

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

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