



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Lymphatic Diseases

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/lymphaticdiseases.html>

## Lymphatic Diseases

The lymphatic system is a network of tissues and organs. It is made up of:

- Lymph - a fluid that contains white blood cells that defend against germs
- Lymph vessels - vessels that carry lymph throughout your body. They are different from blood vessels.
- Lymph nodes - glands found throughout the lymph vessels. Along with your **spleen** [<https://medlineplus.gov/spleendiseases.html>] , these nodes are where white blood cells fight infection.

Your bone marrow and thymus produce the cells in lymph. They are part of the system, too.

The lymphatic system clears away infection and keeps your body fluids in balance. If it's not working properly, fluid builds in your tissues and causes swelling, called **lymphedema** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lymphedema.html>] . Other lymphatic system problems can include infections, blockage, and **cancer** [<https://medlineplus.gov/lymphoma.html>] .

### Start Here

- **Lymphatic System (For Parents)** [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/spleen-lymphatic.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/spleen-lymphatic.html>]
- **Overview of the Lymphatic System** [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/heart-and-blood-vessel-disorders/lymphatic-disorders/overview-of-the-lymphatic-system>] (Merck & Co., Inc.)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.merckmanuals.com/es-us/hogar/trastornos-del-coraz%C3%B3n-y-los-vasos-sangu%C3%ADneos/trastornos-del-sistema-linf%C3%A1tico/introducci%C3%B3n-al-sistema-linf%C3%A1tico>]


### Diagnosis and Tests

- **Lymphoscintigraphy** [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/lympho>]  
(American College of Radiology; Radiological Society of North America)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.radiologyinfo.org/es/info/lympho>]

### Treatments and Therapies

- **Drugs Approved for Multicentric Castleman Disease** [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/drugs/multicentric-castleman-disease>]  (National Cancer Institute)

### Related Issues




- **Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy** [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/diagnosis-staging/staging/sentinel-node-biopsy-fact-sheet>]  (National Cancer Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/cancer/diagnostico-estadificacion/estadificacion/hoja-informativa-ganglio-centinela>]

### Specifics


- **About Lymphatic Filariasis** [<https://www.cdc.gov/filarial-worms/about/lymphatic-filariasis.html?>]  
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- Autoimmune Lymphoproliferative Syndrome (ALPS) [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/autoimmune-lymphoproliferative-syndrome-alps>]  (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Castleman Disease [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/castleman-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20543017?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/castleman-disease/symptoms-causes/syc-20543017?p=1>]
- Lymph Nodes [<https://training.seer.cancer.gov/anatomy/lymphatic/components/nodes.html>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Mesenteric Lymphadenitis [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/mesenteric-lymphadenitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20353799?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/mesenteric-lymphadenitis/symptoms-causes/syc-20353799?p=1>]
- Swollen Lymph Nodes [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/swollen-lymph-nodes/symptoms-causes/syc-20353902?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/swollen-lymph-nodes/symptoms-causes/syc-20353902?p=1>]
- What Is LAM (Lymphangiomyomatosis)? [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/lam>]  (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/es/salud/lam>]



## Genetics

- Autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/autoimmune-lymphoproliferative-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Histiocytosis-lymphadenopathy plus syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/histiocytosis-lymphadenopathy-plus-syndrome>]  (National Library of Medicine)
- Milroy disease: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/milroy-disease>]  (National Library of Medicine)

## Videos and Tutorials

- Lymph nodes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000083.htm>]  (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/anatomyvideos/000083.htm>]

## Clinical Trials


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

## Journal Articles

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



- Article: Magnetic Resonance Lymphangiography in Children: What the Radiologist Needs to Know. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40713443>]
- Article: Hypertension: a lymphatic disease? [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40548410>]
- Article: Evaluating lymphadenopathy. [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40358102>]
- Lymphatic Diseases -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Lymphatic+Diseases%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29>]

## Reference Desk

- Introduction to the Lymphatic System [<https://training.seer.cancer.gov/anatomy/lymphatic/>]  (National Cancer Institute)
- Lymphatic System (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/spleen-lymphatic.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/spleen-lymphatic.html>]

## Find an Expert

- National Cancer Institute [<https://www.cancer.gov/>]   
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol>]
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>] 

## Children

- Chylous Ascites (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/chylous-ascites.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/chylous-ascites.html>]
- Lymphatic Malformations (For Parents) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/lymphatic-malformations.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/lymphatic-malformations.html>]

## Teenagers

- Spleen and Lymphatic System [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/spleen.html>] (Nemours Foundation)  
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/spleen.html>]

## Patient Handouts

- Cancer and lymph nodes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000824.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000824.htm>]
- Cystic hygroma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000148.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000148.htm>]
- Groin lump [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003100.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003100.htm>]
- Lymph node biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003933.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003933.htm>]
- Lymph system [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002247.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/002247.htm>]
- Lymphadenitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001301.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001301.htm>]
- Lymphangitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007296.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007296.htm>]
- Lymphofollicular hyperplasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001377.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001377.htm>]
- Neck lump [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003098.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003098.htm>]
- Swollen lymph nodes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003097.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003097.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Armpit lump [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003099.htm>]

Cancer and lymph nodes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000824.htm>]

Cystic hygroma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000148.htm>]

Groin lump [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003100.htm>]

Lymph node biopsy [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003933.htm>]

Lymph nodes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/anatomyvideos/000083.htm>]

Lymph system [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002247.htm>]

Lymphadenitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001301.htm>]

Lymphangiogram [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003798.htm>]

Lymphangitis [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007296.htm>]

Lymphofollicular hyperplasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001377.htm>]

Neck dissection [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007573.htm>]

Neck lump [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003098.htm>]

Swollen lymph nodes [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003097.htm>]

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

## Related Health Topics

Lymphedema [<https://medlineplus.gov/lymphedema.html>]

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

Spleen Diseases [<https://medlineplus.gov/spleendiseases.html>]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Lymphatic Diseases* is the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute [<http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>]

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies. MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our [disclaimer](https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html] about external links and our [quality guidelines](https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html) [https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)