



# CANCER KEYS

## Leukaemia and FBCs

### Leukaemia and Full Blood Counts (FBCs)

Leukaemia is a cancer that begins in the bone marrow, leading to the over-production of white blood cells. A full blood count (FBC) can clearly indicate the presence of leukaemia.

### Potential pitfall:

Some symptoms of leukaemia are those commonly caused by less serious conditions, such as lymphadenopathy, fatigue, bruising or infections. However, when symptoms are persistent or a cause cannot be attributed, a full blood count can clearly indicate if leukaemia may be present.

### Helpful hint:

NICE NG12 guidelines advise considering a very urgent full blood count (within 48 hours) to assess for leukaemia in adults presenting with any of the following: pallor, persistent fatigue, unexplained fever, unexplained persistent or recurrent infection, generalised lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly or unexplained bleeding, bruising or petechiae.

Access GatewayC's Acute and Chronic **Leukaemia** courses by visiting: [www.gatewayc.org.uk](http://www.gatewayc.org.uk)