TAKING ON CLL TOGETHER

A GUIDE TO DISCUSSING CLL WITH YOUR TEAM OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

LYMPHOMA CANADA

Being an active participant in your cancer care can give you and your family a greater sense of control. One way to achieve this is by building a relationship with your medical care team based on open communication.

Consider bringing this list of questions to your next appointment. They cover the basics around diagnosis, testing, common treatment options, potential side effects, and treatment practicalities.

DIAGNOSIS:

1. Do I have a slower or faster-growing form of CLL?

2. What is the stage of my disease?

3. Could the symptoms I'm experiencing be caused by CLL?

4. How long does it take for the disease to progress?

> Asking the right questions can help you work with your medical care team to make the best decisions for your health and future.

GENERAL TREATMENT:

1. Should I start treatment now? Why or why not?

2. What factors are considered when deciding which treatment is best for me?

3. What is patient "fitness" and how does it impact my treatment options?

4. What molecular testing (i.e., FISH and IGHV) is available and how could the results impact my treatment options?

5. What are my treatment options (i.e., chemoimmunotherapy, targeted therapies, etc.)? Which do you recommend for me? Why?

6. How will we know if the treatment is working?

7. How will treatment affect my life? My work? My family?

SIDE EFFECTS OF TREATMENT:

1. What are the possible risks or side effects of treatment? How serious are they and what should I report right away?

2. Can the side effects be managed?

PRACTICALITIES OF TREATMENT:

1. How often will I need treatment, or can it be taken at home?

2. How long will my treatments last?

3. What if I miss a treatment?

4. Are there any foods or beverages I should or should not eat?

5. Should I still take the other medications I am on?

6. If I feel sick, does that mean the treatment is not working?

7. Is it okay to continue with the supplements I am currently taking?

8. What costs will I encounter?

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