

Diagnosing Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) - A Quick Guide



Contents

This is a brief summary of the information on 'Diagnosing chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML)' from CancerHelp UK. You will find more detailed information on the website.

In this information there are sections on

- Tests for CML
- What to ask your doctor

Tests for chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML)

You usually begin by seeing your GP. They will ask about your general health and examine you. Your GP may order a blood test. Sometimes CML is picked up by chance when you have a routine blood test. Your doctor will feel for any swollen glands or organs and look for signs of abnormal bleeding.

At the hospital

If your GP suspects that you may have leukaemia, they will suggest that you see a specialist called a haematologist. This is a doctor who treats diseases of the blood. Your haematologist will need to order some tests to check what is wrong. They may ask you to have blood tests, a bone

marrow test, X-rays, an ultrasound scan or a combination of these. You will probably have to make other appointments and go back to have some of these tests.

While you are waiting for results, it may help to talk to a close friend or relative about how you are feeling. Or you may want to contact a cancer support group to talk to someone who has been through similar experiences.

What to ask your doctor about tests for chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML)

- What tests are you going to do?
- Why do I have to have them?
- What will the tests show?
- Will any of them be painful?
- Are there any risks associated with any of these tests?
- Are any of these tests likely to be painful?
- Can I eat normally before the tests?
- Can I bring someone with me while I am having these tests?
- Will I have to go into hospital for any of these tests?
- How long will it take to get the results of the test?



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- Who will give me the results of the test?

Notes

More information

For more information about chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML), visit our website <http://cancerhelp.cancerresearchuk.org>

You will find a wide range of detailed, up to date information for people affected by cancer, including a clinical trials database that you can search for cancer trials in the UK. You can view or print the information in a larger size if you need to.

For answers to your questions about cancer call our Cancer Information Nurses on **0808 800 4040** 9am till 5pm Monday to Friday

Adapted from Cancer Research UK's Patient Information Website CancerHelp UK in September 2011. CancerHelp UK is not designed to provide medical advice or professional services and is intended to be for educational use only. The information provided through CancerHelp UK and our nurse team is not a substitute for professional care and should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. If you have, or suspect you may have, a health problem you should consult your doctor. © Cancer Research UK 2011. Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464) and in Scotland (SC041666).