



# Role of FISH in Hematological Cancers

Thomas S.K. Wan PhD,FRCPath,FFSc(RCPA)

Honorary Professor, Department of Pathology & Clinical Biochemistry, Queen Mary Hospital, University of Hong Kong. e-mail: wantsk@hku.hk

## Leukemia diagnosis





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11	15	Ņ	ĸ	ij	I.c	1
1		6.8	8,8	8,8		
X X				12	Y	6,6





## Acute myeloid leukemia



UK MRC AML data. Blood 116: 354-65, 2010

## Limitations of conventional cytogenetic analysis

- requires living cells
- metaphase size
- resolution of chromosome bands
- requires considerable expertise
- labour intensive
- expensive

## **Molecular Cytogenetics:**







## **Fluorescence in-situ hybridization 熒光原位雜交** 荧光原位杂交 การผสมพันธุ์ในแหล่งกำเนิด 형광에 원위치 하이브리드화



--- Use of DNA probes to detect changes in human chromosomes.

## **Direct Fluorescent-Labeled Probe**



## Advantages of FISH analysis

- Genetic abnormality measurable in dividing and non-dividing cells
- Applicable to many specimen types
- Direct correlation with cytologic features and immunophenotype
- Rapid
- Sensitivity & specificity

FISH as an investigative tool in haematological malignancies

- Detection of numerical and structural anomalies in interphase and metaphase cells
- Characterization of marker chromosome
- Detection of cryptic translocation
- Lineage involvement by the neoplastic clone
- Detection of gene amplification
- Disease monitoring after treatment
- Chimerism study post-sex-mismatched BMT

### Detection of chimerism of post bone marrow transplantation patients using centromeric XY FISH probes



## Characterization cell lineage involvement using FISH and cell morphology



Centromeric chromosome 8 probe

Acute megakaryoblastic leukemia (AMKL) F/19m

Karyotype: 48,XX,+8,+21[2]/47,XX,+21c[10]

Ma, Wan et al (1999) Leukemia 13:491-492.

## FISH + cytoplasmic Immunostaining



# Choice of FISH probes for the detection of gene rearrangement:

#### 1. Dual color translocation probes

- identifying translocation with known partners

- dual color signal fusion (S-FISH)
- dual color extra-signal (ES-FISH)
- dual color dual fusion (D-FISH)
- tricolor color dual fusion (TD-FISH)
- 2. Dual color break-apart probes

 identifying translocation with unknown partners

# Commonly used dual color translocation FISH probes for haematological disorders



Dual color single fusion probe

Dual color dual fusion probe

Dual color break apart probe

Dual color extra signal translocation probe

Ma & Wan (2004) Cancer Review: Asia-Pacific 2:131-141.

### **Development of BCR/ABL translocation probes**



Wan et al. (2004) J Hong Kong Inst Med Lab Sci 9:1-12

## Comparison of BCR/ABL translocation probes

Probes	Negative signal pattern	Positive signal pattern	False positive	Sensitivity
Single fusion	2G 20	· 1G 10 10 1F	2% - 10%	<b>5% - 10%</b>
Extra signal	2G 20		0% - 2.5%	< 1%
Dual fusion	2G 20	1G 10 2F	<1%	~0.2%

### **Derivative chromosome 9 deletions in CML:** Interpretation of atypical D-FISH pattern

- 4.3% (2/46) CML cases showed atypical interphase D-FISH pattern with 101G1F
- The presence of *BCR-ABL* gene fusion was documented by S-FISH at diagnostic marrow
- Submicroscopic deletion of *ABL-BCR* gene fusion on der(9) were characterized by metaphase FISH
- Occur at time of the Ph translocation
- Predict for a poor prognosis in CML and may be related to the loss of one or more genes with der(9) chromosome

Derivative chromosome 9 deletions in chronic myeloid leukaemia: interpretation of atypical D-FISH pattern

T S K Wan, S K Ma, W Y Au, L C Chan

J Clin Pathol 2003;56:471-474



#### LSI BCR/ABL + 9q34 Tricolor, Dual Fusion Translocation Probe



**Prof TWan** 

DF: ? 9q-

**TDF: Ph negative cell** 

## Atypical FISH pattern in CML due to cryptic insertion of *BCR* at 9q34



Wan et al (2004) Leukemia 18, 161-162

# Characterization of additional genetic events in childhood ALL with *TEL/AML1* gene fusion: A molecular cytogenetics study

- 18.5% (12/65) childhood ALL harbored *TEL/AML1* fusion transcript i.e., t(12;21)(p13;q22)

- 54.5% (7/12) with additional or secondary genetic changes:
  3 cases showed extra copies of chromosome 21
  1 cases showed amplification of the *AML1* gene
  1 cases showed deletion of the normal *TEL* gene
  1 cases showed duplication of the *TEL/AML1* fusion signal
  1 cases showed loss of chromosomes 12 together with duplication of der(12)t(12;21)(p13;q22)
- Additional or secondary genetic changes including AML1 amplification are commonly encountered in childhood ALL with TEL/AML1 gene fusion
- These genetic changes are expected to play critical roles in disease progression

## *TEL/AML1* dual color extra signal translocation prob







#### Case 1

#### TEL/AML1 fusion, +AML1





#### Case 2

TEL/AML1 fusion





CEP 12 (green) x3, LSI 21q22 (orange) x3



#### Case 4 AML1 amplification



#### Amplification of 21q



#### AML1 amplification



#### Case 5

#### TEL/AML1 fusion x1, AML1 residual x2

TEL/AML1 fusion x1, AML1 residual x1, Loss of normal TEL





WCP12 (green), WCP 21 (orange)





Case 6

#### TEL/AML1 fusion x2



Case 7

#### TEL/AML1 fusion, Normal TEL deletion



**CEP 12** 



#### Pathways for cytogenetic evolution in childhood ALL with TEL/AML1 fusion



## FISH vs Conventional cytogenetics

#### t(15;17) not associate with APL and negative for PML/RARA fusion



Ma, Wan, et al. (2000) Haematologica 85:768-769.

## FISH vs molecular technique Ph +ve CML with BCR-ABL variant transcript

- F/51, BM Feb 2007 showed 33% blasts
- April 2007: Hb 11.1 g/dL, WBC 66.1 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L and Plt 920 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L







#### Wan et al., Chang Gung Medical Journal, in press.



Wan et al., Chang Gung Medical Journal, in press.

# **Caveats of FISH analysis**

- No global view of chromosomal complement
- Requires clinicopathological or prior cytogenetics information
- Issues related to analytical sensitivity and probe specificity
- Susceptibility to artifacts
- Cannot detect minute aberrations (< 20 kb)
- Aneuploidy versus amplification

# Any role for FISH in the post-genomic era?

- Manageable by routine diagnostic laboratories
- Answer to specific clinical questions
- Support the practice of personalized medicine
- Practical advantages
  - Numerical abnormality
  - Multiple fusion partners
  - Breakpoint heterogeneity
- Applicable to many specimen types

