



**Paper 16 - Allied Health**

**LEUKEMIA: THE CAUSE, SPREADING, AND HOW TO CONTROL**

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**ABSTRACT**

Leukemia is a kind of cancer in which abnormal white blood cells grow in an uncontrolled manner. Leukemia is a disease of the bone marrow and other blood forming organs. Consequently, leukemia also affects the production of red blood cells, which carry oxygen from the lungs throughout the body, and platelets, blood cells that help stop bleeding. Signs of Leukemia include repeated infection, anemia (a lack of functioning red blood cells), and frequent bleeding. The cause of most human Leukemia is unknown. Researchers have discovered a leukemia virus in cats, and they have identified a virus that appears to cause a rare type of leukemia in people. Other possible causes include exposure to radiation and harmful chemicals. Doctors classify leukemia according to the type of white blood cell affected. Two of the main blood cell types affected by Leukemia are Myeloid and Lymphoid. Myeloid cells fight bacterial infections. Lymphoid (or lymphocytic) cells detect and respond to the presence of foreign substances in the body. All kinds of leukemia can be either acute or chronic.

