Newsbites

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Lymph node

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FIGHTING HODGKIN'S DISEASE

Hodgkin's Disease (Hodgkin's Lymphoma) is a type of lymphoma, a cancer that starts in the white blood cells called lymphocytes. Lymphocytes are part of the immune system.

Symptoms:

The most common symptom of Hodgkin's Lymphoma is a painless swelling in the lymph nodes in the neck, underarm, or groin. Hodgkin's Lymphoma is diagnosed when abnormal tissue is detected by a pathologist after a biopsy of an enlarged lymph node. Some of those affected have other symptoms like fever, night sweats, fatigue, itching or weakness.

Incidence:

One in eight cases of Lymphoma is Hodgkin's type. Globally it is more common in men than women except the nodular sclerosis type, which is more common in women. (1)

There are over 60,000 new diagnoses of Hodgkin's Lymphoma worldwide each year (2)

In India, 21% of all Hodgkin's Disease was seen in children with a marked male: female ratio of 5.5:1. (3)

Causes:

The exact cause of Hodgkin's disease is not known. If the immune system is down (for example, if a person has AIDS) the risk of developing a lymphoma increases. A previous infection with a virus called the Epstein-Barr virus, may increase the risk slightly. It is not an inherited condition and does not run in families.

Origin of a cancer (such as a lymphoma) starts from one abnormal

cell. Exactly why the cell becomes cancerous is unclear. It is believed to be something that damages or alters certain genes in the cell making the cell abnormal. These cells multiply and produce many more abnormal cells.

Treatment:

Treatment of Hodgkin's Lymphoma depends on the symptoms, stage and location of disease, as well as the age and health of the patient. It usually includes radiation therapy or chemotherapy. Regular follow-up examinations are important after treatment for Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Patients treated for Hodgkin's Lymphoma have an increased risk of developing other types of cancer later in life, especially Leukaemia.

Treatment using stem cells:

Stem cell transplantation is often an option for Hodgkin's Lymphoma patients with cancer that has relapsed (returned) or is refractory (unresponsive to primary treatment). Before a stem cell transplant for Hodgkin's Lymphoma, the patient will undergo a conditioning regimen, which involves intensive treatment, such as high-dose chemotherapy, to destroy as many cancer cells as possible. Following this preparative regimen, the patient will receive the stem cells intravenously (similar to a blood transfusion). The procedure takes about an hour. After entering the bloodstream, the stem cells travel to the bone marrow and begin to produce healthy new blood cells in a process known as engraftment.

Sources:

- (1) http://www.thehugojournal.com/content/6/1/1,
- (2) http://www.hindawi.com/journals/crim/2012/457908/
- (3) http://www.indianpediatrics.net/mar2005/mar-285-287.htm (4) http://www.kokilabenhospital.com/departments/centresofexcellence/centrefor cancer/lymphoma.html





EVENTS

Year 2014 ended on a high note with Mummy & Tummy Sessions conducted across the country.



Mumbai



Aurangabad



Pune

Babycell also participated in CME (Continuing Medical Education) organised by gynecologists and obstetricians in Surat.





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