Polycythemia vera (PV) is a rare and incurable blood cancer associated with an overproduction of blood cells in the bone marrow1

Currently there is no cure for PV, and the treatment goal is to control symptoms and decrease the risk of complications.

DEFINITIONS

**Hematocrit** is a measure of the volume percentage of red blood cells in whole blood.

**Phlebotomy** is a procedure to remove blood from the body to reduce the concentration of red blood cells.

**Persistent elevated white blood cell count despite treatment with cytoreductive therapy** is associated with a nearly 3-fold increased risk of death.

**Inadequately controlled PV may be characterized by:**

- Hematocrit levels greater than 45% and/or elevated white blood cell count
- Need for frequent phlebotomy to keep hematocrit less than 45%
- Treatment-related adverse reactions
- Burdensome symptoms

**50% of patients treated with phlebotomy have to switch to other treatment by the 5th year due to reasons including risk of cardiovascular events and poor compliance.**

**Most common myeloproliferative neoplasm, a group of related blood cancers**

**Median survival varies from 9.1 to 12.6 years with different therapies.**

**Persistent elevated white blood cell count**

**In patients with PV, hematocrit levels above 45% are associated with a 4X higher rate of cardiovascular death.**

**According to ELN criteria.**

**Inadequately controlled PV is associated with a nearly 3-fold increased risk of death.**

**References**