Lymphoma is a cancer of the lymphatic system, which is a system of lymph nodes found throughout the body, including the neck, underarms, chest, abdomen and groin/pelvis.\(^1\)

The lymphatic system is part of the body’s immune system, transporting white blood cells (T-cells and B-cells) to fight infection in the body.\(^1\)

One form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) is follicular lymphoma (FL),\(^2\) which originates in B-cells (which make antibodies to fight infection).\(^1\)

In some instances, the B-cells can be locked in a proliferative state of replication, which can become malignant over time.\(^3\)

Of the estimated 74,000 individuals diagnosed with NHL in the United States each year, FL accounts for approximately 20% of cases, or about 14,800 individuals.\(^4\)

While FL can occur at any age, it is most frequently diagnosed among people aged 55-64 with a median age of 63.\(^6\)

Many patients are asymptomatic at diagnosis,\(^4\) but some common symptoms they may experience include:\(^2\)

- Painless, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, armpit or groin
- Abdominal or chest pain
- Persistent fatigue
- Fever, night sweats or unexplained weight loss

A diagnosis of FL is made following a biopsy of a patient’s lymph node tissue, and may also include additional tests, including a CT scan to determine if the disease has spread to other parts of the body.

The median five-year survival rate is 88%.\(^5\) The highest five-year relative survival rate occurs in patients 55 years of age and those diagnosed with Stage 1 disease.\(^5\) The median overall survival is 13-14 years from diagnosis.\(^8,9\)

While patients with FL may live for many years, FL remains an incurable disease; patients will often experience periods of remission before their disease returns (relapse).

Patients may also become resistant to previous treatments they have received (refractory) as their disease becomes more aggressive and/or difficult to treat.

Given many will undergo multiple rounds of therapy; patients should work closely with their HCP to develop long-term treatment plans that take into account severity of disease and lifestyle needs.

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References


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