

Extranodal Natural Kill T-Cell Lymphoma (ENKTL)

Overview:

- Type: Aggressive cancer that develops in the T lymphocytes or in natural killer (NK) cells. It is called 'extranodal' because it develops in organs or tissues outside of the lymph nodes.
- Typically affects areas in the nose (called ENTKL nasal type), most often the nasal passages, but it can also affect the upper part of the throat and the paranasal sinuses.
- ENKTL may be called 'extranasal type' when it affects the skin, testicles, soft tissues, kidneys, brain and/or spinal cord, and other organs.
- Average age at diagnosis is 60, and it occurs more often in men than women.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Fever and night sweats
- Enlarged liver
- Low blood cell count
- Blockage in the nose
- Discharge from the nose/ nosebleeds and swelling of the face
- Eye pain or 'weepy eyes'

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Fear of recurrence or progression of the lymphoma
- Anxiety related to diagnosis and treatment
- Depression due to the emotional and physical burden of the disease
- Body image concerns
- Social isolation
- Loss of self-esteem

Key Stats

- Around 85% of ENKTLs originate from natural killer (NK) cells and 15% from T-cells.
- Linked to the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), especially in people of Asian decent.
- ENKTL, nasal type, is more common in Asia, South America, and Central America than it is in North America.

Treatment Challenges

- Therapies: Chemotherapy either alone or in combination, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, and stem cell transplant.
- The enzyme L-Asparaginase is a standard and important treatment for aggressive ENKTL (usually used in combination with chemotherapy).
- ENKTL is a subtype of peripheral T-cell lymphoma (accounting for approximately 10%).

Clinical Trials

- [Database link](#)

Last update

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