Supplemental Methods

Patient sampling

The index patient was referred to The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (Manchester, UK) upon diagnosis of BPDCN. Full informed consent was provided to donate blood, bone marrow, germline and skin biopsy samples to the Manchester Cancer Research Centre Haematological Malignancies Biobank, instituted with the approval of the South Manchester Research Ethics committee and the Biobank's scientific sub-committee. Consent was provided for publication of sequencing data, clinical information and images.

Sample preparation

Bone marrow aspirate samples underwent immediate density gradient centrifugation on Lymphoprep to separate the mononuclear cell fraction. This was divided and half processed fresh (same day) for FACS sorting; the remainder was cryopreserved in liquid nitrogen for long-term storage as previously described¹. Skin biopsy was deposited immediately into saline, kept at 4°C overnight, and genomic DNA extracted the following day.

FACS sorting

BM samples from diagnosis and post azacitidine underwent FACS sorting to enrich the desired subpopulations. Flow cytometry antibodies used were (all mouse anti-human): CD14-Pacific Blue (cat #558121; clone M5E2; BD Pharmingen); CD56-FITC (#555518; clone B159; BD Pharmingen); CD34-PerCP (#345803; clone 8G12; BD Biosciences); CD4- PE (#12-0043; clone RM4-4; eBioscience); CD123-APC (#306012; clone 6H6; BioLegend). Sorts were performed on a BD FACSAria™ II (BD Biosciences, San Jose, CA, USA) instrument. Purity checks were performed where cell numbers permitted. Representative FACS plots depicting the sorting and gating strategy are provided in Supplemental Fig. 2.

Whole exome sequencing

Genomic DNA was extracted using a QIAamp DNA Mini kit (Qiagen, Manchester UK) according to manufacturer instructions. In total six samples were prepared for sequencing: (1) Germline (buccal swab); (2) HSPC-BM-1; (3) CMML-BM-1; (4) BPDCN-BM-1; (5) BPDCN-SK-1; (6) BPDCN-BM-2. Sequencing libraries were manually prepared using the Ion

AmpliSeq Exome RDY kit, according to manufacturer's protocol (ThermoFisher, Paisley, UK). Libraries quantitated by qPCR using the Ion Library TaqMan[®] Quantitation Kit (#4468802; ThermoFisher) according to manufacturer's protocol. Libraries were diluted to 100 pM and loaded onto Ion 540 chips (one per sample) before sequencing on an Ion GeneStudio S5 instrument (ThermoFisher).

Each somatic exome was sequenced to minimum 200x read depth (Supplemental Table 1). Germline and BPDCN-SK-1 samples were sequenced twice (separate chips; separate runs) and the subsequent BAM files merged into a single sample for each, to ensure sufficient coverage depth, for downstream analyses. Initial data processing was automated using the on board Torrent Suite software. Generated BAM files were uploaded to the Ion Reporter package for further analysis. Somatic mutations and copy number variants (CNVs) were identified and annotated using the Ion Reporter Tumor-Normal pipeline (v5.12) and AmpliSeq Exome Tumor Normal v1 Filter Chain, customised to exclude variants with germline coverage <10X or ≥3% variant reads in germline (allowing for low-level contamination by leukocyte DNA in buccal swab). Variants were manually inspected and excluded if located at amplicon margins, within homopolymer repeats, or otherwise considered artefactual. To robustly determine the distribution and relative VAFs across samples, pairwise comparison of each somatic exome, in all combinations, was performed using the same analytical pipeline. All high confidence somatic variants identified in ≥1 sample were manually inspected across other samples to exclude low-level presence below filtering thresholds. Pathogenicity of confirmed variants was evaluated using Varsome², which aggregates computational predictions from 11 different tools. SciClone³ and ClonEvol⁴ were used to cluster all copy neutral somatic SNVs with depth >50x and thereby elaborate clonal architecture.

Screening for other BPDCN/CMML cases

A literature search was performed to collate and review all published instances of BPDCN and CMML co-occurrence. To supplement this, databases were searched at participating institutions for all documented BPDCN cases: The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (Manchester, UK); MD Anderson Cancer Center (Houston, TX, USA); Mayo Clinic (Rochester, MN, USA); Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (New York City, NY, USA); Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center (Miami, FL, USA); Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service (Leeds, UK); and the Human Dendritic Cell Laboratory (Newcastle, UK). Clinical case records were reviewed to identify BPDCN cases with other documented

haematological malignancy diagnoses, and associated demographic, clinical and molecular information.

Supplemental Figures

Supplemental Figure 1. A. BPDCN skin lesions in our patient, with violaceous lesions spread extensively across the trunk and lower limbs. **B.** Dermal infiltration by BPDCN in our patient's diagnostic skin biopsy, on H+E (left/middle) and CD123 (right) staining. **C.** Bone marrow trephine histopathology from disease progression after three cycles of azacitidine, showing heavy infiltration by BPDCN. **D.** BPDCN blast morphology from bone marrow aspirate at disease progression after three cycles of azacitidine (same timepoint as C).

Supplemental Figure 2. Indicative flow sorting strategy employed to separate bone marrow subpopulations for whole exome sequencing from the initial presentation timepoint (**A**) and after three cycles of azacitidine (**B**). The cell populations sorted for genomic DNA extraction and whole exome sequencing are indicated in red.

Supplemental Figure 3. Visualization of the composition, sample distribution and variant allele frequencies of constituent mutations for the nine discrete mutation clusters identified by SciClone and modeled by ClonEvol. Shown for each indicated sample are: (left) "Cluster" plots illustrating all identified mutations across the study, arranged by defined cluster, with their respective VAFs within that sample; and (right) "Sphere" plots, as a means to visualize the dominant clonal subpopulations per 100 representative cells for each sample (i.e. illustrating the admixture and approximate percentage of cells belonging to each clone in that sample).

Supplemental Figure 4. A. Whole genome view indicating location and distribution of copy number variants across the five sequenced somatic exomes. Y-axis indicates derived ploidy level; blue lines indicate regions of copy gain; red lines indicate regions of copy loss. The deletion spanning *ETV6* is magnified in the inset, confirming *ETV6* loss exclusively in the three BPDCN samples. **B.** Segment on chromosome 12p listing all genes within the region deleted across the BPDCN samples. Along with *ETV6* (marked in red), all genes with documented roles with links to biology/function of dendritic cells and/or oncogenesis are highlighted in blue.

Supplemental Figure 5. A. Karyogram from bone marrow at disease progression post three cycles azacitidine, confirming the indicated abnormalities (including abn12p including deletion of *ETV6*) on an abnormal tetraploid background. An unidentified marker chromosome is displayed in the inset. **B**. Fluorescence in-situ hybridization using an *ETV6* break-apart probe, showing a single unrearranged copy of *ETV6* in exemplar cells. While all metaphase preparations were near tetraploid (in which monoallelic *ETV6* loss would be expected to result in 2 *ETV6* copies indistinguishable from the normal diploid state by interphase FISH), 59/100 interphase cells displayed a single unrearranged *ETV6* pattern. It was not possible to establish conclusively whether these represented near-diploid cells with single copy *ETV6* loss, or near-tetraploid cells with an addition 3rd *ETV6* deletion; a neartetraploid metaphase was observed with only a single *ETV6* signal, indicating the latter as most likely.

Supplemental Figure 6. Frequency of *TET2* mutations comparing the cohort of BPDCN + CMML cases identified in this study (Supplemental Table 3) against six published cohorts of unselected BPDCN patients sequenced for *TET2* mutations (labelled by first author name)⁵⁻ 10. *TET2* mutated patients are shaded black, stacked with *TET2* wild-type patients shaded grey; proportion of *TET2* mutant cases for each cohort is indicated above each bar. p value is derived by Fisher's exact test comparing the current cohort versus the combined unselected BPDCN cases.

Supplemental Figure 7. Hierarchical differentiation tree showing *MED12* expression across normal hematopoiesis as highest in plasmacytoid dendritic cells. Derived from the DMAP dataset (n=211; source accession $GSE24759$ ¹¹; plot taken from BloodSpot¹² (http://servers.binf.ku.dk/bloodspot/); accessed 14 November 2020.

Supplemental Figure 8. Sanger sequencing validation of the *MED12* p.Gly44Ser mutation site in genomic DNA from the presentation skin biopsy specimen in the index case (upper) and an exemplar MED12 wild-type patient (lower).

Supplemental Table 1. Selected Quality Control metrics for the six samples subjected to whole exome sequencing (IonTorrent AmpliSeq Exome) in this study.

Supplemental Table 2. All somatic variants identified by whole exome sequencing across the five (non-germline) samples from the patient in this study. Samples in which the mutation was present, whether the variant has been documented in COSMIC, pathogenicity prediction according to Varsome, and Cluster number (from those variants passing coverage threshold for SciCLone/ClonEvol analysis) are provided. Genomic coordinates related to reference genome hg19; SNV: single nucleotide variant; Indel: insertion/deletion; MNV: multiple nucleotide variant.

See MS Excel file

Supplemental Table 3. Cohort of published and unpublished cases of concomitant BPDCN and CMML with selected clinical, cytogenetic and molecular metadata. #: unpublished case; ?: unknown; nd: not done; ns: not stated; BM: bone marrow; LN: lymph node; Bx: biopsyT: targeted sequencing; WES: whole exome sequencing; D: diagnosis.

Supplemental References

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