To the Editor:

The opening sentence of the report by Ozer et al (Blood 82:2975, 1993) quotes Minot et al as saying in 1924 that the median survival from diagnosis of chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) was 3 months. This must be an error, as is the implication that Minot et al were the first to describe CML. What the Minot report actually says is "the average duration of life of the non-irradiated patients was 0.46 years less than the irradiated patients, the average length of the disease being 3.50 years for the treated patients, and 3.04 years for the control series". Thus, there has been little prolongation of life in the subsequent 50 years. Some evidence suggests that the median survival from diagnosis of CML to death is today nearer to 5 years. If true, this may reflect earlier diagnosis, reduced use of busulfan in favor of hydroxyurea, or other undefined factors.

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REFERENCES

Survival in chronic myelogenous leukemia [letter; comment]

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