



World CML Day 2018 9/22

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia patients across the globe unite to commemorate the 11th World CML Day 9/22 "Today, Together. Improving access"

- The entire Chronic Myeloid Leukemia community comes together every year on the 22nd September to raise awareness on this **rare haematological disease that represents 15-20% of all Leukemia in adults** and the needs of patients around the world.
- **Chronic Myeloid Leukemia patients have very different and diverse access to effective and safe treatment's worldwide** but the whole CML community call to have not just access to quality treatment but also access to correct monitoring, the quality of life, research and science, health care providers and patient communication as well as to patient education and advocacy.

On one day, 22 September 2018, **one community across the globe stands together to raise awareness** about one life-changing reality living with chronic myeloid Leukemia (CML). On World CML Day simultaneous events, publications and meetings are taking place on all continents. The global campaign is being coordinated by the CML Advocates Network, a patient-run network comprised of 119 patient advocacy groups in 89 countries.

Advances in treatment and care have transformed CML into a disease where patients if treated effectively, have the chance to live a normal and long life. **However, there are still huge challenges for patients with CML**, which also vary from region to region. These challenges, such as access to high-quality therapies and diagnostics, treatment according to expert recommendations, adherence to therapy, effective management of side effects and treatment-free remission and development of a cure can only be tackled in partnership between patients, healthcare providers and researchers.

"We see people dying of CML even though it's a biologically well-understood and a well-treatable disease with five different therapies on the market. But if you can't access testing, if you can't access the drugs, people are still dying from the disease. And so, access is a big issue. It's probably the biggest barrier that we have", said Jan Geissler, CML patient and co-founder of the CML Advocates Network.



TODAY, TOGETHER
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Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) is a myeloproliferative disease of the hematopoietic stem cell (HSC). In its natural history, CML is a tri-phasic disease, presenting predominantly in a chronic phase averaging around 5–7 years, but spanning from between a few months to over 20 years. Unless properly treated, the disease progresses through an ill-defined accelerated phase, which leads to transformation into an aggressive acute leukemia or blast crisis. CML has a relatively low incidence of approximately 1–1.5 new cases per 100,000 people per year.

However, its prevalence is on the increase due to the significant improvement in its treatment over the past 11 years, enabling patients with CML to achieve survival rates comparable to those of the age-matched healthy population. CML represents 15–20% of all leukemia in adults.

About World CML Day

CML results from a transformation of a stem cell caused in about 95% of CML patients by the change of chromosomes 9 and 22, which is why World CML Day (9/22) carries a symbolic significance for the patient community. This day was initiated in 2008 by the patient community to bring awareness about patients' needs to the general public, politicians, and medical professionals across the world.

CML patients UNITE across the globe for the 11th year in a row, whereby this year's campaign motto is: "TODAY, TOGETHER: Improving access".

Media contact

Celia Marín, CML Advocates Network

celia@lepaf.org

Tel: (+34) 637602579

More about World CML Day 2018 and the CML Advocates Network

<http://www.cmladvocates.net/>

<http://www.cmladvocates.net/world-cml-day-9-22>

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