

Supporting earlier & faster cancer diagnosis

FAST FACTS

ACUTE LEUKAEMIA

Patients presenting with flu-like symptoms, anaemia, persistent fatigue, unexplained fever, unexplained bruising or bleeding, or other symptoms consistent with acute leukaemia, require a full blood count (FBC).



A

B

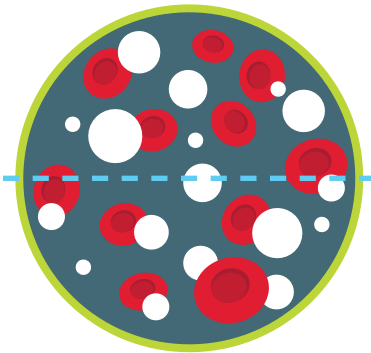
C

D

E

F

G



CHRONIC LEUKAEMIA

Chronic leukaemia is often incidentally found on a routine FBC. Patients don't always need treatment straight away.



REMEMBER: examine for an enlarged neck, axillary and groin lymph nodes and for an enlarged spleen.

EXAMINATION & BLOOD TESTS

Useful tests include FBC, serum free light chains and protein electrophoresis.

FAMILY HISTORY

Ask patients if they have a family history of cancer. However, blood cancer is not normally considered to be a hereditary disease.



BUMPS AND LUMPS

Persistent unexplained enlarged lymph nodes need investigating. Refer neck nodes to head and neck teams, axillary nodes to breast teams, and inguinal nodes on a non-specific pathway. All referrals should be sent as suspected cancer referrals.



TIP: alcohol-induced lymph node pain is a rare presentation of lymphoma.

DON'T FORGET MYELOMA

REMEMBER: C.R.A.B.

C – Calcium – hypercalcaemia

R – Renal – any form of renal dysfunction

A – Anaemia (of unknown cause)

B – Bone – unexplained and persistent bone pain (often back pain)



GREATER MANCHESTER REFERRAL PROFORMA

- Please refer all patients using the Greater Manchester form
- Ensure the patient understands the reason for referral
- Include frailty information as this helps direct patients to the most appropriate investigation or assessment

REFERRAL PROCESS FOR GREATER MCR

GM referral form
Examination
Bloods