



Managing and treating lymphoma will be different for everyone, and it's important to be aware of your options. Clinical research is exploring potential treatment options for lymphoma, and you may be considering participating in a research study. Use this guide to start a conversation with your doctor about whether participating in a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational drug for lymphoma is an appropriate option for you.

Questions to Discuss with Your Healthcare Team About Lymphoma

Questions to Understand Lymphoma		Notes
Understanding My Lymphoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ What type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma do I have?○ Has my biopsy been reviewed by a pathologist who's an expert on lymphoma?○ Do I need any other tests before we can decide on treatment?○ Do I need to see any other types of doctors?○ What's the stage (extent) of the lymphoma? What does that mean in my case?○ Are there other factors that could affect my treatment options?	

Questions to Understand Treatment Options for Lymphoma		Notes
Understanding Treatment Options for Lymphoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What drugs have you prescribed for me to treat my lymphoma? ○ What kind or what category of drug is it? ○ What happens if I stop taking this drug? ○ How long do we wait to see if the drug is working for me? ○ If this drug doesn't work for me, are there other treatment options? 	
Questions to Understand Clinical Research as an Option		Notes
Understanding Clinical Research for Lymphoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What kind of clinical research studies testing investigational drugs are available for people with lymphoma? ○ Would you still be my doctor if I join a research study? ○ Would participation in a research study testing investigational drugs for people with lymphoma be an option for me? 	

If you think of other questions or don't have the opportunity to find out all the information you need at your appointment, ask your doctor or nurse for the best way to contact them in between appointments with follow-up questions.

Glossary

When discussing lymphoma with your healthcare team, it may help to know some key terms. This guide can help you become more comfortable with important words and terms, and help you prepare for your next conversation with your doctor.

Terms Related to Your Condition

Aggressive

Used to describe cancer that grows rapidly.¹

Indolent

Used to describe cancer that grows slowly and may not present any obvious symptoms.¹

Lymphoma

A type of cancer that affects the lymphatic system. The lymphatic system is part of the immune system and helps to protect against disease and infection.¹

Lymphocyte

A type of white blood cell that is stored within lymph nodes and other lymphatic tissues.¹

Non-Hodgkin's

Two types of lymphoma exist: Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's. How lymphoma is categorized depends on the type of white blood cells affected. If an abnormal cell called the Reed-Sternberg cell is not present, the lymphoma is classified as non-Hodgkin's.²

Refractory

When cancer does not respond to treatment (either progressed during or after therapy).³

Relapsed

When cancer first responds to therapy but progresses 6 months or later after completing therapy.⁴

Terms Related to Clinical Research Participation

Clinical research study

Also called a clinical trial, it is the primary way that researchers test and find out if an investigational drug is safe and effective.⁵

Investigational drug

A drug that has been tested in the laboratory and has obtained permission for further testing in research studies with people.⁶

Placebo

An inactive substance that looks like the investigational drug or treatment being tested but has no active ingredients.⁷ Placebos are used in research studies testing investigational drugs to help determine if the investigational drug is safer and more effective than no drug at all.

Active comparator

An approved drug considered by healthcare providers to be effective in treating the condition being studied.⁸ Active comparators are used in research studies testing investigational drugs to help determine if the investigational drug is safer and more effective than existing drugs.

Standard of care

Treatment that most medical experts agree is an appropriate choice and that is widely used by healthcare professionals.⁹

¹ <https://www.cancer.gov/types/lymphoma/patient/adult-nhl-treatment-pdq>

² <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/reed-sternberg-cell>

³ <https://www.cancer.gov/search/results?swKeyword=refractory+cancer>

⁴ <https://www.cancer.gov/search/results?swKeyword=relapse>

⁵ <https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/about-studies/learn#WhatIs>

⁶ <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/investigational-drug>

⁷ <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/placebos-clinical-trials>

⁸ <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/about-studies/glossary>

⁹ <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/standard-therapy>