

## Only about half of elderly newly diagnosed with ALL receive Tx

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(HealthDay)—Almost half of elderly patients newly diagnosed with

acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) do not receive treatment, according to a study recently published in *Leukemia & Lymphoma*.

Christopher Kim, M.P.H., Ph.D., from Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks, California, and colleagues analyzed Medicare ALL data from 2007 to 2015 to describe patient characteristics and [treatment](#) patterns among [elderly patients](#) ( $\geq 66$  years) newly diagnosed with ALL.

The researchers found that 53.5 percent of the 1,428 patients received treatment within 90 days of diagnosis: 32.4, 8.8, 9.8, and 2.6 percent received chemotherapy without [tyrosine kinase inhibitors](#) (TKIs), chemotherapy and TKIs, steroids only, and TKIs only, respectively. Overall, 65.8 percent of the 717 patients receiving chemotherapy any time during follow-up received only one course of treatment. Compared with untreated patients, patients treated with chemotherapy or TKIs were younger (

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