

Myelofibrosis

Myelofibrosis is a rare but serious cancer of the bone marrow that disrupts the body's normal production of blood cells.

About Myelofibrosis

Myelofibrosis is a myeloproliferative neoplasm (MPN), a group of blood cancers that derive from blood-forming stem cells. Two other blood cancers that are also grouped as MPNs are essential thrombocythemia and polycythemia vera.

There are two main types of myelofibrosis:

 <p>Primary myelofibrosis:</p>	<p>Patient has no prior history of another MPN</p>	 <p>Secondary myelofibrosis:</p>	<p>Patient develops the condition as a complication of essential thrombocythemia or polycythemia vera</p>
---	--	--	---

The cause of myelofibrosis remains unclear, but more than half of patients have a mutation in the Janus Kinase 2 (JAK2) gene.

Incidence

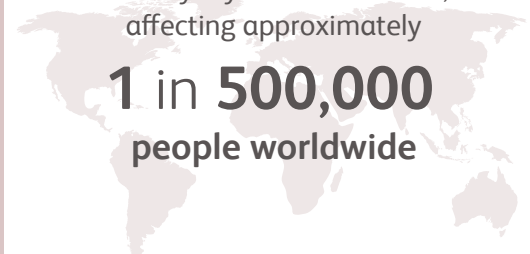
Median age at diagnosis

65



Primary myelofibrosis is rare, affecting approximately


1 in 500,000 people worldwide






Symptoms

About one-third of patients with myelofibrosis in its very early stages may have no symptoms of the disease.

Signs and symptoms of myelofibrosis can include:

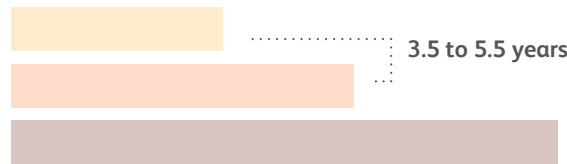
 <p>Weakness or fatigue</p>	 <p>Bruising or bleeding easily</p>	 <p>Bone or joint pain</p>	
 <p>Night sweats</p>	 <p>Itching</p>	 <p>Mild fever</p>	 <p>Splenicomegaly (enlarged spleen)</p>

Risk Factors

 <p>Age</p>	 <p>History of thrombocythemia or polycythemia vera</p>	 <p>Exposure to certain industrial chemicals or high radiation levels</p>
--	--	--

Prognosis

Median survival:



People younger than 55 and with good prognostic factors can have a median survival of 11 years

Treatment Options

Treatment approaches for myelofibrosis are determined by age, abnormal blood cell counts, disease progression and overall health, but may include:



JAK inhibitors



Blood transfusions, androgen therapy or other anemia treatments



Chemotherapy



Alternate drug treatments



Radiation



Splenicomegaly (surgical removal of the spleen)



Stem cell transplant*

*Typically appropriate for <5% of patients due to risks associated with the procedure

It is important for people with myelofibrosis to understand the symptoms of their disease and to talk to a healthcare professional about appropriate treatment options.