An Aggressive Burkitt-like Lymphoma

SH2017-0137

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Clinical Data

• A 21-year old male patient

• 10/2015
  Presents with acute abdominal symptoms. Laboratory tests unremarkable with exception of slight anemia (Hb 9.3 g/dl). Diagnosis of a tumor in the appendiceal region. Clinical staging reveals Stage IVA disease with involvement of the omentum.

• 11/2015
  Opstipation, abdominal discomfort and pain. After diagnosis of an ileus, extended surgery with omentectomy and resection of parts of terminal ileum and colon. Repeated staging reveals no enlarged lymph nodes cervical, mediastinal, abdominal. No bone marrow involvement, no CNS involvement.

Histology reveals aggressive lymphoma.
Summary of Features

- Large tumor mass in the area of the terminal ileum, cecum and appendix
- Aggressive lymphoma with a „starry sky“ pattern
- Medium-sized to large cohesive blasts

**Burkitt-Lymphoma?**

**DLBCL with „Burkitt-like“ features?**
Summary of Immunohistochemistry

CD20+, CD10+, BCL2-, BCL6+, IRF4/MUM1-, Ki67 100%

„Classical“ Burkitt phenotype

But: No „significant“ over-expression of MYC
FISH:

MYC-BAP

MYC t(8;14)
Burkitt-Lymphoma without MYC Rearrangement?

A recurrent 11q aberration pattern characterizes a subset of MYC-negative high-grade B-cell lymphomas resembling Burkitt lymphoma

*Salaverria et al.* Blood, 20 February 2014 • Volume 123, Number 8

**Key Points**

- A subset of lymphomas with gene expression and pathological characteristics of Burkitt lymphomas but absence of *MYC* translocation does exist.
- These lymphomas carry chr 11q proximal gains and telomeric losses, suggesting co-deregulation of oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes.

These findings indicate the existence of a molecular distinct subset of B-cell lymphomas reminiscent of BL which is characterized by deregulation of genes in 11q (*Blood*. 2014;123(8):1187-1198).

Pienkowska-Grela Med.Oncol. 2011
Ferreiro Haematologica 2015
Zajdel Tumour Biol 2015
FISH Analysis of Chromosome 11
Courtesy R. Siebert, Kiel
OncoScan Analysis of the Lymphoma

Courtesy R. Siebert, Kiel
Diagnosis:
(WHO-Update 2016)

Burkitt-like Lymphoma with 11q Aberration (Provisional)

Swerdlow et al. Blood 2016
Diagnostic Strategy

• The diagnosis can be suspected basing on the slightly different cytomorphology and MYC breakpoint negativity

• FISH with probes directed at the hotspots in chromosome 11 helpful for screening

• Advantage of FISH: easy to perform, allows for targeted analysis of tumor cells if identifiable

• When FISH shows a clearly detectable gain or deletion, Oncoscan is not necessary

• Difficult interpretation of the FISH or – at the moment – negativity → Oncoscan is needed
Follow-up

- 11/2015 – 03/2016:
  Therapy with 8 cycles of chemotherapy according to the B-ALL protocol. Atypical pneumonia after the fourth cycle.

- Last staging 08/2017: Complete Remission.
Acknowledgements

Prof. Reiner Siebert, MD and Rabea Wagener PhD, University of Ulm, Germany
Matthias Vöhringer, MD, Department of Hematooncology, Robert-Bosch-Krankenhaus, Stuttgart, Germany
Annette Staiger PhD, and Heike Horn PhD, Molecular Diagnostics Unit, Robert-Bosch-Krankenhaus and Dr. Margarete-Fischer-Bosch Institute of Clinical Pathology, Stuttgart, Germany.
Panel Diagnosis:

Burkitt-like Lymphoma with 11q Aberration