

# Multiple myeloma

## under the spotlight

### Multiple myeloma affects thousands of people in the UK every year.<sup>1</sup>

Multiple myeloma is a form of blood cancer that arises from plasma cells, a type of white blood cell found in the bone marrow.<sup>1</sup>

Cancerous cells grow uncontrollably and build up in the bone marrow, crowding out normal cells, causing most of the complications and symptoms associated with myeloma.<sup>1</sup>

Multiple myeloma is a progressive and incurable disease, but access to effective treatments can help a person live longer, reduce their symptoms and improve their overall quality of life.<sup>1,2</sup>

#### Signs and symptoms



Persistent bone pain<sup>1</sup>



Bone fractures usually in the spine and the ribs<sup>1</sup>



Persistent fatigue<sup>1</sup>



More susceptible to infection<sup>1</sup>



Shortness of breath<sup>1</sup>

Multiple myeloma is a relapsing-remitting cancer. Sometimes it is active and the symptoms require treatment. Other times there are no symptoms and no treatment is required.<sup>1</sup>

Approximately

**5,800 PEOPLE**

in the UK are diagnosed with multiple myeloma each year, equivalent to 15 people each day.<sup>4</sup>

Multiple myeloma makes up

**15%**

of blood cancers and approximately 2% of all cancers.<sup>1</sup>

There are approximately

**3,000 MULTIPLE MYELOMA DEATHS IN THE UK**

each year, with half of patients not living beyond five years from diagnosis.<sup>4</sup>

Multiple myeloma mainly affects

**PEOPLE AGED 65**

and over, however it

has been diagnosed

**IN PEOPLE AS YOUNG AS 20**<sup>1</sup>

Multiple myeloma is projected to rise in prevalence by 11% in the UK between 2014 and 2035.<sup>4</sup>

There is an urgent need for new treatments for people whose cancer has returned or no longer respond to current treatments.<sup>2,5</sup>



**Relapsed (or recurrent) multiple myeloma** is the term for when the cancer returns after treatment or a period of remission. Since multiple myeloma does not have a cure, most patients will relapse at some point.<sup>3,5</sup>



**Refractory multiple myeloma** is when a patient develops resistance to treatment and the myeloma fails to respond to, or no longer responds to, therapy.<sup>5</sup>