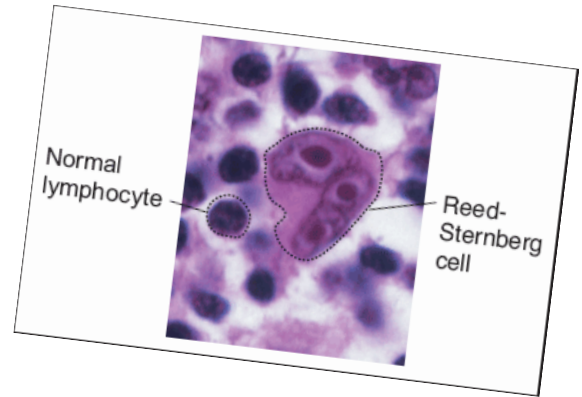


Hodgkin's Disease

AKA Hodgkin Lymphoma

Facts

- Hodgkin's disease is a type of lymphoma (cancer of the lymphatic system)
- Two major types of Hodgkin Lymphoma
 - Classical Hodgkin Lymphoma (Reed Sternberg cell)
 - Nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (abnormal cell- "popcorn cell" which is treated differently)
- Most Hodgkin's lymphoma occurs when an infection-fighting cell called a B cell develops a mutation in its DNA
- Most common symptom is a painless swelling in the lymph nodes in the neck, underarm, or groin
- Diagnosed when abnormal tissue is detected by a pathologist after a biopsy of an enlarged lymph node
- Common treatment options are radiation therapy or chemotherapy
- Patients have an increased risk of developing a different type of cancer later in life, especially leukemia



Statistics

- Estimated that 8,830 men and women will be diagnosed and 1,300 will die from Hodgkin Lymphoma per year
- (2004-2008) median age at diagnosis is 38
 - 12.3% under age 20
 - 31.5% between age 20 and 34
 - 15.8% between 35 and 44
 - 12.5% between 45 and 54
- Overall 5-year relative survival (2001-2007) rate was 83.9%
 - Very curable disease
- Based on rates from 2006-2008, 0.23% of men and women born today will be diagnosed with Hodgkin Lymphoma in their lifetime

Risk Factors

Doctors are not sure what exactly to attribute the disease to but recommend a healthy lifestyle. Certain risk factors would make one more prone to Hodgkin disease- people should take cautions against these factors:

- Certain viruses- not a contagious disease, but having HIV or Epstein-Barr virus may increase the risk of getting Hodgkin lymphoma
- Weakened immune system- from inherited condition or drugs being used post organ transplant

- Age- most common among teens and adults aged 15 to 35 years and adults aged 55 years and older
- Family history

Symptoms

- Swollen lymph nodes in the neck, underarms, and groin (not painful)
- Increased sensitivity towards alcohol consumption
 - Pain in lymph nodes after drinking
- Unattributed weight loss
- Lasting fever
- Soaking night sweats
- Itchy/irritated skin
- Chest pain, coughing and trouble breathing
- Lasting weakness and tiredness

*Symptoms may not be due to cancer, but if they persist longer than two weeks, see a doctor for a diagnosis

Diagnosis

- Physical Exam- doctors check for swollen lymph nodes and swollen spleen or liver
- Blood tests- check white blood cell count and for other signs of cancer
- Imaging tests- X-Ray, CT Scan, MRI and positron emission tomography (PET)
- Surgery to remove swollen lymph nodes- examined in a lab to see if Reed Sternberg cells are present
- Bone marrow biopsy- a small amount of bone marrow, blood and bone are removed through a needle for laboratory screening purposes

Treatment

- Chemotherapy- uses chemicals to kill lymphoma cells
 - Combined with radiation therapy in people with early-stage classical type Hodgkin's lymphoma
 - In advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma, chemotherapy may be used alone or combined with radiation therapy
- Radiation- uses high energy beams to kill cancer cells
 - Classical Hodgkin's lymphoma, radiation therapy can be used alone, but it is often used after chemotherapy
 - People with early-stage lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin's lymphoma typically undergo radiation therapy alone
- Stem Cell Transplant- treatment to replace your diseased bone marrow with healthy stem cells that help you grow new bone marrow
 - May be an option if Hodgkin's lymphoma returns despite treatment

Recourses

<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/hodgkin/page2>

http://kidshealth.org/teen/diseases_conditions/cancer/hodgkins.html

<http://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/hodg.html>