

Understanding Chronic Myeloid Leukemia

DR. JEFFREY LIPTON Head of the Chronic Myeloid Leukemia Program at the Ontario Cancer Institute

Our white blood cells play a critical role in keeping us healthy by fighting off infection. Chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) is a cancer of the white blood cells and involves changes in the bone marrow or blood stem cell. Anyone is at risk for this disease. Some people with early stage CML may not experience any noticeable symptoms at all.

Dr. Jeffrey Lipton specializes in chronic myeloid leukemia clinical research and therapy. He says, "Most people present with chronic myeloid leukemia because they may have symptoms due to a large spleen. But today, as more and more blood tests are done, people are picked up when they're asymptomatic."

Fortunately, says Dr. Lipton, there are effective new medications to treat CML. Those treatment options have fewer side effects, essentially working better and faster than older drug options. The result: today, Canadian CML patients' long-term prognoses are better than ever.

"Treating CML has now become a prototype for treating all types of cancer," he adds. "Scientists have worked out the biology of the disease so we now know specific targets for the new drugs that are out there, to the point where survivals have gone up to indefinite, perhaps even normal, limits in the average population."

**To view this informative program
"Understanding Chronic Myeloid
Leukemia" with Dr. Jeffrey Lipton,
visit: www.celebratingwomentv.ca
& www.healthandfamily.ca**

**For more information about
Chronic Myeloid Leukemia,
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