

Haematological Malignancies In Adults

Introduction

In the last three decades the incidence of haematological malignancies has significantly increased in the UK. With an increasingly older population, patients are more likely to develop these malignancies. It is important for clinicians to understand when and how these patients will likely present to us, so that appropriate investigations and care can be arranged. Patients with haematological malignancies are living longer than before with some living for decades with disease that is controlled rather than cured. Primary healthcare clinicians need to know when to refer back to secondary care for assistance and further management.

In addition, there is an increasing expectation that GPs should recognise and monitor pre-malignant conditions such as monoclonal gammopathy of uncertain significance (MGUS). Whether individuals agree with this or not, it is important that we recognise and understand the significance of these diseases to improve patient care.

This module will cover MGUS, myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) and chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL). This module cannot cover other haematological malignancies and in particular, we have decided not to look at haematological malignancies affecting children. This may be included in a future module.

For the diagnoses mentioned above, this module aims to cover

- risks factors and common presentations
- when (and how urgently) to refer
- treatment options
- complications of both the disease and treatment
- prognosis

Although there are some references to palliative resources in this module, it will not cover palliative care to any great extent.