



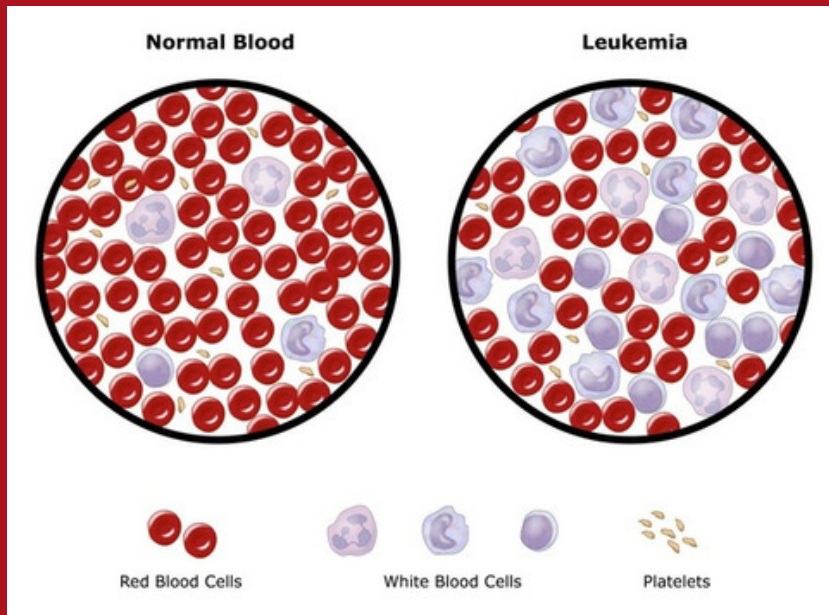
# BLOOD CANCER AWARENESS

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# What is blood cancer?

Blood cancer is an abnormal cell growth in the immune system (blood, bone marrow or lymph nodes) that alter normal blood cell function. As these abnormal blood cells continue to grow, they cause damage to the immune and circulatory systems.



## Types of blood cancers (3 main groups)

- **Leukemia** – is caused by an increased production of abnormal white blood cells of the bone marrow and lymphatic system. The high number of abnormal white blood cells are not able to fight infection, therefore, cannot manage the immune system. (Mayo Clinic, 2019)
- **Lymphoma** – affects the lymphatic system. Lymphocytes are another white blood cell that help fight infection. Abnormal lymphocytes become lymphoma cells, and when they multiply and collect in lymph nodes undetected over time, these cancerous cells will then impair the immune system. (American Society of Hematology, 2019)
- **Myeloma** – cancer of the plasma cells in bone marrow (white blood cells) that function by making antibodies that protect people from infection. In myeloma, the cells grow too much, crowding out normal cells in the bone marrow that make red blood cells, platelets, and other white blood cells and form tumors. (CDC, 2019)

\*\* There are other groups of blood cancer as well

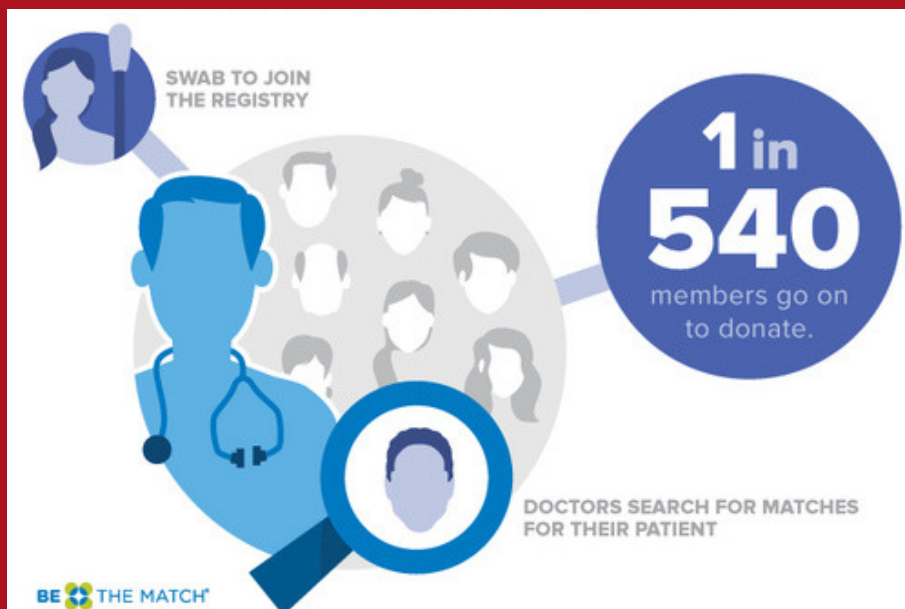


## Treatment Strategies

- Chemotherapy – drugs that kill cells (good and bad) with the purpose of killing cancerous cells so they do not multiply
- Stem cell transplant – also known as bone marrow transplant, stem cell therapy replaces the bone marrow that has been affected by the cancer or destroyed by the chemo and/or radiation used to treat the cancer  
(American Cancer Society, 2016)
- Radiation therapy – radiation works by damaging cells at the DNA level to help prevent cancer cells from growing and reproducing, however healthy nearby cells can be damaged as well  
(Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, n.d)
- Biological therapy – use of living organisms, substances derived from living organisms, or laboratory-produced versions of such substances to treat disease. Some biological therapies for cancer stimulate the body's immune system to act against cancer cells  
(National Institute of Health, 2018)

AND MORE!

# Be The Match



Be The Match is an organization that helps people diagnosed with blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma find a cure. Operating for over 30 years, this organization has managed the largest and most diverse marrow registry in the world. Additionally, Be The Match continues to work on research while continuing to grow registry donations by finding people to register as a potential donor.

Visit <https://bethematch.org> for more info.

## What CNSA is doing

CNSA is partnering with Be the Match to encourage our local chapters to be involved and hold their own drive to increase donor registries. Visit [CNSA.org](https://CNSA.org) to register your chapter!

# Resources

American Society of Hematology

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

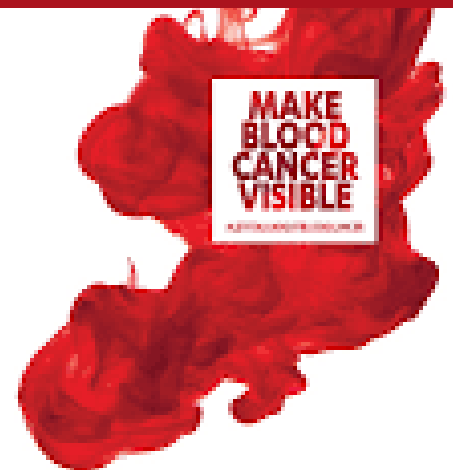
National Institute of Health (NIH) – National Cancer  
Institute

Lymphoma Research Foundation

City of Hope National Medical Center

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

September is Blood Cancer Awareness Month.  
Help us to Make Blood Cancer Visible



# References

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