Blood cells found in the bone marrow called Hematopoietic Stem Cells develop into all other types of blood cells in the body. A subset of white blood cells, called plasma cells, produce antibodies that usually aid the immune system to fight off invading organisms.

Healthy Bone Marrow

Bone marrow in multiple myeloma, cancerous plasma cells grow uncontrollably and overcrowd the bone marrow. This affects the development of new, healthy blood cells, which leads to the decline of immune function, and can also lead to destruction of the bone.

Bone Marrow in Multiple Myeloma

Multiple Myeloma

A CLOSER LOOK AT

Multiple myeloma is a progressive blood cancer that originates in the bone marrow. It occurs when specific types of white blood cells, called plasma cells, become cancerous and multiply uncontrollably, overcrowding the bone marrow.

Global Yearly Estimated Incidence of Multiple Myeloma in Adults

Global 1-Year Prevalence (per 100,000)

In the United States

Multiple myeloma is a largely incurable disease with fewer than half of patients surviving five years after diagnosis.

Relapse Is a Critical Issue

For some patients, the disease course of multiple myeloma is characterized by a pattern of remission and relapse. Some patients may relapse several times throughout the course of their disease.

Common Multiple Myeloma Signs and Symptoms:

Multiple Myeloma Resources:

There are many resources to help patients and caregivers learn more about the disease and connect with others living with multiple myeloma.

American Cancer Society: www.cancer.org
American Society of Clinical Oncology: www.asco.org
Cancer Care: www.cancerCare.org
Cancer Research Network: www.cancerresearchnetwork.org
International Myeloma Foundation: www.myeloma.org
Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation: www.mmmfoundation.org

Current Treatments for Multiple Myeloma:

Chemotherapy
Radiation
Bisphosphonates
Surgery
Stem Cell Transplant