

High health care utilization, poor survival seen for over 70s with acute myeloid leukemia

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Older patients with acute myeloid leukemia (AML) have high health care utilization and poor survival outcomes, according to a study

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Marie Anne-Catherine Neumann, Ph.D., from the University of Cologne in Germany, and colleagues conducted an analysis of 107 consecutive patients with newly diagnosed AML aged 70 years and older treated at an academic tertiary care center in Germany to examine characteristics, outcomes, and [health care utilization](#).

The researchers found that 35, 55, and 10% of patients received intensive induction chemotherapy, low-intensity treatment, and either did not receive AML-directed treatment or follow-up ended before initiation of treatment, respectively. 47% of patients had at least one intensive care unit admission; specialized [palliative care](#) was involved in 43% of cases.

Overall median survival was 2.5 months, and the rate of one-year overall survival was 16%. The median proportion of time spent in the hospital between AML diagnosis and death was 56% among patients who died during observation. Normal wards and the [intensive care unit](#) were the most common places of death (31 and 28%, respectively); death occurred less often in a palliative care unit or at home (14 and 12%, respectively).

"The present analysis highlights poor survival outcomes on the one hand and extensive health care utilization on the other hand in patients with AML aged 70 years or older," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed ties to the pharmaceutical industry.

More information: Marie Anne-Catherine Neumann et al, Characteristics, outcomes and health care utilization of patients with acute myeloid leukemia aged 70 years or older: A single-center retrospective analysis, *Hematological Oncology* (2024). [DOI:](#)

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