

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}:

Fever and night sweats

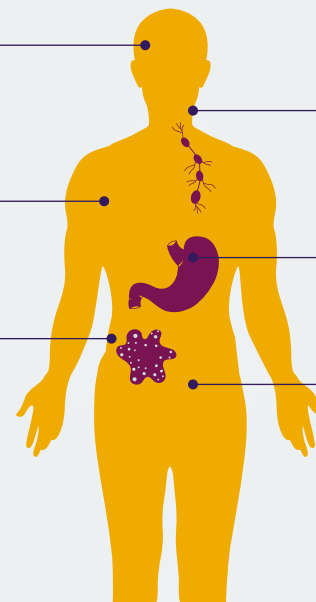
Weakness and fatigue

Infections (skin, lungs, kidneys or other sites)

Swollen lymph nodes

Stomach pain

Weight loss



**Symptoms are non-specific and could arise from other less serious conditions.*

References

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