

Acute myelogenous leukemia

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Signs and symptoms

General signs of the early stages of acute myelogenous leukemia may mimic signs and symptoms of the flu or other common diseases. These include:

- Fever
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy and fatigue

More specific signs and symptoms of acute leukemia are caused by a lack of properly functioning blood cells, resulting from overcrowding by leukemia cells. A range of problems can occur, depending on the type of blood cell affected:

- Red blood cells.** These cells carry oxygen from your lungs to all parts of your body. A shortage of red blood cells (anemia) can cause shortness of breath, fatigue and pale skin.
- White blood cells.** These infection fighters help your body ward off germs. A shortage of white blood cells (leukopenia) or of a particular type of white blood cells called neutrophils (neutropenia) can result in frequent infections.
- Blood platelets.** These cells help prevent and control bleeding by prompting your blood to clot. A shortage of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia) can result in easy bleeding and bruising, including frequent or severe nosebleeds, bleeding from your gums, or tiny red marks caused by bleeding into your skin (petechiae).

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AML can also cause swollen and bleeding gums, bone pain or joint pain, and swelling of your spleen or liver. If it involves your lymph nodes, it can cause them to swell. If it spreads outside your blood to your central nervous system or other organs, it can cause headache, weakness, seizures, vomiting, dizziness and blurred vision.

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