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Canadian cancer doctor here

AIN SHAMS, Cairo and Alexandria universities' hospitals, in collaboration with the National Cancer Institute as well as one of the pharmaceutical companies, hosted Dr Pierre Laneuville, Professor of Oncology at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, to discuss Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML).

Dr Laneuville stressed that promising data showed that CML could be turned from a fatal disease into potentially curable one. CML represents around 15 per cent of leukaemia cases.

"CML incidence rates fluctuate between 1.5 and 2 per 100,000 people annually, but the good news is that treatment has witnessed significant developments over the past three years," said Dr Mohamed Azzazy, Professor of Internal Medicine and Haematology at Ain Shams University.

Dr Mervat Mattar, Professor of Haematology at Cairo University, noted: "The world has witnessed substantial advances in the treatment of certain types of cancer, with cure rates exceeding 94 per cent every year and mortality rates falling below two per cent, compared to five years ago." She added that the number of CML patients undergoing bone marrow transplants has dropped from 34 per cent to under three per cent over the same period.

The radical change in treatments came with the discovery of first-generation targeted therapies, she added, followed by the subsequent development of second-generation therapies. These represented a quantum leap in leukaemia treatment and improving patient survival rates up to 90 per cent. Treatment adherence and ongoing follow-up also contribute to rapid improvement, she stated, helping patients avoid hospital stays.