Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma

Diffuse large cell lymphoma is the most common non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in the United States. This lymphoma usually occurs in older adults with a median patient age of 60 but approximately 20% of these neoplasms occur in children as well. Diffuse large cell lymphomas are most commonly of B cell origin and are derived from the germinal center. The mature B cell tumors express CD 19 and CD20 markers and demonstrate variable expression of germinal center markers including CD 10 and BCDL6. However, approximately 20% of diffuse large cell lymphomas are of T cell origin. Clinically, patients with this form of lymphoma present with advanced disease with extranodal involvement. It can arise virtually anywhere in the body and primary or secondary involvement of the liver and spleen can cause the formation of large isolated masses. Common extranodal sites include the gastrointestinal tract, brain, skin, and bone. Histologically, these tumor cells are relatively large in size, often measuring four to five times the diameter of a small lymphocyte and have a diffuse pattern of growth. These tumors are aggressive tumors and are typically rapidly fatal without treatment.

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Epidemiology

Most Common Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

Foam-finger on Non-Nun and Hog-king with Lime-foam

Diffuse large B cell lymphoma is the most common type of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) in the United States.

Usually in Older Adults

Adults

This lymphoma usually occurs in older adults with a median patient age of 60 but approximately 20% of these neoplasms occur in children as well.

20% in Children

1 out of 5 people is a Child

This lymphoma usually occurs in older adults with a median patient age of 60 but approximately 20% of these neoplasms occur in children as well.

Features

May be Mature T Cell in Origin

1 out of 5 people is Tennis player

Approximately 20% of diffuse large B cell lymphomas are of T-cell origin.

Derives from Germinal Center

German-at-center

Diffuse large B cell lymphomas are most commonly of B cell origin and are derived from the germinal center. The mature B cell tumors express CD19 and CD20 markers and demonstrate variable expression of germinal center markers including CD10 and BCDL6.

GI Tract and Brain

GI Tract and Brain

Clinically, patients with this form of lymphoma present with advanced disease with extranodal involvement. Common extranodal sites include the gastrointestinal tract, brain, skin, and bone.

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