

Other subspecialties of internal medicine

Our focus on blood is similar to the focus of other internal medicine subspecialties concerned with specific organs or conditions and diseases. Other subspecialties include gastroenterology (digestive tract), cardiology (heart), pulmonology (lungs), nephrology (kidneys), rheumatology (arthritis), endocrinology (diabetes and other glandular disorders), hepatology (liver), oncology (cancer), infectious diseases, allergy and immunology, sports medicine, geriatrics, and adolescent medicine.



Clearing up some confusion

We doctors of internal medicine are also known as “internists.”

This should not be confused with “interns,” who are doctors in their first year of training after medical school.

Nor are we the same as “general practitioners” (GPs), or “family physicians” (FPs), whose practices may include surgery, obstetrics and pediatrics, and whose training is not solely concentrated on adults.

A public education publication from the
American College of Physicians —
American Society of Internal Medicine
(ACP—ASIM)*
representing

115,000 doctors of internal medicine and medical students.

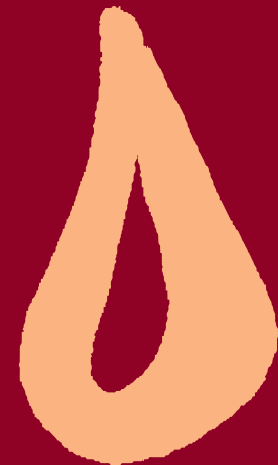
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*With support from the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation. 700100900

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H E M A T O L O G Y
INTERNAL MEDICINE
DOCTORS FOR ADULTS™

Your Internist is a Hematologist



We specialize in blood

Hematology is the subspecialty of internal medicine concerned with disorders of the blood, bone marrow and lymphatic systems. These include anemias, disorders of white blood cells or platelets, aplastic anemia and other bone marrow failures, abnormal clotting and bleeding, Hodgkin's disease and blood malignancies such as leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma, hairy cell leukemia and related problems.

We hematologists must first complete seven or more years of medical school and postgraduate training and attain Board Certification in Internal Medicine. Then, for an additional two years, we study a broad range of hematological disorders — malignant and non-malignant.

What we do

As internists and hematologists, we are called in for cases of suspected blood disorders when the diagnosis is unclear or specialized medical care is needed.

We coordinate total patient care, working, where needed, with surgeons, radiation therapists, gynecologists or other specialists.

When you need a hematologist

Not everyone with a blood problem needs a hematologist. Many blood problems are diagnosed and managed by general internists. When special knowledge in diagnosis and treatment is required, our skills are called upon. These include therapeutic phlebotomy, bone marrow aspiration, core bone marrow biopsy, and chemotherapy or other special therapy.

How we work with your primary care physician

In most cases, you will still need an internist or another primary care physician for non-hematology-related medical care, although some hematologists maintain a general internal medicine practice as well as their subspecialty.

If you have been referred by your primary care physician to a hematologist, in most cases you will go back to your primary care physician for follow-up care. If you require continuing care for hematology related conditions, your primary care physician and your hematologist, working together, will recommend which physician you should see.

If you have questions about which physician to see, be sure to ask.

