

Title:

Practice Gaps and Barriers To Optimal Care Among Hematologists and Medical Oncologists Treating Patients With Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML), Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL), and B-Cell Lymphomas In The United States: Results Of a Two-Phase Qualitative/Quantitative Study

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Objectives:

This study was designed to quantify professional practice gaps and barriers to optimal care among hematologists and medical oncologists treating patients with CML, ALL, and B-cell lymphomas at academic medical centers and/or community cancer centers and clinics in the United States.

Key Points:

The results of this study suggest that a significant proportion of US hematology/oncology specialists are not applying optimal care for patients with CML, AML, and B-cell malignancies. Most notably, study participants did not adequately recognize that early molecular response to TKI therapy is significantly associated with long-term survival outcomes, which could impact clinical decisions for patients with chronic phase CML. The overuse of bone marrow cytogenetic analysis by community oncologists could impact the quality of life of patients with CML. Lack of familiarity with mechanisms of action of new agents under investigation in hematologic malignancies may lead to missed opportunities to enroll eligible patients on clinical trials, and could potentially delay integration of emerging clinical trial data and agents with new indications into clinical practice. These findings provide evidence to support the design of clinical tools, educational programs, and performance improvement interventions.