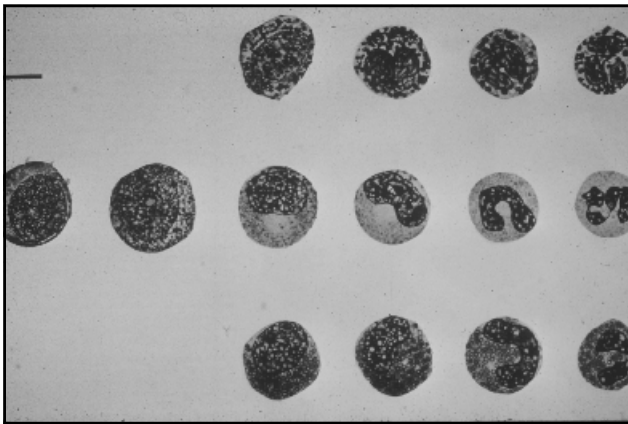


### Leukemias - evidence of damage to DNA

- majority have visible chromosomal abnormality
- tumor-specific chromosomal translocations, e.g.,
  - t(15;17) acute promyelocytic leukemia
  - t(8;14) Burkitt's lymphoma/leukemia
  - t(9;22) chronic myeloid leukemia (and ALL)



### Conversion of proto-oncogene to oncogene

- Possible mechanisms
  - Unaltered gene product (e.g., *myc* in Burkitt's)
  - Altered gene product
    - » usually a fusion protein (e.g., *bcr-abl* in CML)

### Chronic myeloid leukemia

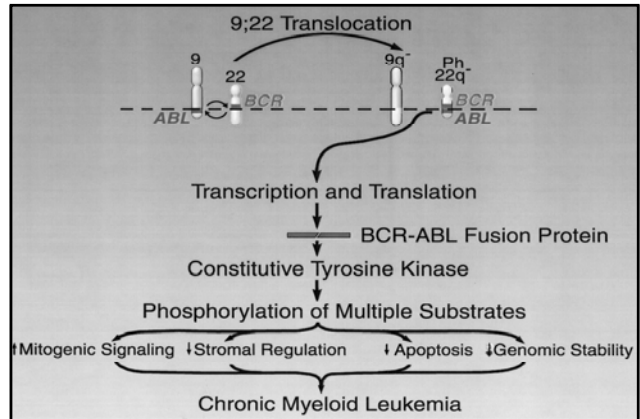
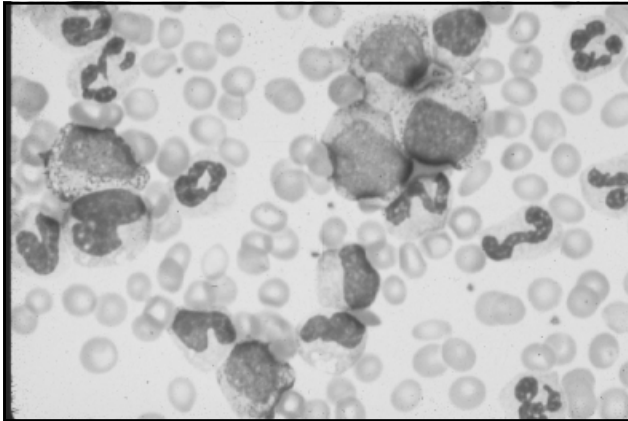
#### Chronic phase

increased pool of clonal precursors committed to become myeloid cells

most of the clonal precursors differentiate into mature cells

### CML - chronic phase

- weakness, weight loss, purpura
- thrombocytosis
- anemia - normal MCV
- splenomegaly
- priapism
  
- median duration 3-4 yrs



### CML - chronic phase

- WBC increased
- Entire granulocytic spectrum on blood film
- Marrow hyperplasia
  - expanded myeloid series
  - eo and basophil precursors
  - megakaryocytes
- Low neutrophil alkaline phosphatase
- Ph chromosome [t(9;22)] present

### Introduction of BCR-ABL gene into mice

- trans-genic model
- *bcr-abl* product expressed
- animals develop CML and/or ALL

### Ph chromosome: t(9;22)

- reciprocal translocation between long arms of chromosomes 9 and 22
- Ph-negative CML: 9;22 translocation present but not visible
- ABL sequences from 9 translocated into BCR gene on 22 → FUSION GENE

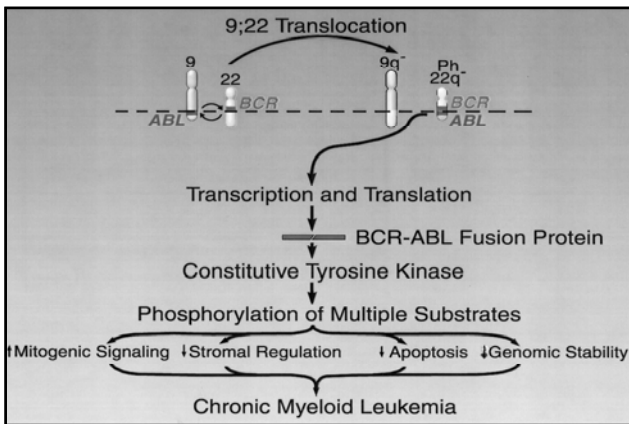
**bcr-abl protein differs from abl protein**

- cytoplasmic location
- transforms cells *in vitro*
- constitutive (continuous) increased tyrosine kinase activity
- new substrates and binding proteins
- *ras* is activated
- *bcr* component contributes to transforming activity

**Chronic myeloid leukemia**

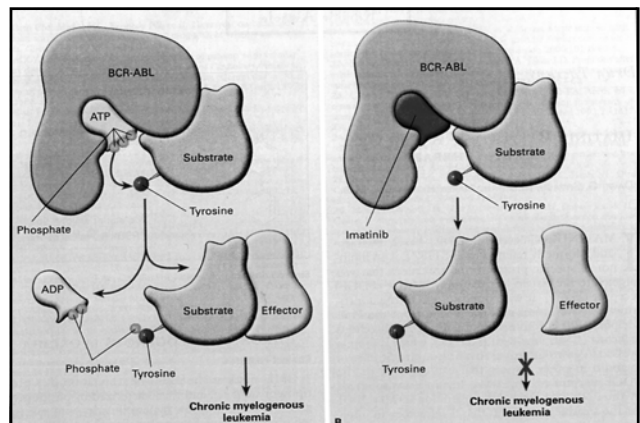
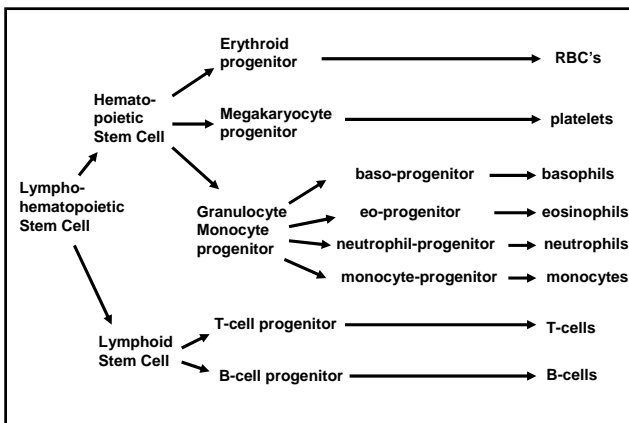
Ph chromosome present in precursors of:

- granulocytes
- monocytes/macrophages
- basophils
- eosinophils
- erythrocytes
- platelets
- some B lymphocytes



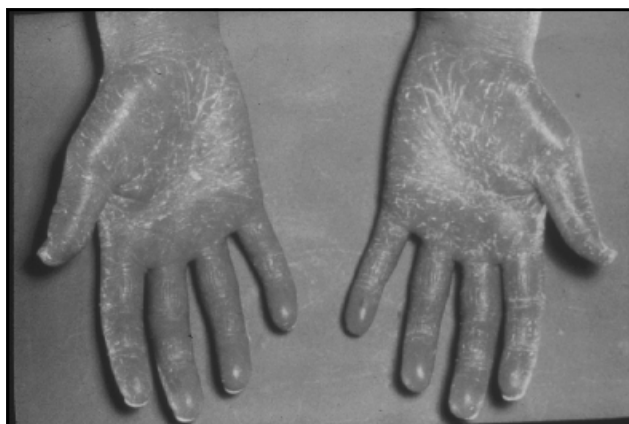
**Treatment of CML - chronic phase**

- hydroxyurea
- interferon- $\alpha$   $\rightarrow$  10-20% become Ph-negative
- survival better with hydroxyurea or interferon
- imatinib (Gleevec) - targets ABL, potent, low toxicity
- allogeneic transplantation potentially curative



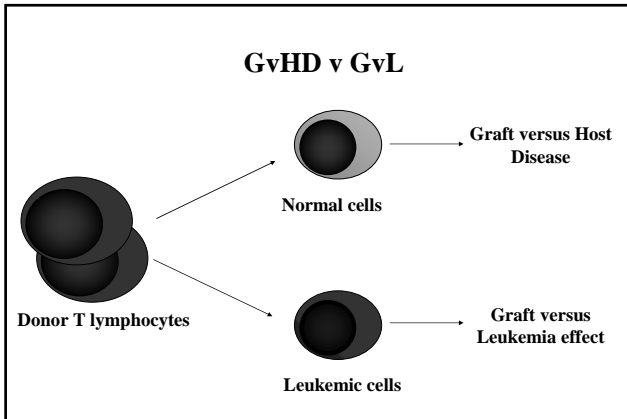
### Marrow and Blood Stem Cell Transplantation

	<u>Autologous (autograft)</u>	<u>Allogeneic (allograft)</u>
Source of cells	Patient	Normal donor
Myeloablative conditioning	Yes	Usually
Transplant-related mortality	2-4%	10-30%
Graft-vs-host disease	No	Yes
Graft-vs-malignancy	No	Yes
Greatest curative potential	Lymphoma	Inherited disease, CML



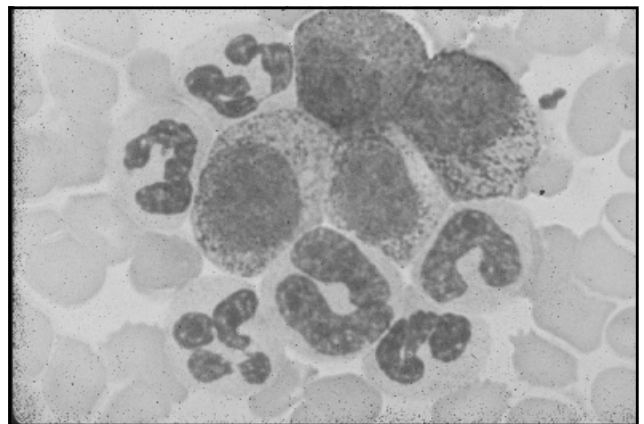
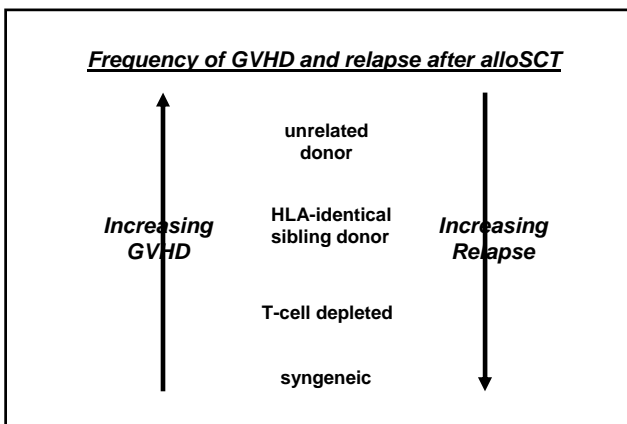
### CML - allogeneic transplantation

- may result in cure
- 10-25% transplant-related mortality
- age, donor limitations
- mechanisms of cure
  - high dose chemoradiotherapy
  - graft vs leukemia



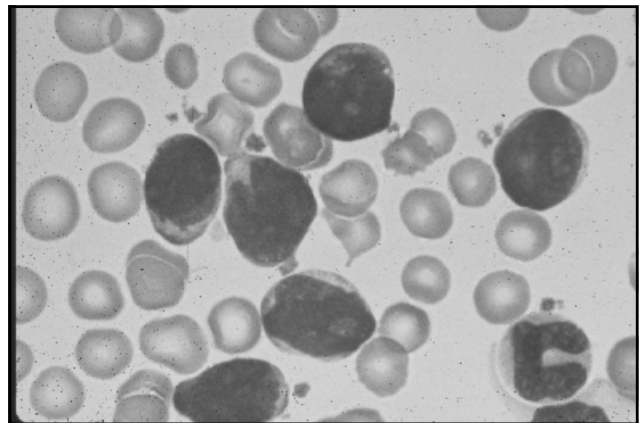
But I must go and meet with danger there,  
Or it will seek me in another place,  
And find me worse provided.

William Shakespeare,  
*Henry IV*



**Evidence for an immunologically mediated GVL effect**

- Inverse correlation between GVHD and relapse
- In patients whose CML relapses after alloSCT, transfusion of lymphocytes from stem cell donor *without additional chemoradiotherapy* often induces a complete remission



### **CML in blastic transformation**

- unstable disease
- weight loss, fever, sweats, bone pain
- worsening
  - splenomegaly
  - anemia
  - platelet counts
  - blast and promyelocyte counts
  - basophilia and eosinophilia
- resistance to therapy
- 'blastic crisis' develops in most
  
- death in weeks or months

### **CML as a model of human malignancy**

- origin in a stem cell
- tumor cell phenotype is differentiated (variably)
- clonal
- proliferative advantage
- genetic instability
  - tendency to become less differentiated

### **CML in blastic transformation**

- Blasts of variable phenotype
  - myeloid
  - lymphoid (early B cell)
  - megakaryocytic
  - erythroid
- 'Clonal evolution'
  - Ph chromosome with additional mutations (e.g., double Ph, trisomy 8, p53 alteration)

### **Chronic myeloproliferative disorders**

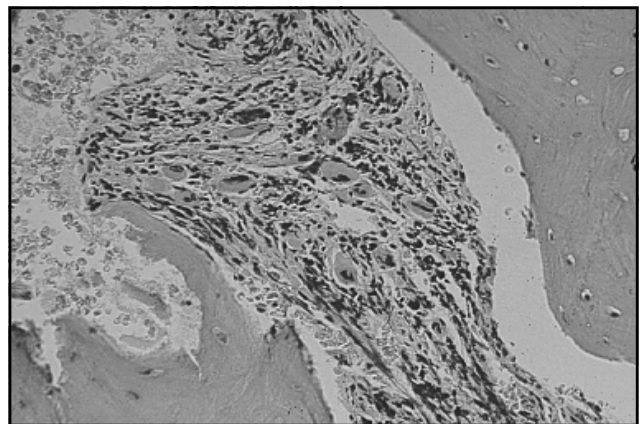
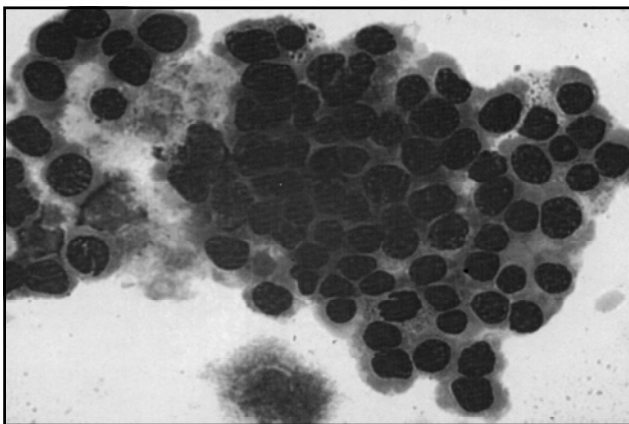
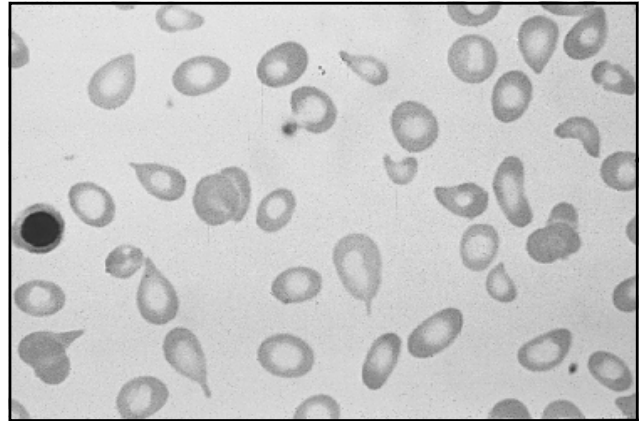
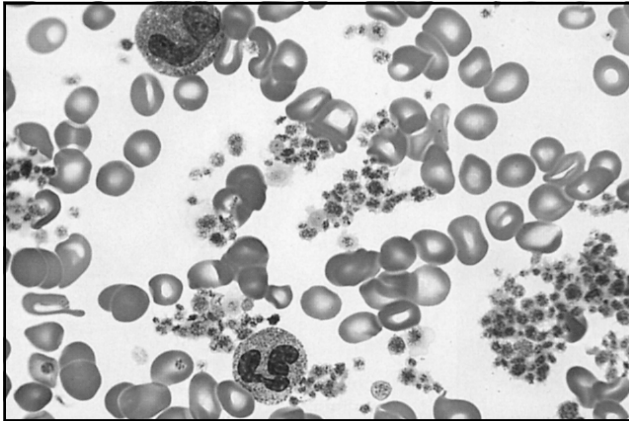
- chronic myeloid leukemia
- myelofibrosis with myeloid metaplasia
  
- polycythemia vera
  
- essential thrombocythemia

### **Ph-positive ALL**

- 30-40% of adult ALL
- poor prognosis
- some have same fusion gene as in CML
  
- different fusion gene in others
  - breakpoints more 5' in BCR
  - gene product 190,000 daltons
  - even stronger tyrosine kinase activity

### **CML, myeloid metaplasia, P vera, essential thrombocythemia**

- clonal
- arising in stem cells, with involvement of several cell lines
- JAK2 mutation common
- leukocytosis, thrombocytosis and platelet dysfunction
- splenomegaly
- tendency to convert to acute leukemia



**Myelofibrosis with Myeloid Metaplasia**

- WBC increased, normal, or decreased
- Differential similar to CML
- anisopoikilocytosis
- tear-drop RBC's
- nucleated RBC's
- fibrosis of marrow
  - fibroblasts not part of clone



