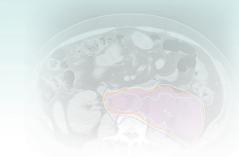
# Pediatric Leukemias and Lymphomas



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#### **EPIDEMIOLOGY**

Acute leukemias (acute lymphoblastic leukemia [ALL] and acute myelogenous leukemia [AML]) and lymphomas (Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's [NHL]) together represent approximately 40% of malignancies in children.

The annual incidence of new cases in the United States in children younger than age 15 years for ALL is 2500 to 3500; AML, 500; and NHL, 500.

#### **BIOLOGY, CLASSIFICATION, AND STAGING**

ALL is classified by:

- Immunophenotype: B-cell progenitor, T-cell progenitor, non-B cell, and non-T cell
- Morphology and immunologic markers
- Cellular DNA content (ploidy)
- Cytogenetics (presence of specific translocations, trisomies, and other chromosomal or genetic aberrations)

Staging involves evaluation of bone marrow, cerebrospinal fluid, and evaluation of extramedullary sites.

AML is classified according to the French-American-British (FAB) morphology. Staging is as for ALL.

NHL is classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) Classification of Tumors of the Haematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissues. The major subtypes are lymphoblastic lymphoma, Burkitt's lymphoma, and large cell lymphoma. Large cell lymphomas can be of B-cell origin or T-cell origin.

Staging involves examination of bone marrow and cerebrospinal fluid as well as radiographic and nuclear imaging for nodal and extranodal sites.

# **THERAPY**

The primary treatment of leukemias and lymphomas includes systemic chemotherapy. The intensity of therapy for leukemia and the duration of therapy for lymphoma are determined by risk stratification according to biologic and clinical features.

Therapy for ALL involves induction chemotherapy, intensification or consolidation, central nervous system (CNS) therapy, and maintenance therapy.

Therapy for AML includes induction chemotherapy based on the FAB classification. Intensification or consolidation may be with bone marrow transplant.

Therapy for NHL involves chemotherapy based on the biologic and clinical features of histologic subtype and clinical stage.

#### INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY

ALI

- Cranial irradiation for CNS prophylaxis in selected patients with high-risk disease
- Cranial irradiation for treatment of children with CNS involvement at diagnosis or relapse
- Testicular irradiation for relapse in the testes
- Total-body irradiation as part of the myeloablative regimen in stem-cell transplantation AML:
- Primary use is total-body irradiation for stem-cell transplantation.
   NHL:
- Total-body irradiation for some patients is part of the myeloablative regimen in stem-cell transplantation in patients with lymphoblastic lymphoma.

#### LATE SEQUELAE

Late sequelae include neurocognitive disorders, endocrinologic problems, growth delay, and induction of secondary malignancies.

#### TREATMENT OF RELAPSE AND PALLIATION

Local radiation therapy (RT) can be used to palliate symptomatic recurrences in leukemias and lymphomas. Relapses in the testes and CNS are treated by intensive systemic chemotherapy with RT. Treatment of relapse often includes bone marrow transplantation with total-body irradiation as part of the myeloablative regimen.

# ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA

ALL is the most-common malignancy in children, accounting for one fourth of all childhood cancers. The advances in the treatment of ALL since the 1940s represent one of the most tremendous success stories in modern medicine. The early successes resulted from the identification of single-agent chemotherapy and then the development of combination chemotherapy, recognition of the need for CNS preventative therapy, and maintenance chemotherapy. Concurrent with these developments, new understanding of immunophenotyping, molecular characterization, and

treatment responses allowed for the definition of risk groups to tailor therapy.

# **Epidemiology**

ALL accounts for 75% of childhood leukemia and is diagnosed in 2500 to 3000 children in the United States annually<sup>1,2</sup> with a peak age incidence between 2 years and 5 years. The incidence of ALL is higher among boys than girls. This difference is more pronounced in pubertal children<sup>3</sup> and particularly evident in cases of T-cell ALL. In the United States, ALL occurs more commonly among white children than among black children.<sup>4</sup>

# **Etiology**

A single etiology of ALL has not been identified; however, predisposing risk factors include genetics, environmental factors, viral infection, and immunodeficiency. Genetics appears to play a role in the cause of ALL in some children as evidenced by the association between specific chromosomal abnormalities and childhood ALL. The most-common constitutional chromosomal abnormality associated with childhood leukemia is trisomy 21 or Down syndrome<sup>5</sup>; less-common chromosomal abnormalities include Kleinfelter's syndrome and trisomy G syndrome.<sup>6</sup> The majority of cases of leukemia in children cannot be attributed to any known factor.

ALL is believed to develop from the malignant transformation of a single abnormal progenitor cell that then expands indefinitely. In pediatric ALL, evidence suggests that it occurs in committed lymphoid precursors. In contrast, in Philadelphia chromosome–positive ALL and in pediatric AML this event may occur earlier because mutations are observed in multiple cell lineages. The sequence of events resulting in malignant transformation is likely to be multifactorial. Leukemia can develop along any point in the normal stages of lymphoid development, which reflects the fact that ALL is a biologically heterogeneous disorder.

### Classification and Immunophenotyping

ALL is divided into two distinct subtypes based on the expression of cell surface markers. B-ALL, representing approximately 85% of cases and T-ALL, making up approximately 15% of cases. B-ALL is characterized by the expression of CD79a, CD19, HLA-DR, and other B cell-associated antigens. Ninety percent of precursor B-cell ALL cases express the CD10 surface antigen. Patients with B-cell precursor ALL whose lymphoblasts express CD10 on their cell surfaces have a more favorable prognosis than those who do not, primarily owing to the strong association of CD10 negativity with rearrangements of the *MLL* gene on chromosome 11.9,10 In approximately 1% to 2% of cases of ALL, the cells express surface immunoglobulin.

Ten to 15 percent of children will have ALL that is of T-cell origin. T-ALL is characterized by the expression of cytoplasmic CD3 and surface expression of T-cell antigens including CD2, CD5, and CD7. In contrast to B-cell precursor ALL, T-cell ALL is more frequently associated with older age at diagnosis, a higher presenting leukocyte count, and bulky extramedullary disease. Extramedullary involvement can include an anterior mediastinal mass, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, and overt CNS involvement.<sup>11</sup>

# Cytogenetics

Advances in cytogenetics have led to an increasing understanding of the biology of ALL. <sup>12</sup> Cytogenetic abnormalities identified in ALL include abnormalities in chromosomal number (ploidy) as well as those in chromosomal structure. Ploidy is determined either by counting the modal number of chromosomes in a preparation of a metaphase karyotype or by measuring DNA content by flow cytometry. Hyperdiploidy exists when there are more than 46 chromosomes. Most cases of ALL are diploid or hyperdiploid. Ploidy in childhood B-lineage leukemia has prognostic significance. <sup>13-15</sup> Children with higher ploidy, greater than 50 chromosomes, have a better prognosis than other children with ALL, including those with 47 to 50 chromosomes; those with 51 to 65 chromosomes (higher hyperdiploid) with specific trisomies (including chromosomes 4, 10, and 17) appear to have an especially

favorable prognosis. <sup>16-18</sup> Those patients who have hyperdiploid leukemia with favorable trisomies also tend to have other favorable prognostic features (see discussion in this chapter). Hypodiploidy (modal chromosomal number less than 44) is associated with inferior outcomes, especially among those with near-haploid ALL, with 24 to 28 chromosomes. <sup>19-21</sup>

Structural chromosomal abnormalities occur in ALL leukemia cells. The most common of these abnormalities are translocations. Translocations lead to alterations in the regulation of oncogenes. The activation of oncogenes and the loss of tumor suppressor genes are examples of the altered regulation believed to be involved in the evolution of leukemia. The most frequently identified translocation in ALL is t(12;21) and leads to the TEL-AML1 fusion protein. This occurs in approximately 20% of cases (nearly exclusively in those with B-lineage phenotype) and is associated with a favorable prognosis. <sup>22,23</sup> In contrast, t(9;22) and t(4;11) translocations are associated with early treatment failure. <sup>15,24</sup>

The t(9;22)(q34;q11) translocation results in the formation of the Philadelphia (Ph) chromosome and is found in 5% of childhood ALL. Children with Ph chromosome–positive ALL have a poor response to standard therapy but may fare better with intensive regimens that include the use of a tyrosine kinase inhibitor such as imatinib.<sup>25-29</sup>

Other unique chromosomal translocations have been observed in childhood ALL. The role of these and all translocations in the development of leukemia remains speculative. Some translocations that result in altered gene expression appear to confer a proliferative advantage for the leukemic cells. When patients with ALL are in remission, the cytogenetic abnormalities just described are not detectable. When relapse occurs, reappearance of the original cytogenetic abnormality confirms that there is a recurrence of the original leukemia.

#### **Presentation and Evaluation**

The presenting signs and symptoms of ALL are related to the degree of bone marrow infiltration as well as the extent of extramedullary involvement. These can include fever, petechiae, lymphadenopathy, and bone pain. Hepatosplenomegaly is found in two thirds of patients. Children with T-cell ALL have some distinctive features. T-cell ALL more frequently occurs in older boys, presents as high initial white blood cell (WBC) counts, and often has a mediastinal mass at diagnosis. The definitive diagnosis is made by bone marrow aspiration, although a bone marrow biopsy may be required in some cases and allows for morphologic assessment, immunophenotyping, karyotyping, and molecular evaluations such as reverse transcriptase/polymerase chain reaction and fluorescent in-situ hybridization for chromosomal characterization.

At the time of initial diagnosis the evaluation of patients includes cerebrospinal fluid examination, evaluation of uric acid levels, liver function tests, renal function tests, coagulation screening, chest radiography, evaluation for infection, and echocardiography (Box 73-1). Manifestations of CNS involvement such as headache, lethargy, papilledema, and cranial neuropathies (most often the third, fourth, sixth, and seventh) are infrequently present at diagnosis. CNS involvement is divided into three categories based on the number of white blood cells (WBCs) and the presence of lymphoblasts on the Cytospin. CNS-1 is defined as no evidence of lymphoblasts in the cerebrospinal fluid. CNS-2 is defined as fewer than five WBCs per microliter with blasts present in the Cytospin, and CNS-3 is defined as five or more WBCs per microliter with blasts in the Cytospin or the presence of cranial nerve palsy. CNS-3 involvement of the CNS at diagnosis is found in less than 5% of children with ALL.30

#### BOX 73-1 Initial Evaluation

History and physical examination

Laboratory studies

Bone marrow aspirate and biopsy\*

Complete blood cell count and differential

Coagulation profile

Lactate dehydrogenase

Uric acid

Electrolytes

Liver and renal function tests

Chest radiograph

Serum immunoglobulin

Varicella zoster titer

Human immunodeficiency virus test

Purified protein derivative skin test

Urinalysis

Cultures

Echocardiogram

Cerebrospinal fluid examination<sup>†</sup>

#### **BOX 73-2**

# Prognostic Factors in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

Initial white blood cell count

Age at diagnosis

Sex

Presence of mediastinal mass

Organomegaly and lymphadenopathy

Hemoglobin level

Platelet count

Cytogenetics and ploidy

Immunophenotype

French-American-British morphology

Expression of myeloid antigens on leukemic cells

Serum immunoglobulins

Nutritional status

Rapidity of response

# **Prognostic Factors**

Several clinical and biologic factors determined at diagnosis have been identified and shown to have prognostic significance (Box 73-2). These prognostic factors are used to assign patients to risk strata that tailor the treatment. These factors have been integral in the development of all modern therapeutic trials. Although many of these factors have shown prognostic importance, not all are currently used to determine risk stratification.

The presenting leukocyte counts and age at diagnosis are uniformly accepted as prognostic features. Children with the highest initial WBC count have a poorer prognosis. <sup>31,32</sup> Infants younger than 1 year of age have the worst prognosis, and adolescents also have a poorer event-free survival than younger children, except those younger than age 1 year. <sup>33,34</sup> Children older than 10 often have other poor risk features including T-cell phenotype. <sup>34</sup> Infants with ALL have shown the worst outcome, with an event-free survival of 10% to 20%. <sup>33</sup> Infants also have other poor-risk features, including

high presenting WBC count, presence of CNS leukemia, massive organomegaly, and a poor day 14 response to induction chemotherapy.<sup>33</sup> Infant ALL has unique biologic features, including chromosomal abnormalities that are associated with a worse prognosis. Structural abnormalities of chromosome 11, such as rearrangement of band q23, within the *MLL/ALL1* gene are often present.<sup>35,36</sup> The t(4;11) translocation is commonly seen, and many have leukemia cells that coexpress myeloid markers (CD15).<sup>33,35,37</sup> This finding suggests that infant ALL arises in a multipotent precursor cell. Chromosomal abnormalities in the leukemia cells also have prognostic significance. The presence of the Ph chromosome and of *MLL* rearrangements (even in noninfant patients) is associated with a higher risk of relapse.

Recent studies using genomic profiling have identified a biologically distinct subset of patients with a high risk of relapse. These patients have a gene expression signature similar to patients with BCR-ABL-positive ALL but lack the BCR-ABL translocation.<sup>38</sup>

T-cell immunophenotype and the presence of CNS disease at diagnosis are also considered high-risk features. Early responses to initial therapy are also prognostic. These include the time to achieve remission and the decrease in peripheral blast count after administration of corticosteroids, when longer time to remission or poor response to initial corticosteroid therapy is associated with worse outcomes. Rapid morphologic clearance of blasts in the marrow 7 days to 14 days after the initiation of multiple-agent chemotherapy has been associated with more favorable outcomes.

Nearly all current leukemia protocols include measurements of minimal residual disease at the end of induction chemotherapy. Multiple-parameter flow cytometry and polymerase chain reaction assays of leukemia-specific gene arrangements have been used to assess submicroscopic levels of minimal residual disease soon after the initiation of therapy.<sup>39-42</sup> High levels of minimal residual disease at the end of the first month of therapy and other early time points has been associated with a high risk of subsequent relapse.<sup>43-47</sup>

On most protocols, children with high levels of minimal residual disease at the end of remission induction are now considered to be high or very high risk (regardless of other presenting features) and receive intensified therapy.

As therapy for ALL has become more intensive and the outcomes have improved, many of these factors have lost statistical significance as prognostic factors. In addition, the definitions of high leukocyte counts and age varied among cooperative groups. To allow comparisons of results, the National Cancer Institute held a workshop to develop a uniform set of prognostic factors. The age and WBC count criteria for childhood ALL agreed on at the Cancer Treatment and Evaluation Program/National Cancer Institute Workshop are shown in Table 73-1.

#### **Treatment**

The foregoing prognostic indicators are used to stratify children with ALL into risk groups. The stratification is dependent on prompt, accurate evaluation and sophisticated techniques. To accomplish this, as well as to treat patients with the increased intensity of current therapy, evaluation and treatment is most appropriately carried out in recognized pediatric oncology centers. The treatments for the different risk groups vary in intensity and by institution. However, the framework for all risk groups includes four key elements: remission induction, CNS preventative therapy, consolidation, and maintenance (Figure 73-1).

Induction treatment is designed to achieve complete remission, defined as no evidence of leukemia. Peripheral blood cell

<sup>\*</sup>Bone marrow studies: morphology, cytogenetics, immunophenotype, and cytochemistry.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>†</sup>Therapeutic lumbar puncture performed for diagnosis concurrent with administration of intrathecal chemotherapy.

counts must be within the normal range, and the bone marrow must be of normal cellularity and contain less than 5% lymphoblasts. There should be no evidence of CNS disease on examination of the cerebrospinal fluid, and there must be no extramedullary disease. Remission can be achieved in 85% of children with ALL using vincristine and a glucocorticoid; however, the addition of l-asparaginase or the addition of an anthracycline will improve the remission induction rate

**TABLE 73-1** 

Uniform Age and White Blood Cell Count Criteria for B-Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia Standard and High-Risk Cohorts\*

Risk	Definition	4-Year Event- Free Survival (%)	B-Precursor Patients (%)
Standard	WBC count <50,000/μL Age 1.00-9.99 year	80.3	68
High	WBC count ≥50,000/μL or Age ≥10.00 year	63.9	32

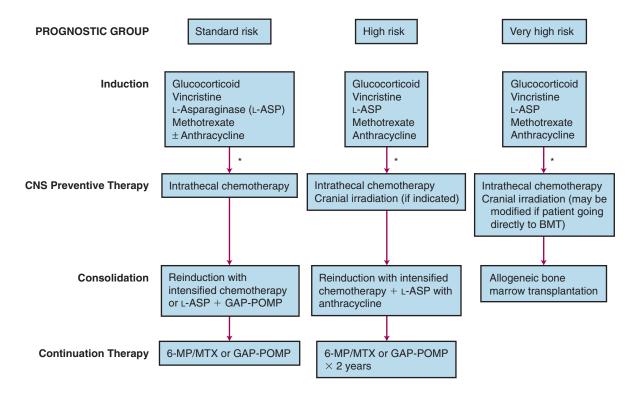
From Smith M, Arthur D, Camitta B, et al: Uniform approach to risk classification and treatment assignment for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. J Clin Oncol 14:20, 1996. Reprinted from the Am Soc Clinl Oncol.

to 95%.49 In general, most current regimens use a three- or four-drug induction phase, including vincristine, a corticosteroid, and L-asparaginase plus or minus an anthracycline.

The prevention of CNS disease is one of the major elements of successful ALL treatment. The approach to CNS prophylaxis has evolved over the decades since it was first incorporated into ALL therapy in the 1970s. Craniospinal irradiation and cranial irradiation plus intrathecal methotrexate reduced the relapse rate in the CNS from 50% to less than 10%.50 To avoid the myelosuppression and the effects on spinal growth, intrathecal methotrexate was substituted for spinal irradiation as part of the standard CNS preventative therapy. Intrathecal therapy has been shown to successfully prevent CNS relapse in patients with standard-risk disease and avoids the neurocognitive sequelae and secondary tumors that can result from cranial irradiation. Intrathecal chemotherapy in conjunction with intensive systemic therapy has also provided adequate CNS prevention for some children with high-risk features.

Children with an increased risk of CNS relapse include those with other high-risk features such as high initial WBC count, T-cell phenotype, very young age, t(4;11), the presence of the Ph chromosome, and lymphomatous presentation. For patients with these features, cranial irradiation (see discussion in this chapter) is generally incorporated into the treatment protocol, although many current protocols are intensifying intrathecal therapy and omitting cranial irradiation for some patients. Children with infant ALL are treated with intensive chemotherapy to avoid the late sequelae of cranial irradiation in this age group. The CNS-directed therapy for patients with CNS-3 is not preventative but therapeutic.

Once complete remission has been achieved, consolidation and maintenance therapy are used to provide continued



\*Confirm remission before moving to next phase

Figure 73-1 Treatment algorithm for acute lymphoblastic leukemia. 6-MP, 6-mercaptopurine; BMT, bone marrow transplant; CNS, central nervous system; MTX, methotrexate. GAP-POMP (GAP refers to the schedule of mercaptopurine administration given on 14 days of each 21-day cycle, thus a 7-day GAP) repeats a 3-week cycle until 2 years of continuous complete remission: vincristine, prednisone, mercaptopurine, methotrexate; high-dose cycle; vincristine, mercaptopurine, high-dose intravenous and intrathecal methotrexate.

<sup>\*</sup>Adopted at the Cancer Treatment and Evaluation Program/National Cancer Institute Workshop

cytoreduction of the leukemic cell burden without permitting the emergence of drug-resistant clones. Components of the consolidation phase vary according to risk group, with more intensive treatments used for patients classified as high or very-high risk. The continuation phase consists of less-intensive, low-dose chemotherapy. Nearly all regimens include weekly methotrexate and daily 6-mercaptopurine during this phase. Some protocols also use intermittent pulses of vincristine and corticosteroid in addition to methotrexate and 6-mercaptopurine.<sup>51</sup> Total duration of therapy is typically 2 years to 3 years. On some regimens, boys receive a longer maintenance phase than girls.

# **Indications for Radiation Therapy**

The role of RT in the treatment of childhood ALL has diminished in recent years. Improvements in the efficacy of chemotherapy administration and a clearer understanding of the prognostic factors have been responsible for this changing role. However, RT remains an important modality in ALL in specific situations. These include prophylactic cranial irradiation in select groups of patients with high-risk disease, therapeutic CNS treatment for patients with meningeal leukemia, treatment of testicular disease, and total-body irradiation for some patients for whom stem-cell transplant is recommended.

In most regimens, CNS prophylaxis for patients at lower risk is achieved with systemic and intrathecal chemotherapy without cranial irradiation. Children with high-risk features are at an increased risk of CNS relapse and, historically, have received prophylactic cranial irradiation. These features include a presenting WBC count of 50,000/μL or greater; those with WBC counts over 100,000/μL are at particularly high risk of CNS relapse. Additional high-risk features that are indications on some treatment protocols for cranial irradiation are T-cell phenotype, Ph chromosome–positive ALL, and the presence of t(4;11). Infants younger than age 12 months with 11q23 abnormalities are at high risk of CNS relapse but because of their young age are usually treated without cranial irradiation, using intensified systemic and intrathecal chemotherapy to treat the CNS. Historically, the standard dose for high-risk ALL cranial prophylaxis had been 1800 cGy; however, published trials from the Berlin-Frankfurt-Munster group used 1200 cGy in patients with CNS-1 disease with good results.<sup>52</sup> The standard dose for prophylactic cranial irradiation in those patients with high-risk disease still treated with irradiation is now 1200 cGy.

Currently, fewer than 20% of children with ALL are treated with prophylactic cranial irradiation. Investigators are continuing to evaluate whether cranial irradiation can be eliminated in a greater proportion of patients, especially in young children in whom the toxicities from irradiation are the most significant. Some protocols have omitted cranial irradiation entirely, using strategies that intensify the use of intrathecal chemotherapy and CNS-penetrant systemic chemotherapy, such as high-dose methotrexate. <sup>53,54</sup> In one such study from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the 5-year cumulative risk of isolated CNS relapse was 2.7% and that of any CNS relapse (isolated or combined with bone marrow) was 3.9%, although the risk of relapse was higher in some patients with high-risk disease subsets. <sup>54</sup>

Children who present with CNS-3 disease at diagnosis, regardless of the other features of their disease, are deemed at high risk and are considered to have meningeal leukemia. The treatment of these patients varies, and some protocols continue to employ craniospinal irradiation or cranial irradiation in addition to intrathecal chemotherapy. Irradiation is not administered until the patient is in remission, including

clearance of the cerebrospinal fluid. After achievement of complete remission, 1800-cGy cranial irradiation has been administered early in the therapy.<sup>52</sup>

Isolated CNS relapse is rare with the current approach to ALL treatment. The treatment depends on the time from first remission as well as the extent of prior CNS therapy. Patients with an isolated CNS relapse occurring 18 months or more after initial diagnosis have an event-free survival of approximately 80% when treated with intensive systemic chemotherapy and cranial or craniospinal irradiation. A dose of 1800 cGy to the cranial field has been shown to be effective in such patients. Patients with earlier CNS relapses, or those with T-cell phenotype or a history of cranial irradiation prior to CNS relapse, may be considered for stem-cell transplant once a second remission is achieved. In that situation the total dose of craniospinal irradiation may need to be modified depending on timing of the transplant.

Cranial nerve palsies can be seen in patients with meningeal leukemia. Urgent RT to the base of the skull initially to reverse the palsy is often given, with full cranial irradiation given at the scheduled time for CNS treatment. Doses between 1000 cGy and 1200 cGy are used. Although the use of higher doses has been reported, no dose response was observed for higher doses.<sup>56</sup>

The technique for cranial irradiation must ensure coverage of the cranial meninges as well as other areas of potential access to the CNS such as the cribriform plate, the posterior retina and posterior globe of the eye, the exit regions of cranial nerves III, IV, V, and VI, and the inferior extent of the temporal meninges. The cribriform plate should be identified by following the anterior clinoids anteriorly and locating the superior orbital plate. The field extends to the C1-C2 interspace unless a clinical field arrangement is used, in which case the field would be brought to the C2-C3 interspace. To ensure adequate dose to the meninges, the entire calvaria is covered and the energy should be 4 MV or 6 MV photons. Custom blocks are used to shield normal tissues. Parallel opposed lateral fields are used. Immobilization is critical to ensure precise treatment and reproducibility and use of immobilization devices is recommended when possible. Sedation may be required for younger patients who are unable to fully cooperate.

#### **Testicular Leukemia**

Testicular involvement that is clinically apparent at diagnosis is infrequent; however, occult disease is found in 25% of boys.<sup>57</sup> Overt involvement is manifest as painless testicular enlargement, which may be unilateral or bilateral. Testicular biopsies during maintenance or at the conclusion of all therapy have been abandoned because the biopsy results did not accurately predict eventual relapse.<sup>13,58,59</sup> Some protocols have used prophylactic bilateral testicular irradiation, although this approach has not been widely used because the current systemic therapy protocols have lessened the rate of testicular relapse and testicular irradiation causes permanent sterility.<sup>60,61</sup>

Testicular relapse occurs in less than 5% of cases in the current era of intensive therapy. 62,63 Both systemic therapy as well as local RT directed at the testes are used to treat testicular relapse. Reinduction therapy is needed as well as CNS-directed treatment. Bilateral testicular irradiation is used to doses of 2400 cGy to 2600 cGy in 200-cGy fractions. 4 The treatment is delivered with the child supine in the frog-leg position with the soles of the feet touching. The penis is taped or secured out of the RT field. A bolus dose may be needed to ensure adequate dose to the testes or electron boost therapy can be used. Radiation is delivered to the entire scrotal contents.

# Late Sequelae

With dramatic improvement in the outcome of children with ALL, the late effects of therapy on the survivors have become increasingly apparent. The late effects are multifactorial and are related to both chemotherapy and RT and vary with each child, based on underlying clinical factors. A multidisciplinary approach is needed because the late sequelae involve many organ systems and vary in severity. The following discussion focuses on those late effects chiefly related to RT.

The CNS sequelae are of particular concern. Neurocognitive functional impairment has been observed in ALL survivors. Lower doses of cranial irradiation, for example, 1200 cGy rather than 1800 cGy in patients with high-risk disease, and the elimination of cranial irradiation from patients with standard-risk disease should help lessen the late sequelae. However, in a prospective randomized trial comparing 1800 cGy with no cranial irradiation, all patients received intrathecal and intravenous methotrexate and the patients who underwent irradiation had no worse neurocognitive effects.65 Children irradiated when younger than 8 years of age and particularly when younger than 5 years of age appear to experience the most severe neurocognitive sequelae. Leukoencephalopathy is a devastating and fortunately uncommon event in the current era. It is characterized by multifocal demyelination. Although this occurs most commonly in patients who have received higher cumulative doses of RT as well as higher cumulative doses of intrathecal and systemic methotrexate (e.g., those with recurrent meningeal leukemia), this severe form of neurotoxicity has been observed in children who received no cranial irradiation. 66,67

Neuroendocrine sequelae involving the hypothalamicpituitary axis have been observed in ALL survivors treated with cranial irradiation. Most commonly seen is growth hormone deficiency, which appears to be dose related in that children treated with 1800 cGy have reduced growth hormone levels compared with healthy controls but not as low levels as those treated with 2400 cGy.<sup>68</sup> However, growth delay and short stature have also been seen in unirradiated ALL survivors, suggesting that the cause is likely to be multifactorial.

The risk of second tumors in ALL survivors is estimated to be between 3% and 12% at 5 years to 24 years after the initial diagnosis. <sup>69,70</sup> Second solid tumors have most commonly occurred in patients treated with cranial irradiation and are within or near the RT field. However, there are reports of ALL patients not irradiated who developed secondary CNS tumors. <sup>71</sup> The most common hematopoietic tumors are AML and myelodysplastic syndrome. <sup>69,70</sup>

Testicular irradiation results in sterility. Some studies have shown elevated follicle-stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone levels, decreased testosterone levels, and delays in sexual maturation, suggesting that the endocrine function of the testes may be adversely affected at doses of 2400 cGy and higher.<sup>72,73</sup> Supplemental or replacement androgens may be required.

#### ACUTE MYELOGENOUS LEUKEMIA

AML comprises a group of hematologic malignancies that arise from the precursors of the myeloid, monocytoid, erythroid, and megakaryocytic cell lineages. AML represents 15% to 25% of childhood leukemia but accounts for over 30% of deaths from leukemia. The classification used in AML is the FAB schema, which defines seven subtypes of AML (M1 to M7), characterized by morphologic, histochemical, immunophenotypic, and cytogenetic features (Table 73-2). An M0 subtype has been used for an acute undifferentiated leukemia.<sup>74</sup>

TABLE 73-2	Morphology of Acute Myelogenous Leukemia: French-American-British (FAB) Classification System
FAB Type	Name
M1	Acute myeloblastic: no maturation
M2	Acute myeloblastic with maturation
M3	Acute promyelocytic: hypergranular type
M3v	Acute promyelocytic: microgranular variant
M4	Acute myelomonocytic
M4Eo	Acute myelomonocytic with eosinophilia
М5а	Acute monocytic
M5b	Acute monocytic with differentiation
M6	Acute erythroleukemia
M7	Acute megakaryoblastic

In 2002 the WHO proposed a new classification system incorporating cytogenetic information correlated with outcome. This was expanded in 2008 with additional cytogenetic abnormalities linked to AML classification. This cytogenetically based classification provides biologic and prognostic information that informs treatment of patients. Children with t(8;21), inv(16), t(15;17), and those with translocations of the MLL gene make up almost half of the cases of AML and are classified as "AML with recurrent cytogenetic abnormalities."

Children with AML present with a broad range of signs and symptoms. Fever is present in one third of patients, owing to the release of pyrogens from leukemic cells or from macrophages and lymphocytes reacting to the proliferating leukemic blasts or from secondary bacterial infections from neutropenia. Pallor, headache, tinnitus, fatigue, and congestive heart failure can be present if anemia is severe. Bleeding from thrombocytopenia or from disseminated intravascular coagulation can occur. Bone pain is a frequent complaint. Hepatosplenomegaly as a result of organ infiltration is present in approximately half of children at diagnosis.

Treatment of AML involves first stabilization of the patient at diagnosis, aggressive supportive care to treat potential complications such disseminated intravascular coagulation, infectious complications, tumor lysis syndrome, and hyperleukostasis. Induction of remission involves multiagent chemotherapy. Induction is followed by postremission consolidation and intensification and CNS prophylaxis. The postremission consolidation consists of varying number of courses of intensified chemotherapy with or without allogeneic stemcell transplantation. Maintenance is not part of AML therapy with the exception of acute promyelocytic leukemia for which maintenance therapy does improve event-free and overall survival. Induction therapy for AML most commonly includes cytarabine coupled with an anthracycline plus or minus additional agents such as etoposide, thioguanine, or dexamethasone.76,77 Treatment of M3 AML, a disease characterized by promyelocytic morphology and the presence of t(15;17), includes all-trans-retinoic acid in addition to cytotoxic

Postremission therapy, particularly with increased dose intensity of cytarabine, resulted in lower relapse rates and longer remission duration. RNS chemoprophylaxis is used for all patients. Children with the highest risk of a CNS relapse are those with M4 or M5 AML or with high presenting peripheral blast counts. CNS relapse is generally followed by bone marrow relapse. With the use of prophylaxis in all patients with AML, the incidence of CNS relapse is 5%. RNSO

<b>TABLE 73-3</b>	Non-Hodgkin's Lymphomas in Children				
Subtype	Proportion of Cases (%)*	Phenotype	Common Site of Primary Tumor	Translocation	
Burkitt's	39	B cell	Abdomen or head/neck	t(8;14)(q24;q32) t(2;8)(p11;q24) t(8;22)(q24;q11)	
Lymphoblastic	28	T cell	Mediastinum or head/neck	t(1;14)(p32;q11) t(11;14)(p13;q11) t(11;14)(p15;q11) t(10;14)(p24;q11) t(7;19)(q35;p13) t(8;14)(q24;q11) t(1;7)(p34;q34)	
Large cell	26	B cell, T cell, indeterminate	Mediastinum, abdomen, head/neck, or skin	t(2;5)(p23;q35)†	

<sup>\*</sup>Other histologies account for approximately 7%.93

Extramedullary disease outside the CNS can also occur, such as the development of chloromas, most commonly in M4 and M5 subtypes. There was no benefit to the use of local RT to treat chloromas, in addition to systemic therapy in children. <sup>81</sup> If a chloroma is causing significant morbidity, such as vision loss or spinal cord compression, RT is indicated.

Because the use of intensified chemotherapy has improved the event-free survival in children with AML, this raised the question as to whether even greater dose intensification, such as with myeloablative therapy and stem-cell rescue, could improve the event-free survival even more. Randomized trials have shown that children with AML who undergo allogeneic stem-cell transplants from human leukocyte antigen-matched siblings have an improved relapse-free survival. 82-88 Postremission consolidation therapy with allogeneic bone marrow transplantation has become the standard of care for children with high-risk AML based on the presence of certain molecular features or a poor response to initial therapy. Total-body irradiation is sometimes used as a part of the myeloablative regimen for bone marrow transplantation.

# NON-HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA

Lymphomas in children comprise the third-most common malignancy of childhood, superseded only by ALL and brain tumors. In children younger than age 15 years, 60% of cases are NHL. If one includes children through age 18, Hodgkin's disease is slightly more frequent. NHL is diagnosed annually in the United States in approximately 500 children. The median age at diagnosis is 10 years; NHL is less frequent in children younger than age 3 years. There is no bimodal age distribution; the frequency increases with increasing age. For unknown reasons, NHL is more common in the white population than in blacks and two to three times more frequent in males than in females. Specific populations at increased risk of developing NHL include children with congenital immunode-ficiency disorders such as Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome, ataxiatelangiectasia, and X-linked lymphoproliferative syndrome.

In contrast to NHL in adults, NHL in children is primarily aggressive, with diffuse tumors and frequently extranodal presentation. There are three main subtypes: Burkitt's, lymphoblastic, and large cell (diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and anaplastic large cell lymphoma)<sup>91</sup> (Table 73-3). The staging system used in childhood NHL is the Murphy/St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital staging system, which incorporates extent of disease and clinical patterns<sup>92</sup> (Table 73-4). Treatment of childhood NHL is based on the stage, immunophenotype, and histology.

TABLE	73-4	Staging of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma in Children		
Stage	Descr	Description		
1		Involvement of a single extranodal site or single anatomic nodal site, excluding the mediastinum or abdomen		
II	Involvement of a single extranodal site with regional nodal involvement  Two or more nodal areas on the same side of the diaphragm  Two extranodal sites with or without regional nodal involvement on the same side of the diaphragm  A primary gastrointestinal tract tumor, usually ileocecal, with or without mesenteric node involvement that is completely resected			
III	Two single extranodal sites on opposite sides of the diaphragm  Two or more nodal groups above and below the diaphragm  All primary intrathoracic tumors  All extensive (unresectable) intraabdominal primary tumors  All paraspinal or epidural tumors			
IV	-	the preceding stages with initial involvement of bone marrow, central nervous system, or both		

Burkitt's lymphoma makes up 39% of childhood NHL and is of mature B-cell immunophenotype. These lymphomas present in the abdomen or in the head and neck. The epidemiology of Burkitt's lymphoma is of great interest because of its major differences in incidence and clinical features based on geography. For example, it is the most-common childhood malignancy in equatorial Africa, yet is rare in Japan.94 In Africa, the endemic subtype occurs and is characterized by younger age at diagnosis and frequent involvement of the jaw, abdomen, orbit, and paraspinal area.94 The sporadic subtype, which occurs in the United States and Western Europe, is characterized by older median age at diagnosis and frequent involvement of the abdomen, nasopharynx, and bone marrow. These tumors are characterized by translocations that result in the juxtaposition of the CMYC gene and an immunoglobulin gene; there are breakpoint differences within these translocations that have also been reported to vary with geography.94 The association of Epstein-Barr virus with Burkitt's lymphoma varies with geography; Epstein-Barr virus is highly associated with the endemic (African) subtype.94

<sup>†</sup>Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) histologic subtype.

treatment of Burkitt's lymphoma cyclophosphamide-based chemotherapy, with the addition of agents including vincristine (Oncovin), prednisone, doxorubicin (Adriamycin), and methotrexate. Children with advancedstage Burkitt's lymphoma have an improved outcome with the addition of cytarabine or high-dose methotrexate. Children with bone marrow or CNS involvement have an improved outcome, with more intensive regimens resulting in an 80% to 90% event-free survival even for patients with advanced-stage disease. 93,95-98 Current trials are examining the benefits of incorporating an anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody (rituximab) into a conventional multiagent chemotherapy regimen.<sup>99</sup>

Lymphoblastic lymphomas make up approximately 29% of childhood NHL. Children with lymphoblastic lymphoma typically present with advanced-stage disease (i.e., mediastinal mass which in some cases is associated with bone marrow involvement); however, some children do present with limitedstage disease. These lymphomas share morphologic, immunophenotypic, and cytogenetic features with ALL. The majority (~90%) are characterized by a T-cell immunophenotype and are designated as precursor T-lymphoblastic leukemia/ lymphoma in the WHO classification system; the remainder have a precursor B-cell immunophenotype. 91 The distinction between ALL and lymphoblastic lymphoma is made arbitrarily on the basis of degree of bone marrow involvement. Those with greater than 25% replacement of the marrow by lymphoblasts are considered to have ALL, whereas those with a lesser degree of involvement are considered to have advanced stage (IV) lymphoblastic lymphoma. Whether there is a biologic distinction between lymphoblastic leukemia and lymphoblastic lymphoma is somewhat controversial; however, there appear to be subtle differences in the molecular biology, cytogenetics, and immunophenotypic markers between these two entities. 92,100,101 The treatment of lymphoblastic lymphoma in children uses multiple-agent chemotherapy comprising drugs similar to those used for T-cell ALL, which include vincristine, prednisone, L-asparaginase, doxorubicin, cytarabine, cyclophosphamide, and high-dose methotrexate. Recent studies have indicated that high-dose methotrexate may not be necessary in some patients if sufficient intrathecal chemotherapy is given. 102,103 The total duration of therapy generally ranges from 2 years to 3 years, although shorter durations have been attempted. With contemporary treatment protocols, between 80% and 85% of patients are long-term event-free survivors. 104-106 Current trials are incorporating minimal residual disease technology into treatment stratification and planning based on results from a recent COG trial.107

Large cell lymphomas represent approximately 27% of childhood lymphomas. Forty to 50 percent are T-cell anaplastic large cell lymphomas (ALCL), CD30+ and often associated with t(2;5)108; 30% to 40% are diffuse large B-cell lymphomas (DLBCL), which include the mediastinal large B-cell lymphomas (MLBCL); and the remainder are nonanaplastic mature T-cell lymphomas. 109 Historically, the treatment of childhood NHL in the United States has been based on histology. However, there has been a shift toward using an immunophenotypedirected approach, which has been the standard practice in Europe for many years. With this approach, children with DLBCL are treated with regimens for children with Burkitt's lymphoma and achieve a comparable outcome. 4 The MLBCLs have a slightly poorer prognosis than the DLBCLs.

Those patients with ALCL are treated with either cyclophosphamide, hydroxydaunomycin (doxorubicin), vincristine (Oncovin), and prednisone (CHOP)-based regimens or regimens derived from Burkitt's lymphoma regimens. 110-113 A randomized comparison of ACOP versus APO (doxorubicin [Adriamycin], vincristine [Oncovin], prednisone with or without cyclophosphamide) showed no significant difference

in outcome. 113,114 The optimal approach for treatment of ALCL in children has not been established. Approximately 70% of children are long-term event-free survivors regardless of approach. 111,112 Single-agent vinblastine has been shown to be active in children with recurrent ALCL. 115 However, when it has been incorporated into frontline multiagent regimens, there has been no improvement in long-term event-free survival. 116 Targeted therapeutic approaches are currently being studied.<sup>117,118</sup>

The role of local RT in the management of NHL in children has been more limited because of the improved outcomes with more effective chemotherapy. In a prospective randomized trial evaluating the need for local RT in early-stage NHL, 119 no benefit was found for the addition of local RT. A second trial, 120 built on the results of the first, confirmed this. Although children with primary lymphoma of bone were not randomized in the first trial and all received local RT, in the second trial RT was not given and there were no local relapses. Based on these results, the current management of localized NHL of bone includes chemotherapy but does not use consolidative local RT. Children with advanced-stage lymphoma do not benefit from involved-field RT.121

Cranial irradiation has been eliminated as a component of CNS prophylaxis in the management of children with NHL. 97,105,106 RT is used for some cases of relapse or refractory disease and as a palliative modality. Children with persistent disease after chemotherapy or who experience relapse are often considered for high-dose chemotherapy protocols with stem-cell rescue if they have chemosensitive disease. 122 Consolidative RT can be considered either before or after transplant in some cases. There are no prospective randomized trials in pediatrics to confirm the benefit of this approach.

Urgent RT is rare, but there are occasions when it is considered. Mediastinal masses in children can cause significant airway compromise or superior vena cava compression. If a tissue diagnosis cannot be established to allow administration of systemic therapy, urgent RT may be considered. It should be noted that if one treats empirically with systemic therapy for the most likely diagnosis, the correct treatment is given in the vast majority of cases.<sup>123</sup> Radiation oncologists are often called to be aware of children with newly diagnosed mediastinal masses. If RT is given, only a few fractions are needed to achieve stabilization and allow appropriate systemic therapy to be initiated once a histologic diagnosis is made.

Encouraging progress has been made in the treatment of childhood leukemias and lymphomas. However, many children continue to succumb to disease despite aggressive therapy and many children experience significant treatmentrelated short- and long-term sequelae. Oncologists and radiation oncologists need to strive for improvements in treatment while minimizing the late effects of therapy. Continued research in the biology of these malignancies coupled with a search for new biologic and clinical prognostic factors will help to achieve this goal.

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