Supplemental Material

Prevalence and clinical expression of germline predisposition to myeloid neoplasms in

adults with marrow hypocellularity

Supplemental Methods

Sample collection and cell separation

Peripheral blood granulocytes and T-lymphocytes were isolated by standard density gradient centrifugation, followed by red blood cell lysis with hypotonic solution and immunomagnetic selection on MiniMACS separation columns using anti-CD15 and anti-CD3 antibody (Miltenyi Biotec, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany), as previously reported.^{1,2} Genomic DNA was extracted by following standard protocols for human tissue. Buccal epithelial cells were isolated from mouthwash samples, and genomic DNA was purified by following standard protocols for human tissue.

Germline mutation analysis

Genomic DNA was analyzed for germline mutations through next generation sequencing, using a capture-based approach. DNA Prep with Enrichment technology (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) was used for library preparation and target enrichment, according to the manufacturer's protocol. A broad range of input DNA (50-500 ng) was tagmented by using bead-linked transposomes (eBLT), and obtained DNA fragment libraries were PCR amplified incorporating two unique, library

specific, pre-paired 10 bp indexes. A pre-enrichment pooling of 12 libraries was performed before to the following steps. A custom panel of 6120 biotinylated probes (80 bp each) was used to capture the 552 genomic regions of interest, belonged to 60 genes reported in peer-reviewed literature as consistently mutated in congenital disorders predisposing to myeloid neoplasm. On the basis of the mutational distribution, the full gene or specific exonic and/or intronic regions were selected for sequencing, for a cumulative target region size of 540 kb. Streptavidin magnetic beads (SMB) were used to capture biotinylated probes, enriching the fragment libraries within the regions of interest. Enriched libraries were PCR amplified, purified with AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, California, USA), and normalized to the same concentration using a fluorescence-based quantification procedure (Qubit dsDNA BR assay kit; Thermo Fisher Scientific, [Massachusetts,](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Waltham&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LSz9U3MCooMTBJU-IAsTOqjE21tLKTrfTzi9IT8zKrEksy8_NQOFYZqYkphaWJRSWpRcWLWNnDE3NKMhJzd7AyAgDThZNCUQAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi9ybnFmZnvAhVNyYUKHf4NCkgQmxMoATAregQIIRAD) USA). The average fragment size of around 350 bp was evaluated using a Fragment Analyzer System and the NGS Fragment Kit (Agilent Technologies, [California,](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Santa+Clara+(California)&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LUz9U3MDTNMbBQ4gAxi8ySK7S0spOt9POL0hPzMqsSSzLz81A4VhmpiSmFpYlFJalFxYtYJYIT80oSFZxzEosSFTScE3My0_KL8jITNXewMgIAPgtw3GEAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjFoZbXmZnvAhUKtRoKHUqXCuoQmxMoATAYegQIHBAD) USA). Pooled libraries were 2x150 paired-end sequenced on a HiSeq2500 sequencer (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Average depth of coverage across the targeted regions was around 500X.

Data analysis was performed using a bioinformatics workflow that starts from standard FASTQ files generated after demultiplexing and performs reads mapping, realignment, variant calling and variant filtering. Sequence reads were initially aligned to the human reference genome (GRCh37/hg19) using the Burrows-Wheeler aligner.³ The Genome Analysis Toolkit

(www.broadinstitute.org/gatk/) was later used to cleanup reads and make alignment data more reliable for the variant calling (GATK data cleanup best practice): SNVs and small INDELs were identified using HaplotypeCaller.⁴ Manual revision of the BAM files was performed on the *SBDS* gene and its pseudogene SBDSP1. Data were delivered in form of Variant Call Format (VCF) file, after filtering variants with coverage <20X and less than 5 supporting reads. The resulting variants were analyzed using the Expert Variant Interpreter (eVai), a web-tool developed by enGenome to interpret genomic variants generated by NGS experiments, according to the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics (ACMG) and the Association for Molecular Pathology (AMP) guidelines and Clinical Genome Resource (ClinGen) disease-associated gene specifications. 5,6 The software initially enriches all variants reported in a VCF files with information obtained from more than 20 omics resources at variant, gene, protein domain and disease level (e.g. public databases as dbSNP, gnomAD, ClinVar, MedGen or functional prediction tools for coding, splicing and noncoding variants as PaPI, SIFT, PolyPhen-2, dbscSNV and DANN). For each variant, eVai combines the annotation information and supporting evidences, and automatically apply ACMG/AMP criteria to pre-classify variants according to their pathogenicity (pathogenic, likely pathogenic, variant of unknown significance, likely benign and benign). All variants were then manually curated before final classification according to the ACMG/AMP guidelines. Manual curation included: review of the literature to identify different pathogenic/likely pathogenic missense change(s) at the same amino acid residue as the variant detected; literature review to

identify functional assays/studies supporting a damaging effect of the variant on protein function; search of protein, conserved domains and functional site databases (UniProt, NCBI-Conserved Domains, PhosphoSitePlus), as well as protein 3D structure database (RCSB PDB), to investigate variant localization in hot spot regions, functional sites/domains, or protein active site; implementation of eight functional prediction tools for coding, splicing and noncoding variants (SIFT, PolyPhen-2, MutationTaster, LRT, Provean, DANN, PaPI, dbscSNV); correlation with hematologic and extra-hematologic patient's phenotype and family history.

Somatic mutation analysis

Genomic DNA was analyzed for somatic mutations through next-generation sequencing, using an amplicon-based approach. TruSight Myeloid Sequencing Panel (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) was used for library preparation, according to the manufacturer's protocol. The probe set targeted 15 full genes and 39 hot spot mutation regions across 568 amplicons of 250 bp in length designed against the human GRCh37/hg19 reference genome, for a total genomic content of 141 kb. The probe pool was hybridized to 250 ng of genomic DNA upstream and downstream of each region of interest. An extension-ligation reaction extended across the selected region followed by a ligation step. The resulting templates were amplified by PCR and two unique library specific indexes were incorporated. The resulting libraries were normalized to the same

concentration using a fluorescence-based quantification procedure (Qubit dsDNA HS assay kit; Thermo Fisher Scientific, [Massachusetts,](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&q=Waltham&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LSz9U3MCooMTBJU-IAsTOqjE21tLKTrfTzi9IT8zKrEksy8_NQOFYZqYkphaWJRSWpRcWLWNnDE3NKMhJzd7AyAgDThZNCUQAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi9ybnFmZnvAhVNyYUKHf4NCkgQmxMoATAregQIIRAD) USA), enabling pooling of libraries. Pooled DNA libraries were loaded onto the cBot System for cluster generation followed by 2x250 paired-end sequencing on a HiSeq2500 sequencer (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA).

Data analysis was performed using a bioinformatics workflow that starts from standard FASTQ files generated after demultiplexing and performs reads mapping, realignment, variant calling and variant filtering. Sequence reads were initially aligned to the human reference genome (GRCh37/hg19) using the Burrows-Wheeler aligner.³ The Genome Analysis Toolkit [\(www.broadinstitute.org/gatk/\)](http://www.broadinstitute.org/gatk/) was then used to cleanup reads and make alignment data more reliable for the variant calling (GATK data cleanup best practice): SNVs and small INDELs were identified using Mutect2 and Scalpel, respectively.^{7,8} Data were delivered as a VCF file, after filtering variants with coverage <30X and less than 10 supporting reads. Functionally annotated variants were then filtered based on the information retrieved from public databases of polymorphisms, i.e. dbSNP, 1000 Genomes, and ESP6500. The remaining variants were considered as candidate somatic mutations and were finally tagged as oncogenic, based on the information derived from peer-reviewed literature, the Catalog of Somatic Mutations in Cancer (COSMIC; [http://cancer.sanger.ac.uk/cancergenome/projects/cosmic\)](http://cancer.sanger.ac.uk/cancergenome/projects/cosmic), and *in silico* variant effect predictors i.e. SIFT, PolyPhen-2, Provean, Mutation Taster, as well as the inclusion of the mutated aminoacid

in a conserved/functional protein domain.

Statistical analysis

Numerical variables were summarized by median and range; categorical variable were described with count and relative frequency (%) of subjects in each category. Comparison of numerical variables between groups was carried out using a nonparametric approach (Mann-Whitney test or Kruskall Wallis ANOVA). Comparison of the distribution of categorical variables in different groups was performed with either the Fisher exact test or the χ2 test. Uni- and multivariable regression analyses and ordered logistic regression were carried out to evaluate the mutually adjusted associations of genetic and clinical variables.

Survival analyses were performed with the Kaplan-Meier method. Multivariate survival analyses were performed by means of Cox proportional hazards regression. The cumulative incidence (CI) of disease progression was estimated with a competing risk approach, considering death for any cause as a competing event. The comparison of CI curves was carried out using the Pepe-Mori test, whereas the effect of quantitative covariates was estimated by applying the Fine-Gray regression model.^{9,10}

The association between gene mutations and diagnosis was described in terms of sensitivity, specificity, positive predictive value and negative predictive value.

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Statistical analyses were performed using Stata SE 16.1 (StataCorp LP, College Station, TX,

[http://www.stata.com\)](http://www.stata.com/) and R 3.6.2 [\(https://www.r-project.org\)](https://www.r-project.org/) software.

Results

Clinical phenotype of patients with genotype consistent with congenital syndrome or disorder

Fanconi anemia

Fanconi Anemia (FA) genes (*FANCA, FANCG*) were mutated in four of 27 patients with causative genotype (15%). Three patients received a diagnosis of MDS, and one had a provisional diagnosis of ICUS. The median age at the time of diagnosis was 43 years. Three patients showed physical abnormalities attributable to FA, and two had diverse solid tumors (head and neck squamous cell carcinoma and gynecologic cancers). One patients had a family history of hematologic disorders and solid tumors. The majority of these patients (3 of 4) showed cytogenetic abnormalities including del(17p) and complex karyotype. One patient carried somatic mutations in ASXL1, EZH2, STAG2 and TET2. In addition, two patients harboured a single heterozygous mutation in *FANCD1(BRCA2*) which was suggested as a predisposing factor to hematological malignancies.11,12 These patients received a provisional diagnosis of ICUS and one of them showed a hypopituitarism.

GATA2-deficiency syndrome

Germline *GATA2* mutations were observed in three of 27 patients with causative and likely causative genotype (11%). Two of them received a diagnosis of myeloid neoplasm (MDS and AML), while one received a diagnosis of ICUS. The median age at diagnosis was 24 and two patients had a family history of hematologic or solid tumor. Acquired oncogenic alterations in NPM1 and STAG2 were observed in two patients.

RASopathy syndromes

RASopathy genes (NF1, PTPN11) were mutated in two patients of 27 patients with causative genotype (7.4%). One patient showed a clinical phenotype within the spectrum of manifestations associated with Noonan syndrome (short stature, amenorrhea, idiopathic liver fibrosis), in the absence of a related family history. The patient received a provisional diagnosis of ICUS, consistent with the absence of concurrent somatic mutations. The second patient showed neurological manifestations, history of cardiac malformation and gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST) consistent with a diagnosis of neurofibromatosis-1. The hematological phenotype was characterized by of absolute and relative monocytosis to configure CMML-0 diagnosis (bone marrow blasts \leq 5%), associated with loos of Y chromosome (60% of metaphases),¹⁴ and somatic mutations in RAF1 and TET2.

Severe congenital neutropenia

Germline mutations in Severe Congenital Neutropenia (SCN) genes (*ELANE, CSF3R*) occurred in two of 27 patients with causative and likely causative genotype (7.4%). One patient received a diagnosis of MDS, and one patient of ICUS. None of them showed a relevant extra-hematological phenotype, while one had a family history for hematologic disorders. In addition, one patient was heterozygous mutated for *CSF3R*, which was recently suggested as a predisposing factor to hematological malignancies.¹³ This patient received a diagnosed of MDS/MPN with somatic gene mutations in JAK2, U2AF1 and ZRSR2, and had a prostate cancer.

Diamond-Blackfan anemia

Germline mutations in Diamond-Blackfan Anemia (DBA) genes (GATA1, RPS26) were detected in two of 27 patients with causative genotype (7.4%). Both patients were provisionally classified as ICUS without somatic gene mutations. Interestingly, PV2292 had a sister previously diagnosed with primary myelofibrosis, who was then found heterozygous carrier of the same *GATA1* c.-19-2A>G variant detected in her brother.

RUNX1-related familial platelet disorder

A germline frameshift mutation in *RUNX1* was detected in a patient consistent with a diagnosis of RUNX1-related familial platelet disorder (FPD). The patient was referred for absolute monocytosis, and rapidly progressed to acute leukemia. The analysis of the pedigree then revealed the presence of the same mutation in one sibling, who received a diagnosis of chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML-1, WHO 2017), subsequently progressing to AML.

Shwachman-Diamond syndrome

A compound heterozygosity was detected in a patient for the two most common mutations in Shwachman-Diamond syndrome-associated gene $SBDS$, i.e. p.(K62*) and c.258+2T>C. This proband showed a moderate-severe neutropenia associated with short stature, without hematologic or genetic sign of clonal evolution. Interestingly, the proband's brother was found to have a mild isolated neutropenia and to carry both $SBDS$ p.(K62*) and c.258+2T>C variants.

SAMD9/SAMD9L-associated predisposition

SAMD9 and SAMD9L mutations have been described in MIRAGE syndrome and Ataxia Pancytopenia syndrome.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Recently, Nagata et al. reported a cohort of adult MDS/BMF carried well characterized LOF SAMD9/SAMD9L germline mutations, associated with an increased cell proliferation, not subject to somatic reversion and accompanied by additional somatic second

hits resulting in a late onset of adult myeloid neoplasm.¹⁸ Differently to infant GOF variants which are predominantly localized at SAMD9/SAMD9L central and C-terminal regions, most adult LOF mutations clustered at N-terminal, suggesting a different mechanism of action (Supplemental Figure 8).

We identified eight patients (2%) harboring germline VUS in SAMD9 or SAMD9L (Supplemental Table 4). Almost all the detected SAMD9/SAMD9L germline variants localized at N-terminal and central region of both genes (Supplemental Figure 8).¹⁸ $SAMD9$ p. (Q862E) and p. (E866Q) were observed in *cis* in a patient, in combination with somatic $RUNX1$ p.(R207Q) and del(7q), while SAMD9L p.(T832fs) was identified in two cases.

Three patients carrying SAMD9/SAMD9L germline variants showed markedly reduced ageadjusted BM cellularity, with mild or absent dysplasia; in two cases, these findings were suggestive of AA, while in one the concurrent detection of del(7q) led to a diagnosis of hypoplastic MDS. One patient received a diagnosis of MDS with excess blasts associated with somatic mutations of ASXL1, DNMT3A and IDH2, one patient was diagnosed with MDS/MPN with somatic mutation of JAK2, while one patient was diagnosed with AML with somatic ASXL1, NRAS and WT1 mutations. Finally, two patients received a provisional diagnosis of ICUS.

DHX34-associated predisposition

DHX34 has been recently reported as a novel locus involved in inherited forms of myeloid neoplasm. So far, four heterozygous LOF mutations have been reported in patients with hypoplastic MDS/AML and monosomy 7 with an autosomal dominant inheritance pattern.¹⁹ Germline VUS in *DHX34* were detected in 13 patients (3.2%) (Supplemental Figure 9; Supplemental Table 4). Five of them received a diagnosis of myeloid neoplasm, while the remaining was diagnosed with ICUS, CCUS or AA. In two cases a concomitant renal disease possibly related to germline mutations of DHX34 was documented. In our cohort we identified 11 new missense variants and the two new truncating variants $DHX34$ p.(E627^{*}) and p.(H1086fs). Supplemental Table 1. Core panel of genes sequenced for germline variants in the study

cohort.

*All regions reported included extra 5' and 3' flanking regions of 12 nucleotides

Supplemental Table 2. Core panel of genes sequenced for somatic mutations in the study

cohort.

Supplemental Table 3. (Continued)

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F, female; M, male; VAF, variant allele frequency; NA, not available; Het, heterozygous; Hom, homozygous; Hem, hemizygous; AD, autosomal dominant; AR, autosomal recessive; XLR, X-linked recessive; SCN, severe congenital neutropenia; SDS, Shwachman-Diamond syndrome; FA, Fanconi anemia; DBA, Diamond-Blackfan anemia; NF, neurofibromatosis; NS, Noonan syndrome; FPD, familial platelet disorder; P/LP, pathogenic/likely pathogenic; VUS, variant of unknown significance; WT, wild-type; GIST, gastrointestinal stromal tumor; Hem, hematopoietic.

For DDX41 germline variants classification the pathogenic moderate criterion PM2 was applied to variants with a Genome Aggregation Database (gnomAD) population frequency less than the two most frequent known pathogenic variants p.(M1I) and p.(D140fs) (both with gnomAD frequency of 0.008%).²⁰ For *DDX41* the pathogenic moderate criterion PM3 was used in a modified manner to account for the known mechanism of DDX41 somatic second hit in affected individuals. This criterion was applied to the germline variant when a second somatic pathogenic variant was also present in an affected patient in our study. 20,21

[†]DDX41 variants recently reported as pathogenic/likely pathogenic by Makishima *et al.* Blood 2022, and Makishima *et al.* Blood 2023.^{22,23}

#FANCA p.(V372fs) variant was detected in a healthy son with VAF 0.43. GATA1 c.-19-2A>G variant was detected in an affected sibling with VAF 0.50. RUNX1 p.(L56fs) variant was detected in an affected sibling with VAF 0.54. SBDS p.(K62*) and c.258+2T>C variants were both detected in an affected sibling with VAF 0.48 and 0.40, respectively.

§Submitted to ClinVar by our Lab.

Supplemental Table 4. List of germline variants of unknown significance (VUS) detected in the study cohort.

Supplemental Table 4. (Continued)

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F, female; M, male; Het, heterozygous; Hom, homozygous; Hem, hemizygous; AD, autosomal dominant; AR, autosomal recessive; XLR, X-linked recessive; NS, Noonan syndrome; SCN, severe congenital neutropenia; TBD, telomere biology disorder; SDS, Shwachman-Diamond syndrome; IBMFS, inherited bone marrow failure syndrome; FA, Fanconi anemia; DBA, Diamond-Blackfan anemia; RUSAT, radioulnar synostosis with amegakaryocytic thrombocytopenia; CAMT, congenital amegakaryocytic thrombocytopenia; NF, neurofibromatosis; LFS, Li-Fraumeni syndrome; VUS, variant of unknown significance; P, pathogenic; LP, likely pathogenic; ICUS, idiopathic cytopenia of undetermined significance; MDS-EB, myelodysplastic syndrome with excess blasts; MDS-MLD, myelodysplastic syndrome with multilineage dysplasia; AA, aplastic anemia; MDS-SLD, myelodysplastic syndrome with single lineage dysplasia; MDS/MPN, myelodysplastic syndrome/myeloproliferative neoplasm; MDS/MPN-U,

myelodysplastic syndrome/myeloproliferative neoplasm unclassifiable; MDS-5q, myelodysplastic syndrome with deletion of chromosome 5q; AML, acute myeloid leukemia; MDS, myelodysplastic syndrome.

All variants showed a variant allele frequency (VAF) of 0.4 or above in both myeloid (peripheral blood granulocytes) and control germline tissue (T-lymphocytes or buccal epithelial cells). The germline origin of SAMD9/SAMD9L variants was confirmed in genomic DNA samples from buccal cells in mouthwash.

For DDX41 germline variants classification the pathogenic moderate criterion PM3 was used in a modified manner to account for the known mechanism of DDX41 somatic second hit in affected individuals. This criterion was applied to the germline variant when a second somatic pathogenic variant was also present in an affected patient in our study.^{20,21}

†VUSs affected genes associated with autosomal dominant or compound heterozygous predisposition to myeloid neoplasms presenting several evidences suggestive of a pathogenic effect: 1) total population variant frequency < 0.001 in gnomAD (v2.1.1), since a minor allele frequency cut-off of 0.001 is recommended for AD Mendelian disease variant discovery;²⁴ 2) a greater number of damaging compared to benign in silico functional predictions among the SIFT, PolyPhen-2, MutationTaster, LRT, Provean, DANN and PaPI functional prediction algorithms, or damaging dbscSNV prediction for splicing variants; 3) absence of ACMG/AMP benign criteria 4) suggestive patient's hematologic/extra-hematologic phenotype and/or suggestive family history of hematologic disorder/solid cancer and/or evidences collected from scientific literature.

[‡]SAMD9 p.(Q862E) and p.(E866Q) variants were observed in *cis* in patient PV2370.

Supplemental Figure 1. Germline mutation landscape of the cohort included in the study. Red bars represent pathogenic and likely pathogenic variants (P/LP), while gray bars denote variant of unknown significance (VUS).

Supplemental Figure 2. Schematic domain structure of DDX41 (NM_016222.4) and distribution of germline variants. Mutations reported in the literature are shown above schematic protein representation, while mutations detected in the present study are shown below protein representation (Pathogenic/Likely Pathogenic [P/LP] variants [red], Variants of Unknown Significance [VUS] [black]).

Supplemental Figure 3. Overall survival of adult patients with hypocellular bone marrow according to the presence or absence of germline mutations identified as causative of a congenital syndrome or disorder (HR=1.32, P=.59) (navy line: absence of germline predisposition; maroon line: presence of germline predisposition).

Supplemental Figure 4. Event-free survival of adult patients with hypocellular bone marrow according to the presence or absence of germline mutations identified as causative of a congenital syndrome or disorder (HR=2.18, P=.041) (navy line: absence of germline predisposition; maroon line: presence of germline predisposition).

Supplemental Figure 5. Cumulative incidence of progression into AML estimated with a competing risk approach in patients with a diagnosis of myeloid neoplasm according to the presence or absence of germline mutations identified as causative of a congenital syndrome or disorder (HR=3.92, P=.008) (navy line: absence of germline predisposition; maroon line: presence of germline predisposition).

Supplemental Figure 6 Age distribution according to the underlying germline mutation in patients carriers of a unique heterozygous mutation in genes associated with autosomal recessive disorders (orange dots) and in those with congenital syndrome or disorder resulting from combined heterozygosity/homozygosity (red dots) (median age is indicated with a dashed line) (SDS, Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome; FA, Fanconi Anemia; SCN, Severe Congenital Neutropenia).

Supplemental Figure 7. Odds ratios for clinical phenotype (moderate to severe cytopenia and pancytopenia, myeloid neoplasm [MN] and high risk [HR]-MN) of the status of carrier of germline heterozygous mutation in genes associated with autosomal recessive disorders predisposing to myeloid neoplasm.

Supplemental Figure 8. Schematic domains structure of SAMD9 (NM_017654.4) and SAMD9L (NM_152703.5), and distribution of germline variants. Mutations reported in the literature are shown above schematic protein representation; boxed variants have been described in adult patients with MDS/BMF, predominantly clustering at N-terminal regions. Mutations detected in the present study are shown below protein representation and almost all localize at N-terminal and central regions of both genes (Pathogenic/Likely Pathogenic [P/LP] variants [red], Variants of Unknown Significance [VUS] [black]).

Supplemental Figure 9. Schematic domain structure of DHX34 (NM_014681.6) and distribution of germline variants. Mutations reported in the literature are shown above schematic protein representation. Mutations detected in the present study are shown below protein representation. (Pathogenic/Likely Pathogenic [P/LP] variants [red], Variants of Unknown Significance [VUS] [black]).

Supplemental Figure 10. Odds ratios from multinomial regression models of demographic, clinical and family history variables for germline predisposition in adult patients with hypocellular bone marrow.

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