

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?

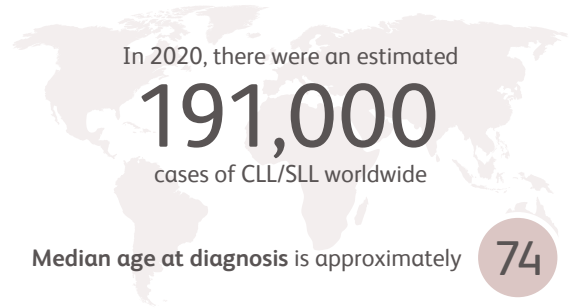
CLL can be slow growing and does not need immediate treatment. Another form can grow at a faster rate, requiring treatment right away:

Indolent CLL:
slow-growing and can remain stable without treatment for years.

Aggressive CLL:
fast-growing and requires more immediate treatment.

Small lymphocytic lymphoma (SLL) is a variation of CLL in which the disease is found mostly in the lymph nodes.

Incidence



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



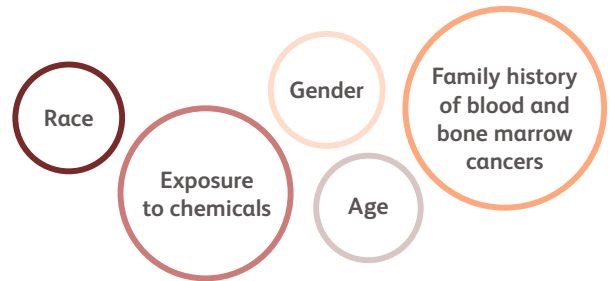
Night sweats



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:



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.