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Prognostic Impact of Minimal Disseminated Disease (MDD) and Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) in Chinese Pediatric Patients with ALK-Positive Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma (ALCL)

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Backgrounds:

Anaplastic lymphoma kinase positive anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALK+ALCL) is characterized by the occurrence of the ALK fusion and subsequently ALK fusion kinase protein expression. It has been reported that minimal disseminated disease (MDD) and minimal residual disease (MRD) detected by RQ-PCR are independent prognostic factors.

Purpose & Methods:

To explore the prognostic roles of MDD and MRD in Chinese pediatric patients with ALCL, we conduct a retrospective study in a cohort of 204 Chinese children and adolescent ALK+ALCL patients treated at multiple centers of the China Network of Childhood Lymphoma (CNCL). The median follow-up time was 39 months (95%CI: 34-44.7). MDD level as ALK fusion copy number was measured by quantitative RT-PCR at the initial diagnosis. Based on the Overall Survival (OS) data, cut-off values of 1.63 in peripheral blood (PB) and 1.43 in bone marrow (BM) were determined by using the maximally selected rank statistics, with the c-index values of 0.904 in PB and 0.895 in BM.

Results:

The prevalence of MDD in PB and/or BM of Chinese pediatric patients with ALK+ALCL was 24.8%, while the MDD level were significantly correlated between PB and BM ($R=0.8$, $p<2.2e-16$). In addition, the 3-year OS (PB, 87.8% vs. 100%; BM, 87.9% vs. 100%) and EFS (PB, 73.2% vs. 94.8%; BM, 80.0% vs. 93.2%) were revealed with significant difference, when analyzed by

MDD level. The combined analyses of both MDD level (with the same cut-off value) and MRD results (positive vs. negative), either after 1st course of treatment (MRD1) or 2nd course of treatment (MRD2), indicated the further poor prognosis, both in 3-year OS (PB, MRD1, 64.8% vs. 100%, MRD2, 72.9% vs. 100%; BM, MRD1, 64.8% vs. 100%, MRD2, 68.8% vs. 100%) and EFS (PB, MRD1, 40.0% vs. 95.3%, MRD2, 45.0% vs. 95.1%; BM, MRD1, 40.0% vs. 94.7%, MRD2, 35.7% vs. 94.4%).

Conclusion:

Summary, in this work, MDD level detected by quantitative RT-PCR was revealed as a strong factor in prognostic evaluation of Chinese children and adolescent patients with ALK+ALCL, which showed its important role in clinical detection at initial diagnostic. In future, the further validation work could be carried out in different cohort of ALK+ALCL patients, even with larger enrolled population size and longer follow-up time.

Disclosures No relevant conflicts of interest to declare.

Table 1. Clinical data of pediatric patients with ALK+ALCL (n=204).

Factor	level	all patients
		N = 204
Age (mean (SD))		7.86(3.33)
Sex, n (%)		138(67.6)
	Male	66(32.4)
ALK+ALCL subtype, n (%)		150(73.5)
	Common pattern	19(9.3)
	Small cell pattern	16(7.9)
	Others	10(4.9)
	Unclassified	9(4.4)
Stage, n (%)		4(1.9)
	I	19(9.3)
	II	65(31.9)
	III	116(56.9)
	IV	134(65.7)
CNS, n (%)		55(27.0)
	CNS1	15(7.3)

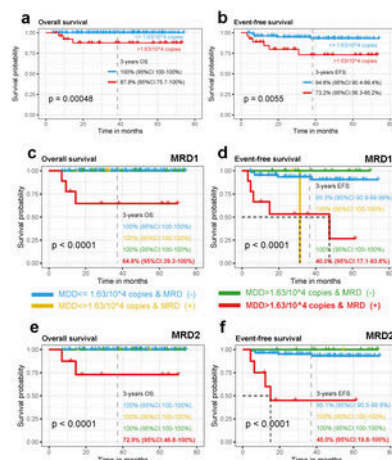


Figure 1. Survival analysis of pediatric ALK+ALCL patients with MDD levels in PB and MRD status.

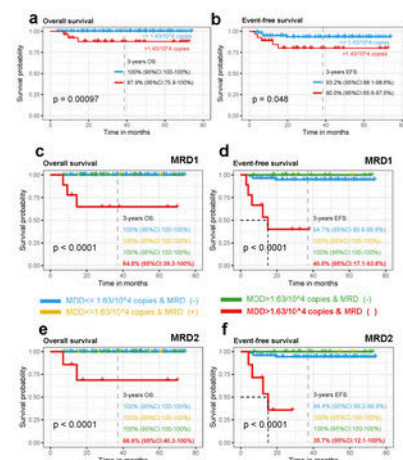


Figure 2. Survival analysis of pediatric ALK+ALCL patients with MDD levels in BM and MRD status.

Figure 1

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