

WHAT MRD IN ALL MEANS FOR YOU

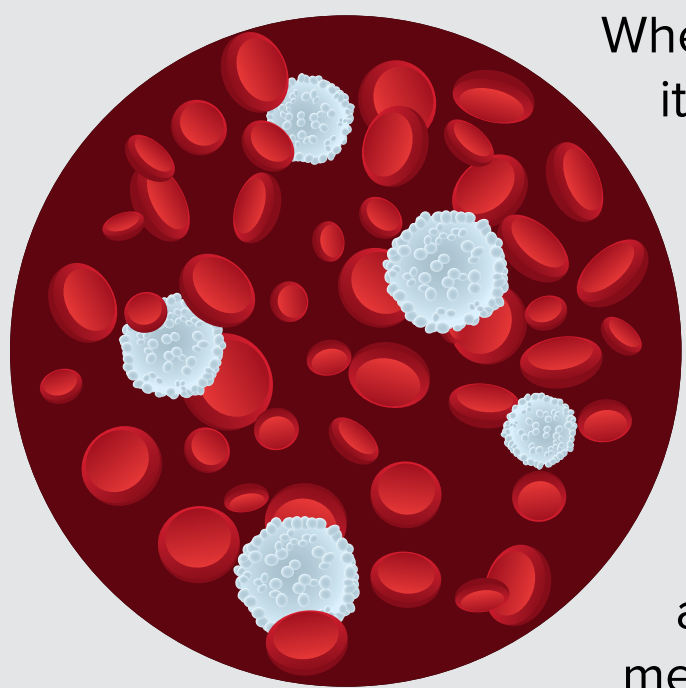


What is Minimal Residual Disease in ALL

Minimal residual disease (MRD) in acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) is the small number of cancer cells that may remain in the body during or after treatment. This number of cells is so small that it cannot be seen in bone marrow samples with a microscope and requires specialized tests. Even if you are in complete remission, your doctor may measure MRD.



How MRD is Measured



When a patient tests positive for MRD, it means that there are still residual cancer cells in the body after treatment. When MRD is detected, this is known as “MRD positivity.” When a patient tests negative, no residual cancer cells were found. When no MRD is detected, this is known as “MRD negativity.” There are several sensitive tests that can measure MRD.

How MRD Affects Treatment

Minimal residual disease can help your doctor understand how well your treatment is working and what steps should be taken next. The interpretation of MRD depends on when it occurs during treatment, so the same numbers may be interpreted differently early in treatment and several months after treatment has begun.



MRD and Relapse Risk

The presence of MRD after induction treatment is the best predictor of prognosis for patients with ALL. We know that patients who have achieved remission after initial treatment, but have MRD, are at an increased risk of disease relapse. Minimal residual disease helps doctors predict potential relapse much earlier than a regular blood test, so you can get the best treatment. Minimal residual disease testing provides your doctor with important information to help personalize your ALL care.



Click [here](#) for the full presentation with Daniel J. DeAngelo, MD, PhD, director of Clinical and Translational Research Adult Leukemia Institute at Dana Farber Cancer Institute as he talks about the impact of MRD in ALL. You can also view the listing of our other programs at www.LLS.org/programs.

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