Understanding Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL)

What is MCL?

Lymphoma is a type of blood cancer. It usually develops when a **change, or mutation, occurs within a lymphocyte**, which is a type of white blood cell. This mutation causes the abnormal cell to replicate faster than, or live longer than, a normal lymphocyte.[1] **B cells and T cells** are the two types of lymphocytes that **can develop into lymphomas**.[2]

The **two main types** of lymphoma **are Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma**.[1]

MCL is a **rare, aggressive or slow-growing non-Hodgkin lymphoma**, typically **resulting when B-lymphocytes mutate into malignant cells** in the outer edge of a lymph node (mantle zone).[3,4]

There are **multiple factors which impact MCL treatment**, including stage of disease, age and overall health. Those who have a slow-growing disease, may not require immediate treatment, **while those with the more aggressive form may need to be treated quickly**.[5]

MCL Fast Facts

MCL represents **approximately 6% of all non-Hodgkin lymphoma cases in the US**.[6]

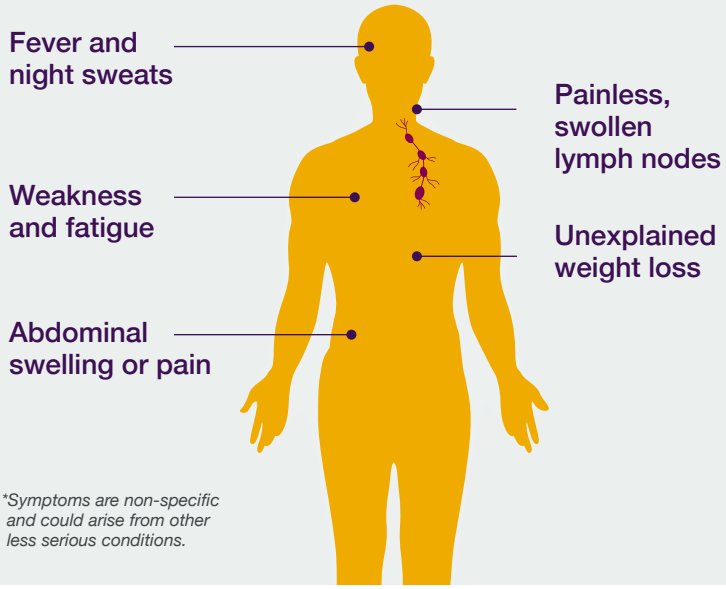
Men are more likely to have MCL than women.[6]

The **average age of diagnosis is the mid-60s**.[6]

MCL is often diagnosed as a late-stage disease that has spread to the gastrointestinal tract and bone marrow.[3]

Common Symptoms*

MCL may not appear to have symptoms during the early stages of disease. As the disease progresses, a person may experience[2,4]:



**Symptoms are non-specific and could arise from other less serious conditions.*

1. Lymphoma Research Foundation. About Lymphoma. https://lymphoma.org/aboutlymphoma/. Accessed August 2020. **2.** Lymphoma Research Foundation. Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (NHL). https://lymphoma.org/aboutlymphoma/nhl/. Accessed August 2020. **3.** Lymphoma Research Foundation. Mantle Cell Lymphoma. https://lymphoma.org/aboutlymphoma/nhl/mcl/. Accessed August 2020. **4.** National Organization for Rare Disorders. Mantle Cell Lymphoma. https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/mantle-cell-lymphoma/. Accessed August 2020. **5.** Lymphoma Research Foundation. Mantle Cell Lymphoma: Treatment Options. https://lymphoma.org/aboutlymphoma/nhl/mcl/mcltreatment/. Accessed August 2020. **6.** Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Mantle Cell Lymphoma Facts. https://www.lls.org/sites/default/files/file_assets/FS4_MCL_Facts_Rev.pdf. Accessed August 2020.

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