Understanding Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)



What is CLL?



Leukemia is a type of cancer found in the blood and bone marrow and is caused by the rapid production of abnormal white blood cells.¹



In CLL, cancerous cells crowd the blood and bone marrow leaving less room for healthy white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets. This can lead to infection, anemia and bleeding.²



Compared to CLL, where most cancer cells are found in the blood and bone marrow, small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) cancer cells are mostly concentrated in the lymph nodes.³



The majority of CLL patients have multiple concurrent health conditions (eg, hypertension, heart disease, diabetes), though disease progression and CLL-related complications including infections and second cancers are the primary causes of death.⁴



There are two different types of CLL. The slower-growing type can remain stable for years and may not require immediate treatment. The faster-growing type is more aggressive and may need to be treated quickly.⁵

CLL Fast Facts



CLL is the most common type of leukemia in adults, with an estimated 21,250 new cases in the US in 2021.^{6,7}



Men are nearly twice as likely to have CLL than women.8



The average age at time of diagnosis is approximately 70 years.9



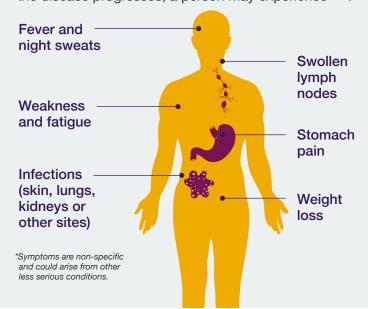
Many patients do not have any symptoms upon diagnosis. CLL is often found in blood tests for unrelated health problems or during a routine check-up.¹⁰



Though the survival rate for patients varies based on the stage of the disease at diagnosis, the 5-year survival rate for CLL patients is 87%.^{9,11}

Common Symptoms*

Generally, CLL symptoms develop over time. As the disease progresses, a person may experience^{10,12}:



References

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