

Recent update of AML risk stratification

Hyoeun Shim

National Cancer Center, Korea

The term acute myeloid leukemia (AML) refers to a group of hematopoietic neoplasms involving cells committed to the myeloid line of cellular development. AML is characterized by a clonal proliferation of myeloid precursors with reduced capacity to differentiate into more mature cellular elements. The response to treatment and overall survival of patients with AML is heterogeneous. A number of prognostic factors related to patient and tumor characteristics have been described for AML, including age, performance status, and karyotype.

Precise diagnostic classification of AML requires clinical and pathologic information, the latter including morphologic, immunophenotypic, cytogenetic and molecular genetic analysis. Risk stratification in AML requires cytogenetics evaluation as well as genetic mutations providing additional necessary information. The currently used World Health Organization classification of hematopoietic neoplasms has been updated to include an update on the classification of AML, due to the continuously increasing application of genomic techniques that have led to major advances in our knowledge of the pathogenesis of AML. The purpose of this presentation is to describe some of these recent major advances in the diagnostic classification and risk stratification of AML.