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## Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin - Childhood - Symptoms and Signs [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 06/2014

**ON THIS PAGE:** You will find out more about body changes and other things that can signal a problem that may need medical care. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Children with NHL may experience the following symptoms or signs. Sometimes, children with NHL do not show any of these symptoms. Or, these symptoms may be caused by a medical condition that is not cancer. The symptoms of NHL may vary depending on where the cancer starts and what organ is involved.

General symptoms may include:

- Swelling or lumps in the lymph nodes located in the abdomen, groin, neck, or underarm. Swollen lymph nodes may join together to form a mass or tumor.
- Fever that is not associated with an illness
- Unexplained weight loss
- Sweating and chills
- Extreme fatigue (tiredness)

Symptoms related to tumor location may include:

- A swollen belly, caused by a large tumor in the abdomen
- Painful urination and bowel movements, caused by fluid build-up and a tumor around the kidneys and intestines
- Difficulty breathing, caused by a tumor in the chest (mediastinum) near the windpipe

A serious symptom of NHL is [superior vena cava syndrome](#) [3] (SVCS). In SVCS, a tumor in the chest behind the breastbone blocks the flow of blood in the vein that carries blood from the head and arms to the heart. This causes the head and arms to swell. SVCS is life-threatening and requires emergency medical attention.

If you are concerned about one or more of the symptoms or signs on this list, please talk with

your child's doctor. The doctor will ask how long and how often your child has been experiencing the symptom(s), in addition to other questions. This is to help find out the cause of the problem, called a diagnosis [4].

If cancer is diagnosed, relieving symptoms remains an important part of cancer care and treatment. This may also be called symptom management, palliative care, or supportive care. Be sure to talk with your child's health care team about symptoms your child experiences, including any new symptoms or a change in symptoms.

*The next section helps explain what tests and scans may be needed to learn more about the cause of the symptoms. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Diagnosis, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.*

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**Links:**

[1] <http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lymphoma-non-hodgkin-childhood/symptoms-and-signs>

[2] <http://www.cancer.net/about-us>

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/25059>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19198>