

## **Do not perform baseline or routine surveillance CT scans or bone marrow biopsy in patients with asymptomatic early-stage chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)**

Chronic lymphocytic leukemia is one of indolent lymphomas. This group of lymphomas do not require treatment if patients are not having symptoms and still in early stage of the disease as studies showed no benefits for patients at this stage to receive treatment.

Thorough history and physical examination with essential laboratory testing (i.e., CBC, blood film, renal function, liver function test) are only required for such cases. Staging of patients with CLL is based on physical examination of palpable lymph nodes and should not be based on CT scan finding. CT scan can detect incidental findings that are not clinically significant which may lead to further investigations which are unnecessary.

NCCN guidelines recommend not to do routine or surveillance CT scans for early stage asymptomatic CLL patients. Bone marrow aspiration and biopsy are no longer considered a required part of the diagnostic evaluation of patient with suspected CLL.

M. Hallek, B.D. Cheson, D. Catovsky, F. Caligaris-Cappio, G. Dighiero, H. Dohner, P. Hillmen, M. Keating, E. Montserrat, N. Chiorazzi, S. Stilgenbauer, K.R. Rai, John C. Byrd, B. Eichhorst, S. O'Brien, T. Robak, J. F. Seymour, T.J. Kipps. iwCLL guidelines for diagnosis, indications for treatment, response assessment, and supportive management of CLL. *Blood* (2018) 131 (25): 2745–2760.

NCCN Guidelines, Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia/ Small Lymphocytic Lymphoma, Version 1.2022 – September 8, 2021