

ONCOLOGY in FOCUS

New York-Presbyterian Hospital Offers Research-Based Care for Patients with Leukemia

The care of patients with leukemia requires a multidisciplinary approach that brings together all of the individuals involved in a patient's management. It starts with expert pathologists who make the diagnosis, continues with experienced hematologists/oncologists who design a personalized regimen of therapy, oncology nurses to deliver treatment and help manage side effects, and social workers and other support staff to help ease a patient's journey with cancer.

"In 2012, Weill Cornell Medical Center will have at least 5 clinical trials open for patients with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia, including several specifically designed for older patients. This reflects our ongoing efforts to "personalize" AML treatment by trying different strategies based on specific biologic features of each patient's disease. We hope that the current "one size fits none" standard treatment approaches will eventually be replaced by much more tailored regimens."

— Gail J. Roboz, MD

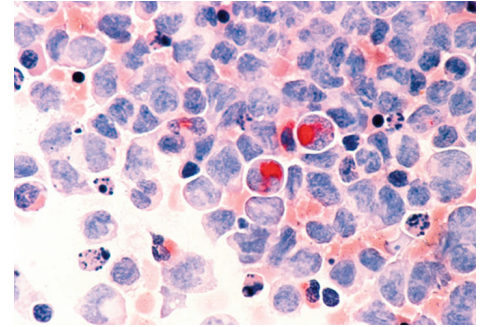
Such is the approach taken by New York-Presbyterian Hospital, which offers comprehensive and compassionate care for patients of all ages with acute and chronic leukemias and other myeloproliferative disorders, myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), and bone marrow failure. Our internationally renowned clinicians also collaborate with basic science investigators through a robust translational research program aimed at clarifying the molecular underpinnings of leukemia in an effort to identify novel targets for potentially more effective therapies.

An Expert Team: Each patient's care begins with an accurate diagnosis, made by a world-renowned team of patholo-

gists who specialize in the diagnosis of hematological disorders, particularly those related to myeloid biology. In addition to medical oncologists and oncology nurses, patients have access to a team of specialists in infectious diseases, geriatrics, gastroenterology, cardiology, nephrology, neurology, pulmonary and critical care medicine, psychiatry, social work, and nutrition, among others. Such comprehensive care ensures that all of a patient's healthcare needs can be met in one location.

Outpatient and Inpatient Care: Our coordinated team approach, featuring highly trained ancillary support for these patients' special needs, enables us to deliver many therapies on an outpatient basis, allowing patients to leave the hospital at the end of the day to be with their families. Patients can receive their treatment in brightly lit and comfortable infusion centers. Those whose treatment necessitates an inpatient stay also benefit from an expert team and comprehensive care.

Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation: Patients come to the Bone Marrow and Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation Program at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill



ACUTE MYELOID LEUKEMIA (AML) CELLS

Cornell Medical Center from the tri-state region, across the nation, and around the globe. Accredited by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (FACT), this program utilizes state-of-the-art technologies to provide the most comprehensive care available for patients with leukemia or other hematologic disorders requiring bone marrow or stem cell transplantation.

Specialized Care for Older Patients: New York-Presbyterian treats many older patients with acute leukemias with less intensive therapies, such as arsenic trioxide or the investigational drug tipifarnib. Patients start with one of these low-intensity regimens and do not receive more intensive standard therapies unless their leukemia persists. This approach spares some patients from the side effects associated with traditional chemotherapy. Our oncologists work closely with geriatric medicine specialists to ensure that our older patients receive state-of-the-art comprehensive care.

continued on back

Research-based care for acute and chronic leukemias and other myeloproliferative disorders

Leukemia Program continued from front

Excellence in MDS Management:

Both NewYork-Presbyterian campuses — Weill Cornell Medical Center and Columbia University Medical Center — have been designated as Centers of Excellence for treating MDS, which can progress to acute leukemia. Both programs offer clinical trials evaluating new drugs and new combinations of existing drugs for patients whose disease stops responding to standard therapies.

Clinical Trials and Translational

Research: While progress has been made in treating cancers such as chronic myelogenous leukemia, adult acute leukemias still remain a significant clinical challenge. Patients with leukemia who come to NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital for their care have access to clinical trials assessing novel therapies with a goal of improving outcomes.

Patients benefit from a network of cutting-edge collaborations among renowned translational scientists with specific expertise in the study of leukemia stem cells, genomics, and epigenetics. These fields hold the most promise for paving new avenues of leukemia treatment that offer more promise than conventional therapies.

Examples of our clinical investigations include:

NewYork-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell

The study of leukemia stem cells, which lead to relapse, and exploration of novel drugs to block their growth. NewYork-Presbyterian researchers specialize in the design and development of clinical trials targeting leukemia stem cells, both as initial therapy and during the post-remission period, for the eradication of leukemia stem cells.

A clinical trial of decitabine and plerixafor for older patients (age 60-plus) newly diagnosed with AML. This study features an evaluation of each patient's leukemia stem cells at diagnosis and during remission. Combining plerixafor with decitabine as induction and post-remission therapy for these patients could improve outcomes via the mobilization of leukemia stem cells and alteration of the pharmacodynamics of decitabine.

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia

Evaluation of lenalidomide to treat adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma. Lenalidomide alters the immune system and may have anti-angiogenic properties. It is approved for treating MDS and multiple myeloma, but its use for adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma is considered investigational.

A phase II study to assess the safety and efficacy of an intensive pediatric drug regimen in adults with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. The primary endpoint of this study is the feasibility of the intensification therapy, measured as the percentage of patients who, having achieved a complete remission after induction therapy, receive more than 25 weeks of intravenous PEG-asparaginase as part of intensification therapy.

To refer a patient to our Leukemia Programs, please call:

NewYork-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center 212-305-5098

NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center 646-962-2700

For more information, visit nyp.org/cancer.



For 11 consecutive years, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has been listed on the prestigious "Honor Roll" of the U.S. News & World Report "Best Hospitals" survey, and is ranked #1 in the New York metro area. NewYork-Presbyterian has the most physicians listed in New York Magazine's "Best Doctors" issue and is recognized by Castle Connolly for having more top doctors than any other hospital in the nation.