



PATIENT EDUCATION

Leukemia & radiation therapy

A plain-language guide for patients and families. Bring this to your visit. It does not replace advice from your clinician.

What is this cancer?

Leukemia is a cancer of blood-forming cells in the marrow. Types include ALL, AML, CLL, and CML, among others. Treatment is almost entirely systemic (chemo, targeted pills, antibodies, transplant). Radiation is used for special jobs: a chloroma (solid leukemia mass), urgent compression, spleen pain, or parts of some transplant pathways — not as a daily “cure the blood” beam.

What you may notice

- Fatigue, bruising, infections, or abnormal blood counts
- Bone pain or swollen gums in some acute leukemias
- A lump (chloroma) or neurologic change
- Swollen nodes or spleen in some chronic types

Usual care — the big picture

Hematology leads. Infection precautions and transfusion support are common during intensive phases. Do not start radiation because a friend with a solid tumor “had it too.”

Where CureRays may fit. CureRays will treat a chloroma, a painful site, or another agreed leukemia indication when your hematologist asks us to. We check counts and infection risk first. Confirm the indication in one sentence.

What radiation treatment usually involves

- Same-week huddle with hematology
- A short course when the job is urgent (for example, a compressing mass)
- Low-threshold for pausing if counts or fever demand it
- Skin and site-specific care

Immobilization — why it matters

Immobilization matches the site. Staff needs to know if you are on isolation precautions.



Side effects you should know about

Effects depend on the area treated, the dose, and other therapies. This list is typical, not a promise and not complete. Confirm your personal list with your clinician.

- **Low blood counts** — infection and bleeding risk come from the disease and chemo more than from a short radiation course.
- **Site effects** as for any local field.
- **Rare / serious.** Fever is an emergency when you are neutropenic.

What this means for you at CureRays

If radiation is offered, ask “What lump or symptom is this aimed at?” If the answer is vague, pause and get the hematologist in the room.

Questions to ask

- Which leukemia do I have, and is radiation even used for it?
- Are my counts safe to start?
- What isolation or visitor rules apply?
- Who do I call first for a fever — hematology or radiation?

How to schedule or learn more

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