

**Wissenschaftliches Symposium  
Myeloproliferative Neoplasien  
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# **Hochmolekulare Risikomarker bei MPN – Implementierung in den klinischen Alltag ?**

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# Offenlegung Interessenskonflikte

## Konstanze Döhner



1. Anstellungsverhältnis oder Führungsposition: nein
2. Beratungs- bzw. Gutachtertätigkeit: [Novartis](#), [Janssen](#), [Celgene](#), [Baxalta](#)
3. Besitz von Geschäftsanteilen, Aktien oder Fonds: nein
4. Patent, Urheberrecht, Verkaufslizenz: nein
5. Honorare: [Novartis](#), [Janssen](#), [Celgene](#), [Baxalta](#)
6. Finanzierung wissenschaftlicher Untersuchungen: nein
7. Andere finanzielle Beziehungen: nein
8. Immaterielle Interessenkonflikte: nein

# The 2016 Revision to the World Health Organization Classification of Myeloid Neoplasms

Daniel A. Arber, et al. Blood 2016 127:2391-2405

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- Chronic myelogenous leukemia, *BCR-ABL1* positive (CML)
- Chronic neutrophilic leukemia (CNL)
- **Polycythaemia vera (PV)**
- **Essential thrombocythaemia (ET)**
- **Preprimary Myelofibrosis (prePMF)**
- **Overt primary Myelofibrosis**
- Chronic eosinophilic leukemia, not otherwise specified (CEL-NOS)
- Myeloproliferative neoplasm, unclassifiable (MPN-U)

# Driver Mutations in MPN

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## **Driver mutations:**

- implicated in the pathogenesis of MPN
- hyperproliferation of hemtapoetic cells > growth advantage
- functional relevant (e.g. cell lines, mouse models)
- required for maintenance of the disease

### ***JAK2 V617F, CALR, MPL***

- mainly restricted to MPN
  - essential for the myeloproliferative phenotype
- All three driver mutations abnormally activate the cytokine receptor/JAK2 pathway and their downstream effectors (STATs)

# Non-Driver Mutations in MPN

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## Non-driver mutations:

- somatic mutations that do not primarily act on proliferation
- can modify and enhance effects of the driver mutation
- belong to different functional categories:
  - epigenetic regulators (TET2, DNMT3A, IDH1/2, EZH2, ASXL1)
  - signaling molecules (NF1, NRAS, KRAS, LNK, CBL, FLT3)
  - splicing complex (SF3B1, SRSF2, U2AF1,)
  - transcription factors (TP53, NFE2, CUX1, IKZF1, ETV6, RUNX1)
- not restricted to MPN, even more frequent in MDS
- modify differentiation and contribute to myelodysplastic features
- contribute to disease progression and leukemic transformation
- allowing the identification of high-risk patients

# Non-Driver-Mutations in MPN: Prognostic Impact

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- **TET2**: mutated in 12% of MPN (21/181 JAK2pos; 3/17 JAK2neg.); present in hematopoietic stem cells, can precede JAK2 V617F  
*Delhommeau FN et al., N Engl J Med. 2009;360(22):2289-301*
- **DNMT3A**: mutated in 10% of MPN (12/115), most frequent in sAML and MF; co-occurrence with mutations in JAK2, IDH1/2, and ASXL1  
*Stegels et al., Blood. 2010;115(10):2089-96*
- **ASXL1**: mutated in 3/10, prePMF, association with survival  
*Carbuccia et al., Blood. 2010;115(10):2089-96*
- **EZH2**: mutated in 4/30; mostly homozygous mutations; association with worse outcome  
*Ernst T et al., Nat. Genet. 2010;42(8):722-6*
- **IDH1/2**: mutated in 4.2% of PMF and 21.6% of blast-phase MPN; predicts worse survival in blast-phase MPN  
*Tefferi A et al., Leukemia. 2010;24(7):1302-9*

**Mutations in epigenetic modifiers**

# Non-Driver-Mutations in MPN

Gene	Protein function	Frequency	Consequences
<b>ASXL1</b>	Chromatin binding protein; associated with PRC1 and 2	25% PMF 1-3% ET/PV	Initiation, <b>rapid progression</b>
<b>TET2</b>	demethylation; oxidation of 5mC into 5hmC	10-20% MPN (ET, PV and PMF)	Initiation
<b>DNMT3A</b>	DNA methylation	5-10% MPN (ET, PV and PMF)	Initiation
<b>SRSF2</b>	Serine/arginin-rich pre- RNA splicing factor	<2% ET, 10-15% PMF	Initiation? <b>progression</b>
<b>U2AF1</b>	RNA splicing factor	10-15% PMF	Phenotypic change (anemia)
<b>IDH1/IDH2</b>	Neomorphic enzyme, generation of 2HG > blocking a-ketoglutarate-dependent enzymes	1-3% PMF, each	Initiation, <b>progression</b>
<b>EZH2</b>	H3K27 methyltransferase	5-10% PMF	Initiation, <b>progression</b>
<b>TP53/RUNX1</b>	Transcription factor	<5%/<3% each; 20%/10% sAML each	<b>Progression to leukemia</b>

# High Molecular Risk Markers in PMF

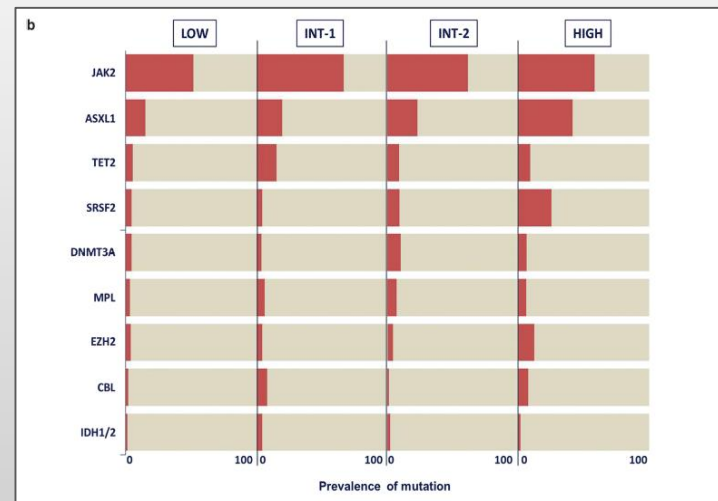
Vannucchi AM, et al. Leukemia. 2013;27(9):1861-9

- In total 879 PMF patients from two cohorts (European n=483, Mayo Clinic n=396) were studied
- Evaluation of the individual and combinatorial prognostic relevance of somatic mutations in *ASXL1*, *SRSF2*, *EZH2*, *TET2*, *DNMT3A*, *CBL*, *IDH1/2*, *MPL* and *JAK2*
- Validation of the findings from European cohort in Mayo Clinic cohort

## Mutation frequency n=483 (%)

<i>JAK2</i>	59.2
<i>ASXL1</i>	21.7
<i>TET2</i>	9.7
<i>SRSF2</i>	8.5
<i>DNMT3A</i>	5.7
<i>MPL</i>	5.2
<i>EZH2</i>	5.1
<i>CBL</i>	4.4
<i>IDH1/2</i>	2.6

## IPSS: LOW INT-1 INT-2 HIGH





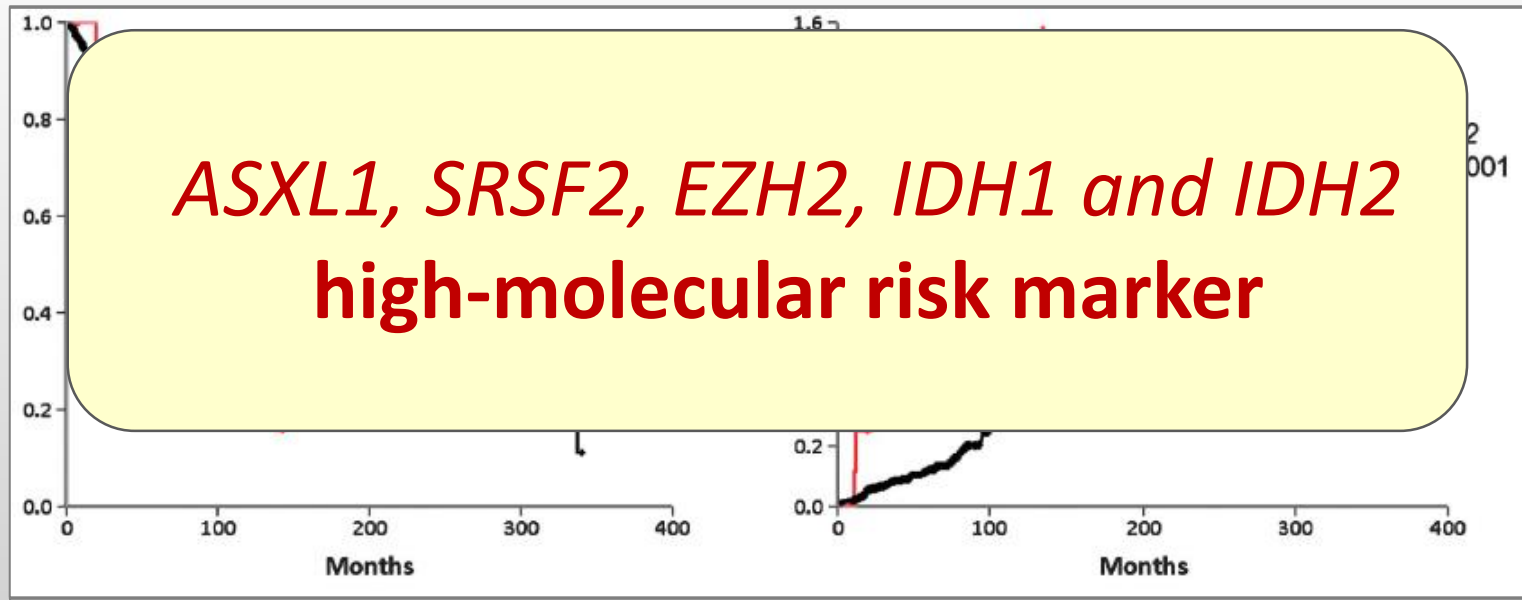
# High Molecular Risk Markers in PMF

Vannucchi AM, et al. Leukemia. 2013;27(9):1861-9

- *ASXL1*, *SRSF2*, *EZH2*: inter-independently associated with significant shortened survival in univariate and multivariable analysis
- *ASXL1*, *IDH1/2*, *EZH2*, *SRSF2*: associated with adverse leukemia-free survival in univariate analysis; in multivariable analysis *ASXL1*, *IDH1/2*, and *SRSF2*, but not *EZH2* remained significant

Overall Survival

Transformation to Leukemia

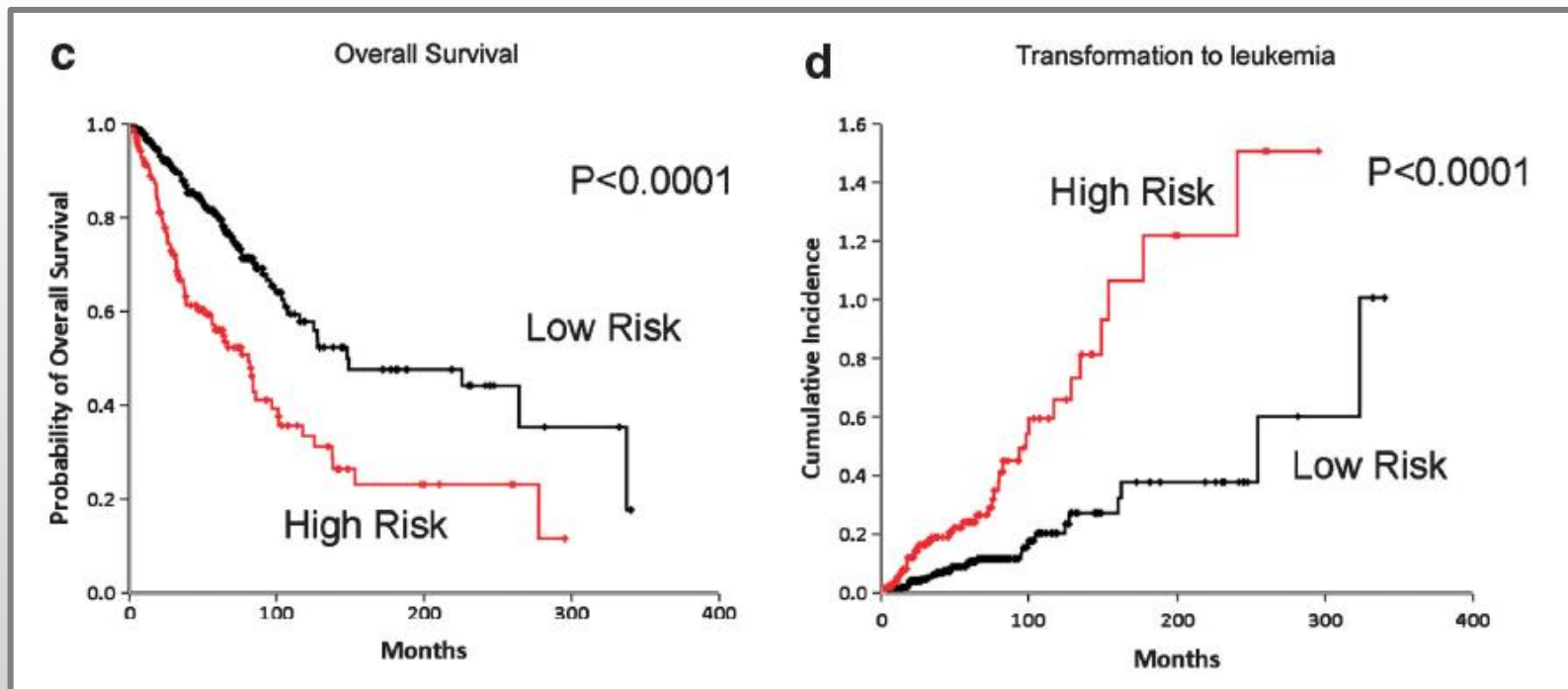


# High Molecular Risk Markers in PMF

Vannucchi AM, et al. Leukemia. 2013;27(9):1861-9

## *ASXL1, SRSF2, EZH2, IDH1 and IDH2*

- High risk: mutated in at least one of the five HMR genes
- Low risk: no HMR mutation
- Multivariable analysis for survival: independent prognostic value of the mutationally risk groups



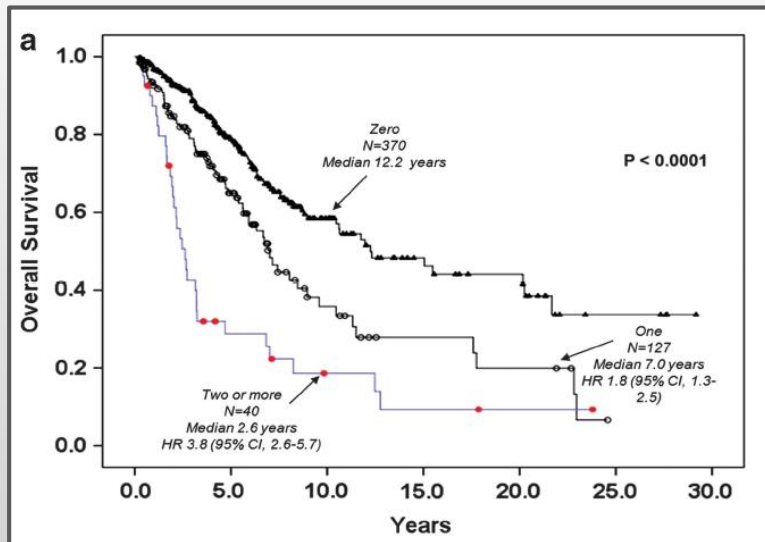
# High Molecular Risk Markers in PMF

## - The „number“ is prognostically relevant -

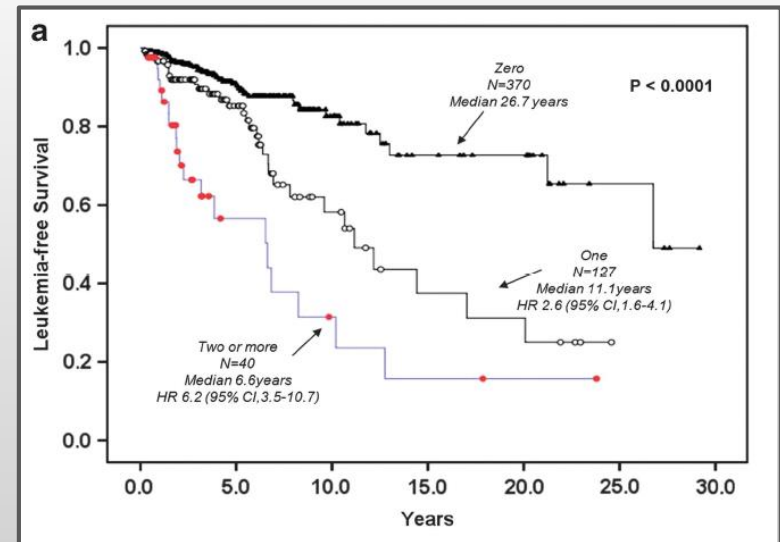
Guglielmelli P et al. Leukemia. 2014; 28:1804–1810

- A total of 797 PMF patients were recruited from Europe (n=537) and the Mayo Clinic (n=260)
- 167 (31%) patients of the Europe cohort had HMR; 127 (23.6%) had one and 40 (7.4%) had two or more HMR mutations
- The presence of  $\geq 2$  HMR mutations predicted the worst survival (median 2.6 years) and shortened leukemia-free survival

### Overall Survival



### Transformation to Leukemia



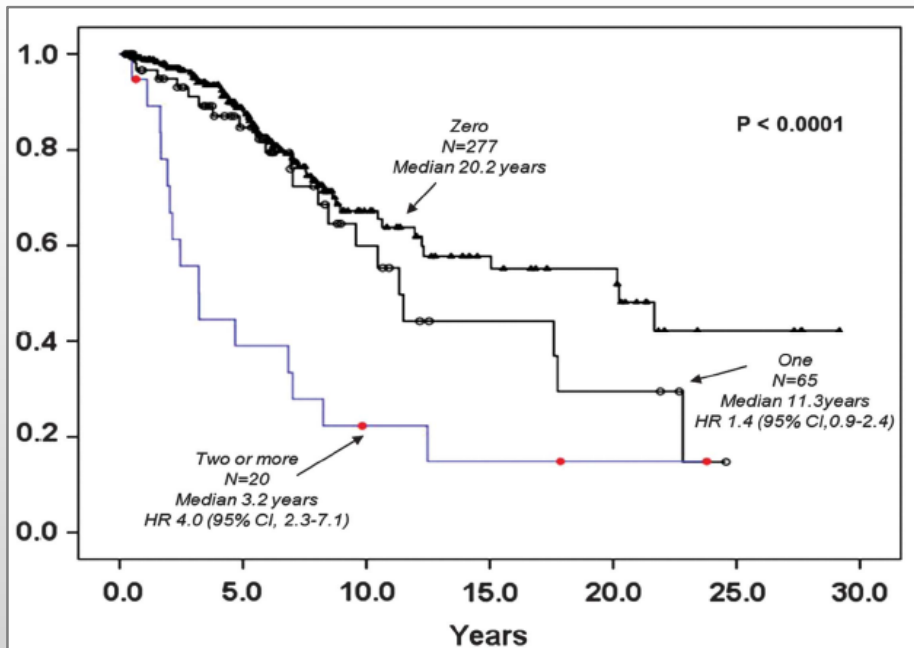
# High Molecular Risk Markers in PMF

## - The „number“ is prognostically relevant -

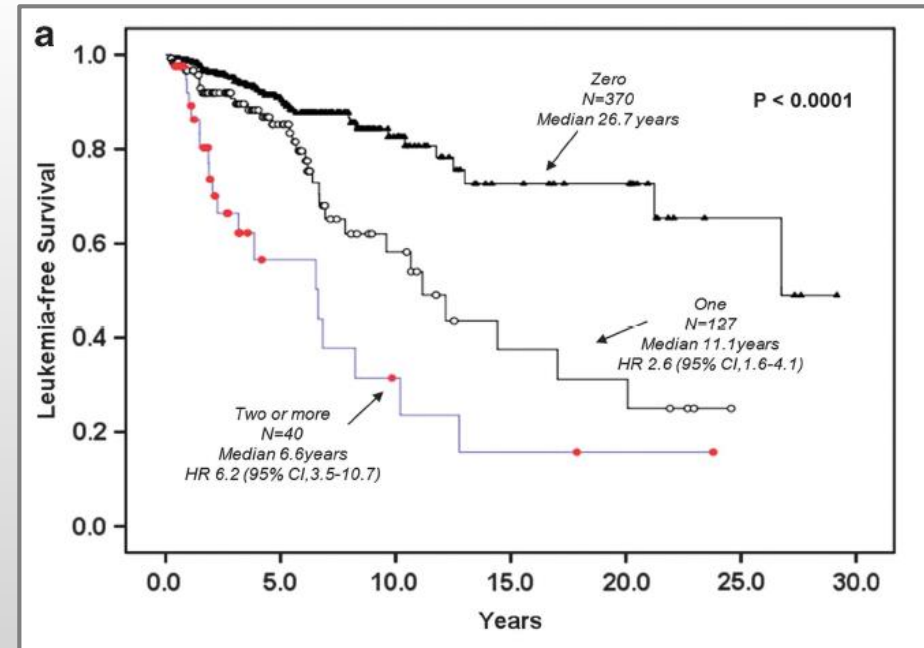
Guglielmelli P et al. Leukemia. 2014; 28:1804–1810

### Low plus intermediate-1 risk IPSS categories

#### Overall Survival



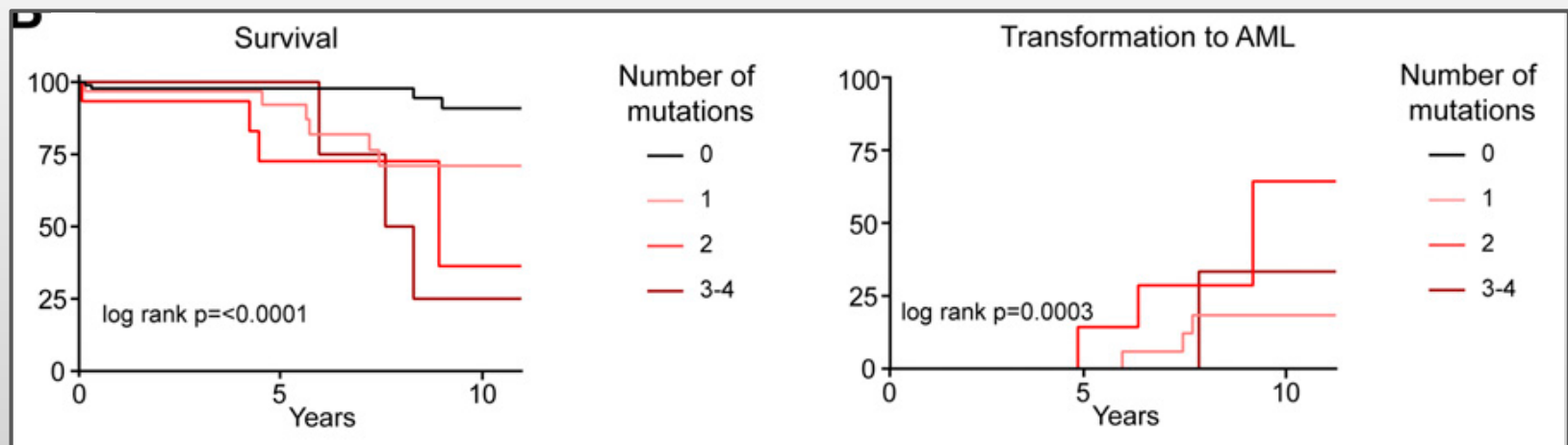
#### Leukemia-free survival



# Prognostic Impact of Somatic Mutations in MPN

Lundberg P et al. Blood. 2014; 123(14):2220-8

- Targeted NGS approach of 104 genes in 197 MPN [PV n=94; ET n=69; PMF n=34] pts to evaluate clinical outcome and clonal evolution
- Somatic mutations in 90% of the pts; 37% other than *JAK2* V617F and *CALR*
- NGS in serial samples: no significant change in number of mutations during a long follow-up > low mutation rate
- Presence of  $\geq 2$  mutations: significantly reduced OS and increased risk of transformation to leukemia



# Targeted Next-Generation Sequencing in PMF:

## Number of non-driver mutations is prognostically relevant

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- Targeted NGS approach of 27 genes in 180 PMF pts to identify additional mutations and to evaluate the prognostic value of number of mutations
- *TET2, DNMT3A, IDH1, IDH2, ASXL1, EZH2, SUZ12, SRSF2, SF3B1, ZRSR2, U2AF1, PTPN11, Tp53, SH2B3, RUNX1, CBL, NRAS, JAK2, CSF3R, FLT3, KIT, CALR, MPL, NPM1, CEBPA, IKZF, and SETBP1*
- Mutations other than *JAK2, CALR* or *MPL* in 150 (83%) of the pts
- DIPSS-plus high/intermediate-2 risk: higher number of mutations ( $P=.0004$ ), higher mutational frequencies for *ASXL1* ( $P=0.02$ ), *SRSF2* ( $P=.004$ ), and *CBL* ( $P=0.02$ )

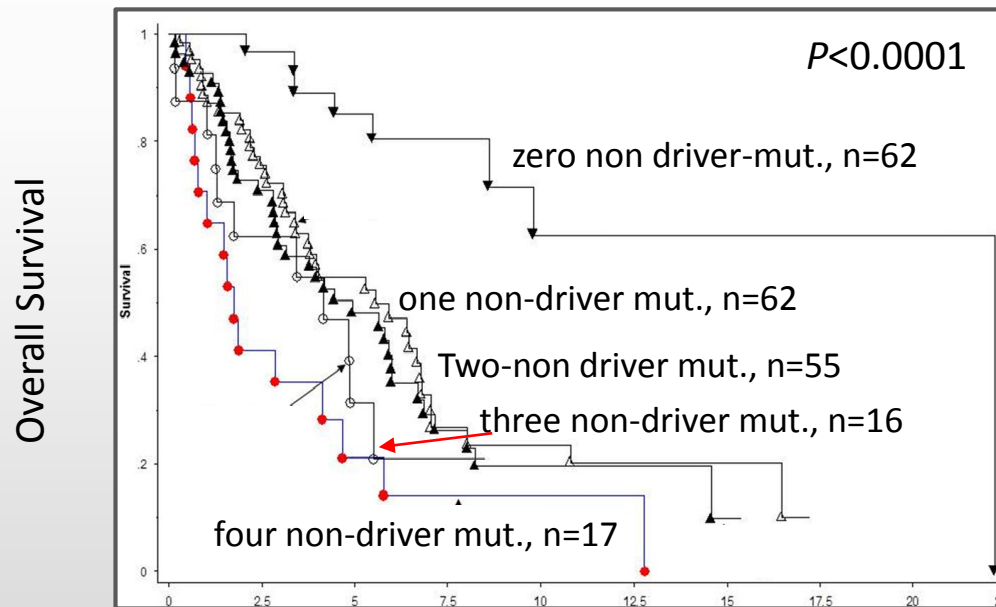
### Mutation frequencies

<i>ASXL1</i>	36%
<i>TET2</i>	18%
<i>SRSF2</i>	17%
<i>U2AF1</i>	17%
<i>ZRSR2</i>	11%
<i>SF3B1</i>	10%
<i>DNMT3A</i>	9%
<i>TP53</i>	7%
<i>CBL</i>	5%
<i>RUNX1</i>	3%

# Targeted Next-Generation Sequencing in PMF:

## Number of non-driver mutations is prognostically relevant

- **Multivariate analysis:** 1-3 mutations,  $\geq 4$  mutations, *RUNX1*, *CBL*, *ASXL1* and *SRSF2* mutations were independently associated with shortened survival



# Targeted Next-Generation Sequencing in PV and ET:

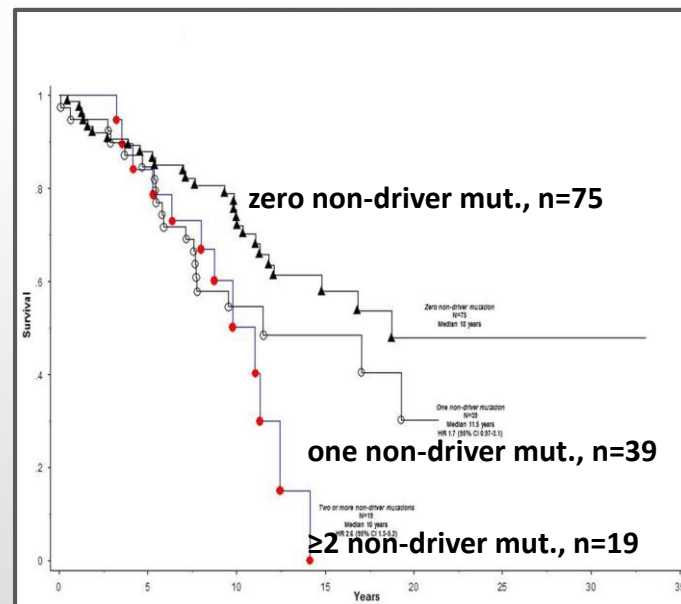
## Number of non-driver mutations is prognostically relevant

- Same targeted NGS approach of 27 genes in PV (n=133) and ET (n=181) pts to identify additional mutations and to evaluate the prognostic value of number of mutations

### **Polycythemia Vera:**

- Mutations other than *JAK2*, *CALR* or *MPL* in 58 (44%) of the pts (18% *TET2*, 11% *ASXL1*, 5% *SH2B3*, 3% *SF3B1*)
- Number of mutations was significantly associated with OS and MF-free survival

Survival of 133 PV pts. stratified by number of non-driver mutations



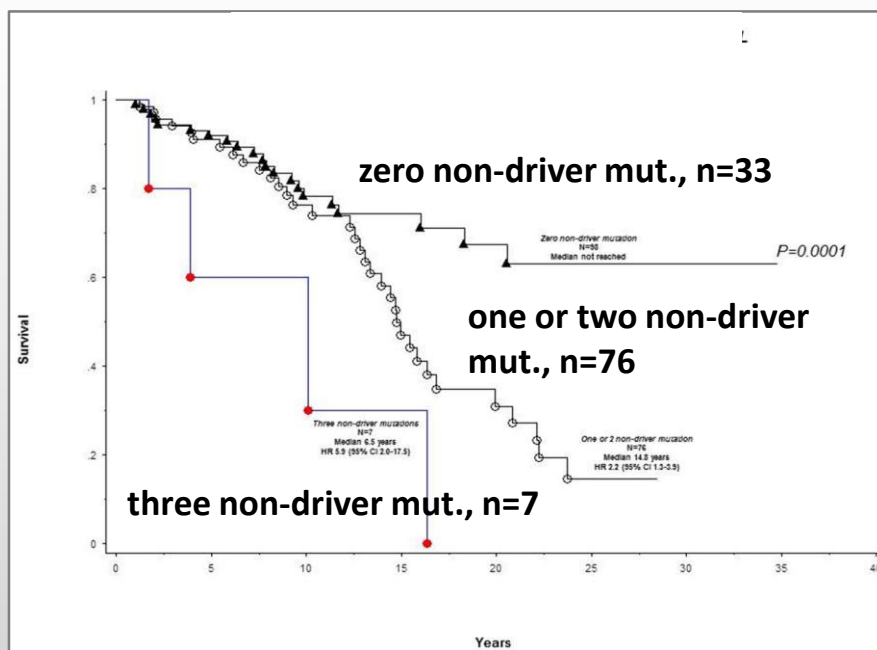


# Targeted Next-Generation Sequencing in PV and ET:

## Number of Non-driver Mutations is prognostically relevant

### *Essential Thrombocythemia:*

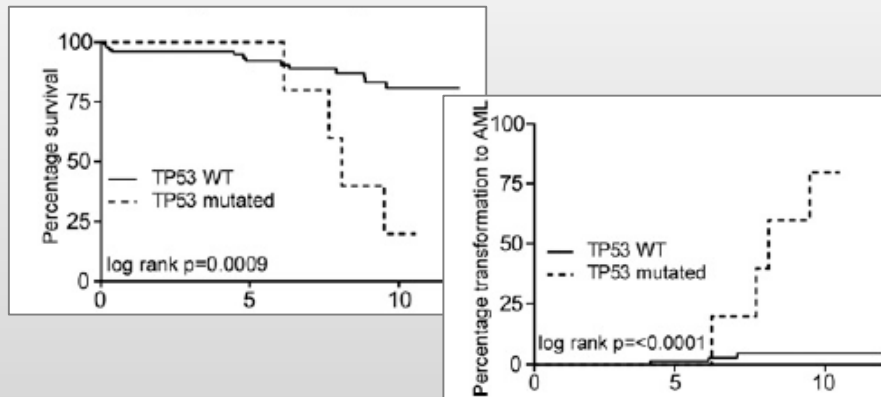
- Mutations other than *JAK2*, *CALR* or *MPL* in 83 (46%) of the pts (13% *TET2*, 11% *ASXL1*, 6% *DNMT3A*, 5% *SF3B1*)
- Number of mutations was significantly associated with OS but not with MFS or LFS



Survival of 181 ET pts stratified by number of non-driver mutations

# Molecular Markers for Disease Progression

- Mutations in genes involved in transcription or DNA damage are associated with leukemic transformation:
  - *RUNX1* (acquired at the time of transformation) > not predictive
  - *TP53* > hemizygous / homozygous >> rapid progression



**Table 4.** Intrinsic risk factors for disease transformation in PV and ET

Transformation	Clinical risk factors	Genetic risk factors
Post-PV MF	Age Leukocytosis Disease duration Reticulin fibrosis Splenomegaly	<i>JAK2V617F</i> allele burden
Post-PV Leukemia	Age Leukocytosis Reticulin fibrosis Splenomegaly	Abnormal karyotype <i>TP53</i> <i>RUNX1</i>
Post-ET MF	Age Leukocytosis Anemia Reticulin fibrosis	Absent <i>JAK2V617F</i> mutation <i>ASXL1</i>
Post-ET leukemia	Age Leukocytosis Anemia Reticulin fibrosis Thrombosis Platelets $\geq 1000 \times 10^9/l$	<i>TP53</i> <i>RUNX1</i>

Abbreviations: ET, essential thrombocythemia; MF, myelofibrosis; PV, polycythemia vera.

# Summary and Perspective

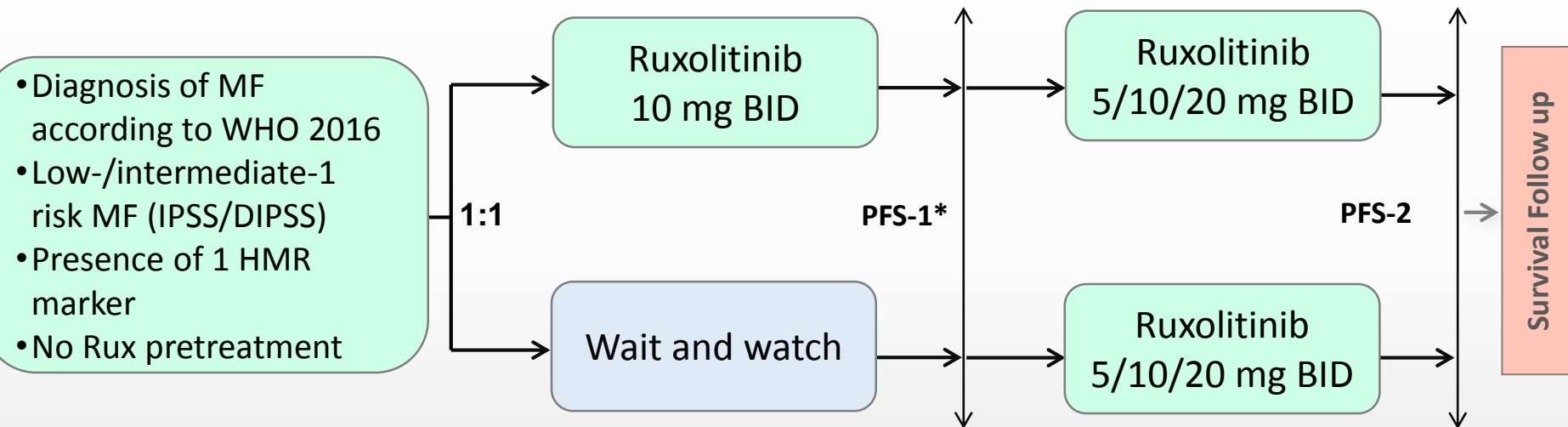
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- In PMF 5 „high molecular risk“ (HMR) markers have been identified that are significantly associated with survival and transformation risk to leukemia : *ASXL1*, *SRSF2*, *EZH2*, *IDH1* and *IDH2*
- In PMF HMR markers should be considered for implementation into the current risk-stratification systems and they should be considered for treatment decisions, in particular within the context of alloSCT
- In MF low- and intermediate-1 risk (IPSS/DIPSS) patients with HMR mutations further studies are needed to evaluate if early treatment delays disease progression
- In ET and PV the number of non-driver mutations might be of prognostic relevance; however the prognostic and predictive value has to be determined in prospective clinical studies
- *TP53* and *RUNX1* mutations are clearly associated with disease progression and thus can be used for treatment decisions (alloSCT)

# GSG-MPN03-17 Study Proposal

randomized, open-label, multicenter, Phase III study investigating the efficacy and safety of ruxolitinib versus wait and watch in low and intermediate-1 risk (IPSS/DIPSS) myelofibrosis patients harboring high molecular risk marker mutations

- Evaluation of safety and efficacy of Ruxolitinib in patients with low-and intermediate-risk 1 (IPSS/DIPSS) MF harbouring HMR mutations



## Population

- Low-/intermediate-1 risk MF (IPSS/DIPSS)
- ANC  $\geq 1.000/\mu\text{l}$
- Platelet count  $> 75.000/\mu\text{l}$
- MPN-SAF TSS  $\leq 50$
- Not considered for alloSCT

## Primary endpoint

\*Progression free survival (PFS-1) from date of randomization until disease progression (modified criteria)

## Secondary endpoint

- PFS-2, safety and tolerance, symptoms, QOL, OS

\* Disease progression >> patients will be treated in PFS-2 with RUX 5/15/20 mg BID

# Acknowledgment

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**The German Study Group for  
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<https://www.cto-im3.de/gsgmpn/>

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