoplasms<sup>259</sup>.
Table 3. Expression of cell-surface and cytoplasmic markers for the diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia and mixed phenotype acute leukemia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis of acute myeloid leukemia (AML)&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precursors&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CD34, CD117, CD33, CD13, HLA-DR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granulocytic markers&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CD65, cytoplasmic myeloperoxidase (MPO)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monocytic markers&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CD14, CD36, CD64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megakaryocytic markers&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>CD41 (glycoprotein IIb/IIIa), CD61 (glycoprotein IIIa),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erythroid markers</td>
<td>CD235a (glycophorin A), CD36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diagnosis of mixed phenotype acute leukemia (MPAL)&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myeloid lineage</td>
<td>MPO (flow cytometry, immunohistochemistry or cytochemistry) or monocytic differentiation (at least 2 of the following: non-specific esterase cytochemistry, CD11c, CD14, CD64, lysozyme)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-lineage</td>
<td>Strong&lt;sup&gt;g&lt;/sup&gt; cytoplasmic CD3 (with antibodies to CD3 epsilon chain) or surface CD3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-lineage&lt;sup&gt;g&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Strong&lt;sup&gt;g&lt;/sup&gt; CD19 with at least one of the following strongly expressed: cytoplasmic CD79a, cCD22 or CD10 or weak CD19 with at least two of the following strongly expressed: CD79a, cCD22 or CD10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> The markers proposed in this table are according to European LeukemiaNet Work Package 10 recommendations.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>b</sup> CD38 and other markers such as CD123 or CD133 can be added to identify leukemic stem cells, but do not contribute to diagnosis.

<sup>c</sup> Of note, cells engaged in granulocytic maturation will retain the expression of CD13 and CD33 at various fluorescence levels. Seeking for the expression of CD15 and CD11b can provide further information. CD16 is only present on normal mature granulocytes. The absence of MPO together with myeloid markers defines AML with minimal differentiation which is different from acute undifferentiated leukemia.

<sup>d</sup> Of note, cells engaged in monocytic differentiation will retain the expression of CD13 and CD33. Seeking for the expression of CD64 and CD11b can provide additional information, notably for promonocytes.

<sup>e</sup> CD42 (glycoprotein 1b) can also be used.

<sup>f</sup> The category MPAL includes leukemias with expression of antigens of more than one lineage. They can either contain distinct blast populations of different lineages, or one blast population with expression of antigens of different lineages on the same cells, or a combination. The proposal in this table includes the modifications brought in the current update of the WHO classification of haematopoietic tumors.<sup>3,4</sup>

<sup>g</sup> Other markers can be used to confirm B-lineage involvement.

<sup>h</sup> Strong defined as equal or brighter than the normal B or T cells in the sample.
Table 4. Tests/procedures for a patient with acute myeloid leukemia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Tests to establish the diagnosis</strong></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Complete blood count and differential count</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bone marrow aspirate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bone marrow trephine biopsy&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunophenotyping</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Genetic analyses</strong></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cytogenetics&lt;sup&gt;b&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screening for gene mutations including&lt;sup&gt;c&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>NPM1, CEBPA, RUNX1, FLT3, TP53, ASXL1</em></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Screening for gene rearrangements&lt;sup&gt;d&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>PML-RARA, CBFB-MYH11, RUNX1-RUNX1T1, BCR-ABL1</em>, other fusion genes (if available)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Additional tests/procedures at diagnosis</strong></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Demographics and medical history&lt;sup&gt;e&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detailed family history&lt;sup&gt;f&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient bleeding history&lt;sup&gt;g&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance status (Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group/World Health Organization score)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of comorbidities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biochemistry, coagulation tests, urine analysis&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Serum pregnancy test&lt;sup&gt;i&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Information on oocyte and sperm cryopreservation&lt;sup&gt;j&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A, B, C; HIV-1 testing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chest x-ray, 12-lead electrocardiogram, echocardiography or MUGA (on indication)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lumbar puncture&lt;sup&gt;k&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biobanking&lt;sup&gt;m&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Sensitive assessment of response by quantitative real-time PCR (RT-qPCR) or multi-color flow cytometry (MFC)&lt;sup&gt;n&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RT-qPCR&lt;sup&gt;o,p&lt;/sup&gt; for <em>NPM1</em> mutation, <em>CBFB-MYH11</em>, <em>RUNX1-RUNX1T1</em>, <em>BCR-ABL1</em>, other fusion genes (if available)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-color flow cytometry (MFC)&lt;sup&gt;o,q&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>a</sup> In patients with a dry tap (*punctio sicca*).

<sup>b</sup> Results from cytogenetics should be obtained preferably within 5 to 7 days. At least 20 bone marrow metaphases are needed to define a normal karyotype, and recommended to describe an abnormal karyotype. Abnormal karyotypes may be diagnosed from blood specimens.

<sup>c</sup> Results from *NPM1* and *FLT3* mutational screening should be available within 48 to 72 hours (at least in patients eligible for intensive chemotherapy), and results from additional molecular genetics within the first treatment cycle. Screening for gene mutations is an evolving field of research; screening for single genes may be replaced by gene panel diagnostics.

<sup>d</sup> Screening for gene rearrangements should be performed if rapid information is needed for recommendation of suitable therapy, if chromosome morphology is of poor quality, or if there is typical morphology but the suspected cytogenetic abnormality is not present.

<sup>e</sup> Including race or ethnicity, prior exposure to toxic agents, prior malignancy, therapy for prior malignancy, information on smoking.

<sup>f</sup> Thorough family history needed to identify potential myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition.

<sup>g</sup> History of bleeding episodes may inform cases of myeloid neoplasms with germline predisposition and pre-existing platelet disorders.

<sup>h</sup> *Biochemistry*: glucose, sodium, potassium, calcium, creatinine, aspartate amino transferase (AST), alanine amino transferase (ALT), alkaline phosphatase, lactate dehydrogenase, bilirubin, urea, total protein, uric acid, total cholesterol, total triglycerides, creatinine phosphokinase (CPK)
Coagulation tests: prothrombin time (PTT), international normalized ratio (INR) where indicated, activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT).

Urine analysis: pH, glucose, erythrocytes, leukocytes, protein, nitrite.

In women with childbearing potential.

Cryopreservation to be done in accordance with the wish of the patient.

HLA typing and CMV testing should be performed in those patients eligible for allogeneic hematopoietic-cell transplantation (HCT).

Required in patients with clinical symptoms suspicious of central nervous system involvement; patient should be evaluated by imaging study for intracranial bleeding, leptomeningeal disease, and mass lesion; lumbar puncture considered optional in other settings (e.g., high white blood cell count).

Pretreatment leukemic bone marrow and blood sample; for further optional storing see section 5.5.

Sensitive assessment of response can be performed at early timepoints, e.g., following induction and consolidation courses to assess remission status and determine kinetics of disease response, and sequentially beyond consolidation to detect impending morphologic relapse. No generally applicable timepoints can be defined, since kinetics of minimal residual disease (MRD) response differs by treatment given, marker analyzed and method used.

Monitoring of response by RT-qPCR recommended in clinical trials and clinical practice.

Sensitivity of response assessment varies by method used, and by marker tested; test used and sensitivity of the assay should always be reported; analyses should be done in experienced laboratories (centralized diagnostics).

Increasing evidence that response assessment by MFC qualitatively provides a better remission status than morphologic assessment and is of high prognostic impact.
Table 5. 2017 European LeukemiaNet risk stratification by genetics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Category</th>
<th>Genetic Abnormality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Favorable** | t(8;21)(q22;q22.1); *RUNX1-RUNX1T1*  
inv(16)(p13.1q22) or t(16;16)(p13.1;q22); *CBFB-MYH11*  
Mutated *NPM1* without *FLT3-ITD* or with *FLT3-ITD*\textsubscript{low}(c)  
Biallelic mutated *CEBPA* |
| **Intermediate** | Mutated *NPM1* and *FLT3-ITD*\textsuperscript{neg}(c)  
Wild type *NPM1* without *FLT3-ITD* or with *FLT3-ITD*\textsuperscript{low}(c) (w/o adverse-risk genetic lesions)  
t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3); *MLLT3-KMT2A*\textsuperscript{d}  
Cytogenetic abnormalities not classified as favorable or adverse |
| **Adverse** | t(6;9)(p23;q34.1); *DEK-NUP214*  
t(v;11q23.3); *KMT2A* rearranged  
t(9;22)(q34.1;q11.2); *BCR-ABL1*  
inv(3)(q21.3;q26.2) or t(3;3)(q21.3;q26.2); *GATA2,MECOM(EVI1)*  
-5 or del(5q); -7; -17/abn(17p)  
Complex karyotype,\textsuperscript{e} monosomal karyotype\textsuperscript{f}  
Wild type *NPM1* and *FLT3-ITD*\textsuperscript{high}(c)  
Mutated *RUNXI*\textsuperscript{g}  
Mutated *ASXL1*\textsuperscript{g}  
Mutated *TP53*\textsuperscript{h} |

\textsuperscript{a} Frequencies, response rates and outcome measures should be reported by risk category, and, if sufficient numbers are available, by specific genetic lesions indicated.

\textsuperscript{b} Prognostic impact of a marker is treatment-dependent and may change with new therapies.

\textsuperscript{c} Low, low allelic ratio (<0.5); high, high allelic ratio (≥0.5); semi-quantitative assessment of *FLT3-ITD* allelic ratio (using DNA fragment analysis) is determined as ratio of the area under the curve (AUC) “*FLT3-ITD*” divided by AUC “*FLT3*-wild type”; recent studies indicate that acute myeloid leukemia with *NPM1* mutation and *FLT3-ITD* low allelic ratio may also have a more favorable prognosis and patients should not routinely be assigned to allogeneic hematopoietic-cell transplantation.\textsuperscript{57-59,77}

\textsuperscript{d} The presence of t(9;11)(p21.3;q23.3) takes precedence over rare, concurrent adverse-risk gene mutations.

\textsuperscript{e} Three or more unrelated chromosome abnormalities in the absence of one of the World Health Organization-designated recurring translocations or inversions, i.e., t(8;21), inv(16) or t(16;16), t(9;11), t(v;11)(v;q23.3), t(6;9), inv(3) or t(3;3); AML with *BCR-ABL1*.

\textsuperscript{f} Defined by the presence of one single monosomy (excluding loss of X or Y) in association with at least one additional monosomy or structural chromosome abnormality (excluding core-binding factor AML).\textsuperscript{116}

\textsuperscript{g} These markers should not be used as an adverse prognostic marker if they co-occur with favorable-risk AML subtypes.\textsuperscript{37,66-69}

\textsuperscript{h} *TP53* mutations are significantly associated with AML with complex and monosomal karyotype.\textsuperscript{37,66-69}
Table 6. Response criteria in acute myeloid leukemia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Response</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CR without minimal residual disease (CRMRD)</td>
<td>If studied pre-treatment, CR with negativity for a genetic marker by real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR), or CR with negativity by multi-color flow cytometry</td>
<td>Sensitivities vary by marker tested, and by method used; therefore, test used and sensitivity of the assay should be reported; analyses should be done in experienced laboratories (centralized diagnostics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complete remission (CR)</td>
<td>Bone marrow blasts &lt;5%; absence of circulating blasts and blasts with Auer rods; absence of extramedullary disease; absolute neutrophil count ≥1.0 x 10^9/L (1,000/µL); platelet count ≥100 x 10^9/L (100,000/µL)</td>
<td>MRD positive or unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• CR with incomplete hematologic recovery (CRi)</td>
<td>All CR criteria except for residual neutropenia [&lt;1.0 x 10^9/L (1,000/µL)] or thrombocytopenia [&lt;100 x 10^9/L (100,000/µL)]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Morphologic leukemia-free state (MLFS)</td>
<td>Bone marrow blasts &lt;5%; absence of blasts with Auer rods; absence of extramedullary disease; no hematologic recovery required</td>
<td>Marrow should not merely be “aplastic”; at least 200 cells should be enumerated or cellularity should be at least 10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Partial remission (PR)</td>
<td>All hematologic criteria of CR; decrease of bone marrow blast percentage to 5% to 25%; and decrease of pretreatment bone marrow blast percentage by at least 50%</td>
<td>Especially important in the context of phase 1-2 clinical trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Treatment failure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Primary refractory disease</td>
<td>No CR or CRi after 2 courses of intensive induction treatment; excluding patients with death in aplasia or death due to indeterminate cause</td>
<td>Regimens containing higher doses of cytarabine (see Table 8) are generally considered as the best option for patients not responding to a first cycle of 7+3; the likelihood of responding to such regimens is lower after failure of a first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Death in aplasia</td>
<td>Deaths occurring ≥7 days following completion of initial treatment while cytopenic; with an aplastic or hypoplastic bone marrow obtained within 7 days of death, without evidence of persistent leukemia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Death from indeterminate cause</td>
<td>Deaths occurring before completion of therapy, or &lt;7 days following its completion; or deaths occurring ≥7 days</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Response criteria for clinical trials only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stable disease</td>
<td>Absence of CRMRD-, CR, CRi, PR, MLFS; and criteria for PD not met</td>
<td>Period of stable disease should last at least 3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive disease (PD)</td>
<td>Evidence for an increase in bone marrow blast percentage and/or increase of absolute blast counts in the blood:</td>
<td>Category mainly applies for older patient given low intensity or single agent “targeted therapies” in clinical trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• &gt;50% increase in marrow blasts over baseline (a minimum 15% point increase is required in cases with &lt;30% blasts at baseline; or persistent marrow blast percentage of &gt;70% over at least 3 months; without at least a 100% improvement in absolute neutrophil count (ANC) to an absolute level [&gt;0.5 x 10^9/L (500/µL), and/or platelet count to &gt;50 x 10^9/L (50,000/µL) non-transfused]; or</td>
<td>In general, at least 2 cycles of a novel agent should be administered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• &gt;50% increase in peripheral blasts (WBC x % blasts) to &gt;25 x 10^9/L (25,000/µl) (in the absence of differentiation syndrome); or</td>
<td>Some protocols may require blast increase in 2 consecutive marrow assessments at least 4 weeks apart; the date of progression should then be defined as of the first observation date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• New extramedullary disease</td>
<td>Some protocols may allow transient addition of hydroxyurea to lower blast counts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse</td>
<td></td>
<td>“Progressive disease” is usually accompanied by a decline in ANC and platelets and increased transfusion requirement and decline in performance status or increase in symptoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hematologic relapse (after CRMRD-, CR, CRi)</td>
<td>Bone marrow blasts ≥5%; or reappearance of blasts in the blood; or development of extramedullary disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molecular relapse (after CRMRD)</td>
<td>If studied pre-treatment, reoccurrence of MRD as assessed by quantitative RT-qPCR or by multi-color flow cytometry</td>
<td>Test applied, sensitivity of the assay, and cut-off values used must be reported; analyses should be done in experienced laboratories (centralized diagnostics)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The authors acknowledge that this new provisional category is arbitrarily defined; the category aims at harmonizing the various definitions used in different clinical trials.

b Certain targeted therapies, for example, those inhibiting mutant IDH proteins, may cause a differentiation syndrome, i.e., a transient increase in the percentage of bone marrow blasts and an absolute increase in blood blasts; in the setting of therapy with such compounds, an increase in blasts may not necessarily indicate progressive disease.
Table 7. Outcome measures for clinical trials in acute myeloid leukemia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall survival</td>
<td>Defined for all patients of a trial; measured from the date of entry into a clinical trial or from the date of diagnosis (e.g., for correlative science studies) to the date of death from any cause; patients not known to have died at last follow-up are censored on the date they were last known to be alive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relapse-free survival (RFS)(^a,b)</td>
<td>Defined only for patients achieving complete remission (CR), or CR with incomplete hematologic recovery (CRi); measured from the date of achievement of a remission until the date of relapse or death from any cause; patients not known to have relapsed or died at last follow-up are censored on the date they were last examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event-free survival (EFS)(^b)</td>
<td>Defined for all patients of a trial; measured from the date of entry into a study to the date of primary refractory disease, or relapse from CR, or CRi, or death from any cause; patients not known to have any of these events are censored on the date they were last examined</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative incidence of relapse (CIR)(^b,c)</td>
<td>Defined for all patients achieving CR, CRi; measured from the date of achievement of a remission until the date of relapse; patients not known to have relapsed are censored on the date they were last examined; patients who died without relapse are counted as a competing cause of failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Relapse-free and disease-free survival have been used with the same definition.

\(^b\) In clinical trials in which the response criterion CR without minimal residual disease (CR\(_{MRD-}\)) is used, consideration should be given to include molecular relapse as assessed by quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RT-qPCR) or multi-color flow cytometry as a criterion for relapse; similarly, for analysis of EFS, no achievement of CR\(_{MRD-}\) may be regarded as an event. The definitions of RFS, EFS, and CIR must be clearly defined within each protocol.

\(^c\) It is important to provide estimates of cumulative incidence of death (CID) as well, since just considering the results of CIR may be misleading if for instance CIR is lower for one group but CID is actually higher for that same group.
### Table 8: Selected conventional care regimens for patients with acute myeloid leukemia

#### Patients eligible for intensive chemotherapy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Induction therapy (all ages) (&quot;7+3&quot;&quot;)&lt;sup&gt;a,b,c,d&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>• 3 days of an IV anthracycline: daunorubicin at least 60 mg/m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;; idarubicin 12 mg/m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;; or mitoxantrone 12 mg/m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;, and 7 days of continuous infusion cytarabine (100-200 mg/m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Consolidation therapy<sup>d,e</sup> Younger patients (18-60/65 years)

- **Favorable-risk genetics**
  - 2-4 cycles of intermediate-dose cytarabine (IDAC; 1000-1500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 3 hours q12h, d1-3; or 1000-1500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 3 hours d1-5 or 6)

- **Intermediate-risk genetics**
  - Allogeneic hematopoietic-cell transplantation (HCT) from matched-related or unrelated donor
  - 2-4 cycles of intermediate-dose cytarabine (1000-1500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 3 hours q12h, d1-3; or 1000-1500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 3 hours d1-5 or 6), or
  - High-dose therapy and autologous HCT

- **Adverse-risk genetics**
  - Allogeneic HCT from matched-related or unrelated donor

#### Older patients (>60/65 years)

- **Favorable-risk genetics**
  - 2-3 cycles of intermediate-dose cytarabine (500-1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 3 hours q12h, d1-3; or 500-1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV over 3 hours d1-5 or 6)

- **Intermediate/adverse-risk genetics**
  - No established value of intensive consolidation therapy; consider allogeneic HCT in patients with low HCT-Comorbidity Index, or investigational therapy

#### Patients considered not candidates for intensive chemotherapy<sup>f</sup>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Azacitidine&lt;sup&gt;g&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
<th>75 mg/m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;, SC, d1-7, q4weeks, until progression</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decitabine&lt;sup&gt;h&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>20 mg/m&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;, IV, d1-5, q4weeks, until progression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-dose cytarabine&lt;sup&gt;i&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Low-dose cytarabine (20 mg q12h, SC, d1-10, q4weeks; until progression); not recommended in patients with adverse-risk genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best supportive care</td>
<td>Including hydroxyurea; for patients who cannot tolerate any antileukemic therapy, or who do not wish any therapy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Common salvage regimens in patients not responding to a first induction cycle or with relapsed disease who are candidates for intensive therapy

| IDAC\(^a\) (with or without anthracycline) | Intermediate-dose cytarabine (1000-1500 mg/m\(^2\) IV over 3 hours q12 h, d1-3 [500-1000 mg/m\(^2\) in patients >60 years]; or 1000-1500 mg/m\(^2\) IV over 3 hours d1-5 or 6 [500-1000 mg/m\(^2\) in patients >60 years]); with or without daunorubicin 45-60 mg/m\(^2\), IV, d1-3; idarubicin 8-10 mg/m\(^2\), IV, d3-5, or mitoxantrone 8-10 mg/m\(^2\), IV, d1-3 |
| MEC | Mitoxantrone 8 mg/m\(^2\), d1-5; etoposide 100 mg/m\(^2\), d1-5; cytarabine 1000 mg/m\(^2\), d1-5 |
| FLAG-IDA\(^b\) | Fludarabine 30 mg/m\(^2\) IV, d2-6; cytarabine 1500-2000 mg/m\(^2\) IV over 3 hours, starting 4 hours after fludarabine infusion, d2-6; idarubicin 10 mg/m\(^2\) IV, d2-4; G-CSF 5 µg/kg, SC, d1-5; additional G-CSF may be administered starting 7 days after end of chemotherapy until white blood cell count >500/uL Consider dose reduction in pts >60 years: fludarabine 20 mg/m\(^2\); cytarabine 500-1000 mg/m\(^2\); idarubicin 8 mg/m\(^2\) |
| Allogeneic HCT | Consider transplantation for patients with primary refractory disease, for patients in second CR or with major cytoreduction but still active disease following salvage therapy Consider second transplantation under certain conditions (see Section 10.2) Perform early HLA-typing |

\(^a\) Patients should go on clinical trials if possible.

\(^b\) Regimens containing higher doses of cytarabine are generally considered as the best option for patients not responding to a first cycle of ‘7+3’ (see common salvage regimens).

\(^c\) Older patients (in general >65 years) and patients with adverse genetics are less likely to respond to conventional induction therapy and may receive hypomethylating agents, or, preferably, investigational therapy.

\(^d\) Patients, at least those aged 18-60 years, with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and activating FLT3 mutations may be considered to receive additional therapy with midostaurin (administered after the chemotherapy).\(^61\)

\(^e\) Results from assessment of minimal residual disease should be taken into account for selecting the appropriate consolidation therapy.

\(^f\) For discussion of patients not considered candidates for intensive chemotherapy see first 2 paragraphs of Section 9.

\(^g\) Approved by US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and European Medicines Agency (EMA) for adult patients who are not eligible for hematopoietic-cell transplantation (HCT) with AML with 20-30% blasts and multi-lineage dysplasia; in addition, approved by EMA for patients who are not eligible for allogeneic HCT with AML with >30% marrow blasts.

\(^h\) Approved by EMA (not by FDA) for patients with newly diagnosed de novo or secondary AML, who are not candidates for standard induction chemotherapy.

\(^i\) In some countries used in a dosage of 20 mg/m\(^3\) SC once daily.

\(^j\) Evidence from pharmacologic studies and clinical trials in first-line treatment indicate that doses higher than 1500 mg/m\(^2\) are above the plateau of the maximal therapeutic effect; single-agent IDAC should not be used in patients relapsing within 6 months following consolidation with higher doses of cytarabine.\(^147\)

\(^k\) Idarubicin may be replaced by mitoxantrone 10 mg/m\(^2\), IV, d2-4 (FLAG-MITO); or by amsacrine 100 mg/m\(^2\), d2-4 (FLAG-AMSA).
### Table 9: Recommended minimum reporting criteria for phase 3 clinical trials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting objective</th>
<th>Reporting endpoint</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Response rate                | • Complete remission (CR)/CR with incomplete hematologic recovery (CR) achieved at completion of induction cycle 1 (%)  
• CR/CRi rate after completion of all induction cycles (%) |
| Treatment failure            | • Primary refractory disease (%) as indicated by failure to achieve CR/CRi after completing induction therapy (two cycles)  
• % Death from any cause within 30 days  
• % Death from any cause within 60 days |
| Relapse-free survival (RFS)  | • Median RFS from date of CR to relapse (months)  
• 1-year/3-year/5-year RFS (%) |
| Event-free survival (EFS)    | • Median EFS (months)  
• 1-year/3-year/5-year EFS (%) |
| Overall survival (OS)\(^a\)  | • Median OS (months)  
• 1-year/3-year/5-year OS (%) |
| Time to neutrophil recovery  | • Number of days from day 1 of commencing induction therapy to first day neutrophils 0.5 x 10^9/L  
• Number of days from day 1 of commencing induction therapy to first day neutrophils 1.0 x 10^9/L |
| Time to platelet recovery    | • Number of days from day 1 of commencing induction therapy to first day platelets 50 x 10^9/L  
• Number of days from day 1 of commencing induction therapy to first day platelets 100 x 10^9/L |

\(^a\) Overall survival should also be reported with patients censored on day 0 of allogeneic hematopoietic-cell transplantation.
### Table 10: Novel therapies in clinical development in acute myeloid leukemia

| **Protein kinase inhibitors** | • FLT3 inhibitors (quizartinib, gilteritinib, crenolanib)  
• KIT inhibitors  
• PI3K/AKT/mTOR inhibitors  
• Aurora and polo-like kinase inhibitors, CDK4/6 inhibitors, CHK1, WEE1 and MPS1 inhibitors  
• SRC and HCK inhibitors |
| **Epigenetic modulators** | • New DNA methyltransferase inhibitors (SGI-110)  
• Histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors  
• IDH1 and IDH2 inhibitors  
• DOT1L inhibitors  
• BET-bromodomain inhibitors |
| **Chemotherapeutic agents** | • CPX-351  
• Vosaroxin  
• Nucleoside analogs |
| **Mitochondrial inhibitors** | • Bcl-2, Bcl-xL, and Mcl-1 inhibitors  
• Caseinolytic protease inhibitors |
| **Therapies targeting oncogenic proteins** | • Fusion transcripts targeting  
• EVI1 targeting  
• NPM1 targeting  
• Hedgehog inhibitors (glasdegib) |
| **Antibodies and immunotherapies** | • Monoclonal antibodies against CD33, CD44, CD47, CD123, CLEC12A  
• Immunoconjugates (e.g., gemtuzumab ozogamicin, SGN33A)  
• Bispecific T-cell engagers (BiTEs) and dual affinity re-targeting molecules (DARTs)  
• Chimeric antigen-receptor (CAR) T-cells or genetically engineered T-cell receptor (TCR) T-cells  
• Immune checkpoint inhibitors (PD-1/PD-L1, CTLA-4)  
• Anti-KIR antibody (lirilumab)  
• Vaccines (e.g., WT1) |
| **Therapies targeting AML environment** | • CXCR4 and CXCL12 antagonists  
• Anti-angiogenic therapies |
Figure 1: Molecular classes of acute myeloid leukemia and concurrent gene mutations in adult patients up to the age of ~65 years.
Diagnosis and management of AML in adults: 2017 ELN recommendations from an international expert panel