Survival rates vary substantially by leukemia type, with a range from 24% to 91% for different types of leukemia. The 5-year relative survival rate for CML increased from 31% for cases diagnosed during 1990-1992 to 55% for those diagnosed during 2001-2007. The 5-year relative survival rate for ALL increased from 41% to 67% overall, and from 58% to 91% among children. In large part due to the discovery of the targeted cancer drug imatinib (Gleevec), the 5-year survival rate for CML increased from 31% for cases diagnosed during 1990-1992 to 55% for those diagnosed during 2001-2007.

Treatment: Chemotherapy is the most effective method of treating leukemia. Various anticancer drugs are used, either in combination or as single agents. Imatinib (Gleevec), nilotinib (Tasigna), and dasatinib (Sprycel) are very effective targeted drugs for the treatment of CML. These drugs are also sometimes used to treat a certain type of ALL. Some people with CLL may not need treatment right away, unless the leukemia is progressing or causing symptoms. Recent clinical trials have shown that adults with AML who are treated with twice the conventional dose of daunorubicin experience higher and more rapid rates of remission. Antibiotics and transfusions of blood components are used as supportive treatments. Under appropriate conditions, stem cell transplantation may be useful in treating certain types of leukemia.

Early detection: Leukemia can be difficult to diagnose early because symptoms often resemble those of other, less serious conditions. When a physician does suspect leukemia, diagnosis can be made using blood tests and a bone marrow biopsy.

Liver

New Cases: An estimated 28,720 new cases of liver cancer (including intrahepatic bile duct cancers) are expected to occur in the US during 2012. More than 80% of these cases are hepatocellular. Liver cancer has one of the highest rates of death of all cancers. In the United States, liver cancer is geographically localized and is most common in southern Japan and the Caribbean; infected individuals in the US tend to be descendants or immigrants from endemic regions.