

# Chronic Myeloid Leukemia

**“Just incase you forgot”**

**Medicine Grandrounds**

**Dr. Andrew Odhiambo**

**July 2015**

# HISTORY

- In 1845, **Bennett** in Scotland and **Virchow** in Germany described splenic enlargement, severe anemia, and leukocytosis at autopsy
- Virchow proposed the term ***leukämie***
- In 1878, **Neumann** proposed – marrow origin for leukemia – ***myelogene*** (myelogenous)
- **Nowell and Hungerford in 1960 identified the culprit gene at the Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia**
- **Dr. Rowley** identified the BCR-ABL translocation
- 1998 – Discovery of targeted TKI therapy



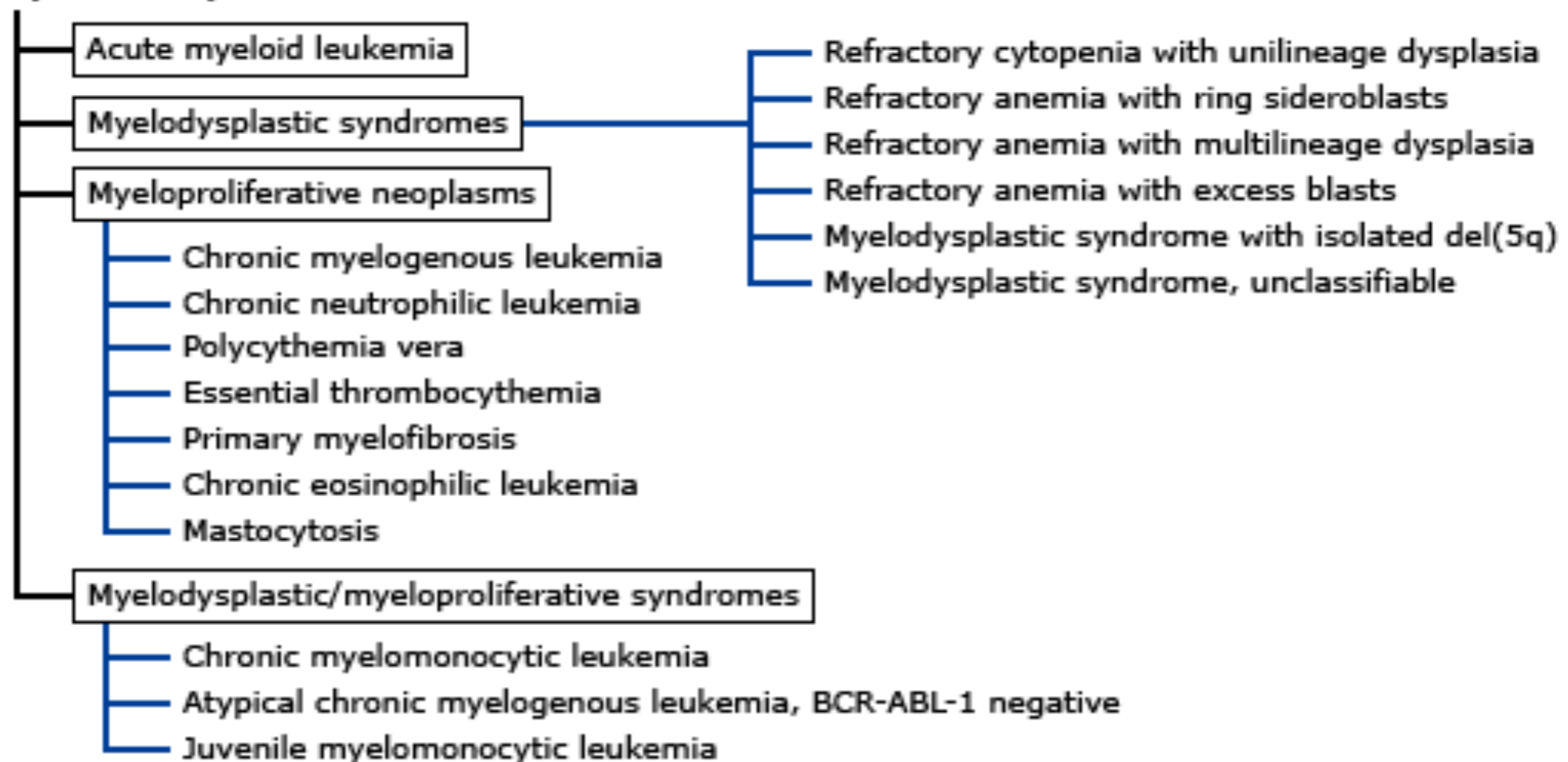
The two discoverers of the Philadelphia chromosome in the early 1960s. Peter Nowell is on the left; David Hungerford, right.

# What is CML?

## Conceptual organization of hematologic malignancies

---

### Myeloid neoplasms



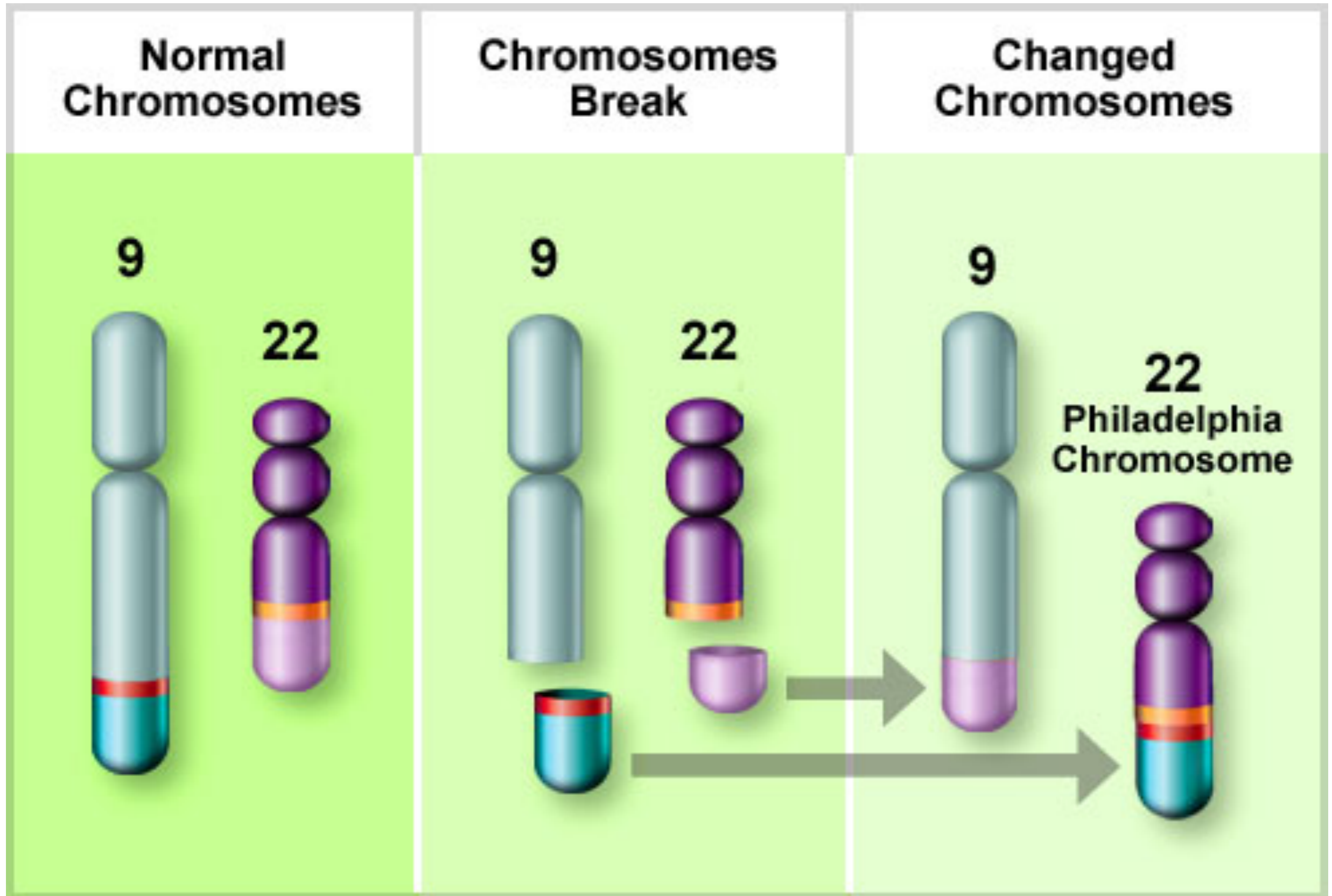
# What makes one think CML ?

- Leucocytosis - granulocytic immaturity
- Thrombocytosis
- Absolute basophilia - **ALMOST ALWAYS PRESENT**
- **Splenomegaly**

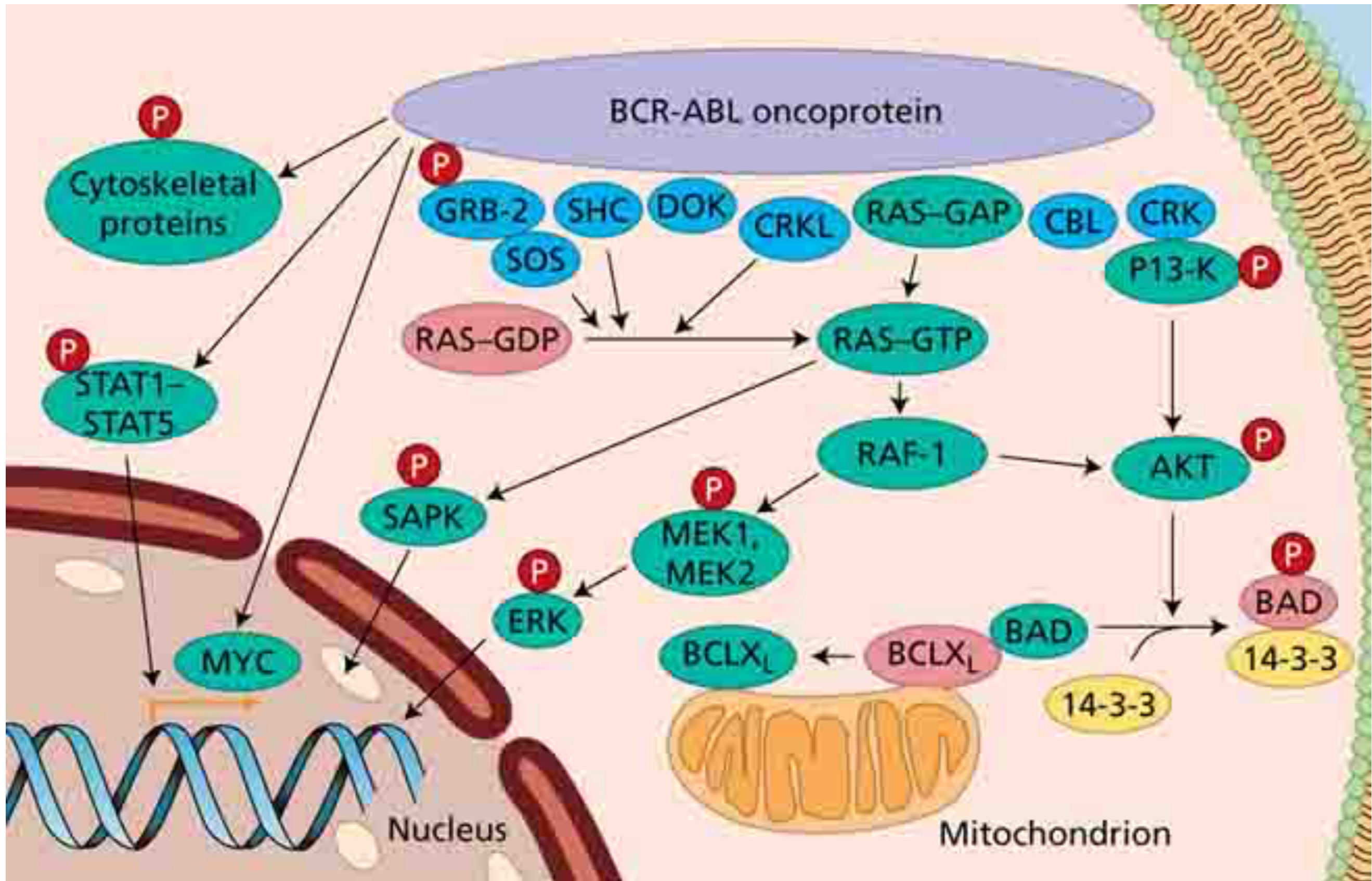
# Epidemiology

- 15-20% of all Leukemias
- M:F - 1.4:1
- Median Age 50
- Local (**Abinya et al**)
  - M:F - 1.26:1
  - Median age 44
  - Age range 8-80

# Pathogenesis(1)



# Pathogenesis(2)



# Clinical presentation

- **COMMON**

- At diagnosis – 70% asymptomatic  
( only < 5% Kenya)
- Easy fatigability
- Loss of sense of well-being
- Decreased tolerance to  
exertion
- Anorexia
- Abdominal discomfort
- Early satiety \*
- Weight loss
- Excessive sweating

- **UNCOMMON**

- Night sweats
- Heat intolerance
- **Gouty arthritis**
- Left upper-quadrant and left  
shoulder pain\*
- **Urticaria**
- **Hyperleukocytic Syndrome**  
—dyspnea, tachypnea,  
hypoxia, lethargy, slurred  
speech, hearing loss,  
blindness, priapism

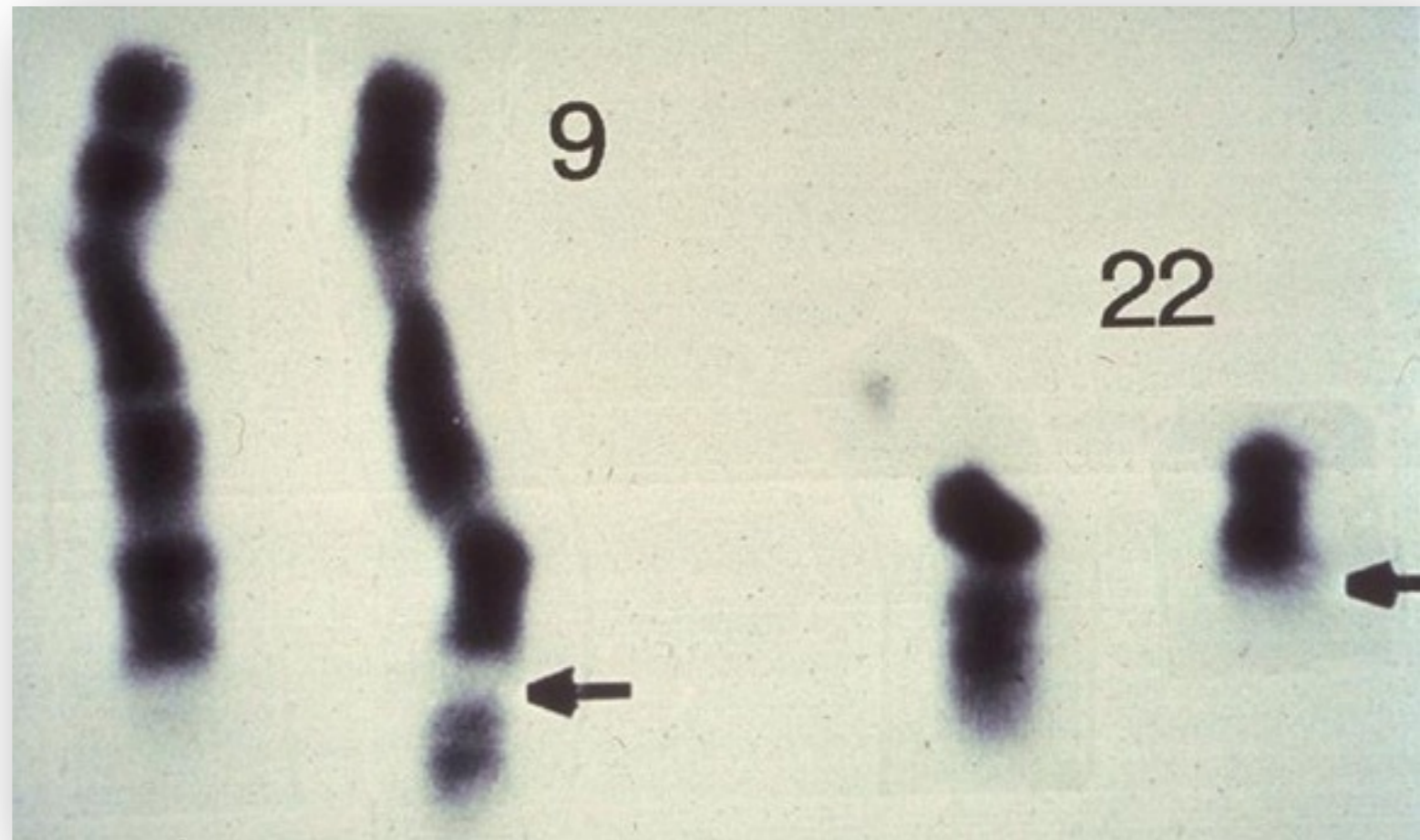


# Investigations (1)

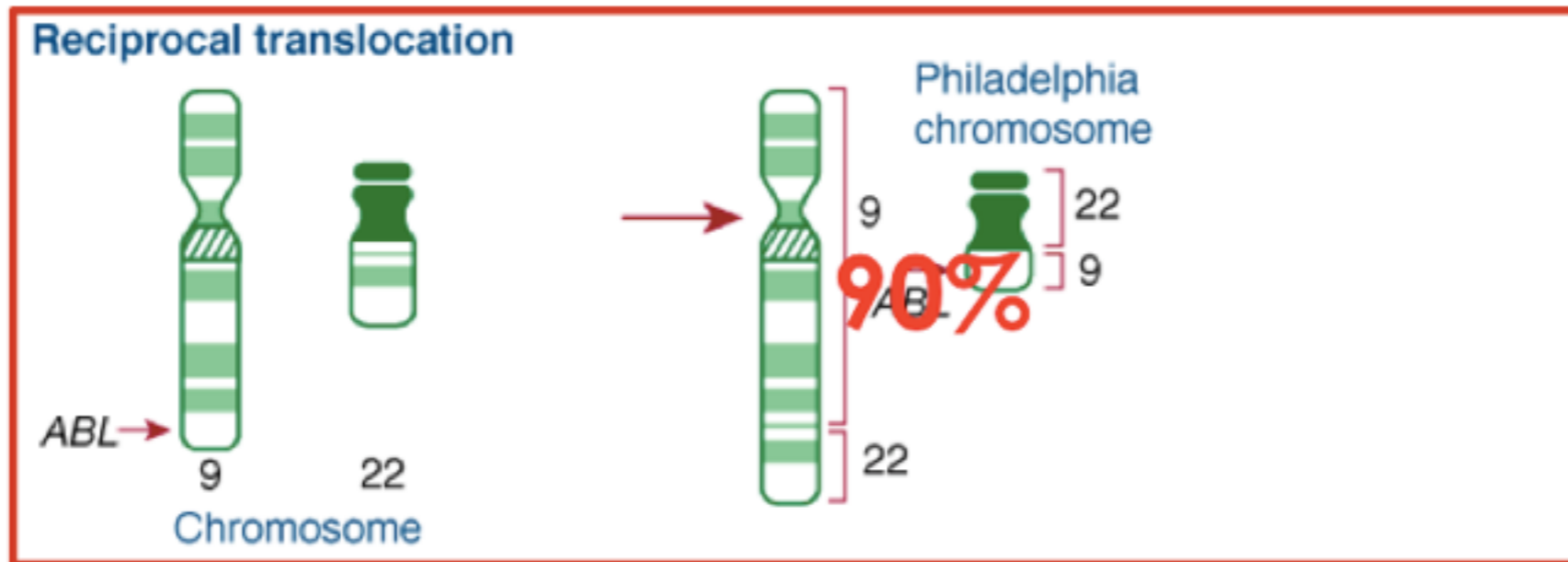
- TBC
- PBF
- BMA - cytology
- Chem-panel
- Other lab features :
  - Neutrophil Alkaline Phosphatase reduced
  - Serum B12 and transcobalamin increased (>10 ULN)
  - Serum uric acid increased
  - Lactate dehydrogenase increased
  - Mean histamine levels increased

# Cytogenetics

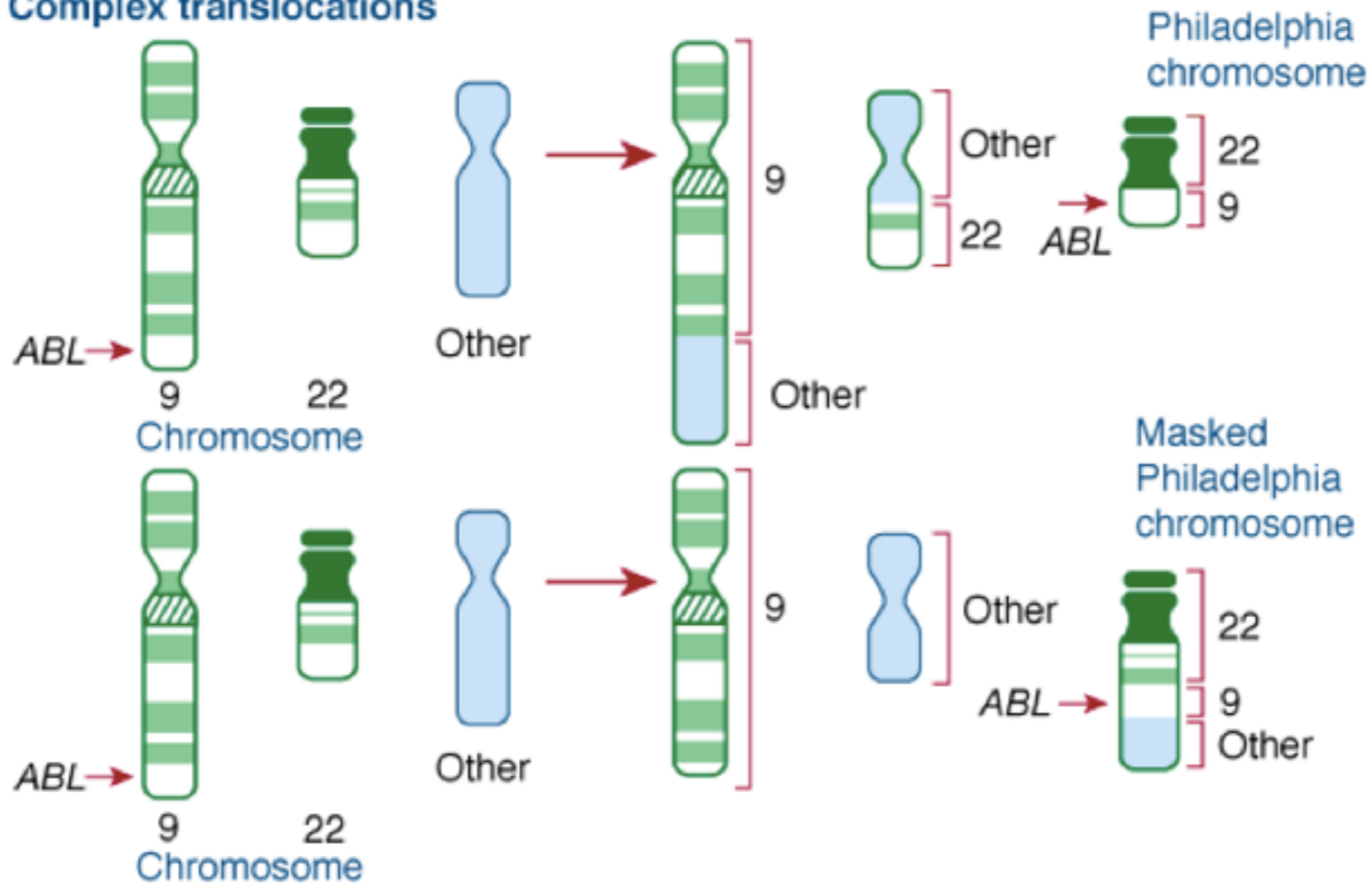
- Study of the number and structure of chromosomes
- Samples from bone marrow myeloid cells
- The presence of the Philadelphia chromosome – shortened chromosome 22\*
- **Cytogenetics cannot identify complex translocations**



# COMPLEX TRANSLOCATIONS



## Complex translocations

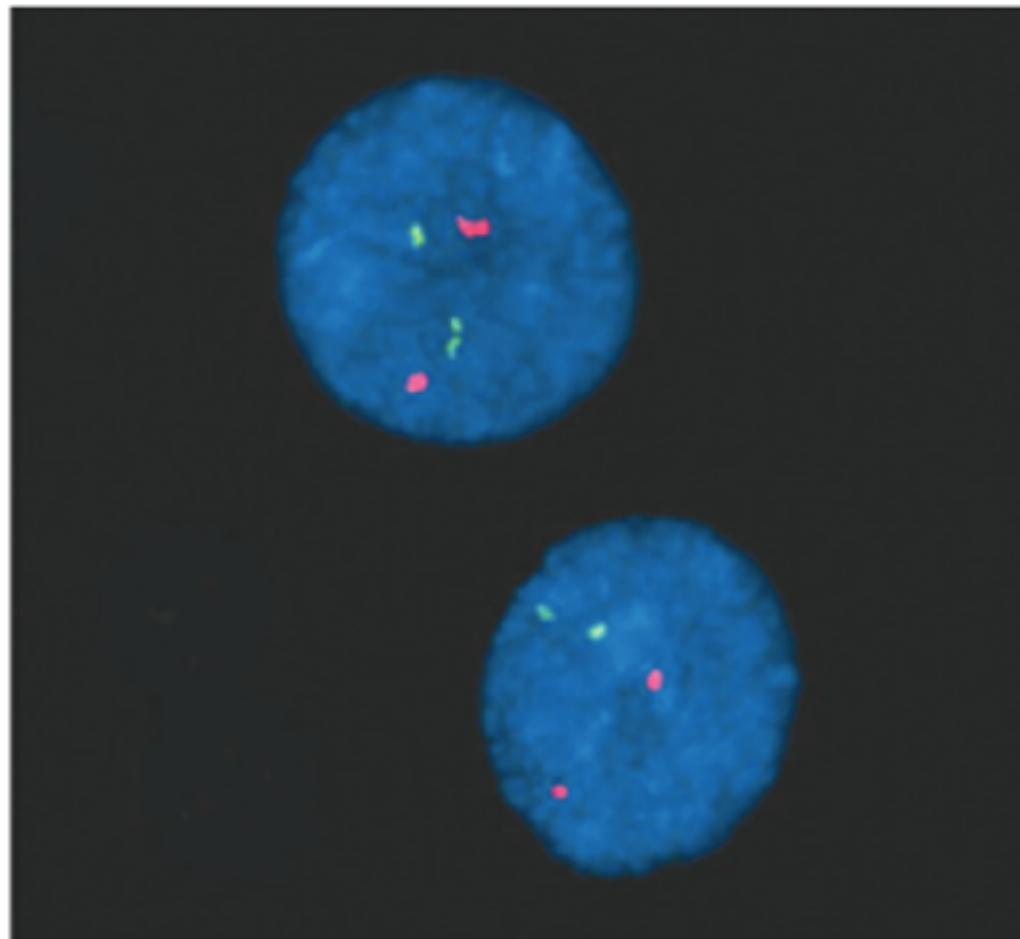


# New Molecular Techniques

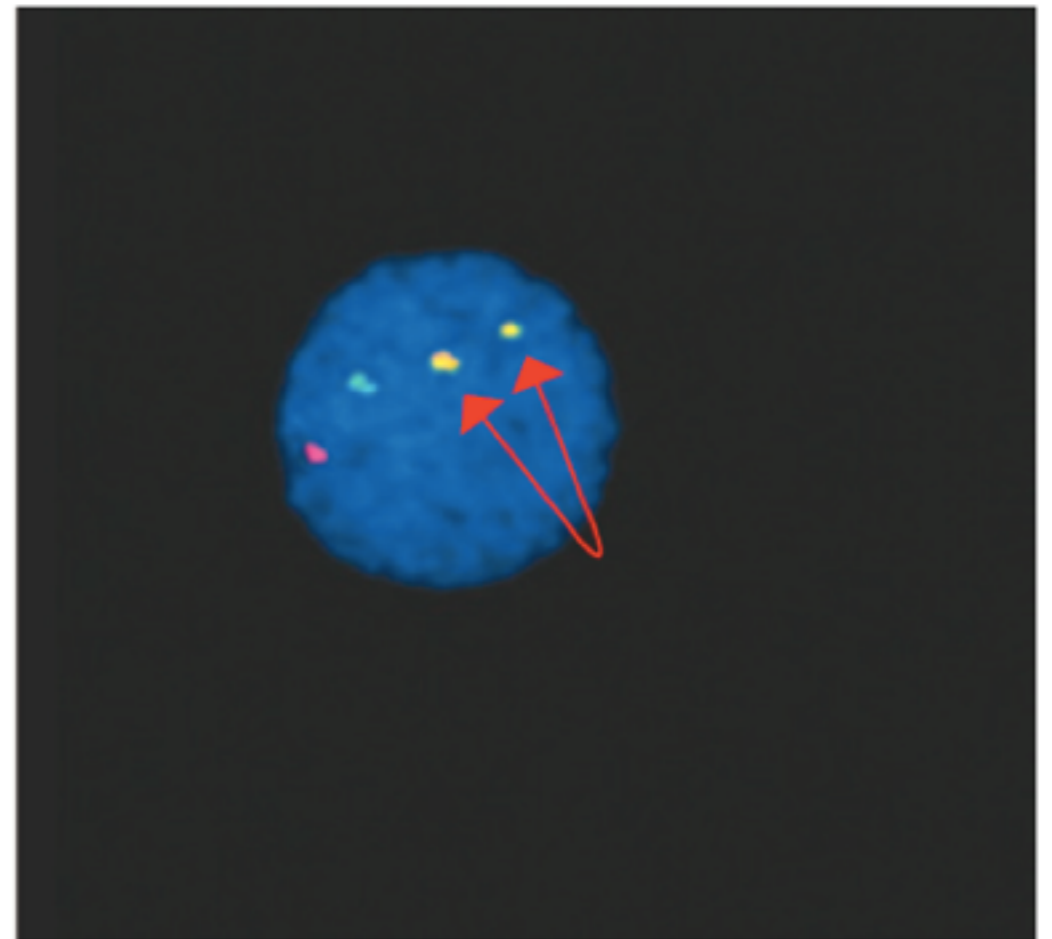
## C. Molecular Probes

### i. FISH (Fluorescence In Situ Hybridization)

- Detect the BCR-ABL fusion gene on chromosome 22
- Qualitative



Normal



Abnormal

# RT-PCR

- Most sensitive test to identify and measure the BCR-ABL gene (Quantitative)
  - Can be performed on blood/marrow cells
  - Amplifies the BCR-ABL derived **abnormal mRNA**
  - One abnormal cell in one million cells can be detected
  - Useful for monitoring

# Phases of CML

## CML Phases



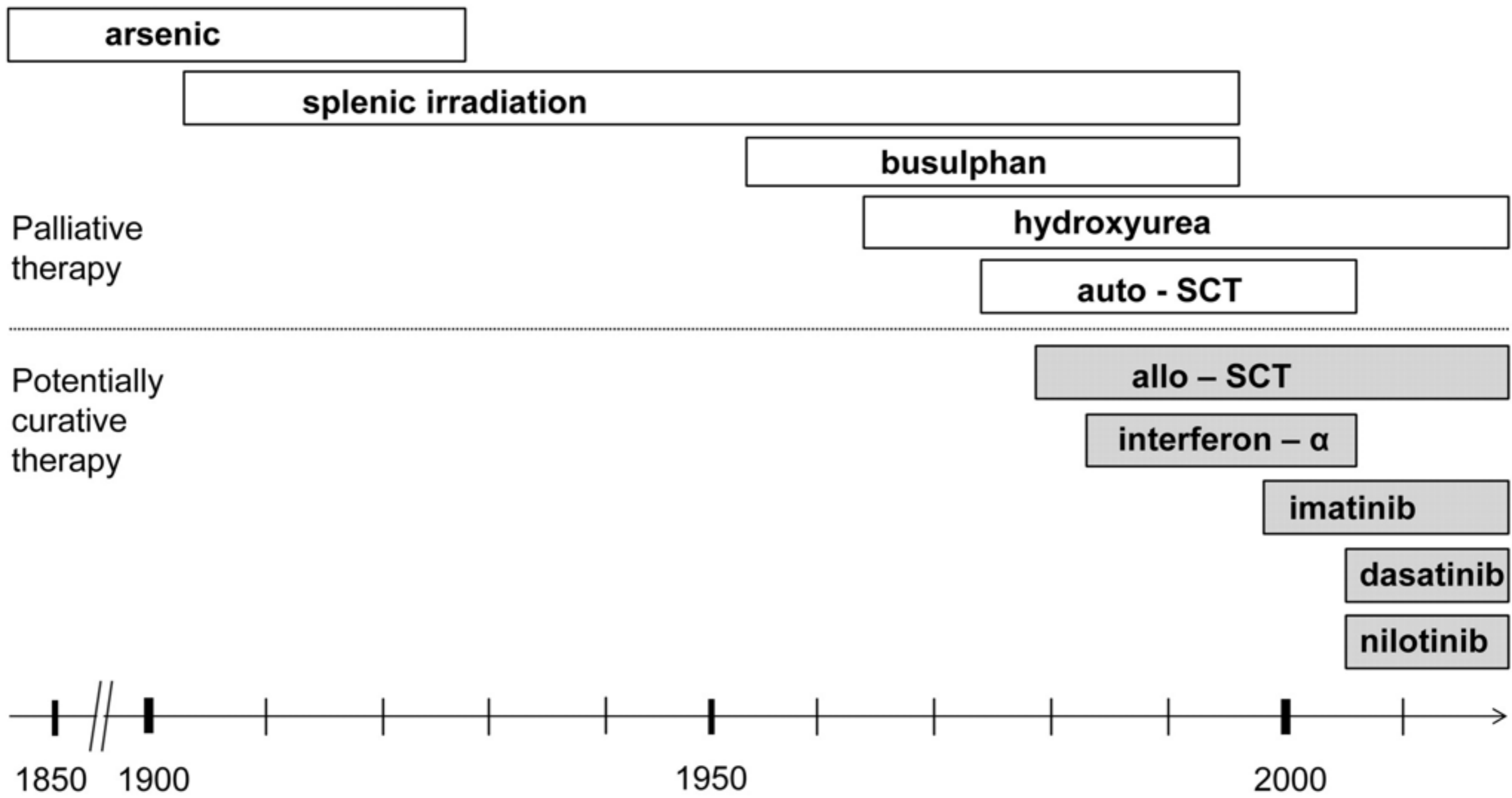
- Asymptomatic (if treated)
- None of criteria for accelerated or blast phase

- Blasts  $\geq 15\%$
- BI + pros  $\geq 30\%$
- Basophils  $\geq 20\%$
- Plts  $< 100,000/\text{mcl}$
- Clonal evolution

- Blasts  $\geq 30\%$
- Extramedullary disease with localized immature blasts

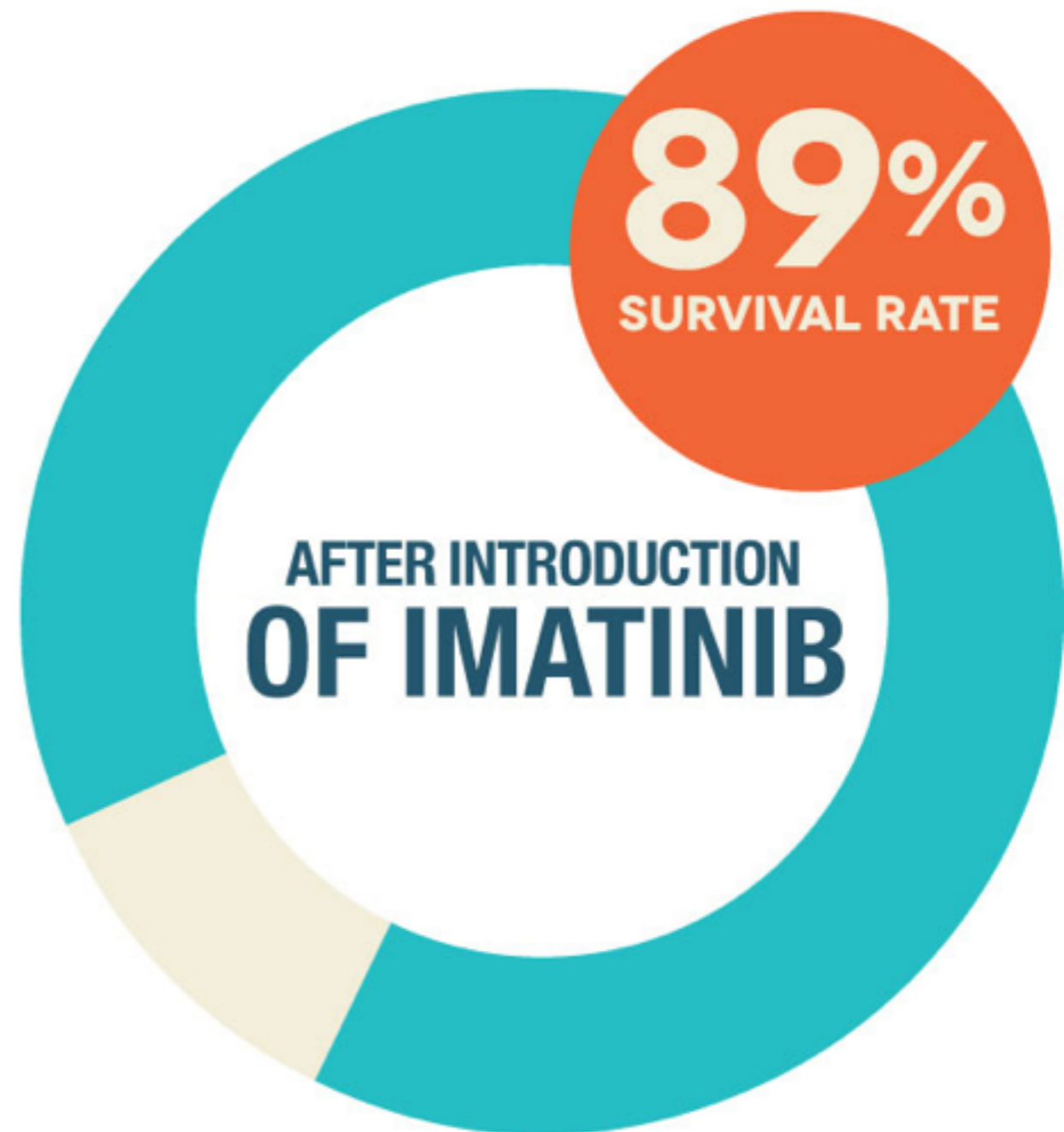
# Treatment overview

- **Initial Cyto reduction Therapy**
  - Hydrea, Anegrilide, allopurinol, Rasburicase, leukapheresis
- **Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Therapy**
  - 1st gen - **Imatinib**
  - 2nd gen - Nilotinib, dasatinib, Bosutinib, Ponatinib, Axitinib, Bafetinib
- **Interferon therapy**
  - Older Rx poor CR, Toxic, Pregnancy
- **Chemotherapy**
  - Cytarabine, Busulphan
- **Splenectomy / Splenic irradiation**
- **Other agents - Omacetaxine**
- **Experimental**
  - Lonafarnib and tipifarnib , Berbamine, Adaphostin, Third-generation TKIs
- **Allogeneic Stem Cell Transplantation**
- **Treatment of accelerated/blast phases**
  - TKI + Chemo
- **Treatment of CML in pregnancy**
  - Leukostasis - placenta, IFN, TKI - teratogenic, Hydrea - 2/3 Tri
- **Treatment cessation**



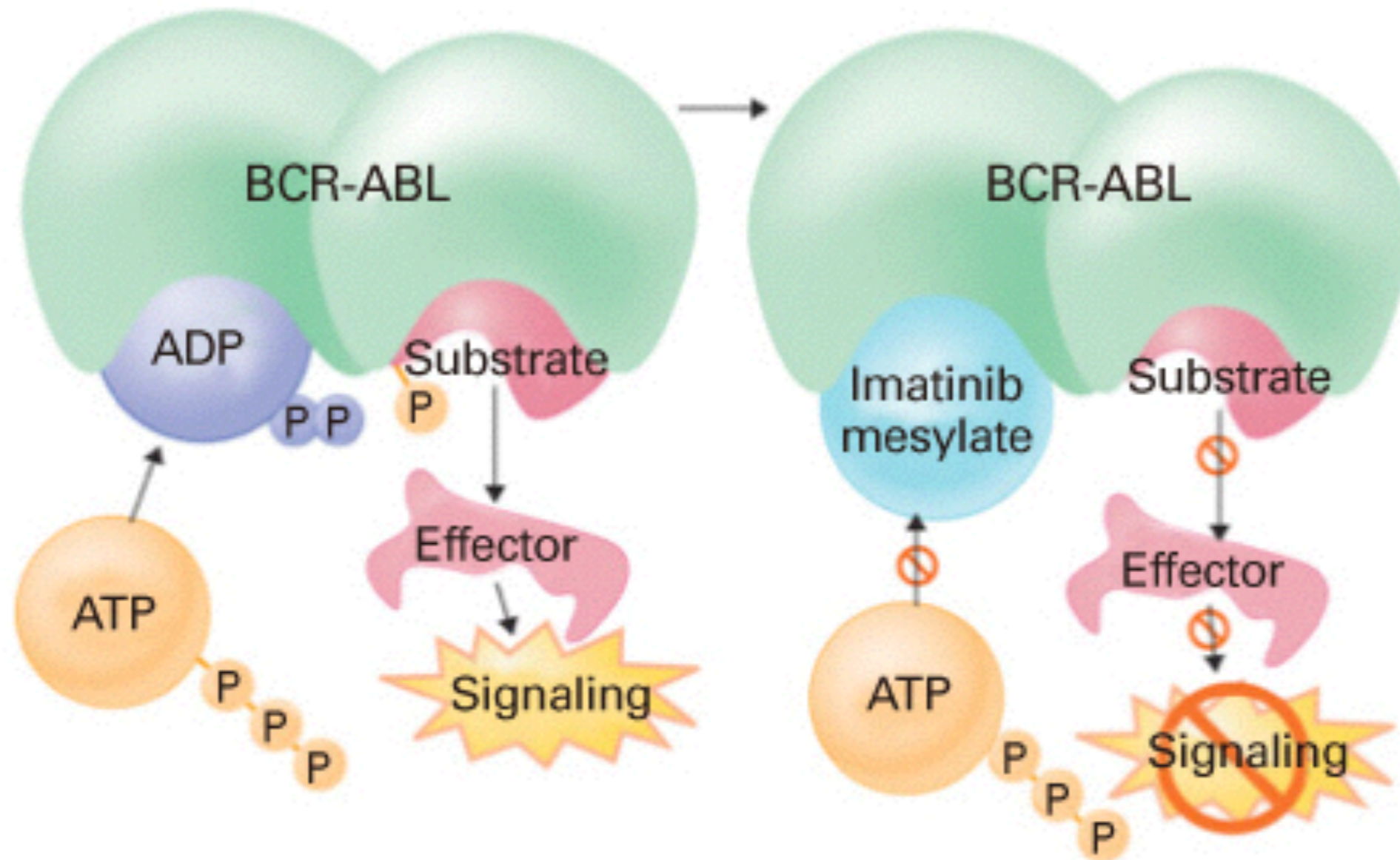


# IMATINIB HAS CHANGED LIVES



**5-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE FOR CML PATIENTS**

# How Imatinib works



# Imatinib efforts in **KENYA**

- **GIPAP** - **G**livec **I**nternational **P**atient **A**ssisted **P**rogram
- Began early 2004/5
- The Max foundation/Novartis Pharma
- “Brain child” - **Prof Malkit Riyat, Prof, N. Abinya**
- Ph chromosome - on entry
- Free imatinib (Cost per head per month - **4000 USD**)
- Initially - 10-15 pts/clinic - once a month

# GIPAP (1)

- Now close to **700 patient database** from all corners of Kenya & EA (in 2010 only about 100 were registered)
- Runs every fortnight - **The Nairobi Hospital - Anderson Medical Clinic**
- **180 - 200** patients seen per month
- Turnover - **80 Million KES every month**
- Team of doctors has grown
  - Prof. Mwanda, Prof. Kitonyi, Dr. Kiarie, **Myself**, Dr. Sitna, Dr. Matilda, Dr Oyiro & the “**occasional iMed registrar**”
- 79 countries worldwide (**38 Africa**)
- Also caters for patients with GIST - CD117/C-Kit +ve



[HOME](#)   [ABOUT](#)   [LOG IN](#)   [REGISTER](#)   [SEARCH](#)   [CURRENT](#)   [ARCHIVES](#)

[Home](#) > [Vol 1, No 1 \(2010\)](#) > [Mlombe](#)

## Chronic myeloid leukaemia in Africa

**Yohannie B. Mlombe**

Department Of Haematology, College Of Medicine, University Of Malawi

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Yohannie Mlombe, C/o Division Of Clinical Haematology, Department Of Internal Medicine, Faculty Of Health Sciences, University Of Free State, P.O. box 339(G2), Bloemfontein, South Africa. E-mail: [yohanniemlombe@googlemail.com](mailto:yohanniemlombe@googlemail.com) Fax: +27514441036.  
*Afr J Haematol Oncol 2010;1(1):24-25*

Chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) is a myeloproliferative disorder of granulocytes. According to the latest WHO classification of tumours of the haematopoietic and lymphoid tissues, CML is typically Philadelphia chromosome positive (Ph<sup>+</sup>)<sup>1</sup>. Ph chromosome negative CML is known as Atypical CML (aCML) and is said to be only 1-2 cases per 100 cases of CML<sup>2</sup>. The role of Ph chromosome in CML poses problems in two areas for CML patients in Africa. The diagnosis of and treatment for CML relies on tests for (cytogenetic analysis, FISH analysis, RT-PCR or Southern blot methods) and drugs targeted at the proteins coded by the Ph chromosome (tyrosine kinase inhibitors). These are costly undertakings. However, all is not lost, thanks to the Glivec International Patient Assistance Programme (GIPAP) which is run by the MAX Foundation and is supported by Novartis, the manufacturers of Glivec (imatinib mesylate/imatinib) or Gleevec (in the USA).

# GIPAP (2)

- Before entry - BCR/ABL
  - UNITID, AKUH, NH, & other popular labs in Upperhill area
- BMA - CP, AP, BC
- Personal identification
- Delay to Imatinib Initiation - Resistance (**Dindi Et Al 2010**) & poor survival

# GIPAP PHOTO MOMENTS (1)



# GIPAP Patients



[Home](#) [About us](#) [Events](#) [Get Involved](#) [Links](#) [Membership](#) [Promotional Merchandise](#) [New](#)

## INTERNATIONAL CML DAY 2014





# GIPAP PHOTO MOMENTS (2)



# Message to Final yr class (Interns to be)

- Quick suspicion
  - **DO NOT OVERTREAT** for typhoid/malaria/brucellosis/sepsis/PUO
  - Dont wait for the **traditional massive splenomegaly** and feel happy about it
- Risk stratify (pre-treated) - **EUTOS SCORE - 7x(Basophil)+4X(Spleen size)**
- Proper disclosure / patient counselling
- BMA + BCR/ABL - need not be done in KNH
  - BMA - is not a consultants' procedure
  - Our Patient Had both BMA + BCR/ABL in one week
- Refer - ready to start Imatinib

# “Just incase you forgot”

- CML - needs early recognition
- Early treatment - Better survival
- You are these patients first contact
- Refer early
- Imatinib has changed LIVES

# THE END

MAY 28, 2001

www.time.com AOL Keyword: TIME

# TIME

THERE IS NEW **AMMUNITION**  
IN THE WAR AGAINST

# CANCER.

**THESE ARE THE BULLETS.**

Revolutionary new pills like **GLEEVEC**  
combat cancer by targeting only the  
diseased cells. Is this the breakthrough  
we've been waiting for?

