

Management of a Child with Blood Cancer and Social issues

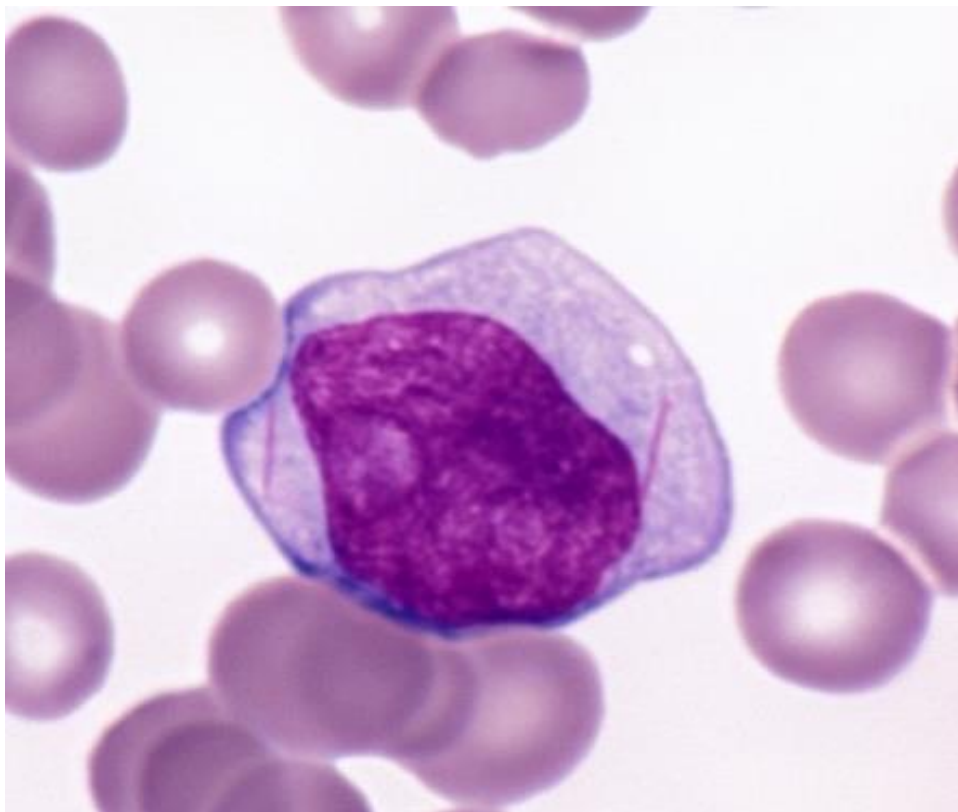
Educating the Parents and Practitioners

by

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Introduction

Blood cancer (Leukemia) was identified as a definable disease in 1845 by 2 independent observers. John Hughes Bennet, Lecturer in Clinical Medicine and Pathologist at the Royal infirmary in Edinburgh, published his observation in Edinburgh Medical Journal in October 1845, a month before Rudolph Virchow, then a demonstrator in pathological anatomy at the Charite hospital in Berlin published his findings in November 1845. The outstanding characteristics at post - mortem in these bodies were enlargement of the spleen and the appearance of the blood as a yellowish – white, almost greenish material. In 1847 Virchow used the name “Leukemia”, a Greek word for white blood, and Bennett in 1851 named the disease “leucocythaemia”. However it is unlikely that the disease was new in 1845 for there had been earlier reports of what were described as peculiar conditions of the blood with some symptoms compatible with those of leukaemia described some years later.

The microscope in the beginning was a crude instrument and it was remarkable that the disease was recognised for, apart from its rarity, the common diseases and the constant epidemics of infectious diseases allied to the poor social conditions of the last century would have demanded much more attention. Slowly, reports of suspected actual cases of leukaemia began to appear in the literature. These were the first observations on the distribution

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