

NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

# Hodgkin lymphoma

## Nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL)



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](https://www.nccn.org/patients) or, to order printed copies, visit [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

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### What is Hodgkin lymphoma?



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 2 types of Hodgkin lymphoma: classic Hodgkin lymphoma (CHL) and nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL). NLPHL is the focus of this Quick Guide™.</li> <li>NLPHL is a very rare type of Hodgkin lymphoma. It develops and responds to treatment differently than CHL. Over time, NLPHL can transform into an aggressive type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma called diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL).</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
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### What health care is given before treatment?

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



## What are the treatment options for NLPHL?

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The three main treatments for NLPHL are radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and targeted therapy with Rituximab (Rituxan®).</li> <li>➤ Depending on the cancer stage, they may be used individually or together.</li> <li>➤ Treatment depends in part on the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Whether the lymph nodes with cancer are large (bulky)</li> <li>➤ Whether the cancer is only above the diaphragm (stage I-II) or whether it has spread below the diaphragm (stage III-IV)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>54</b></p>
<p><b>Early NLPHL (stage I-II)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Radiation therapy is the preferred treatment for most people with non-bulky stage IA and IIA NLPHL.</li> <li>➤ Chemotherapy that includes Rituxan® (a targeted therapy) is recommended for initial treatment of:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bulky stage IA NLPHL</li> <li>➤ Bulky or non-contiguous stage IIA NLPHL</li> <li>➤ Stage IB and stage IIB NLPHL</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Radiation therapy alone may be an option for a small number of people with stage IIA non-contiguous NLPHL and stage IB NLPHL.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>55</b></p>
<p><b>Advanced NLPHL (stage III-IV)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Chemotherapy that includes Rituxan® (a targeted therapy) is recommended for initial treatment of everyone with advanced (stage III-IV) NLPHL.</li> <li>➤ Your doctor may also recommend treatment with radiation therapy in addition to chemotherapy.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>56</b></p>

## How do I decide between treatment options?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Don't be scared to ask your doctors questions. They are there to help.</li> <li>➤ Get a second opinion, or even a third opinion. Even doctors get second opinions.</li> <li>➤ Support groups can be helpful. You can learn a lot from others.</li> <li>➤ Compare the pros and cons of each option.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>60</b></p>
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