

Relapsed and refractory AML

Treatment for AML can be very effective. But not everyone responds to treatment. And sometimes, AML comes back after treatment. This is called relapsed or refractory AML.

- Relapsed AML is when AML comes back after successful treatment.
- Refractory AML is when AML does not respond to your first treatment.

Finding out AML hasn't responded to treatment, or has come back, can be distressing. Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444** if you need support.

You might have similar or different symptoms to when you were first diagnosed. Some common signs and symptoms include:



Fatigue



Frequent
infections



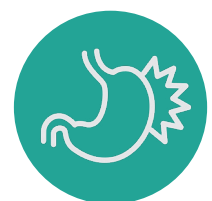
Low red blood
cell count
(anaemia)



Bleeding or
bruising



Joint or
bone pain



Tummy pain

You will have blood and bone marrow tests to confirm if your AML has come back or not responded to treatment.

Treatment for relapsed or refractory AML

There are many treatment options. Your doctor will recommend the most suitable one for you based on:

- What treatment you've already had and how you responded to it
- Any side effects you had
- Your age and overall fitness
- Your subtype of AML
- The genetic changes in your leukaemia cells
- Whether or not you have any other medical conditions
- Your preference on how you wish to be treated

Your team might recommend:

- Treatment as part of a clinical trial, if one is available. This could let you access treatments that would not otherwise be available.
- Intensive chemotherapy. You usually stay in hospital to have this.
- A stem cell transplant, if you are fit enough to have one. This is a very intensive treatment and you usually stay in hospital for several weeks.
- Targeted treatments, depending on the genetic changes in your leukaemia cells. These are usually tablets to take at home.
- Non-intensive chemotherapy, which is gentler treatment that aims to control AML rather than cure it.
- Medicines to prevent or treat symptoms or side effects.
- End of life care, if there are no suitable treatment options left, or if you don't want any more treatment.



Your medical team should talk to you about your wishes. They will organise your care to suit your preferences, if they can.

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

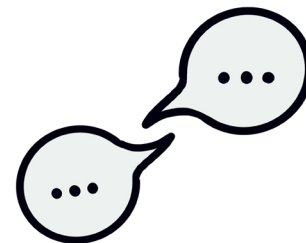


Need help? We offer a range of [support services](#). To find out more, scan the QR code, click the link or search 'support for you' at leukaemiacare.org.uk



Want to talk?

Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444**
Message us on WhatsApp at **07500 068065**
www.leukaemiacare.org.uk
support@leukaemiacare.org.uk



If you'd like to comment on our content or have a list of the sources we used for this factsheet, please get in touch. Email information@leukaemiacare.org.uk or call **01905 755977**. Or complete our [short survey](#).



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