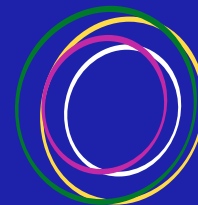


# Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL)



## Induction treatment

Treatment of ALL happens in phases. The first main phase is induction therapy. It aims to kill as many leukaemia cells as possible.

**Treatment for ALL usually starts straight away. You will probably need to stay in hospital for several weeks to have it.**

Induction treatment happens in cycles or phases with time to recover in between. Your team may fit a central line so it is easier to have treatment and blood tests.

- Pre-induction lasts around a week. You have steroids, and sometimes other medicines, to start to treat your ALL. You usually stay in hospital to have it.
- Induction phase 1 lasts around 4 weeks. Most people stay in hospital to have it.
- Induction phase 2 lasts up to 9 weeks. You usually have this as an outpatient.

There are different treatment options during each phase. They may include:



**A combination of chemotherapy medicines.** You have some through a drip and some as tablets or capsules to take by mouth.



**Intrathecal medicines.** These are medicines you have through an injection in your lower back. They prevent or treat ALL in your central nervous system.



**A steroid.** You have these as tablets to take by mouth.



**A targeted medicine called a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI).** These are tablets or capsules that you take by mouth.



**An antibody therapy called rituximab.** You have this through a drip into a vein.



**Medicines to prevent or relieve symptoms or side effects.**

Your team will tell you what they recommend for you and what you can expect.



## Side effects

Like all medicines, induction treatment can cause side effects. Some of these may be serious. Side effects are different for everyone, and we cannot predict what side effects you may or may not get.

Your team will tell you about the possible side effects of your treatment.



**Tell your doctor or nurse straight away about any side effects you have. They may adjust your treatment, give you medicines or suggest things that might help. This might include blood or platelet transfusions.**

## Monitoring your treatment



You'll have regular blood tests to check how your body is coping with treatment.



You'll also have blood tests and bone marrow tests to check how well your ALL has responded.

## After induction treatment

After induction, you move to the next phase of treatment. This is usually intensification and consolidation treatment, or a stem cell transplant. Some people may need different treatment. Your team will explain what they recommend for you.

### Need support or information?

- Scan the QR code or visit [leukaemiacare.org.uk](https://leukaemiacare.org.uk)
- Call our freephone helpline on 08088 010 444
- Send a WhatsApp to 07500 068065
- Email [support@leukaemiacare.org.uk](mailto: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 from your health professional. If you have any feedback or you'd like a list of our sources, please email [information@leukaemiacare.org.uk](mailto:information@leukaemiacare.org.uk).

