CLL Society’s Official Statement Concerning Prioritizing CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia) Patients When Triaging Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic

November 30, 2020

Dear Healthcare Provider,

Thank you for all you are doing.

CLL Society recognizes the present COVID-19 pandemic can strain limited healthcare resources and may demand thoughtful and ethical triage of the healthcare team’s time and resources.

Data show that chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) patients who have symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infections carry a markedly increased risk of mortality and morbidity. The risk of hospitalization for CLL patients who have symptomatic infection is 90%, and more than 1 in 3 who are hospitalized do not survive. Therefore, please consider their immunocompromised status and prioritize their assessment and management when they are asking for your help with a potential or established COVID-19 infection or access to an mRNA SARS-CoV-2 vaccine.

Thank you for care and dedication in these unprecedented times.

Stay strong.

We are all in this together.

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References:

1. Outcomes of COVID-19 in patients with CLL: a multicenter international experience
   (https://doi.org/10.1182/blood.2020006965)
2. COVID-19 severity and mortality in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia: a joint study by ERIC, the European Research Initiative on CLL, and CLL Campus
   (https://doi.org/10.1038/s41375-020-0959-x)