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As part of World CML Day celebrations, new generation of drugs helps patients live normal lives, reduces number of hospital stays

The "Power of CML" CML patient support group and the Shabab Forsan charitable organisation joined forces to celebrate World Chronic Myeloid Leukemia (CML) Day.

This particular date of 22 September has been chosen to highlight the fact that CML is a result of the formation of the Philadelphia chromosome, which is caused by abnormalities in chromosomes 9 and 22 and to raise awareness of the dangers posed by this disease.

"Chronic leukemia patients suffered greatly from the absence of effective drugs until 2000, with bone marrow transplants as their only option up to that point, despite their limited success rate, and the resulting increase in mortality rates," Dr. Mervat Matar,

Professor of Hematology at the Cairo University Faculty of Medicine said.

"New drugs were then introduced, with the first offering patients hope for treatment, and the second generation representing a quantum leap in the history of leukemia treatment. Studies have shown that the second generation of drugs has improved survival rates by up to 90% and reduced the need for hospital and intensive care stays, with improvements occurring rapidly where patients adhered to medication schedule and follow-up guidelines," she said.

"Research has also demonstrated that these new generations of drugs do not adversely affect patients, which encourages them to continue with their therapies," Dr. Matar added.