**What is mantle cell lymphoma (MCL)?**

Mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) is a rare type of lymphoma.

MCL is one of several types of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).

MCL is named for where the cancer originates, in a part of the lymph node called the "mantle zone."

**Early symptoms of MCL typically include enlarged lymph nodes, such as in the throat, liver or gastrointestinal tract.**

- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Night sweats
- Nausea or vomiting
- Bloating

**People with MCL may experience:**

- Loss of appetite, fever, fatigue, night sweats, nausea or vomiting, stomach pain, bloating, or a feeling of "fullness" or discomfort as a result of these symptoms.
- As the disease progresses, complications can arise with blood cell production, leukocytosis (high white blood cell counts, similar to leukemia), and the gastrointestinal, pulmonary and/or central nervous systems.
- MCL has a median survival of about 3 to 4 years.

**In the United States, about 4,452 people will be diagnosed with MCL in 2019, representing about 6% of all new cases of NHL.**

**Who does MCL affect?**

MCL is more common in men than in women, and most often occurs in people older than 60.

**How is MCL diagnosed and treated?**

A doctor will take a tissue sample, called a biopsy, and analyze the cells to diagnose MCL.

- MCL is frequently diagnosed at a later stage of disease, when it is widespread in the lymph nodes, bone marrow and spleen.
- Most cases of MCL are diagnosed as an aggressive, or fast-growing, type of cancer. Because of this, most patients will begin treatment as soon as possible.

Treatment for MCL depends on the stage of disease and the patient's age and overall health. Treatment options may include:

- Chemotherapy: damages and kills cancer cells
- Corticosteroids: toxic to MCL cells
- Antibody treatment: helps immune system fight cancerous cells
- Targeted therapies, such as kinase inhibitors: impede the growth of cancer cells
- Immunomodulators: modify parts of the immune system
- Radiation therapies: damage DNA in cancer cells to prevent growth
- Stem cell transplant: replaces unhealthy stem cells to promote growth of healthy bone marrow and blood cells

**More on lymphoma**

Lymphoma is the most common type of blood cancer. The term lymphoma refers to a diverse group of cancers that primarily affect lymphocytes, which are a type of white blood cell essential to a functioning immune system.

- There are three types of lymphocyte, each of which can be affected by lymphoma: B lymphocytes (B-cells), T lymphocytes (T-cells) and natural killer cells (NK-cells).

- There are two general types of lymphoma that behave and are treated differently: Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL). NHL is one of many types of NHL.