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Overview of Acute Erythroid Leukemia (AEL), Diagnosis, Prognosis, and Current Treatment

[1]Abdulwahab Hussain H. Alawaji, [2]Mohammed Saeed Alshahrani, [3]Qasem Abdu Mahzari, [4]Faisal Mohammed Al-atawi, [5]Hisham Hussain Alawaji, [6]Jamal Ali Albalawi, [7]Turki Saleh Alshehri, [8]Abdulaziz Ibraheem S. Alhowidi, [9]Darin Abdusalam Fallatah , [10]Alaa Eid Al Johani, [11]Ali Haussain Alfahal, [12]Hasan Salman Alkhlaf, [13]Ahmed Abdulaziz Almuhamdi, [14]Waheed Ali Alshehri, [15]Hussain Ali Khubrani

Abstract: **This review was aimed to discuss and overview the Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL) from different clinical aspects, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment approaches, using evidence based trails to support our study discussion. We conducted a comprehensive electronic search through medical databases; PubMed, Medline and Emabse, for studies concerned with the Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL) from any aspects, and published up to January 2017, with human subjects only and with restriction to English language articles. Furthermore, references lists of found articles were reviewed for more relevant studies. AEL is an unusual group of heterogeneous diseases with several neoplastic as well as non-neoplastic problems simulating the medical diagnosis. The medical discussion and also cytogenetics are likewise non-specific offering added difficulties to the medical diagnosis. It has an inherent biological connection with MDSs, it has an even worse professional actions. Among the thoughts of phasing out this diagnosis as well as combining it with MDS, one need to value its differences in medical outcomes. A probable age change when it come to a more youthful populace calls for even more studies here.**

Keywords: **Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL), Professional Actions.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Acute erythroid leukaemia (AEL) is a rare subtype of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), constituting <5% of all the instances of AML [(1)]. The definition of this disease has been modified numerous times. The chance of presence of this disease wased initially reasoned by Coppelli in 1912. He recorded the initial situation of AEL [(2)]. In 1928, Di Guglielmo defined the initial instance of pure erythroid leukaemia as well as recorded it as eritremia acuta, which was later on assigned as Di Guglielmo disease [(3)]. Probability of pathologic evolution of acute erythroid myeloid leukaemia wased initially hypothesised by Damshek as growth from phase of non-malignant erythremic expansion through phase of erythroleukemia to myeloblastic leukaemia, and also he named it Di Guglielmo syndrome [(4)].

The definition of AEL has actually undergone several modifications. Initially designated as M6 in the 1976 French-American-British (FAB) classification, its definition was improved in 1985 as an acute leukemia in which erythroid cells made up a minimum of 50% of all cells, as well as myeloblasts made up at least 30% of the nonerythroid cells [(5)]. In the 2001 World Health Organization (WHO) category, the called for blast matter for all kinds of AML was reduced from 30% to 20%, which lowered the blast matter defining AEL to 20% of the nonerythroid cells. In addition, an uncommon subcategory of AEL where the neoplastic blasts were erythroid (so-called pure erythroid leukemia) was recognized [(6)]. In the recent 2008 WHO category of AML, the category of AML with myelodysplasia-related modifications (AML-MRC) was recommended. This classification consists of all cases with blasts making up 20% or more of all bone marrow cells and the presence of either morphologic evidence of substantial multilineage dysplasia, certain myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) - relevant cytogenetic abnormalities, or a background of MDS or a myelodysplastic/myeloproliferative neoplasm (MDS/MPN), irrespective of the visibility of erythroid hyperplasia [(7)]. Inning accordance with this classification system, AEL instances with blasts consisting of 20% or even more of all bone marrow cells as well as satisfying these criteria are

identified as AML-MRC, whereas instances with blasts making up much less than 20% of all cells but 20% or more of the nonerythroid cells are classified as AEL [8].

This review was aimed to discuss and overview the Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL) from different clinical aspects, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment approaches, using evidence based trails to support our study discussion.

2. METHODOLOGY

We conducted a comprehensive electronic search through medical databases; PubMed, Medline and Emabse, for studies concerned with the Acute erythroid leukemia (AEL) from any aspects, and published up to January 2017, with human subjects only and with restriction to English language articles. Furthermore, references lists of found articles were reviewed for more relevant studies.

3. RESULTS

- **Clinical picture of AEL:**

Acute erythroid leukemia is a rare type of AML, representing less than 5% of all instances, defined by a primary (50%) erythroid population in the bone marrow. Most instances of AEL develop de novo, representing roughly 1% of all de novo AML, and the disease is not related to any recognizable risk factors. Unusual instances of afresh familial erythroleukemia, being autosomal leading with variable penetrance, have been explained [9]. Instances of AEL advancing from other antecedent diseases have actually been reported in the literature, as well as these cases are typically described as so-called second AEL. Typical antecedent diseases or factors include MDS (for example, refractory anemia with excess of blasts or refractory cytopenia with multilineage dysplasia), myeloproliferative tumors (for instance, chronic myelogenous leukemia with erythroblastic situation), [10] and direct exposure to contaminants such as benzene. Second AEL additionally has actually been reported in patients with a history of various other kinds of cancer treated with radiation treatment, immunosuppressive treatment, or ionizing radiation. Apart from the de novo and also domestic classifications of disease [9,10].

- **Diagnosis of AEL:**

Medical diagnosis of AML-MRC requires the presence of a minimum of 20% of blasts in the blood/marrow with among the following: history of MDS/MPN, MDS-related cytogenetic problems and also lack of any one of persistent cytogenetic abnormalities, or existence of a minimum of 50% of dysplastic cells in a minimum of 2 lineages with absence of history of exposure to cytotoxic agents: (A) alkylating representatives and also (B) topoisomerase II preventions [11]. t-AML has a background of exposure to alkylating agents/topoisomerase II preventions, specific cytogenetic problems and a typical time to development of 3 - 5 years [12]. Some MPNs are associated with erythroblastic stage characterised by significant erythroid hyperplasia of the bone marrow with nucleated RBCs in the peripheral blood [13]. There are other non-neoplastic differential diagnoses which need to be ruled in particular scenarios. These are EPO treatment, vitamin B12 or folate deficiency, exposure to contaminants like benzene as well as parvovirus infection (14). EPO treatment could resemble pure erythroid leukaemia specifically. Among the significant separating attributes of both, besides background of therapy with EPO, would certainly be that pure erythroid leukaemia provides with extreme anaemia and distributing blasts whereas EPO-treated patients will have their anaemia remedied.

Occurrence of AEL in our populace of AML patients was 2.6%. This is less than the incidence (4.3%) priced estimate in Attili et alia from the same institute [15]. In this, the share of pEL was 12.5%. There was not also a single situation of second AML. Various studies [16,17] have priced estimate similar incidence. Typical age in our patients was 36.3 years, which is much minimal than age (56-- 66 years) in different other research studies [16,17]. Some studies have likewise priced quote bimodal circulation of age [18,19]. The first small peak is located to be listed below the age of 20 years. We hypothesised this difference from various other literary works for two reasons. The mean age occurrence of all unidentified types of AML from an unpublished information from this institute is 37 years, which is quite a worrying development. There is also proof for the earlier occurrence of other cancers like breast cancer in India [20]. Whether we could connect this possible age shift to quick urbanisation is a flexible concern which requires further studies. Second, there was no situation of additional AEL which has an incidence of 20% - 30% otherwise among additional AMLs [15]. The disease has a male preponderance comparable to the results from the other researches [16,17,18].

pH-positive acute erythroid leukemia represents an even less common occurrence than erythroid blast stage CML. It is difficult to distinguish the erythroblast phase of CML from a pH-positive acute leukemia [21]. Intricate karyotype and visibility of numerous chromosomal irregularities is fairly usual in all situations of acute erythroleukemia, extremely few

situations of pH-positive erythroleukemia have actually been reported [21]. Blast stage of CML is usually connected with an intricate karyotype, including trisomy 8 and also 19, dual pH chromosomes, and isochromosome i (17q) [22,23].

Bone marrow morphology in instance of AEL:

The medical diagnosis of AEL calls for morphologic examination of the bone marrow. A striking erythroblastemia could sometimes be recognized in affected patients, examination of peripheral blood smears could be deceptive because blood smears are commonly devoid of blasts and also show only cytopenias (Figure 1) (16). Nonspecific red blood cell abnormalities can be existing, such as anisocytosis, poikilocytosis, anisochromia, basophilic stippling, schistocytes, and also erythrocytes that are improperly hemoglobinized. Normoblasts could or may not be observed in the blood smear. Various other nonspecific findings that can be observed in the blood smear consist of light to significant neutropenia as well as thrombocytopenia, and also pseudo-- Pelger-Hue ¨ t neutrophils (17).

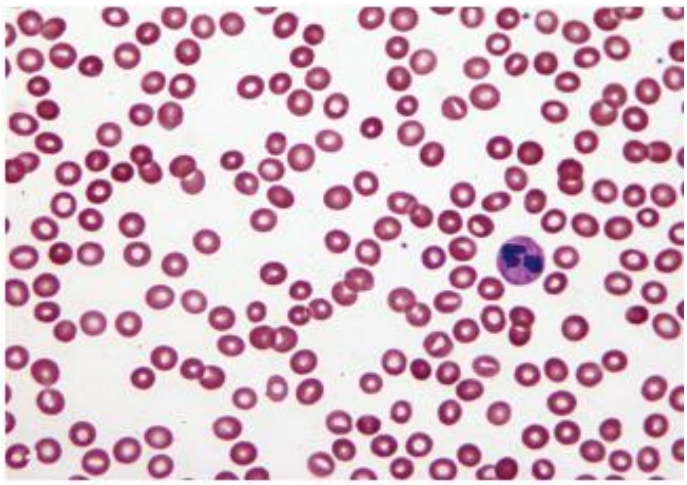

Figure1: Peripheral blood smears in a patient with acute erythroid leukemia

In bone marrow aspirate smears as well as touch imprints, by definition, erythroid forerunners predominate (50%) in AEL. In the erythroleukemia subtype, growth of erythroid precursors is commonly left moved and dysplasia is recognized in all growth stages. Findings of dysplasia consist of 1 or more of the following: abundant megaloblastoid forms, nuclear fledgling, bizarre nuclear forms, multinucleation, sudsy cytoplasmic vacuoles, or cytoplasmic pseudopods (**Figure 2**). Noticeable multilineage dysplasia prevails, but variable, including granulocytes (**Figure 2, C**) or megakaryocytes (**Figure 2, D**) or both [19,20]. Auer rods are unusual however can be seen in myeloblasts. The nature of the erythroleukemia subtype is for the disease to build up blasts of myeloid or myelomonocytic lineage with variable distinction. Hence, with time the morphologic picture of the erythroleukemia subtype could advance to AML with very little distinction, AML without growth, AML with growth, or acute myelomonocytic leukemia [17].

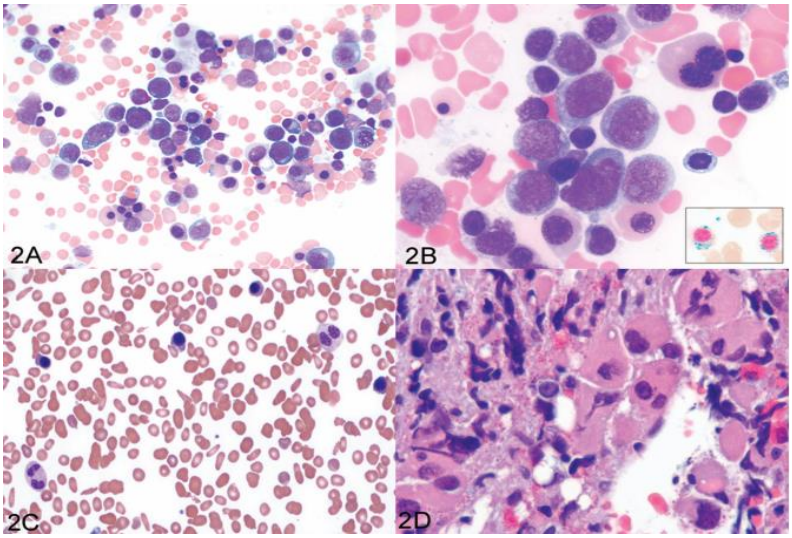

Figure 2: Representative morphologic changes in bone marrow of patient with acute erythroid leukemia,

In the pure erythroid leukemia subtype of AEL, a lot of (80%) of the cells in the aspirate smears are erythroid forerunners (**Figure 3**). Erythroid growth is left moved with increased pronormoblasts. Pronormoblasts are intermediate in dimension to huge, with rounded cores, fine chromatin, commonly prominent nucleoli, and also deeply basophilic and agranular cytoplasm. Cytoplasmic vacuoles are variably present as well as can be famous in pronormoblasts (**Figure 3, A**). In occasional instances erythroblasts can be smaller sized, in the dimension series of lymphoblasts or lymphoma cells. Dysplasia is common in the erythroid components however is typically a minor attribute in the various other lineages. Myeloblasts are very few in the pure erythroid leukemia subtype of AEL. The bone marrow aspirate clot as well as biopsy specimens are usually hypercellular in both subtypes of AEL. Dysplasia of megakaryocytes frequently can be appreciated in the erythroleukemia subtype, whereas the tumor could show up entirely undifferentiated in cases of the pure erythroid leukemia subtype (**Figure 3, B**) [15,18]. Substantially enhanced erythroid forerunners can be appreciated in areas of the clot as well as biopsy samplings of AEL cases, but it is challenging to exactly count the numerous cell kinds or analyze dysplasia in tissue areas of the clot and biopsy samplings, specifically in regularly processed, paraffinembedded samplings. Perhaps much more information can be originated from clot as well as biopsy samplings that are embedded in plastic, permitting the preparation of extremely thin tissue areas, yet we have no personal experience with these approaches in the research study of AEL [22].

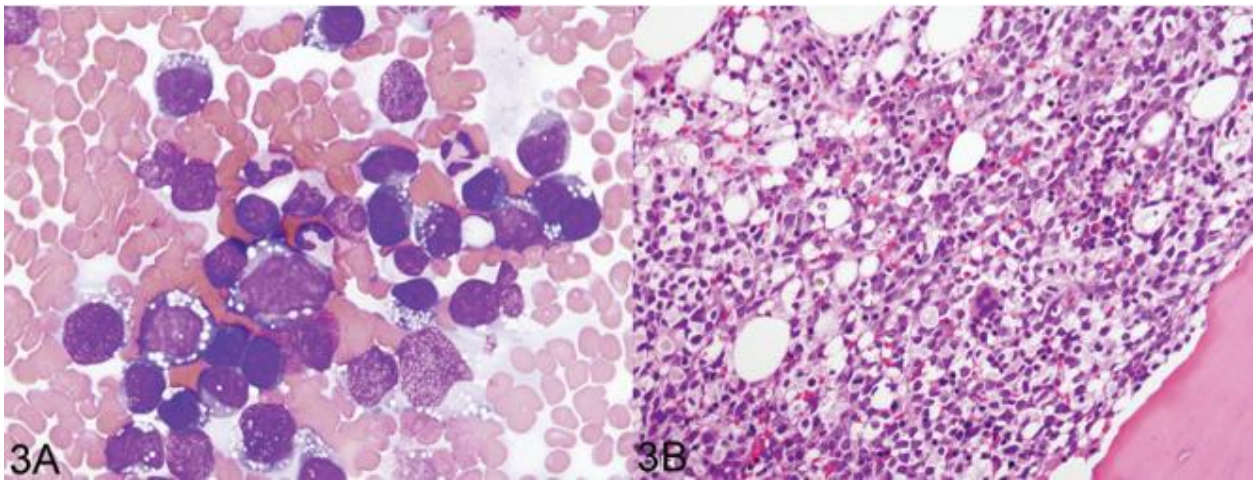

Figure 3: Representative morphologic changes in bone marrow of patient with acute erythroid leukemia, pure erythroid leukemia subtype. A, Many large pronormoblasts with prominent cytoplasmic. B, Marked hypercellularity and left shift in maturation

The majority of cytogenetic information offered for AEL instances are originated from traditional cytogenetic analysis of the most usual subtype, erythroleukemia. Nevertheless, as stated over, a subset of instances in the literary works that were identified by using older terms that show up equal to AEL probably do not accomplish the requirements for this disease in the current WHO classification. This subset of cases is hard to tease from the different private magazines and we as a result offer the data as it is, as not all appropriate details is given. To this day, no details chromosome abnormalities have actually been defined in AEL. Relying on the research, 50% to 80% of patients have an irregular karyotype [24,25,26]. Complex karyotypes with multiple structural problems prevail. One of the most frequent irregularities include monosomy 5 or del(5q), monosomy 7 or del(7q) and trisomy 8.21 Complex karyotypes (3 or even more cytogenetic problems) also have been reported in AEL situations [27,28]. Additionally, t(8; 16)(p11.2; p13.3) in AEL has been reported to be related to erythrophagocytosis and also coagulopathy [24]. Cytogenetic functions in AEL can be utilized to stratify patients right into prognostic groups. Patients with 25/del(5q), 27/del(7q),+8, 11q irregularities, 17p irregularities, del(20q), +13, as well as complicated karyotypes are generally associated with unfavorable results. Although we have no doubt that cytogenetic irregularities associate with prognosis, as has been shown in lots of research studies of AML generally, the range and also types of the reported cytogenetic irregularities in cases classified previously as erythroleukemia suggest that this" entity" has been extremely heterogeneous [29,30].

Prognosis of AEL:

As a whole, AEL has actually been connected with an aggressive professional program. A less beneficial outcome is observed in elderly patients, in patients who formerly had a medical diagnosis of MDS, or in patients who have been treated with chemotherapy for one more tumor before creating AML. As has actually been stated, a number of these

situations reported in the literature could not fulfill the requirements for AEL when using up-to-date classification standards. In a current big study by Santos and also colleagues' [31] the pathologic diagnosis of AEL did not impart, by itself, a worse result and there was no difference in full remission price when compared to other types of AML, not or else specified. Santos et alia [31] have highlighted that action to radiation treatment as well as size of survival for patients with AEL are dependent on a variety of factors, with the most important being cytogenetic irregularities. Liu and colleagues44 revealed that the full remission rate of patients with AEL connected with an aberrant karyotype was significantly less than that of equivalent patients with a typical karyotype (37% versus 83%). In another research, the full remission of patients with AEL and also 5q or 7q irregularities was around 50%, with an average survival of 16 weeks, as compared to 89% as well as 77 weeks for patients without these irregularities [16]. MDR1 expression likewise correlates with unfavorable cytogenetic findings and also might explain the poorer response to chemotherapy and shorter survival time. A background of MDS appears to be one more undesirable factor. The complete remission rate of patients with a background of MDS was 42.8%, as compared to 85.2% for patients without previous MDS history [19].

- **Treatment approaches of AEL:**

Clinically, patients with AEL are usually dealt with in a similar way to patients with various other kinds of AML, not otherwise specified [19]. Stem cell transplantation (SCT) is potentially medicinal, however is connected with procedurerelated morbidity and also death, particularly for allogeneic SCT. Data have actually shown that SCT can significantly improve the result of this disease, with 5- year leukemia-free survival getting to around 60% after HLA-identical brother or sister SCT.5 No restorative representatives that target specific paths or molecules are currently offered for this disease, mirroring the absence of understanding of pathogenetic devices. Professional remission can be attained for many patients when treated inning accordance with the basic chemotherapy methods for AML, with cytarabine being the most energetic representative. Contrary to their progrowth and antiapoptotic effects, high-dose erythropoietin and also granulocyte colony-stimulating factor have been reported to generate professional remission in a couple of elderly patients [32]. If validated in bigger, a lot more rigorous clinical research studies, this technique could work as an alternate therapy for patients whose disease is refractory to or for patients that are disqualified for typical radiation treatment. Usual concerns throughout treatment of patients with AEL consist of primary induction failing, relapse, and poisoning of chemotherapeutic agents. Refractoriness or relapse may be explained by overexpression of the multidrug resistance gene item, P-glycoprotein. In one research study, [33] AEL of the erythroleukemia subtype had very high degrees of Pglycoprotein expression as compared to that of other sorts of AML. Modulators of multidrug resistance, such as cyclosporin A, psc, quinidine, as well as verapamil 833, have been made use of in a medical test in an effort to conquer the resistance and boost restorative reaction [34].

4. CONCLUSION

AEL is an unusual group of heterogeneous diseases with several neoplastic as well as non-neoplastic problems simulating the medical diagnosis. The medical discussion and also cytogenetics are likewise non-specific offering added difficulties to the medical diagnosis. It has an inherent biological connection with MDSs, it has an even worse professional actions. Among the thoughts of phasing out this diagnosis as well as combining it with MDS, one need to value its differences in medical outcomes. A probable age change when it come to a more youthful populace calls for even more studies here.

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