

Understanding Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

What is chronic lymphocytic leukemia?

- **Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)** is a blood cancer that occurs when the bone marrow uncontrollably makes too many lymphocytes (a type of white blood cell)^{1,2}
- CLL interferes with the development and growth of one's normal blood cells, which can lead to^{2,3}:

Fatigue and Weakness



Higher Risk of Infections



Easy Bleeding and Bruising



- CLL usually progresses slower than other blood cancers, but it can be more aggressive in certain cases¹

How is CLL different from SLL?

- **Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL)** is the same disease as CLL, but the location of the cancer cells is different^{2,3}
 - In SLL, most cancer cells are found in the lymph nodes
 - In CLL, most cancer cells are in the blood and bone marrow

Due to this, the cancer is often referred to as CLL/SLL^{2,3}

CLL is the most common leukemia affecting adults in the US¹

Nearly 21,000 people are newly diagnosed with CLL in the US each year¹



The average age when a person is diagnosed with CLL is 70 years¹



In 2020, an estimated 207,463 people were living with CLL in the US⁵



CLL is a lifelong diagnosis that can have negative effects on quality of life⁶



Most people with CLL are diagnosed without symptoms^{2,3}

- CLL is often an unexpected finding that is discovered on routine blood tests^{2,3}
- However, people can experience symptoms associated with CLL including^{2,3}:

B symptoms (5-10% of cases)²

Unexplained fevers (higher than 100.5 °F)



Unintentional weight loss



Drenching night sweats



Additional symptoms²

Swollen lymph nodes



Extreme fatigue and weakness



Abdominal fullness and discomfort



1. American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/chronic-lymphocytic-leukemia/about/what-is-cll.html> (Accessed March 5, 2025). 2. Mukkamalla SKR, et al. StatPearls Publishing; 2023. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK470433>. 3. National Cancer Institute. <https://www.cancer.gov/types/leukemia/patient/cl-treatment-pdq> (Accessed March 5, 2024). 4. National Cancer Institute. <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/cll-sll> (Accessed March 5, 2024). 5. Cancer Stat Facts: Leukemia – Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL). <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/clyl.html> (Accessed March 5, 2024). 6. Waweru C, Kaur S, Sharma S, Mishra N. *Curr Med Res Opin.* 2020;36(9):1481-1495.