

WILL I NEED TREATMENT?

Many people diagnosed with slow-growing blood cancers don't need treatment straightaway. Some people do not have any troublesome symptoms when they are first diagnosed and, hence, do not have treatment at this time.

Because now we have many very effective treatments to reduce the CLL, therapy will be introduced only when the disease becomes more substantial, or when there are clear signs that the disease is progressing. **Doctors generally decide to initiate the treatment when you start to experience symptoms:**

- Fatigue, severe weight loss, drenching night sweats,
- Swollen lymph nodes



Or your blood test results show evidence that the disease is developing quickly. Every patient is carefully evaluated with the characteristics of CLL (how far and to what stage the blood cancer has developed) and the treatment is tailor-made individually for each case. The choice of treatment usually takes into account the age, the physical state, also called performance status, as well as the presence or absence of other diseases associated with CLL (comorbidities). This assessment is especially important for those who are older, to provide not only effective therapy, but also a cure with acceptable toxicity.

Before the final decision is also important to evaluate some biological characteristics of leukemic cells. The presence of certain genetic alterations in fact directs the most appropriate treatment option.

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