

2021



# Progetto Ematologia Romagna

***DALLA BIOLOGIA ALLA TERAPIA DELLE LEUCEMIE ACUTE  
MIELOIDI: NUOVI MECCANISMI E BERSAGLI TERAPEUTICI***

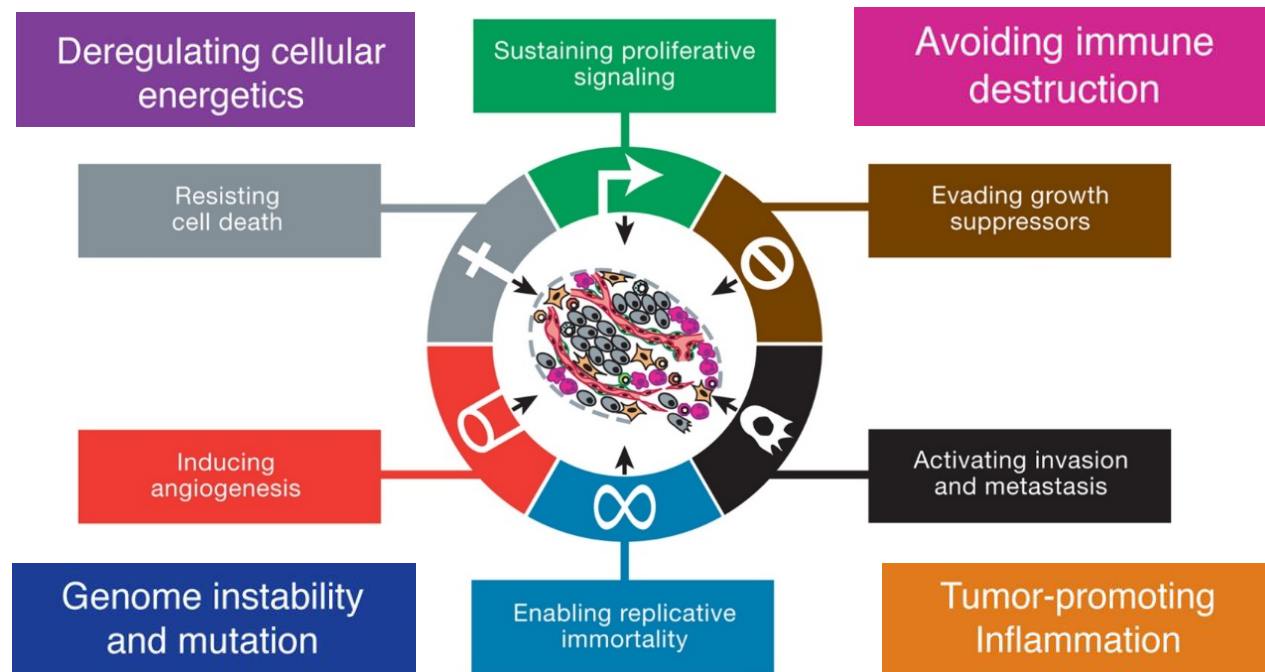
Antonio Curti

*Istituto «Seràgnoli», Bologna*



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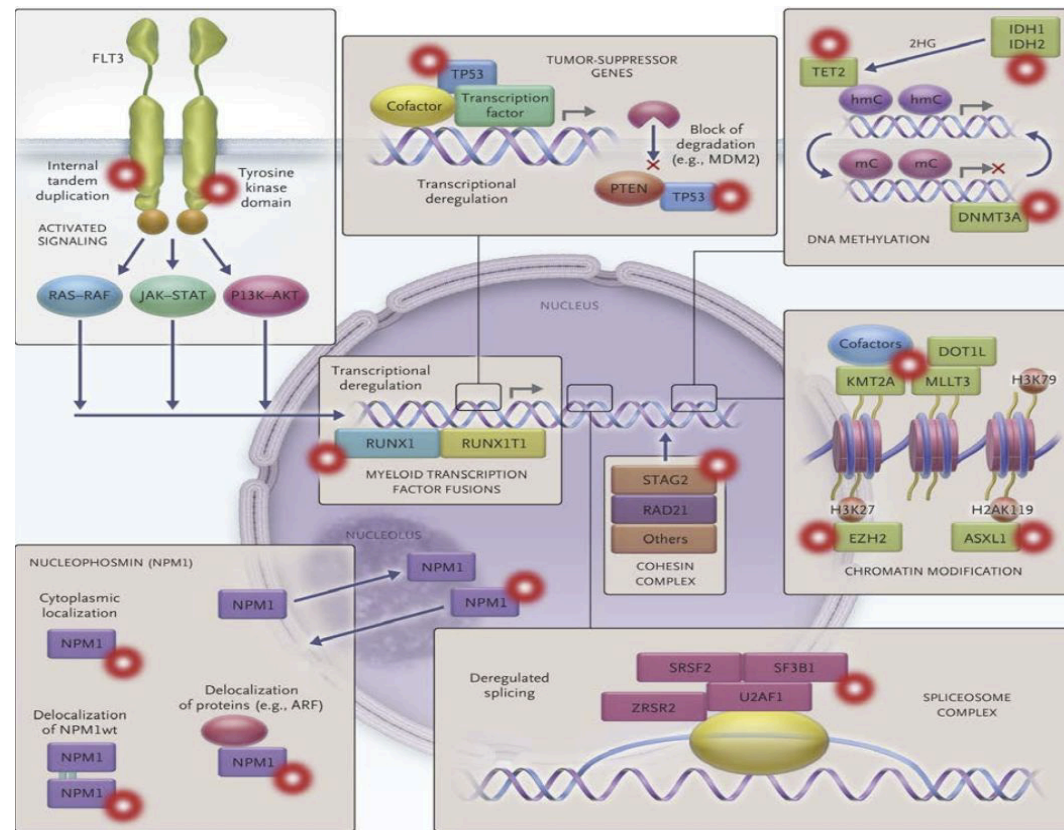
# Emerging Hallmarks of Cancer





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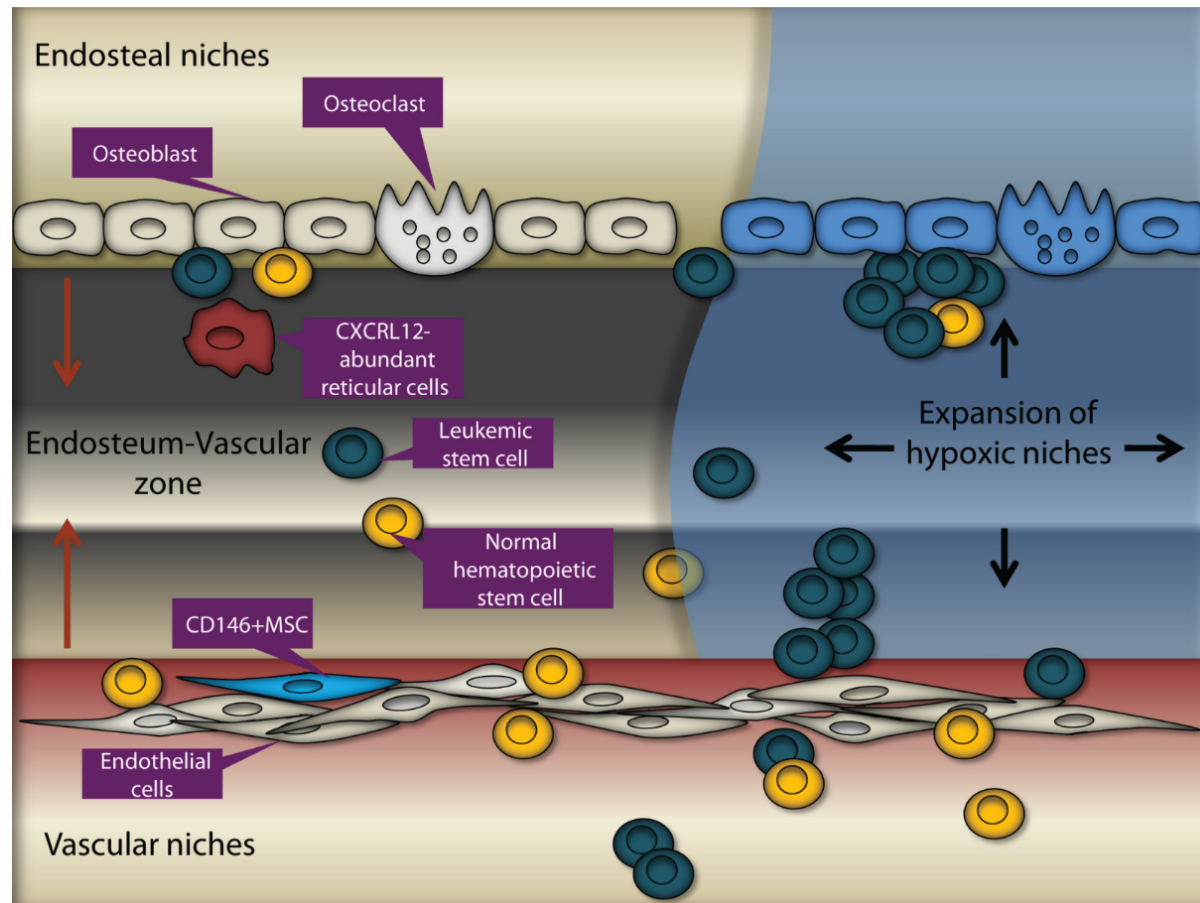
# Pathobiology of AML





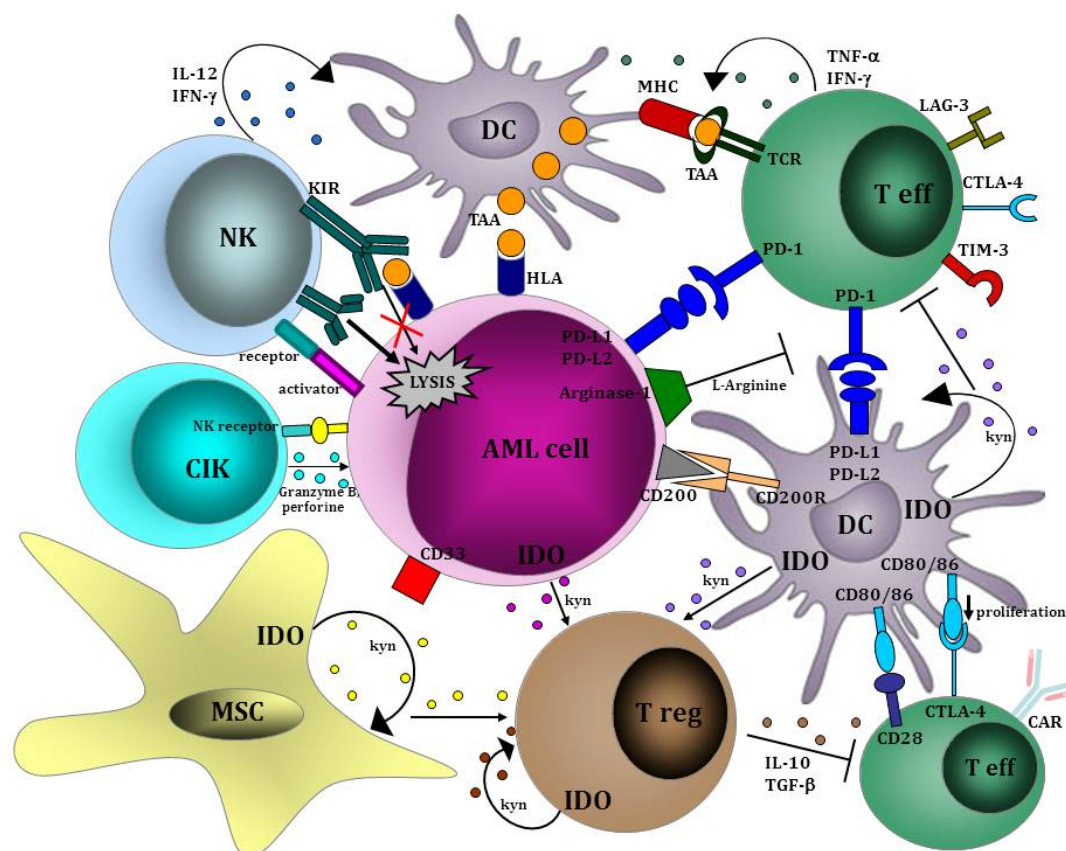
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# Leukemia Stem Cells and Microenvironment: Biology and Therapeutic Targeting

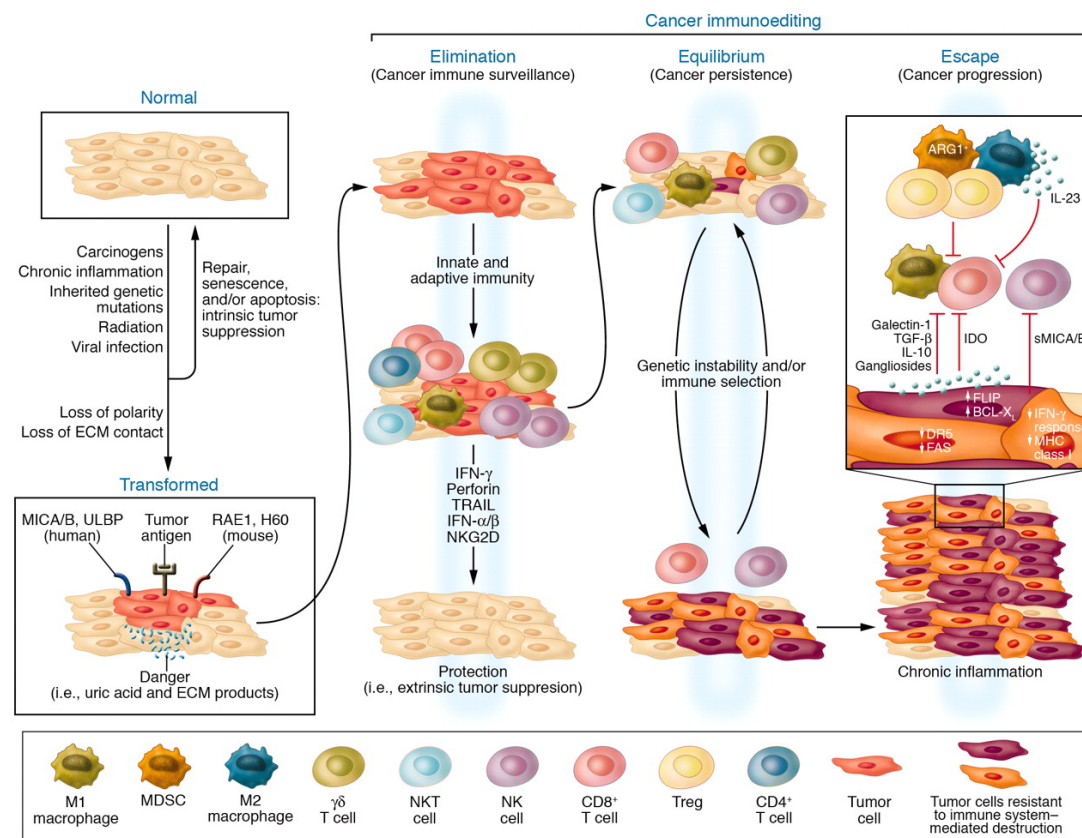




# AML and immunological microenvironment



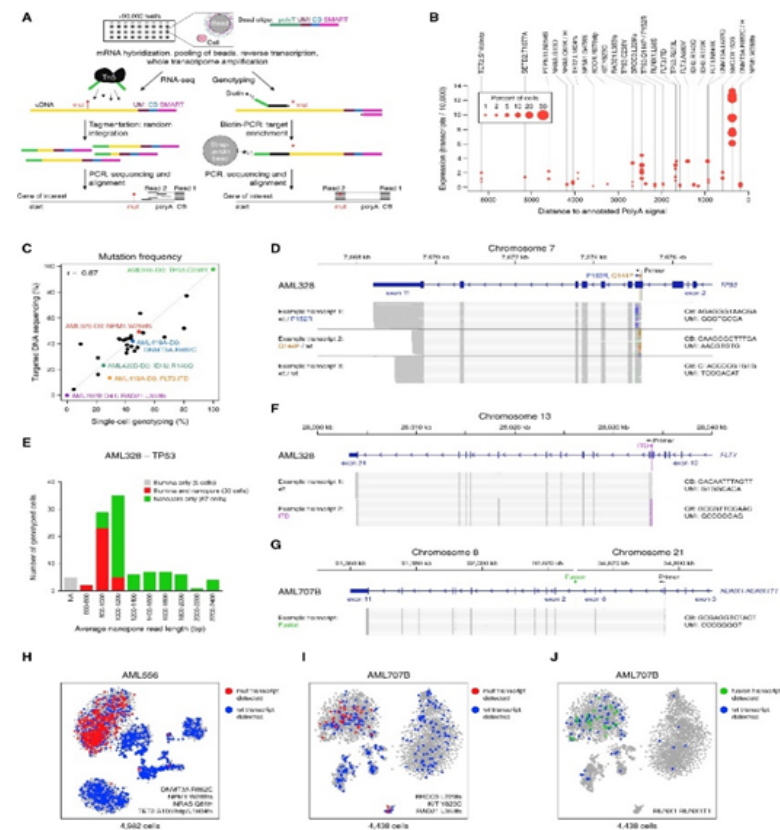
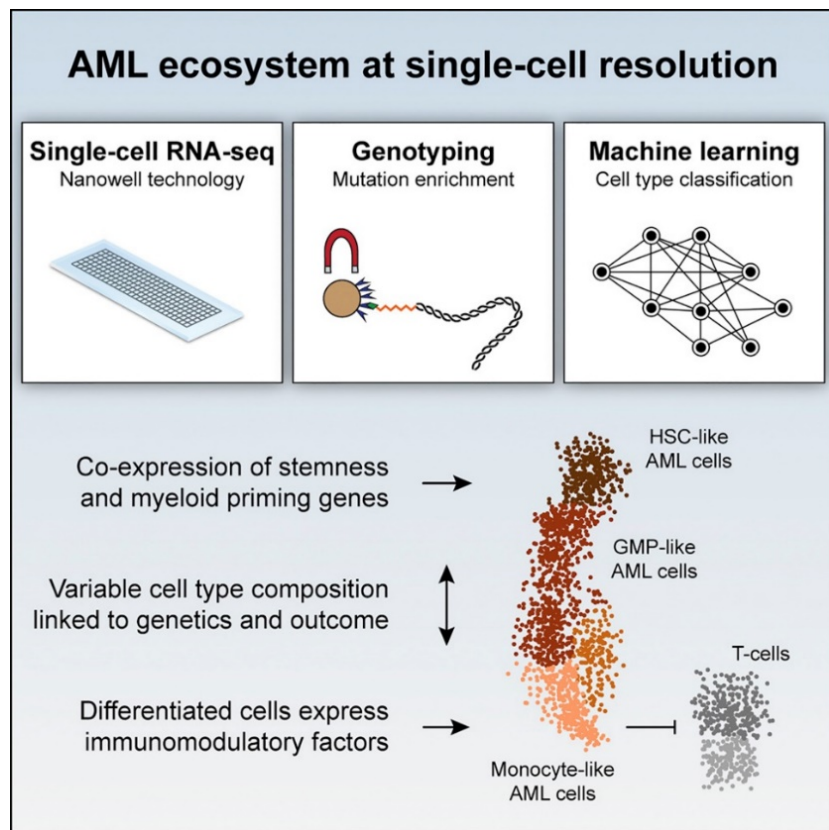
# Cancer immunoediting: the three «E» theory





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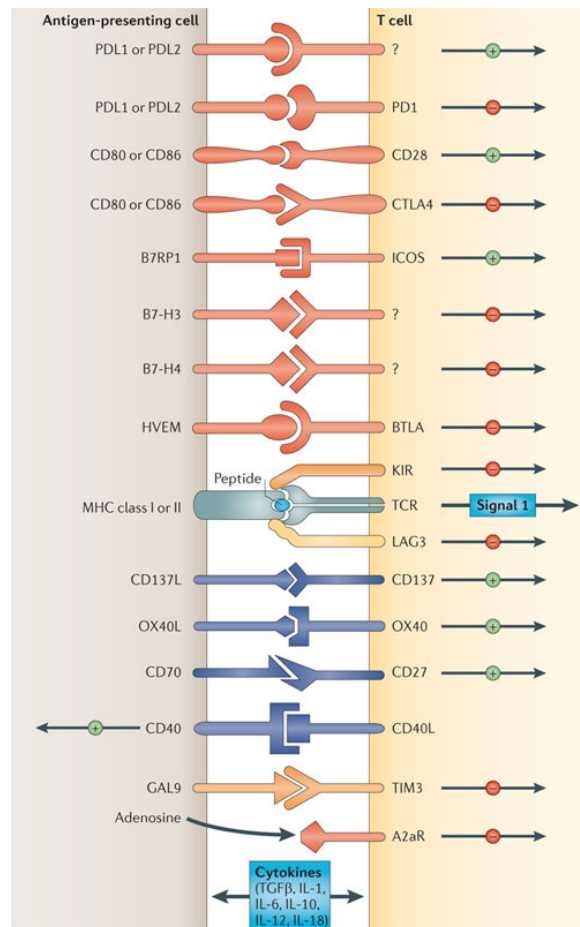
# AML genotype influences immunological microenvironment toward tolerance





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# Multiple co-stimulatory and inhibitory interactions regulate T cell responses



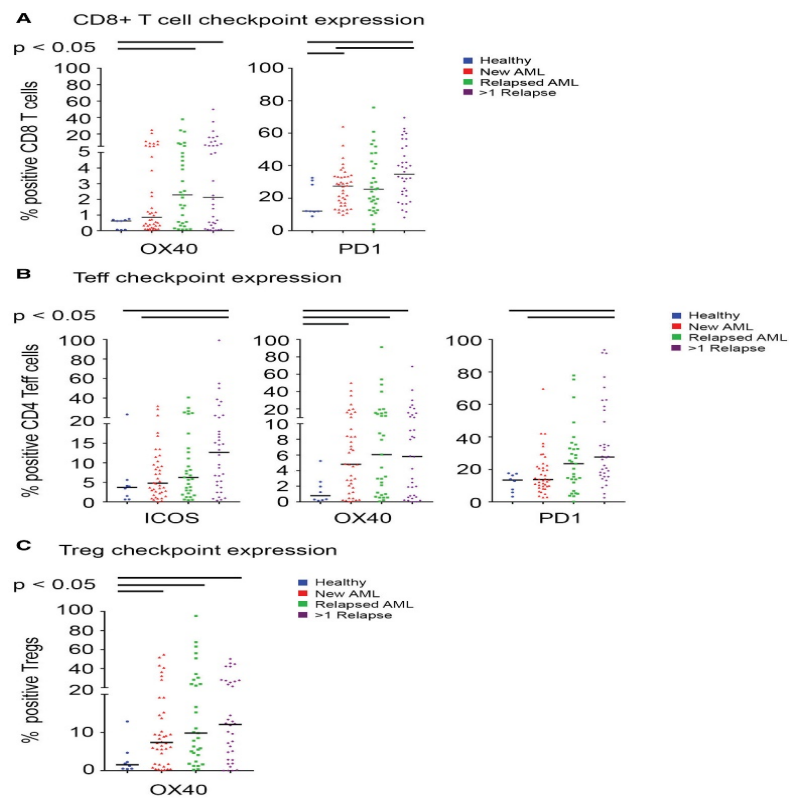
Nature Reviews | Cancer

Ligand–receptor interactions between T cells and (APCs) can occur at the initiation of T cell responses in lymph nodes (where the major APCs are dendritic cells) or in peripheral tissues or tumours (where effector responses are regulated).



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# Checkpoint Receptors PD1, OX40, and ICOS Are Expressed on T Cells in BMAs From AML Patients



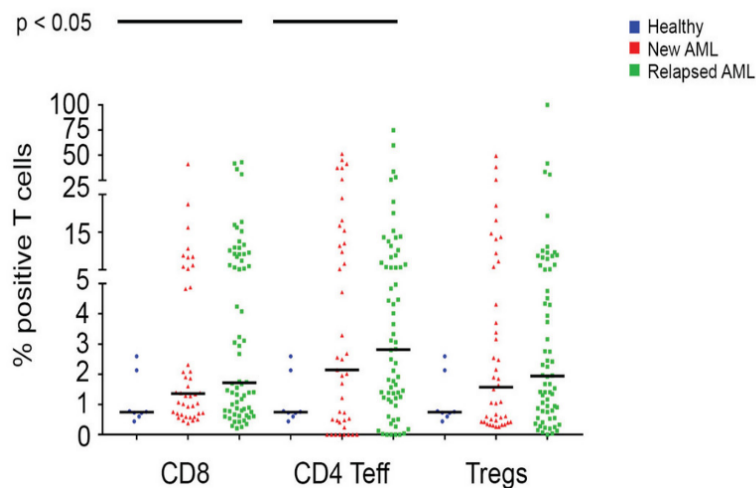




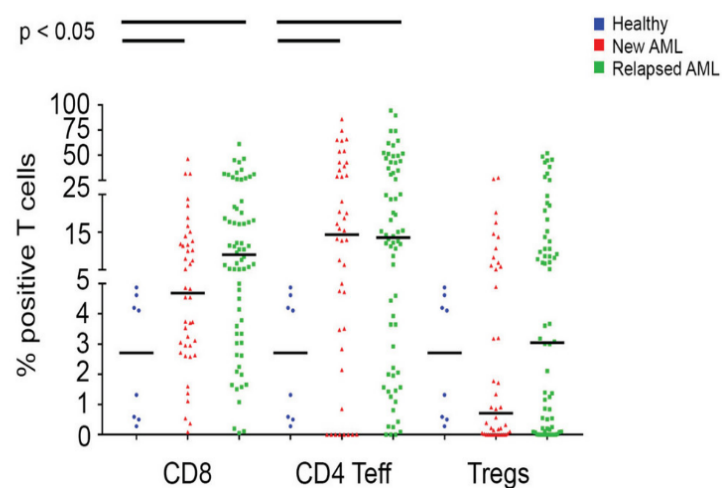
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# TIM3 and LAG3 Are Coexpressed More Frequently With PD1 on T Cells Isolated From AML BMAs

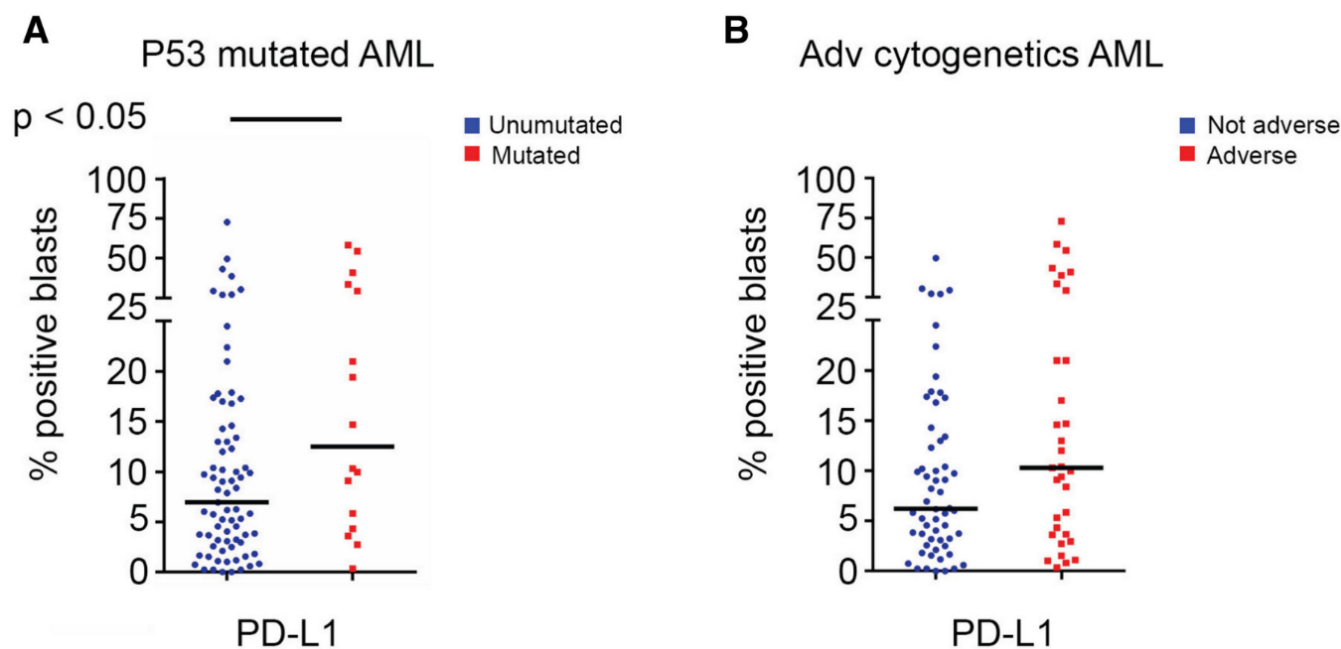
**A** PD1TIM3 double positive T cell subsets



**B** PD1LAG3 double positive T cell subsets



# Age, Mutational Profile, and Karyotypic Status Influence the Composition of T-Cell Subsets and Immune-Checkpoint





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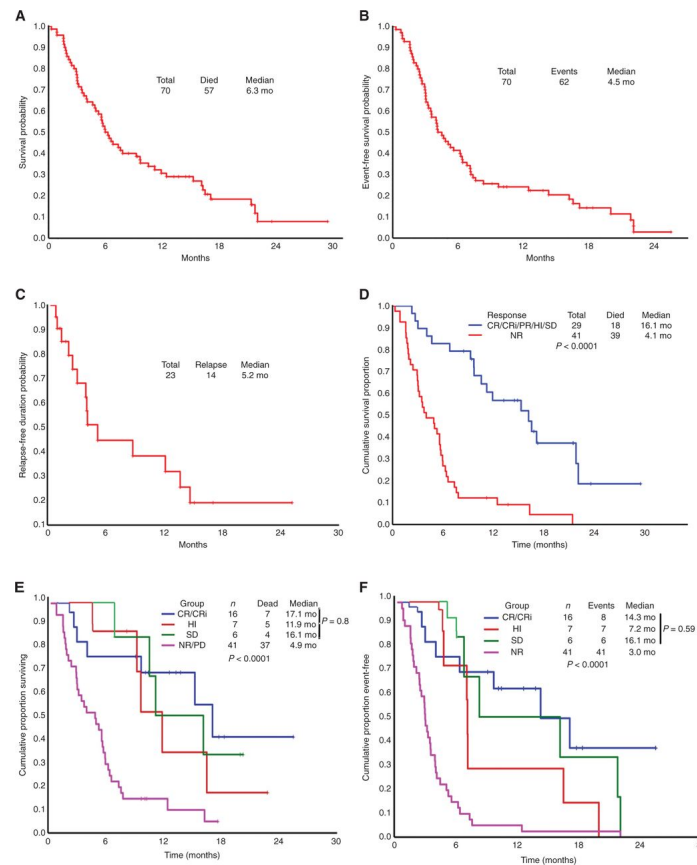
## Immune checkpoint inhibitors for AML: on-going clinical trials

Study design	Phase	Code	Starting date
Anti-PD1 + DC AML vax	Phase 2	NCT01096602	March 2010
Ipilimumab in R/R MDS and AML with MRD	Phase 1	NCT017557639	December 2012
Ipilimumab or Nivolumab in relapsed HMs after SCT	Phase 1	NCT01822509	April 2013
Nivolumab in AML	Phase 1/2	NCT02464657	July 2015
Nivolumab in CR AML at high risk for relapse	Phase 2	NCT02532231	October 2015
Nivolumab in CR AML with MRD+	Phase 2	NCT02275533	May 2015
Nivolumab plus 5-azacytidine in R/R AML	Phase 2	NCT02397720	April 2015



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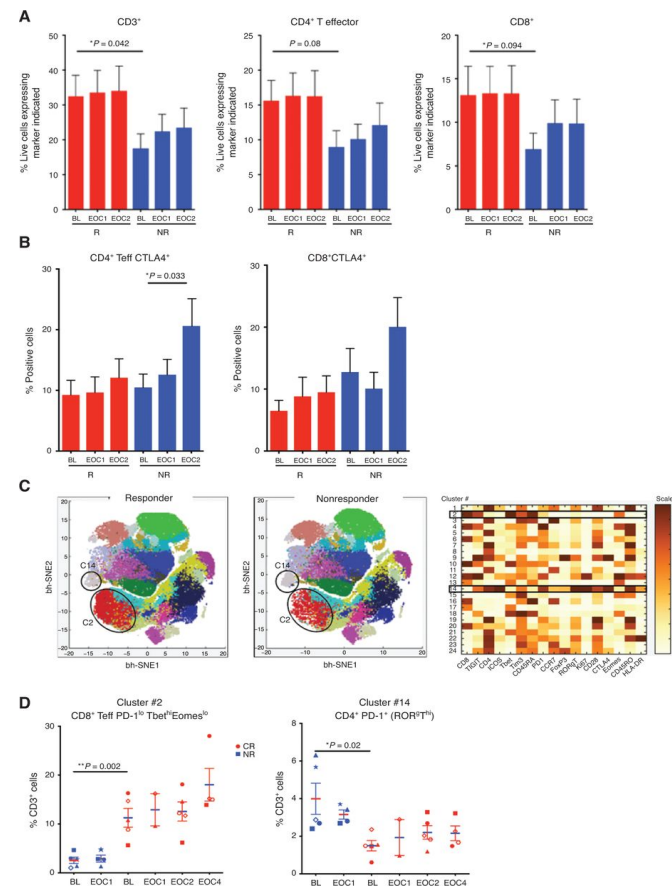
# Efficacy, Safety, and Biomarkers of Response to Azacitidine and Nivolumab in Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia: A Nonrandomized, Open-Label, Phase II Study





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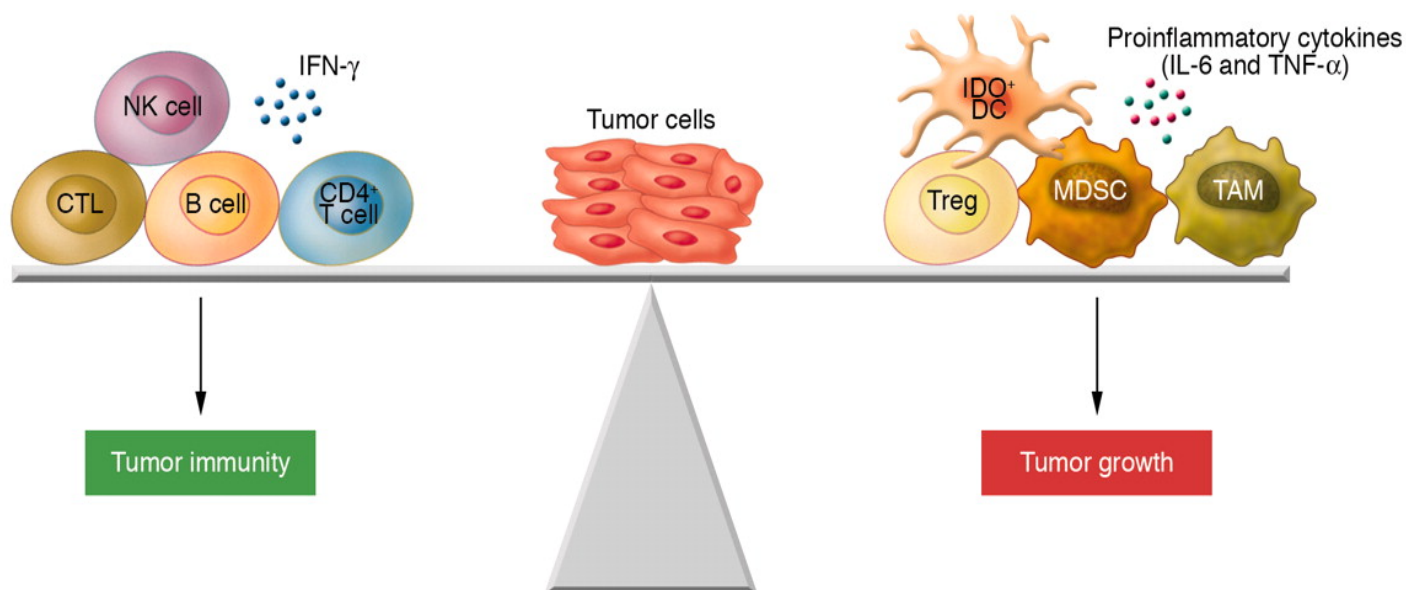
# Efficacy, Safety, and Biomarkers of Response to Azacitidine and Nivolumab in Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia: A Nonrandomized, Open-Label, Phase II Study



**Bone marrow T-cell profile and checkpoint expression in responders (R) versus nonresponders (NR).**



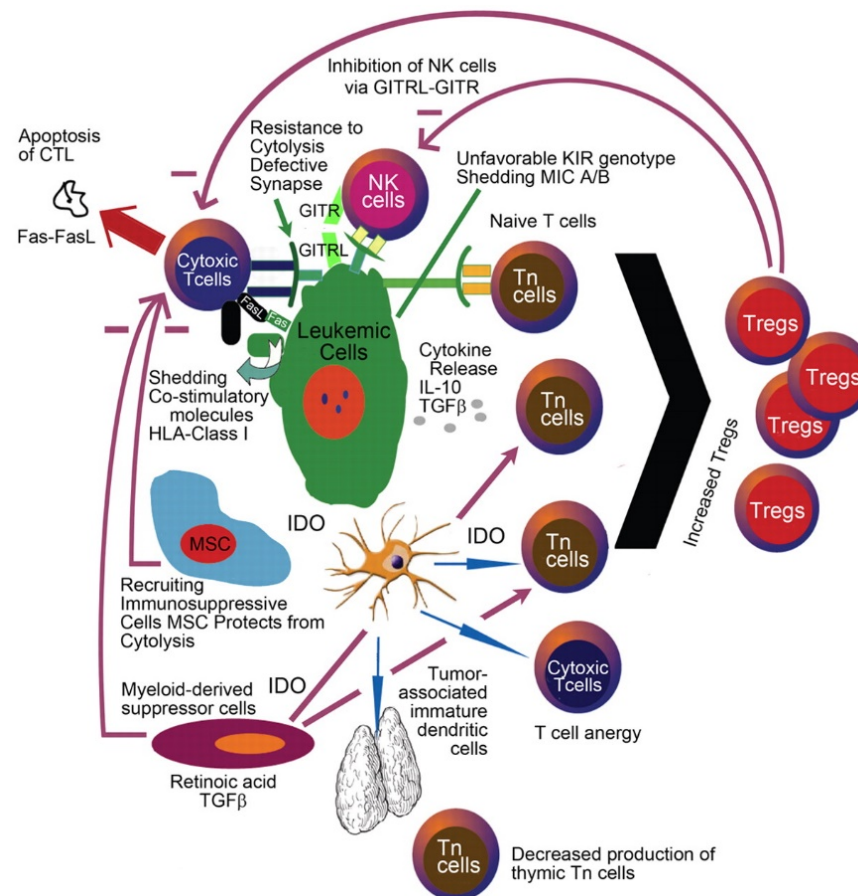
# How to harness the immune system against cancer





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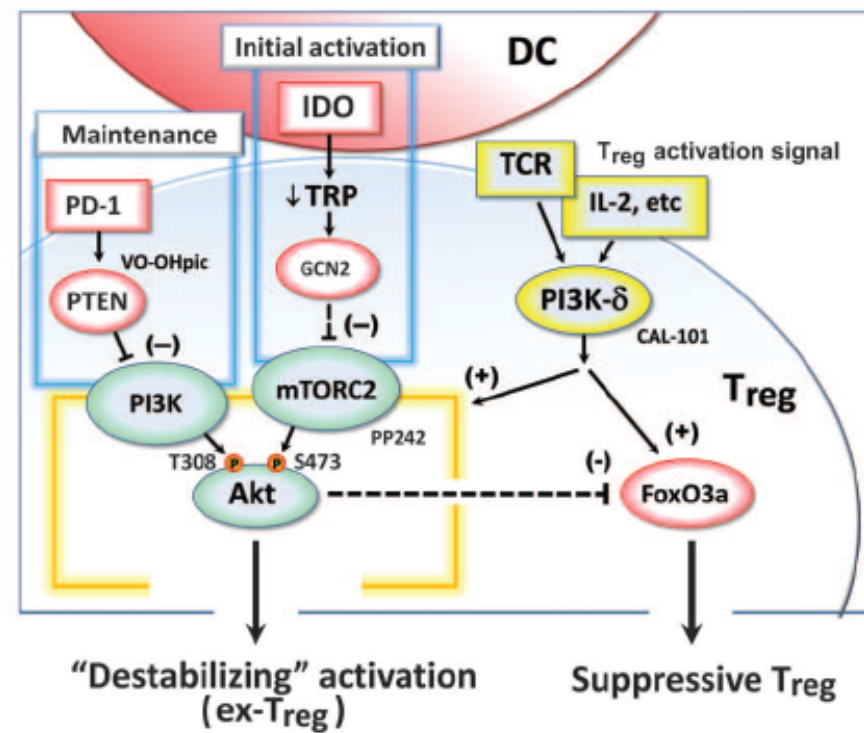
# AML immunological microenvironment: the crucial role of Tregs





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## Initial activation of Tregs within tumor microenvironment depends on IDO1 expression





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## IDO inhibitors

**A phase II study to determine the safety and efficacy of an oral inhibitor of indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO) enzyme in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome and AML with 20-30% of marrow blasts**

Primary endpoint: overall response

Secondary endpoints: 1) IDO suppression, 2) change in Treg and 3) the percentage of bone marrow MDSC change after treatment with INCB024360

Methods: All patients were treated with 600 mg oral twice a day for 16 weeks until progression or unless toxicity was evident.

Results: 15 patients

SD (80%)

PD (20%)

No grade 3/4 events

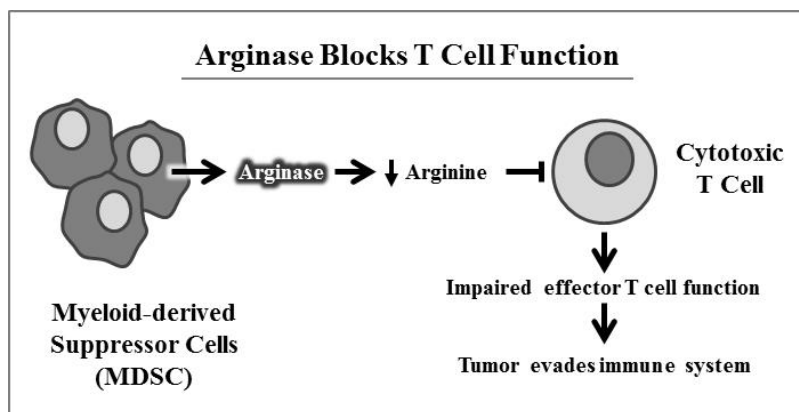
Evidence of activity (laboratory)

Conclusions: well-tolerated. Significant activity. To be tested in combination

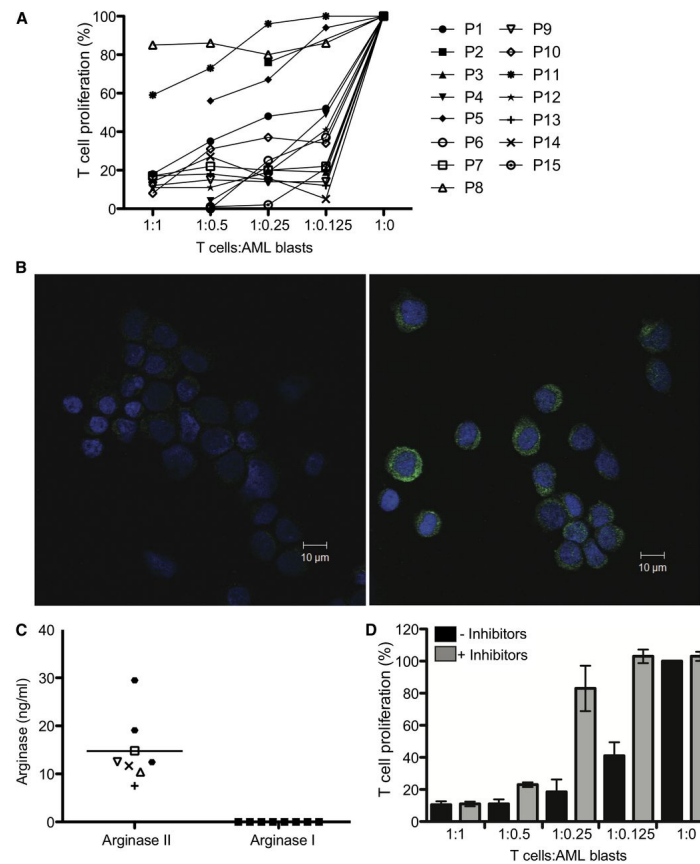


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# Arginine metabolism regulates the suppressive activity of AML blasts



**A Phase II Study of Arginine Deiminase in Relapsed/Refractory or Poor-Risk Acute Myeloid Leukemia Patients**





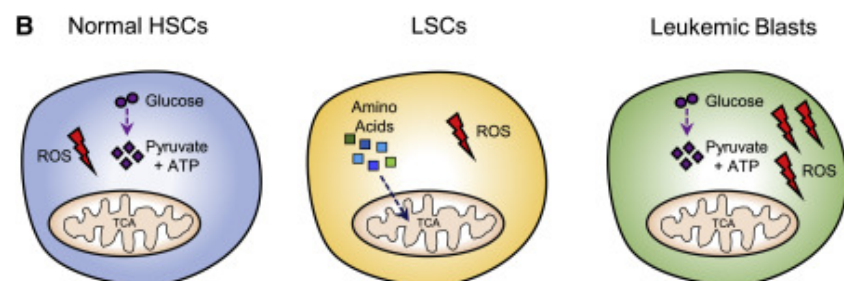
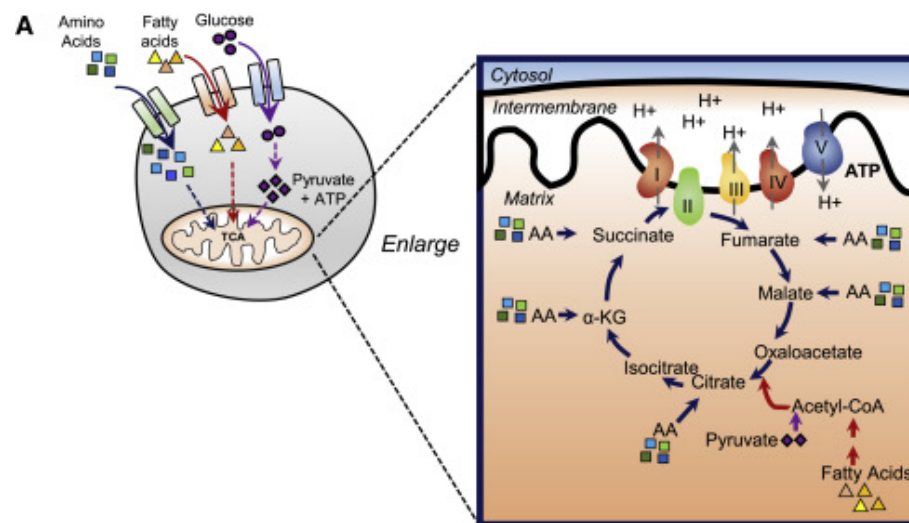


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## Novel pathways as target for immunological therapies in AML

PATHWAY	THERAPEUTICAL ACTION	EFFECTS
PD-1/PD-L1/TIM-3/LAG-3	-mAb anti-PD-1/TIM-3/LAG-3 -mAb anti-PD-L1	- Increased T-cell cytotoxicity - Increased DC function as APCs
CD33	mAb anti-CD33	- AML cell lysis
CTLA-4	mAb anti-CTLA-4	- Increased T-cell cytotoxicity - Increased DC function as APCs
CD200	mAb anti-CD200	- Increased T/NK-cell cytotoxicity - Increased DC function as APCs
IDO	IDO1 inhibitor	- Prevention of T-cell tolerance
NK cells	adoptive cell therapy	- AML cell lysis
CAR-T cells	adoptive cell therapy	- AML cell lysis
Tregs	lymphodepletion therapy	- Prevention of T-cell tolerance
KIR	mAb anti-KIR	- AML cell lysis
Arginine	human recombinant arginase	- Prevention of immune tolerance
CIK cells	adoptive cell therapy	- AML cell lysis
TAA (WT1, RHAMM..)	immunotherapy-peptide vaccines	- Specific AML cell lysis

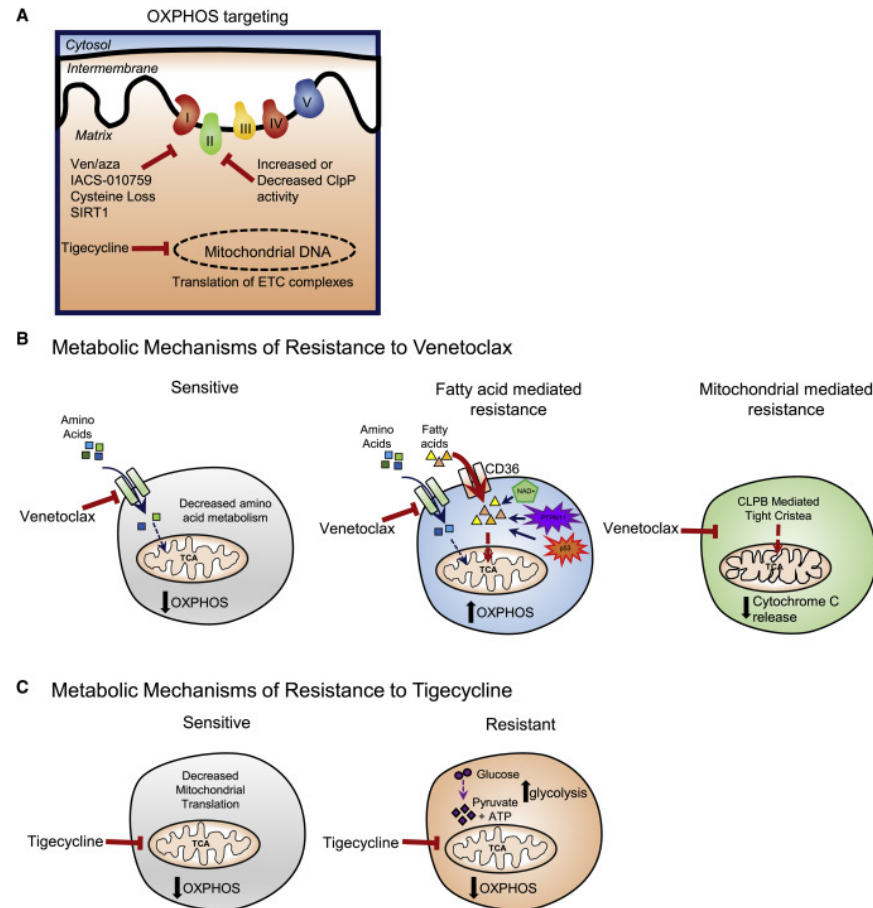
# Leukemic stem cells utilize OXPHOS for energy production



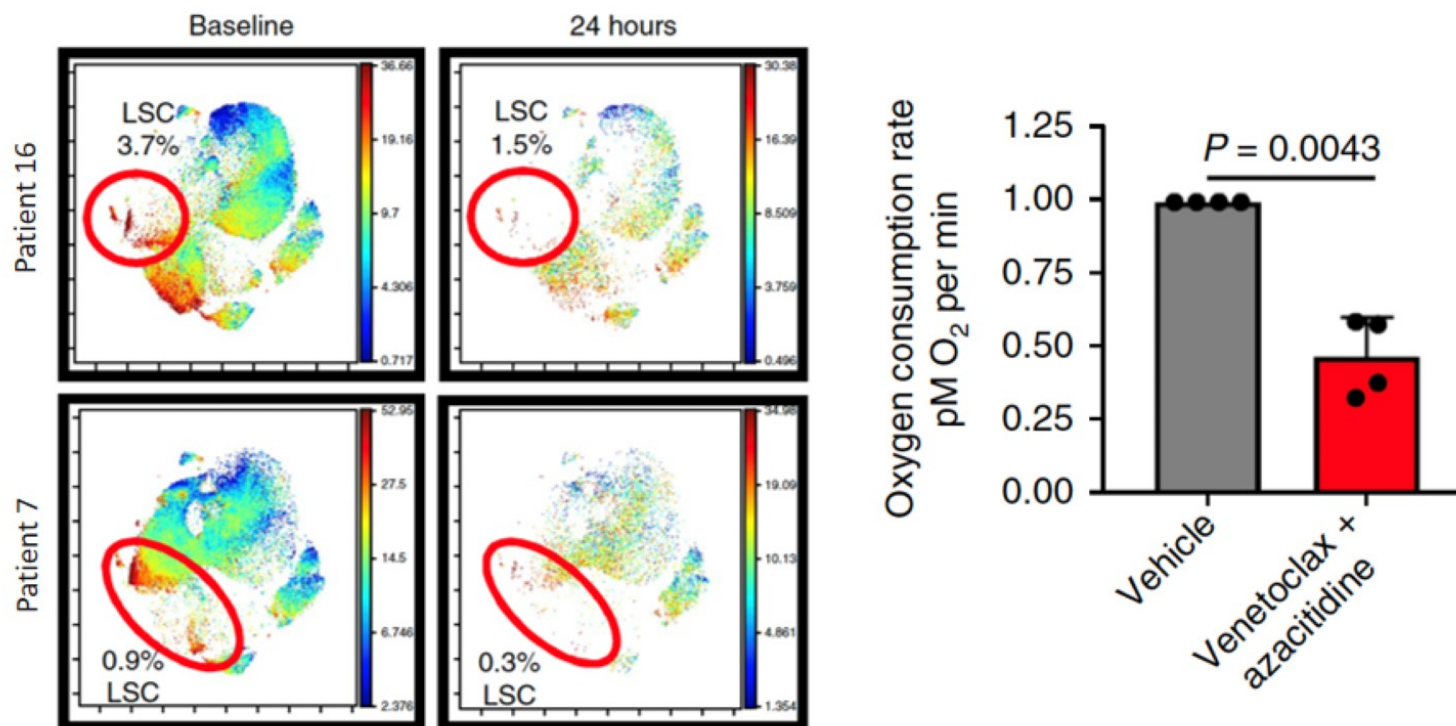


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# Targeting OXPHOS and Therapy Resistance in LSCs



# Venetoclax + AZA disrupts energy metabolism and target LSCs in AML

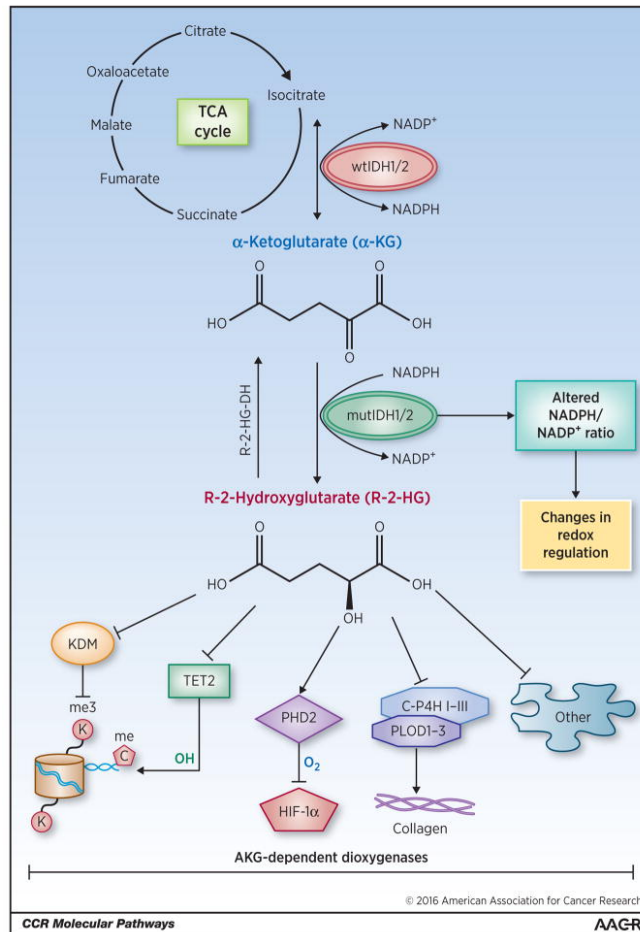


Pollyea DA, et al. *Nat Med.* 2018;24:1859-1866.



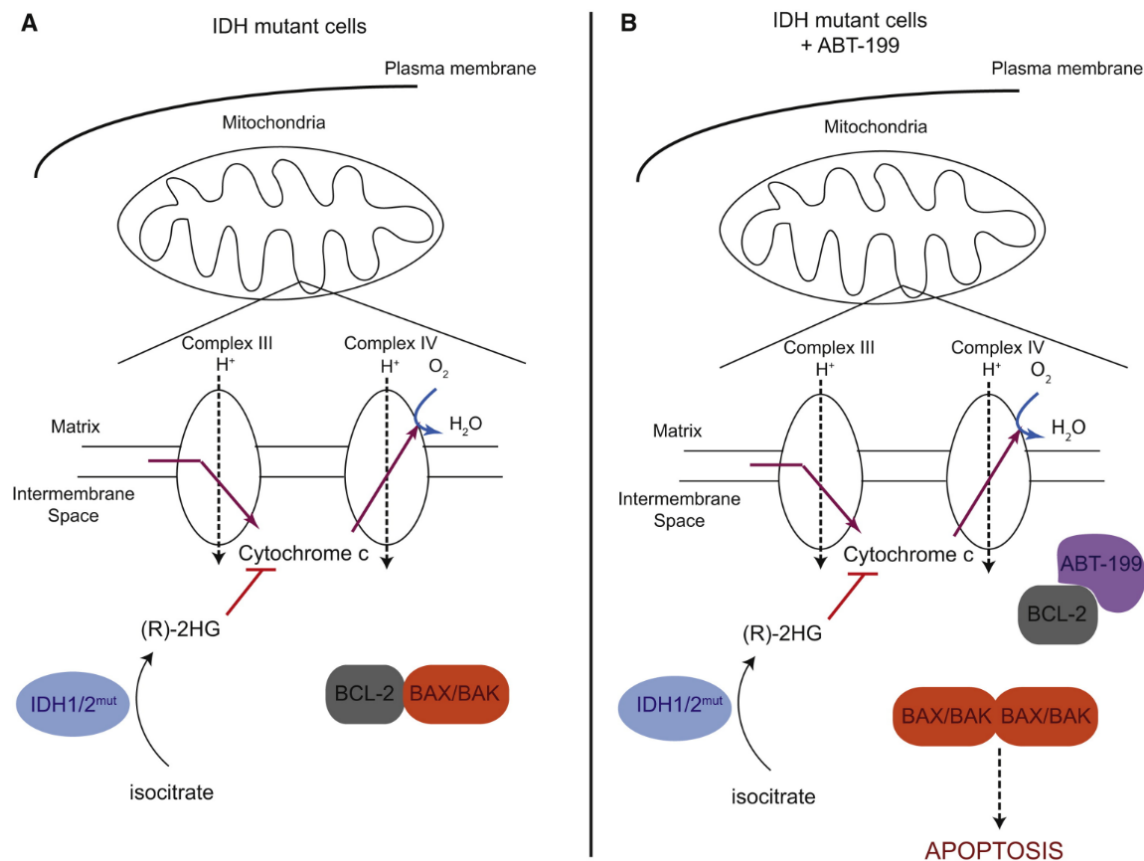
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# Molecular mechanisms of IDH-associated tumorigenesis





# IDH1/2 Mutations and BCL-2 Dependence: An Unexpected Chink in AML's Armour



# Advances in AML patient care through increasingly individualized therapy

