**Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)**

CLL is a type of chronic leukemia that starts in white blood cells called lymphocytes in the bone marrow, which can spread into other parts of the body.

### What is CLL/SLL?

CLL can be slow growing and does not need immediate treatment. Another form can grow at a faster rate, requiring treatment right away:

| Indolent CLL: slow-growing and can remain stable without treatment for years. |
| Aggressive CLL: fast-growing and requires immediate treatment. |
| Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) is a variation of CLL in which the disease is found mostly in the lymph nodes. |

### Incidence

In 2020, there were an estimated **191,000** cases of CLL/SLL worldwide.

**Median age at diagnosis** is approximately **74**.

### Symptoms

Many people with CLL/SLL have no early symptoms. Those who do develop signs and symptoms may experience:

- Weight loss
- Fatigue
- Fever
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Night sweats
- Frequent infections

### Risk Factors

For many patients, the cause of CLL/SLL is unknown, but factors that may contribute to the risk of developing NHL include:

- Race
- Gender
- Family history of blood and bone marrow cancers
- Exposure to chemicals
- Age

### Diagnosis

Blood tests are needed to receive accurate diagnosis and determine treatment. Additional diagnostic measures may include:

- Molecular typing
- Bone marrow tests
- Quantitative immunoglobulin test

### Prognosis

The natural history of CLL/SLL is variable, with survival times from initial diagnosis ranging from approximately 2 to 20 years.

**Median survival for CLL/SLL is 10 years.**

### Treatment Options

Treatment approaches for CLL/SLL are determined by age, overall health and other factors and may include:

- Monoclonal antibodies
- Targeted drugs
- Chemotherapy

*It is important* for people with CLL/SLL to know the symptoms of this disease and to talk to a healthcare professional about appropriate treatment options.