

# Hodgkin lymphoma

This page gives you an overview of Hodgkin lymphoma – what it is, who might get it and what types of Hodgkin lymphoma there are.

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## What is Hodgkin lymphoma?

Hodgkin lymphoma is named after Dr Thomas Hodgkin, who was the first person to describe the condition in 1832.

Hodgkin lymphoma develops when a lymphocyte (a type of white blood cell) becomes out of control. There are 2 types of lymphocyte, B lymphocytes (B cells) and T lymphocytes (T cells). Lymphocytes fight infection as part of the **immune system**. They are carried around the body in the **lymphatic system** and can collect in the lymph nodes (glands). Hodgkin lymphoma develops from a B cell.

In Hodgkin lymphoma, particular types of abnormal cells called Reed–Sternberg cells can be seen under a microscope. **Non-Hodgkin lymphomas** do not contain this type of cell.

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# Who gets Hodgkin lymphoma?

Hodgkin lymphoma can occur at any age, although most people diagnosed are between the ages of 15 and 34 or over 60. We have more specific information about [lymphoma in children and young people](#).

Nearly 2,000 people are diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma each year in the UK. It affects slightly more males than it does females. Treatment for Hodgkin lymphoma has improved dramatically over the last 40 years. Nowadays most people are successfully treated.

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## Types of Hodgkin lymphoma

There are 2 main types of Hodgkin lymphoma:

- **classical Hodgkin lymphoma** includes 4 types, all of which are treated in the same way:
  - nodular sclerosis
  - mixed cellularity
  - lymphocyte-rich
  - lymphocyte-depleted
- **nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL)**.

Most cases of Hodgkin lymphoma are classical Hodgkin lymphoma. Only around 1 in 20 cases is NLPHL.

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## References

These are some of the sources we used to prepare this information. The full list of sources is available on request. Please contact us by email at [publications@lymphoma-action.org.uk](mailto:publications@lymphoma-action.org.uk) or phone on **01296 619409** if you would like a copy.

- Cancer Research UK. Cancer statistics – Hodgkin lymphoma statistics. Available at: [www.bit.do/HL-stats](http://www.bit.do/HL-stats) (Accessed March 2016).

- McKay P, et al. Guidelines for the investigation and management of nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma. *British Journal Haematology* 2015; 172. Available at: [www.bit.do/guidelines-nlphl](http://www.bit.do/guidelines-nlphl) (Accessed March 2016).
- Followes GA, et al. Guidelines for the first line management of classical Hodgkin lymphoma. *British Journal Haematology* 2014; 166. Available at: [www.bit.do/management-hl](http://www.bit.do/management-hl) (Accessed March 2016).

## Further reading

- [Classical Hodgkin lymphoma](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Hodgkin lymphoma in children: for parents](#)
- [Lymphoma in young people \(under 25\)](#)
- [Nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma \(NLPHL\)](#)
- [What is lymphoma?](#)

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### Acknowledgements

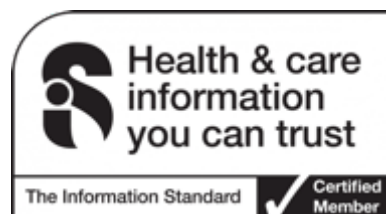
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