



Background:
 The financial impact of cancer is well documented. In the “Cancer’s Hidden Price Tag” report commissioned by UK cancer charity Macmillan, it was found that 83% of patients are affected and, on average, are £570 a month worse off because of a cancer diagnosis. The report identified that those in work at the time of diagnosis experience the highest financial burden. NHS England’s 2016 Cancer Patient Experience Survey (CPES) asked if hospital staff gave information about how to get financial help they might be entitled to; only 61% of leukaemia patients who would have liked this type of information were given it.

Methods:
 The survey asked questions relating to all aspects of a patient’s journey following an acute leukaemia diagnosis. The survey was available to complete as a paper questionnaire or via an online link. The data was analysed to find areas of common experience. Finances and the impact on work or education emerged as key concerns for acute leukaemia patients.

Leukaemia type	# of respondents
ALL	147
AML	461
TOTAL	608

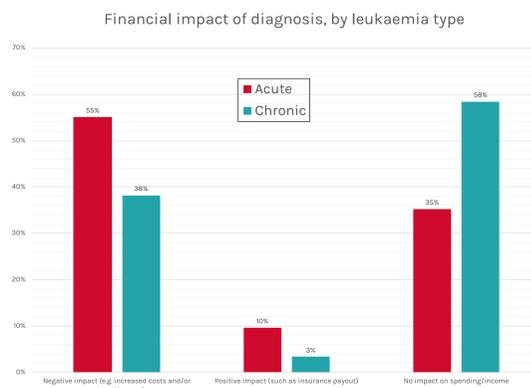
The AML cohort includes 18 acute promyelocytic leukaemia (APL) patients. 49% of respondents were male and 51% were female, and 99% were from the UK.

Aims:
 Leukaemia Care surveyed acute leukaemia patients, to identify key concerns and issues faced throughout their cancer journey, including the financial impact.

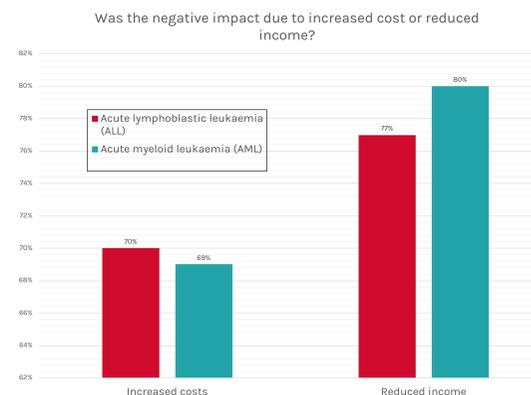
Summary/conclusion:
 Most acute leukaemia patients report experiencing financial issues and often must give up work, either permanently or temporarily, which could also impact on their financial situation for years to come. Not all patients are receiving information to help them find financial assistance. The support and advice given by hospitals about the financial impact

of leukaemia needs to improve, incorporating signposting to specialised financial support. In addition, further work could be done to determine whether the patients who do seek assistance get help that is adequate for their needs. Financial worries are an additional stress for cancer patients that need to be addressed by charitable organisations and policy makers alike.

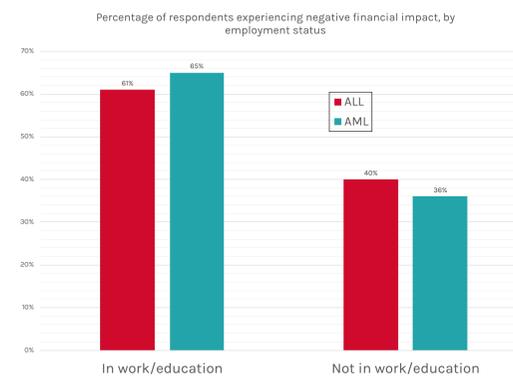
Results:
 A majority (55%) of acute leukaemia patients reported a negative impact on their finances.



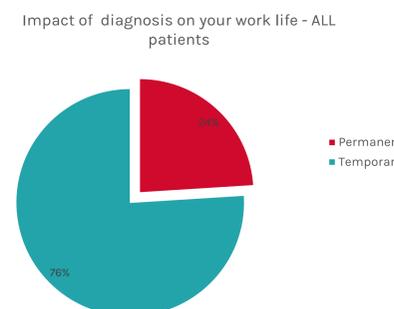
The negative financial impact was associated with both an increase in costs and a reduction in income.



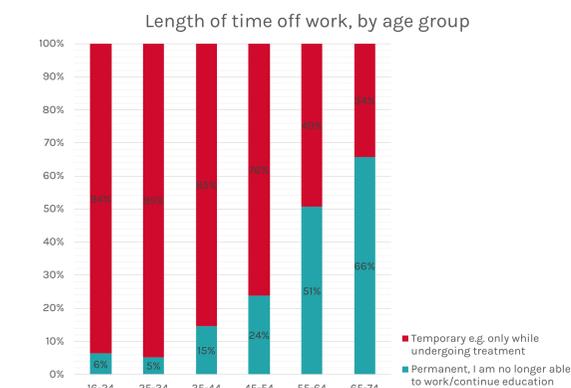
Most patients (64% AML and 76% ALL) were in work or education at the time of their diagnosis. Those in work or education were more likely to report a negative financial impact.



Of those in work or education, 65% of ALL patients and 75% of AML patients reported having to stop work or education either permanently or on a temporary basis.



All age groups report an impact on their work or education, but as age increases the impact is more likely to be permanent.



This could reflect the fact that people are closer to retirement, so they may only have to take a couple of years off work for this to become a permanent change.

Patients often need help directing to sources for financial assistance and information. Whilst a high proportion of patients receive information about their leukaemia, fewer patients receive practical information, such as guidance on managing the financial impact of acute leukaemia.

