



# Ask the Expert: How Do Steroids Affect CLL Treatment Response?

**Michael Keating, MB, BS**

Professor of Medicine, Department of Leukemia  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

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**Andrew Schorr:**

Okay. Here's someone who wrote in and said I watched my broadcast from treatment, which I've done as I've been going through treatment with obinutuzumab (Gazyva) but for some cycles with high-dose steroids and his questions, and I know there's debate about this, is how do steroids affect response?

**Dr. Keating:**

Steroids have an impact in the depth of remission to a degree. There hasn't been a comparison made of the same regimen with and without corticosteroids. The studies that were done with steroids alone in the past show that they were marginally active and associated with an increased likelihood of getting infections, so that's the major issue that's around at the present time.

It doesn't appear that by themselves they're very good drugs in CLL, as opposed to lymphomas and acute lymphocytic leukemia.

**Andrew Schorr:**

So we're trying to figure out does combining them add a kick safely?

**Dr. Keating:**

It seemed to improve the cell killing in laboratories and probably clinically in combination with rituximab (Rituxan). I think it's unknown whether it's going to improve the response to obinutuzumab or Gazyva.

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