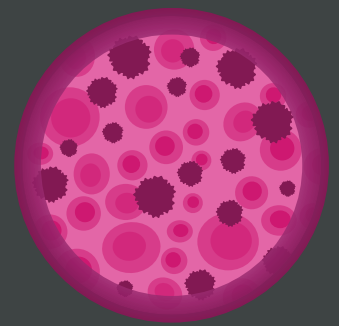






# Understanding chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL)



## What is CLL?

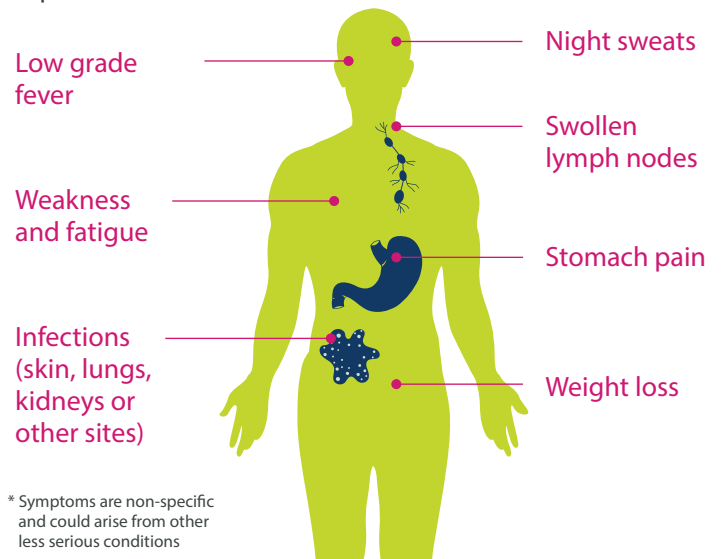
-  Leukaemia is a type of cancer found in the blood and bone marrow and is caused by the rapid production of abnormal white blood cells.<sup>1</sup>
-  In CLL, cancerous cells crowd the bone marrow leaving less room for healthy white blood cells, red blood cells, and platelets. This can lead to infection, anaemia and bleeding.<sup>2</sup>
-  When CLL cells are found mostly in the lymph nodes, they are called small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) cells.<sup>3</sup>
-  The majority of CLL patients have multiple comorbid health conditions, though disease progression and complications are the primary causes of death.<sup>4</sup>

## Disease burden

-  CLL is the most common type of leukaemia in adults, with an estimated 114,000 new cases globally in 2017, and the number of people living with CLL is expected to grow with improved treatment as patients live longer with the disease.<sup>2,5,6,7</sup>
-  Men are more likely to have CLL than women.<sup>8</sup>
-  The average age at time of diagnosis is approximately 70 years.<sup>9</sup>
-  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.<sup>10</sup>

## Common symptoms\*

Generally, CLL symptoms develop over time. As the disease progresses, some of the symptoms a person may experience include:<sup>10,11</sup>



*CLL is not “one-size fits all”*

In recent years, there has been a great deal of progress made in understanding CLL and how to best treat it. Certain genetic markers can point to which treatments may be most effective, which is why predictive testing is important before you start treatment.<sup>12,13,14,15</sup>

An accurate diagnosis of CLL is essential and can

help your doctor or oncologist to decide the next steps.<sup>16,17</sup> In addition to diagnostic tests, your doctor will take into account your medical history, physical health, stage of disease, genetic markers, biomarkers, and other factors to help your doctor better understand your CLL and the potential outcomes for treatment.<sup>16,17</sup>

## References

- American Society of Hematology. Leukemia. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- National Cancer Institute. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Treatment (PDQ)<sup>®</sup>—Patient Version: General Information About Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- National Cancer Institute. NCI Dictionary of Cancer Terms – CLL/SLL. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- Strati P, et al. Disease Progression and Complications Are the Main Cause of Death in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) Independent of Age and Comorbidities at Diagnosis. *Blood*. 2015;126(23):5265. Available online. April 2021.
- American Cancer Society. What is Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia? Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- Global Burden of Disease Cancer Collaboration. Global, Regional, and National Cancer Incidence, Mortality, Years of Life Lost, Years Lived With Disability, and Disability-Adjusted Life-Years for 29 Cancer Groups, 1990 to 2017. *JAMA Oncol*. 2019;5(12):1749-1769. Available online. Accessed April 2021.
- Jain N, et al. Prevalence and Economic Burden of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL) in the Era of Oral Targeted Therapies. *Blood*. 2015;126(23):871. Available online. Accessed May 2021.
- National Organization for Rare Disorders. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- American Cancer Society. Key Statistics for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- American Cancer Society. Signs and Symptoms of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Signs and Symptoms. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- American Cancer Society. How Is Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Diagnosed? Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Blood Tests. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- Eichhorst B, et al. Chronic lymphocytic leukaemia: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. *Ann Oncol*. 2015;26(Suppl 5):v78-v84.
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Diagnosis. Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- American Cancer Society. How Is Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia Diagnosed? Available online. Accessed May 2023.
- Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Lab and Imaging Tests. Available online. Accessed May 2023.