



# Current Status of MPN Guidelines: Response and Treatment

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# MPNs: A historical view—the pre-JAK2 era



*G. Heuck describes MF  
“Two cases of leukemia with peculiar blood and bone marrow findings”*

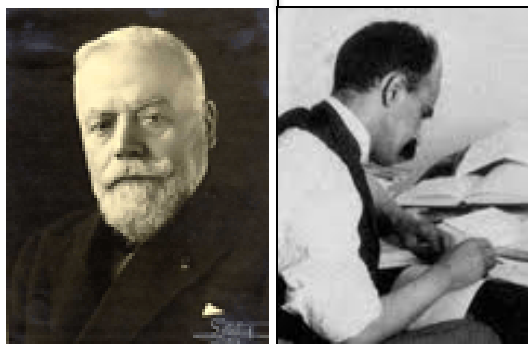
*Epstein and Goedel describe ET, noting a pt with extreme increase in platelets and bleeding*

## *The Ph Chromosome*



*Nowell and Hungerford*

*A change in cancer therapy*



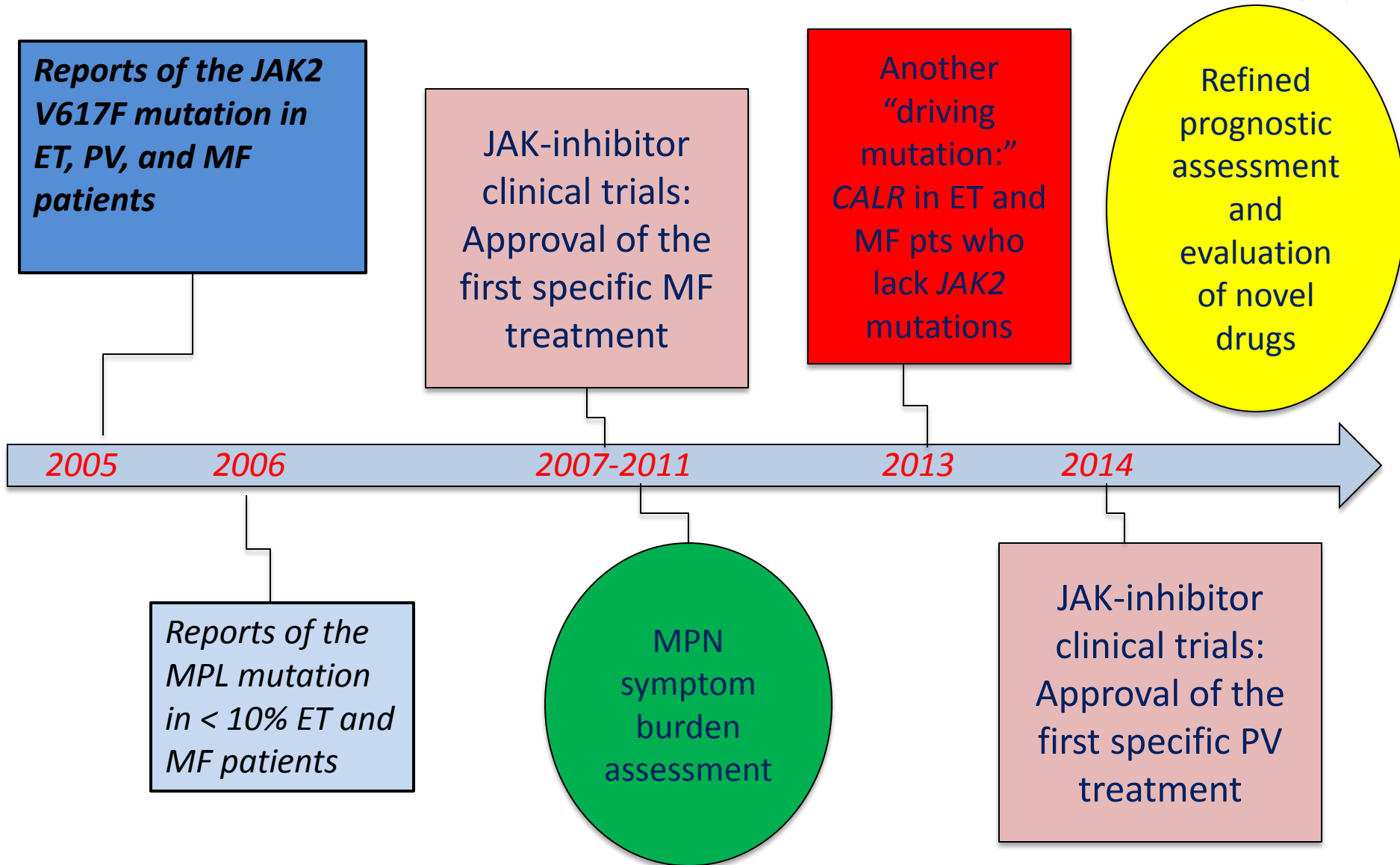
*Vaquez and Osler describe PV*



*Dameshek coins the term, “MPD” and speculates on a shared pathogenesis*

*PVSG established:  
Conduct of pivotal clinical trials in PV*

# MPNs: The JAK2 discovery era





New mutations, evolving diagnostic criteria, new ways to assess symptoms, updated epidemiology, new prognostic assessments, new **approved** drugs, and many important clinical trials underway.....

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# Clinical Practice Guidelines



Created by expert panels that collect, organize, interpret and assess scientific evidence during a comprehensive review

Recommendations based on high and (low) quality evidence, and when lacking, based on expert/consensus opinion

Goals:

Optimize patient care

Help physicians weigh options when evidence is limited, no consensus exists, or both (!)

Highlight research priorities

*Routinely updated to incorporate new information*

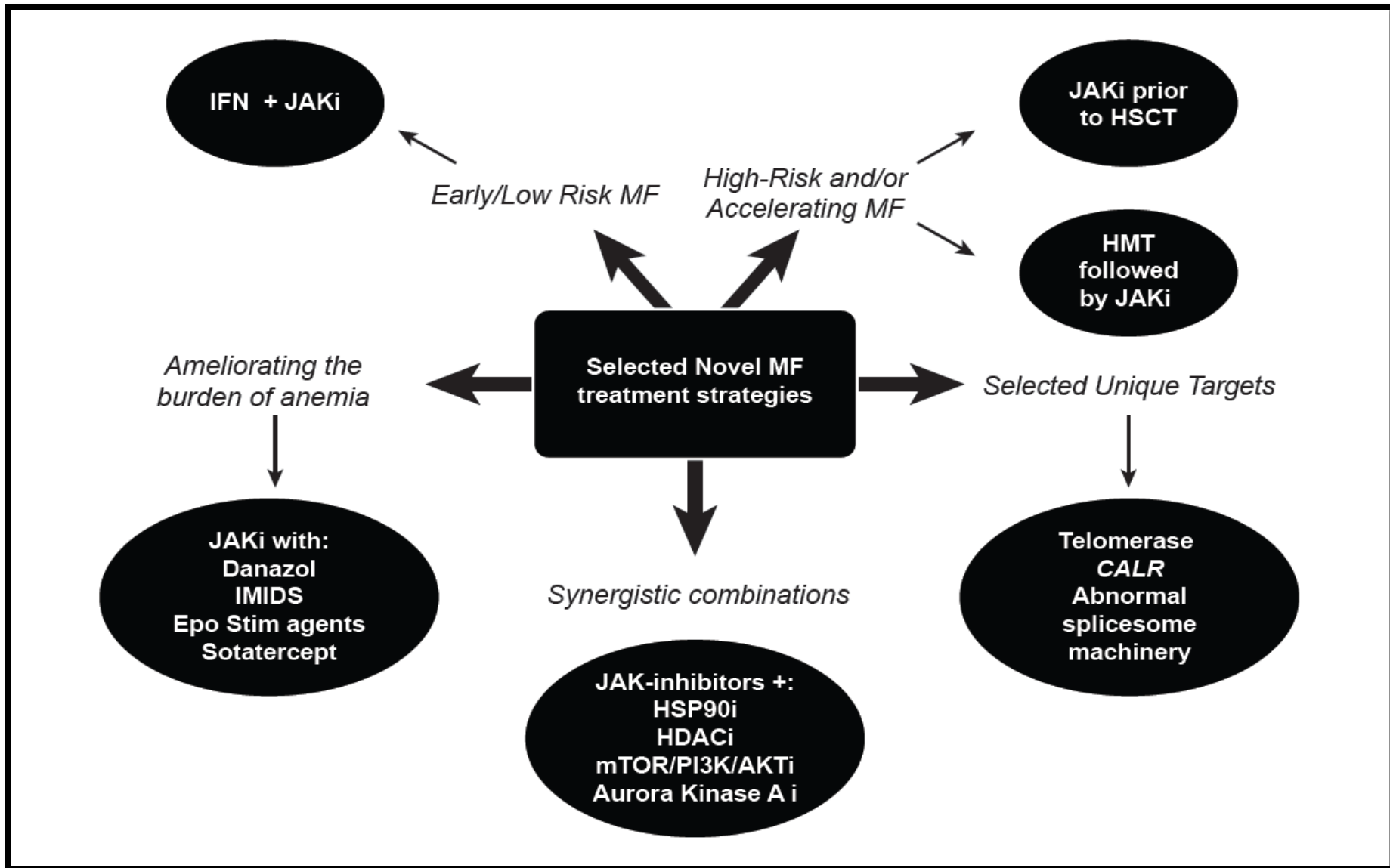
# Selected Existing MPN Guidelines and Consensus Statements



| Source  | Content  |
|---|--|
| International Working Group for MPN Research and Treatment/ELN<br>(IWG-MRT/ELN) | Response assessment in Myelofibrosis<br>Response assessment in ET and PV |
| European Leukemia Net   | Definition of Hydroxyurea Resistance or Intolerance                      |
| European Leukemia Net   | Guidance regarding approach to diagnosis and treatment of ET, PV, and MF |
| Austrian/German Society of Hematology/Oncology                                  | Management of Venous Blood Clotting Events: Primary and Secondary        |

# Why are response criteria needed?

Many novel treatment strategies are emerging!



# Response criteria help objectively assess the value of new drugs/clinical trials



1). Include response categories that suggest that the natural history of the disease is being modified

| Response          | Symptoms and Splenomegaly                   | Blood  | Bone Marrow  |
|-------------------|---|--|--|
| Complete response | Resolution of MPN symptoms and splenomegaly | Normal blood counts<br>Hgb > 10 g/dl<br>Plts > 100,000<br>Neutrophils > 1000 | -Restored productivity<br>-Absence of scarring<br>-Absence of immaturity |

***Partial response:***

***Remission in the blood and resolution of symptoms/splenomegaly, but not necessarily in the bone marrow***

***Remission in the marrow, but incomplete improvement in blood counts***



# Response criteria help objectively assess the value of new drugs/clinical trials



## 2). Objective evaluation of a drug's ability to improve the MF-symptom burden

| Response             | MF-Symptoms   | Splenomegaly   | Anemia   |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| Clinical Improvement | 50% improvement in baseline symptom score, using valid instrument | --Modest spleen becomes non-palpable<br>--50% reduction in marked splenomegaly<br>Confirmed by imaging | 2 gram increase in hemoglobin<br><br>*Achieving transfusion-independence |

***Clinical improvement requires improvement in 1 aspect without worsening another***

Transfusion-dependence: 6 units of blood in 12 weeks

Transfusion-independence: Hgb >8.5, and no transfusion in 12 weeks

# New treatments also emerging in ET and PV!

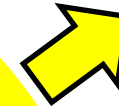


Pegylated interferon  
JAK-inhibition  
HDAC inhibition  
(Givinostat)



Treat high counts

JAK-inhibition  
HDAC  
inhibition  
Pegylated  
interferon



Reduce  
Splenomegaly

Delay onset of  
transformation  
?

JAK-  
inhibition  
HDAC  
inhibition



Relieve  
constitutional and  
systemic symptoms  
(fatigue and itching)

Manage risk of  
vascular  
complications

Pegylated  
interferon



# Response criteria in ET and PV

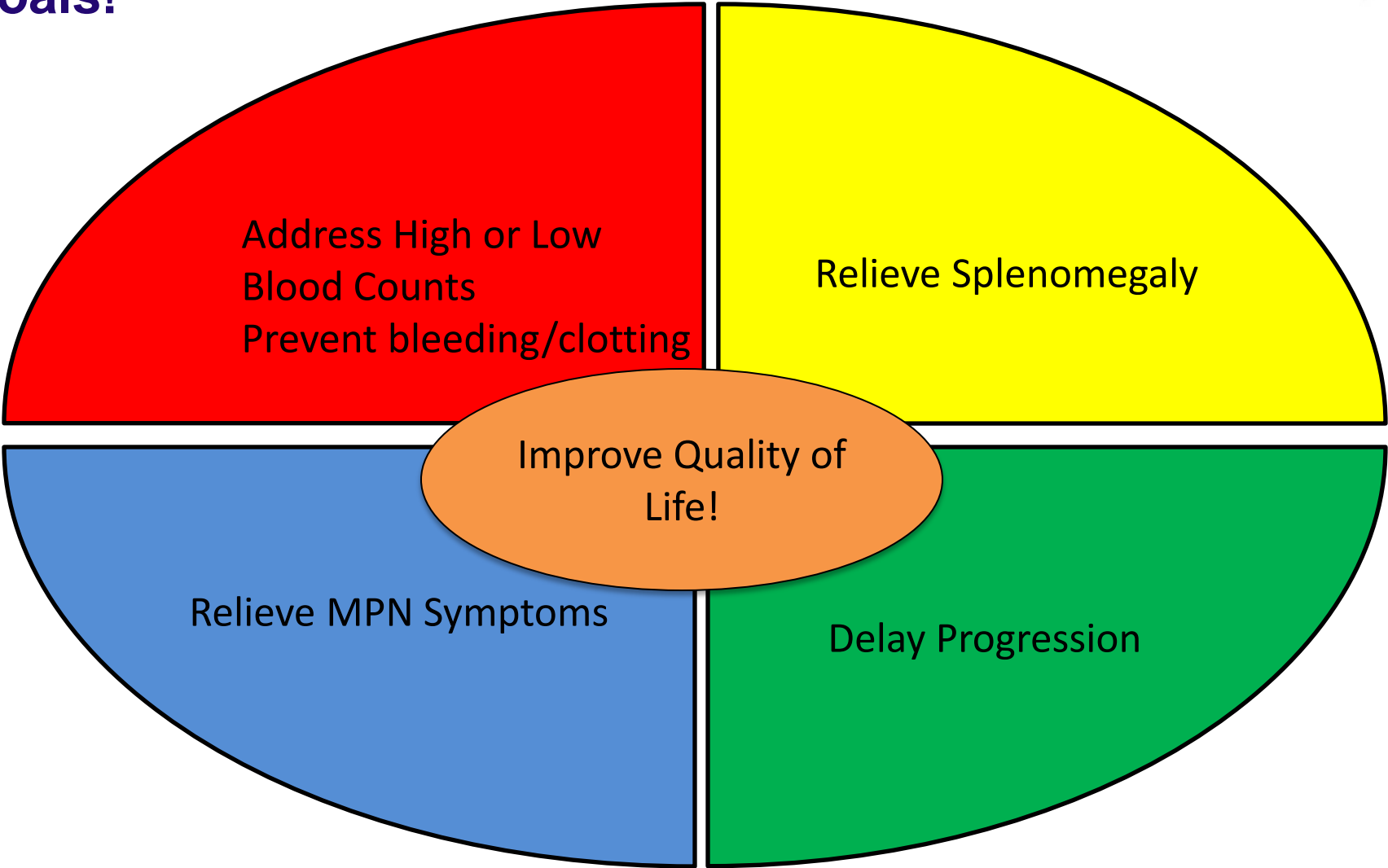


Aim: To provide response definitions in ET and PV that are clinically relevant, practical and reproducible

| Complete Response | Symptoms and Splenomegaly                                      | Blood counts  | Vascular concerns              | Bone Marrow   |
|-------------------|--|---|--------------------------------|---|
| ET and PV         | Durable (3 months) resolution of MPN-symptoms and splenomegaly | PV: Hct < 45%<br>w/o phlebotomy<br><br>ET and PV:<br>Plts < 400,000<br>WBC < 10,000 | No bleeding or clotting events | ET: Absence of scarring and normal megakaryocyte number (parent of plts)<br><br>PV: Absence of scarring, improvement to normal degree of efficiency |

***Partial response: Improvement in symptoms, blood counts, and vascular concerns, but no remission in the bone marrow***

# Clinical trial goals can differ from an individual patient's goals!



# Consensus Definition:

## \* “Hydroxyurea Resistance/Intolerance”



\*\*Need for phlebotomy to keep Hct < 45%

\*\*Plts > 400,000 and WBC > 10,000

\*\*Failure to shrink the spleen or improve symptoms of splenomegaly

--Low white cell counts (neutrophils < 1000)

--Low plts (< 100,000)

--Anemia (< 10 g/dl)

Leg ulcers, GI symptoms, lung inflammation, fever

*After at least 3 months, and at least 2 grams daily of Hydroxyurea*

# Critical Concepts and Management Recommendations: ELN/IWG-RT 2011



## ***Diagnosis***

Use of World Health Organization Criteria (2008)

## ***Patient communication***

Guidance on communication of expectations and natural history of the disease

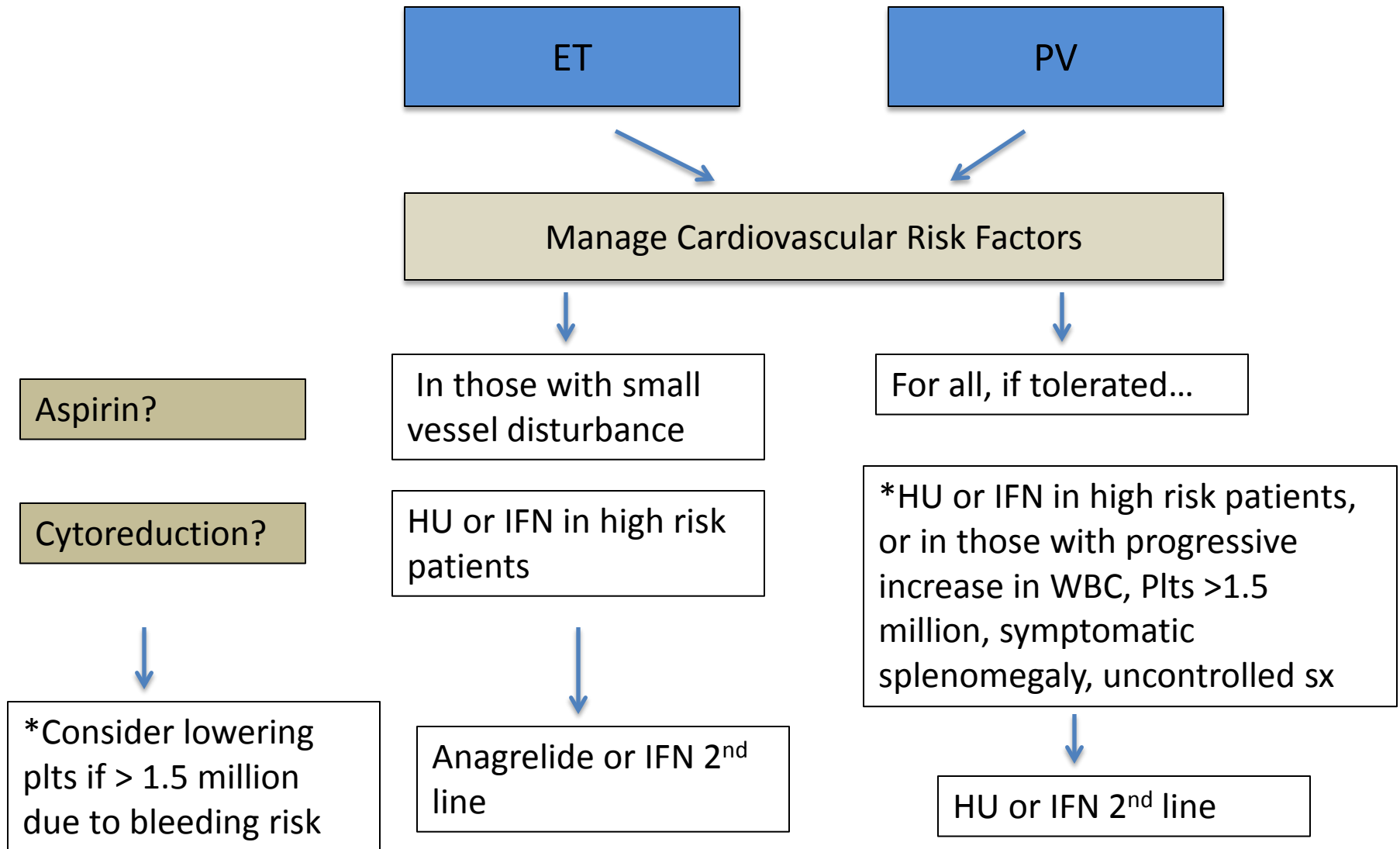
## ***Risk classification***

Age and prior history of thrombosis for ET/PV

Prognostic scoring systems for MF (IPSS, DIPSS, DIPSS-plus)

## ***Goals of therapy***

# Critical Concepts and Management Recommendations: ELN/IWG-RT 2011



# Critical Concepts and Management Recommendations: ELN/IWG-RT 2011



## ***Treatment of Myelofibrosis: (Covered later today!)***

*How to treat anemia*

*How to treat splenomegaly*

*When to consider surgery*

*How to address constitutional symptoms*

*Making decisions about transplantation*

## ***Treatment of special situations:***

*Pregnancy (Covered later today!)*

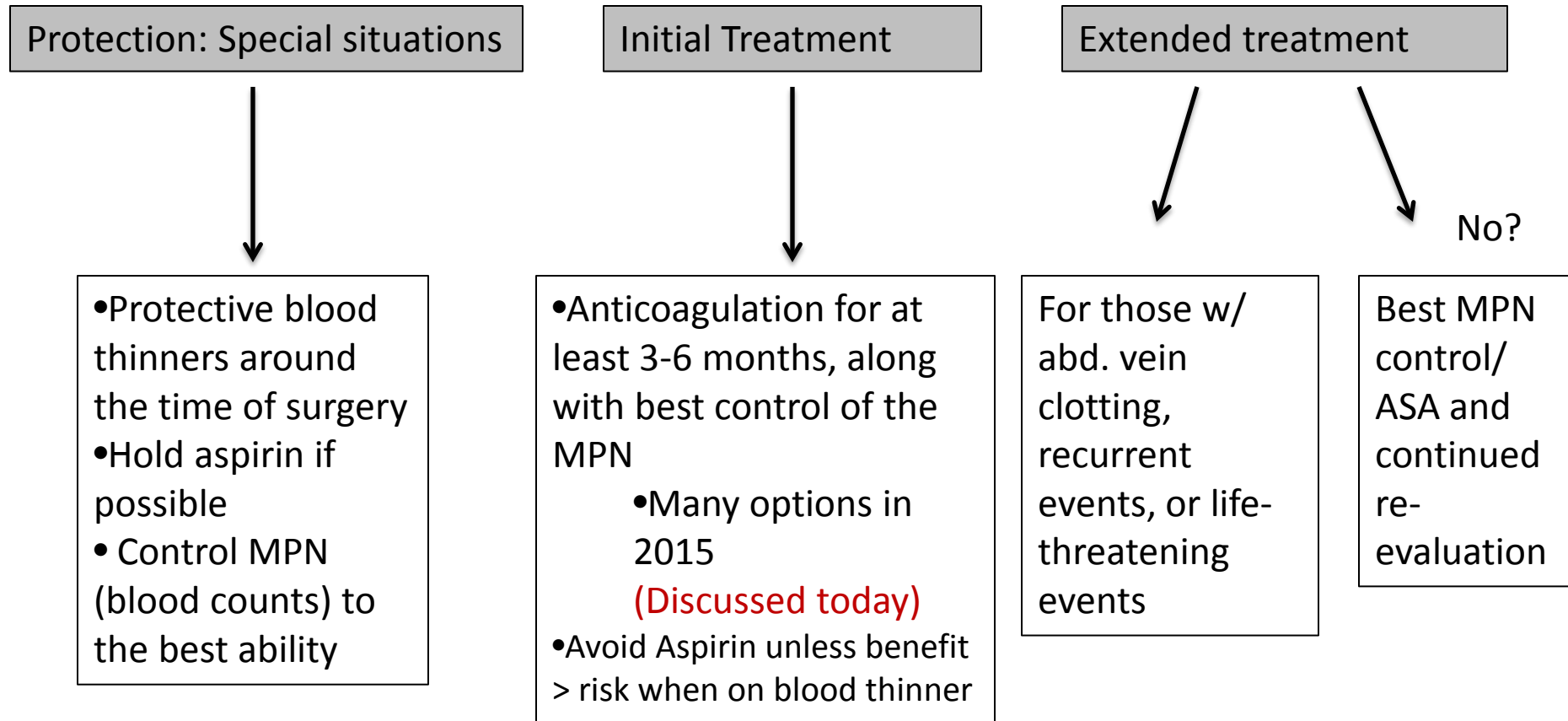
*Blood clotting in unusual locations*

*Management of itching*

***Published prior to approval of JAK-inhibitors for MF and PV!***



# Management of MPN-associated venous blood clotting complications



Consensus Statement from the German and Austrian Society of Hematology and Oncology:  
Annals of Hematology 2014

# Selected Existing MPN Consensus/Guidelines



| Source                                      | Content  |
|---|--|
| IWG-ELN                                     | Response assessment in ET, PV, and MV<br><i>Designed for use in a clinical trial setting, not in clinical practice</i>   |
| ELN   | Definition of Hydroxyurea Resistance or Intolerance<br><i>Inadequate response may have a broader meaning in clinical practice</i>  |
| ELN   | Guidance regarding approach to diagnosis and treatment of ET, PV, and MF<br><i>Based on expert consensus, and published prior to JAK-inhibitor approval (2011 for MF, 2014 for PV)</i> |
| Austrian/German Hematology-Oncology Society | Management of Venous Blood Clotting<br><i>Practical, yet less of an evidence base here (not the fault of the society!)</i>   |

**FYI: British Committee for Standards in Haematology also has guidelines for investigation and management of ET, PV, and MF, as well as guidance on MPN molecular markers**

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Breast cancer

Lung cancer

Pancreatic cancer

Prostate Cancer



Practicing hematologists/oncologists could use practical, updated advice on approach to diagnosis, symptom and risk assessment, supportive care, and management strategies

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# PV practice patterns in the pre-JAK2 era

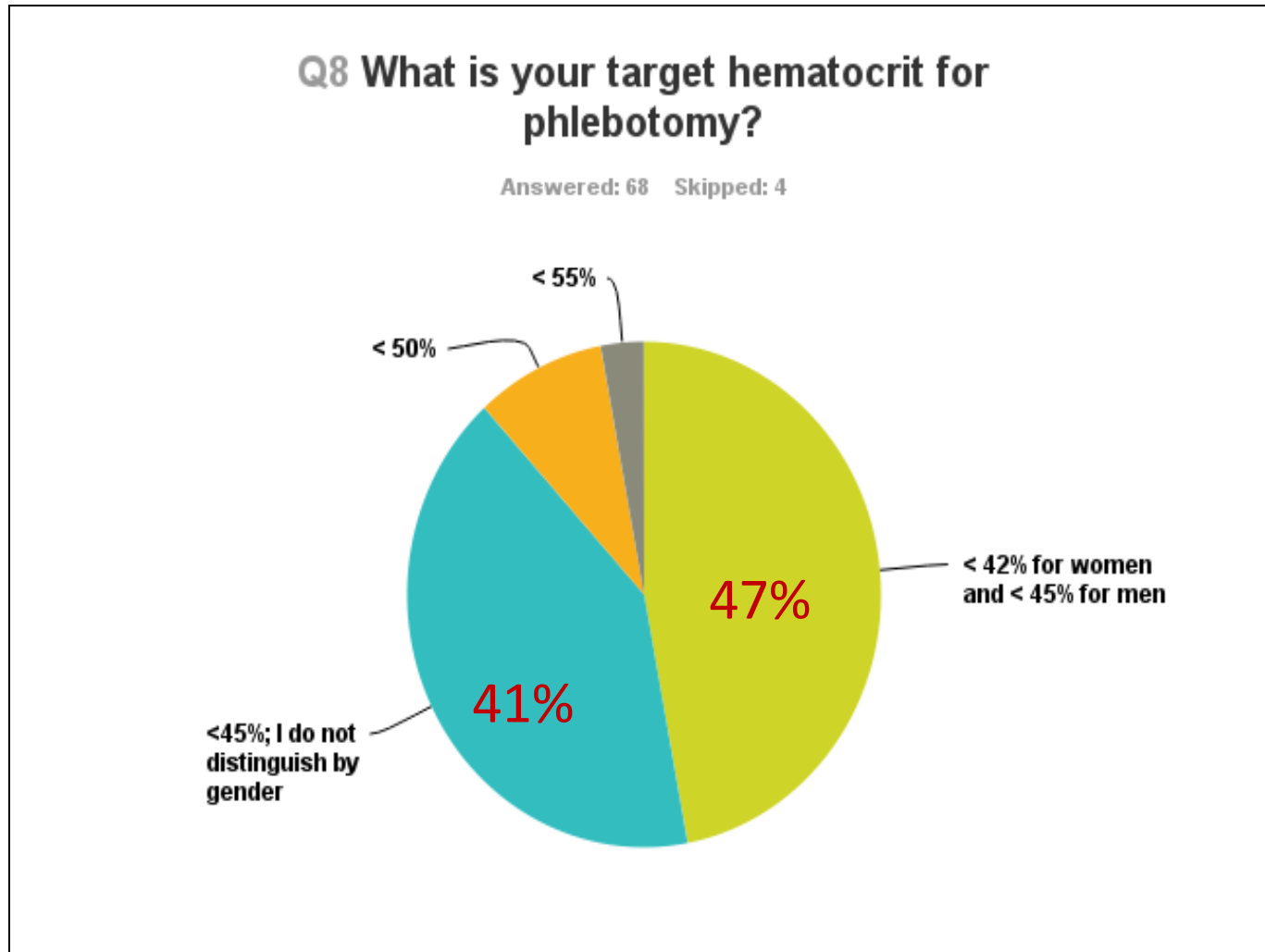


PV practice patterns, 2002

Survey of ~1000 American Society of Hematology members

- Red cell mass, Epo level and blood gas most commonly used for diagnosis
- Most respondents used a target Hct  $\leq 44\%$ , though 16% used a target of 50 or 55%.
- ~65% treated only when a plts  $> 1$  million, while a ~20% used a lower threshold, or treated only those with symptoms (12%).
- Hydroxyurea (HU) was most commonly used to treat increased platelets and 55% and 15% percent of respondents avoided interferon (IFN), and aspirin (ASA), respectively as treatments

# PV practice patterns in the post-JAK2 era



## *Survey of practice patterns in the diagnosis and treatment of PV in 2014*

# Consensus is needed!

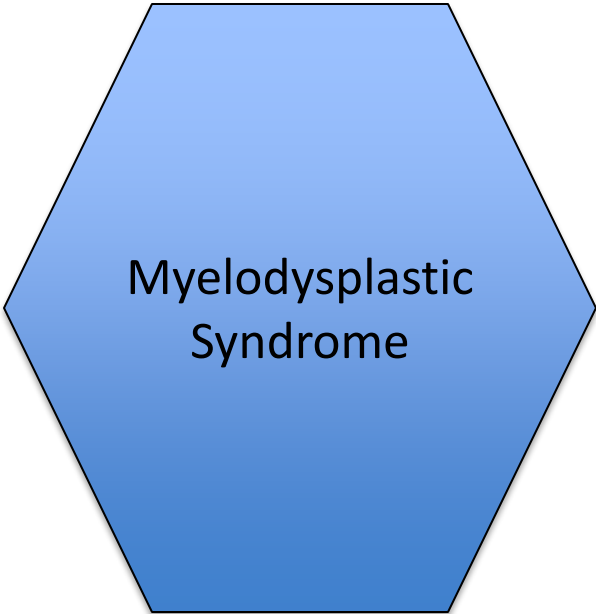


| Query   | Respondents answer  |
|---|---|
| Indications for cytoreduction:  | --Blood clotting: 75%<br>--Small vessel disturbance: 73%<br>--Age > 60 years: 59%   |
| Agent of choice:  | Hydroxyurea, 89%  |
| Age restriction for cytoreduction:<br>Concerns regarding younger age? | *50% prescribed regardless of age<br>34% avoided in those < 40 yrs<br>16 yrs vs. < 15 yrs experience<br>(67% vs. 31% regardless of age) |
| Do you universally prescribe aspirin?                                 | 79% universally prescribed, but more likely in those with <15 yrs experience vs. > 16 years experience (91% vs. 69%)                    |

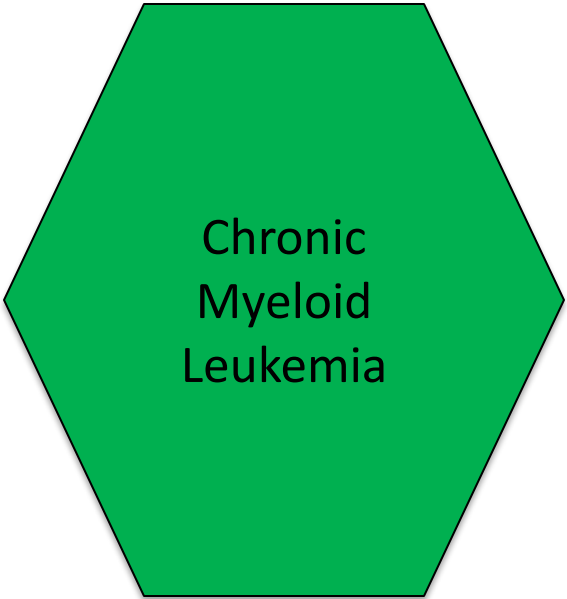
# US Guidelines: Myeloid Neoplasms



Acute  
Leukemia



Myelodysplastic  
Syndrome



Chronic  
Myeloid  
Leukemia

*Represented by the National Comprehensive Cancer  
Network:*

*--Diagnosis/Workup*

*--Supportive Care*

*--Treatment*



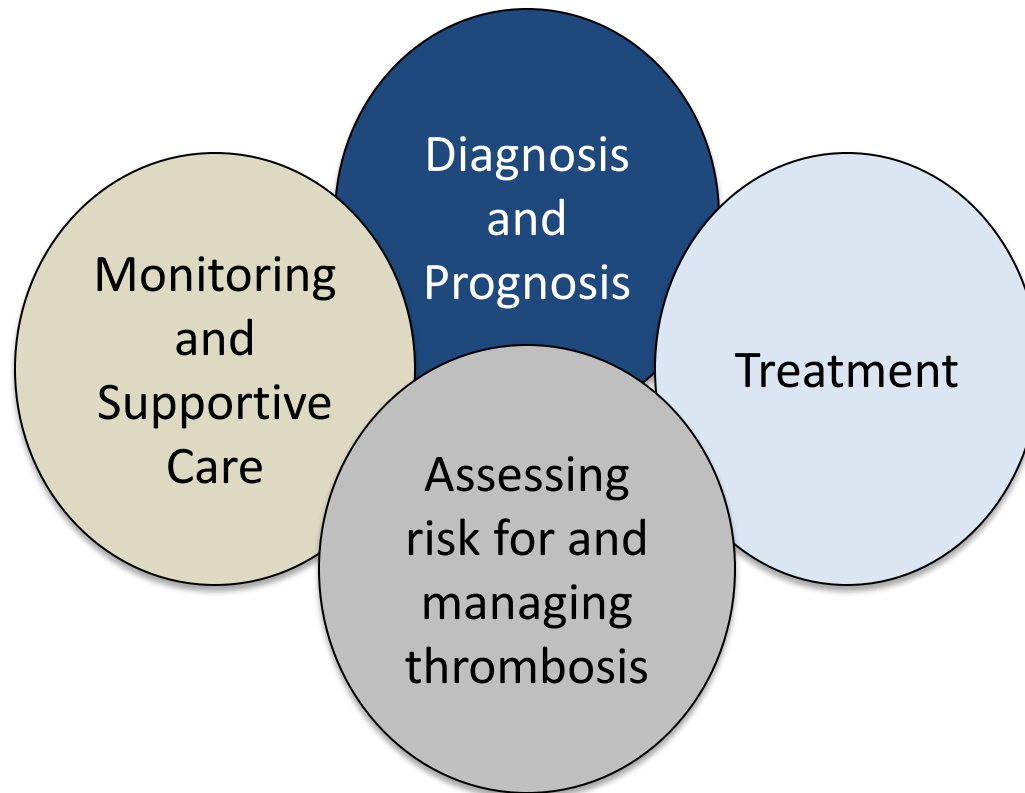
# Comprehensive, contemporary US-based MPN Guidelines....



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**“Myeloproliferative Neoplasms are in need of United States-Based Guidelines”**



# Collaborators from NCCN member institutions



# “Historical views, conventional approaches, and evolving management strategies for the MPN”



Diagnosis and  
Prognosis

- *Impact of mutations (JAK2 V617F, CALR, MPL)*
- *Appropriate settings for testing*
- *MPN “mimicry”*

*“Occult MPN” —*

*(presentation with abdominal vein thrombosis)*

*Distinguishing ET from PV and early MF*

# “Historical views, conventional approaches, and evolving management strategies for the MPN”



## ***Risk assessment for thrombosis***

*Age, blood clotting history*

*Mutational status, CV risk factors*

*? WBC count, allele burden, and other?*


## ***Prevention and treatment***

*Options, efficacy and safety of agents to lower counts (HU)*

*Interferon*

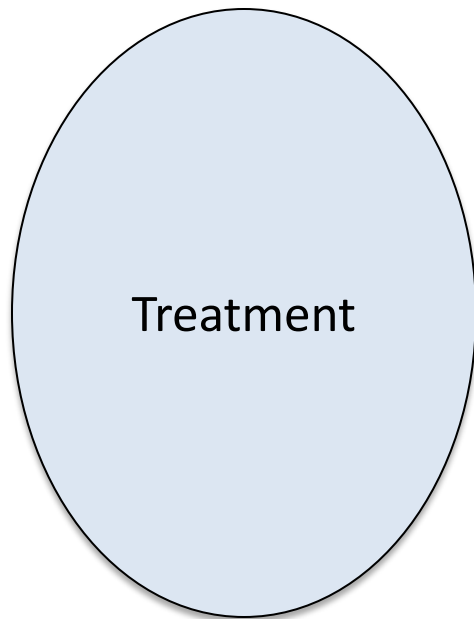
*Phlebotomy, blood thinning (duration?), anti-platelet agents*

*Special situations: Pregnancy, Surgery*



Assessing risk  
for and  
managing  
thrombosis

# “Historical views, conventional approaches, and evolving management strategies for the MPN”



## ***Use of JAK-inhibitors in MF and PV***

*Ruxolitinib in MF and PV*

*Novel JAK-inhibitors in clinical trials  
(momelotinib, pacritinib)*

*Positive effects, Side effects*

## ***The role and timing of stem cell transplant***

*Pre-transplant therapy, donor options,  
use of prognostic scoring systems  
(IPSS, etc)*

# “Historical views, conventional approaches, and evolving management strategies for the MPN”



## ***Supportive Care***

*Symptom management*

*Addressing low blood counts*

*Treating anemia, iron overload*

*Massive splenomegaly (surgery vs radiation)*

***\*Other MPN's need guidance as well!***

*Mastocytosis, Hypereosinophilia, Chronic Neutrophilic Leukemia*

# Comprehensive, contemporary US-based MPN Guidelines....



Hopefully we fill this slide in  
years to come!



# Acknowledgements



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MPN Advocacy International

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My patients.....



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Thank you for your attention!

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