

# WHAT IS ACUTE LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIA (ALL)?

**ALL** is the most common type of childhood leukemia.<sup>1,2</sup> It is a rapidly progressing cancer that starts in the bone marrow and spreads into the blood.<sup>3</sup> It represents 12 percent of all leukemia cases worldwide, and about 80 percent of childhood leukemia cases.<sup>4,5</sup> However, the 5-year survival rate for children with **ALL** is now about 90 percent.<sup>6</sup> In 2020 it is estimated that there will be more than 6,000 new cases of **ALL** in the United States.<sup>7</sup>



## SYMPTOMS

Signs and symptoms of **ALL** may include:<sup>8</sup>

- Bleeding from the gums
- Bone pain
- Fever
- Frequent infections
- Frequent or severe nosebleeds
- Lumps caused by swollen lymph nodes
- Pale skin
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness/fatigue



## TREATMENT

Treatment options for **ALL** can be affected by the patient's **ALL** subtype, age and overall state of health. The main types of treatments include:<sup>9,10</sup>

- Chemotherapy
- Targeted Therapy
- Immunotherapy
- Surgery
- Radiation Therapy
- Stem Cell Transplant

## SURVIVORSHIP

While **ALL** is highly treatable, some patients may experience long-term effects or late effects from the disease and/or treatment.<sup>11,12</sup> This is why survivorship in **ALL** begins the day of diagnosis and continues throughout life, even for a patient in remission. It is considered one of the most complex aspects of the cancer experience because it is different for every patient. Patients and their families may experience a range of varied and strong emotions, including joy, concern, relief, guilt and fear:<sup>13</sup>

In addition to the emotional toll, patients may experience:<sup>14</sup>

- Chronic heart conditions
- Lung disease
- Liver disease
- Fertility issues
- Reduced bone density and muscle strength
- Subsequent cancers
- Brain and nerve dysfunction
- Fatigue

Fortunately through coordination between patients' oncologists and primary care physicians is essential for receiving the best care possible. Some treatment centers feature survivorship or follow-up cancer care clinics, which provide a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach for monitoring and supporting cancer survivors. It is helpful to be seen yearly at a long-term survivorship clinic specifically for cancer survivors, in addition to the regular visits to a primary care physician.<sup>12</sup>

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