The molecular underpinnings of early onset adult MDS do not differ enough from MDS diagnosed at a traditional age to warrant a separate categorization

634 patients with primary MDS

65 "early onset adult MDS" ≤50 years

569 "traditional age of diagnosis MDS patients" >50 years

Next generation deep sequencing analysis of 60 genes commonly mutated in myeloid malignancies

Number of mutations increased linearly with age

>50 years

- more mutations in TET2, SRSF2, and DNMT3A
- more mutations in spliceosomal, epigenetic modifier, and RAS gene families

Patients ≤50 belong to a disease continuum with a distinct pattern of early onset ancestral events

Hirsch *et al.*, Haematologica, 2017