Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) is the most common leukemia in the United States. However, we understand very little about what causes this cancer and how to prevent it.

The purpose of this study is to learn more about the environmental, genetic and biologic factors that might be responsible for this disease, so that we can better prevent and treat it.

Who is Participating in this Study?

The study includes individuals who have been recently diagnosed with chronic leukemia and those who have not been diagnosed. By comparing these two groups of people, we hope to uncover clues about the factors that might cause this disease.

What Does it Mean to Participate?

As a study participant, you will be asked to:

1) Complete a questionnaire regarding your medical and social history, diet, jobs you have held and family health history. If you ever farmed, we will also take a farming history.

2) Donate 3-4 tablespoons of blood. If you are being seen in Rochester, we will make every effort to collect this blood sample as part of your routine blood work. A urine specimen will be collected and a small (less than 1 teaspoon) sample of bone marrow. The marrow would only be taken when you are having the marrow sampled for clinical reasons.
3) Additional samples may be taken on an “as needed” basis. You would never be asked to give more than one blood or urine sample in a 6-month period.

4) For persons with certain family histories, we may ask you if you want to participate in additional studies of familial cancer risk.

**Will I Benefit from this Study?**

There are no direct benefits to you for participating in this study. However, you will be contributing to a study aimed at providing new insights about the causes of chronic leukemia. The information can be used to reduce the occurrences of this disease in the future. Only through the participation of people such as you can this important type of research be conducted.

**What Are the Costs of Participation?**

There are no monetary costs to participate in this study. Some of your time, however, will be spent completing the questionnaires and participating in the blood collection. The cost of this blood collection will be billed directly to the Mayo Clinic. If you choose not to participate, you will not jeopardize present or future medical care and treatment at the Mayo Clinic or other benefits to which you are entitled.

**What About My Privacy?**

All records from the study will be used for research purposes only and results of any tests will not become part of your Mayo Clinic medical record. Results may be published in a scientific journal, but your identity will not be released. This is in keeping with Mayo Clinic’s policy of patient confidentiality.
Will I Know the Results of this Research?

At a future date, if clinically useful information arises as a result of this study, we may contact participants for discussion of clinical testing. This testing would be optional and you do not have to decide about it at this time.

What Happens Next?

You will be contacted by our study coordinator regarding your eligibility and desire to participate. If you decide to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form and given questionnaires to complete. We will also arrange a blood draw at this time.

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