Supplementary information to:

Sustained fetal hematopoiesis contributes to juvenile death in leukemia: evidence from a dual-age-specific mouse model

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Supplemental materials and methods

Study design and mice

Founder mice bearing *PtenfloxP/floxP* (*Ptenfl/fl,* B6.129S4-*Ptentm1 Hwu*/J*), Nf1Fcr/+* (B6.129S6*-Nf1tm1Frc/J*)*, Nf1floxP/floxP* (*Nf1fl/fl*, B6.129 [Cg]-*Nf1tm1 Par*/J), and *Mx1-Cre* (B6.Cg-Tg [*Mx1-Cre*]1Cgn/J) were purchased from The Jackson Laboratory. We produced the experimental mice with desired genotypes by crossbreeding as previously reported (Supplemental figure 1). ¹ *Pten* deletion and *Nf1* LOH were induced by intraperitoneal injection of 30µL of polyinosinic-polycytidylic acid (*pIpC*) at a concentration of 1µg/µL in normal saline (InvivoGen), on postnatal day 8 and 10 (hereafter referred collectively as PND8, supplemental Figure 1A). Mouse-tails were clipped at age PND15 and genotyping was performed following instructions provided by the vendor. Animals were included once they were enrolled when they had genotype-matched littermates. No mice were excluded unless their death was caused by accidents, such as wounds because of fighting or cage flooding. The experimental procedures were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Histological analysis

Mice were euthanized at an age of 17-19 days for juvenile groups or 3-4 months for adult groups. Femurs, tibias, spleen, liver, lung, and intestine/colon were collected and fixed in 10% buffered formalin (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.). Paraffin-embedded tissue sections were prepared and stained with hematoxylin and eosin stain (HE) by the UAMS Experimental Pathology Core Lab. Images were acquired with an Aperio CS2 scanner, and analyzed by ImageScope (Leica Biosystems).

Hematopoietic cell profiling

Peripheral blood (PB) was collected from the retro-orbital venous sinus. Twenty µL aliquots were analyzed for complete blood counts (CBC) by a Vet Abc Hematological Analyzer (scil Animal Care Co.). White blood cell differentials were manually counted from blood smears stained with StainRITE[®] May-Grünwald-Giemsa (MGG, Polysciences, Inc.). Bone marrow (BM) cells were collected by flushing the femurs and tibias with Ca^{++} - and Mg^{++} -free phosphate buffered saline (PBS) containing 1% fetal calf serum (FCS, Hyclone Laboratories). Single cells suspensions were prepared by gently passing the cells through a $FALCON^{\circledast}$ cellstrainer with 35µm pore size (Corning Incorporated). Single spleen cells were collected by crushing one third of the spleen tissue with a pestle in PBS-1% FCS, and filtering through a cell strainer with 70µm pore size (BD Biosciences). Single cells from BM were centrifuged on slides with Cytospin® 3 cell preparation system (Shandon Scientific Ltd.) and stained with MGG.

Flow cytometric analysis

Single cell suspensions were prepared from BM or spleen, and 100µl of PB after red cell lysis with lysis buffer (0.15 M NH₄Cl, 10mM KHCO₃, 0.1mM EDTA, pH 7.4). 2 The nucleated cells were washed twice in PBS-1% BSA-1mM EDTA. Cells $(0.5x10^6$ /test) were blocked with anti-CD16/CD32 antibodies before staining with specific antibodies (Supplemental Table 1). Data were acquired by Accuri C6 or LSRII with FACSDiva (BD Biosciences) and analyzed by FlowJo software V10.1.5 (Tree Star, Inc.).

Isolation of bone marrow lineage-negative hematopoietic cells (Lin− cells), HSCs and LT-HSCs

BM mononuclear cells (MNCs) were isolated from BM nucleated cells by using density gradient centrifugation with Histopaque®-1083 (Sigma). Lineagenegative hematopoietic cells (Lin[−] , including Gr1, CD3e, B220, and Ter119) were purified by magnetic-activated cell sorting (MACS) using Dynabeads Biotin Binder (Invitrogen) following the manufacturer's instructions. LT-HSCs (Lin-Sca1⁺cKit⁺CD48⁻CD150⁺CD34⁻CD135⁻) were further sorted by an Aria II cell sorter (BD Biosciences) as described previously. 3 Information for antibodies are available in Supplemental Table 1. Data were analyzed by FlowJo software V10.1.5.

Colony-forming unit-granulocyte-macrophage (CFU-GM) assay

CFU-GM assays were performed with a modified protocol as previously described.⁴ Briefly, unfractionated BM nucleated cells (WBM) were cultured overnight at a density of $0.8x10^6$ /mL in RPMI-1640 medium (Fisher Scientific Inc.) with 10% FCS, 2ng/mL of recombinant mouse GM-CSF (rmGM-GSF) and interleukin-3 (rmIL-3) (R & D Systems). Suspended cells were collected and washed once in PBS, then starved in RPMI-1640 with 0.5% BSA for 4 hours. Triplicate 1-ml semi-solid cultures with $10⁵/mL$ MNCs were seeded in 35-mm plates in 0.3% agar and McCoys' 5A medium (Sigma Chemical Co.) supplemented with nutrients and 15% fetal bovine serum. rmGM-CSF or rmIL-3 was added at the time when the cultures were initiated. After 7 days of incubation in 5% $CO₂$ at 37°C, CFU-GM colonies were enumerated with a colony defined as a minimum of 40 cells.

Competitive bone marrow transplantation (BMT)

Competitive BMT was performed as previously reported. ¹ Briefly, adult C57BL/6 recipient mice with CD45.1⁺ background at age 6-8 weeks (Jackson Laboratory) were lethally irradiated with a single-dose of 9.5Gy delivered by a Mark I 137 Ce γ−irradiator with a rotating platform (JL Shepherd and Associates, Glendale, CA). WBM cells were collected from juvenile diseased donor mice with *Pten*Δ*/*Δ*Nf1LOH* and littermates or adult donors with *Pten⁺*/Mf1^{LOH} when they were moribund. Age-matched WBM cells from wild-type (WT) controls ($2x10⁵$) or diseased mice (0.2-1x10⁶) with CD45.2⁺ background were mixed with 2x10⁵ rescue cells from WT CD45.1 $^+$ mice, respectively. Donor cells were suspended in 120 μ L of PBS-5% mouse serum and injected into the retro-orbital venous sinus of irradiated recipient mice at 6 hours post-irradiation. Transplanted recipient mice were maintained with regular mouse chow and sterile water without additives. Four weeks (wks) after BMT, peripheral blood (PB) was collected from recipient mice serially at 4-week intervals for complete blood count (CBC) and flow cytometry analysis (supplemental Figure 8A). Recipient mice were collected and processed for final evaluation at 10-18 wks post-transplant for donor-derived hematopoiesis as previously reported.¹

Serial single-cell transplantations

In primary single LT-HSC transplants, single LT-HSC from donor mice was freshly sorted into each well of a 96-well plate, in which $2x10⁵$ rescue cells from BM of WT CD45.1⁺ mice were prepared with 120uL of PBS-5% mouse serum, and then injected into the retro-orbital venous sinus of irradiated recipient mice at 6 hours post-irradiation as described in Competitive BMT. For secondary and tertiary single LT-HSC transplants, donor-derived single LT-HSC with CD45.2⁺ was sorted from primary or secondary recipient mice 16 weeks post primary or secondary transplants, respectively (supplemental Figure 11). Transplanted recipient mice were maintained as described in Competitive BMT. Blood, BM, and spleens from recipient mice were collected and evaluated as described in Competitive BMT.

Blood reconstitution analysis

Peripheral blood was collected from retro-orbital venous sinus of BMT recipients into EDTA-coated Eppendorf tubes (Fisher Scientific). Twenty µL aliquots were analyzed for white blood count (WBC) and 100µL was used for analyses of donor-derived progenies by flow cytometry. CD45.2 positivity was used as a

marker for donor-derived cells. In single-HSC transplants, recipient mice were considered to be reconstituted by donor LT-HSC when donor-derived myeloid (CD45.2⁺CD11b⁺) and lymphoid lineage (sum of CD45.2⁺B220⁺ and CD45.2⁺CD3e⁺) was >0.1% of WBC in recipient mice.

Cell lysate preparation and western blot

Whole BM cells were collected from femurs/tibias and cultured overnight at a density of 0.8x10⁶/ml in RPMI-1640 medium (Fisher Scientific Inc.) with 10% FCS, 2ng/ml of rmGM-CSF and rmIL-3. After being washed in PBS once, cells were starved in RPMI-1640 with 0.5% BSA for 4 hours, then stimulated for 30 minutes in RPMI-1640 with 0.5% BSA and 10pM of rmGM-CSF before being lysed in a density of 2x10⁷/mL in 2x Laemmli sample buffer (Bio-Rad Laboratory). Samples were stored in aliquots in -80°C for further analysis. Western blots were performed as previously reported.^{4,5} Details for antibodies are listed in Supplemental Table 2.

RNA-seq sample processing and NGS

BM Lin⁻ cells were prepared by MACS from WT and JMML-diseased littermate mice at age PND17, and were lysed immediately in DNA/RNA lysis buffer. Total RNA was isolated using the Quick-DNA/RNA MiniPrep Plus Kit (Zymo Research, catalog number D7003) following manufacturer recommendation with on-column DNase I treatment. The Qubit Broad-Range RNA Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog number Q10211) was used to quantify preps and the Fragment Analyzer Standard-Sensitivity RNA Analysis Kit (Agilent, catalog number DNF-471-0500) was used to assess RNA integrity.

RNA-seq samples were prepared using the TruSeq Stranded Total RNA Library Prep Gold kit (Illumina, catalog number 20020599) according to manufacturer recommendation. Starting with 250ng of total RNA, ribosomal RNA was depleted, followed by fragmentation, cDNA synthesis, adapter-ligation of IDT for Illumina – TruSeq RNA UD Indexes (catalog number 20022371), and purification with AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, catalog number A63881). Libraries were assessed using the Fragment Analyzer high-sensitivity NGS

fragment gel kit (Agilent, catalog number DNF-474-0500), the Qubit 1X dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, catalog number Q33231), and the KAPA Universal Library Quantification Kit (Roche, catalog number KK4824). Libraries were then denatured and diluted with 1% PhiX beginning with a 3nM pool of libraries following the standard ExAmp protocol and clustered on a HiSeq 3000/4000 PE flow cell. Paired-end sequencing was performed on an Illumina HiSeq 3000 with a 150-cycle SBS kit at 2x75 to yield an average of approximately 129 million mapped reads per sample.

Raw data are available at

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE137152.

RNA-seq data pipeline analysis

RNA-seq samples were first demultiplexed and FastQ files were created from BCL files using bcl2fastq2 v2.18.0.12. 6 FastQC v0.11.4⁷ was used to assess the quality of FastQ files. STAR $v2.5.3a^8$ was used to align each sample's paired-end reads to the Ensembl Mus Musculus reference genome build GRCm38 (using STAR's "2-pass" method). Quality control and assessment of resulting BAM files were performed using QualiMap v2.2.1 9 and RNA-SeQC v1.1.8. 10 Picard v2.0.1 11 was used to add read group information. Aligned files were also processed using Sambamba $v0.6.5^{12}$ to mark duplicates and sort reads.

Each sample's BAM file was initially processed using StringTie $v1.3.3b^{13}$ and Ensembl gene annotations to guide transcriptome reconstruction. The StringTie option to output "Ballgown-ready" files was enabled.

RNA-seq secondary and tertiary analyses

Using R v3.5.0,¹⁴ Ballgown-ready files were imported into DESeq2 v1.22.2¹⁵ (using tximport v1.10.1¹⁶) for gene-level exploratory/differential expression analysis. Before performing gene-level exploratory data analyses on r-log transformed data using DESeq2, genes were filtered for exclusion purposes, and removed if the sum of the raw counts for that gene across all samples was less than or equal 1, per guidelines from Love, et al.¹⁷

Regarding exploratory data analysis (EDA), the following R library packages and functions were used to generate the plots in Supplemental Figure13. All

RNA-seq sample data were r-log transformed. The all-pairs sample comparison displayed in Supplemental Figure 13A utilized an extension to the R package 'ggplot2' called GGally v1.4.0,¹⁸ the Euclidian sample distance heatmap, and hierarchical clustering (Supplemental Figure 13B) used pheatmap v1.0.12,¹⁹ along with Euclidean distances and principal components analysis (PCA). The DESeq2 function plotPCA along with ggplot2 $v3.2.0^{20}$ is shown in supplemental Figure 13C, and the hierarchical clustering with heatmap of the top 1000 most variable genes was performed with heatmap.2 (Supplemental Figure 13D), which is the default hierarchical clustering function of gplots v3.0.1.1. 21

Differential analysis with DESeq2 had no pre-filtering steps. An adjusted *p*value (q-value) of 0.1 was used as the significance cut off for optimizing the builtin independent filtering performed by DESeq2. In addition, the null-hypothesis tested was set to the default (i.e., the log2 fold change among conditions was zero). Data from this analysis is provided in Supplemental Table 3 "DESeq2 Targets".

To perform Gene Ontology (GO), aka *Biological Processes* subset enrichment/repression analysis, the R library package gProfileR v0.6.7 22 was used. Results are displayed in Figure 6B. Genes that were found significantly overexpressed in the JMML-diseased samples (i.e., had a log2 fold change ≥ 1 and a q-value < 0.1) were submitted to the gProfileR package, using the "strong" hierarchical filtering option. Further, genes that were found to be significantly under-expressed in the JMML-diseased samples (i.e., had a log 2 fold change ≤ -1 and a q-value < 0.1) were submitted in the same manner. The two datasets returned from gProfiler were filtered to include terms with a p-value < 0.5, and then concatenated for further analysis. For each GO term a list of overlapping Ensembl Gene IDs were returned. Additionally for each GO term, the normalized mean count across all genes for a given sample was calculated. Finally, as shown in Figure 6B, the normalized mean counts and GO terms were hierarchically clustered using the heatmap.2 function from the gplots library. Supplemental Table 4 "GO HeatMap Terms & GeneIDs" contains the GO terms along with their corresponding gene targets.

The following procedures were performed in order to analyze the heatmap/hierarchical clustering for Figure 6C, regarding comparison of log2 fold changes of differentially expressed genes found in this study with the data published by Manesia et al²³ (Supplemental Table 5). First, differential analysis was performed on this study's data, using the same *p*-value threshold (p-value < 0.05), q-value threshold (q-value < 0.05), and a log2 fold change threshold (abs[log2FC] ≥ 1) as reported by Manesia et al;²³ second, only genes that were found differentially expressed (given the above thresholds) in both studies and whose log2 fold changes were in the same direction were retained; and finally, the heatmap was generated in R using heatmap.2.

Differentially expressed genes were further analyzed using the Ingenuity Pathway Analysis (IPA).²⁴ Pathway analysis utilizing cancer canonical signaling pathways for PI3K/AKT, ERK/MAPK, mTOR, and GM-CSF, which were performed using the DESeq2 data set (Supplemental Figure 14**)**. In all cases, JMML vs WT were compared via $log₂$ fold change. Regarding coloring conventions, red corresponds to up-regulation or overexpression of JMML vs WT, green represents down-regulation or under expression, and grey corresponds to neither up- or down-regulated. The intensity of the color corresponds to the degree of up or down regulation.

Statistical calculation

Differences between groups were evaluated using the nonpararametric Wilcoxon rank sum test or mixed model analysis of variance, which accounted for clustering of animals within litters. A log transformation was applied when data were skewed and to address increasing variability with higher values. For the survival studies, Kaplan-Meier estimates were computed for each group; groups were compared using the log-rank test. Exact 95% binomial confidence intervals were calculated. Data generated from CBC and flow cytometry were expressed as mean \pm SE. P-values less than 0.05 (p <0.05) were considered as statistically significant. Outliers were identified via ROUT analysis (Q=0.5%). Analyses were conducted using SAS 9.3.

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Breeding schema

Figure S1. Breeding Schema. Ptenfl/fl - PtenfloxP/floxP; Nf1+/---- Nf1Fcr/+; Nf1fl/fl --- Nf1floxP/floxP

$S₂$ **Genotypes from Mouse Tails**

Figure S2: Representative images from genotyping of mice. Mouse tails were clipped at an age of 2 weeks.

Figure S3. Representative images for genotype analysis by PCR on tissues post deletion inducing. Tissues were collected at age PND18, demonstrating that Pten (a) and Nf1 (b) were deleted in PB, spleens, and livers in mice with Mx1-Cre⁺.

Figure S4. (a) Photographs of spleens and livers from representative littermate mice at an age PND18. (b) Photographs of spleens and livers from representative CMML-diseased mice with Pten $^{+/A}$; Nf1^{LOH} and age-matched WT littermate at an age 3 months. In addition of hepatosplenomegaly, CMML-diseased mice showed bleeding/obstruction of intestine/colon (G/I) due to infiltration of monocyte/macrophage.

S₄a

Figure S5: Representative morphological analysis by HE stained tissue sections of formalin-fixed organ tissues from CMML-diseased mice with Pten^{+/A}Nf1^{LOH} and WT littermates at age 3 months. Cytospins from BM show increased granulocytes/monocytes. Substantial infiltrations with granulocytes/monocytes were found in lung, liver, and spleen. Granulocyte/monocyte infiltration involved both red and white pulps of the spleen, which was accompanied by decreased lymphoid tissues. The lungs show nodular infiltration (indicated by an arrow). Granulocyte/monocyte infiltration was observed in the sinuses of the liver (indicated by arrows). Bleeding/obstruction in colon/intestine were due to infiltration of monocyte/macrophage. Images were acquired by a Nikon Eclipse N-V with a 100x lens (BM cytospins) and an Aperio CS2 scanner.

Figure S6: Blood profiles from CMML-diseased mice with Pten^{+/A}Nf1^{LOH} and WT littermates at age older than 3 months when diseased mice were moribund. Complete blood counts (CBCs) were performed with a Vet Abc Hematological analyzer. Differentials were manually counted from blood smears stained with May-Grünwald-Giemsa (MGG). WBC-White blood cell counts, PLTplatelets, RBC-red blood cells, HGB-hemoglobin. Mon-monocytes, Gran-granulocytes, Lymph-lymphocytes. Data are presented as mean \pm SE, N=7/each group, p<0.001.

S6

Figure S7: Flow cytometry analysis data from CMML-diseased mice with Pten^{+/A}Nf1LOH and WT littermates at age older than 3 moths when diseased mice were moribund. Data are presented as mean \pm SE, *** p<0.001.

S7

Figure S8. (a) Schema of competitive bone marrow transplantation (BMT). Peripheral blood (PB) and spleen were collected at 12-16th week post-BMT. Engraftments were analyzed by flow cytometry. (b) Blood engraftment data. Flow cytometry analyses of PB show the engrafted donor-derived progeny with CD45.2+ in recipients transplanted from juvenile JMML-diseased and littermate donors or 3-month-old donors with Pten t / $\Delta Nf1^{LOH}$. Data are presented as mean \pm SE, * p< 0.05; ** p<0.01.

Figure S10. Flow cytometry analysis of spleens from recipient mice transplanted with juvenile donor mice with Pten Δ/Δ and germline mutant Nf1^{+/-}. Representative data demonstrate that juvenile donor BM cells with $Pten\Delta/\Delta$ derive significantly more MZ and fewer Fo B-cells. MZ-donor-derived splenic marginal zone B-cells representing fetal origin of HSCs; Fo-donor-derived follicular B-cells are predominant B-cells in adults.

S11b

Lin⁻ (Gr1, CD3e, B220, and Ter119 depleted)

Figure S11. (a) Schema for serial single-HSC transplantation. (b) Representative FACS gating strategy for sorting single LT-HSC. Data show representative sorting for LT-HSCs from BM of a primary (1°) transplanted recipient (CD45.1⁺) transplanted with JMML-diseased mice with Pten^{Δ/Δ} Nf1^{LOH} (CD45.2⁺).

Figure S12. Representative flow cytometry data from spleens of recipients of 1° single-LT-HSC transplants.

S13c

Figure S13. Exploratory data analysis (EDA) using DESeq2. (a) All-pairs sample comparisons using r-log transformation (JMMLdiseased mice: N348-0F, N409-0F, N393-2M; WT mice: N393-0M, N411-4M, N412-0M). (b) Euclidean sample distances heatmap and hierarchical clustering using r-log transformation; (c) Principal component analysis using r-log transformation. (d) Hierarchical clustering/heatmap of the top 1000 most variable genes using the r-log transformation.

Figure S14: Pathway analysis to compare JMML with WT utilizing cancer canonical signaling pathways for PI3K/AKT (a), ERK/MAPK (b), mTOR (c), and GM-CSF (d), which were performed using the DESeq2 data set. In all cases, JMML vs WT were compared via log, fold change. Regarding coloring conventions, red corresponds to up-regulation or overexpression of JMML vs WT, green represents down-regulation or under expression, and grey corresponds to neither up- or down-regulated. The intensity of the color corresponds to the degree of up or down regulation. Red circles indicate that MAPK pathway was consistently up-regulated in all 4 analyzed pathways.

Supplemental Table 1: Antibodies for FACS

Supplemental Table 2: Antibodies for western blots

