

At the end of the first course of treatment for **acute myeloid leukaemia (AML)**, tests will be done to see how the body is responding to treatment and what the next steps may be.¹ The aim of treatment is to put the acute leukaemia into 'remission' – this is when there are no longer any signs or symptoms of cancer in the blood.^{1,2}

RESPONSE TO TREATMENT

How the body is responding to treatment will be assessed through blood and bone marrow tests, where doctors will run a blood count. This is when they count the number of healthy blood cells versus abnormal white blood cells, or leukaemic blasts.³ The results of these tests can show how AML is impacting the body and how well the treatment is working.^{4,5}

Generally, a low number of abnormal white blood cells would indicate that the body is responding well to treatment.¹ However, the results of these tests are individual to each person, and will be compared to initial tests run before treatment started. The difference in these results will help doctors determine the change in your blood cell count and therefore, the status of your AML.¹



DIFFERENT RESPONSES TO TREATMENT

COMPLETE RESPONSE/REMISSION:

Complete remission is when there are no longer any signs or symptoms of cancer in the blood following treatment.⁵

Unfortunately, remission may not always be a possibility, but doctors can help discuss what's realistic.



PARTIAL RESPONSE:

A partial response to treatment is when some of the cancerous cells have been destroyed, but not all. It may be that more treatment is needed to reach complete remission.⁵

AML IS 'ACTIVE':

AML may be active because there has been no response to treatment. It may also be referred to as 'Refractory AML'. This is when there isn't a noticeable improvement in the signs and symptoms of cancer in the blood following treatment.⁶

Unfortunately, there is also a possibility that following treatment, the body may go back to producing high numbers of abnormal white blood cells.⁷ When this happens, it is called a 'relapse'.⁷

EVERYONE RESPONDS DIFFERENTLY AND YOUR DOCTORS WILL PROVIDE THE BEST TREATMENT OPTION FOR YOU.
FOR MORE SUPPORT, VISIT [LIVewithAML.COM](https://www.livewithaml.com)

This leaflet is for patients in Singapore and Malaysia only, and has been created and funded by Astellas. It is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute individual medical advice. If you have any questions or concerns about your medical condition or AML, ask your doctor.

REFERENCES

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