

Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) treatment: CNS treatment AL-4

When you were first diagnosed with ALL your spinal fluid was checked to see if the leukemia cells “blasts” were present. If present, there is Central Nervous System (CNS) involvement, and more drugs are needed for treatment. The drugs are based on the amount of CNS involvement. Your doctor will discuss this with you.

Day	Drug Name	How drug is given
15	MAH includes these drugs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methotrexate • Cytarabine • Hydrocortisone 	IT — Intrathecal, into the spinal fluid in the lower back
29	MAH	IT

OR,

Day	Drug Name	Comments
3/4	Cytarabine	IT
8	Cytarabine	IT
10/11	Cytarabine	IT
15	MAH	IT
17/18	Cytarabine or , MAH	IT IT MAH if “blasts” still present at day 15
22	Cytarabine, or MAH	IT IT MAH if “blasts” still present at day 15
24/25	Cytarabine, or MAH	IT IT MAH if “blasts” still present at day 15
29	MAH	IT

Possible side effects

- Nausea and vomiting, take anti-nausea medications as directed
- Hair loss
- Mouth sores (mucositis)
- Headache
- Low blood counts which leads to infection, fatigue and bleeding
- Constipation
- Numbness and tingling in fingers and toes

Chemotherapy – What you need to know

There will be a decrease in your blood cells. These include white blood cells, red blood cells, hemoglobin and platelets.

- **Call if any side effects seem unexpected or extreme.**

Contact information

Primary Team:

- Doctor: _____
- Nurse: _____ } Phone: _____
- Pharmacy: _____
- Phone: _____ Fax: _____

You will need a digital thermometer. You can buy one at most drug stores.



If you have any of these signs of an infection call your primary doctor/nurse care team right away:



- A temperature of 38°C or 100°F or more. This is a fever. **Do not take Tylenol, Aspirin, ibuprofen or anti-inflammatory medications without checking with your team first.** They may cause bleeding or may hide a fever. Call if you need medication for pain.
- A cough productive of coloured phlegm or sputum.
- Red inflamed skin.
- Diarrhea that does not go away.
- Increased shortness of breath.
- Pain or burning with urination.
- Sore throat.
- Watch for signs of shingles: pain, blisters or a skin rash that may look like chicken pox.

What to watch for:

- Unusual bleeding. Call us right away.
- Constipation. Use your laxatives as needed. Do not use a suppository or enema.
- Numbness and tingling in your fingers and toes.
- Increase swelling of the feet, legs, arms and hands.

We encourage you to:

- Attend the chemotherapy class and read the chemotherapy book.
- Eat and drink well (at least 2 liters of non-caffeinated beverages a day).
- Practice good hygiene.
- Practice good mouth care.

Long term side effect

- Back pain at injection site

Birth control

- If you are of child bearing age, we advise that you use birth control.



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