Leukemia - Chronic Lymphocytic - CLL - Latest Research [1]

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ON THIS PAGE: You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about CLL and how to treat it. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Doctors are working to learn more about CLL, ways to prevent it, how to best treat it, and how to provide the best care to people diagnosed with this disease. The following areas of research may include new options for patients through clinical trials. Most cancer centers are focused on clinical trials aimed at increasing the number of patients who have a complete remission. Always talk with your doctor about the diagnostic and treatment options best for you.

New drugs and drug combinations. Researchers are working to find new drugs for CLL. Different combinations of chemotherapy and targeted therapy are also being studied as a way to increase the likelihood that a patient will have a complete remission and live longer. There are many new drugs for CLL being evaluated in clinical trials for patients with recurrent CLL with the hope of testing some of these drugs as initial therapy in the near future.

- Researchers are also looking at combining ibrutinib with bendamustine and ofatumumab.
- Idelalisib is being studied in combination with bendamustine, rituximab, and ofatumumab.
- Flavopiridol is a drug given intravenously that is being studied as a treatment for CLL when few standard treatments have helped control the disease.
- Xm5574 is a monoclonal antibody also being researched for treatment of CLL.
- Lenalidomide is drug commonly used to treat multiple myeloma that is also being looked at as a treatment for CLL, either by itself or in combination with several different drugs for patients with recurrent or refractory CLL, as well as for those who have not yet received treatment.
- ABT199 is a drug that can destroy CLL cells by blocking an enzyme called BCL-2

Stem cell/bone marrow transplantation. Researchers are looking at decreasing the side effects of stem cell transplantation by using reduced intensity transplantation, which uses much lower doses of chemotherapy, making it possible for some older patients to receive stem cell transplantation. Also being studied in clinical trials are different approaches to ALLO transplantation for patients with CLL when chemotherapy is not working well.

Genetics. Genetic changes specific to CLL cells are also being evaluated to help predict how well treatment will work, determine the best treatment, and provide information about the cause of the disease. Examples include

measuring the immunoglobulin mutations of the CLL cells, finding different chromosomal abnormalities in the CLL cells, and studying the effects of a protein called ZAP-70, which is found on the surface of the CLL cells. Some research suggests that these markers can predict the likelihood that the disease may worsen faster. However, there is often a large difference in how well treatment works for patients who seem to have the same genetic markers, and it is too early to use these tests to make decisions about when to begin treatment and the type of treatment to use.

Supportive care. Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side effects of current CLL treatments in order to improve patients? comfort and quality of life.

Looking for More About the Latest Research?

If you would like additional information about the latest areas of research regarding CLL, explore these related items that take you outside of this guide:

- To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or search online clinical trial databases now [3].
- Review research announced at the 2014 [4] and 2013 [5] ASCO Annual Meetings.
- *Visit ASCO?sCancerProgress.Net[6] website to learn more about the historical pace of research for leukemia. Please not that this link takes you to a separate ASCO website.*

The next section addresses how to cope with the symptoms of the disease or the side effects of its treatment. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Coping with Side Effects, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/leukemia-chronic-lymphocytic-cll/latest-research
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/24878
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/31161
[5] http://www.cancer.net/node/29451
[6] http://www.cancerprogress.net/timeline/leukemia