Outcomes of hairy cell leukaemia (HCL)

Hairy cell leukaemia (HCL) is a slow-growing blood cancer. Treatments for HCL are very effective at controlling it. As a result, many people have excellent outcomes after treatment. Most people with HCL have long periods of remission after treatment. They tend to live long lives, similar to people without HCL.

Treatment outcomes in HCL

Current treatments for HCL aim to keep it under control rather than to cure it. They are usually very successful.

- Most people with HCL respond well to treatment and go into remission. This is when blood or bone marrow tests after treatment find little or no leukaemia left in your body.
- Remission often lasts for a long time - around 15 years on average. Some people relapse much sooner than this. Others never relapse.
- About 5 in every 10 people with HCL relapse at some point. About 5 in every 10 do not.
- If your HCL relapses, you usually have another course of treatment. This might be the same treatment you had the first time, or a different one.

It is important to remember that these numbers are averages. They cannot tell you what will happen in individual situations. They look at what happened to groups of people with a similar diagnosis in the past. They're based on data collected over many years, at times, using different treatments.

We cannot predict how long your HCL will stay in remission following treatment.

> **Your haematology team can talk to you about your likely outcomes from treatment. They can take your individual circumstances into account.**

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Helpline: 08088 010 444

Life expectancy for people with HCL

In general, people with HCL live long lives, similar to the general population.

Most people with HCL can expect to live about as long as people without HCL.

> **If you want to know as much as possible about your outlook, talk to your haematology team. They can take into consideration everything they know about you, your HCL and the care they can offer you.**

If you are struggling to come to terms with your diagnosis, you can speak to us on our helpline on 08088 010 444.

Sources

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Need support?

You are not alone. We're here for you whether you have a diagnosis yourself or know someone who has. If you'd like advice, support, or a listening ear, call our freephone helpline on 08088 010 444 or send a WhatsApp message to 07500 068 065.

Helpline and WhatsApp →

Help us improve our information

We aim to provide information that's reliable, up-to-date, and covers what matters to you. Please complete our short survey to help us improve our information and make sure it meets your needs.

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About our information

This information is aimed at people in the UK. We do our best to make sure it is accurate and up to date but it should not replace advice from your health professional. Find out more about our information.

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