What is mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)?
Lymphoma is a cancer of white blood cells within the lymph system. This system transports fluids to the bloodstream and fights germs. MCL is named for the B cells from mantle zones within lymph tissue.

What are the tests for MCL?
A doctor will remove lymph tissue that will be tested for cancer. Removing the whole tumor with an incisional or excisional biopsy is better than a biopsy with a needle. In the lab, a doctor will look for patterns of cell proteins that are common to MCL.

What health care is given before treatment?
- A report of your health history and an exam of your body
- Blood tests to count blood cells and assess levels of chemicals and proteins
- Tests for hepatitis if needed
- Pictures of the insides of your body to look for cancer sites (ie, CT, whole-body PET/CT)
- Cancer tests on bone, fluid, or tissue from outside the lymph system if needed
- A heart test if you will be taking certain cancer treatments
- Fertility support if wanted and a pregnancy test if needed
## What are options for initial treatment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stages I and II</th>
<th>Stages II bulky, III, and IV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Involved-site radiation therapy</td>
<td>Clinical trial</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemoimmunotherapy with involved-site radiation therapy</td>
<td>Chemoimmunotherapy followed by autologous transplant and maintenance rituximab</td>
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<td>Chemoimmunotherapy</td>
<td>Chemoimmunotherapy with or without maintenance rituximab</td>
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<tr>
<td>Watch and wait in certain cases</td>
<td>Watch and wait for slow-growing cancers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## What are options for second-line treatment?

- Clinical trial
- Radiation therapy
- Second-line regimens, which consist of one or more of these drugs: kinase inhibitor, immunomodulator, chemotherapy, or rituximab

## How can you decide between options?

- Don’t be shy and ask your doctors questions. They are there to help.
- Get a second 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.