

# Different Types of Therapy for Leukemia

Leukemia is a type of cancer that affects the bone marrow and the body's lymphatic system. Production of abnormal white blood cells is increased in individuals affected by this condition. Leukemia is classified based on how fast the condition progresses (*acute* or *chronic*) and by the type of white blood cell affected (*lymphocytic* or *myelogenous*).

The major types of leukemia include acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL), acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), and chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). Acute forms are more likely to occur in children, while adults are more likely to be affected by chronic forms. Common symptoms of leukemia include swollen lymph nodes, excessive sweating at night, and/or bone pain. Leukemia treatment is very complex. The therapy chosen depends on many factors, including the individual's age and state of health. Chemotherapy is a common type of treatment for leukemia. Daunorubicin (*Cerubidine*) and idarubicin (*Idamycin*) may be used to treat AML. Kinase inhibitor medications, such as imatinib (*Gleevec*), may be used to treat CML. Dasatinib (*Sprycel*) and nilotinib (*Tasigna*) are other approved kinase inhibitors. Radiation therapy, bone marrow transplant, and stem cell transplantation are other possible treatment options.