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Progress in molecular profiling: new recommendations in myelodysplastic syndromes

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Myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS) are highly heterogeneous disorders characterised by the presence of ineffective hematopoiesis with peripheral blood cytopenias, dysplastic changes in ≥10% of cells in one or more myeloid lineages, and a variable risk of progression to acute myeloid leukemia (AML) [1].

With the rapid development of molecular biology over recent years, significant progress has been made in understanding the genetic characteristics of MDS. Although molecular tests are not included in the diagnostic standard in MDS, many studies have confirmed the predictive and prognostic impact of a number of mutations in patients with this diagnosis. Such knowledge highlights a clear path towards the development of targeted therapies. Today, numerous trials are running all over the world aimed at the use of targeted therapies in higher risk MDS. Additionally, significant progress has been made in therapy of lower risk MDS, especially for those who are transfusion-dependent.

In this issue of "Acta Haematologica Polonica", Mądry et al. [2] present new Polish recommendations for the diagnostics of MDS. This will be followed by recommendations on MDS treatment to appear in the next issue of "Acta Haematologica Polonica" [3]. These recommendations are in line with our journal's policy of international cooperation in hematology [4–10].

Authors' contributions

JS — sole author.

Conflict of interest

Nothing to disclose.

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Ethics

The work described in this article has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans; EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments; uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals.

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