



## DOCTOR DISCUSSION GUIDE

# Managing Leukemia

Leukemia is a group of cancers involving blood cells. While the exact cause is unknown, genetic factors play a role and active research is producing promising therapies for some types of leukemia. Asking the right questions during your conversation with your doctor will help you know what to expect and how to better navigate this condition. Familiarize yourself with these common terms before your appointment to help facilitate your discussion.

## Vocabulary to Know

Your doctor might mention these common terms. Here's what they mean.

<b>Blood Cell</b>	A cell produced in bone marrow. Two main types of blood cells include red blood cells (which carry iron, oxygen, and other nutrients to cells) and white blood cells (part of the immune system).
<b>Bone Marrow</b>	Soft tissue within larger bones where blood cells and other components are produced. Leukemia results when blood cells are not fully or properly formed.
<b>Bone Marrow Tests and Treatment</b>	Bone marrow biopsies and aspirations are used to diagnose some forms of leukemia. A bone marrow transplant is the complete replacement of a person's bone marrow, and is one treatment for some forms of leukemia.
<b>Complete Blood Count (CBC)</b>	A standard blood test that can be an early indicator of leukemia. It provides information about the counts of types of blood cells, and the concentration of hemoglobin.
<b>Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)</b>	A cancer of the lymphoid line of blood cells characterized by the production of large numbers of immature lymphocytes. Acute leukemia must be treated fast, as it progresses quickly.
<b>Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)</b>	A cancer wherein too many lymphocytes are made. CLL can be slow growing and asymptomatic.
<b>Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)</b>	A cancer of the myeloid line of blood cells. Acute leukemia must also be treated fast due to how quickly it progresses.
<b>Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)</b>	A cancer of overproduction and mis-regulation of myeloid cells in the bone marrow and blood. CML is largely treated with new drugs which have dramatically improved outcomes.

