



About us

The Leukaemia Foundation is the only national not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the care and cure of patients and families living with leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma and related blood disorders.

We invest millions of dollars in the work of Australia's leading researchers to develop better treatments and cures and provide free services to support patients and their families.

We receive no ongoing government funding. We rely on the generosity of the community and corporate sector to further our Vision to Cure and Mission to Care.

We can help you

Our range of free services supports thousands of Australians, from diagnosis, through treatment and beyond. To learn more, please call 1800 620 420 to speak with one of our Support Services team.

You can help us

There are many ways that you can help us to improve the quality of life for people with blood cancer. From making a donation, to signing up for an event; from volunteering, or joining us as a corporate sponsor - please call 1800 500 088 or go to www.leukaemia.org.au to learn more.

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Nodal marginal zone lymphoma is a type of marginal zone lymphoma. It is rare- accounting for about 1-2% of all non-Hodgkin lymphoma cases.

Marginal zone lymphomas are rare types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL). There are 3 main types of marginal zone lymphomas: extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT); splenic marginal zone lymphoma; and nodal marginal zone lymphoma*. Nodal marginal zone lymphoma (NMZL) is often referred to as 'monocytoid B-cell lymphoma' and is usually slow-growing. Whilst it is unlikely, NMZL does have the ability to transform into a more aggressive type of lymphoma.

How does Nodal marginal zone lymphoma affect the body?

NMZL generally only involves the lymph nodes, with the most common symptom usually being a painless swelling in the neck, armpit or groin caused by enlarged lymph nodes. More than one group of nodes may be affected, and NMZL can sometimes be found in the bone marrow. It is not uncommon for people with NMZL to have widespread disease at the time of diagnosis.

Who does Nodal marginal zone lymphoma commonly affect?

NMZL usually affects adults aged 60 years and over. It is slightly more common in women than it is in men.

Do we know what causes Nodal marginal zone lymphoma?

The exact causes of NMZL are not known. It is not due to infection and cannot be passed from one person to another.

How is Nodal marginal zone lymphoma treated?

Often, treatment for NMZL may not be required immediately. Unless symptoms are present, most people are managed by the 'watch and wait' approach which involves regular monitoring of the condition by their doctor or specialist*. Blood tests and imaging investigations as well as clinical examination are performed. Once symptoms develop or if the NMZL is progressing, chemotherapy is used to treat the lymphoma. For localised disease, radiotherapy may be useful. Single agent chemotherapy drugs such as fludarabine and chlorambucil may also be used to treat NMZL. Commonly used combination chemotherapy regimens for NMZL include: CVP (cyclophosphamide, vincristine and prednisolone); CHOP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisolone), and F⁺C (fludarabine and cyclophosphamide). Rituximab, a monoclonal antibody commonly used to treat lymphoma, is often used in combination with these chemotherapy agents. Whilst rarely used, stem cell transplants may be an option for some people with relapsed nodal marginal zone lymphoma.

*Not approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for this indication in Australia. May be available in some health facilities through local protocols.

*Please refer to our fact sheets: 'MALT Lymphoma', 'Splenic Marginal Zone Lymphoma' and 'Understanding Watch & Wait'.

The Leukaemia Foundation publishes the guides: 'Understanding Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma. A guide for patients & families'; 'Understanding Autologous Transplants' and 'Understanding Allogeneic Transplants'.

For more information, freecall 1800 620 420
email info@leukaemia.org.au or visit www.leukaemia.org.au