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# Erkrankungen mit sekundärer Eisenüberladung

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Comprehensive Cancer Center

Als Onkologisches Spitzenzentrum gefördert durch die Deutsche Krebshilfe e.V.

# Eisenüberladung

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## Hereditäre Ursachen

- Verschiedene Typen der hereditären Hämochromatose (HH)
- Gestörter Eisentransport
- Ineffektive Erythropoese („iron loading anemia“)  
→ verstärkte intestinale Eisenresorption

## Erworben Ursachen

- Ineffektive Erythropoese
- Chronische Transfusionsbehandlung

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Hämochromatose

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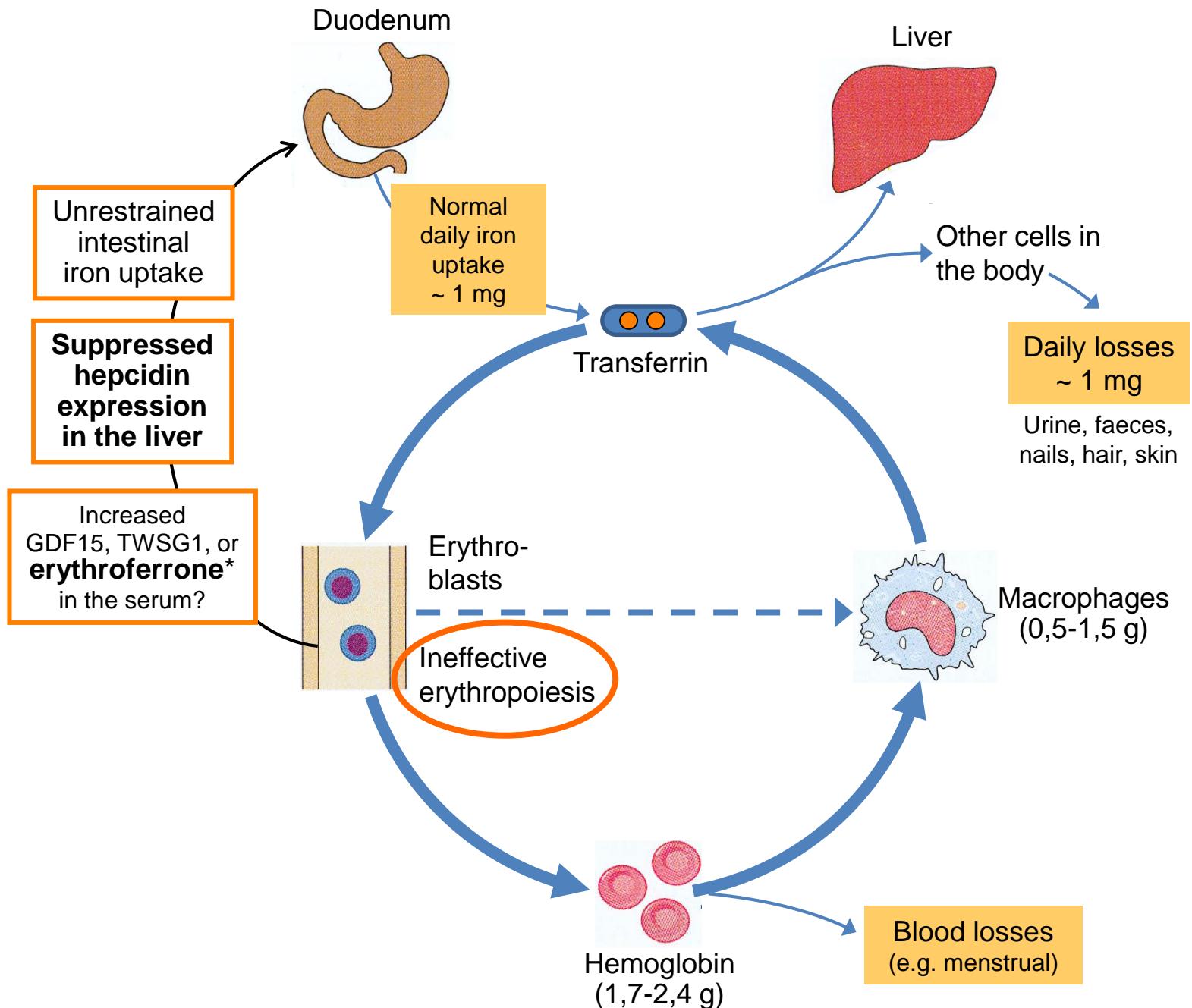
Thalassämie (NTDT)  
kongen. sideroblast. Anämie  
kongen. dyserythropoetische A.

## Sekundäre Hämochromatose

Myelodysplastische Syndrome

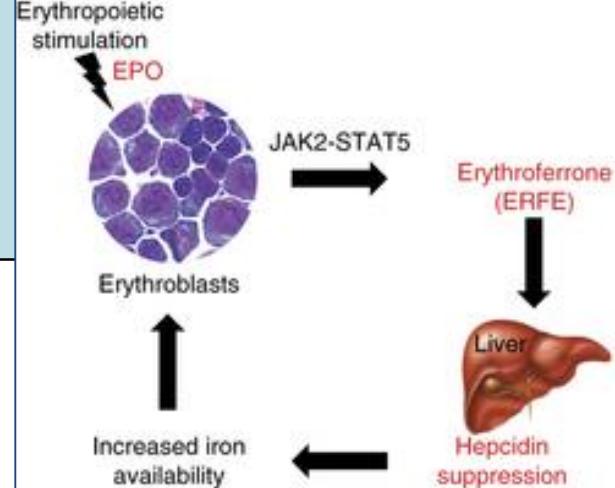
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# Erythroferrone

Nat Genet. 2014 Jul;46(7):678-84. doi: 10.1038/ng.2996. Epub 2014 Jun 1.



## Identification of erythroferrone as an erythroid regulator of iron metabolism.

Kautz L<sup>1</sup>, Jung G<sup>1</sup>, Valore EV<sup>1</sup>, Rivella S<sup>2</sup>, Nemeth E<sup>1</sup>, Ganz T<sup>3</sup>.

### Author information

#### Abstract

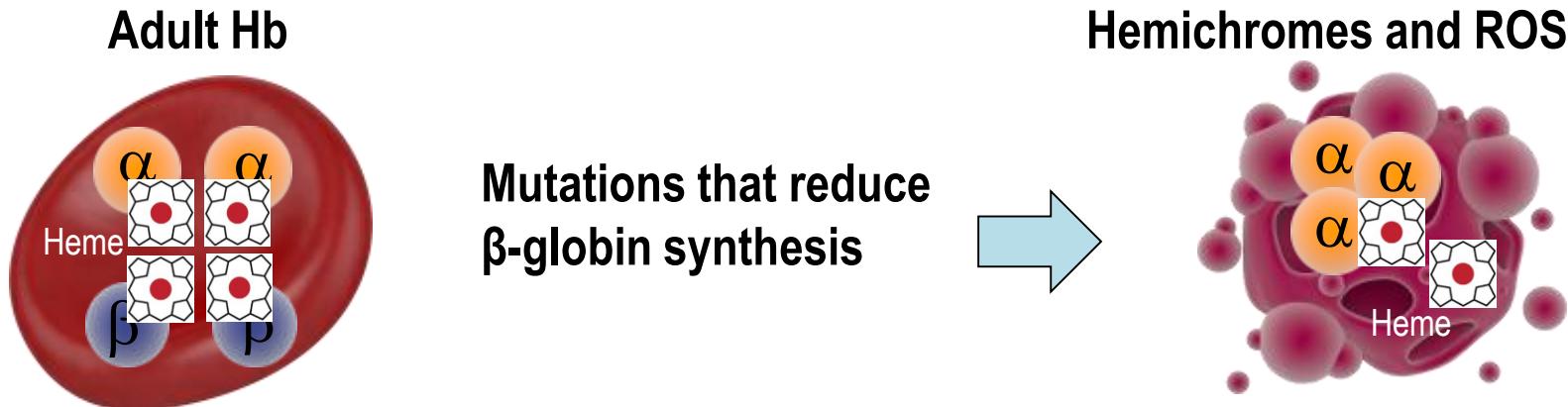
Recovery from blood loss requires a greatly enhanced supply of iron to support expanded erythropoiesis. After hemorrhage, suppression of the iron-regulatory hormone hepcidin allows increased iron absorption and mobilization from stores. We identified a new hormone, erythroferrone (ERFE), that mediates hepcidin suppression during stress erythropoiesis. ERFE is produced by erythroblasts in response to erythropoietin. ERFE-deficient mice fail to suppress hepcidin rapidly after hemorrhage and exhibit a delay in recovery from blood loss. ERFE expression is greatly increased in Hbb(th3/+) mice with thalassemia intermedia, where it contributes to the suppression of hepcidin and the systemic iron overload characteristic of this disease.

**Table 1.** Heritable Forms of Systemic Iron Overload According to the Pathophysiological Defect.\*

Disorder	Gene and Inheritance	Age at Presentation	Neurologic Symptoms	Anemia	Transferrin Saturation
<b>Impaired hepcidin–ferroportin axis</b>					
HH type I	<i>HFE</i> , AR	Adult	No	No	High
HH type IIA	<i>HFE2</i> , AR	Child to young adult	No	No	High
HH type IIB	<i>HAMP</i> , AR	Child to young adult	No	No	High
HH type III	<i>TFR2</i> , AR	Young adult	No	No	High
HH type IVA (atypical HH)	<i>FP</i> (LOF), AD	Adult	No	Variable	Low initially
HH type IVB	<i>FP</i> (GOF), AD	Adult	No	No	High
<b>Impaired iron transport</b>					
Inadequate release to erythron: aceruloplasminemia	<i>CP</i> , AR	Adult	Yes	Yes	Low
Inadequate uptake by erythron					
DMT1 mutations	<i>DMT1</i> , AR	Child	No	Yes	High
Hypotransferrinemia	<i>TF</i> , AR	Variable	No	Yes	High
<b>Ineffective erythropoiesis</b>					
Thalassemia	<i>Globin</i> , AR	Child	No	Yes	High
Congenital sideroblastic anemia	<i>ALAS2</i> , XL; <i>SLC25A38</i> , AR; <i>GLRX5</i> , AR; <i>ABCB7</i> , XL	Variable	<i>ALAS2</i> and <i>SLC25A38</i> : no; <i>GLRX5</i> and <i>ABCB7</i> : yes	Yes	High
Congenital dyserythropoietic anemia					
Type I	<i>DAN1</i> , AR	Child	No	Yes	High
Type II	<i>SEC23B</i> , AR	Child	No	Yes	High
Type III	Unknown, AD	Child	No	Yes	High

\* AD denotes autosomal dominant, AR autosomal recessive, GOF gain of function, HH hereditary hemochromatosis, LOF loss of function, and XL X-linked.

# $\beta$ -thalassemia



In  $\beta$ -thalassaemia, a relative excess of  $\alpha$ -globin synthesis leads to formation of hemichromes ( $\alpha$ -globin/heme aggregates).

Hemichromes are the primary cause of cellular toxicity in  $\beta$ -thalassemia because they precipitate and lodge on erythrocyte membranes, altering their structure.

Furthermore, excess heme leads to the formation of reactive oxygen species (ROSs), which induce oxidative stress and cellular damage.

In turn, this leads to IE by increasing apoptosis of erythroid precursors and reducing the number of erythrocytes produced as well as their survival in circulation.

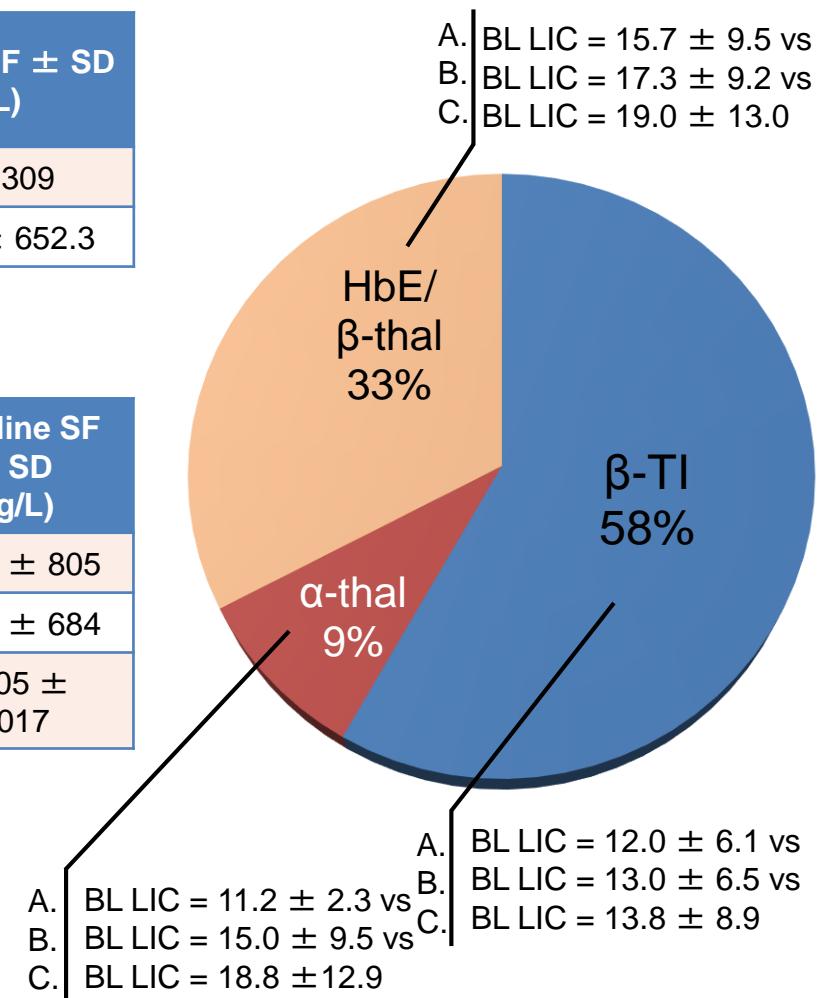
# IOL is more prevalent in NTDT than expected

Study	Population (n)	Baseline LIC ± SD (mg Fe/g dry wt)	Baseline SF ± SD (µg/L)
Origa et al. 2007 <sup>1</sup>	22	11.3 ± 6	627 ± 309
Taher et al. 2010 <sup>2</sup>	19	15.0 ± 7.4	1,316.8 ± 652.3

Taher et al. 2012<sup>3</sup> – THALASSA (n = 166)

Group	Treatment	Population (n)	Baseline LIC ± SD (mg Fe/g dry wt)	Baseline SF ± SD (µg/L)
A.	DFX 5 <sup>a</sup>	55	13.11 ± 7.29	1,141 ± 805
B.	DFX 10 <sup>a</sup>	55	14.56 ± 7.92	1,174 ± 684
C.	Placebo <sup>a</sup>	56	15.94 ± 10.85	1,305 ± 1,017

## THALASSA population<sup>4</sup>



1. Origia R, et al. Haematologica. 2007;92:583-8.

3. Taher A, et al. Blood. 2012;120:970-7.

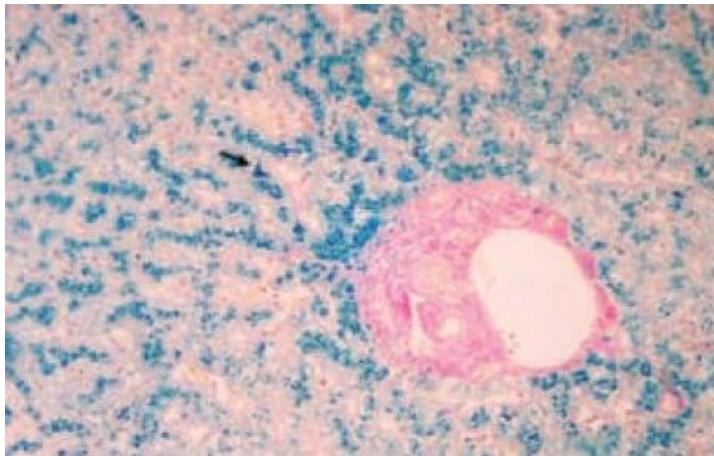
2. Taher A, et al. Am J Hematol. 2010;85:288-90

4. Taher A, et al. Am J Hematol. 2013;88:503-6

# Liver histology in NTDT and TDT demonstrates different origin and distribution of iron

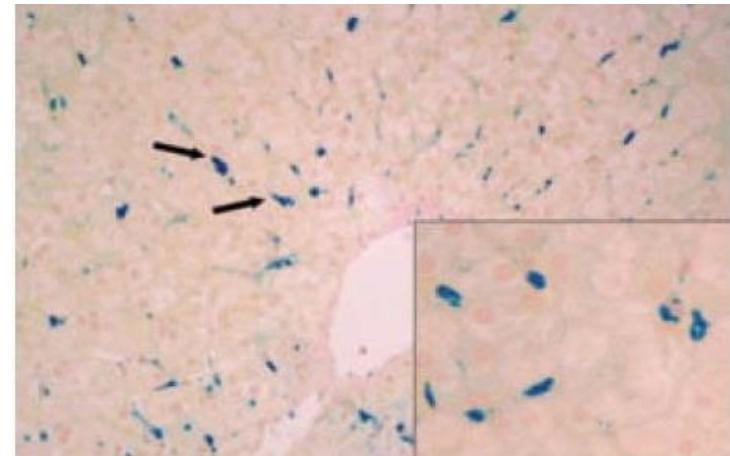
- Hepcidin deficiency allows high iron egress from macrophages
- Also, increased GI iron absorption, oversaturation of transferrin, and accumulation of NTBI lead to predominantly parenchymal IOL

NTDT



Preferential periportal and hepatocyte iron loading  
(with rare Kupffer cells – arrow)  
Low hepcidin → iron release from macrophages

TDT



RES distribution  
(mainly in Kupffer cells – arrows)

- Origia R, et al. Haematologica. 2007;92:583-8.
- Taher AT, et al. Br J Haematol. 2011;152:512-23.

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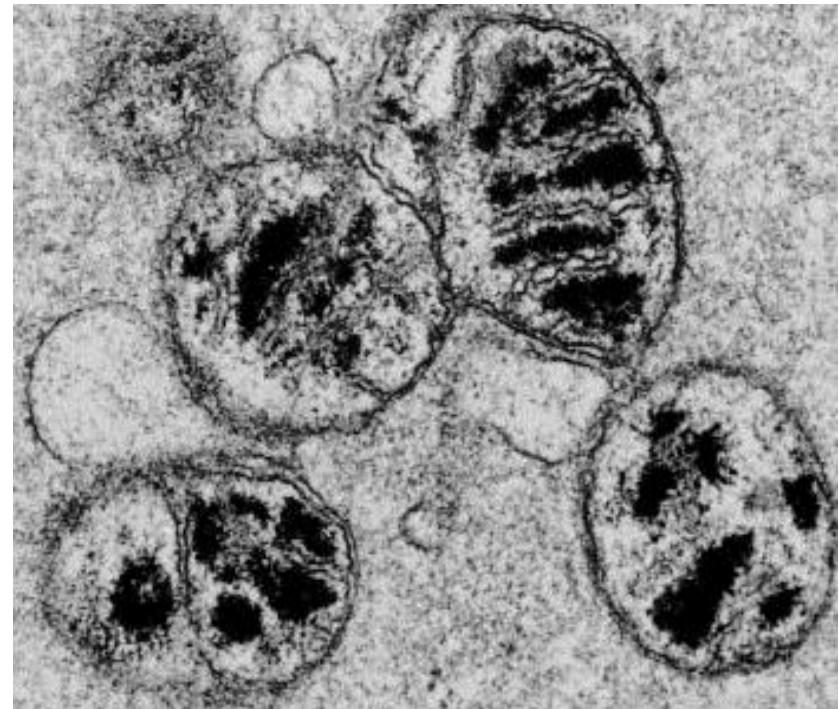
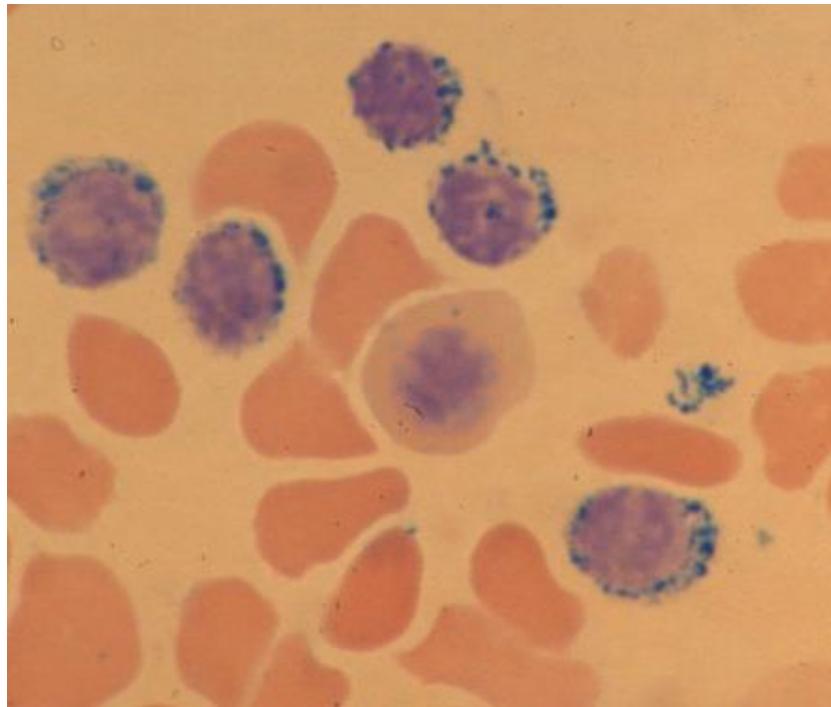
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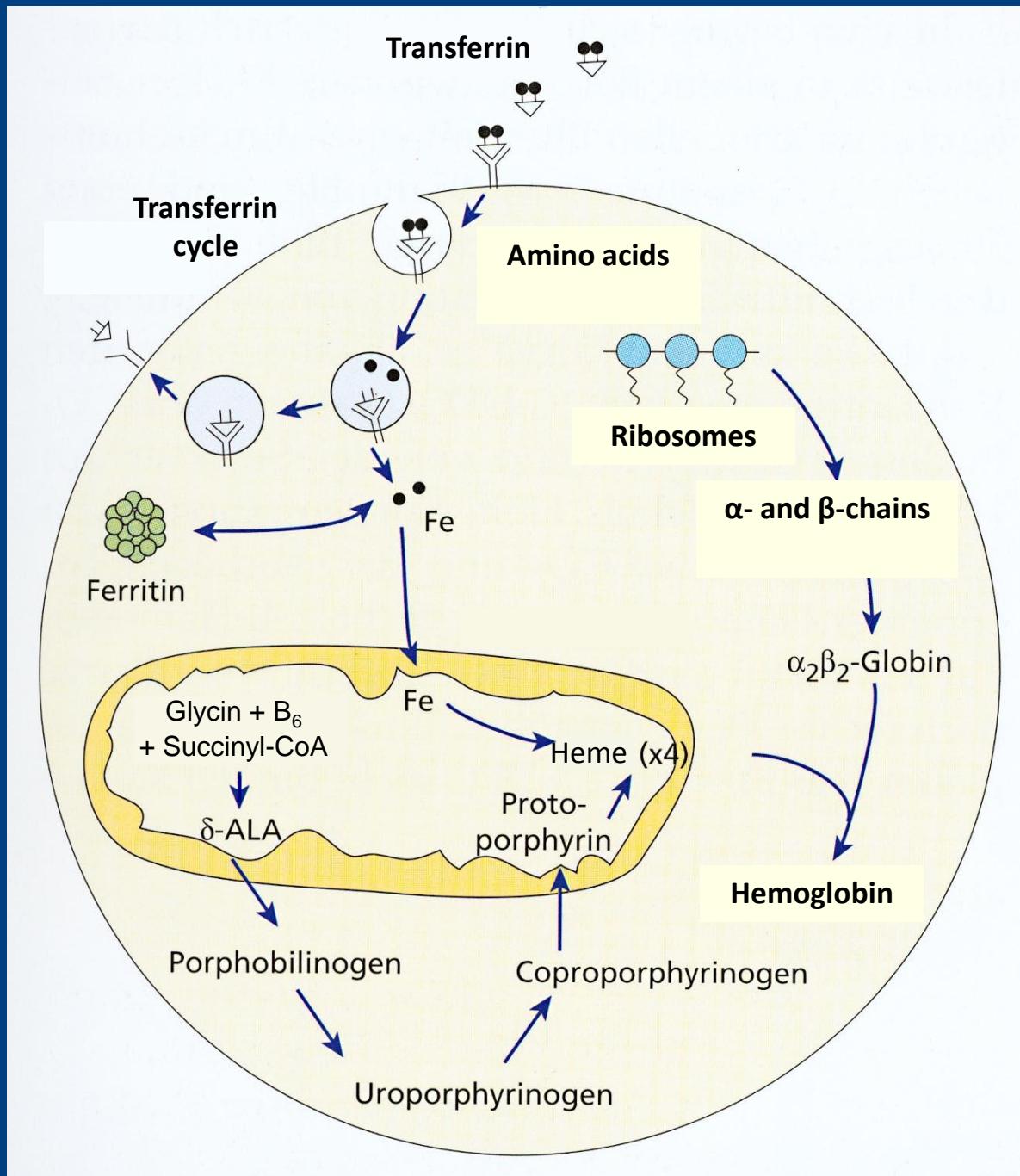
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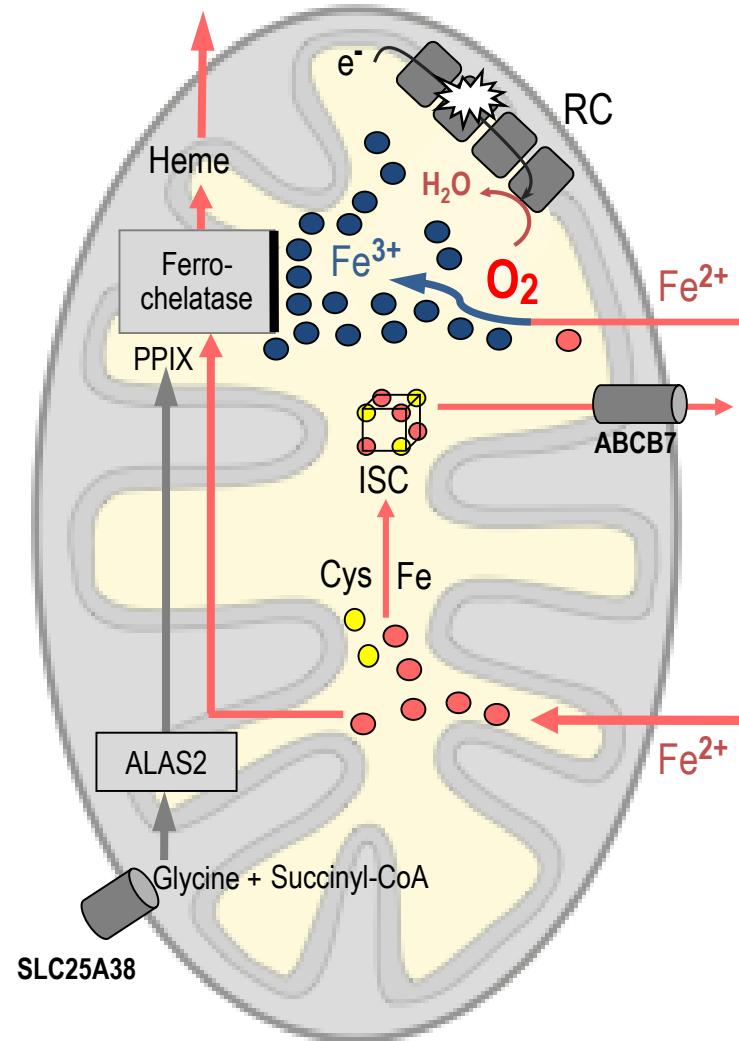
# The hallmark of sideroblastic anemia: Erythroblasts with mitochondrial iron overload





Condition	Molecular basis	Clinical features
<b>Non-syndromic congenital sideroblastic anemias</b>		
X-linked sideroblastic anemia (XLSA) (MIM ID # 300751)	Germline mutation in the erythroid-specific ALA synthase gene ( <i>ALAS2</i> , chromosome Xp11.21)	Hemizygous males have hypochromic microcytic anemia due to ineffective erythropoiesis and secondary iron overload (iron-loading anemia). Heterozygous females may have minor red cell abnormalities (in particular, increased red cell distribution width). Most patients are responsive to pyridoxine.
Autosomal recessive pyridoxine-refractory sideroblastic anemia (MIM ID #205950)	Germline mutations in the <i>SLC25A38</i> gene (chromosome 3p22.1)	Homozygous males and females have severe microcytic anemia that almost inevitably becomes transfusion-dependent. Heterozygous individuals have no hematologic phenotype. Conservative therapy includes regular red cell transfusion and iron chelation. Allogeneic stem cell transplantation represents the only curative treatment at present.
	Homozygous mutation in the <i>GLRX5</i> gene (chromosome 14q32)	The reported case regards a middle-aged male affected with pyridoxine-refractory sideroblastic anemia and iron overload.
<b>Hereditary syndromic conditions</b>		
X-linked sideroblastic anemia and spinocerebellar ataxia (XLSA/A, MIM ID #301310)	Germline mutation in the <i>ABCB7</i> gene (chromosome Xq13.1-q13.3)	Hemizygous males have moderate hypochromic microcytic anemia and tend to develop non-progressive ataxia and incoordination early in life.
Myopathy, lactic acidosis and sideroblastic anemia (MLASA1, MIM ID #600462)	Homozygous germline mutation in the <i>PUS1</i> gene (chromosome 12q24.33)	Myopathy, lactic acidosis, and anemia (progressive exercise intolerance during childhood).
Myopathy, lactic acidosis and sideroblastic anemia (MLASA2, MIM ID #613561)	Homozygous germline mutation in the <i>YARS2</i> gene (chromosome 12p.11.21)	Myopathy, lactic acidosis, and anemia (progressive exercise intolerance during childhood).
Thiamine-responsive megaloblastic anemia (TRMA, MIM ID #249270)	Germline mutations in the <i>SLC19A2</i> gene encoding a thiamine transporter protein (chromosome 1q23.3)	Thiamine-responsive macrocytic anemia, diabetes mellitus, and sensorineural deafness.
Pearson marrow-pancreas syndrome (MIM ID #557000)	Mitochondrial DNA deletion	Refractory sideroblastic anemia with vacuolization of marrow precursors and exocrine pancreatic dysfunction.

# Pathophysiology of sideroblastic anemias



# The human counterpart of zebrafish *shiraz* shows sideroblastic-like microcytic anemia and iron overload

Clara Camaschella,<sup>1,2</sup> Alessandro Campanella,<sup>1</sup> Luigia De Falco,<sup>4</sup> Loredana Boschetto,<sup>4</sup> Roberta Merlini,<sup>5</sup> Laura Silvestri,<sup>2</sup> Sonia Levi,<sup>1,2</sup> and Achille Iolascon<sup>3,4</sup>

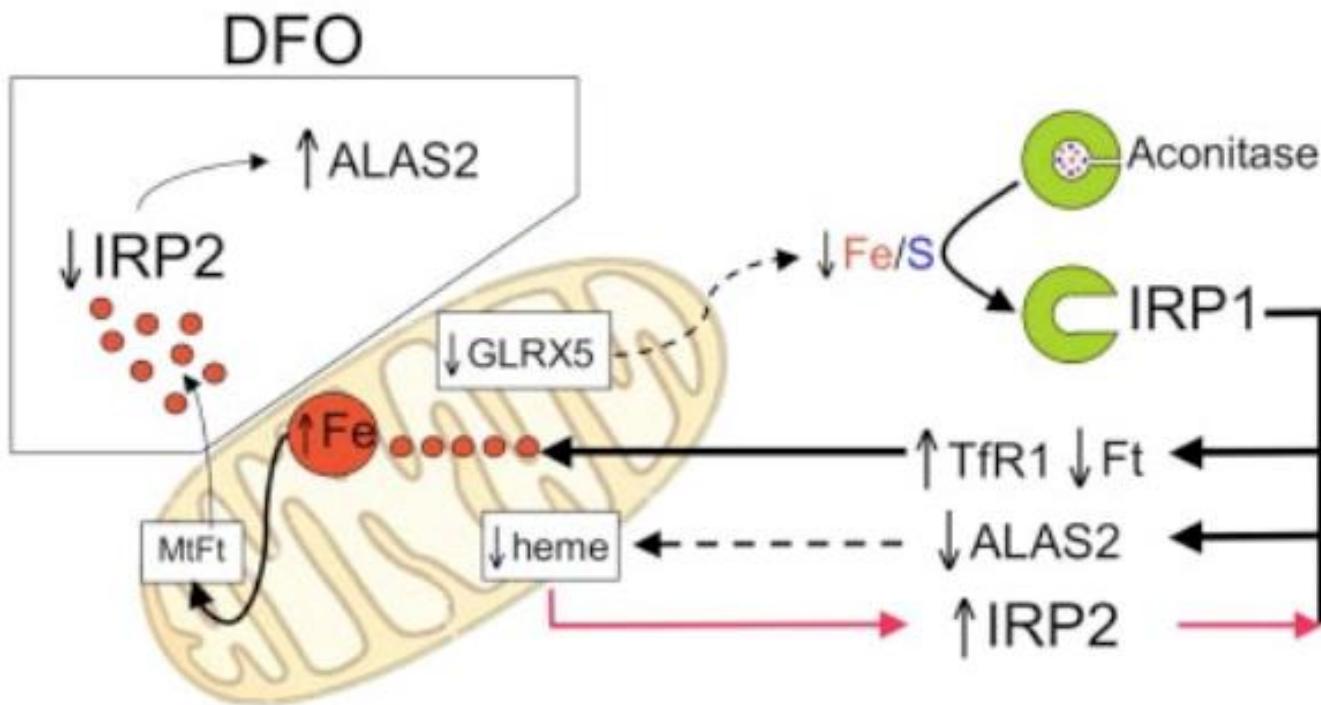
<sup>1</sup>Vita-Salute University and <sup>2</sup>Istituto di Ricerca e Cura a Carattere Scientifico (IRCCS) San Raffaele, Milan; <sup>3</sup>Department of Biochemistry and Medical Biotechnologies, University Federico II, Naples; <sup>4</sup>Centre of Genetics Engineering (CEINGE) Advanced Biotechnologies, Naples; <sup>5</sup>Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences, University of Turin, Turin, Italy

Inherited microcytic-hypochromic anemias in rodents and zebrafish suggest the existence of corresponding human disorders. The zebrafish mutant *shiraz* has severe anemia and is embryonically lethal because of glutaredoxin 5 (GLRX5) deletion, insufficient biogenesis of mitochondrial iron-sulfur (Fe/S) clusters, and deregulated iron-regulatory protein 1 (IRP1) activity. This leads to stabilization of transferrin receptor 1 (*TfR*) RNA, repression of ferritin, and ALA-synthase 2 (*ALAS2*) translation with impaired heme

synthesis. We report the first case of GLRX5 deficiency in a middle-aged anemic male with iron overload and a low number of ringed sideroblasts. Anemia was worsened by blood transfusions but partially reversed by iron chelation. The patient had a homozygous (c.294A>G) mutation that interferes with intron 1 splicing and drastically reduces *GLRX5* RNA. As in *shiraz*, aconitase and H-ferritin levels were low and TfR level was high in the patient's cells, compatible with increased IRP1 binding. Based on the biochemical

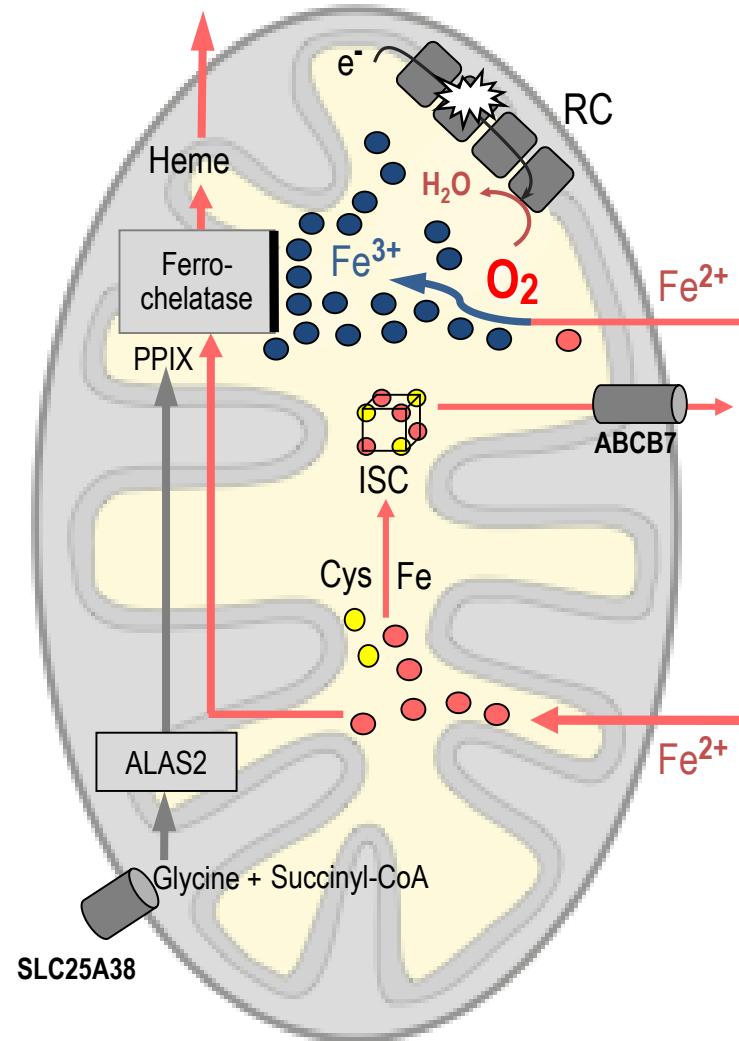
and clinical phenotype, we hypothesize that IRP2, less degraded by low heme, contributes to the repression of the erythroblasts ferritin and *ALAS2*, increasing mitochondrial iron. Iron chelation, redistributing iron to the cytosol, might relieve IRP2 excess, improving heme synthesis and anemia. GLRX5 function is highly conserved, but at variance with zebrafish, its defect in humans leads to anemia and iron overload. (Blood. 2007;110:1353-1358)

© 2007 by The American Society of Hematology



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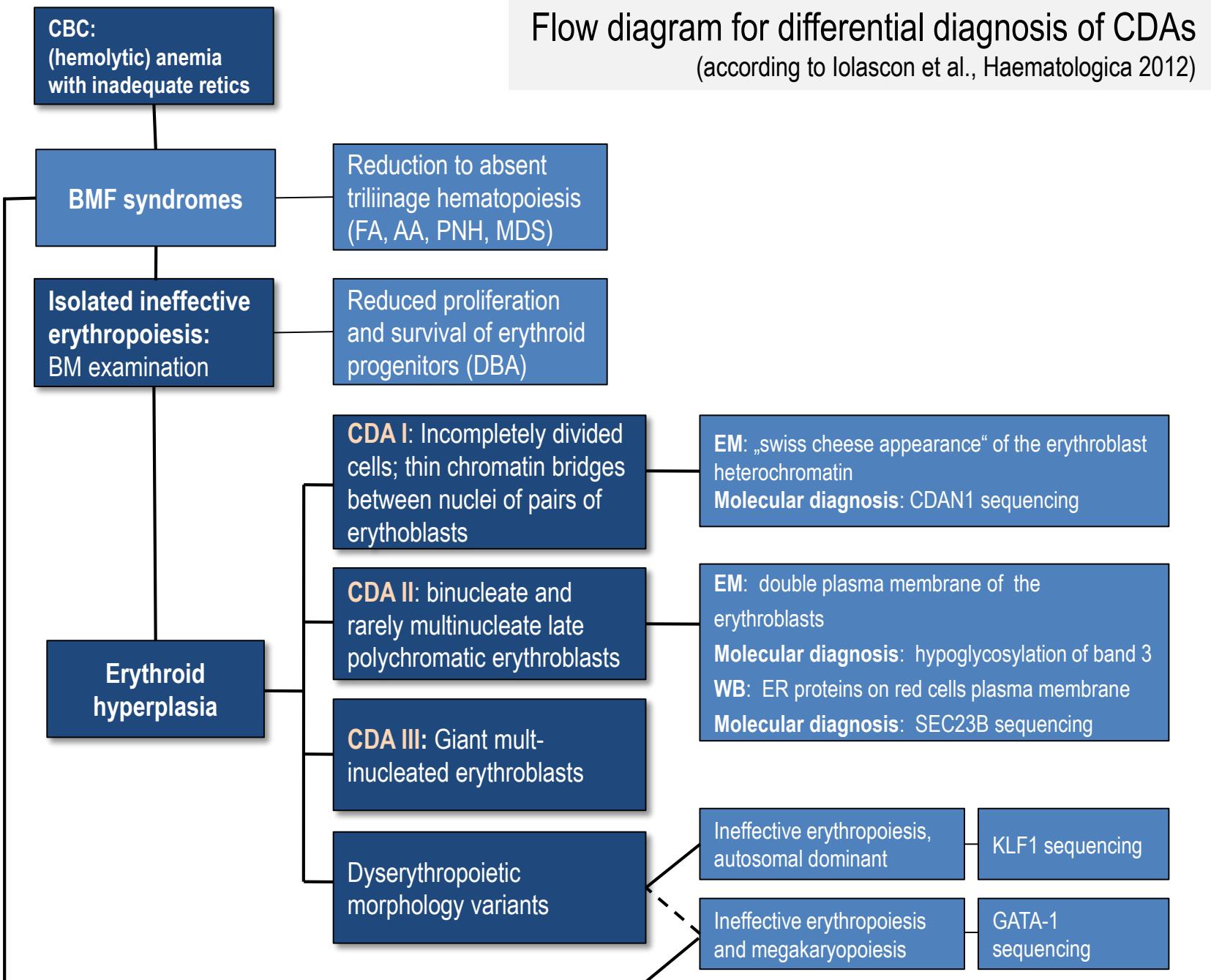
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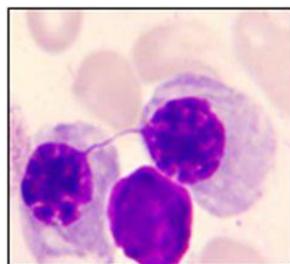
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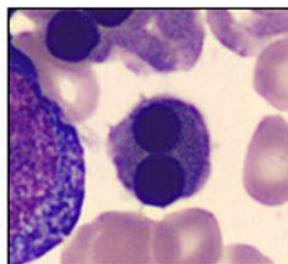


# Characteristic features of different types of congenital dyserythropoietic anemias

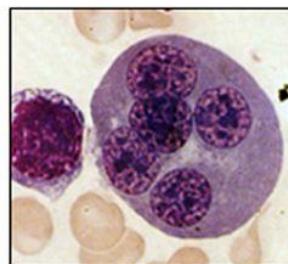
CDA type	I	II	III Familial	III Sporadic	Variants
Inheritance	Autosomal recessive	Autosomal recessive	Dominant	Variable	Autosomal dominant or X linked or recessive
Cases reported	>300	>450	2 families	<20	~70
BM morphology (light microscopy)	Abnormal chromatin structure, chromatin bridges	Binuclearity, multinuclearity of mature erythroblasts	Giant multinucleated erythroblasts	Giant multinucleated erythroblasts	CDA I-like, CDA II-like, others
BM EM findings	"Spongy" heterochromatin, invagination of cytoplasm into the nucleus	Peripheral cisternae beneath the plasma membrane	Clefts in heterochromatin, autophagic vacuoles, intranuclear cisternae	Various	Various
Mutated gene	<i>CDAN1</i> , <i>C15ORF41</i>	<i>SEC23B</i>	<i>KIF23</i>	Unknown	<i>KLF1</i> , <i>GATA-1</i> , unknown
Associated dysmorphology/organ involvement	Skeleton	Variable, rare	Monoclonal gammopathy, myeloma, angiod streaks	Variable	CNS, others



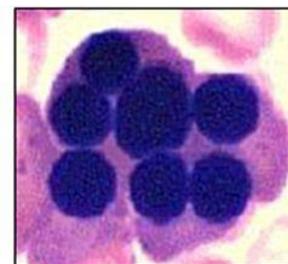
CDA type I



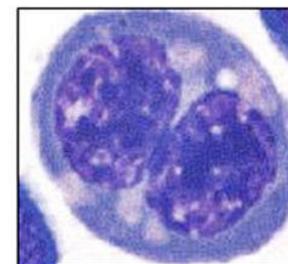
CDA type II



CDA type III familial



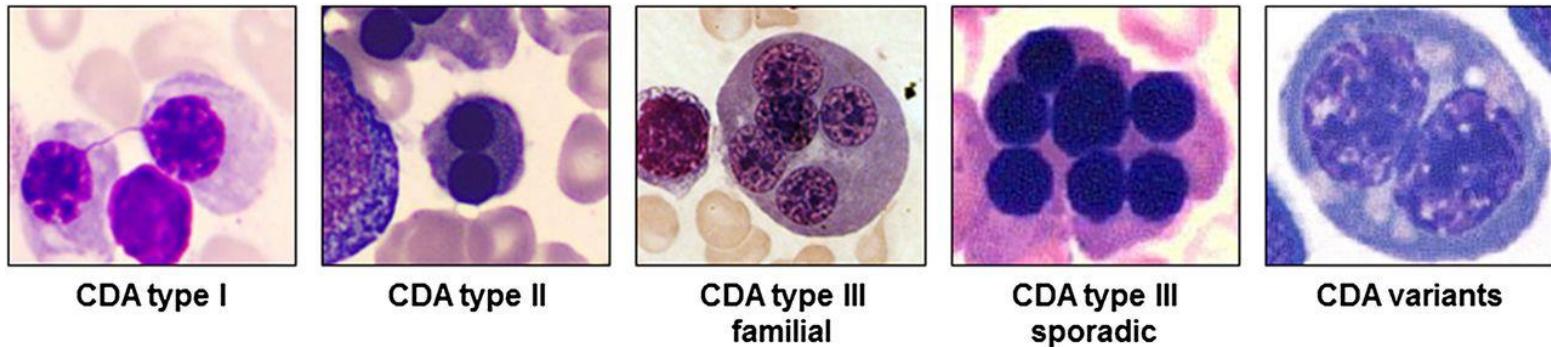
CDA type III sporadic



CDA variants

# Congenital dyserythropoietic anemias: Molecular insights

- CDA I:** Codanin-1 is a ubiquitous protein that may facilitate **histone assembly** into chromatin during cell cycle. The primary defect in CDA I seems to be in DNA replication and chromatin assembly and may involve disruption of the intrinsic connection between cell cycle dynamics and terminal erythroid differentiation.
- CDA II:** SEC23B encodes the cytoplasmic COPII (coat protein) component SEC23B, which is involved in the **secretory pathway of eukaryotic cells**. This multisubunit complex mediates accumulation of secretory cargo, deformation of the membrane, and anterograde transport of correctly folded cargo for budding from the endoplasmic reticulum toward the Golgi apparatus.
- CDA III:** KIF23 encodes a kinesin-superfamily molecule, mitotic kinesin-like protein 1 (MKLP1), a mitotic protein **essential for cytokinesis**, suggesting a mechanism behind multinucleated erythroblasts.

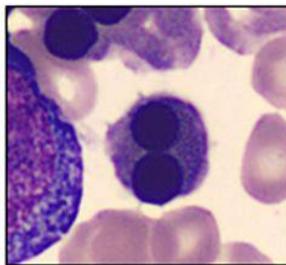


# Congenital dyserythropoietic anemias: Conclusions

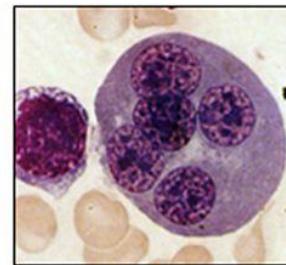
- The identification of several CDA genes has improved the diagnostic aspect of this disease
- No comprehensive explanation for the mechanism of erythropoietic disruption has been disclosed
- The fact that the proteins encoded by the CDA I, II, and III genes are ubiquitously expressed while the disease manifestations are mainly erythroid restricted remains a quandary.
- The hallmark of the CDAs is failure of terminal erythropoiesis, which can cause secondary hemochromatosis



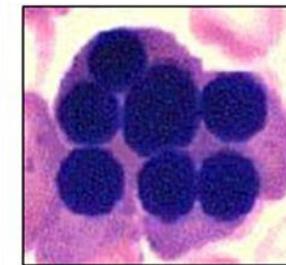
CDA type I



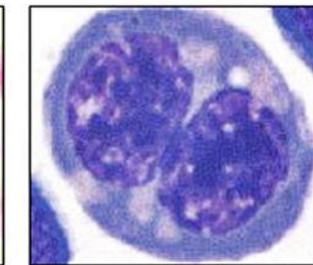
CDA type II



CDA type III  
familial



CDA type III  
sporadic



CDA variants

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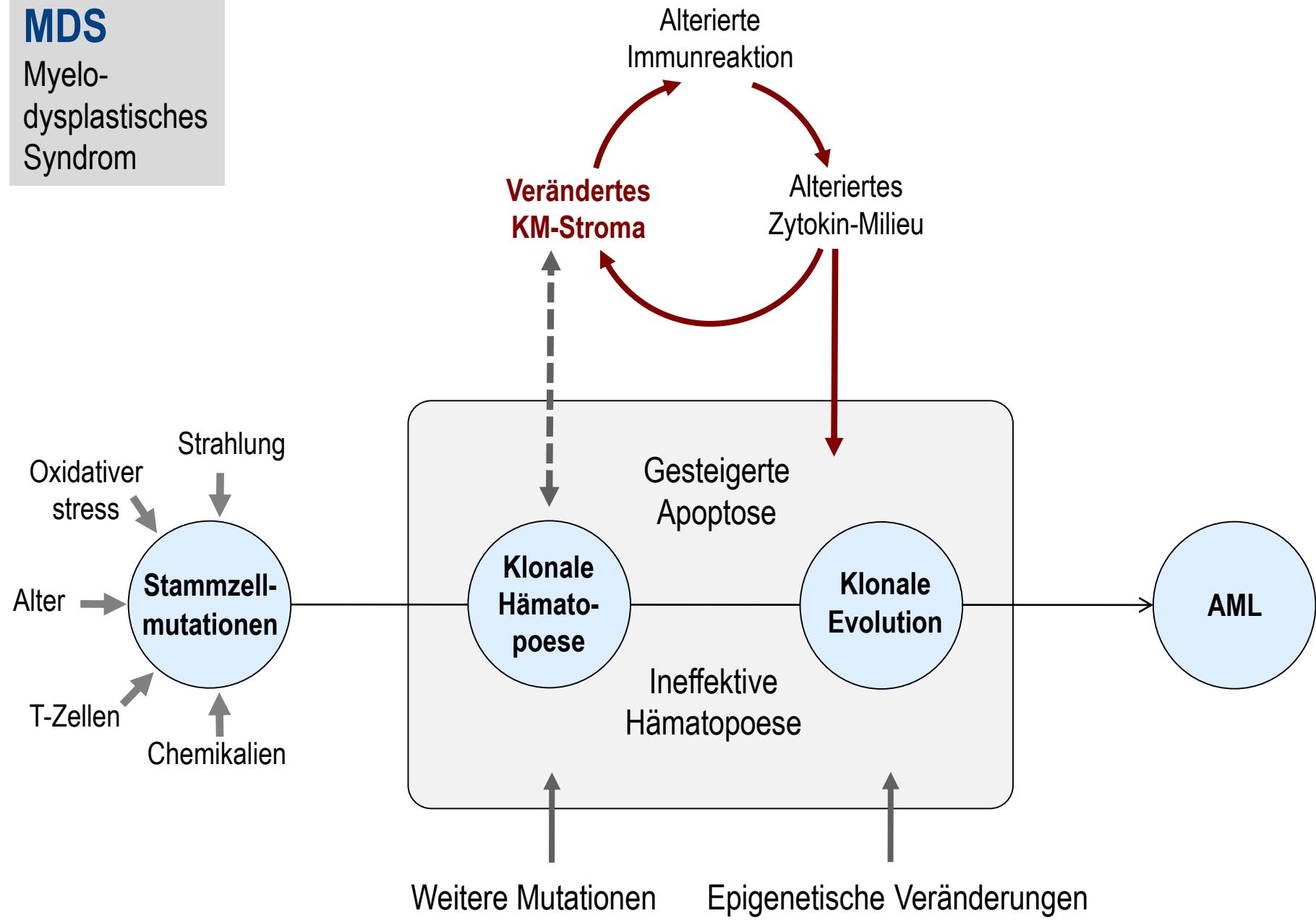
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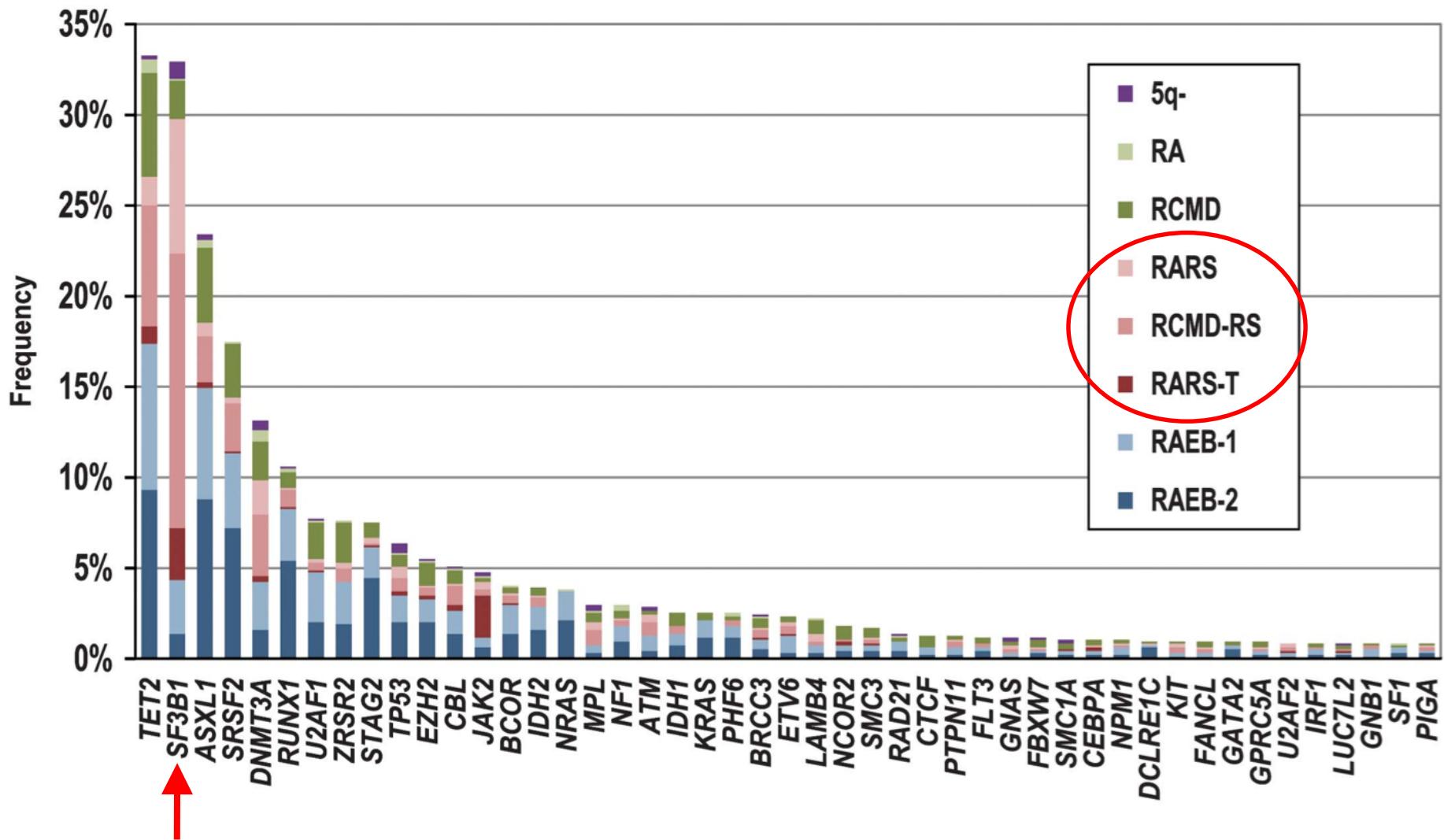
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# MDS

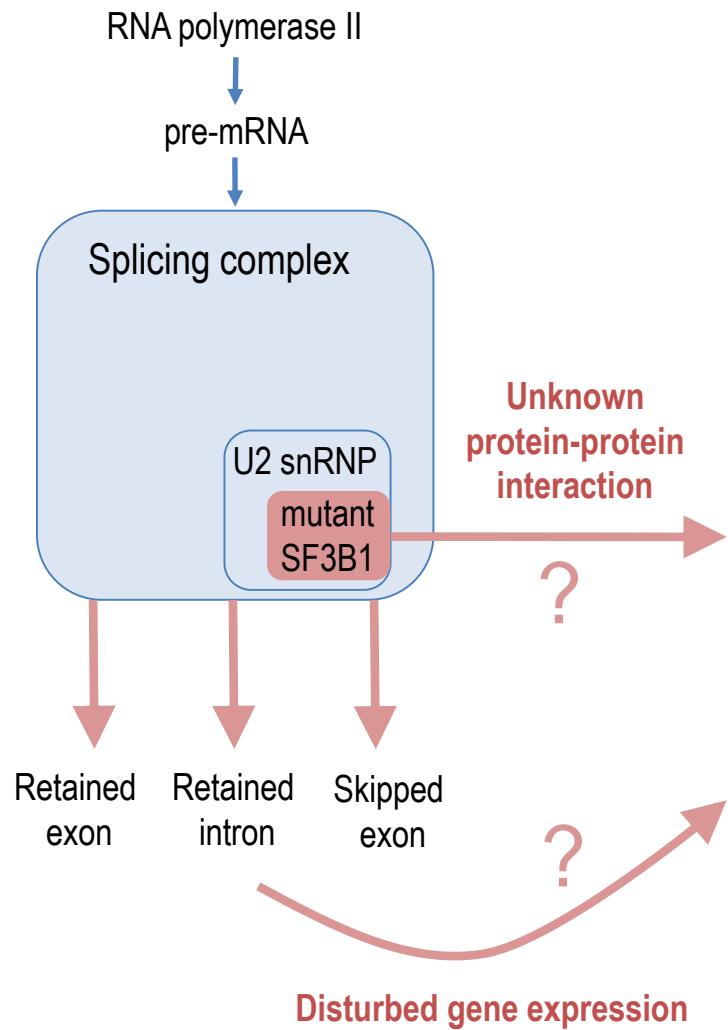
Myelo-  
dysplastisches  
Syndrom



# MDS: Frequency of mutations in 47 significantly mutated genes in 944 cases with different WHO subtypes, which are shown in indicated colors



# Disturbed mitochondrial iron handling



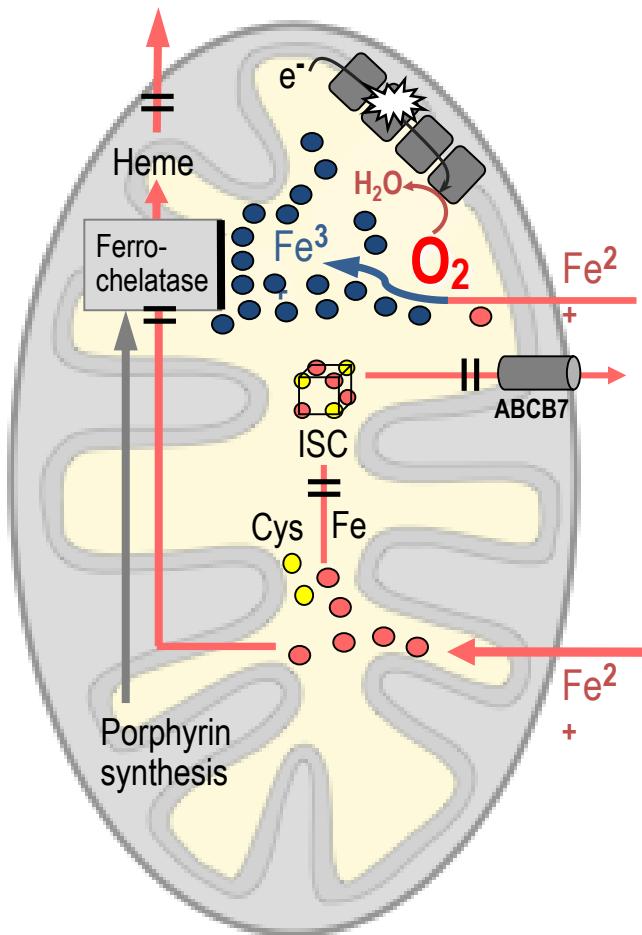
Possible causes:

Respiratory chain dysfunction with oxidation of Fe<sup>2+</sup>

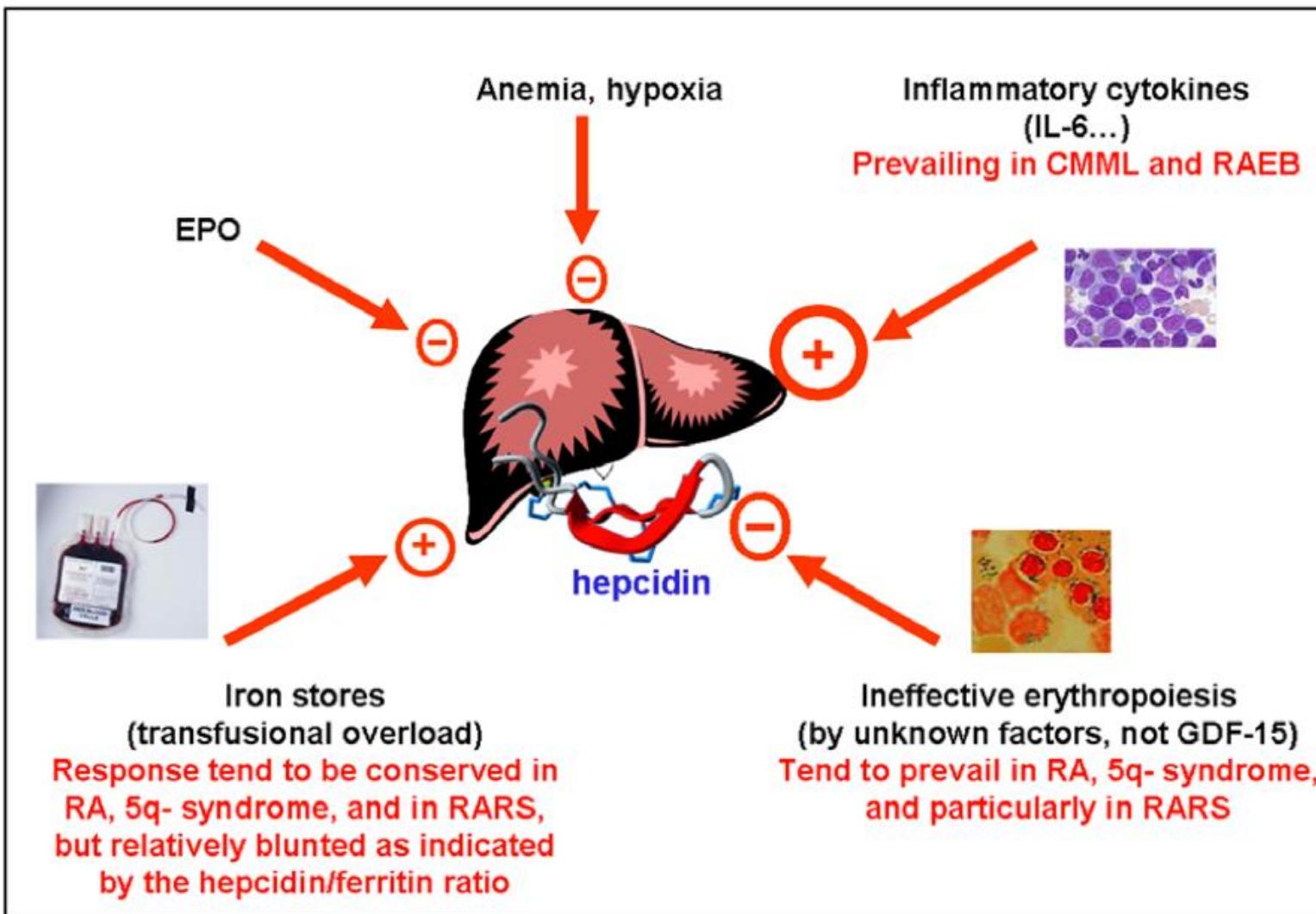
Ferrochelatase dysfunction

Impaired iron-sulfur-cluster (ISC) synthesis

Impaired export of heme or iron-sulfur-clusters



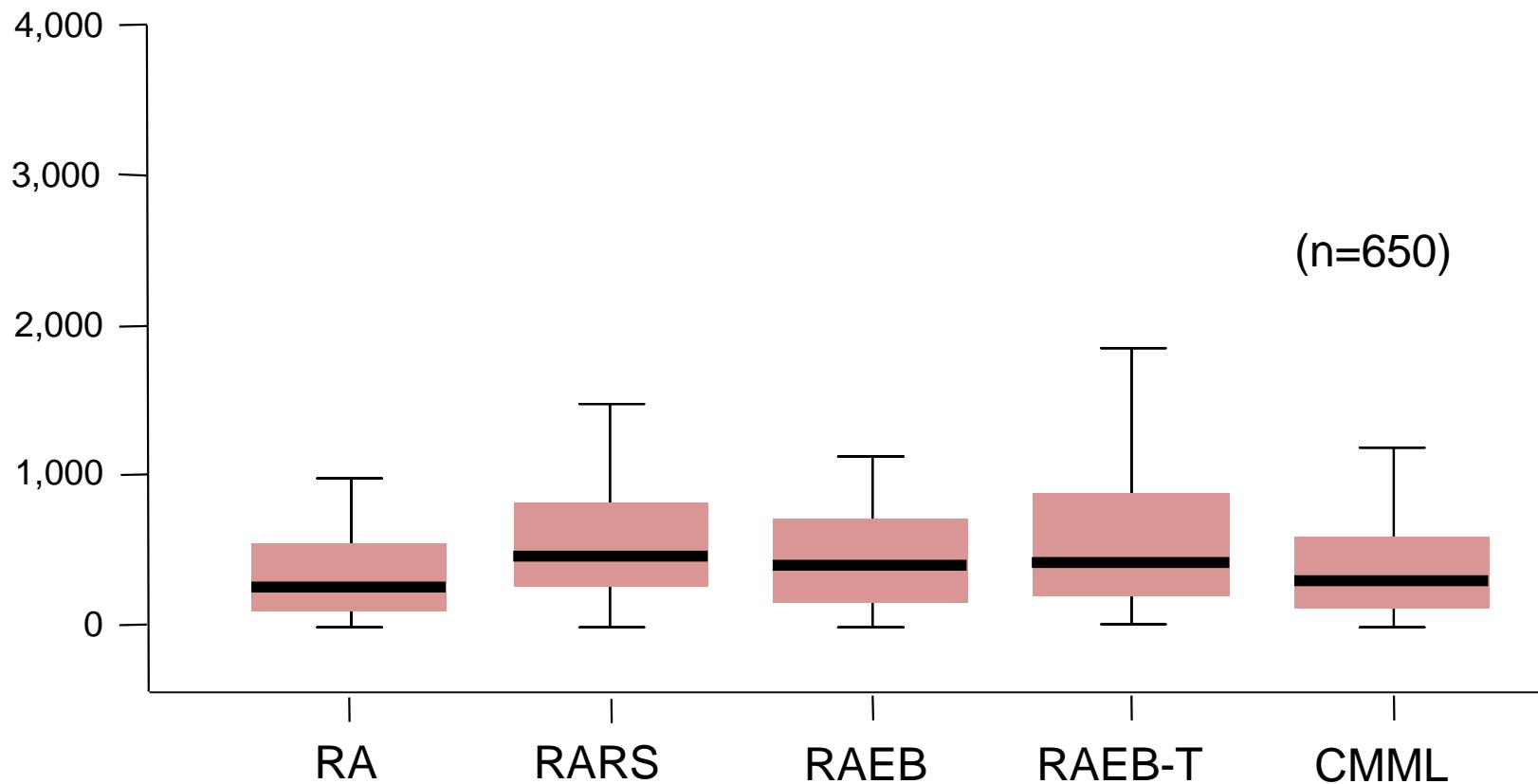
# Proposed mechanisms controlling hepcidin production in different MDS types



# MDS: Serum ferritin at diagnosis

## Serum Ferritin

ng/ml



# The most important cause of iron overload in bone marrow disease: Chronic transfusion therapy

## Moderate transfusion requirement:

- 2 RBC units per month
- 24 RBC units per year
- ~ 100 RBC units / 4 years

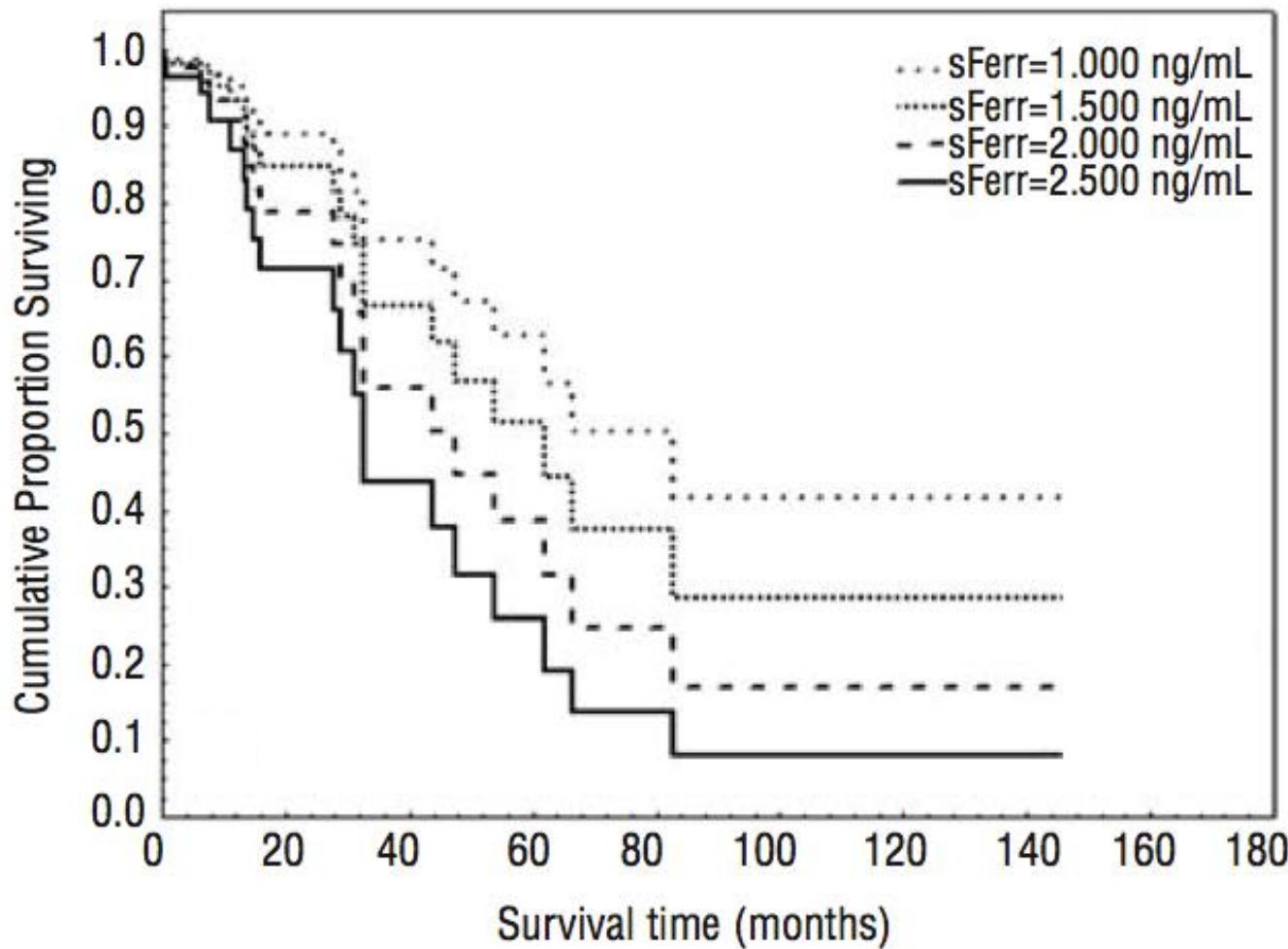
## High transfusion requirement:

- 4 RBC units per month
- 48 RBC units per year
- ~ 100 RBC units / 2 years



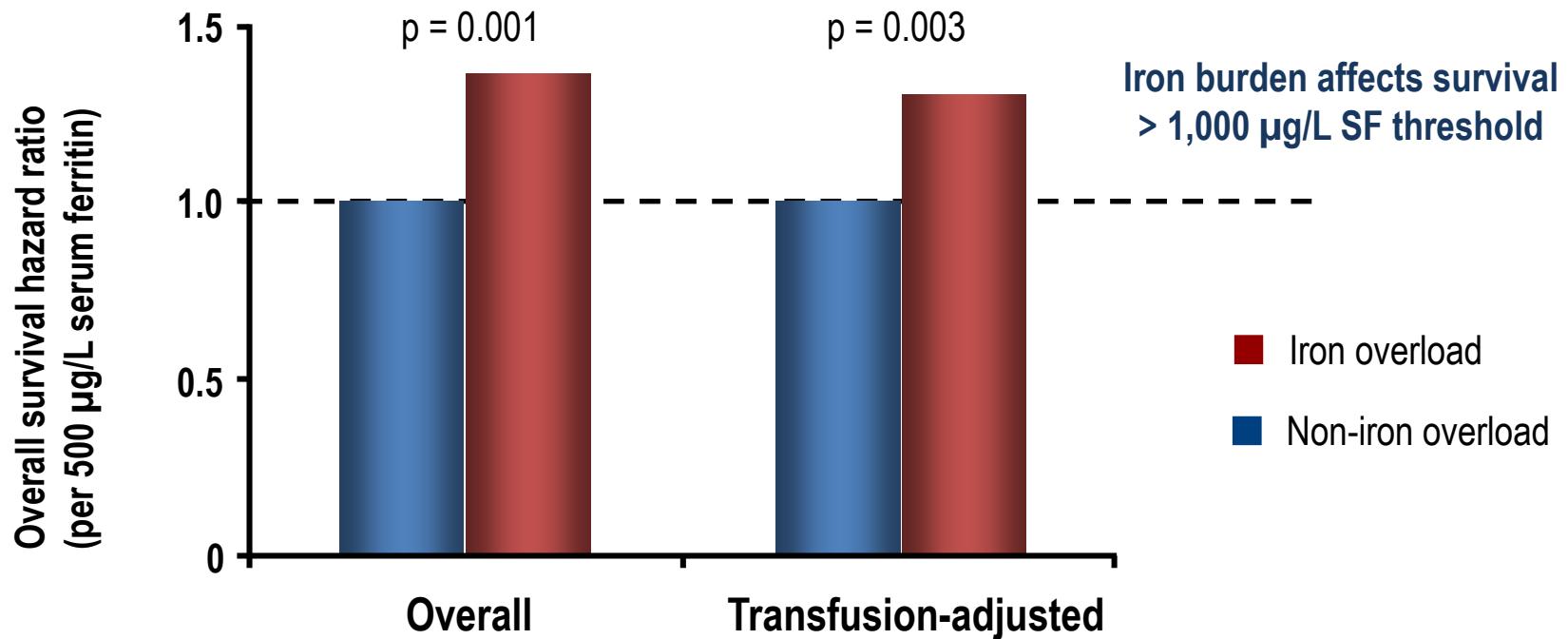
**100 RBC units:  $\geq 20$  g Iron**  
**Normal total body iron: 3-4 g**

# Survival of patients according to serum ferritin level



Patients with  
RA/RARS/5q-  
(HR = 1.42;  
 $p < 0.001$ )

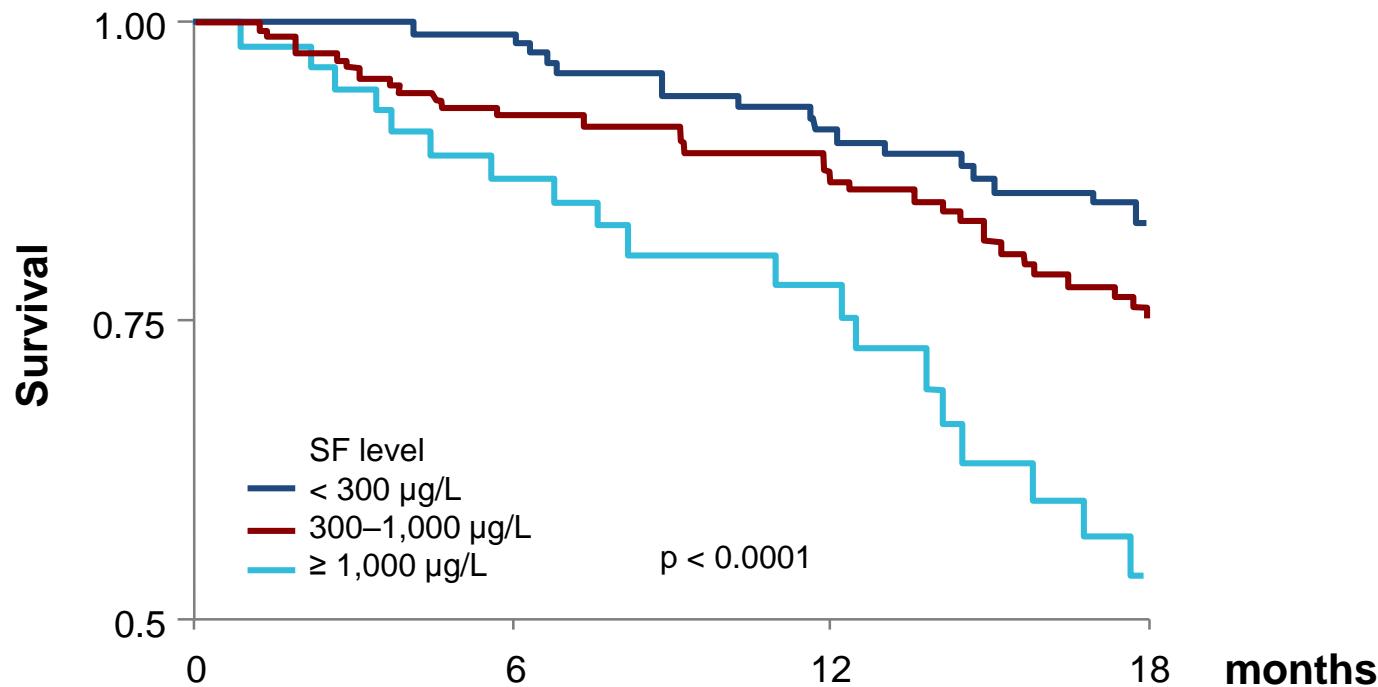
# Serum ferritin is an independent prognostic factor in MDS



A 30% greater risk of death was evident for every 500 µg/L increase in SF above the 1,000 µg/L threshold

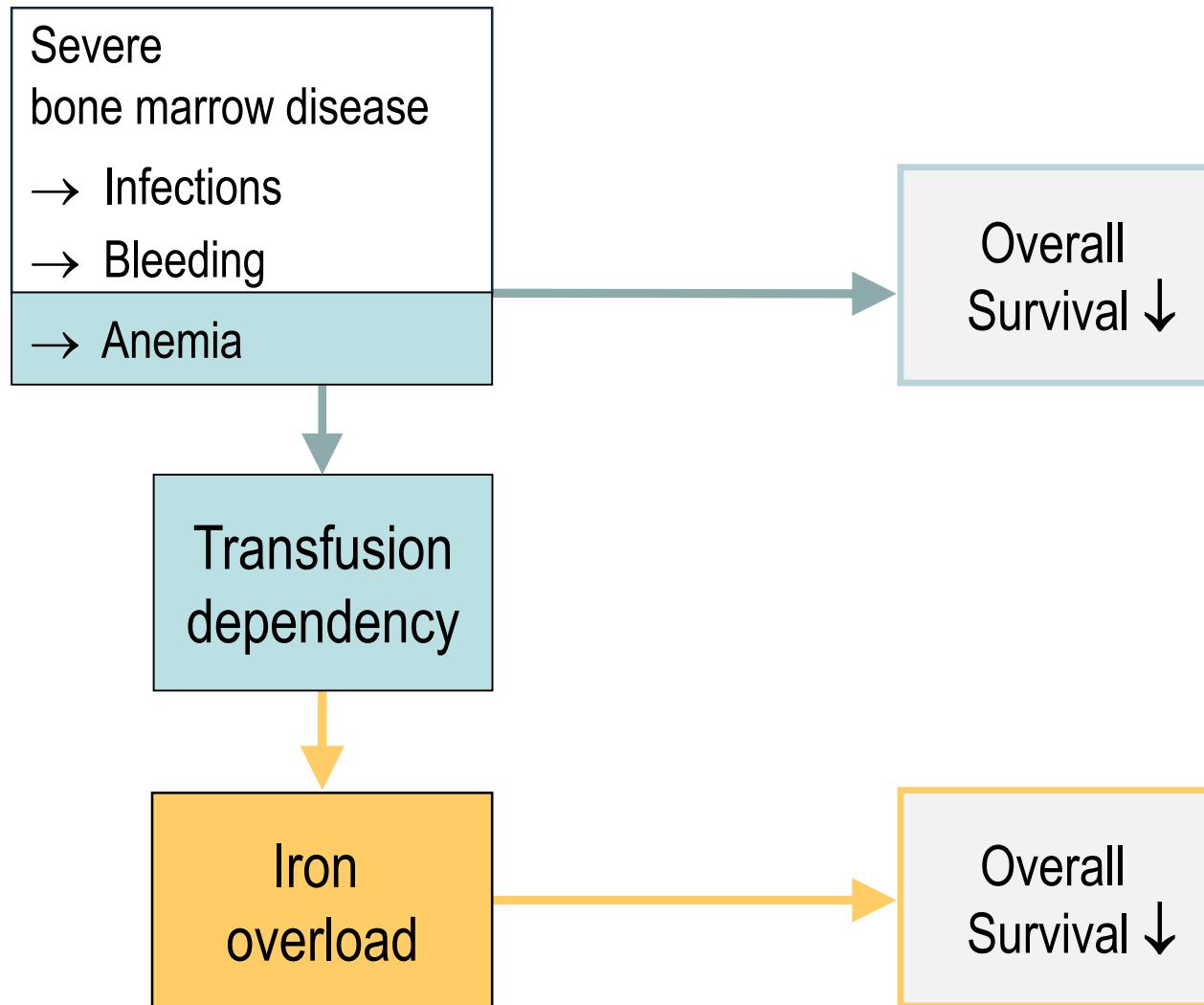
# LeukemiaNet prospective registry: Independent survival impact of SF

OS of transfusion-dependent patients by baseline SF status (n=1,000)

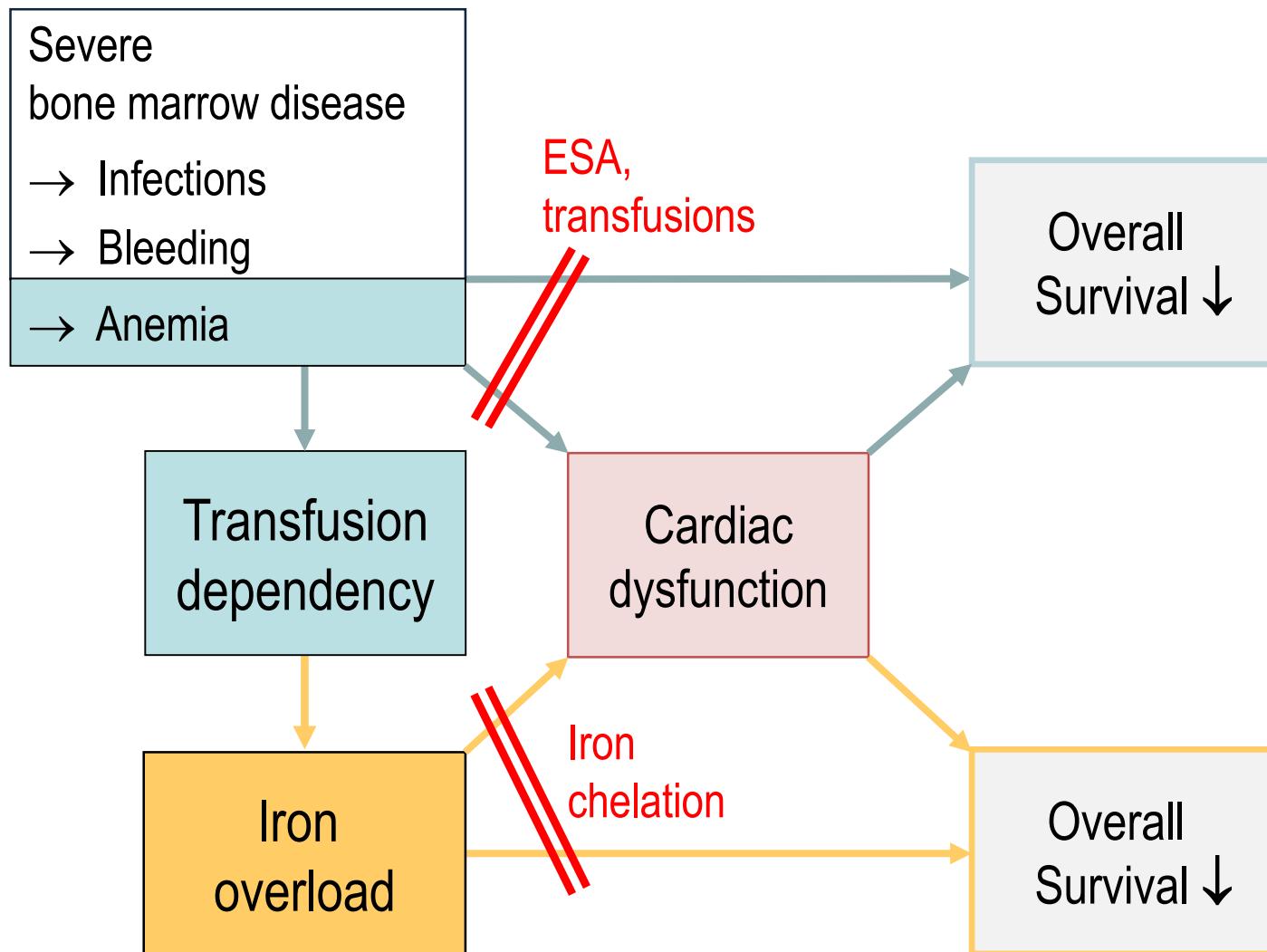


Besides transfusion burden, increasing levels of SF also had independent impact on the OS of transfusion-dependent patients with lower-risk MDS

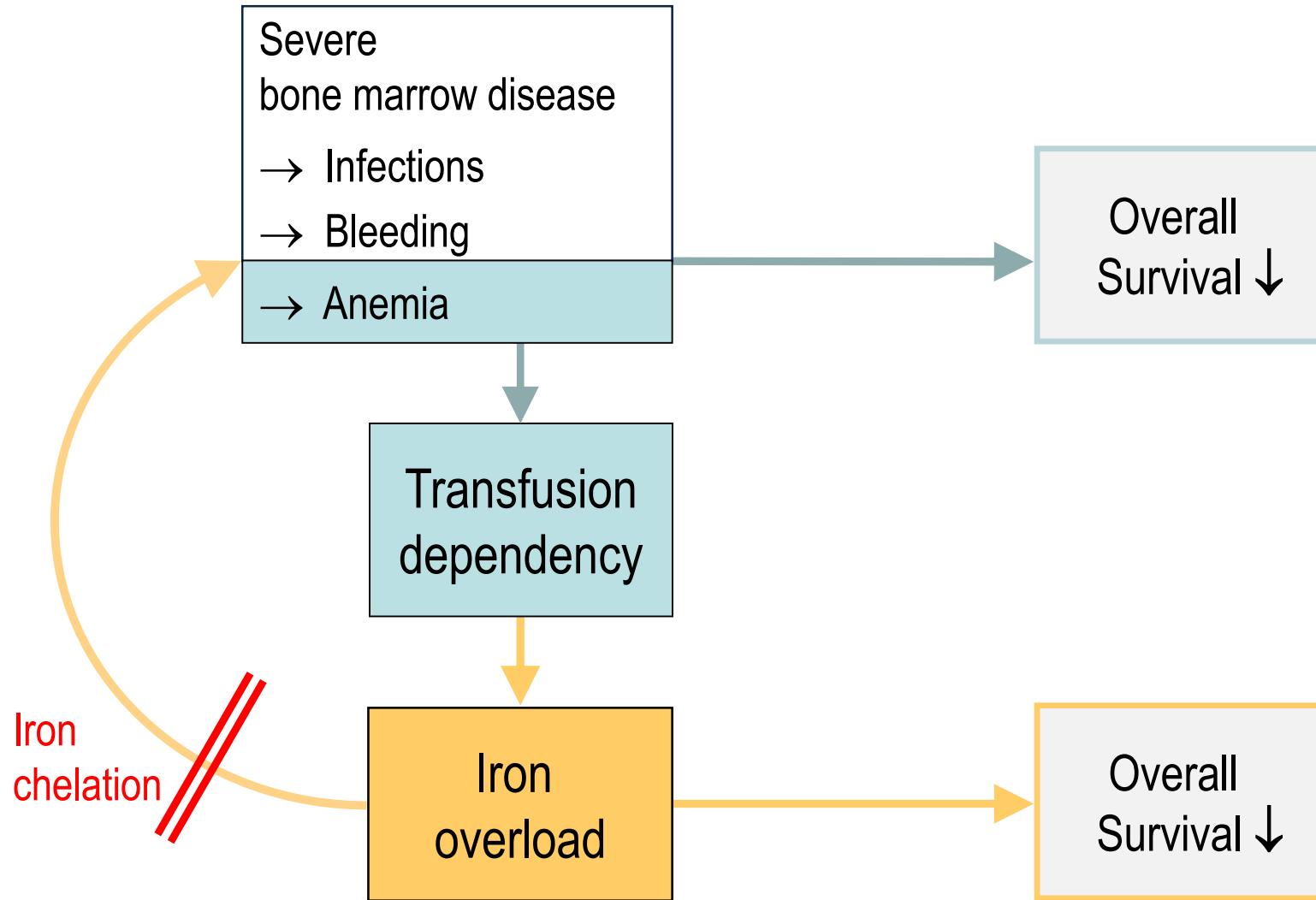
# Possible relationship between bone marrow failure, iron overload and prognosis in patients with MDS



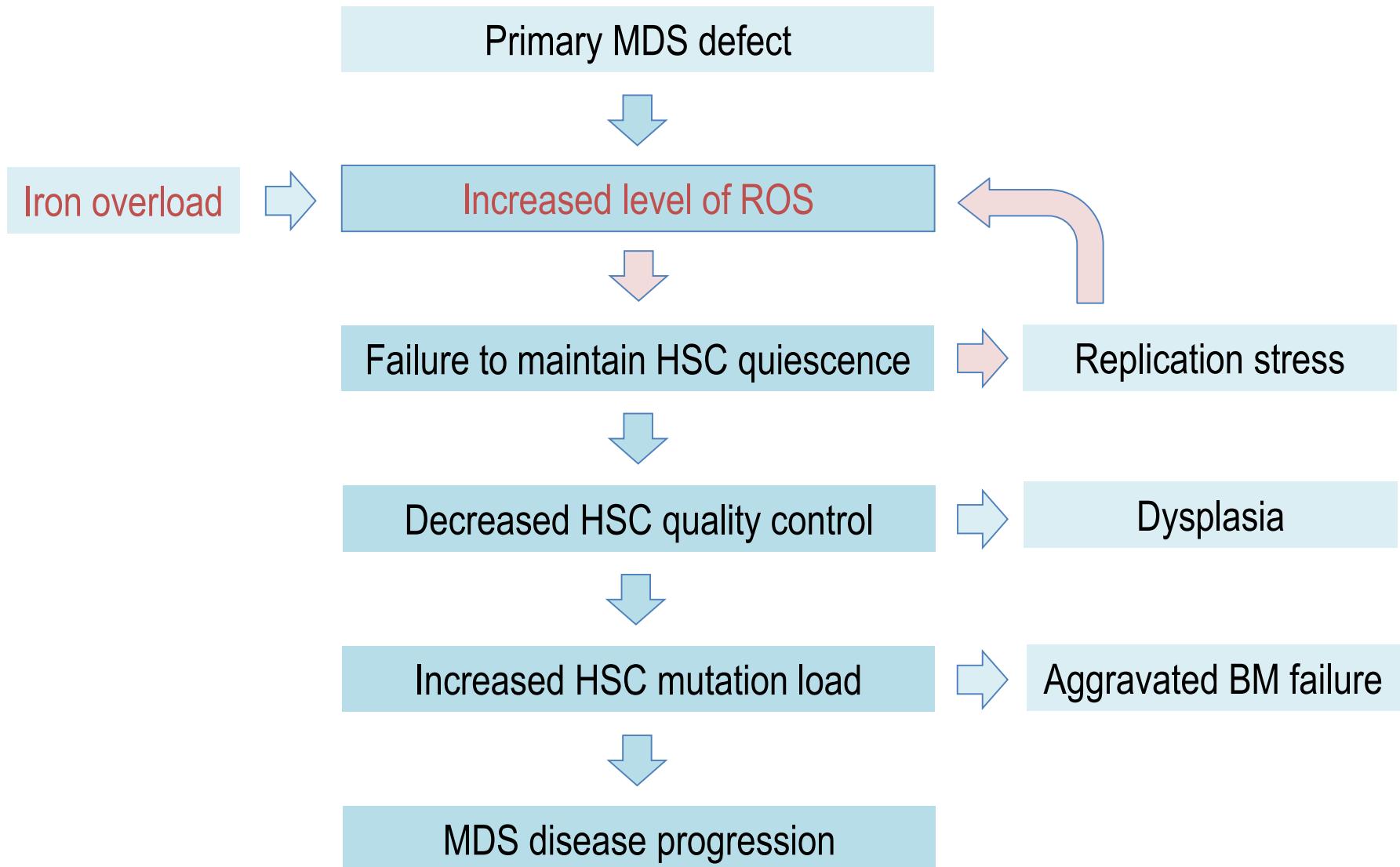
# Possible relationship between bone marrow failure, iron overload and prognosis in patients with MDS



# Iron overload may also aggravate bone marrow failure in MDS



# Role of increased ROS in MDS pathophysiology?



# Deferasirox can improve hematopoiesis in MDS

Study	Risk IPSS	RBC response	Neutrophil response	PLT response
List A et al. 2012 <sup>1</sup>	Low/Int-1	<b>15%</b> (n=173)	15% (n=52)	22% (n=77)
Gattermann N et al. 2012 <sup>2</sup>	Low/Int-1	<b>21.5%</b> (n=247)	22% (n=50)	13% (n=100)
Nolte F et al. 2012 <sup>3</sup>	Low/Int-1	<b>11%</b> (n=50)	NR	NR
Angelucci E et al. 2014 <sup>4</sup>	Low/Int-1	Transfusion independence in <b>15.5%</b> (n=152)	NR	NR

<sup>1</sup> List A et al. J Clin Oncol. 2012; 30:2134-9

<sup>2</sup> Gattermann N et al., Haematologica 2012; 97:1364-71

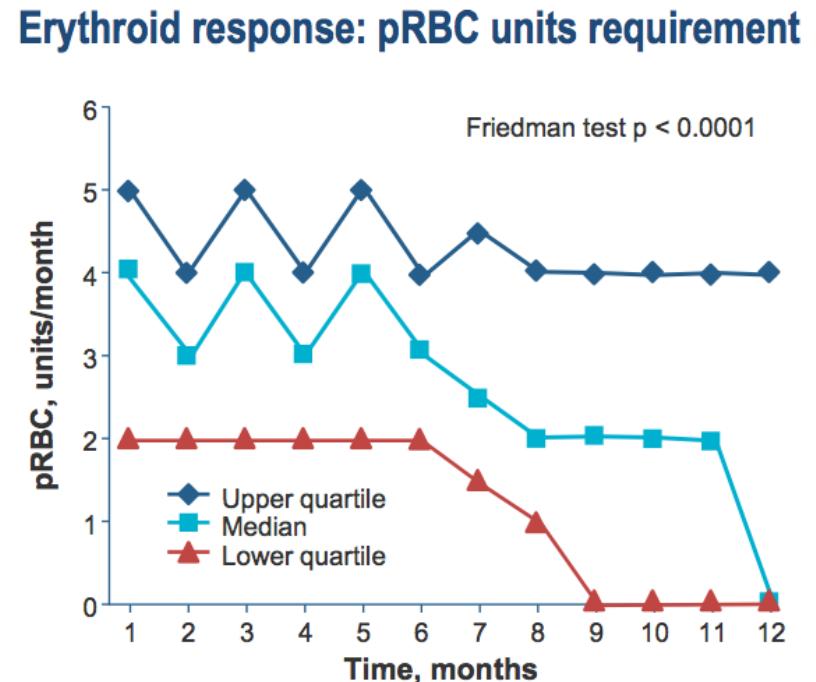
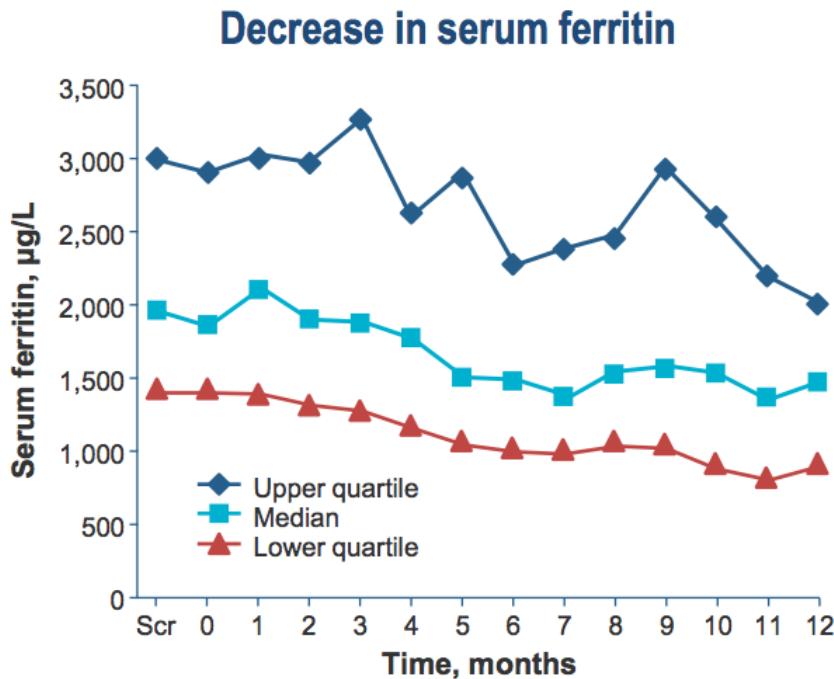
<sup>3</sup> Nolte et al., Ann Hematol. 2013; 92:191-8

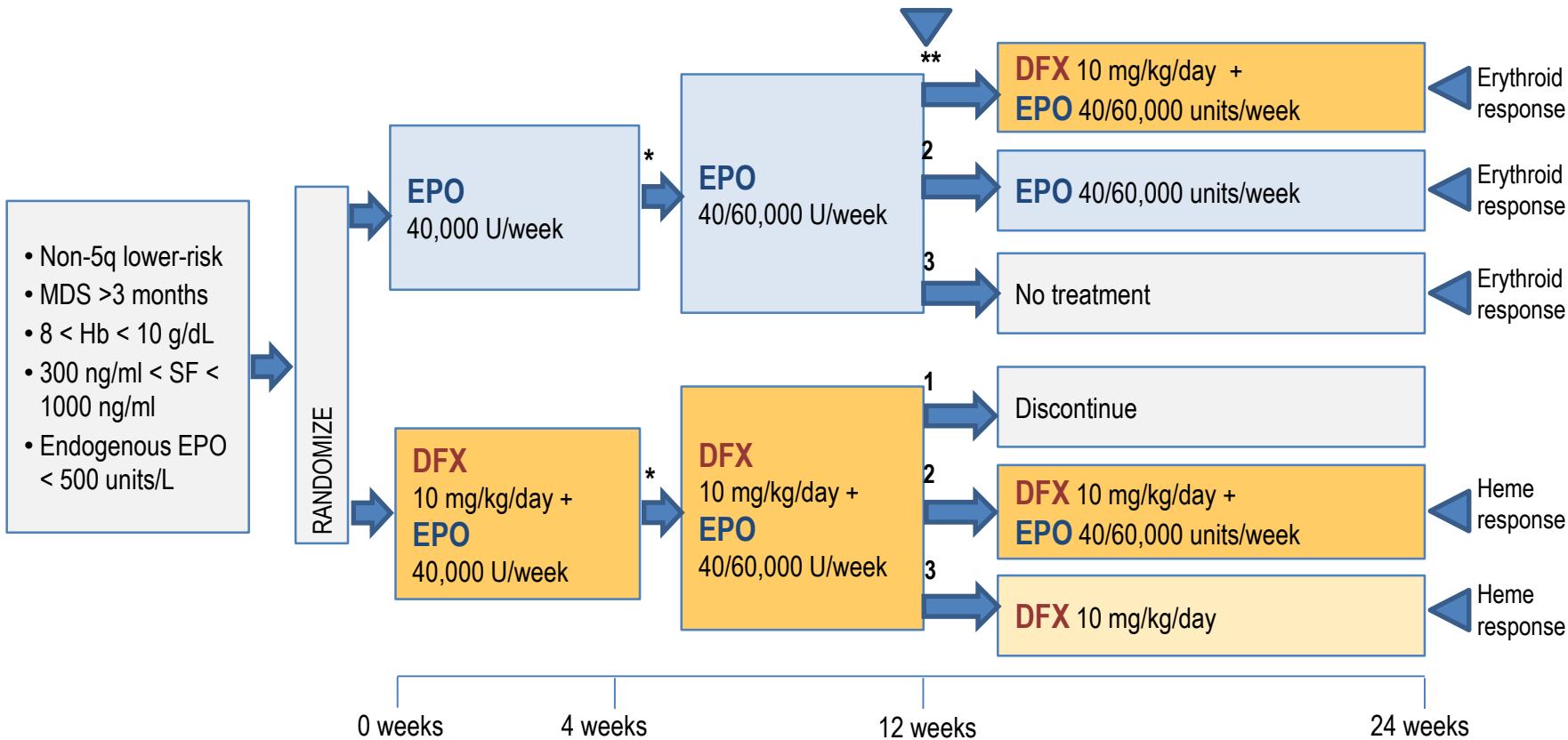
<sup>4</sup> Angelucci E et al. Eur J Hematol 2014; 92:527-36

# Deferasirox for transfusion-dependent patients with MDS

## GIMEMA MDS0306 Trial

- Multicenter prospective study of 152 patients with lower-risk MDS
- All patients transfusion-dependent ( $\geq 20$  RBC units); median 37 (22-63)
- Serum ferritin (median) decreased from 1966 ng/ml to 1475 ng/ml ( $p<0.0001$ )





\* **Dose adjustments at 4 weeks according to EPO Guidelines:**

- Hb increase < 1 g/dL and total Hb < 12 g/dL,  
→ Increase EPO dose to 60,000 units / week
- Hb increase  $\geq 1$  g/dL and total Hb < 12 b/dL,  
→ Continue EPO dose
- Hb increase  $\geq 1$  g/dL and total Hb > 12 g/dL,  
→ Hold EPO dose

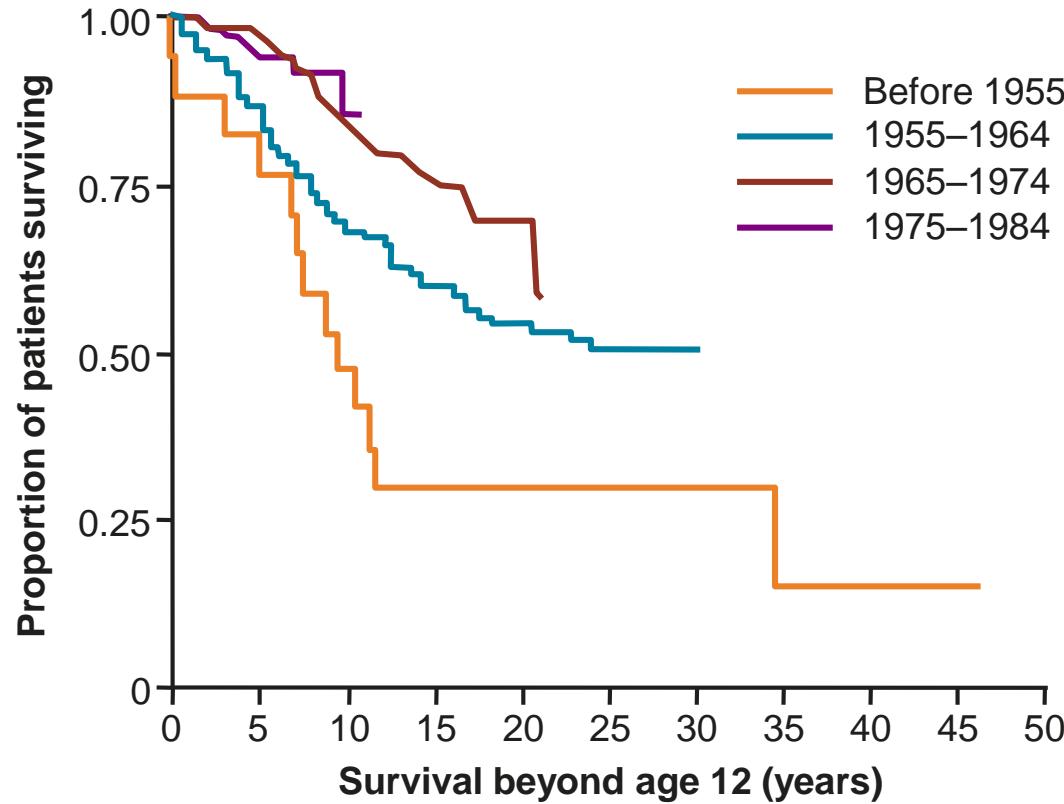
**Dose adjustments at 12 weeks according to EPO Guidelines:**

- 1) Hb increase < 1 g/dL and total Hb < 12 g/dL,  
→ Discontinue EPO
- 2) Hb increase  $\geq 1$  g/dL and total Hb < 12 b/dL,  
→ Continue EPO dose
- 3) Hb increase  $\geq 1$  g/dL and total Hb > 12 g/dL,  
→ Hold EPO dose

# Mögliche Folgen der Eisenüberladung

<b>Herz</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Herzinsuffizienz, Rhythmusstörungen</li></ul>
<b>Leber</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fibrose, Zirrhose, Karzinom</li></ul>
<b>Endokrine Organe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diabetes mellitus, Hypothyreose, Hypogonadismus</li></ul>
<b>Infektabwehr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Begünstigtes Bakterienwachstum</li></ul>
<b>Blutgefäße</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gestörte Endothelfunktion</li></ul>
<b>bei MDS zusätzlich:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verschlechterung der Knochenmarkfunktion</li><li>• Vermehrte Komplikationen bei allogener SZT</li><li>• Evtl. beschleunigte AML-Transformation</li></ul>

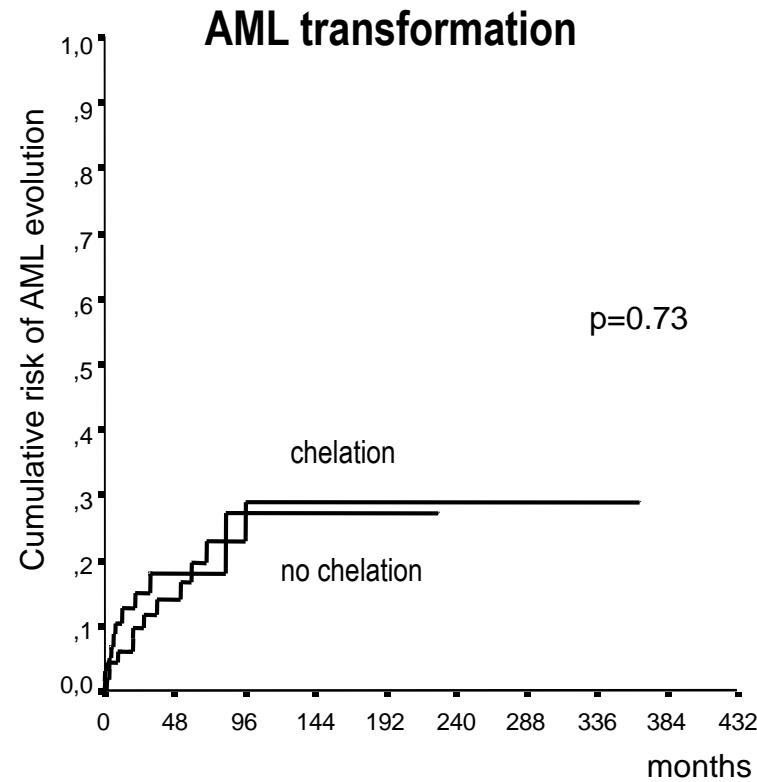
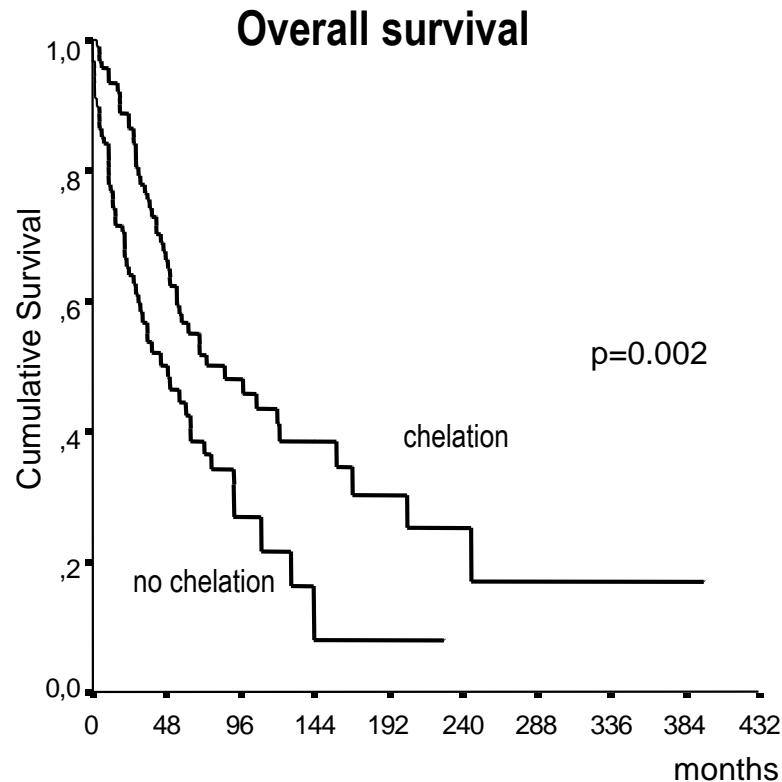
# Einfluß der Eisenchelation auf das Überleben von Patienten mit $\beta$ -Thalassaemia major



**Die verbesserten Überlebenschancen der später Geborenen beruhen auf der Behandlung der Eisenüberladung mit Deferoxamin und dem Grad der Therapietreue**

# Impact of chelation therapy on survival and AML transformation

Matched-pair analysis (93 pairs) from the Düsseldorf MDS Registry



#### Median cumulative survival

Chelation therapy: **75** months

No chelation: **49** months

#### Cum. risk of AML: **at 2 yrs** **at 5 yrs**

Chelation therapy: 10% 19%

No chelation: 12% 18%

# Iron chelation may improve survival in transfusion-dependent MDS patients

Study	N	Design	Survival	Non-chelated patients	Chelated patients	p value
Leitch 2008	36	Retrospective	Median OS	40 mo	Not reached	0.003
			4-year survival rate	43%	64%	0.003
Rose 2010	97	Prospective follow-up	Median OS from diagnosis	53 mo	124 mo	< 0.0003
			Median OS with adequate vs weak chelation	NA	124 vs. 85 mo	< 0.001
Neukirchen 2012 <sup>a</sup>	188	Matched pair analysis	Median OS	49 mo	75 mo	0.002
Neukirchen 2012 <sup>b</sup>	417	Retrospective, registry	Median time to death in TD patients	30 mo	67 mo	NR
Komrokji 2011	97	Retrospective	Median OS	34 mo	59 mo	0.013
Delforge 2012	186	Retrospective	Median OS in Low/Int-1	37 mo	126 mo	< 0.001
Zeidan 2012	4,226	Retrospective, registry	Median survival	47 wk	110 wk	0.003
			HR for 27-52 wks on DFX	1	0.77	NR
			HR for ≥ 53 wk on DFX	1	0.34	NR
Remacha 2012	228	Retrospective	Median OS	105 mo	133 mo	0.009
de Witte T 2012	1,000	Prospective, registry	Adjusted HR	1	0.51 (0.19-1.32)	NS
Lyons 2014	600	Prospective, registry	Median OS from diagnosis	47.8 mo	All: 88 mo ICT>6 mo: 100 mo	< 0.0001

Delforge M, et al. Haematologica. 2012;97 Suppl 1:abstract 0898. Komrokji RS, et al. Blood. 2011;118:abstract 2776. Leitch H, et al. Clin Leuk. 2008;2:205-11.

Lyons RM, et al. Blood. 2014;124:abstract 1350. <sup>a</sup> Neukirchen J, et al. Leuk Res. 2012;36:1067-70. <sup>b</sup> Neukirchen J, et al. Haematologica. 2012;97 Suppl 1: abstract 0359. Remacha A, et al. Blood. 2012;120:abstract 1723. Rose C, et al. Leuk Res. 2010;34:864-70. de Witte T, et al. EUMDS Registry. Presented at ELN 2012. Zeidan AM, et al. Blood. 2012;120:abstract 426.

# TELESTO: prospective study of deferasirox in MDS

- Prospective, multicentre study to investigate the clinical benefit of chelation therapy with deferasirox in **210** MDS patients
- Primary study end-point: event-free survival (death, cardiac, and hepatic non-fatal events)

