

Multiple myeloma

under the spotlight

Multiple myeloma affects thousands of people in the UK every year.¹

Multiple myeloma is a form of blood cancer that arises from plasma cells, a type of white blood cell found in the bone marrow.¹

Cancerous cells grow uncontrollably and build up in the bone marrow, crowding out normal cells, causing most of the complications and symptoms associated with myeloma.¹

Multiple myeloma is a progressive and incurable disease, but access to effective treatments can help a person live longer, reduce their symptoms and improve their overall quality of life.^{1,2}

Signs and symptoms



Persistent bone pain¹



Bone fractures usually in the spine and the ribs¹



Persistent fatigue¹



More susceptible to infection¹



Shortness of breath¹

Multiple myeloma is a relapsing-remitting cancer. Sometimes it is active and the symptoms require treatment. Other times there are no symptoms and no treatment is required.¹

Approximately

5,800 PEOPLE

in the UK are diagnosed with multiple myeloma each year, equivalent to 15 people each day.⁴

Multiple myeloma makes up

15%

of blood cancers and approximately 2% of all cancers.¹

There are approximately

3,000

MULTIPLE MYELOMA DEATHS IN THE UK each year, with half of patients not living beyond five years from diagnosis.⁴

Multiple myeloma mainly affects

PEOPLE AGED 65

and over, however it has been diagnosed

IN PEOPLE AS YOUNG AS 20¹

Multiple myeloma is projected to rise in prevalence by 11% in the UK between 2014 and 2035.⁴

There is an urgent need for new treatments for people whose cancer has returned or no longer respond to current treatments.^{2,5}



Relapsed (or recurrent) multiple myeloma is the term for when the cancer returns after treatment or a period of remission. Since multiple myeloma does not have a cure, most patients will relapse at some point.^{3,5}



Refractory multiple myeloma is when a patient develops resistance to treatment and the myeloma fails to respond to, or no longer responds to, therapy.⁵