

## DEMYSTIFYING LYMPHOMA (MAYBE)

### What is it?

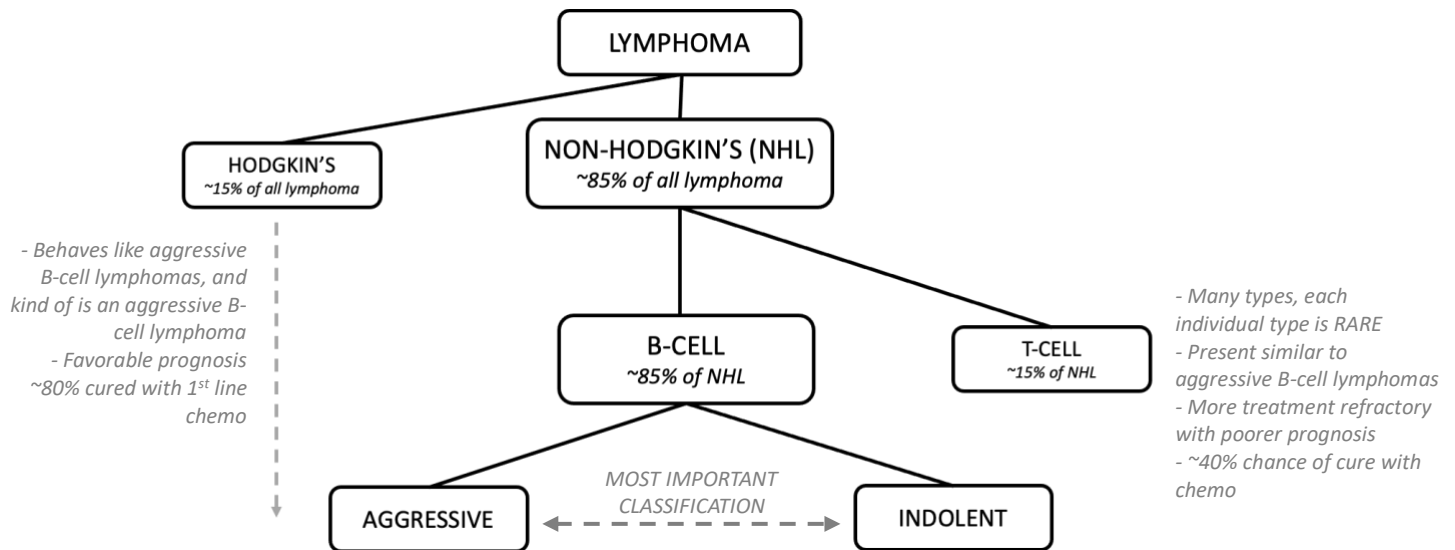
Lymphoma is a cancer of white blood cells called lymphocytes.

### What does it do?

Cancerous lymphocytes hone to lymph tissue, causing lymph nodal masses

There is lymph tissues all over the body and in every organ, can show up anywhere!

- **PEARL:** cancer of blood cells, and blood goes everywhere - hence **stage does NOT carry the same weight as for other solid tumor malignancies**



**Examples:** Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)

#### Presentation:

- Sick patients!
- Rapidly growing nodes or compressive symptoms
- B-symptoms common – rapid weight loss, DRENCHING night sweats, fevers
- **Declining functional status \*\*\*\***

#### Action:

- Need to be started on treatment (relatively) urgently
- BUT NEED A BIOPSY BEFORE TREATMENT! Send to IR for core LN biopsy or surgery for excisional biopsy
- **\*\*FNA CANNOT DIAGNOSE LYMPHOMA\*\***
- Usually triaged within 2 weeks

**Treatment:** Chemoimmunotherapy (RCHOP)

**Prognosis:** 2/3 will be cured with chemo, 1/3 likely succumb to disease (a small portion cured with 2<sup>nd</sup> line treatments)

**Examples:** Follicular lymphoma, Chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL), Marginal zone lymphoma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia

#### Presentation:

- Incidentally discovered lymphadenopathy or symptomatic lymphadenopathy/splenomegaly
- Can be very bulky before it is discovered!
- Usually no functional decline (or B symptoms)

**Action:** Need a biopsy, CT scan

- Usually triaged within 4-6 weeks (unless organ compromise, extreme cytopenias)

**Treatment:** Active surveillance, chemoimmunotherapy, targeted agents (pills)

\*Treatment only indicated for symptoms, bulky nodes, organ compromise, severe cytopenias – ie. If it is causing a problem!\*

**Prognosis:** Incurable, but prognosis favorable – life expectancy 15-20 years at diagnosis

- Often will get many lines of therapy with years of remission between each