

What is LGLL?

Large granular lymphocytic leukaemia (LGLL) is a slow-growing blood cancer. LGLL develops when white blood cells called lymphocytes become abnormal. The cells don't die when they should and produce substances that kill healthy blood cells.

White blood cells



Fewer than 300 people in the UK are diagnosed with LGLL each year.

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

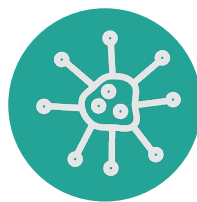
But some factors can increase your chances of getting LGLL. These include:

- Your age – LGLL is more common in people over 60
- Having an autoimmune condition such as rheumatoid arthritis
- If you have or have had a different type of cancer, including blood cancer

LGLL can cause the following signs and symptoms:



Extreme tiredness (fatigue)



Infections that last a long time or keep coming back



Feeling tired, breathless or dizzy



Bruising or bleeding easily



Tummy pain or bloating



Fever



Night sweats



Losing weight without trying to

LGLL is usually diagnosed from blood tests and sometimes bone marrow tests. It can take a while but it is important for your doctor to make an accurate diagnosis. It also helps them work out the most suitable treatment for you, if you need it.

Treating LGLL

Many people with LGLL don't need treatment straight away. Your medical team will explain what treatment they recommend and what you can expect from it.

Between 3 and 5 in every 10 people with LGLL never need treatment.

- If you don't have symptoms, you may not need treatment straight away. Instead, you might have regular check-ups and blood tests to monitor how LGLL is affecting you. This is called active monitoring.
- Active monitoring is a safe approach for slow-growing blood cancers. If you are feeling well, there is no benefit to starting treatment before you need it.



Between 5 and 7 in every 10 people with LGLL have treatment at some point.

- If you need treatment, it's usually medicine to lower your immune system.
- The main ones used to treat LGLL are methotrexate, cyclophosphamide and ciclosporin.
- You usually have them as tablets to take at home. They help improve your blood counts and reduce your symptoms.
- Your team will tell you what they recommend for you. They might suggest other treatments, depending on your case.
- You might also have medicine to prevent or treat symptoms or side effects.



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.

For [more information about LGLL](#), follow the link. Or search 'LGLL' at www.leukaemiacare.org.uk or scan the QR code. This also includes links to order free information in print.



Need help? We offer a range of [support services](#). To find out more, scan the QR code, click the link or search 'support for you' at leukaemiacare.org.uk



Want to talk about LGLL?

- Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444** (weekdays 9am to 4.30pm)
- Send a WhatsApp to **07500 068065** (weekdays 9am to 5pm)
- Visit www.leukaemiacare.org.uk
- Email support@leukaemiacare.org.uk

If you have any feedback or you'd like a list of the sources we used for this factsheet, please get in touch. Email information@leukaemiacare.org.uk or call **08088 010 444**. Or complete our [short survey](#) to let us know what we can improve.



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