

Physicians use staging systems to determine the progression of the disease at the time a patient is diagnosed. There are two primary staging systems used for CLL. The Rai staging system is used primarily in the United States and is based on five stages (0 to IV), although a simplified 3-stage system is also in place. The Binet staging system is used throughout most of the world, but less commonly in the United States. It is based on three stages (A to C). Enlarged liver (hepatomegaly) and enlarged spleen (splenomegaly) are not taken into account in the Binet system. The definition of anemia varies slightly between the two staging systems.

Words to know	Description
Lymphocytosis	a high lymphocyte (white blood cell) count- above 15,000*
Lymphadenopathy	enlarged lymph nodes due to the overproduction of white blood cells and/or the incapability of the body to eliminate white blood cells
Splenomegaly	enlarged spleen due to the overcrowding of white blood cells
Hepatomegaly	enlarged liver due to the overcrowding of white blood cells
Anemia	low red blood cell count- below 11,000* (Rai) or 10,000* (Binet); there are several reasons for the occurrence of anemia in CLL patients; e.g. CLL cells may produce antibodies that kill off the red blood cells, or the CLL cells may overcrowd the bone marrow so that there is no room available for red blood cells.
Thrombocytopenia	low platelet count - below 100,000*; this can occur due to low production of platelets in the bone marrow or an increased breakdown of platelets in the bloodstream, spleen or liver.

\*These numbers represent general guidelines and can vary. This information does not substitute information provided by your physician. Please consult your physician for further information.

Rai Stage	Simplified 3-Stage System	Clinical Features
0	Low Risk	Lymphocytosis in blood and marrow only
I	Intermediate Risk	Lymphocytosis + Lymphadenopathy
II		Lymphocytosis + Splenomegaly ± Hepatomegaly
III	High Risk	Lymphocytosis + Anemia
IV		Thrombocytopenia

Binet Stage	Risk	Clinical Features
A	Low	Lymphocytosis + fewer than three lymph node areas enlarged throughout the body
B	Intermediate	Lymphocytosis + more than three lymph node areas enlarged throughout the body
C	High	Lymphocytosis + anemia (red blood cell count of less than 10,000) and/or thrombocytopenia