

# Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukaemia and Retinal Vein Thrombosis!

**Hilary Denis Solomons**

P.O. Box 64203, Highlands North, 203, South Africa.

**\*Corresponding Author:** Hilary Denis Solomons, P.O. Box 64203, Highlands North, 203, South Africa.

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## Summary

Acute megakaryoblastic leukaemia is characterised by megakaryoblasts. These patients often present with retinal vein thrombosis!

It is associated by 30% or more blasts in the marrow.

Blasts are megakaryocytic in nature and express specific antigens for megakaryocytes and are platelet peroxidase positive on electron microscopy.

It is associated with GATA 1 and is seen predominantly in Down's syndrome.

Other genes may however be associated with (AMKL; Acute megakaryoblastic leukaemia.)

Another related gene is MKL 1, which is also known as "MAL."

This gene is a cofactor of serum response factor.

## Presentation:

They usually present with pancytopenia; there may be myelofibrosis, hepatomegaly, lymphadenopathy and poor response to chemotherapy.

In young children, leukocytosis and organomegaly are commonly seen.

The prognosis in children is better.

## Diagnosis:

Morphology of AML M7 is characterized by megakaryoblasts on the bone marrow aspirate and trephine biopsy.

Immunophenotype is detected by flow cytometry and immunohistochemistry assay.

Megakaryoblasts have a high nuclear-cytoplasmic ratio and are medium to large-sized cells.

The basophilic cytoplasm may be vacuolated and budding platelets may be seen.

Megakaryoblasts lack myeloperoxidase and stain positively with Sudan Black B.

They are alpha naphthyl butyrate esterase negative, have variable alpha naphthyl acetate esterase activity and have variable PAS staining activity!

The marrow aspirate may be difficult to obtain due to the myelofibrosis.

More precise identification by immunophenotyping or with electron microscopy is often of necessity.

Immunophenotyping using MoAb (monoclonal antibodies) to megakaryocyte restricted antigen (CD41 and CD61) may be diagnostic.

## Prognosis:

Prognosis depends on the cause.

One third of cases is associated with at (1;22) (p13; q13) mutation in children.

These cases have a poor prognosis.

Another third' predominantly Down's cases have a fair prognosis.

The last third, those of a heterogeneous nature have a somewhat poor prognosis!



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