

My name is Gary. I am a 50 year old man. I was diagnosed with **CLL** in 2000 and presented with slightly enlarged nodes and spleen, and a WBC of 20,000. Over a year or so my WBC went up only to around 30,000 and my counts remained in the normal range except platelets, which were on a downward trend, from around 150 at diagnosis, finally dropping to 100 in early 2003. At this time a BMB revealed a 90% infiltration, and nodes began to grow.

I had gone through three rounds of **Rituxan**. My goal was to **keep the less-toxic treatments as long as is possible before moving into the chemo area**. My immune system was very good, I have no B-symptoms, and I felt that avoiding chemo is certainly going to preserve those things, as long as that is possible.

During this time, my counts are all stable and pretty much normal with platelets now over 200 and holding well. However, **my nodes continue to return quickly**, in about 5 to 8 months each time. The Rituxan will completely take them down, yet they **return back within the 5-8 months**. My nodes were large, from pea size to grape size, with one or two almost golf ball size. I had no symptoms. My CBC just before Rituxan treatment was: WBC 7.5, RBC 4.96, HGB 15, HCT 45.3, Platelets 192.

In 2005, the FISH test shows that I have **11q and 13q deletion**, which probably explains the nodes that keep coming back too soon. I had always had a fairly indolent disease I thought, and this had come as quite a shock. The Rituxan still works very well (nodes go down to almost nothing, blood work is perfect and has been for the last almost two years since I have been **doing Rituxan every 6 to 8 months) but the nodes come back too quickly**.

I understood that the latest news was that Fluodarabin does not work well with people with an 11q deletion. My conventional oncologist was pushing to do RF or RFC immediately, but again, I did not think that was the solution. At that time, I heard Ellen Rhudy, a CLLer with 11q deletion, achieve a profound success with TCM..... My expectation on TCM was primarily to **keep the nodes in check between Rituxan treatments**. I was quite healthy and other than the nodes, no one would know anything was wrong with me.

I began Dr. Tian's CLL herbal formula from the December of 2004, and **my nodes stopped growing, and then they started to go down**. After that I had also been having some terrible gout like pain, most probably caused by Neupogen, so I had to **stop all medications including the CLL herbal formula** while I tried to get gout like pain under control and **the nodes began to grow again**. When I **went back on the herbs again, and the nodes were going back down again**. It was not done like an **experiment**, but nevertheless this seems to have been a **good demonstration** that the **Dr. Tian's herbs are certainly bringing the nodes down!**

In July of 2005, I had to go back to Rituxan again. The good news is that my last Rituxan "remission" while on the herbs **lasted nearly twice as long as the two before it**. That is good news and I think it shows **how well TCM and Rituxan can work together**.

My plan is to do only mild Rituxan and TCM for as long as this will keep the CLL under control. So I think the **Rituxan/TCM is the correct thing for me** now. I think the length of the "remission" tells us that

they are working very well together, and I hope that this time around I will have an even longer remission with the TCM because I have done both together from the beginning.

Gary Lapidès, October 4, 2005