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PUBLICATION:	Daily News
DATE:	1-April-2015
COUNTRY:	Egypt
CIRCULATION:	10,000
TITLE :	The Second Annual Egyptian Hemato-Oncology group EHOg Conference
PAGE:	08
ARTICLE TYPE:	Agency Generated News
REPORTER:	Staff Report
AVE:	5,060

The Second Annual Egyptian Hemato- Oncology Group EHOg Conference

Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) - from fatal to curable disease

*The number of CML patients re-
quiring bone marrow transplants
has dropped from 34% to less
than 3% in the last 5 years*

The second annual Egyptian Hemato-Oncology Group EHOg conference discussed latest advances in the diagnosis and treatment of leukaemia with a focus on the treatment of Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia (CML) - which affects bone marrow hematopoietic cells - after the appearance of the second generation of targeted treatments. It was attended by renowned haematology experts, including Dr Hossam Kamel, Professor of Haematology at the National Cancer Institute and former Cairo University President, recently bestowed with the nation's discretionary award for advanced technological sciences in the field of medicine, crowning his achievements and services to the university, with a special emphasis on his scientific research in the areas of bone marrow transplants and stem cells.

"CML is a malignant disease which affects bone marrow hematopoietic cells, then spreading to the blood and potentially reaching other parts of the body. The annual incidence rate for is around 1.5% in every 100,000 people, with an average patient age of 40," said Dr Ashraf El-Ghandour, Professor of Haematology and Vice of Dean of the Alexandria University Faculty of Medicine.

Dr Kamel added: "The last 50 years have witnessed a remarkable transformation in the treatment of CML - where in the past it was only treated using bone marrow surgery, now it is completely curable using targeted treatments."

He explained that CML results from a mutation in a single gene, BCR-ABL, which leads to the production of the tyrosine kinase protein. This makes it simple for targeted treatments to target this gene only, whereas other diseases are a result of multiple gene mutations, lowering the chances of a cure.