

Understanding mantle cell lymphoma

Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) is a cancer of the blood. It affects a special type of cell called a lymphocyte. Normal lymphocytes help you fight infections and other diseases. Lymphocytes are produced in the bone marrow. They travel to many organs throughout the body via the lymphatic system. The lymphatic system is made up of bones, spleen and lymph nodes. Mantle cell lymphoma can be found in any of these places. It may also spread beyond the lymphatic system. In about a quarter of people with MCL, the disease spreads to the stomach or intestines.

There are approximately 12,000 to 16,000 people in the United States living with mantle cell lymphoma.¹ It is more common in people over 60 years old. Men and women can both have MCL, but it is more common in men than women.²

Risk factors

Nobody is sure what causes mantle cell lymphoma. Some known risk factors include:

- Family history of autoimmune diseases
- Previous organ transplant
- Working with pesticides, fertilizers, or solvents
- Having diseases such as Epstein-Barr, human T-lymphotropic virus type 1, HIV, or hepatitis C.

Symptoms

Here are some common symptoms of mantle cell lymphoma:

- Chills
- Swollen or painful armpit, neck, or groin
- Fever
- Night sweats
- Losing weight for no reason
- Feeling tired
- Itching

Diagnosis

If your doctor thinks you have mantle cell lymphoma, he or she will take a little bit of your bone marrow to test. This is called a biopsy. Your doctor may also take a sample of your blood to test for Cyclin D1. If you have a large amount of Cyclin D1 in your blood, this will help your doctor diagnose the disease because mantle cell lymphoma tumors make a lot of Cyclin D1.

Treatment

Mantle cell lymphoma is a difficult cancer to treat and many people have to be treated with more than 1 medicine or treatment. Your doctor will work with you to

decide which medicines are right for you. The medicines and treatments you may talk about include:

- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Radiotherapy

References

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