

# ABOUT FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA

## JUST THE FACTS

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.<sup>1</sup>

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>



In some instances, the B-cells can be locked in a state of replication, **which can become malignant over time.**<sup>3</sup>

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.**<sup>4</sup>

One form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) is **follicular lymphoma (FL)**,<sup>2</sup> **which originates in B-cells** (which make antibodies to fight infection).<sup>1</sup>

## WHO IS DIAGNOSED WITH FL?



According to the National Cancer Institute, **FL is most common among white men and women**, compared with other ethnic groups.<sup>5</sup>



**26% of patients have Stage 1 disease at diagnosis**, meaning the disease is located in one area of the body.<sup>5</sup>



**27% of patients present with Stage 4 disease**, meaning the disease has spread throughout the body.<sup>5</sup>

**55-64**

**is the age range of people most frequently diagnosed with FL**, with a median age of 63.<sup>6</sup>

## SYMPTOMS & DIAGNOSIS

Many patients are asymptomatic at diagnosis,<sup>6</sup> but some common symptoms they may experience include<sup>7</sup>:



**Painless, swollen lymph nodes in the neck, armpit or groin**



**Persistent fatigue, abdominal or chest pain**

**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.

## LIVING WITH FL

- The highest five-year relative survival rate occurs in patients and those diagnosed with Stage 1 disease.<sup>5</sup> The **median overall survival is 13-14 years from diagnosis.**<sup>8,9</sup>
- 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 health care provider to **develop long-term treatment plans** that take into account severity of disease and lifestyle needs.



### REFERENCES

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