

# Rydapt approved for adults with acute myeloid leukemia

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Bone marrow aspirate showing acute myeloid leukemia. Several blasts have Auer rods. Credit: Wikipedia

(HealthDay)—Rydapt (midostaurin) has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, in combination with chemotherapy, to treat

adults with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) who have a specific genetic mutation dubbed FLT3.

AML, a rapidly spreading cancer that forms in the blood marrow and spikes [white blood cells](#), is projected to be diagnosed in just under 20,000 people, and more than 10,000 are expected to die of the disease annually, the FDA said.

Rydapt is among a class of drugs called [kinase inhibitors](#) that are designed to block enzymes that foster [cancer cell growth](#). It was evaluated in a clinical study of more than 700 people who hadn't been treated previously for AML. Common side effects included low white cell count, fever, nausea, headache and muscular/bone pain. A more serious side effect could include lung damage.

Women who are pregnant or nursing shouldn't take Rydapt, which could harm a developing fetus or newborn, the FDA said.

A companion diagnostic test was simultaneously approved to detect the FLT3 gene mutation.

Approval of Rydapt was granted to the Swiss drugmaker Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

**More information:** Learn more from the [FDA](#).

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