

## Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

Leukemia is a malignancy involving the white blood cells (leukocytes). Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is one type of leukemia that affects mature lymphocytes (a subtype of leukocyte or white blood cell). It is the most common leukemia in the U.S. and primarily occurs in older individuals. The median age at diagnosis is 55-60 years old with males being affected twice as often as females. The cause of CLL is unknown.

In CLL, a clone of malignant, mature lymphocytes accumulates in the blood, bone marrow, and lymphatic tissues. It is most often diagnosed incidentally during a routine physical exam where the blood count is checked. (The white blood cell count will be abnormally high.) Later findings can include: anemia, low platelet count, recurrent infections, fever, night sweats, weight loss, swollen lymph nodes, or an enlarged spleen and liver. The major prognostic factor in CLL is the stage. Infection and bleeding are the major causes of death from CLL.

Stage Median Survival

Stage 0 (elevated lymphocyte count) 12+ years

Stage I (elevated lymphocyte count + enlarged lymph nodes) 8+ years

Stage II (elevated lymphocyte count + enlarged liver or spleen) 6 years

Stage III (elevated lymphocyte count + anemia) 4 years

Stage IV (elevated lymphocyte count + low platelet count) 4 years

**If your client has a history of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, please answer the following:**

**1. Please list date of first diagnosis:**

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**2. Please note current stage of the leukemia:**

Stage 0     Stage II     Stage IV

Stage I     Stage III

**3. Is your client on any medications?**

If yes, please give details

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**4. Have any of the following tests been done? If so, please give date and results:**

hemoglobin \_\_\_\_\_

white blood cell count \_\_\_\_\_

platelet count \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Has your client smoked cigarettes or used other form of tobacco in the last 5 years?**

If yes please give details

**6. Does your client have any other major health problems (ex: heart disease, etc.)?**

If yes, please give details

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