



# Can Tests Reveal a CLL Patient's Potential for Developing Treatment Resistance?

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**Andrew Schorr:**

Theresa wrote in, she said, my husband is being treated with acalabrutinib (Calquence) for five months. He's doing well, but should he have some sort of testing to know whether he will develop some sort of resistance in the future?

**Dr. Furman:**

So that's a very important question, and the answer really is, you know, testing for it now isn't going to be able to change anything. Right now we would still continue the acalabrutinib until we see signs of clinical progression. There's some early data emerging from Ohio State where they're doing PCR testing on all the peripheral blood of patients, on the peripheral blood of all patients to see whether or not they can detect any of these mutations that lead to resistance. The problem is you're still going to continue the treatment until you see the clinical relapse.

And, two, is you really—you know, in essence when you look at the data that suggests that 92 percent of patients who get ibrutinib (Imbruvica) as a first-line therapy will remain in remission at five years you're talking about treating--or testing a lot of people for very, very few people that will likely benefit.

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