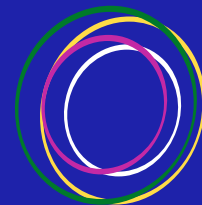


Acute leukaemias of ambiguous lineage (ALALs)



Acute leukaemias of ambiguous lineage (ALALs) are fast-growing types of blood cancer. They get the name 'ambiguous' because doctors can't be sure exactly what type of cell the leukaemia started in. The leukaemia cells may have markers of more than one cell type, or no particular type at all.

ALALs can affect adults or children. They are extremely rare. We think fewer than 25 people are diagnosed with ALALs each year in the UK.

We do not know the exact cause of ALALs. It is not because of anything you have or have not done.

ALALs can cause many symptoms. You might get some of these symptoms but not others:



Feeling exhausted or worn out, even after resting.



Swollen lymph nodes (glands) that don't go down within a few weeks.



Fever for no obvious reason.



Bruising easily, or for no reason at all.



Infections that last a long time or keep coming back.



Unusual bleeding, like nosebleeds or bleeding gums.



Tummy pain, bloating or feeling full quickly after eating.



Looking pale due to a low red blood cell count. If you have black or brown skin, this may be easier to see on your palms, gums or the insides of your eyelids.



Feeling breathless.



Joint or bone pain.



There are different types of ALAL, which behave differently. They include:

- Mixed phenotype acute leukaemias (MPALs)
- Acute undifferentiated leukaemia (AUL)
- Acute leukaemia of ambiguous lineage, not otherwise specified (ALAL NOS)

ALALs are diagnosed using blood and bone marrow tests. It can take time to get an accurate diagnosis. You might start treatment before you know what type you have.

Treating ALALs

Treatment can vary. Your doctor will suggest the most suitable option for you based on your individual circumstances. This might be:



Treatment as part of a clinical trial, if there is one suitable for you



Chemotherapy, on its own or with a targeted medicine



A stem cell transplant, if you are fit enough to have one



Medicines to prevent or treat symptoms or side effects

Outcomes for ALALs vary from person to person. Your consultant is the best person to tell you what they expect for you.

Need support or more information?

- Scan the QR code or visit leukaemiacare.org.uk
- Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444**
- Send a WhatsApp to **07500 068065**
- Email support@leukaemiacare.org.uk



This information is aimed at people in the UK. We do our best to make sure it is accurate and up to date but it should not replace advice or guidance from your health professional. If you have any feedback or you'd like a list of our sources, please email information@leukaemiacare.org.uk.

