

Beyond the Diagnosis: Survivorship in CLL

Survivorship in CLL

The number of survivors who are living with CLL is increasing. There is a growing need for a tailored, patient-centered approach to survivorship and ongoing care.^{1,2}

5-year Relative Survival³

82.4%
2000



88.5%
2020

- Advancements in CLL treatments have reduced CLL-related mortality²
- Addressing indirect disease complications will help further improve outcomes²

Conditions and Risk Factors to Consider for Long-Term Survivorship Care

1. FRAILITY

Patients with CLL are at increased risk of frailty due to age-related physiological decline, comorbid diseases, and the direct impact of CLL and therapy that may impact QOL and necessitate additional supportive care needs²

Frailty can be assessed with a standardized tool (eg, PGA) prior to therapy selection and as a guide for referral to allied health and other services throughout the patient journey^{2,4}

2. SECONDARY CANCER

There is an increased risk of secondary cancers in patients with CLL, which is associated with inferior overall and cancer-specific survival²

Age- and risk factor-guided cancer screening and education for all patients are recommended²

3. CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Patients with CLL have an increased risk of CVD irrespective of age, sex, or previous CVD². Management strategies include control of modifiable risk factors and regular cardiac assessments/cardiologist referral for patients on BTKis^{2,5}

4. BONE DISEASE

Patients with CLL have an increased risk of osteoporosis and fragility fractures². Interventions to promote bone health include optimization of vitamin D and calcium status and weight-bearing exercise; bone densitometry screening is recommended for at-risk patients (eg, corticosteroid exposure)²

5. INFECTION

Patients with CLL have well-characterized immune dysfunction, both at early disease stage and due to therapy²

Patients should stay up-to-date with non-live vaccines (eg, recombinant zoster, pneumococcal, COVID-19); IVIg/SCIg may be considered in patients with recurrent infections²

Survivorship Resources

[ASCO – American Society of Clinical Oncology](#)

[LLS – Leukemia and Lymphoma Society](#)

[LRF – Lymphoma Research Foundation](#)



Patients living with CLL have also indicated a need for **education and emotional support** throughout diagnosis, watch and wait, and active treatment, as well as **financial advocacy**¹

BTKi, Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase inhibitor; CLL, chronic lymphocytic leukemia; CVD, cardiovascular disease; IVIg, intravenous immunoglobulin; PGA, practical geriatric assessment; QOL, quality of life; SCIg, subcutaneous immunoglobulin.

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