

Mayo Clinic Minute: New approaches bring progress in treating multiple myeloma (VIDEO)

VIDEO	AUDIO
<i>Anchor intro</i>	Multiple myeloma is the second-most common blood cancer, and the risk is higher among men, Black Americans and people with a family history of the disease. While multiple myeloma is not considered curable, advances in treatment may offer better prognoses. A Mayo Clinic hematologist and oncologist explains how new therapies and ongoing research are changing the outlook for people with the disease. Alex Osiadacz (oh-SIGH-duss) has more in this Mayo Clinic Minute.
	Multiple myeloma (my-a-LOW-ma) is a cancer that forms in a type of blood cell called a plasma cell that builds up in bone marrow.
SIKANDER AILAWADHI, M.D. HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	"When plasma cells multiply and just crowd up the bone marrow, they can produce certain abnormal proteins."
	Damage caused by multiple myeloma can lead to anemia, weakened bones, frequent infections and kidney failure.
SIKANDER AILAWADHI, M.D. HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	"Treatment for multiple myeloma has come a long way. While historically, there were just chemotherapies. Now, the focus of treatment is targeted therapies, which are frequently involving the body's own immune system to try and target the cancer in a way that is safer and has a more sustained effect on the disease."
	This includes bone marrow transplant novel immunotherapy agents and chimeric (ky-MEER-ick) antigen receptor-T cell therapy, also known as CAR-T cell therapy. Dr. Ailawadhi says research is ongoing to better predict who may be at risk for multiple myeloma and to develop new treatments.
SIKANDER AILAWADHI, M.D. HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY Mayo Clinic	"We expect that over the next five, seven, 10 years, we will see many, many more drugs, novel combinations, newer mechanisms of actions that will be approved for this disease."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Alex Osiadacz.