Acute myeloid leukaemia

What you should know

Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), is an aggressive (fast-growing) form of leukaemia that starts in immature forms of blood-forming cells, known as myeloid cells, found in the bone marrow. In AML, these immature forms of myeloid cells become abnormal blood cells, or leukaemia cells which rapidly divide and enter the blood stream, sometimes spreading to other organs.

More treatment options are needed for this aggressive disease.

References

...the most common symptoms being excess bruising and bleeding, recurrent infections due to an impaired immune system, and symptoms associated with anaemia such as fatigue.

Signs and symptoms specific to AML can occur when leukaemia cells build up in the bone marrow and blood, leaving less room for healthy blood cells...

AML can progress quickly if untreated, and can be fatal within months.

Treatment options and outcomes vary depending on the subtype of AML and the age of the patient.

Even with the best available therapies, older patients aged 65 and over have survival rates comparable to patients with advanced lung cancer, with a five year overall survival rate of <5%.

AML is the most common type of acute (aggressive) leukaemia in adults. Approximately 20,000 people in the United States and 18,000 in Europe are diagnosed with AML each year.

It has one of the lowest survival rates of all types of leukaemia.

AML is most commonly diagnosed in males, aged 65 – 74 years old.

US ~20k

EUROPE ~18k

65–74 years old