
Links between HL & Glandular Fever - a survey

Posted by erinna - 2008/07/09 23:49

Im sure many of those who have had HL have heard of the possible link between HL & Glandular Fever (GF), so I would be interested to know who here has had been diagnosed with HL and if you have also had GF during your lifetime? Or even if you think you had it at some stage, but it was never diagnosed (I personally think its under-diagnosed because many doctors still dont believe in it).

Me personally, Ive had GF three times. First major one was when I was 13/14 (Im 24 now), and then twice more the following years. Funnily enough, Im onto my third HL occurrence (2nd relapse)... never thought of that before.

So yes.. anyone else?

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Re:Links between HL & Glandular Fever - a surv

Posted by DanT - 2008/07/10 11:50

Hi Erinna,

There is certainly a link between Hodgkin Lymphoma and Glandular Fever as in most cases, they are both caused the same virus - Epstein Barr Virus (EBV). Whilst there has been limited conclusive data into the exact relationship between this virus and HL, recent studies have shown that when a person's EBV count is raised, HL may be prevalent, and it depletes during remission. BUT as about 90% of the population carry this virus, having it IS NOT a cause for alarm.

For example, my EBV was in the hundreds when I was first diagnosed with HL, was 0 when in remission, and then in the hundreds again when I relapsed!

Research into how our bodies can attack the virus to prevent HL is currently being conducted through clinical trials. If successful, I believe this kind of immunotherapy will be the future treatment for HL (and others).

My specialist now checks my EBV counts when I go for my checkups (I'm 4.5 years in remission). It's a good marker for relapse!

I agree that Glandular Fever is under diagnosed. In retrospect, I'm sure I had it in Grade 12 when I could hardly keep my eyes open at school and felt rotten! My best friend had it and it's very contagious. So definitely a connection!

Anyway, hope things are going for okay for you at the moment. Good luck with the radiation therapy - let us know how it goes...

Take care,
Dan :)

PS If you're more interested in the link between HL and EBC, check out this article -

Kapatai, G., Murray, P. (2007) 'Contribution of the Epstein Barr virus to the molecular pathogenesis of Hodgkin lymphoma.' *Journal of Clinical Pathology* 60(12), 1342-1349

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Re:Links between HL & Glandular Fever - a survey

Posted by ness17 - 2008/07/18 19:54

Hi

All very new to this, i am in my second relapse of HL, but just wanted to contribute to this, i was diagnosed in dec 06 but i have never had Glandular Fever.

Also just wanted to ask how many times has everyone had relapses and how do you cope when you come out of remission.

Ness

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Re:Links between HL & Glandular Fever - a survey

Posted by cindy - 2008/07/18 21:26

Hi all,

yes i had GF when i was 17 and then diagnosed with HL when i was 31, that was last year. I have been in remission for about 8 months. i am very scared of relapse as i am a busy person with my own business and i cannot afford to get sick again. It would completely turn my life upside down. it took everything i had to get through it the first time, i dont know how i would cope a second time. I am also wondering how common it is to repapse after an initial diagnosis and remission status?

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HL and relapse

Posted by DanT - 2008/07/19 12:13

I think the possibility of relapse after HL completetely depends on each individual case. Generally though... and haven't we all heard this before... it is the most curable of the blood cancers!

I relapsed 3 months after I was given the all clear, but in retrospect, they suspect that they didn't get it all the first time round. So it may have actually been progression, rather than a new disease.

After my stem cell transplant in December 2003, I went into complete remission, so am approaching the 5 year mark!

I try not to worry about it coming back. I think they blasted it (and me :X) with the stem cell transplant. I guess what we can do with our heightened knowledge (fear?) that cancer happens to anyone, any age, is live life well. And eat our greens!

Dan

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Re:HL and relapse

Posted by Mizer - 2009/12/07 15:28

Have heard and read a lot about the links between GF and HL but I was never diagnosed with GF so the jury is still out for me

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