












Leukemia

Leukemia is a type of cancer that forms in the blood and bone marrow, which is the spongy tissue inside bone where blood cells are made.

The four major types of this blood cancer are acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML).







Common Symptoms and Signs

The symptoms and signs of leukemia can be caused by many other conditions. If you develop any of the following changes and they persist, see a doctor.

 <p>Flu-like symptoms</p>	 <p>Unintended weight loss</p>
 <p>Lack of energy</p>	 <p>Tenderness in bones and joints</p>
 <p>Loss of strength</p>	 <p>Pain or "full" feeling on the left side of the abdomen</p>
 <p>Frequent infections</p>	 <p>Swelling in the neck, underarm, groin, or stomach</p>
 <p>Bleeding or swollen gums</p>	 <p>Bruising and bleeding</p>
 <p>Pale skin</p>	

Risk Factors

Researchers have identified several risk factors for leukemia:

 <p>Heavy exposure to certain chemicals, such as benzene.</p>	 <p>Smoking</p>	 <p>Prior treatment with radiation therapy or chemotherapy.</p>
 <p>Bone marrow disorders known as myelodysplastic syndromes.</p>	 <p>Down syndrome and certain other rare genetic syndromes.</p>	 <p>Having a close relative such as a parent, child, or sibling who has had some forms of leukemia can increase your risk up to four-fold.</p>



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Who Gets Leukemia?



Leukemia can occur at any stage of life. However, **age influences** the risk for specific forms of leukemia.



Most common **in children** : ALL and AML.
Most common **in adults** : AML and CLL.



The major forms of leukemia are slightly **more common in males** than females.
However, some forms (such as CLL) can be **more aggressive in women.**

How Common Is Leukemia?



Around the world, there are about **475,000 new cases** of leukemia diagnosed each year.

- The incidence of leukemia is highest in **Australia and New Zealand, Northern America, and western Europe.**
- Incidence is **lowest in western Africa.**

- **In the United States**

60,650 new cases in 2022.

- **About 24,000 people died**

- **In the United States**, leukemia accounts for about **3.2** percent of all **new cancer cases** and **3.9** percent of all cancer deaths.

- Leukemia is the **10th** most common cancer **in the United States.**



Estimated number of **clinical trials** leukemia treatments around the world that are recruiting patients:

About 1200.



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