



LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA

Leukemia and lymphoma are cancers that originate in the bone marrow (makes different types of blood cells; white, red and platelets) or lymphatic tissues as the result of an acquired genetic injury to the DNA of a single cell, which becomes malignant and multiplies. Leukemia and lymphoma interfere with the production of healthy blood cells.

Risk Factors

- Chronic exposure to benzene or formaldehyde in the workplace
- Exposure to doses of irradiation
- Exposure to infectious agents
- Cancer patients treated with certain cancer fighting drugs (chemotherapy) may develop leukemia.
- Down syndrome (leukemia)
- Myelodysplastic syndrome (blood disease linked to leukemia)
- Human T-cell leukemia virus-1 – causes rare type of leukemia
- Immune suppression
- Family history

Symptoms of Leukemia

- Easy bruising or bleeding (because of platelet deficiency)
- Paleness or easy fatigue (because of anemia)
- Recurrent minor infections or poor healing of minor cuts (because of inadequate white cell count)

Symptoms of Lymphoma

- Painless swelling of lymph nodes in the neck, armpit or groin
- Persistent fatigue
- Recurrent high fever
- Sweating at night
- Troublesome itching
- Weight loss
- Indigestion and abdominal pain
- Bone pain
- Loss of appetite

See your doctor if you have any symptoms or notice unusual changes in your health.