

Lymphoma - Non-Hodgkin - Latest Research [1]

This section has been reviewed and approved by the [Cancer.Net Editorial Board](#) [2], 11/2014

ON THIS PAGE: You will read about the scientific research being done now to learn more about NHL 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 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. Always talk with your doctor about the diagnostic and treatment options best for you.

Gene profiling. As scientists learn more about the genetics and the specific role that gene changes, called mutations, have in the development of cancer, they are better able to classify and diagnose [subtypes of NHL](#) [3]. These gene profiling methods can help estimate the prognosis for patients with certain types of lymphoma, and they are used primarily in lymphoma research. However, in the next few years, it is likely that treatments will be designed to target specific genetic changes and counteract their effects.

Immunotherapy [4]. As explained in the [Treatment Options](#) [5] section, researchers are developing many new antibodies that boost the body's natural defenses against cancer. Some attach to the surface of tumor cells, while others have radioactive substances or chemotherapy attached to them and can deliver treatment directly to lymphoma cells. There is also exciting research to re-engineer normal (not cancerous) T-cells to recognize and eliminate lymphoma cells.

Targeted therapies [6]. Targeted therapy is a treatment that targets the cancer's specific genes, proteins, or the tissue environment that contributes to the cancer's growth and survival. This type of treatment blocks the growth and spread of cancer cells while limiting damage to healthy cells. There are many targeted treatments for lymphoma in early clinical trials and being studied in laboratories, including BCL-2 inhibitors and aurora kinase inhibitors.

Vaccines [7]. Several therapeutic vaccines have been studied in clinical trials, mostly for indolent lymphoma. See the [Subtypes](#) [3] section for a description of this type of NHL. These vaccines are not meant to prevent lymphoma but to lower the chance that a lymphoma will come back after treatment with chemotherapy or antibody therapy. So far, results from vaccine studies have not shown better results than other treatments, but research to improve vaccines is ongoing.

Other drug studies. Different combinations of chemotherapy and different chemotherapy schedules, sometimes including antibodies or radiolabeled antibodies, are being studied in clinical trials. Also, many new drugs that work differently from standard chemotherapy are now being evaluated in clinical trials.

Stem cell transplantation. The use of different types of stem cell transplantation, including allogeneic transplants or reduced intensity transplants, also called mini-allogeneic or non-ablative transplants, are also being tested for patients with newly diagnosed disease and for those who have had a recurrence after the initial treatment. For many types of lymphoma, the best way to use stem cell transplantation is still uncertain, which is why clinical trials on this treatment are in progress. Learn more about [stem cell transplantation](#) [8].

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

Looking for More About the Latest Research?

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

- To find clinical trials specific to your diagnosis, talk with your doctor or [search online clinical trial databases now](#) [9].
- Review [lymphoma research announced at ASCO's Annual Meeting](#) [10].
- Visit ASCO's [CancerProgress.Net](#) [11] website to learn more about the historical pace of research for NHL. Please note this link takes you to a separate ASCO website.

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/latest-research>

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

[3] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19210>

[4] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24726>

[5] <http://www.cancer.net/node/19215>

[6] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24729>

[7] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24721>

[8] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24717>

[9] <http://www.cancer.net/node/24878>

[10] http://www.cancer.net/research-and-advocacy/research-summaries?field_page_topic_tid_2=All&field_page_topic_tid=280&date_filter%5bvalue%5d%5byear%5d=

[11] <http://www.cancerprogress.net/timeline/lymphoma>