

Leukemia - Chronic T-Cell Lymphocytic - Risk Factors [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the **Cancer.Net Editorial Board** [2], 06/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about the factors that increase the chance of developing T-cell leukemia. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

A risk factor is anything that increases a person's chance of developing cancer. Although risk factors often influence the development of leukemia, most do not directly cause the disease. Some people with several risk factors never develop leukemia, while others with no known risk factors do. However, knowing your risk factors and talking about them with your doctor may help you make more informed lifestyle and health care choices.

In general, leukemia can be caused by a genetic mutation or change that is passed from generation to generation within a family or environmental factors, such as smoking or exposure to chemicals or radiation. However, most often the cause of leukemia is not known.

The following risk factor can increase a person's chance of developing T-cell leukemia:

Race/Ethnicity. ATLL is more common in people of Japanese, West Indian, and African American descent.

To continue reading this guide, use the menu on the side of your screen to select another section.

Links:

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/leukemia-chronic-t-cell-lymphocytic/risk-factors>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>