

Blood Cancers

Blood cancers, or hematologic cancers, affect the production and function of blood cells. These cancers typically begin in the bone marrow where blood is produced.

What are Blood Cancers?

Blood cancers, like all cancers, are **characterized by the overproduction of an abnormal type of cell.**

Blood cancer cells do not form solid tumors, but their out-of-control growth crowds out normal cells in the blood, bone marrow or plasma, **preventing normal cells from developing and performing important functions.**

There are 3 main types of blood cancers:



LEUKEMIA. Cancers located in the blood and bone marrow due to the overproduction of abnormal white blood cells



LYMPHOMA. A group of blood cancers that develop in the lymphatic system



MULTIPLE MYELOMA. Cancer formed by malignant plasma cells, typically originating in the bone marrow

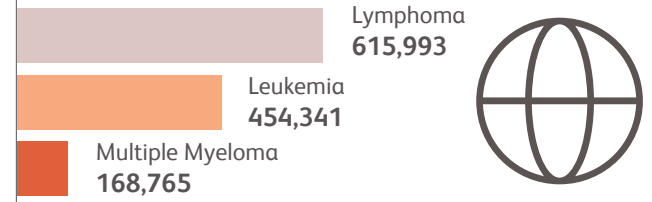
Other bone marrow disorders that are also considered blood cancers, but fall outside of these types, include:

Myelodysplastic Syndromes (MDS). Occur when mutations prevent the bone marrow from properly making blood stem cells that form healthy blood cells

Myeloproliferative Neoplasms (MPN). Occur when the body overproduces white or red blood cells, or platelets

Estimated Global Incidence

An estimated **1.24 million** blood cancer cases occur annually worldwide, accounting for approximately **6% of all cancer cases.**



1.24 million Total blood cancer cases

Global Mortality



Worldwide, approximately **720,000**

people die from blood cancer every year, accounting for more than **7% of cancer deaths.**

SOURCE: GLOBOCAN 2018

Symptoms

Symptoms of different blood cancers vary. Some cancers elicit pronounced symptoms, while the symptoms of others can go unnoticed or be mistaken for symptoms of something less severe, like loss of appetite or persistent fatigue.



Loss of appetite



Persistent fatigue

Risk Factors

Different types of blood cancers have different risk factors. While risk factors for some cancers can be controlled or prevented, most identified risk factors for blood cancers cannot, like age, race or gender.



Age



Race



Gender

Refer to our disease-specific [infographic library](#) to learn more about multiple myeloma, MDS, myelofibrosis and several different types of leukemia and lymphoma.

Treatment Options

Survival rates for most hematologic malignancies have improved over time, likely due to the introduction of new and more effective treatments, which can include:



Chemotherapy



Radiation



Targeted therapy



Stem cell transplant



Immunotherapy



Gene or cell therapy