

Treatment options for CLL

There are many effective treatments for CLL when you need them. Some people never need treatment. But you might start treatment if there are signs your CLL is beginning to cause you problems, such as:

- Your symptoms getting worse
- Low blood counts
- Enlarged lymph nodes or a swollen spleen

Your haematology team will suggest the most suitable treatment for you. They will take account of your preferences and other factors about you and your CLL.

Targeted medicines

Your first treatment is usually a targeted medicine to take by mouth at home. These medicines target proteins on your CLL cells and kill the cells. They include:

- Ibrutinib
- Acalabrutinib
- Zanubrutinib
- Venetoclax
- Venetoclax with ibrutinib



You take targeted medicines in one of two ways:

- **Fixed duration therapy** when you take medicine for a set time. This is often 1 to 2 years.
- **Continuous therapy** when you keep taking medicine. You only stop if you get troublesome side effects or your CLL stops responding to treatment.

Antibody therapies

Some people have an antibody therapy alongside a targeted medicine. You have these through a drip as a hospital outpatient. These therapies use antibodies made in a lab to trigger your immune system to destroy CLL cells. They include:

- Rituximab
- Obinutuzumab



You may be able to join a research study called a clinical trial. If you join one, you might have a new medicine or a new combination or dose of existing medicines.

Side effects

You might get side effects from treatments for CLL. But they can often be controlled and are usually temporary. Different treatments have different side effects. They can also vary from person to person. Your haematology team can tell you what side effects to expect and how to manage them.

Supportive treatments

You might have other treatments. These may help relieve your symptoms or prevent or treat infections. They can include vaccinations, medicines and blood transfusions.

Follow-up

This depends on your treatment plan:

- **Fixed duration therapy.** If your CLL is under control at the end of your treatment, you're likely to go on to active monitoring (watch and wait).
- **Continuous therapy.** You'll have regular clinic appointments and blood tests to make sure your CLL is under control.

Always contact your haematology team if you have any side effects, even if they seem minor. Or if you are worried about your health. You don't have to wait until your next appointment.

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

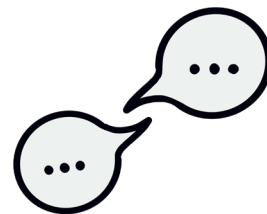


Need help? We offer a range of [support services](#). To find out more, scan the QR code, click the link or search 'support for you' at leukaemiacare.org.uk



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