

# B-CELL LYMPHOMA



## What Is B-Cell Lymphoma?

B-cell lymphoma is a specific type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, which is a cancer that forms in the lymphoid tissue and can spread to other organs. Lymphoid tissue is found in many parts of the body, and consists of the lymph nodes and other organs that are part of the body's system that forms blood and protects against germs. Approximately 85 percent of all lymphomas start in the B-cells, which are white blood cells that respond to an infection. B-cells are found in the lymphoid tissue, and mature and change into plasma cells.

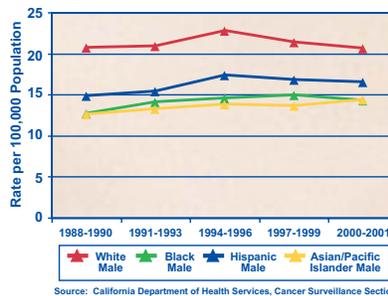
## What Are the Risk Factors for B-Cell Lymphoma?

- ◆ Age is the greatest risk factor, with most cases occurring in persons 60 or older.
- ◆ Several genetic diseases can cause children to be born with a deficient immune system, increasing lymphoma risk as children or young adults.
- ◆ Patients treated with radiation therapy for some other cancers have a slightly increased risk of developing lymphoma later in life.
- ◆ Persons with Human Immunodeficiency Virus or conditions treated with drugs that interfere with the immune system are at an increased risk of developing lymphoma.

## Who Gets B-Cell Lymphoma?

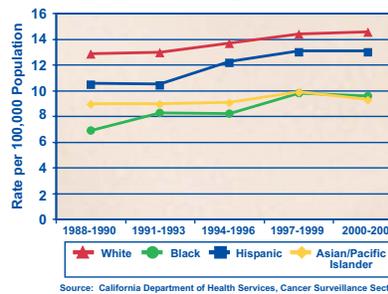
- ◆ Due to the increasing population in California, the number of cases has steadily increased from 3,500 new cases in 1988 to almost 5,000 new cases in 2001.
- ◆ Males have a higher incidence rate than females in all race/ethnicities.
- ◆ Rates are highest among non-Hispanic Whites and Hispanics in both males and females.

Three-Year B-Cell Lymphoma Incidence Rates Among Males, by Race/Ethnicity, 1988-2001



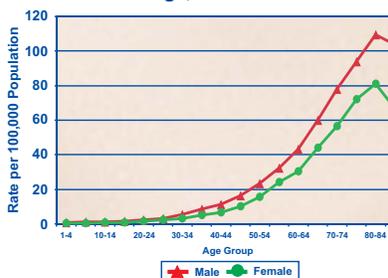
Source: California Department of Health Services, Cancer Surveillance Section

Three-Year B-Cell Lymphoma Incidence Rates Among Females, by Race/Ethnicity, 1988-2001



Source: California Department of Health Services, Cancer Surveillance Section

B-Cell Lymphoma Incidence Rates by Sex and Age, 1997-2001 Combined



Source: California Department of Health Services, Cancer Surveillance Section

## What Are the Symptoms of B-Cell Lymphoma?

B-cell lymphoma may cause different symptoms, depending on its location in the body, including:

- ◆ Easily seen or felt lymph nodes close to the surface of the skin
- ◆ Abdomen: can become swollen
- ◆ Intestines: nausea or vomiting
- ◆ Chest: coughing or trouble breathing
- ◆ Stomach: pain in the stomach, nausea, and reduced appetite
- ◆ Brain: headache, trouble thinking and moving parts of the body, personality changes, and occasionally seizures
- ◆ Skin: appear as itchy, red to purple lumps or nodules under the skin
- ◆ Also, general symptoms of unexplained weight loss, fever, profuse sweating, and severe itchiness may occur

## What Are the Treatments for B-Cell Lymphoma?

There are many subtypes of B-cell lymphoma, but the most common treatment is either chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

## Who Survives B-Cell Lymphoma?

Although survival rates for B-cell lymphoma specifically are unavailable, the five-year survival rate in California for all types of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma combined is 52 percent. Additionally, survival among children birth to 14 years of age has increased from approximately 45 percent in 1974 to 80 percent in 1999.



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