

Understanding the Value of PCR Testing in the Management of CML, a Rare Blood Cancer¹

Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) is a slow-growing cancer of the blood and bone marrow.² The **Real-Time Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-Q-PCR or PCR)** is a very sensitive blood test which measures cancer cells in patients with CML.³ Current guidelines recommend patients receive a PCR test **every three months**.³

The most sensitive PCR tests can detect as few as **one single cancer cell in 1,000,000 cells**.³

A survey conducted by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) and Novartis found the majority of patients with CML and physicians have a reasonable understanding of the best way to manage this disease.

→ **However, PCR testing does not take place as often as guidelines recommend.**¹



100% agree PCR testing is an ideal test for monitoring CML



89% say PCR test results tell them they are **on track with their goals**



However, **35%** test their patients **once every 6 months** or less often. **60%** say the infrequency in testing is either because guidelines are unclear or because they believe testing 1-2 times a year is sufficient



1 in 3 patients are unaware of why the PCR test is needed and how often it should be performed



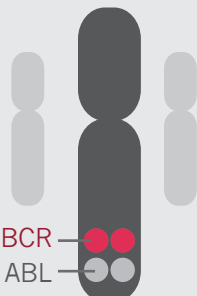
Almost 80% switched from one treatment to another based on PCR test results

While **73%** of patients say they proactively ask about PCR...

... only **18.5%** of physicians say their patients initiate these discussions¹

reinforcing the need for increased communication

ABOUT CML AND PCR TESTING



95% of patients with CML have a chromosomal abnormality called the **Philadelphia chromosome**²

This chromosome produces **BCR-ABL**, a gene that signals the bone marrow to continue making abnormal white blood cells²

The **PCR test measures levels of this gene** to precisely assess response to treatment³

WHO WAS INTERVIEWED¹



100 Physicians, including 62 Hematological Oncologists and 38 Medical Oncologists



75 CML patients who have lived with disease for seven years on average

¹ CML Molecular Testing Survey, GfK Roper, sponsored by Novartis Oncology (2014)

² National Cancer Institute. General Information About Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (PDQ). <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/pdq/treatment/CML/patient>. Accessed March 2015.

³ National CML Society: Monitoring and Tests. <http://www.nationalcmlsociety.org/living-cml/monitoring-tests>. Accessed March 2015.