

Ponatinib active in CML, ph+ acute lymphoblastic leukemia

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Image courtesy of Blausen Medical

hematologic and cytogenetic response rates were 41 and 47 percent, respectively, for those with Ph-positive ALL.

"In conclusion, ponatinib showed clinically significant activity in patients with CML and those with Ph-positive ALL," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies, including Ariad Pharmaceuticals, which manufactures ponatinib and funded the study.

More information: [Abstract](#)

[Full Text](#)

(HealthDay)—Ponatinib is active in chronic myeloid leukemia (CML) and Philadelphia chromosome-positive acute lymphoblastic leukemia (Ph-positive ALL), according to a study published online Nov. 1 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

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Jorge E. Cortes, M.D., from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, and colleagues conducted a phase 2 trial of ponatinib (45 mg once daily) in 449 heavily pretreated [patients](#) with CML or Ph-positive ALL with resistance to or unacceptable side effects from dasatinib or nilotinib, or with the BCR-ABL T315I mutation. Patients were followed for a median of 15 months.

The researchers found that of the 267 patients with chronic-phase CML, 56, 46, and 34 percent, respectively, had a major cytogenetic response, a complete cytogenetic response, and a major molecular response. Responses were durable (estimated rate of sustained major cytogenetic response of at least 12 months, 91 percent) and were seen regardless of the baseline BCR-ABL kinase domain mutation status. Among 83 patients with accelerated-phase CML, 55 and 39 percent, respectively, had a major hematologic and major cytogenetic response, while among the 62 patients with blast phase CML, the response rates were 31 and 23 percent, respectively. The major

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