What is CLL?
Leukemia is a cancer of blood cells. CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia) is formed from white blood cells called B cells. It is found mostly within bone marrow and blood.

What are the tests for CLL?
Your blood will be tested for a large number of abnormal B cells. Doctors also look for a pattern of proteins on the surface of B cells that is common to CLL.

What health care is given before treatment?
- A report of your health history and an exam of your body
- Blood tests to count blood cells and assess levels of chemicals and proteins
- Tests of chromosomes and genes from CLL cells
- Tests of bone and bone marrow if needed
- Test for hepatitis B if needed
- Pictures of the insides of your body for leukemia sites if needed
- Heart test if needed
- Advice on fertility methods if you may want to have a baby after cancer treatment
- Pregnancy test if needed

When is treatment started?
Most often, advanced CLL is treated right away. Treatment for early-stage CLL may be delayed until the cancer worsens.
What are treatment options?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLL with del(17p) or TP53 mutation</th>
<th>- For first-line treatment, a clinical trial may be an option. Ibrutinib is the preferred treatment if not in a clinical trial.</th>
<th>23</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- For next-in-line treatment, ibrutinib, venetoclax with rituximab, duvelisib, and idelalisib with rituximab are preferred.</td>
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<td>CLL without del(17p) and TP53 mutation</td>
<td>- For first-line treatment, ibrutinib is the preferred treatment. Other options include chemoimmunotherapy.</td>
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<td>Richter’s transformation</td>
<td>- For a few people, CLL changes into a faster-growing cancer. It may change into DLBCL (diffuse large B-cell lymphoma) or Hodgkin lymphoma. In general, clinical trials and treatment for the specific cancer are options.</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Is supportive care needed?

People with CLL are likely to get infections and other illnesses. Supportive care includes treatment for the health problems caused by CLL and cancer treatment. 26

How can you decide between options?

- Don’t be shy and ask your doctors questions. They are there to help.
- Get a second opinion. Even doctors get second opinions.
- Support groups can be helpful. You can learn a lot from others.
- Compare the pros and cons of each option. 30