

Reply to “Aurora-B expression may not contribute to disease progression: a reflection of the heterogeneous pathogenesis?” *Haematologica* 2012;97(10):e37-39.

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Fabiola Fernandes *et al.*¹ studied 61 myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) patients, 31 male and 30 female, with a median age of 66 years (range 15-91 years). They evaluated Aurora-B expression in 61 RNA samples prepared from bone marrow cells. However, Fernandes *et al.*¹ did not examine the expression of this gene using isolated CD34⁺ cells; they used bone marrow mononuclear cells. Therefore, it is difficult to compare their results with ours. We evaluated the expression levels of Aurora-B in CD34⁺ cells prepared from patients with myelodysplastic syndrome. If we had examined the expression of Aurora-B in un-fractionated bone marrow cells, we might have obtained the same results as Fabiola Fernandes *et al.*¹ It should be noted that Aurora-B is highly expressed in CD34⁺ cells from MDS.

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