



# LEUKEMIA *Info Sheet*



Leukemia is slightly **more common in men** than in women.



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Leukemia** is a type of blood cell cancer that occurs when the bone marrow produces abnormal blood cells, usually white blood cells. As these abnormal cells divide and produce more abnormal cells, they crowd out healthy blood cells, making it difficult for the body to get oxygen to tissues, fight infections and control bleeding.

## TYPES OF LEUKEMIA

Most cases of leukemia are one of four main leukemia types. These are called either **acute** or **chronic**, and are named according to the specific type of blood cell that's affected:

- ✔ Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML)
- ✔ Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)
- ✔ Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML)
- ✔ Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)

**Acute leukemia** develops and progresses quickly, and requires immediate treatment.

**Chronic leukemia** usually develops and progresses slowly, and may not produce symptoms right away. Treatment is needed eventually to prevent leukemia cells from overtaking healthy cells.

## SYMPTOMS TO TELL YOUR DOCTOR

Signs of leukemia may be vague and can indicate conditions other than cancer:

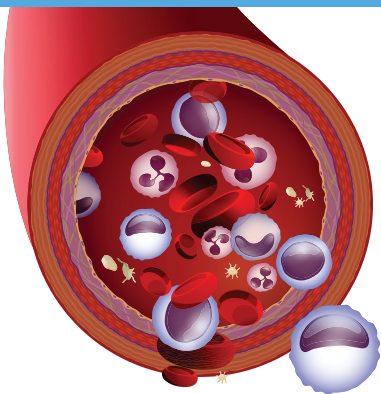
- ✔ Tiredness, weakness, shortness of breath
- ✔ Unexplained weight loss
- ✔ Fever or frequent infections
- ✔ Night sweats
- ✔ Appetite loss
- ✔ Headaches
- ✔ Enlarged lymph nodes (felt as bumps under the skin)
- ✔ Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- ✔ Sense of fullness or pain in the belly, caused by enlarged spleen and/or liver
- ✔ Feeling full after eating small amount of food
- ✔ Excess bruising, bleeding, frequent or severe nosebleeds, bleeding gums



Leukemia is the **most common cancer** among children and teens, accounting for

# 1 of 3 cases.

Fortunately, cancer in children and teens remains rare.



Roswell Park specialists treat **all leukemias**, including rare cancer types **and other blood disorders**.

## ARE YOU AT RISK?

Different leukemia types may have different risk factors, which can include:

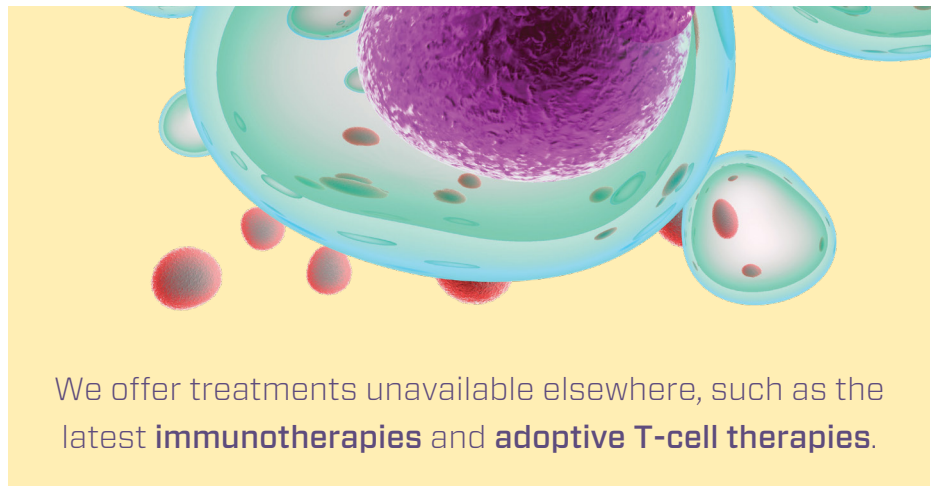
- ✓ Radiation exposure
- ✓ Smoking
- ✓ Benzene exposure (Benzene is used in the chemical industry and found in cigarette smoke and gasoline.)
- ✓ Chemotherapy with some types of drugs
- ✓ Down syndrome and certain other inherited conditions
- ✓ Previous myeloid blood cancer or blood disorder
- ✓ Human T-cell leukemia virus type I (HTLV-I) infection
- ✓ Family history of leukemia

Our **Young Adult Cancer Program** addresses the specific and unique needs of younger patients during treatment and beyond.



## WHY ROSWELL PARK FOR LEUKEMIA?

- ✓ **Nationally recognized.** We are among a select group of comprehensive cancer centers designated by the National Cancer Institute and the state's only one outside of New York City.
- ✓ **Multidisciplinary care** by a team of leukemia care experts, including hematologists, oncologists, psychologists, dietitians, physical therapists, and other experts who work together to provide comprehensive and integrated care — under one roof.
- ✓ **Clinical trials of the latest, state-of-the-art therapies.** The most promising new drugs, immunotherapies, targeted therapies, and cellular therapies, available only through clinical trials, are important options for many patients.
- ✓ **Transplant & Cellular Therapy Center** that's one of the nation's top centers for blood and marrow transplant.
- ✓ **CAR T-cell therapy** with both FDA-approved and newer CAR T-cell technologies, including some developed here at Roswell Park.
- ✓ **Holistic supportive services** to care for you, not just your cancer. Programs include art, music and pet therapy, acupuncture, massage, spiritual care, patient retreats and support groups.



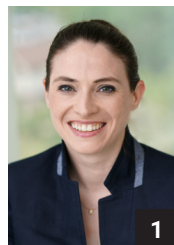
We offer treatments unavailable elsewhere, such as the latest **immunotherapies** and **adoptive T-cell therapies**.

## GET A 2<sup>nd</sup> OPINION

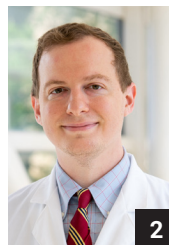
If you have a cancer diagnosis, you need a second opinion. We can arrange for our leukemia experts to review your scans and pathology and schedule a consultation.

Why it matters – in about 10% of cases we review, the diagnosis is changed, impacting your treatment options, decisions and the way forward.

## MEET OUR DOCTORS



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