

NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

Hodgkin lymphoma

Classic Hodgkin Lymphoma (CHL)



This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Hodgkin Lymphoma](#). These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit NCCN.org/patients or, to order printed copies, visit Amazon.com

NCCN Guidelines for Patients®
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What is Hodgkin lymphoma?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are 2 types of Hodgkin lymphoma: classic Hodgkin lymphoma (CHL) and nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL). ➤ CHL is a rare but highly curable cancer of the lymph nodes and the lymphatic system. More people survive CHL than any other cancer. CHL is the focus of this Quick Guide™. 	<p>10</p>
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What health care is given before treatment?

Biopsy and testing	Excisional lymph node biopsy and testing of the removed lymph node(s) using immunohistochemistry (IHC).	14
Medical history and physical exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Check for “B symptoms” (unexplained fever, night sweats, extreme weight loss without dieting) and other symptoms (alcohol intolerance, severe itching, fatigue) ➤ Examination of neck, armpits, groin, spleen, and liver 	15
Blood tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Complete blood count (CBC), erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR), comprehensive metabolic panel, and measurement of serum lactate dehydrogenase 	17
Imaging tests	Positron emission tomography (PET) and computed tomography (CT) with contrast	18
Other testing and care as needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Pregnancy testing ➤ Fertility preservation ➤ Bone marrow biopsy ➤ Other imaging tests ➤ Heart and lung function tests ➤ Vaccines ➤ Testing for HIV, hepatitis B and C ➤ Help to quit smoking 	20

What are the treatment options for CHL?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chemotherapy is the most effective treatment for CHL. A widely used chemotherapy regimen for CHL is called ABVD. It includes four chemotherapy medicines: doxorubicin, bleomycin (Blenoxane®), vinblastine, and dacarbazine. 	28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Radiation therapy is often used in addition to chemotherapy to treat CHL. 	29
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An autologous stem cell transplant is the best option for treating CHL that is not cured by first-line treatment. 	30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Immunotherapy may be used to treat CHL that doesn't respond to treatment or that returns after treatment relapsed. 	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While CHL is often curable in younger adults, treatment outcomes for older adults are not as good. The standard chemotherapy regimens for CHL are too harsh and potentially dangerous to use in older adults. 	50

What happens after treatment?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While CHL can usually be cured, its treatment can cause serious health problems—including other cancers—down the line. 	61
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When treatment is over, it is important to see an oncologist who understands the unique risks and health issues faced by CHL survivors. 	61
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The most serious late effects that CHL survivors experience are other cancers, heart disease, hypothyroidism, and fertility issues. 	64
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The types of follow-up tests you should have—and how often you should have them—should be based on your specific cancer circumstances. 	61

How do I decide between treatment options?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Don't be scared to ask your doctors questions. They are there to help. ➤ Get a second opinion, or even a third opinion. Even doctors get second opinions. ➤ Support groups can be helpful. You can learn a lot from others. ➤ Compare the pros and cons of each option. 	70
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