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Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin - Childhood - Latest Research [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the Cancer.Net Editorial Board [2], 09/2012

ON THIS PAGE: You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about this type of cancer and how to treat it. To see other pages, use the menu on the side of your screen.

Doctors are working to learn more about childhood NHL, ways to prevent it, how to best treat it, and how to provide the best care to people diagnosed with this disease. The following areas of research may include new options for patients through clinical trials [3]. Always talk with your child?s doctor about the diagnostic and treatment options best for your child.

Genetics. One of the most important areas of research involves learning more about the genetic predisposition to developing childhood NHL and about how well genetic subtypes will respond to different treatment.

Immunotherapy. As explained in the Treatment [4]section, immunotherapy (also called biologic therapy) is designed to boost the body?s natural defenses to fight the cancer. Research for NHL is investigating the use of monoclonal antibodies designed to kill lymphoma cells that make a specific protein and spare normal cells from the toxic effects of chemotherapy.

Targeted therapy. Targeted therapy is a treatment that targets the cancer?s specific genes, proteins, or the tissue environment that contributes to cancer growth and survival. For NHL, researchers are investigating specific drugs that affect the normal regulation of the lymphoma cell, while having little effect on normal cells. Learn more about targeted treatments [5].

Expanded use of transplantation. Other research involves reduced intensity conditioning therapy (lower doses of chemotherapy and radiation therapy, aiming to reduce complications following a transplantation) followed by allogeneic stem cell transplantation [6] for patients with recurrent childhood NHL.

Supportive care. Clinical trials are underway to find better ways of reducing symptoms and side effects of current NHL treatments in order to improve patients? comfort and quality of life.

Learn more about common statistical terms used in cancer research [7].

Looking for More about Current Research?

If you would like additional information about the latest areas of research regarding NHL, explore these related items:

- To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your child?s doctor or search online clinical trial databases now [8].
- Read ASCO?s latest *Clinical Cancer Advances* report [9], which highlights top research findings over the past year.
- Visit ASCO?s *CancerProgress.Net* [10] website to learn more about the historical pace of research for childhood cancer.

The next section addresses how to cope with the symptoms of the disease or the side effects of its treatment. Use the menu on the side of your screen to select Coping with Side Effects, or you can select another section, to continue reading this guide.

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/lymphoma-non-hodgkin-childhood/latest-research
[2] http://www.cancer.net/about-us
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/24863
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/19200
[5] http://www.cancer.net/node/24729
[6] http://www.cancer.net/node/24717
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[8] http://www.cancer.net/node/24878
[9] http://www.cancer.net/node/8
[10] http://www.cancerprogress.net