

# Recognizing the Profound Impact on Quality of Life:

Emerging Therapy Options for Patients with Myelofibrosis



### Learning Objectives

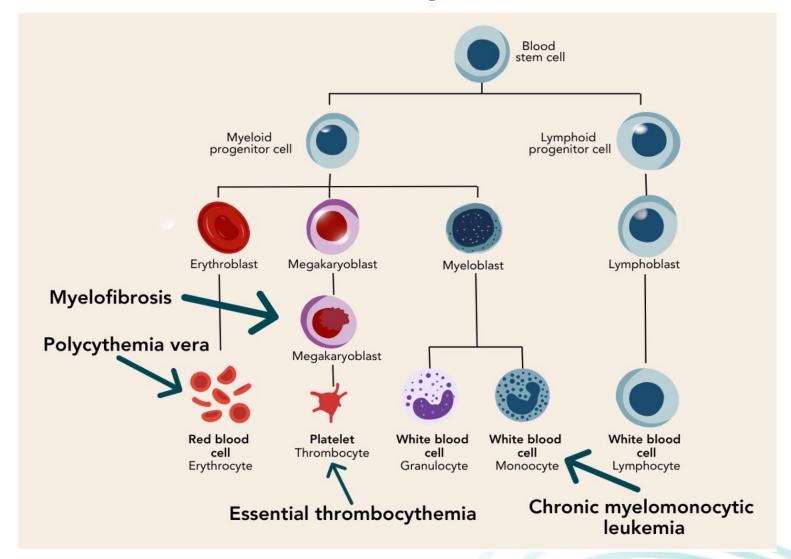


- Correctly evaluate the alignment of JAK inhibitors and emerging treatment options with evidence-based clinical guidelines for patients diagnosed with MF
- Appropriately assess patient symptoms and potential adverse events related to JAK inhibitors and emerging treatment options to effectively address patient QOL
- Consistently implement shared decision-making strategies to create a personalized care plan that alleviates QOL burdens associated with MF



## Myeloproliferative Neoplasms

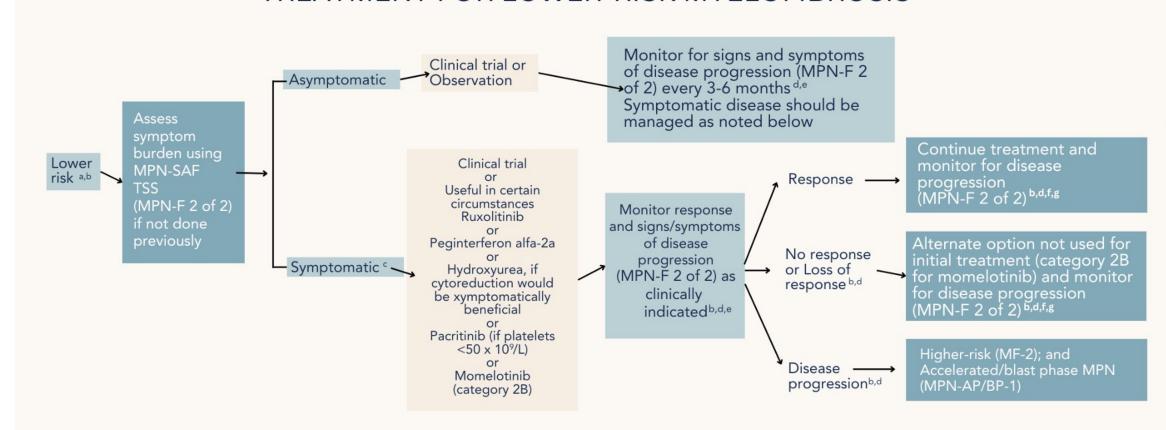




## Treatment Algorithm for Lower-Risk Myelofibrosis



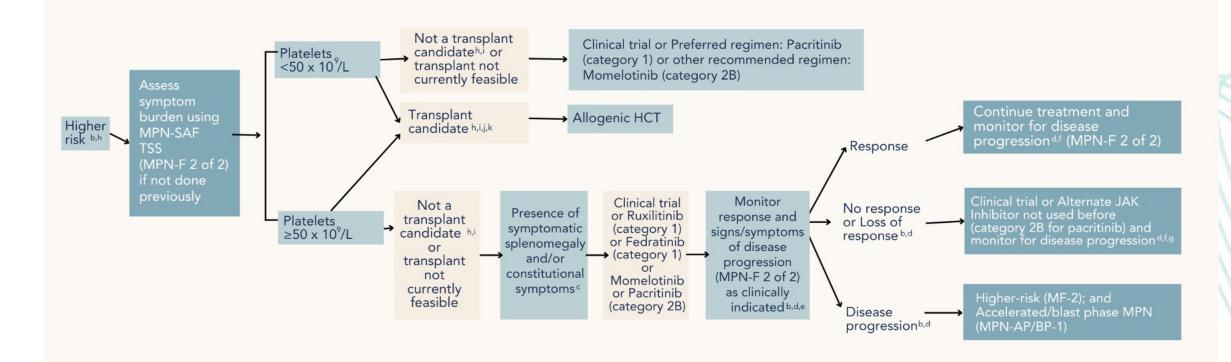
### TREATMENT FOR LOWER-RISK MYELOFIBROSIS



## Treatment Algorithm for Higher-Risk Myelofibrosis

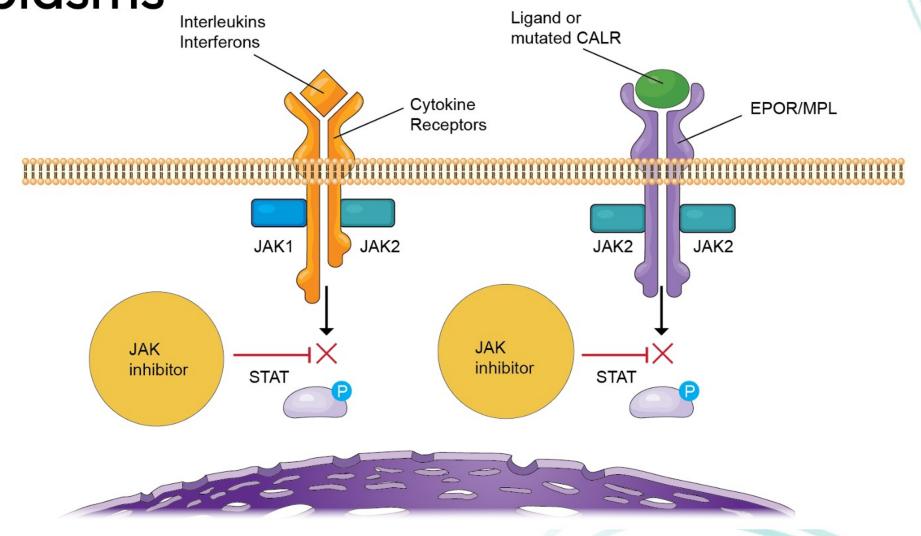


### TREATMENT FOR HIGHER-RISK MYELOFIBROSIS



Pathophysiology of Myeloproliferative Neoplasms





## Predictors of Inferior OS Following JAK Inhibitors





Age > 65



Transfusion-dependence



Absence of spleen and anemia responses



Presence of ASXL1/SRSF2 mutations



Emergent mutations in RAS pathway genes (KRAS, NRAS, CBL and PTPN11) and ASXL1 (associated with AP/BP disease)

## DIPSS and DIPPS+ to Assess Patient Risk



### **DIPSS/DIPSS-plus Scoring**

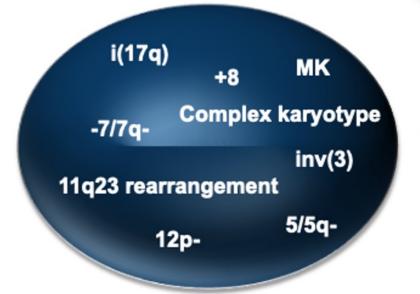
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DIPSS Factors	Points
Age >65 ys	1
Symptoms	1
WBC >25,000	1
Hgb <10	2
Blood Myeloblasts >1%	1

	1	
DIPSS Risk Category	Points	Value for DIPSS plus risk
Low	0	0
Intermediate 1	1	1
Intermediate 2	2-3	2
High	≥4	3

DIPSS plus Factors	Points
Adv. Karyotype	1
Platelets <100k	1
RBC Transf.	1

DIPSS plus Risk	Points	Median survival (ms)
Low	0	185
Intermediate 1	1	78
Intermediate 2	2-3	35
High	4-6	16

### Adverse Karyotypes



## Non-JAK Inhibitor Emerging Therapeutics for MF



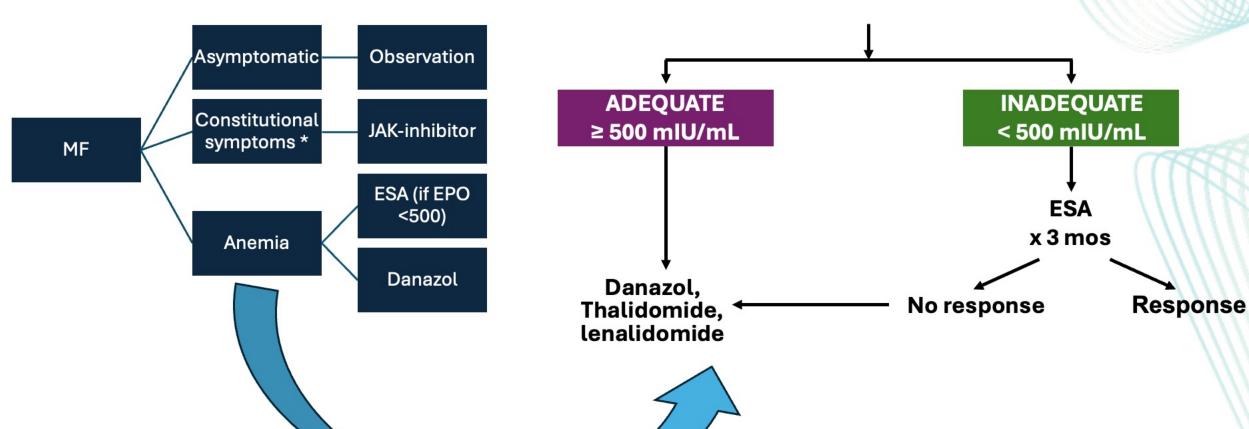
Novel Agent	MOA	Study Indication	Pivotal Trial(s)	
ESAs	Darbopoeitin alpha Epoetin alpha	Anemia, if endogenous Epo level < 500 mU/mL	Retrospective, multicenter study	
Pelabresib	BET inhibitor	<ul> <li>Spleen reduction and symptom responses</li> <li>Single agent in JAK inhibitor refractory settings,</li> <li>Combination with ruxolitinib in both up-front and JAK inhibitor refractory MF</li> </ul>	MANIFEST MANIFEST-2	
Navitoclax	BCL2 inhibitor	<ul> <li>Clinical responses</li> <li>Navitoclax + ruxolitinib vs ruxolitinib alone</li> <li>Navitoclax + ruxolitinib vs physician's choice therapy in the 2L setting, with exclusion criteria for platelet counts (&lt;100 × 10<sup>9</sup>/L)</li> </ul>	REFINE TRANSFORM-1 TRANSFORM-2	
AVID200 Luspatercept Sotatercept	TGF-β inhibitor	Anemia	NCT04717414	
Thalidomide Lenalidomide Pomalidomide	IMiDs	Severe anemia, thrombocytopenia	Phase 2 and pooled data	
Danazol	Androgen	Anemia, thrombocytopenia	Small study population	
Eltrombopag	TPO RA	Thrombocytopenia	Small study population	

## Treatment Approach for Myelofibrosis

**Treatment for anemia** 

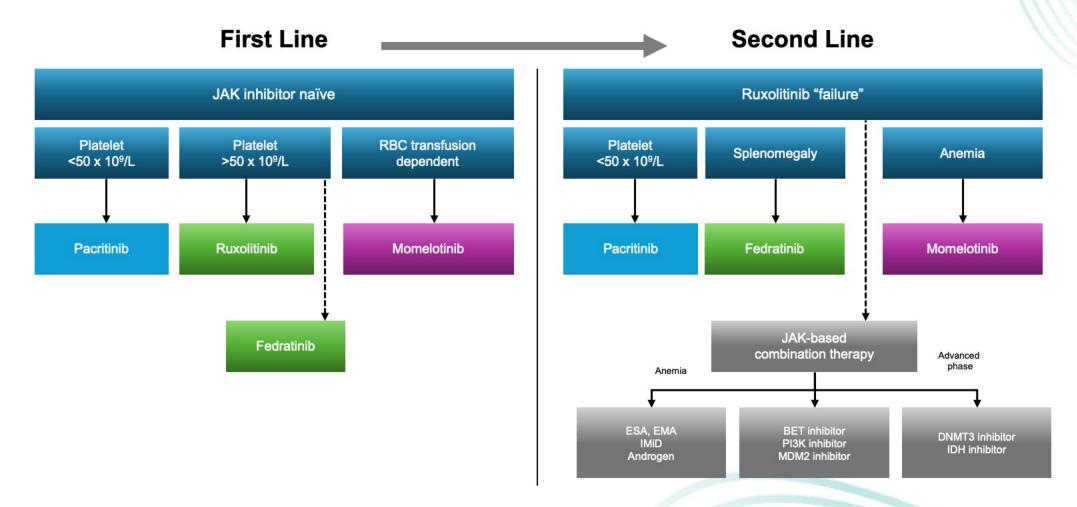






### Positioning of JAK Inhibitors for Treatment of MF







## Symptoms of Myelofibrosis Affecting Patient Quality of Life



#### Vascular Events

- Clots, bleeding
- · Elevated blood counts
- Abdominal Vein Thrombosis

#### **Baseline Health**

Age
Medical Comorbidities
Psychological
Medications
Nutritional Status

#### Cytopenias

- Transfusions
- Medication-related
- As a result of disease

#### **Progression**

- Transformation into another blood cancer
- Worsening of the current disease state

#### **Inflammation**

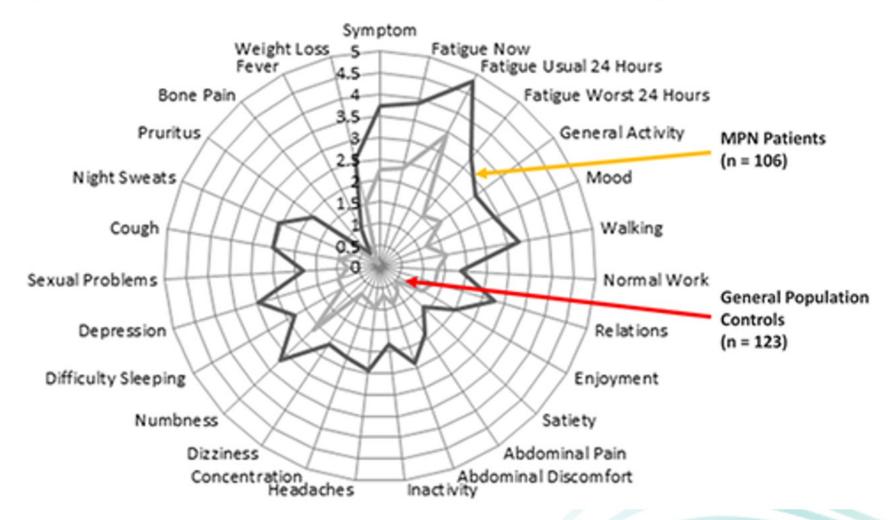
- Constitutional Symptoms
- Cachexia
- Anemia
- Cognitive dysfunction

#### **Organ Dysfunction**

- Spleen enlargement
- Liver issues
- Pulmonary extramedullary hematopoiesis

## Symptoms Burden is Significant Compared to the General Population





## MPN Total Symptom Score (MPN-SAF TSS)



MYELOPROLIFERATIVE NEOPLASM SYMPTOM ASSESSMENT FORM TOTAL SYMPTOM SCORE (MPN-SAF TSS; MPN-10)

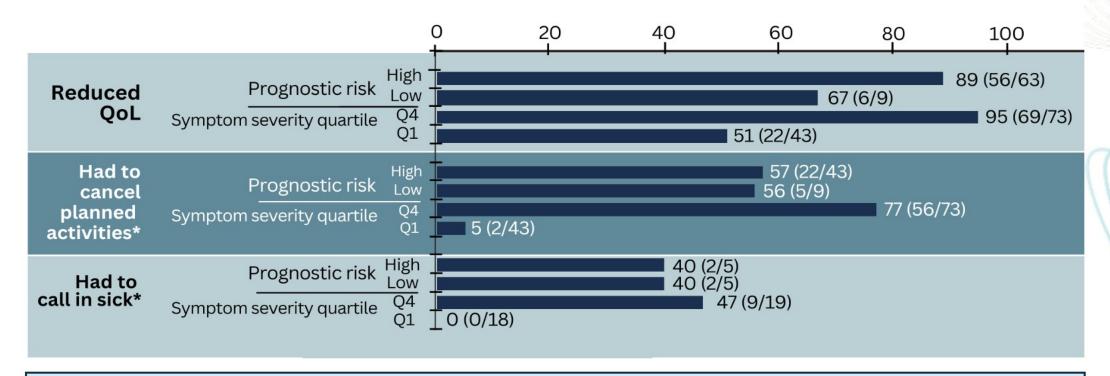
(Recommended for monitoring symptoms during the course of treatment)

Symptom	1 to 10 (0 if absent) ranking 1 is most favorable and 10 least favorable		
Please rate your fatigue (weariness, tiredness) by circling the one numbe that best describes your WORST level of fatigue during past 24 hours	(No fatigue) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Circle the one number that describes, during the past week, how much difficulty you have had with each of the following symptoms			
Filling up quickly when you eat (early satiety)	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Abdominal discomfort	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Inactivity	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Problems with concentration – compared to prior to my MPD	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Night sweats	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Itching (pruritus)	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Bone pain (diffuse not joint pain or arthritis)	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		
Fever (>100 F)	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Daily)		
Unintentional weight loss last 6 months	(Absent) 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (Worst Imaginable)		

### Clinical Burden of Myelofibrosis



### Respondents With MF, % (n/N)



- Patients with DIPSS low-risk MF were moderately to highly symptomatic in 44% of the cases
- The reduction of quality of life and social/working activity was similar in low- and high-risk categories

### New Generations of JAK Inhibitors

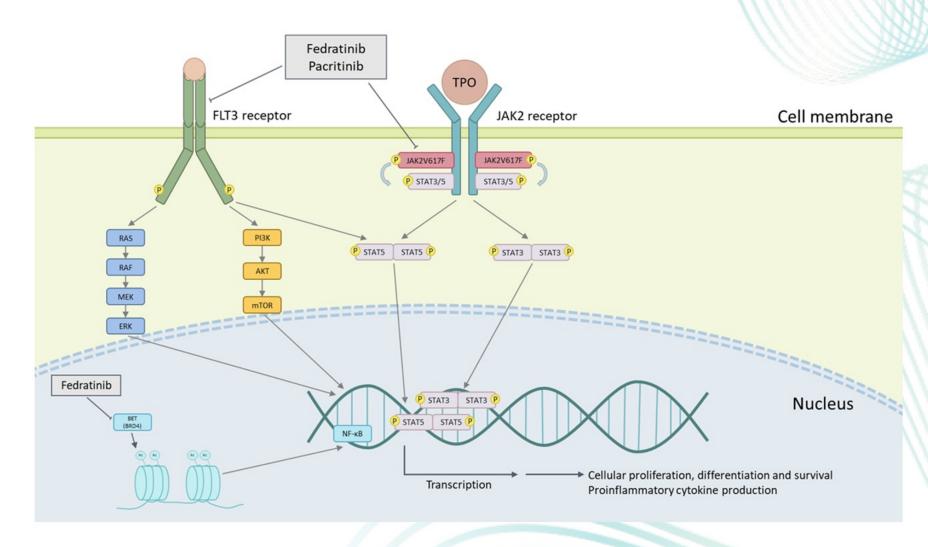


#### **Fedratinib**

- Potent JAK2/FLT3/BRD4 inhibitor
- Combined inhibition of the JAK/STAT pathway and BRD4 synergistically suppresses NFkB hyperactivation and cytokine production

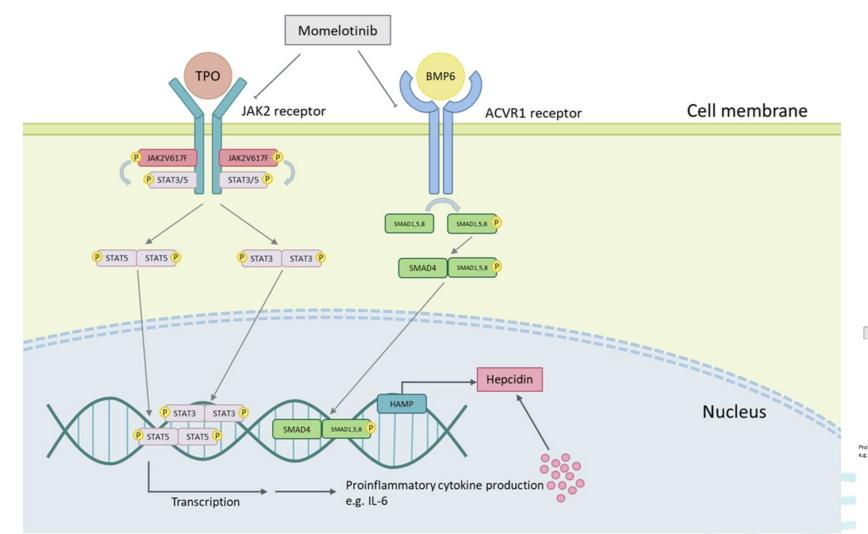
#### **Pacritinib**

- JAK2/FLT3 inhibitor
- Off-target inhibitory action against interleukin-1 receptorassociated kinase 1 (IRAK1) and colony-stimulating factor 1 receptor (CSF1R) 18,36-38 promotes rapid suppression of inflammatory pathways
- With minimal JAK1 inhibition, pacritinib is less myelosuppressive and immunosuppressive



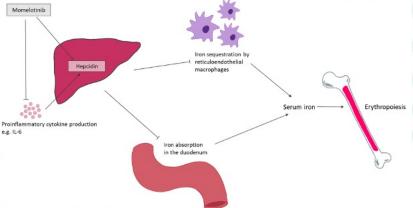
### New Generations of JAK Inhibitors





#### **Momelotinib**

- JAK1/JAK2 inhibitor that has additional inhibitory effect against activin A receptor type I (ACVR1)
- ACVR1 is an important mediator of SMAD2/3 signalling that upregulates hepcidin production and results in ironrestricted erythropoiesis.



### Key Efficacy Data of JAK Inhibitors for Treatment of MF



Generic (Brand Name)	Key efficacy findings (based off primary endpoint)	Pivotal Trial(s)	
Ruxolitinib (JAKAFI)	At week 48, 28% (41/146) of patients randomized to ruxolitinib achieved $\geq$ 35% decrease in spleen volume compared with no patients on BAT ( $P$ < 0.001)	COMFORT-1 COMFORT-2	
<b>Fedratinib</b> (INREBIC)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		
Pacritinib Pacritinib (arms combined) was more effective than BAT for 35%or more spleen volume reduction (27 patients [18%] vs 2 patients [3%]; P = .001)		PERSIST-1 PERSIST-2 PACIFICA PAC203	
Momelotinib (OJJAARA)	Median OS of 2.9 years in MMB crossover to MMB arm Median OS of 3.1 years in BAT/RUX crossover to MMB arm	SIMPLIFY-1 SIMPLIFY-2 MOMENTUM	

## Adverse Events of JAK Inhibitors for MF



Generic (Brand Name)	Common AEs	Serious AEs	Contraindication(s)	DDI(s)
Ruxolitinib (JAKAFI)	Hematologic: thrombocytopenia, anemia Nonhematologic: bruising, dizziness, headache, diarrhea	Thrombocytopenia, risk of infection, symptom exacerbation following interruption or discontinuation, risk of non-melanoma skin cancer, lipid elevations, MACE, thrombosis, secondary malignancies	None	Avoid concomitant use with fluconazole doses > 200 mg. Reduce dosage with fluconazole doses ≤ 200 mg Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors: Reduce, interrupt, or discontinue Jakafi doses as recommended
Fedratinib (INREBIC)	Diarrhea, nausea, anemia, vomiting	Anemia and thrombocytopenia, GI toxicity, hepatic toxicity, amylase and lipase elevation, MACE, thrombosis, secondary malignancies	None	Strong CYP3A4 Inhibitors: Reduce fedratinib dose as recommended Strong and Moderate CYP3A4 Inducers: Avoid use of fedratinib CYP3A4, CYP2C19, or CYP2D6 substrates: Dose modifications of substrates drugs may be needed OCT2 and MATE1/2-K substrates: Dose modifications of substrate drugs may be needed
Pacritinib (VONJO)	Thrombocytopenia, nausea, anemia, peripheral edema	Hemorrhage, diarrhea, thrombocytopenia, prolonged QT interval, MACE, thrombosis, secondary malignancies, risk of infection	Concomitant use of strong CYP3A4 inhibitors or inducers	Avoid use with moderate CYP3A4 inhibitors or inducers, which can alter the concentration of drugs that are P-gp, BCRP, or OCT1 substrates. Avoid use with sensitive substrates
<b>Momelotinib</b> (OJJAARA)	Thrombocytopenia, hemorrhage, bacterial infection, fatigue, dizziness, diarrhea, nausea	Risk of infection, thrombocytopenia and neutropenia, hepatotoxicity, MACE, thrombosis, secondary malignancies	None	OATP1B1/B3 inhibitors: Monitor for adverse reactions BCRP substrates: Reduce rosuvastatin dosage and follow approved product information recommendations for other BCRP substrates

BCRP, breast cancer resistance protein; GI, gastrointestinal; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; OATP, Organic Anion Transporting Polypeptide. U.S. Prescribing Information.

### **Treatment Failure**



- Approximately 50% of patients discontinue ruxolitinib after 3 years, mostly due to disease progression, suboptimal response or cytopenia
- Definitions of "ruxolitinib failure" include:
  - Disease progression to accelerated or blast phase
  - Suboptimal response of spleen or constitutional symptoms
  - Increases in splenomegaly or constitutional symptoms after initial response
  - Development of transfusion-dependent anemia or grade 3/4 thrombocytopenia or hemorrhagic events
- Outcome after ruxolitinib discontinuation is poor with a median OS of approximately 14 months
- Patients with ≥ 3 non-driver gene mutations generally have a shorter time-to-discontinuation

## MANIFEST: Pelabresib in Combination With Ruxolitinib for JAK Inhibitor Treatment-Naïve MF

- JAK inhibitors can result in spleen response rates of 30%-40%, high discontinuation rates, and a lack of disease modification
- Combination of the BET inhibitor pelabresib with ruxolitinib in JAK inhibitor-naïve patients with MF was well tolerated with durable improvements in spleen and symptom burden, with associated biomarker findings of potential disease-modifying activity
  - At 24 weeks, 68% (57/84) achieved SVR35
  - Additionally, 56% (46/82) achieved a TSS50
- Grade 3 or 4 toxicities seen in  $\geq$  10% patients
  - Thrombocytopenia (12%)
  - Anemia (35%)

## Combination of Navitoclax and Ruxolitinib in JAK Inhibitor-Naïve Patients with MF



- Ruxolitnib improves splenomegaly and disease symptoms but has limited impact on disease biology
- Combination of navitoclax and ruxolitinib reduced splenomegaly in several high-risk groups known to confer poor prognosis
  - SVR35 at week 24 was observed in all subgroups known to confer poor prognosis
    - Age ( $\geq$ 75 years, 50% [n = 4/8])
    - High DIPSS score (Intermediate-2, 63% [n = 12/19]; high, 33% [n = 1/3])
    - HMR mutations (47% [n = 9/19]
  - Complete resolution of BMF was observed in 2/9 (22%) patients
  - Reduction in JAK2V617 mutation VAF > 20% from baseline at week 12 or 24 was observed in 50% (14/28) of patients



### Considerations of JAK inhibitors



## JAK inhibitors have led to significant advances in MF symptom control but have limitations

- These agents have limited tolerability
- They do not modify the natural history of MF for most patients
  - Concern for leukemia transformation remains
- Hematologic side effects are often doselimiting and lead to discontinuation
  - Cytopenias, disease progression, and unsatisfactory therapeutic effect

There is a need to identify patients who could benefit from other treatments such as clinical trials or transplant

 Other JAK inhibitors in clinical trials include itacitinib, jaktinib

### Burden of Anemia in Myelofibrosis



### Anemia may be influenced by primary versus secondary MF

- Prevalence of 35–38% in patients with MF
- In a study of patients after the 1st year after diagnosis, 64% were anemic and 45% required RBC transfusions

JAK inhibitors may induce or worsen related anemia

Multiple factors contribute to the development of anemia in MF

### Anemia profoundly impacts patient quality of life

- Red blood cell transfusion dependence
- Chronic anemia associated with fatigue, excess morbidity, cardiovascular mortality, and iron overload

#### Presence of anemia can be used to determine patient prognosis

- Red blood cell transfusion dependence
- Chronic anemia associated with fatigue, excess morbidity, cardiovascular mortality, and iron overload

Anemia

Passamonti F, et al. Crit Rev Oncol Hematol. 2022 Dec;180:103862.

## Burden of Splenomegaly in Myelofibrosis





Symptoms resulting from splenomegaly include abdominal pain, left subcostal pain, abdominal fullness, and early satiety

- Complications can lead to clinical manifestations of portal hypertension and bleeding from esophageal varices
- The bulk of the spleen can result in areas of ischemia and painful episodes of splenic infarction
- Splenomegaly can result in development (or exacerbation) of cytopenias from splenic sequestration

In one study, palpable splenomegaly was observed in 80% of asymptomatic patients

 About 10% of patients with MF showed severe symptomatic splenomegaly

## Burden of Cytopenias in Myelofibrosis





Presence of cytopenias in MF can lead to the following outcomes:

- Low platelets, anemia, normal to low WBC
- High risk scores and molecular risk
- Increased blasts and marrow fibrosis
- Worse overall survival
- High leukemic transformation risk
- Fewer treatment options the more severe the cytopenias

Emerging non-JAK inhibitors carry a risk of hematologic toxicities and tend to exclude patients with baseline thrombocytopenia

High prevalence of cytopenias in MF force a significant resource burden to the healthcare system

Inpatient costs are the major cost driver



## Goals of Myelofibrosis Therapy





### **Curative**

Allogeneic stem cell Transplantation

Based on prognostic scores and patient eligibility

Psychosocial Evaluation Institutional criteria



**Symptomatic** 

FDA approved JAK inhibitors



Cytopenia directed

Improve blood counts



## Shared Decision-Making Between Clinical Staff and the Patient



Joint process between healthcare providers and patients based on evidence-based information and a patient's preferences, beliefs, and values

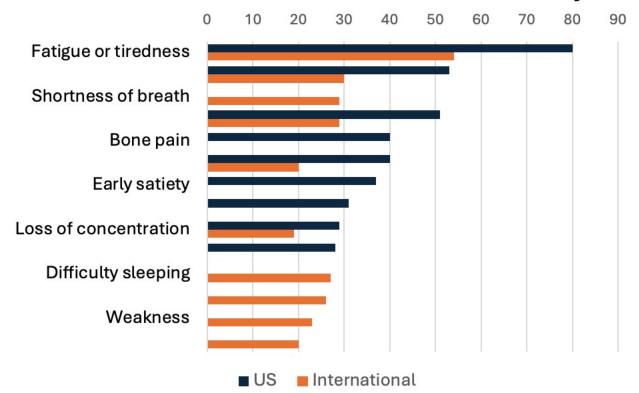
- Outcomes
- **>** Benefits
- **>** Harms
- Uncertainties

Empowers patients to make decisions about the treatment and care that is right for them at that time, including choosing to continue with their current treatment or choosing no treatment at all

## High Burden of MF Symptoms Impacts Patient Quality of Life



### Symptom prevalence (%) among patients with MF in the US<sup>1</sup> and International MPN Landmark Surveys<sup>2</sup>



#### Characteristics of Patients with MF

- US survey<sup>1</sup>
  - Patients (n = 207) surveyed May-July 2014
  - Median age: 66 years (range 28-90)
  - Median disease duration: 4 years (range 0-36)
  - Most patients (71%) had intermediate-2 or high-risk disease by DIPSS

### International survey<sup>2</sup>

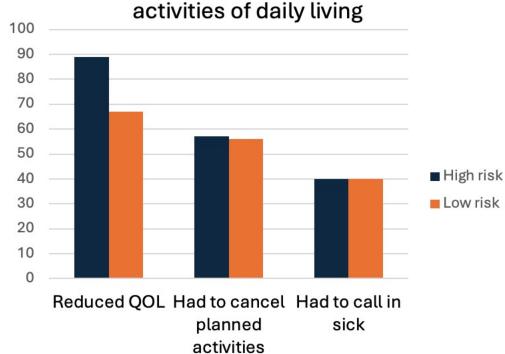
- Patients (n = 174) from Australia, Canada,
   Germany, Italy, Japan, and the UK surveyed April-October 2016
- Median age: 59.6 years (range 28-89)
- Median disease duration: 4 years (range 0-81)
- 42% intermediate or high risk respondents; risk status unknown in 43%

## MF Impact on Quality of Life and Employment



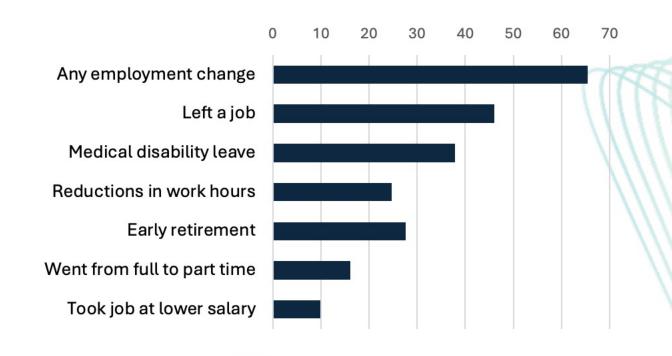
### MPN Landmark Survey (US)1

Even low risk disease has an impact on QoL and



### Living with MPNs Survey (US)<sup>2</sup>

MF has a high impact on employment status and work productivity



MPN, myeloproliferative neoplasms; QOL, quality of life.

1. Mesa R, et al. *BMC Cancer*. 2016;16:167. 2. Yu J, et al. *BMC Cancer*. 2018;18(1):420.

### Patient and Provider Perspectives on Treatment Goals



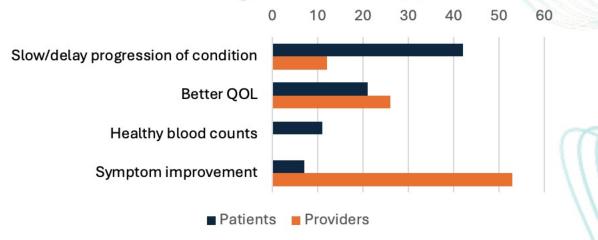
## Patient and provider goals are discordant

- Patients' top goal is to slow or delay disease progression
- Providers' top goal is to improve symptoms

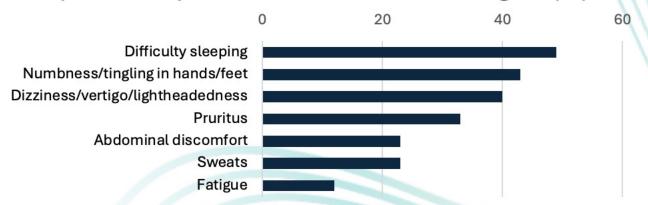
### Patients often fail to recognize symptoms related to their MF

 Suggests a need for improved patient education and formal shared decisionmaking

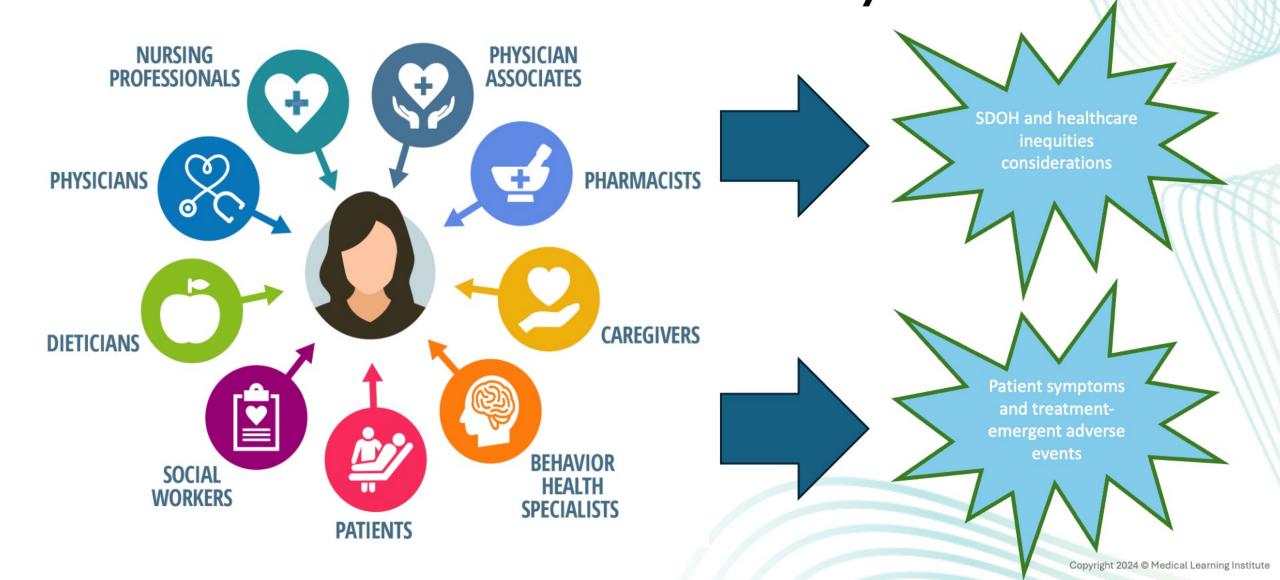
## "Other than a cure, what is your most important treatment goal for therapy?"



### Proportion of patients who selected each goal (%)



Use of Interdisciplinary Teams to Address Healthcare Barriers and Quality of Life



## SHARE Model for Shared Decision-Making



Seek your patient's participation

Help your patient explore and compare treatment options

Assess your patient's values and preferences

Reach a decision with your patient

Evaluate your patient's decision



### Advocating for Patients as the Nursing Professional



## Nurses are uniquely positioned to enhance the quality of health care for patients with MF in the following ways:

Guide patients through all facets of the healthcare system

Offer continuous monitoring and followup throughout the care continuum

Provide effective care management



Address holistic needs of individuals

Deliver culturally respectful and appropriate care

Break down barriers to quality care including structural inequities and implicit bias

Ensure person-centered approaches

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; National Academy of Medicine; Committee on the Future of Nursing 2020–2030; Flaubert JL, Le Menestrel S, Williams DR, et al., editors. The Future of Nursing 2020–2030: Charting a Path to Achieve Health Equity. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2021 May 11. 4, The Role of Nurses in Improving Health Care Access and Quality. Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK573910/.