

LEUKEMIA PATHOCHART

PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

Leukemia is a cancer of the bone marrow that causes proliferation of abnormal, underdeveloped white blood cells that cannot function properly to fight infection or provide immune support, therefore leaving the patient weak and unable to fight off any type of infection. There are four types. Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Acute Myelogenous Leukemia, and Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia.

ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

- Weight loss
- Fever, night sweats
- Infections
- Pain in bones and joints
- Pallor, fatigue
- Easy bleeding and bruising

DIAGNOSTICS

- ↑ WBC in CLL and CML
- ↓ WBC in ALL and AML
- Philadelphia chromosome in majority of CML clients
- Bone Marrow Biopsy

NURSING PRIORITIES

- Chemotherapy Precautions
- Prevent and Manage Infections
- Promote Comfort
- Manage Bleeding Risk

THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT

- Chemotherapy and radiation
- Strict hand washing, limit visitation
- No fresh fruits or flowers
- Bleeding precautions
- Avoid fatigue, plan time for rest
- Instruct client on oral hygiene

MEDICATION THERAPY

- Chemotherapy
- Epogen to increase RBC level
- Antiemetics
- Analgesics