

LYMPHOMA: A DOCTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

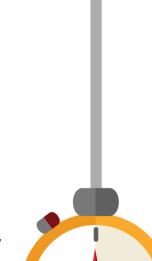
Lymphoma is a blood cancer that develops in cells of the immune system called lymphocytes.¹ It is the most common blood cancer worldwide, with an estimated 452,000 new cases in 2012.^{2,3} There are two main types of lymphoma: Hodgkin lymphoma, which affects both children and adults, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), which is most commonly diagnosed in people in their late 60s. 1,4,5 About 90% of people with lymphoma have NHL, which is actually a group of many different forms of the disease. 1 I'm a hematologist specializing in the treatment of lymphoma.



REVIEWING FAMILY HISTORY

OAM:

I discuss family medical history with a new patient, since having relatives with lymphoma can increase risk for the disease.7



8AM: CHECKING IN ON SYMPTOMS

A 17-year-old boy comes in on a referral as his primary care doctor believes he is experiencing symptoms of lymphoma, including a low white blood cell count, fatigue, weight loss and a painful swollen lymph node near his throat.6





DISCUSSING WHAT'S EXPECTED

I meet a 70 year-old patient who is worried about the impact chemotherapy will have on her daily routine. I explain that she may experience side effects including fatigue, and we discuss her options for remaining active.1



ASSESSING RESULTS

A patient and I discuss the results of a biopsy a procedure that helps determine if cancer is present.6



1PM: LUNCH AND LEARN

My colleagues and I discuss new clinical research to help keep us up to date on the latest developments.



I explain to my next patient the role of each specialist on her medical team, including me, her nurse practitioner, her dietitian and her case manager.8



TALKING

3PM:

ABOUT MEMORY I help a patient who has

been having memory and concentration issues resulting from treatment, and discuss tools to help him cope.9



REMISSION

My last patient of the day just found out he is in remission, so I'm giving him a survivorship care plan that outlines next steps in his journey.¹⁰





8PM:

SUPPORT GROUP

My wife and I are involved with a local patient support group, so we attend a patient meeting once a week.¹⁰

This is an example of a day in the life of a hematologist treating people living with lymphoma. The hematologist and patient perspectives may vary.

The Blood Cancer Community is bound together by blood to reach one common goal: to improve the lives of people impacted by blood cancer. Continued collaboration of patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, advocates, academics and researchers is critical to fulfilling this goal.

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