

Impact of *IDH* Mutations on DNA Methylation of Acute Myeloid Leukemia Related Genes: A Review Article

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Abstract

Acute myeloid leukemia is one of the deadliest hematologic malignancies that is marked by genetic alterations, abnormal cellular functions and proliferation. Mutations in isocitrate dehydrogenase genes, particularly isocitrate dehydrogenase gene 1 and isocitrate dehydrogenase gene 2, have emerged as recurrent genetic abnormalities in acute myeloid leukemia. These mutations lead to abnormal enzymatic activity, resulting in the accumulation of 2-hydroxyglutarate, which disrupts normal cellular processes including DNA methylation. This review article explores recent findings related to the implication of isocitrate dehydrogenase gene mutations on the acute myeloid leukemia epimethylome and provides evidence to the relationship between these mutations and the pathogenesis, prognosis, and treatment of acute myeloid leukemia. A comprehensive literature search was conducted to identify relevant studies investigating the impact of isocitrate dehydrogenase mutations on altered DNA methylation patterns of acute myeloid leukemia-related genes. The selected studies were reviewed and analyzed to highlight the significance of their findings. The review highlights that isocitrate dehydrogenase gene mutations in acute myeloid leukemia are associated with widespread changes in DNA methylation patterns. These alterations primarily affect DNA methylation of acute myeloid leukemia-associated genes, including DNA methyltransferases and ten-eleven translocation proteins. Such epigenetic dysregulation in the DNA methylation modifying genes contributes to global DNA hypermethylation and specific gene hypomethylation leading to abnormal cellular functions and the development of acute myeloid leukemia. The findings of this review support the significant impact of isocitrate dehydrogenase gene mutations on DNA methylation of acute myeloid leukemia-related genes. Understanding the interplay between isocitrate dehydrogenase gene mutations and DNA methylation dysregulation provides insights into acute myeloid leukemia pathogenicity and may have implications for prognostication and targeted therapies.

Keywords: AML; DNA methylation; DNA methyltransferases; IDH; isocitrate dehydrogenase; targeted therapy; TET proteins.

Introduction:

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is a heterogeneous disease defined by the unregulated growth of proliferative progenitor cells that are incapable of terminal differentiation. It is now obvious that numerous genes are often altered in AML (1). However, it is really challenging to identify transformation driver genes within this large number of leukaemia associated disrupted genes. A small fraction of cases can be attributed to identifiable factors, such as previous chemotherapy or exposure to specific chemicals. However, the majority of cases are thought to be a result of genetic alterations, including

chromosomal abnormalities and gene mutations (2, 3). Additionally, referring to the disease heterogeneity, individual leukaemia's may include many various mutational profiles, making each AML patient genetically distinct (4-6).

For patients' risk-stratification and selecting the best course of treatment, it's crucial to identify the underlying genetic anomalies (7-9). Recently, the risk classification of AML has been expanded to include three prognostic groups: favourable, moderate, and adverse. These groups take into account both cytogenetic factors and the latest discoveries in molecular subgrouping, in addition to the previously known cytogenetic risk groups. These newly identified molecular subsets exhibit distinct responses to

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standard therapeutic regimens (10-14). As cancer is generally marked by the presence of a wave of genetic abnormalities, identifying the disease's subtype-specific genetic alterations is a difficult task. However, relying on the discovery of next-generation DNA sequencing technologies, the possibility of identifying new recurrent mutations in AML became doable (15). Nevertheless, such approaches offer novel sets of candidate genes, and understanding the underlying genetic and epigenetic pathways of such alterations requires systematic validation through conducting of functional studies (16). So, this review article seeks to explore how IDH mutations affect the DNA methylation patterns of genes linked to acute myeloid leukemia (AML). It aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the impact of these mutations on epigenetic changes, specifically focusing on DNA methylation, in the development of AML. To structure this review, we will begin with an introduction that provides an overview on DNA methylation and IDH mutations. Following that, we will delve into the molecular mechanisms by which IDH mutations affect DNA methylation, emphasizing their role in reshaping the epigenetic landscape of AML-related genes. Next, we will explore the clinical significance and prognostic implications of IDH mutations in AML patients, including their potential as therapeutic targets. Finally, we will conclude the review by summarizing key between IDH mutations and DNA methylation in the context of AML.

Epigenetic regulation of cellular transcription activity via DNA methylation

The epigenetic modifications including the process of DNA methylation (in addition to histone modifications), which predominantly takes place in CpG islands near the 5' promoter region of almost 60% of human genes, is the most thoroughly researched one (17, 18). Such epigenetic marks demonstrate a crucial role in both normal development and health problems. These include their impact on embryonic development, inactivation of the X chromosome, epigenetic reprogramming, genomic imprinting, and lineage specification. DNA hypermethylation has been linked to gene silencing by the covalent attachment of methyl groups to the 5 positions of the cytosine pyrimidine ring, which results in suppressive gene expression (19-21).

In various cell types, the balanced regulation of genome methylation and demethylation is a dynamic process of gene expression. Three DNA methyltransferases (DNMTs) carry out the catalysis of DNA methylation. DNMT1 plays a crucial role in maintaining the DNA methylation state (22, 23). DNMT3a and DNMT3b, known as "de novo" methyltransferases, work together to establish and maintain precise DNA methylation patterns across the genome (24). Conversely, DNA demethylation is a reversible process that restores gene expression silenced by DNMTs. The activity of demethylation is attributed to members of the ten-eleven translocation methylcytosine dioxygenase (TET) family, including TET1, TET2, and TET3 (25-28).

Also, numerous other proteins included in cellular metabolic processes contribute to chromatin remodeling and gene regulation as a result of the interconnection between metabolism and epigenetics by creating substrates or co-factors utilized by epigenetic writers that are able to add a different chemical modification to histones or DNA (29, 30). One example of epigenetic modifiers is the isocitrate dehydrogenase (IDH) enzymes. These enzymes convert isocitrate to α -ketoglutarate, either in the mitochondrion during the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle, specifically by IDH1, or in the cytoplasm by IDH2. This process leads to the generation of α -ketoglutarate, which serves as a co-factor for various α -ketoglutarate dependent dioxygenases. These include crucial enzymes such as the DNA demethylases mediated by ten-eleven translocation (TET) family and the histone demethylases in the Jumonji family (31, 32).

Mutant genes are frequently seen in cancer which directly leads to aberrant normal DNA methylation controls and thus generate dysregulation of gene expression. A number of DNA methylation modifier genes were reported in AML that may act as DNA methyl-transfer or demethylation enzymes (31, 33). However, the top seven most frequent DNA methylation-related genes' mutations in AML are illustrated in Figure (1). In the case of acute myeloid leukemia, DNMT3A mutations were highly documented over the world, followed by IDH1/2 and TET2 mutation, while the ratio was equivalent in the remaining genes.

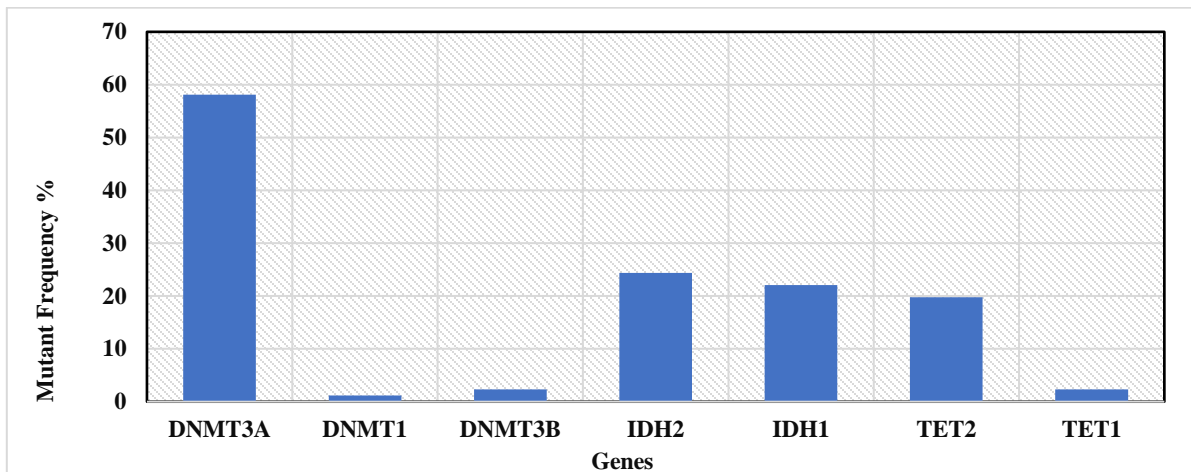


Figure-1: Percentage of samples with one or more mutations in DNA methylation-related genes in AML. Clinic genomic data were adopted from the cBioPortal database.

Role of IDH1/2 as epigenetic-related mutations genes in AML:

IDHs gene mutations have been extensively investigated in solid and liquid tumors since these mutations were originally reported in glioblastoma. It has been then found in a variety of tumor forms, including sinonasal undifferentiated carcinoma, chondrosarcomas, prostate cancer, and acute myeloid leukemia (34, 35).

AML patients have been reported to exhibit acquired mutations at varying rates. For instance, a study conducted by (34) found that IDH mutations were present in 16% of AML patients, in which IDH1 and

IDH2 mutations were detected in 7.6% and 8.7% of patients, respectively. These mutations are believed to arise from heterozygous mutations occurring in substrate binding residues, leading to alterations in the amino acid arginine at exon 4 of the IDH1/2 genes (specifically, at codon R132 of IDH1 and codons R140 and R172 of IDH2) (Fig 2). The majority of IDH1 mutations were predicted to result in various substitutions of arginine at position 132, while IDH2 mutations were primarily missense mutations causing amino acid changes at positions p.R140 and p.R172 (Table 1 and Fig 3) (36-40).

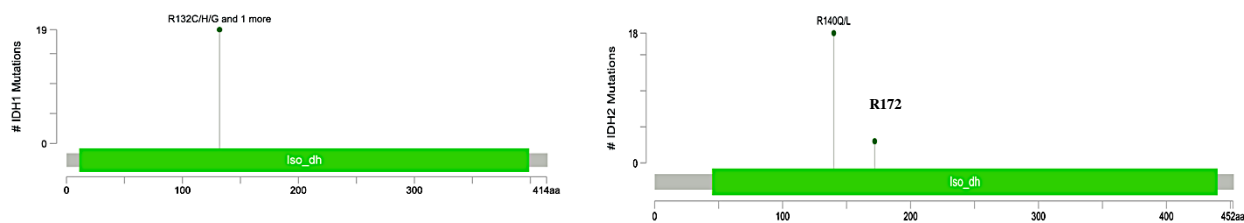


Figure-2: Recurrent sites of functional mutation in IDH1/2 of AML, A: for IDH1 ; B: for IDH2 (cBioPortal for Cancer Genomics).

IDH enzymes have been involved in several cellular metabolic and epigenetic processes. About 20% of acute myeloid leukaemia have *IDH1* or *IDH2* mutations, which cause amino acid alterations in conserved residues, resulting in neomorphic enzymatic activity, and the generation of rare metabolite 2-HG (2-hydroxyglutarate) which accumulated in cells and serve as oncometabolite. DNA hypermethylation, inappropriate cell proliferation or differentiation, and

dysregulated gene expression are the results of such IDH enzyme deregulation. According to the existing data, it seems that IDH mutations have a role in the development of cancer. These mutations decrease the affinity of the enzymes for their substrates and acquire a new function, leading to the conversion of alpha-ketoglutarate (α-KG), a key mediator in the Krebs cycle, into 2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG), which has a significant impact on pathophysiology. The accumulation of 2-HG resulting

from these mutations contributes to cancer development because it structurally resembles α -KG and can interfere with the function of enzymes that rely on α -KG as a substrate, such as lysine demethylases and TET proteins. Specifically, the catalytic activity of the TET2 enzyme, a member of the α -KG-dependent dioxygenases family, is inhibited by the presence of R-2HG, which is produced as a result of gain-of-function IDH1/2 mutations (Fig. 4) (41, 42).

In a previous study, it was observed that the levels of 2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG) are notably increased in the blood serum of AML patients with IDH1/2 mutations. Therefore, the presence of elevated 2-HG

levels can be used as an indicator to predict the presence of IDH1/2 mutations and the clinical prognosis of AML (43, 44). The presence of 2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG) alone is capable of facilitating the transformation of hematopoietic cells, and this impact can be reversed by removing the oncometabolite (45). Furthermore, mutant IDH1/2 promotes an excessive methylation pattern in hematopoietic cells, leading to abnormalities in their differentiation process. As a result, the suppression of tumor suppressor genes through DNA hypermethylation is anticipated to generate a greater number of progenitor cells with an extended capacity for proliferation (46, 47).

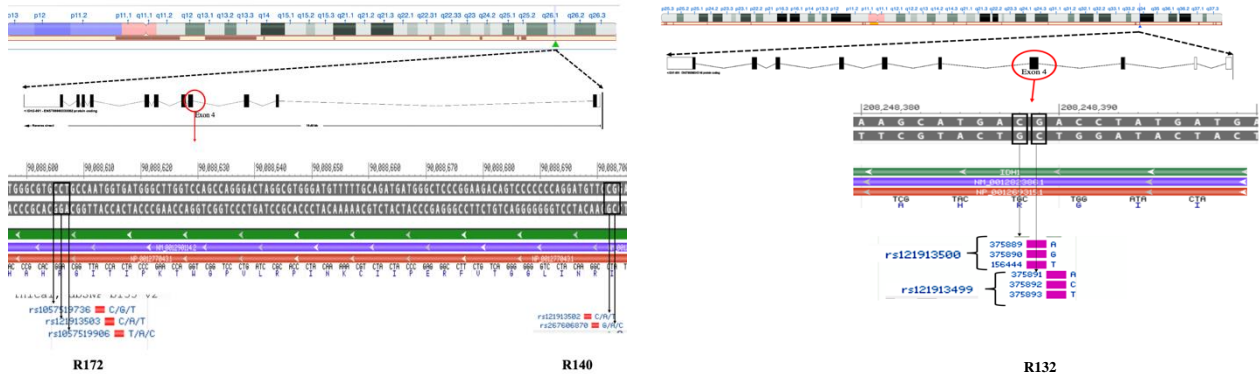


Figure-4: IDH genes map adapted from NCBI illustrates the locations of pathogenic mutations (left: IDH1, right: IDH2).

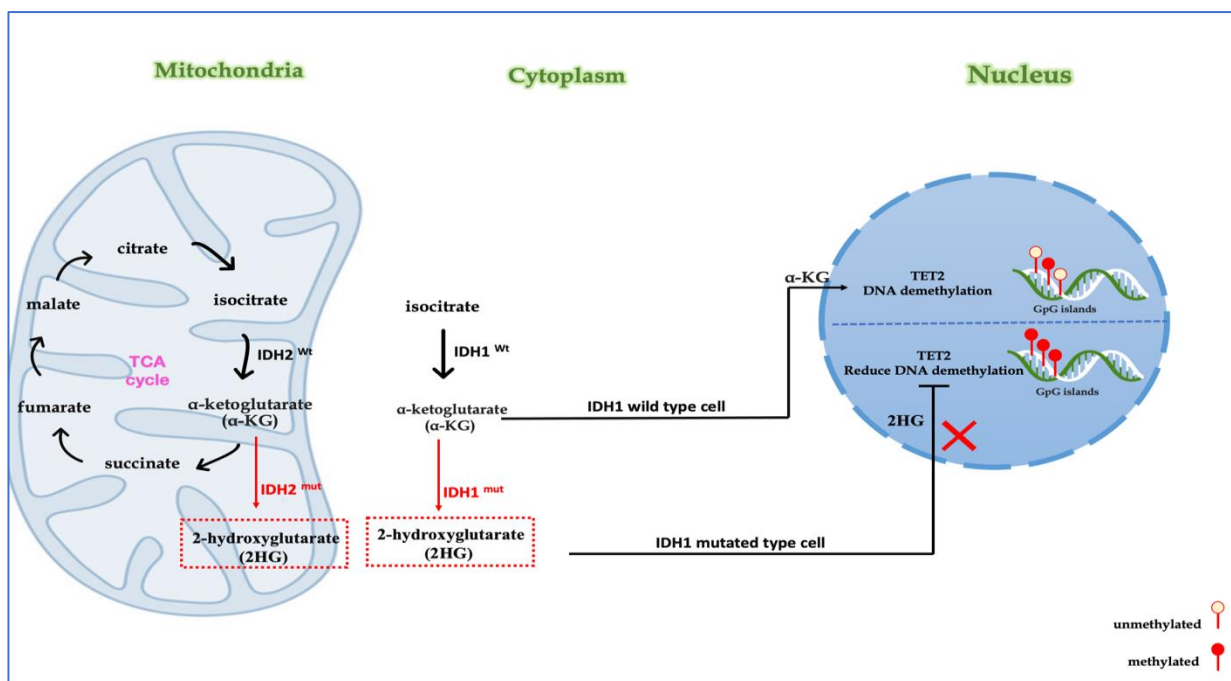


Figure-4 Mutant IDH1 and IDH2 enhance production of 2HG from α -Ketoglutarate (α KG).

Table-1: List of the most frequently occurring variation in *IDH1/2* of AML recorded in NCBI

Variation (<i>Location</i>)	Protein change	Condition	SNP ID	Type
<u>IDH1</u>				
c.395G>C c.395G>T c.395G>A (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr2:208248388)	R132P (p.Arg132Pro) R132L (p.Arg132Leu) R132H (p.Arg132His)	Pathogenic (Oct 2, 2014) Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic (May 31, 2016) Pathogenic (May 9, 2022)	rs121913499	Missense
c.394C>A c.394C>G c.394C>T (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr2:208248389)	R132S (p.Arg132Ser) R132G (p.Arg132Gly) R132C (p.Arg132Cys)	Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic (May 31, 2016) Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic (May 31, 2016) Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic (May 9, 2022)	rs121913499	Missense
<u>IDH2</u>				
c.516G>C (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr15:90088605)	R172S (p.Arg172Ser)	Pathogenic; risk factor (Oct 2, 2014)	rs1057519736	Missense
c.515G>A c.515G>T (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr15:90088606)	R172K, (p.Arg172Lys) R172M (p.Arg172Met)	Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic; risk factor (May 31, 2016)	rs121913503	Missense
c.514A>G c.514A>T (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr15:90088607)	R172G (p.Arg172Gly) R172W (p.Arg172Trp)	Likely pathogenic (May 31, 2016) ; Likely pathogenic risk factor (May 31, 2016)	rs1057519906	Missense
c.419G>T c.419G>A (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr15:90088702)	R140L (p.Arg140Leu) R140Q (p.Arg140Gln)	Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic (May 31, 2016) Pathogenic/Likely pathogenic (Oct 2, 2021)	rs121913502	Missense
c.418C>T (<i>GRCh38</i> : Chr15:90088703)	R140W (p.Arg140Trp)	Uncertain significance (Dec 3, 2021)	rs267606870	Missense

Prognostic significance of IDH mutations

Many researchers have attempted to establish the potential link between the occurrence of *IDH* mutations and the disease's progression or prognosis of AML aiming to explore their utility as drug targets for treating patients on the bases of potential personalized medicine (48). The arrangement of excessively methylated genes in AML cases with *IDH1/IDH2* mutations is similar to the pattern observed in *TET2*-loss-of-function mutations. These changes in the epigenetic profile result in impaired development of

myeloid cells, likely due to the repression of certain transcription factors. Compared to individuals without these mutations, patients with *IDH*-mutated AML are frequently older and exhibit a reduced count of white blood cells (49-51).

Although a recent study (52) found that a mutant-NPM1/wild-FLT3 genotype in conjunction with an *IDH1* or *IDH2* mutation confers a very good prognosis factor. According to other research, a normal AML karyotype carries a poor prognosis when *IDH1*

mutations are present. These variations may be caused by the specific location of the mutation in the *IDH* gene, which is likely to have an impact on how the disease will progress, or by the varied responses to different treatment options (52).

Recent research indicates that IDH mutations alone are not sufficient to predict prognosis accurately, and their occurrence is influenced by age. The survival rates of patients with wild-type IDH and those with IDH mutations do not show significant differences. However, for patients with IDH mutations, having dual mutations involving both IDH and NPM1 significantly improves the prognosis for 5-year event-free survival for AML patients compared to patients with IDH-mutated/NPM1 wild-type. The positive predictive impact of dual IDH/NPM1 mutation status varies with age, particularly in younger and middle-aged patients. Moreover, the presence of a triple mutation (IDH/NPM1/DNMT3A) is associated with a poorer prognosis in the subgroup of middle-aged patients when compared to those with dual IDH/NPM1 mutations (with wild-type DNMT3A) (53).

IDH inhibitors (IDH-i) : Due to the abundance of research on IDH mutations and their effect on the development of AML, several inhibitors have been developed for the mutant *IDH1/IDH2* to reduce the deleterious effect of these mutant genes that cause abnormal maturation of leukocyte, leads to leukaemia. Ivosidenib and enasidenib, two of the IDH-i targets, it works by inhibiting the IDH1 and IDH2 proteins respectively. This inhibition permits what would otherwise be leukaemic white blood cells to grow and differentiate normally, lowering the number of immature blasts and raising the percentage of mature myeloblasts (52, 54, 55).

IDH inhibitor and relapsed/ refractory AML: Patients with refractory AML had considerably greater levels of metabolic IDH1 and variability in the gene expression related to epigenetic regulation. such epigenetic change seems to have a significant impact on developing refractory AML and may be helpful in predicting the prognosis of AML (56, 57).

Recently, IDH inhibitors have shown a significant influence in improving the clinical outcomes of AML patients (58-60). As a result, the IDH2 and IDH1 inhibitor drugs enasidenib and ivosidenib have been authorized for the treatment of adult AML that has relapsed or is resistant to conventional therapy. Although effective and reliable, IDH inhibitor monotherapy for relapsed/ refractory (R/R) AML has drawbacks, such as primary or acquired resistance (61). So, for the treatment of R/R AML or newly diagnosed AML, many clinical trials seek to find the patients' response to mutation inhibitors (especially IDH inhibitors) in combination with hypomethylating drugs or conventional chemotherapy as well as in the

after hematopoietic stem cell transplantation as maintenance therapy (62-67).

Conclusions

This review drew attention to the significance of IDH1/2 mutations as a key valid marker to improve the clinical outcome of AML patients via the development of targeted therapy based on IDH1/2 inhibitors. The wide spectrum of IDH1 and IDH2 gene mutations in AML implies the possibility of utilizing such knowledge in stratifying AML patients into different prognostic categories that would modify the treatment intensification hoping to minimize the short and long terms side effects associated with conventional therapeutic regimens.

Conflicts of Interest: None.

Authors' declaration: We confirm that all the Tables/Figures in the manuscript are original creations by the authors.

Authors Declaration:

We confirm that all the Figures and Tables in the manuscript belong to the current study. Besides, the Figures and images, which do not belong to the current study, have been given permission for re-publication attached to the manuscript. Authors sign on ethical consideration's approval-

Ethical Clearance: The project was approved by the local ethical committee in (the Biology Department, College of Science, University of Baghdad, under reference code (Ref. CSEC/0922/0082).

Authors' Contribution:

Study conception & design: (Duha M. Bayram, Fadhel M. Lafta, Bassam F. Matti). Literature search: (Duha M. Bayram, Fadhel M. Lafta, Bassam F. Matti). Data acquisition: (Duha M. Bayram, Fadhel M. Lafta, Bassam F. Matti). Data analysis & interpretation: (Duha M. Bayram, Fadhel M. Lafta, Bassam F. Matti). Manuscript preparation: (Duha M. Bayram, Fadhel M. Lafta, Bassam F. Matti). Manuscript editing & review: (Duha M. Bayram, Fadhel M. Lafta, Bassam F. Matti).

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تأثير الطفرات في ال-IDH على مثيلة الدنا للجينات المرتبطة بسرطان الدم النخاعي الحاد: مقالة مراجعة

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الخلاصة

ابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد هو أحد أكثر الأورام الدموية الخبيثة فتكاً و تتميز بوظائف خلوية غير طبيعية وتغيرات جينية. و تبين ان الطفرات في جينات نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات وخاصة جين نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات 1 و جين نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات 2 ، على أنها تشوهات وراثية متكررة في مرضى ابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد. و تؤدي هذه الطفرات إلى نشاط إنزيمي غير طبيعي، مما يؤدي إلى تراكم 2-هيدروكسي جلوتارات و الذي بدوره يعطل العمليات الخلوية الطبيعية بما في ذلك مثيلة الحمض النووي. تهدف مقالة المراجعة هذه إلى استعراض الطفرات الجينية المسجلة لجين نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات ، التحقق من العلاقة بين تلك الطفرات والتغيرات في أنماط مثيلة الحمض النووي، وآثارها على التسبب في الإصابة بابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد والتنبيه به وعلاجه. تم إجراء بحث شامل في الأدبيات العلمية لتحديد الدراسات ذات الصلة التي تبحث في تأثير الطفرات لجين نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات على الجينات المرتبطة بمثيل الحمض النووي في المرضى الذين يعانون من ابيضاض الدم . وتمت مراجعة الدراسات المختارة وتحليلها لغرض الوصول الى المعلومات والمعرفة الحالية حول هذا الموضوع. سلطت هذه المقالة الضوء على أن طفرات جين نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات في مرضى ابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد مرتبطة بتغيرات واسعة النطاق في أنماط مثيلة الحمض النووي. تؤثر هذه التغيرات في المقام الأول على الجينات المرتبطة بإضافة مجموعة المثل الى الحمض النووي، بما في ذلك DNA methyltransferases وبروتينات ten-eleven translocation . بالتالي يؤدي خلل تنظيم مثيلة الحمض النووي إلى فرط مثيل الحمض النووي بصورة عامة بالإضافة الى جينات محددة بصورة خاصة، وكون علامة المثل الطبيعية تسهم في تنظيم التعبير الجيني، فإن هذا الاضطراب الجيني يساهم في اختلال الوظائف الخلوية الطبيعية ونشوء مرض ابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد . و تدعم نتائج مقالة المراجعة هذه التأثير المهم لطفرات جين نازعة هيدروجين إيزوسيترات على الجينات المرتبطة بمثيلة الحمض النووي في ابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد . و يوفر فهم التفاعل بين طفرات الجين و خلل تنظيم مثيلة الحمض النووي نظرة استكشافية لمسببات مرض ابيضاض الدم النخاعي الحاد والتنبيه بتطوره ومجالات واعداد لتطوير العلاجات الاستهدافية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: AML، نازعة هيدروجين الأيزوسيترات ، IDH، مثيلة الحمض النووي DNA methylation ، DNA methyltransferases، بروتينات TET ، العلاج الموجه.