

Hodgkin Lymphoma (HL)

Overview:

- Type: B-cell lymphoma marked by the presence of very large Reed-Sternberg (RS) cells and is classified as either nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL) or classical Hodgkin lymphoma (CHL).
- Affects: lymphatic system, and other organs.
- Commonly found in: Children and adults; most commonly diagnosed in young adults (aged 15-35) and older adults (aged 50 and older).
- Subtypes of classical Hodgkin lymphoma: Nodular sclerosis, mixed cellularity, lymphocyte-rich, lymphocyte-depleted.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Painless swelling of lymph nodes, particularly in the neck, armpits or groin
- Alcohol intolerance or pain in lymph nodes after drinking alcohol
- Unexplained weight loss
- Itchy skin
- Persistent fever and chills
- Night sweats
- Fatigue

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

- Burden of dealing with cancer at a young age.
- 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: Primarily curable disease. With current treatment 80% - 90% of patients can achieve permanent remission.
- HL accounts for 10% of all lymphomas.
- Prevalence (5 years): Asia accounts for 34% of all global Hodgkin lymphoma cases, followed by Europe (27%), North America (14%), Latin America and the Caribbean (12%), Africa (11%), and Oceania (1%).

Treatment Challenges

- Therapies: Multi-agent chemotherapy is the standard and is often used in combination with radiation therapy, steroids, or autologous stem cell transplant. Traditional therapies such as ABVD, and BEACOPP are available and funded in most countries with the exceptions of Barbados (not approved), China and India (not funded or reimbursed).
- Access issues: Lack of funding or reimbursement of certain drugs. Some countries lack regulatory approval for therapies.

Clinical Trials

- [Database link](#)

Last update

- December 2024