

Burkitt Lymphoma (BL)

Overview:

- **Type:** Aggressive B-cell lymphoma, fastest-growing tumor of any cancer (tumor size doubles every 18 hours).
- **Affects:** Jaw, CNS, bowel, kidneys, ovaries, other organs.
- **Commonly Found In:** Male adults and children; endemic in Africa due to malaria and EBV (Epstein-Barr Virus).
- **Subtypes:** Endemic, sporadic, and immunodeficiency-related, with different epidemiology but similar clinical behavior.



SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Swelling or tumour growth, particularly in the jaw or abdomen.
- Abdominal pain or swelling.
- Unexplained weight loss.
- Persistent fever or night sweats.
- Neurological symptoms, such as seizures or behavioural changes.
- Bowel changes.
- Kidney-related symptoms.



PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Anxiety related to diagnosis and treatment.
- Depression due to the emotional and physical burden of the disease.
- Fear of recurrence or progression of the lymphoma.
- Social isolation stemming from treatment demands or stigma.
- Stress over accessibility to treatment and financial challenges.



Key Stats

CURE RATE:

>80% if detected early and treated promptly; western countries report 90% cure rates in children, while in Africa, the cure rate drops to 30-50% due to healthcare access issues.

PREVALENCE:

In Africa, 30%–60% of pediatric cancers are BL; in the USA, prevalence is 0.4 cases per 100,000 inhabitants.

Treatment Challenges

- **Therapies:** High-intensity chemotherapy is the standard. Rituximab and other combinations are promising but not accessible in all regions.
- **Barriers:** Lack of access to treatment, trials, and updated therapies, especially in developing regions like sub-Saharan Africa.
- **Access Issues:** Limited availability of critical drugs due to cost and healthcare infrastructure. Some countries lack regulatory approval for therapies.

Clinical Trials

- [Database link](#)

Last update

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