

What is tumor lysis syndrome (TLS) and how is it treated?



TLS can occur in people receiving treatment for cancer, including blood cancers

When cancer cells are destroyed, they release substances into the blood that are usually removed by the kidneys. Some cancer treatments destroy cancer cells very rapidly and release too much of these substances for the kidneys to remove.

This can lead to TLS, a very serious problem that needs to be treated right away. TLS is associated with changes in blood levels that include too little calcium or too much phosphate, potassium, and uric acid. These changes in blood levels can damage the kidneys and cause heart problems. If TLS occurs, it is usually at the start of cancer treatment, most often within 1 to 3 days.

TLS can be prevented through treatment. Your healthcare team may monitor you for risk of TLS and take certain measures to help prevent TLS from occurring.



Preventing TLS

To help prevent TLS before it happens, your healthcare team may administer fluids through an intravenous (IV) infusion. This is usually done 24 to 48 hours before treatment, or as directed by your healthcare team.

Your healthcare team may also give you medicine that controls the level of uric acid in your body. These medicines can be given to help prevent TLS from happening, or to treat TLS after it has occurred. These medicines can stop the body from making new uric acid and also clear uric acid that is already in the body.



Symptoms of TLS

Contact a member of your healthcare team as soon as possible if you experience any of the following symptoms. These symptoms may be a sign of abnormal blood levels associated with TLS:

- Nausea with or without vomiting
- Lack of appetite and fatigue
- Dark urine or reduced urine output
- Numbness, seizures, or hallucinations
- Muscle cramps and spasms
- Heart palpitations

My 24-hour emergency contact:

Contact name: _____

Contact number: _____



Ask your healthcare team

Am I at risk for TLS?

What can be done to manage my risk before TLS happens?