

ASCO ANSWERS

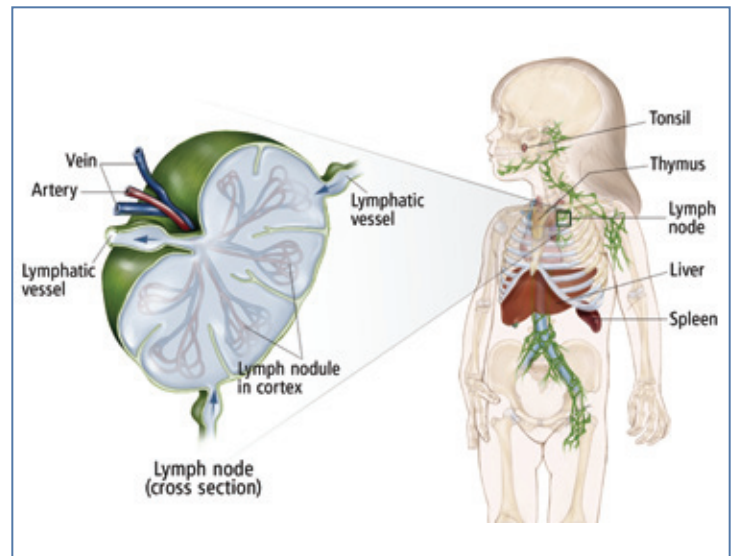
HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

WHAT IS HODGKIN LYMPHOMA?

Hodgkin lymphoma, previously called Hodgkin's disease, is a cancer of the lymphatic system in which lymphatic cells begin to change, grow abnormally, and form tumors. There are two main subtypes of Hodgkin lymphoma: classical and nodular lymphocyte predominant. There are four subtypes of classical: nodular sclerosing, mixed cellularity, lymphocyte rich, and lymphocyte depleted. Hodgkin lymphoma has a childhood form that most commonly occurs in children aged 14 or younger and a young adult form that occurs in adolescents and young adults aged 15 to 34.

WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM?

The lymphatic system consists of thin tubes that branch out to all parts of the body to carry lymph, a clear fluid containing lymphocytes (white blood cells). The lymphatic system is an important part of the immune system that fights infection and disease. Hodgkin lymphoma commonly affects the lymph nodes in the neck or the area between the lungs and behind the breastbone. The cancer can spread outside the lymphatic system, most often to the spleen, lungs, bones, bone marrow, and liver.



Find additional cancer information at www.cancer.net.

WHAT DOES STAGE MEAN?

The stage is a way of describing a cancer, such as where it is located, if or where it has spread, and whether it is affecting the functions of other organs in the body. There are four stages for Hodgkin lymphoma: stages I through IV (one through four). More information is available at www.cancer.net/childhodgkin.

HOW IS HODGKIN LYMPHOMA TREATED?

The amount and type of treatment depends on the number of involved lymph nodes (areas of cancer) and how large the lymph nodes have grown. Combinations of chemotherapy are used to treat Hodgkin lymphoma. Children and adolescents with later-stage disease or masses of lymph nodes may receive radiation therapy in addition to chemotherapy.

When making treatment decisions, consider a clinical trial; most children with cancer are treated as part of one. Talk with your child's doctor about all treatment options. The side effects of Hodgkin lymphoma treatment can often be prevented or managed with the help of your child's health care team.

HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD OR TEEN COPE WITH HODGKIN LYMPHOMA?

Helping your child or teenager understand a cancer diagnosis is a key part of the coping process. Children and adolescents with cancer should be treated at a pediatric cancer center. These centers not only provide access to the latest treatments, they offer age-appropriate programs for social and emotional needs. Encouraging your child and other family members to share their emotions can be helpful in managing the diagnosis, treatment, and healing process.

QUESTIONS TO ASK THE DOCTOR

Regular communication is important in making informed decisions about your child's health care. Consider asking the following questions of your child's doctors:

- What type of Hodgkin lymphoma has been diagnosed?
- What stage and risk group is the disease? What does this mean?
- Can you explain my child's pathology report (laboratory test results) to me?
- Would you explain my child's treatment options?
- What clinical trials are open to my child?
- What treatment plan do you recommend for my child? Why?
- Who is part of the treatment team, and what does each member do?
- How will this treatment affect my child's daily life? Will he or she be able to go to school and perform his or her usual activities?
- If I'm worried about managing the costs related to my child's cancer care, who can help me with these concerns?
- What short-term and long-term side effects may be associated with my child's cancer treatment?



Learn more
about Hodgkin
lymphoma

- What follow-up tests will my child need, and how often will he or she need them?
- Where can I find emotional support for my child? For my family?
- Whom do I call for questions or problems?
- Is there anything else I should be asking?

Additional questions to ask the doctor can be found at www.cancer.net/childhodgkin.

Cancer.Net™

Doctor-Approved Patient Information from ASCO®

For more information, visit ASCO's patient website, www.cancer.net, or call 888-651-3038.

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TERMS TO KNOW

Bone marrow biopsy:

Removal and analysis of a bone marrow sample from the center of the bones

Chemotherapy:

The use of drugs to destroy cancer cells

Clinical trial:

A research study that tests a new treatment or drug

Hematologist:

A doctor who specializes in treating blood disorders

Lymph node:

A tiny, bean-shaped organ that fights infection

Metastasis:

The spread of cancer from where the cancer began to another part of the body

Pediatric oncologist:

A doctor who specializes in treating children and teens with cancer

Prognosis:

Chance of recovery

Radiation therapy:

The use of high-energy x-rays to destroy cancer cells

Stem cell transplant:

Procedure that replaces diseased bone marrow with healthy stem cells that create new bone marrow or provides stem cells to help the bone marrow recover after high-dose chemotherapy

Tumor:

An abnormal growth of body tissue