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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]  (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [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]

 (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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]

- 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]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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]  (National Cancer Institute)


Also in Spanish [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]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [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>]

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+%5Bedat%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]  (National Cancer Institute)
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]  (National Cancer Institute)

Also in Spanish [https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/tipos/linfoma/paciente/tratamiento-hodgkin-infantil-pdq#section/_101]

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>]

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

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

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

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

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

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

Related Health Topics

Lymphoma [<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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