



## MY FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA

# Glossary of Common Terms

**B cells:** B cells fight bacteria and viruses by making antibodies, which are specific to each pathogen and can lock onto the surface of an invading cell and mark it for destruction by other immune cells.<sup>13</sup>

**B cell lymphoma:** B cell lymphoma is a type of cancer where the B cells turn into a malignant (cancerous) cell.<sup>1</sup>

**B lymphocytes:** B lymphocytes (B cells) produce specific antibodies to “neutralize” certain invading microorganisms. It is part of the lymphatic system, which functions as part of the immune system and helps to protect the body against infection and disease.<sup>1</sup>

**Biomarker testing:** Biomarker testing is a way to look for genes, proteins, and other substances (called biomarkers or tumor markers) that can provide information about cancer. Each person’s cancer has a unique pattern of biomarkers. Some biomarkers affect how certain cancer treatments work.<sup>2</sup>

**Biopsy:** A biopsy can be used to diagnose follicular lymphoma. Biopsies involve the removal and microscopic examination of small samples of tissue cells from a lymph node or, in some instances, removal of an entire, enlarged lymph node—that is suspected of being cancerous. Depending upon the specific type of biopsy performed, the procedure may be conducted under local or whole body (general) anesthesia.<sup>1</sup>

**Bone marrow transplantation targeted therapy:** A bone marrow transplant, also called a stem cell transplant, is a medical treatment that replaces your bone marrow with healthy cells. The replacement cells can either come from your own body or from a donor.<sup>3</sup>

**Chemotherapy:** Chemotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses drugs to stop the growth of cancer cells either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing.<sup>4</sup>

**CT scan:** Computed tomography (CT), also known as a CT scan, is a more advanced x-ray that produces images of bones, soft tissues, blood vessels, and other internal structures.<sup>5</sup>

**Efficacy:** Efficacy describes the ability of an intervention (for example, a drug or surgery) to produce the desired beneficial effect.<sup>6</sup>

**EZH2 inhibitor:** EZH2 inhibitor, an oral nonchemotherapy medicine that is designed to target and block the EZH2 gene, which has been implicated in the growth of cancer.<sup>16</sup>

**Follicular Lymphoma:** Follicular lymphoma is a type of cancer that develops in the white blood cells, lymphatic system and bone marrow. It is a form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma that stems from B lymphocytes, making it a B cell lymphoma. 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.<sup>1</sup>

**Grade:** Tumor grade is the description of a tumor based on how abnormal the tumor cells and the tumor tissue look under a microscope. It is an indicator of how quickly a tumor is likely to grow and spread.<sup>14</sup>

**Hemoglobin:** A protein inside red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to tissues and organs in the body and carries carbon dioxide back to the lungs.<sup>16</sup>

**Imaging tests:** Imaging tests can be used to look for cancer, to find out how far it has spread, and to help see if cancer treatment is working. A radiologist, medical doctors specializing in diagnosing and treating injuries and diseases using medical imaging, will examine and interpret the images and share a report with your doctor.<sup>7</sup>

**Immunotherapy:** Immunotherapy is a type of treatment that either boosts the patient’s own immune system, or uses man-made drugs called monoclonal antibodies that attack a specific target on the surface of lymphocytes (cells in which lymphoma starts).<sup>4</sup>

**Kinase inhibitor:** Human cells have many different kinases, and they help control important functions, such as cell signaling, metabolism, division, and survival. Certain kinases are more active in some types of cancer cells and blocking them may help keep the cancer cells from growing. Kinase inhibitors may also block the growth of new blood vessels that tumors need to grow. Some kinase inhibitors are used to treat cancer.<sup>17</sup>

**Lactate dehydrogenase:** Lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) is a protein that helps produce energy in the body.<sup>18</sup>

**Lymph nodes:** Lymph nodes are a network of small structures in the lymphatic system that help to remove microorganisms (e.g., viruses, bacteria, etc.) and other foreign bodies.<sup>1</sup> They contain immune cells that can help fight infection by attacking and destroying germs that are carried in through the lymph fluid. Lymph nodes are located in many parts of the body, including the neck, armpit, chest, abdomen (belly), and groin.<sup>8</sup>

**Lymph node status:** Lymph node status shows whether or not the lymph nodes in the underarm area contain cancer.<sup>19</sup>

**Lymphatic system:** The lymphatic system is part of the immune system and helps to protect the body against infection and disease. It consists of a network of tubular channels that drain a thin watery fluid known as lymph from different areas of the body into the bloodstream.<sup>1</sup>

**Monoclonal antibody:** A Monoclonal antibody is a man-made antibody that proteins that mimic the immune system’s ability to fight off harmful pathogens such as viruses.<sup>9</sup>

**Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan:** Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is a medical imaging technique that uses a magnetic field and computer-generated radio waves to create detailed images of the organs and tissues in your body.<sup>20</sup>

**Non-Hodgkin lymphoma:** Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma is a type of cancer that begins in your lymphatic system, which is part of the body's germ-fighting immune system. In non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, white blood cells called lymphocytes grow abnormally and can form growths (tumors) throughout the body.<sup>21</sup>

**PET scan:** A positron emission tomography (PET) scan is an imaging test that helps reveal how your tissues and organs are functioning.<sup>22</sup>

**Palliative care:** Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness, such as cancer or heart failure. Palliative care is meant to enhance a person's current care by focusing on quality of life for them and their family.<sup>23</sup>

**Prognosis:** A prognosis is the likely outcome of a disease.<sup>4</sup>

**Radioimmunotherapy:** Radioimmunotherapy uses high-energy radiation from X-rays, gamma rays, neutrons, protons, and other sources to kill cancer cells and shrink tumors.<sup>4</sup>

**Radiotherapy:** Radiotherapy is a cancer treatment that uses high-energy x-rays or other types of radiation to kill cancer cells and keep them from growing. External radiotherapy uses a machine that focuses the radiation from outside the body and targets it towards the cancer.<sup>4</sup>

**Refractory:** Refractory is a term used to describe when cancer does not shrink or improve with treatment.<sup>1</sup>

**Relapse:** Relapse means that cancer has returned after remission.<sup>1</sup> Remission means signs and symptoms of cancer have shown reduction or disappearance.<sup>10</sup>

**Remission:** Remission means signs and symptoms of cancer have shown reduction or disappearance.<sup>10</sup>

**Stage:** Stage refers to the extent of your cancer, such as how large the tumor is, and if it has spread.<sup>15</sup>

**Survival rate:** The percentage of people in a study or treatment group who are still alive for a certain period of time after they were diagnosed with or started treatment for a disease, such as cancer.<sup>24</sup>

**Watch and wait:** Some individuals living with follicular lymphoma may choose not to start treatment for a slow-growing lymphoma. Observation, or the "watch and wait" approach, may be recommended if there are no clinical trials you can join and cancer is not doing the following – causing symptoms, limiting organs from working, causing a low blood cell count, spreading, growing large or growing fast, not increasing spleen size.<sup>11</sup>

**White blood cells:** White blood cells are made in the bone marrow and can be found in the blood and lymph tissue. They are an important part of the immune system and help in fighting off infections and platelets allow the body to form clots to stop bleeding. There are different types of white blood cells called granulocytes (neutrophils, eosinophils, and basophils), monocytes, and lymphocytes (T cells and B cells).<sup>12</sup>

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