Leukemia

What is it?
- A collection of cancers that create immature blood cells
- A cancer of the blood cells, meaning you might not see a tumor

What does it do in your body?
- Leukemia cells are made in the same place as healthy blood cells, the bone marrow
- They begin to take over the space in the bone marrow, preventing growth of the other cells (red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets)
- Eventually, the Leukemia cells leak into the blood
- Finally, it can grow into the walls of the bone

What symptoms are caused from this?
- Less red blood cells
  - Less oxygen, shortness of breath
  - Patient looks paler
- Less white blood cells
  - More risk for infections
  - Weakness, weight loss
- Less platelets
  - No way to form blood clots
  - More bleeding, bruising more easily
- Leukemia cells in the bone
  - Severe pain throughout the bones in the body