

BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 2021



What is Blood Cancer?

Most blood cancers start in the bone marrow, which is where blood is produced. Blood cancers occur when abnormal blood cells start growing out of control, interrupting the function of normal blood cells, which fight off infection and produce new blood cells. The 3 main types of blood and bone marrow cancers are leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma. Leukemia is a blood cancer that originates in the blood and bone marrow, Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin lymphoma are blood cancers that develops in the lymphatic system, and Multiple myeloma is a blood cancer that begins in the blood's plasma cells.

Estimated New Cases (%) of Leukemia, Lymphoma and Myeloma, 2020

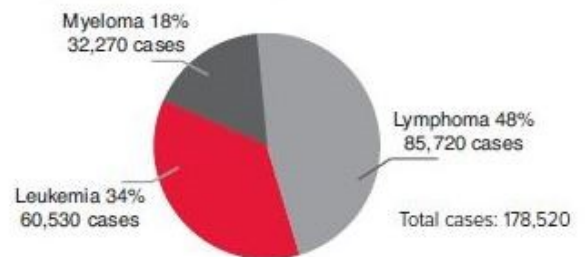


Figure 1. Source: *Cancer Facts & Figures, 2020*. American Cancer Society, 2020.

Symptoms

Some common blood and bone marrow cancer symptoms include: Fever, chills, persistent fatigue, weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, unexplained weight loss, night sweats, bone/joint pain, abdominal discomfort, headaches, shortness of breath, frequent infections, itchy skin or skin rash, and swollen lymph nodes in the neck, underarms or groin.

The Facts:

- Approximately every 3 minutes one person in the United States (US) is diagnosed with a blood cancer.
- An estimated 1,297,027 people in the US are either living with, or are in remission from, leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma.
- Approximately every 9 minutes, someone in the US dies from a blood cancer. This statistic represents approximately 156 people each day or more than 6 people every hour.