

Patient-centered communication tool feasible for seniors with acute myeloid leukemia

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Incorporation of an innovative patient-centered communication tool (UR-

GOAL tool) is feasible for older adults with newly diagnosed acute myeloid leukemia (AML), according to study published online Dec. 19 in *Cancer Medicine*.

Marissa LoCastro, from the School of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Rochester in New York, and colleagues examined the feasibility and usefulness of an UR-GOAL tool for use in treatment decision-making among older adults with newly diagnosed AML, their caregivers, and oncologists. Retention rate was assessed as the primary feasibility metric, with >50 percent considered feasible. Recruitment rate, usefulness, and outcomes, including AML knowledge and perceived efficacy in communicating with oncologists, were obtained. Data were included for 15 patients, 12 caregivers, and five oncologists.

The researchers found that the [enrollment](#) and retention rates were 84 and 73 percent, respectively, for patients. Patients agreed that the UR-GOAL tool helped with understanding about their AML diagnosis and options for treatment; communication with oncologists; and with informed decision-making. From baseline to postintervention, patients and caregivers scored numerically higher on AML knowledge (+0.6 and +1.1, respectively) and perceived greater efficacy in communicating with their oncologists (+1.5 and +1.2, respectively).

"Innovative interventions, such as the UR-GOAL tool, which address challenges specific to [older adults](#) with AML are critical to improve [health outcomes](#) for this vulnerable population," the authors write.

One author disclosed financial ties to Pfizer and Seattle Genetics.

More information: Marissa LoCastro et al, Patient-centered communication tool for older patients with acute myeloid leukemia, their caregivers, and oncologists: A single-arm pilot study, *Cancer Medicine* (2022). [DOI: 10.1002/cam4.5547](https://doi.org/10.1002/cam4.5547)

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