
Refining prognosis of acute myeloid leukemia patients

Estey et al. 1 present interesting data suggesting that the prognosis within each of the cytogenetic subsets of acute myeloid leukemia (AML) needs to be refined. Mandelli et al. 2 in this journal, recently discussed the role of genetic characterization in the therapy of AML, and the investigative efforts needed for the design of tailored treatment for each and every AML patient. They concluded that the prognostic role of genetic lesions, currently identified by karyotyping studies, needs to be validated in large series of AML patients prospectively characterized by advanced molecular/cytogenetic analyses and treated uniformly. In addition, searches for new clinically rele-

vant genetic abnormalities, and diagnostic tools for their rapid identification are urgently needed to identify prognostic categories better. Other studies in this journal have emphasized the same need in AML and myelodysplastic syndromes. 3-8 The final target is, however, to identify the AML gene alterations in order to develop new drugs targeted to the specific lesion in the individual patient.

References