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Once [our doctors](#) know the MDS subtype, we can select the most-effective [treatment](#), decide when to start therapy, and predict the course of the disease.

WHO Classification System for MDS Subtypes

The WHO classification system was updated in 2016. The WHO subtypes depend on the percentage of myeloblasts in the bone marrow, the presence of abnormal red blood cell precursors (called ringed sideroblasts) in the bone marrow, the number of abnormal cell types known as dysplastic lineages in the bone marrow, and the genetic profile of the bone marrow cells.

The characteristics of the most common subtypes of MDS are:

MDS with single-lineage dysplasia (MDS-SLD)

+

MDS with multilineage dysplasia (MDS-MLD)

+

MDS with ring sideroblasts (MDS-RS)

+

MDS with isolated del(5q)

+

MDS with excess blasts (MDS-EB)

+

How Can I Learn More about My Prognosis?

In addition to the classification systems mentioned above, your doctor can also get a sense of your prognosis by using the Revised International Prognostic Scoring System (IPSS-R). This system is based on three factors:

- the percentage of immature blood cells in the bone marrow
- complete blood count results
- the pattern of cytogenetic (chromosomal) abnormalities

Your doctor will use this scoring system to help determine the extent of the disease, your best treatment options and when to start treatment, and your prognosis and risk of later developing acute leukemia.

After seeing your blood test and bone marrow test results, your hematologist can confirm your IPSS-R score and discuss with you how it affects your [treatment plan](#).

Request an Appointment

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Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

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