

CLL/SLL Treatments: Doctor Discussion Guide

Genetic Testing for Cancer Cells

Some treatment options depend on which genetic biomarkers are found in your cancer cells. Getting your cancer cells tested is important for finding your best treatment options.

- Q Have my cancer cells been tested for genetic biomarkers?
- Q How can I get genetic testing for my cancer cells?
- Q What are the specific genetic biomarkers found on my cancer cells?
- Q Do these test results indicate I should start treatment earlier?
- Q Do these test results indicate that some treatments will be more effective than others?
- Q What do these test results tell you about how my cancer is likely to progress?

Starting Treatment

- Q Do you recommend I start treatment now or wait?
- Q What are the possible benefits and risks of waiting to treat?
- Q What are the possible benefits and risks of beginning treatment sooner?
- Q What are my treatment options at this time? Am I a good candidate for any newer oral therapies?

If You Are Currently Treating Your CLL/SLL

- Q Is my current therapy effectively treating my cancer?
- Q I experience the following side effects from my current treatment:

- Q I experience the following problems taking or receiving my current treatment:

- Q Am I a good candidate for any newer oral treatments that may be as effective (or more effective) and have fewer side effects?
- Q What are the possible benefits and risks of switching my treatments?

Sharing Your Goals and Priorities

Communicate with your doctor about what is most important to you. Which of these matter most, and which are lower priority? Do you have other concerns your doctor should know about?

- Living as long as possible
- Having a high quality of life
- The safest treatment – low risk for severe side effects
- The most effective treatment
- Keeping out-of-pocket costs affordable
- Fewer trips to the hospital or cancer center
- Preserving fertility

Making Treatment Decisions

- Q Which treatment do you recommend, and why?
- Q Which side effects are most common?
- Q Are there any possible severe side effects? How common are they?
- Q Is this treatment likely to be safe for me?
- Q Is this treatment likely to be effective for me?
- Q How will this treatment change my life on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis?
- Q If you recommend traditional chemotherapy, can you explain why you feel it is a better option for me than newer therapies?
- Q Would a clinical trial be a good option for me? Do you know of one I may be qualified to join?