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## Hodgkin Lymphoma

Also called: Hodgkin Disease

### What is Hodgkin lymphoma?

Hodgkin lymphoma, also called Hodgkin disease, is a type of cancer that develops in the lymph system. Your lymph system is part of your immune system [<https://medlineplus.gov/immunesystemanddisorders.html>]. It helps protect your body from infection and disease.

The lymph system is made up of tissues and organs that produce, store, and carry white blood cells. It includes your:

- Bone marrow [<https://medlineplus.gov/bonemarrowdiseases.html>]
- Lymph nodes
- Lymphatic vessels
- Spleen [<https://medlineplus.gov/spleendiseases.html>]
- Thymus
- Tonsils

Hodgkin lymphoma is one of the main types of lymphoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/lymphoma.html>]. The other is non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Each type starts in different types of white blood cells.

### What causes Hodgkin lymphoma?

The cause of Hodgkin lymphoma is unknown. But there are certain people who are at higher risk of developing it.

### Who is more likely to develop Hodgkin lymphoma?

Certain factors can make you more likely to develop Hodgkin lymphoma:

- **Age.** Hodgkin lymphoma is most common in early adulthood (age 20-39 years) and in late adulthood (age 65 years and older).
- **Being male.** The risk of adult Hodgkin lymphoma is slightly higher in males than in females.
- **Past Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) infection.** Having an infection with EBV as a young child or teenager increases your risk of Hodgkin lymphoma.
- **A family history of Hodgkin lymphoma.** Having a parent or sibling with Hodgkin lymphoma increases your risk of developing it.

### What are the symptoms of Hodgkin lymphoma?

The signs and symptoms of Hodgkin lymphoma may include:

- Painless, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, underarm, or groin
- Fever [<https://medlineplus.gov/fever.html>] for no known reason
- Drenching night sweats (very heavy sweating during sleep)
- Weight loss for no known reason in the past 6 months
- Itchy [<https://medlineplus.gov/itching.html>] skin, especially after bathing or drinking alcohol

- Fatigue [<https://medlineplus.gov/fatigue.html>]

## How is Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosed?

To find out if you have Hodgkin lymphoma, your provider:

- Will ask about your symptoms and medical history. This will include checking for signs of disease, such as lumps or anything else that seems unusual.
- May order some lab tests, such as:
  - Complete blood count [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/complete-blood-count-cbc/>]
  - Blood chemistry studies
  - Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/lactate-dehydrogenase-ldh-isoenzymes-test/>]
  - Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/erythrocyte-sedimentation-rate-esr/>]
  - Blood tests to rule out other medical conditions
  - May do imaging tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/diagnosticimaging.html>] such as a CT [<https://medlineplus.gov/ctscans.html>] and PET [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/pet-scan/>] (positron emission tomography) scans
  - May do a lymph node biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/biopsy.html>]

## What are the treatments for Hodgkin lymphoma?

Treatments for Hodgkin lymphoma include:

- Chemotherapy [<https://medlineplus.gov/cancerchemotherapy.html>]
- Radiation therapy [<https://medlineplus.gov/radiationtherapy.html>]
- Targeted therapy, which uses drugs or other substances that attack specific cancer cells with less harm to normal cells
- Cancer immunotherapy [<https://medlineplus.gov/cancerimmunotherapy.html>]

Hodgkin lymphoma can usually be cured if it is found and treated early.

*NIH: National Cancer Institute*

## Start Here

- General Information about Adult Hodgkin Lymphoma [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_1](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_1)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-adultos-pdq#\\_1](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-adultos-pdq#_1)]
- Hodgkin's Lymphoma [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hodgkins-lymphoma/symptoms-causes/syc-20352646?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
- What Is Hodgkin Lymphoma? [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/about/what-is-hodgkin-disease.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/acerca/que-es-enfermedad-de-hodgkin.html>]

## Diagnosis and Tests

- Blood Count Tests: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/bloodcounttests.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/bloodcounttests.html>]
- Bone Marrow Test [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/bone-marrow-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-la-medula-osea/>]
- Needle Biopsy [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/tests-procedures/needle-biopsy/about/pac-20394749?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/tests-procedures/needle-biopsy/about/pac-20394749?p=1>]
- PDL1 (Immunotherapy) Tests [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/pdl1-immunotherapy-tests/>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/prueba-de-pd-l1-inmunoterapia/>]

- Stages of Adult Hodgkin Lymphoma [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_26](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_26)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-adultos-pdq#\\_26](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-adultos-pdq#_26)]
- Stages of Childhood Hodgkin Lymphoma [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_24](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_24)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#\\_24](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#_24)]
- Tests for Hodgkin Lymphoma [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/detection-diagnosis-staging/how-diagnosed.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/deteccion-diagnostico-clasificacion-por-etapas/como-se-diagnostica.html>]

## Prevention and Risk Factors

- Hodgkin Lymphoma Risk Factors [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/causes-risks-prevention/risk-factors.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/causas-riesgos-prevencion/factores-de-riesgo.html>]

## Treatments and Therapies

- Bone Marrow Transplantation: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/bonemarrowtransplantation.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/bonemarrowtransplantation.html>]
- Drugs Approved for Hodgkin Lymphoma [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/drugs/hodgkin-lymphoma>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Integrative Medicine and Complementary and Alternative Therapies [<https://www.lls.org/treatment/integrative-medicine-and-complementary-therapies>] (Leukemia & Lymphoma Society)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.lls.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/FS8S\\_Integrative\\_Medicine\\_Complementary\\_Therapies\\_04.22\\_Spanish.pdf](https://www.lls.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/FS8S_Integrative_Medicine_Complementary_Therapies_04.22_Spanish.pdf)]
- Treating Nodular Lymphocyte-Predominant Hodgkin Lymphoma [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/treating/nlphd.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/tratamiento/linfoma-hodgkin-con-predominio-linfocitario-nodular.html>]
- Treatment Option Overview (Adult Hodgkin Lymphoma) [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_57](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_57)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-adultos-pdq#\\_57](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-adultos-pdq#_57)]
- Treatment Option Overview (Childhood Hodgkin Lymphoma) [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_51](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_51)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#\\_51](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#_51)]
- Treatment Options for Primary Refractory/Recurrent Hodgkin Lymphoma in Children and Adolescents [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_115](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_115)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#\\_115](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#_115)]

## Living With

- Living As a Hodgkin Lymphoma Survivor [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/after-treatment/follow-up.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/despues-del-tratamiento/cuidado-de-seguimiento.html>]

## Related Issues

- General Information about AIDS-Related Lymphoma [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/aids-related-treatment-pdq#\\_1](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/aids-related-treatment-pdq#_1)]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [[https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-relacionado-sida-pdq#section/\\_1](https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-relacionado-sida-pdq#section/_1)]
- Hodgkin's vs. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: What's the Difference? [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hodgkins-lymphoma/expert-answers/lymphoma/FAQ-20058546?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/hodgkins-lymphoma/expert-answers/lymphoma/faq-20058546?p=1>]

- Understanding Lymphoma and Cancer-Related Fatigue [[https://lymphoma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/LRF\\_Understanding\\_Lymphoma\\_Cancer\\_Related\\_Fatigue\\_Factsheet\\_2023.pdf](https://lymphoma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/LRF_Understanding_Lymphoma_Cancer_Related_Fatigue_Factsheet_2023.pdf)] (Lymphoma Research Foundation)

## Statistics and Research

- Advances in Lymphoma Research [<https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/research>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Hodgkin Lymphoma [<https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/hodg.html>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Key Statistics for Hodgkin Lymphoma [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/about/key-statistics.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/acerca/estadisticas-clave.html>]
- What's New In Hodgkin Lymphoma Research? [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/hodgkin-lymphoma/about/new-research.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/tipos/linfoma-hodgkin/acerca/nuevas-investigaciones.html>]

## Clinical Trials

- ClinicalTrials.gov: Hodgkin Disease [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Hodgkin+Disease%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Outcome and Challenges in the Treatment of Pediatric Hodgkin Lymphoma With... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40740129>]
- Article: Tumor-associated macrophages: potential role in skeletal involvement in classic Hodgkin lymphoma. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40704910>]
- Article: Fertility in patients with advanced-stage classic Hodgkin lymphoma treated with BrECADD... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40652943>]
- Hodgkin Lymphoma -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Hodgkin+Disease%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

## Find an Expert

- American Cancer Society [<https://www.cancer.org/>]
- Choosing a Cancer Doctor [<https://www.cancer.org/cancer/managing-cancer/finding-care/where-to-find-cancer-care/choosing-a-cancer-doctor.html>] (American Cancer Society)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.org/es/cancer/como-sobrellevar-el-cancer/encontrar-tratamiento/como-elegir-un-medico-y-un-hospital/como-seleccionar-a-un-medico.html>]
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society [<https://www.lls.org/>]  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.lls.org/node/1690491>]
- Lymphoma Research Foundation [<https://lymphoma.org/>]
- National Cancer Institute [<https://www.cancer.gov/>]   
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol>]
- NCI - Designated Cancer Centers [<https://www.cancer.gov/research/infrastructure/cancer-centers>]   
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/investigacion/infraestructura/centros-oncologicos>]

## Children

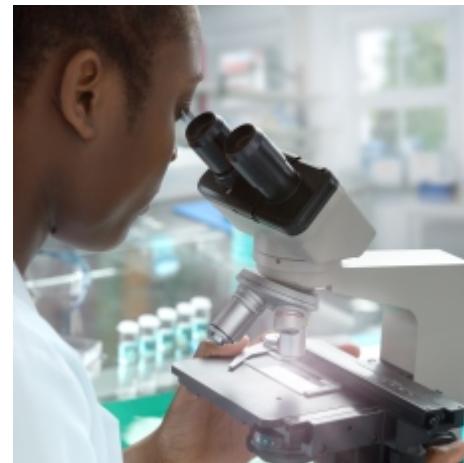
- General Information about Childhood Hodgkin Lymphoma [[https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#\\_1](https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/child-hodgkin-treatment-pdq#_1)]  (National Cancer Institute)

## Teenagers

- Hodgkin Lymphoma (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/hodgkin.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/hodgkin.html>]

## Patient Handouts

- Chest radiation - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000057.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000057.htm>]
- Hodgkin lymphoma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000580.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000580.htm>]
- Hodgkin lymphoma in children [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007685.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007685.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

[Bone marrow biopsy](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003934.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003934.htm>]

[Chest radiation - discharge](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000057.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000057.htm>]

[Ferritin blood test](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003490.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003490.htm>]

[Hodgkin lymphoma](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000580.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000580.htm>]

[Hodgkin lymphoma in children](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007685.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007685.htm>]

[Mediastinoscopy with biopsy](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003864.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003864.htm>]

[T-cell count](https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003516.htm) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003516.htm>]

## Related Health Topics

[Lymphoma](https://medlineplus.gov/lymphoma.html) [<https://medlineplus.gov/lymphoma.html>]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Hodgkin Lymphoma* is the National Cancer Institute [<http://www.cancer.gov/>]

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