

Facts About Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

- This type of leukemia begins in early forms of white blood cells (called lymphocytes) in the bone marrow. The CLL cells start in the bone marrow and then move into the blood.
- CLL is the most common type of adult leukemia in the United States.
- CLL is typically diagnosed through a blood test and confirmed by a bone marrow biopsy.
- Treatment options for CLL may include: chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, and stem cell transplant.

Common CLL Symptoms

- Enlarged lymph nodes or enlarged spleen
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Increased risk of infection
- Night sweats
- Unintentional weight loss

Essential CLL Testing

- Flow cytometry testing
- Cytogenetic testing
- Fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH)
- Molecular testing
- Imaging tests, such as a CT scan

Types of CLL

Indolent CLL: This type of CLL is slow-growing and many not need to be treated for years, instead a patient may be monitored via an approach called “watch and wait.” People with indolent CLL may not present with any symptoms.

Aggressive CLL: CLL in this category is fast growing and typically requires treatment more immediately. People with aggressive CLL may have symptoms of the disease.

Understanding Your Diagnosis: Proactive Steps

- Ask whether you have had all key testing and discuss the results with your doctor before you begin conversations about your treatment options.
- Find out if there are any indicators that your CLL is high-risk or fast-growing.
- When it’s time to make treatment decisions, ask which tests will need to be repeated.
- Make sure you understand the specifics of your unique CLL, how it will impact your lifestyle, and if there are symptoms you should be looking out for.

Patient Empowerment Network CLL Resources

- [Office Visit Planners](#)
- [Insist! CLL](#)
- [The CLL Pro-Active Patient Toolkit](#)
- [Clinical Trials 201](#)
- [Thrive CLL](#)

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