

# Factors associated with suicide in leukemia identified

October 12 2020

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(HealthDay)—Male sex, older age at diagnosis, White race, and having

acute myeloid leukemia are risk factors associated with suicide among patients with leukemia, according to a study published online Oct. 6 in *Cancer Medicine*.

Haohui Yu, from the First Affiliated Hospital of Jinan University in China, and colleagues analyzed data from 142,386 patients with leukemia from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results database (from 1975 to 2017) to identify potential [risk factors](#) associated with suicide.

During an observation period of 95,397 person-years, the researchers found that 191 of the patients committed suicide. For leukemia patients, the suicide rate was 26.41 per 100,000 person-years, and the standardized mortality rate was 2.16. In univariate and multivariate analyses, higher risk for suicide was associated with male sex (hazard ratio [HR], 4.41), [older age](#) at diagnosis (60 to 69, 70 to 79, and  $\geq 80$  years versus  $\leq 39$  years; HRs, 2.60, 2.84, and 2.94, respectively), White versus Black race (HR, 6.80), [acute myeloid leukemia](#) and unspecified and other specified leukemia versus lymphocytic leukemia (HRs, 1.59 and 2.72), and living in a small versus large city (HR, 2.10). A protective factor for suicide was non-Hispanic Black versus Hispanic race (HR, 0.06).

"Medical workers can use our research results to screen [leukemia](#) patients with a higher risk of suicide and apply targeted preventive measures to them," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text \(subscription or payment may be required\)](#)

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Citation: Factors associated with suicide in leukemia identified (2020, October 12) retrieved 2 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-10-factors-suicide-leukemia.html>

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