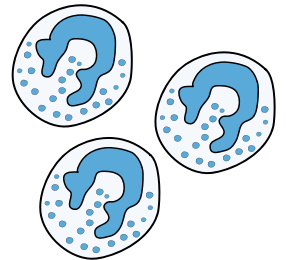


Secondary AML

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is a fast-growing blood cancer. It develops when blood-forming cells divide and mature uncontrollably. They can build up in your bone marrow and stop it making enough healthy blood cells.

Often, we don't know exactly what causes AML. But sometimes it happens as a result of something else. This is secondary AML. It can develop:

- After chemotherapy or radiotherapy for a different cancer.
- From another type of blood cancer. This is usually myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS) or a myeloproliferative neoplasm (MPN).



White blood cells

Secondary AML affects less than 900 people a year in the UK. It happens because blood cancers and cancer treatments can damage the cells in your bone marrow.

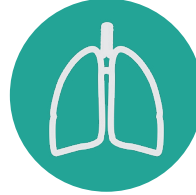
The signs and symptoms of secondary AML include:



Fatigue



Frequent infections



Feeling breathless



Bleeding or bruising



Fever



Bone pain



Low red blood cell count (anaemia)



Swollen spleen or liver

You might not have any new symptoms. Secondary AML may be diagnosed after routine tests for your other cancer.

The diagnosis is confirmed on blood tests and bone marrow tests.

Treating secondary AML

Your haematology team will recommend treatment based on your individual needs. This might be intensive or non-intensive treatment.



Intensive treatment involves chemotherapy. It is usually a treatment called liposomal daunorubicin + cytarabine. It's also known as CPX-351 or Vyxeos.

- You have it through a drip into a vein, or through a central line if you have one. You usually have it as a hospital outpatient. You have treatment in cycles, with time in between for your bone marrow to recover.
- You may also have a targeted treatment. This depends on the genetic changes in your leukaemia cells.
- Some people might have a stem cell transplant. This is a very intensive form of treatment. It is not suitable for everyone. Your haematology team will explain if it's an option for you.

Your team might recommend a different type of chemotherapy. They will tell you what they recommend and whether you need to stay in hospital to have it.

Non-intensive treatment is gentler. It aims to control your AML as much as possible. But it does not cure it. It usually involves low-dose chemotherapy or targeted treatment to take at home.

It can be hard dealing with treatment and its side effects. Don't be afraid to ask for help from family, friends, your medical team or Leukaemia Care.

Secondary AML can be difficult to treat. Outcomes vary from person to person. Your medical team are best placed to discuss what they expect for you.

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

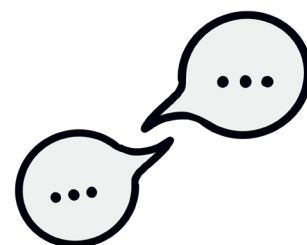


Need help? We offer a range of [support services](#). To find out more, scan the QR code, click the link or search 'support for you' at leukaemicare.org.uk



Want to talk?

Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444**
Message us on WhatsApp at **07500 068065**
www.leukaemicare.org.uk
support@leukaemicare.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@leukaemicare.org.uk or call **01905 755977**. Or complete our [short survey](#).



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