



# Multiple Pathways to Target CLL Cells: Combination Therapy Update

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**Jeff Folloder:**

Dr. Lamanna, we've talked about some of the tools in the toolbox, but one of the things that I read a lot about online, and I'm sure the audience is really interested in, is this whole idea of combination therapies. Taking bits and pieces of different treatments and combining them. What is going on with combination therapy?

**Dr. Lamanna:**

Yeah, so as you've heard, we went from really traditional chemo immunotherapy, and sort of non-specific, right?

So it targeted the leukemia cells but also targeted other immune effector cells, and your good cells, and now we worked from, to MABs, to now pathway inhibitors. So, now, you see that we're getting more and more targeted, and we're getting more and more directed at trying to kill the leukemia cells, without hurting your own immune system, and so, in doing so, we're looking for different ways, can we combine some of these agents together? Can we look at looking at more than one pathway to target, so we can inhibit the CLLs from either growing, or migrating, and impact the cells that sorta support them, in multiple ways? So can we effect the cancer cells, by targeting multiple pathways, that might affect, obviously increase the likelihood of killing these cells?

And so, you're seeing lots of strategies, that are looking at combining, whether it be a monoclonal antibody, plus one of these new oral agents, whether we can combine more than one of these oral agents, that are targeting the pathways differently, together.

That's what a lot of the clinical trials are looking at, how can we better impact the response that folks are—how can we kill more of these leukemia cells, but at the same time, obviously, be conscious of the fact that we don't wanna effect your immune system or hurt you in the process. So there are lots of different clinical trials, trying to look at these different avenues. Now that we're getting a lot more focus, we're understanding the biology about CLL a lot better, you see we're moving away from this sort of less specific killing of everything, to more targeted therapies. And impacting the leukemia, and hopefully improving the quality of life of our patients, and certainly the survival of our patients has improved.

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