AML TERMINOLOGY EXPLAINED

Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) Terminology	Explained
Abnormal cancerous white blood cells (ab·nor·mul kan·ser-us wite blud sels)	If the body makes too many immature white blood cells, they may become cancerous and abnormal. These are also referred to as 'leukaemic blasts'.[1,2,10]
Acute (uh·kyoot)	An acute leukaemia will progress rapidly without treatment. Abnormal cancerous white blood cells build up quickly in the bone marrow and enter the blood stream.[1]
Anti-Cancer Treatments (an·tee kan·ser treet·ment)	Medical treatments that aim to prevent or stop the progression of cancer, for example chemotherapy, targeted treatments, immunotherapy or radiotherapy to name a few.[3,4]
Biopsy (by·op·see)	A medical procedure that uses a hollow needle to take a very small sample of body tissue (blood, bone, organs) so it can be examined under a microscope.[1]
Blood Count (blud kownt)	A quick and routine test that a nurse or doctor will perform to gather a small blood sample to count the number and type of cells in the blood.[1]
Bone marrow transplant (bone mayr·oh tranz·plant)	Also called a 'stem cell transplant', it is a medical procedure whereby a person's stem cells are replaced with healthy stem cells which tend to be donated by someone else, typically a family member, but it could also be someone unrelated.[1]
Central venous access (sen·truhl vee·nuhs)	When a long thin and hollow plastic tube called a 'catheter' or 'line' is put into a vein in the arm, neck or just below the collarbone. The catheter extends into a 'central vein' next to the heart. The larger central vein is easier to set up a catheter than a small vein. The catheter can stay there safely for a long period of time, sometimes up to four weeks.[5] The benefits of a central venous access is that it allows doctors and nurses to put anti-cancer treatments straight into the bloodstream (otherwise known as an intravenous access) and draw blood for tests all in one place without needing to other points of access.[5]
Chemotherapy (kee·mow·theh·ruh·pee)	A type of anti-cancer treatment that uses drugs to stop the growth of abnormal cancerous cells, either by destroying them or stopping them developing. It can be given orally, via injection or infusion, or on the skin, depending on the type of cancer being treated. It may be used alongside other anti-cancer treatments such as radiation therapy.[6]
Cytogenetic test (sai·tow·juh·neh·tuhk)	Cytogenetics is that the study of the amount and structure of DNA and proteins (chromosomes) through a microscope.[7] This will inform the treatment plan and prognosis. To do this, a person will provide testing samples of tissue, blood, or bone marrow.[1,8]
Haematologist (hee·muh·to·luh·juhst)	A doctor specialising in the diagnosis and treatment of blood cancer and diseases, including acute myeloid leukaemia.[1]
Haematology (hee·muh·to·luh·jee)	The study and treatment of blood cancer and diseases, including acute myeloid leukaemia.[9]
Immune system (uh·myoon)	The body's defence system that fights against infection and disease.[1]
Intravenous injection (in·truh·vee·nuhs)	An injection of medication given through a needle into a vein, usually in the arm.[1]
Leukaemia (loo·kee·mee-uh)	A cancer of the white blood cells.[10]
Leukeamic blasts (loo·kee·meek)	Leukemic blasts are immature white blood cells that become abnormal and cancerous.[2,3] They cannot perform their functions and restrict the production of normal cells.[2,3]
Molecular test (muh·leh·kyuh·luh)	Molecular testing is the study of a persons genes (DNA). This is done to understand what specific genes may be involved in the AML to help inform a treatment plan.[1]
Oncologist (ong·ko·luh·juhst)	General term for a doctor that specifically treats cancer.[1]
Radiotherapy (ray·dee·ow·theh·ruh·pee)	An anti-cancer treatment that uses x-rays or radiation.[1]
Relapse (ree·laps)	The return of AML, or the signs and symptoms of AML, after a period of improvement.[1] This is typically indicated by the return of a high number of abnormal cancerous white blood cells in the blood.[1]
Remission (ruh·mi·shn)	When there are no longer any signs or symptoms of AML in the blood. In partial remission, some, but not all, signs and symptoms of AML have disappeared. In complete remission, all signs and symptoms of AML have disappeared, lthough AML may still be in the body at very low levels.[1]
Stem cell (stem sel)	A cell from which other types of cells develop. For example, blood cells develop from blood-forming stem cells.[1]
Stem cell transplant (stem sel tranz·plant)	Also called a 'bone marrow transplant', it is a medical procedure whereby a person's abnormal cancerous white blood cells are destroyed and replaced with healthy cells which tends to be donated by someone else, typically a family member, but it could also be someone unrelated.[1]
Urinary Catheter (yoor·ih·nayr·ee ka·theh·ter)	A flexible tube that is inserted into the bladder allowing urine to drain freely. It may be needed after surgery.[11]

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