



Protocol for the Examination of Precursor and Mature Lymphoid Malignancies

Version: 1.0.0.1

Protocol Posting Date: September 2025

The use of this protocol is recommended for clinical care purposes but is not required for accreditation purposes.

This protocol applies to precursor and mature lymphoid malignancies involving blood, bone marrow, lymph node, cutaneous, extranodal/mucosal, or any other anatomic site.

The following tumor types should be reported using this protocol:

| Tumor Type |
|---|
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphomas |
| +Pre-neoplastic lymphoid proliferations (optionally reported) including monoclonal B lymphocytosis |
| Mature B-cell neoplasms including: Follicular neoplasms, Mantle cell neoplasms, Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma, Marginal zone lymphomas, Splenic B-cell lymphomas / leukemias, Large B-cell lymphomas, KSHV / HHV8-associated B-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas, other mature B-cell neoplasms |
| Hodgkin lymphomas |
| Precursor T-cell neoplasms |
| Mature T-cell and NK-cell leukemias including: Primary cutaneous T-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas, Intestinal T-cell and NK-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas, Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma, Anaplastic large cell lymphomas, Nodal T-follicular helper (TFH) cell lymphomas, Peripheral T-cell lymphoma, NOS |
| EBV-positive NK / T-cell lymphomas |
| EBV-positive T-cell and NK-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas of childhood |
| Lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas associated with immune deficiency and dysregulation |

The following tumor types should NOT be reported using this protocol:

| Tumor Type |
|--|
| Myeloid/lymphoid neoplasms with eosinophilia and defining gene rearrangement, Acute leukemias of mixed or ambiguous lineage, plasmacytoid dendritic cell neoplasms (use Myeloid and Mixed/Ambiguous Lineage Neoplasms) |
| Plasma cell neoplasms, Immunoglobulin-related (AL) amyloidosis, Monoclonal immunoglobulin deposition disease, Heavy chain disease (use Plasma Cell Malignancies and Immunoglobulin Deposition Related Disorders) |

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Glossary:

Author: Expert who is a current member of the Cancer Committee, or an expert designated by the chair of the Cancer Committee.

Expert Contributors: Includes members of other CAP committees or external subject matter experts who contribute to the current version of the protocol.

Accreditation Requirements

The use of this case summary is recommended for clinical care purposes but is not required for accreditation purposes. The core and conditional data elements are routinely reported. Non-core data elements are indicated with a plus sign (+) to allow for reporting information that may be of clinical value.

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Summary of Changes

v 1.0.0.1

- eCP only metadata and eCP only explanatory note electronic link updates

Reporting Template

Protocol Posting Date: September 2025

Select a single response unless otherwise indicated.

CASE SUMMARY: (PRECURSOR AND MATURE LYMPHOID MALIGNANCIES: Targeted Biopsy, Resection, or Bone Marrow Sampling)

This protocol is for the reporting of precursor and mature B- and T-cell neoplasms. Hodgkin lymphoma is now included in this cancer case summary to reflect its ontogeny as a mature B-cell neoplasm. This cancer case summary can be used for blood, bone marrow, nodal and extranodal sites of involvement. Clinical staging and prognostic classifications have been removed from the Cancer Case Summaries as these are best performed by the managing physician. Plasma cell neoplasms are reported separately to reflect specific diagnostic features of those neoplasms and to simplify reporting requirements.

TUMOR

Site(s) of Tumor Involvement in Sample (Note [A](#)) (select all that apply)

- ☐ Bone marrow (specify percent involvement of neoplastic cells): _____ %
- ☐ Blood (specify percent involvement of neoplastic cells): _____ %
- ☐ Anterior mediastinum
- ☐ Lymph node
- ☐ Cutaneous
- ☐ Extranodal / mucosal site
- ☐ Other (specify): _____

Final Integrated Diagnosis (Note [B](#))

☐ Precursor B-cell neoplasms

B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphomas

- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma, NOS
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with high hyperdiploidy
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with hypodiploidy
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with iAMP21
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with BCR::ABL1 fusion
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with BCR::ABL1-like features
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with KMT2A rearrangement
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with ETV6::RUNX1 fusion
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with ETV6::RUNX1-like features
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with TCF3::PBX1 fusion
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with IGH::IL3 fusion
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with TCF3::HLF fusion
- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma with other defined genetic alterations

Other precursor B-cell neoplasm

- ☐ B-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma, pending additional studies (specify): _____

☐ Mature B-cell neoplasms

Pre-neoplastic lymphoid proliferations (optionally reported)

- + ☐ Monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, CLL-type, low-count (specify absolute count of clonal cells, if possible) ($\times 10^9/L$): _____ $\times 10^9/L$
- + ☐ Monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, CLL-type (specify absolute count of clonal cells, if possible) ($\times 10^9/L$): _____ $\times 10^9/L$
- + ☐ Monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, non-CLL type (specify absolute count of clonal cells, if possible) ($\times 10^9/L$): _____ $\times 10^9/L$

possible) ($\times 10^9/L$): _____ $\times 10^9/L$

CLL / SLL

___ Chronic lymphocytic leukemia / small lymphocytic lymphoma

Follicular neoplasms

- ___ In situ follicular B-cell neoplasm
- ___ Follicular lymphoma, classic type (cFL)
- ___ Follicular lymphoma with unusual cytologic features (uFL)
- ___ Follicular lymphoma with predominantly diffuse growth pattern (dFL)
- ___ Follicular large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Pediatric-type follicular lymphoma
- ___ Duodenal-type follicular lymphoma
- ___ Primary cutaneous follicle center lymphoma

Mantle cell neoplasms

- ___ In situ mantle cell neoplasm
- ___ Mantle cell lymphoma
- ___ Leukemic non-nodal mantle cell lymphoma

Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma

- ___ Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma

Marginal zone lymphomas

- ___ Extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue
- ___ Primary cutaneous marginal zone lymphoma
- ___ Nodal marginal zone lymphoma
- ___ Pediatric nodal marginal zone lymphoma

Splenic B-cell lymphomas / leukemias

- ___ Hairy cell leukemia
- ___ Splenic marginal zone lymphoma
- ___ Splenic diffuse red pulp small B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Splenic B-cell lymphoma / leukemia with prominent nucleoli

Large B-cell lymphomas

- ___ Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, NOS
- ___ T-cell / histiocyte-rich large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma / high grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and BCL2 rearrangements
- ___ ALK-positive large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Large B-cell lymphoma with IRF4 rearrangement
- ___ High grade B-cell lymphoma with 11q aberrations
- ___ Lymphomatoid granulomatosis
- ___ EBV-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma associated with chronic inflammation
- ___ Fibrin-associated large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Fluid overload-associated large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Plasmablastic lymphoma
- ___ Primary large B-cell lymphoma of immune-privileged sites
- ___ Primary cutaneous diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, leg type
- ___ Intravascular large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma
- ___ Mediastinal grey zone lymphoma
- ___ High-grade B-cell lymphoma, NOS

- ☐ Burkitt lymphoma
 - KSHV / HHV8-associated B-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas*
 - ☐ Primary effusion lymphoma
 - ☐ KSHV / HHV8-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
 - ☐ KSHV / HHV8-positive germinotropic lymphoproliferative disorder
- ☐ *Hodgkin lymphomas*
 - ☐ Classic Hodgkin lymphoma
 - ☐ Nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma
- ☐ *Other mature B-cell neoplasm*
 - ☐ Mature B-cell neoplasm (specify): _____
- ☐ Precursor T-cell neoplasms
 - ☐ T-lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma, NOS
 - ☐ Early T-precursor lymphoblastic leukemia / lymphoma
 - ☐ Precursor T-cell neoplasm, pending additional studies (specify): _____
- ☐ Mature T-cell and NK-cell neoplasms
 - Mature T-cell and NK-cell leukemias*
 - ☐ T-prolymphocytic leukemia
 - ☐ T-large granular lymphocytic leukemia
 - ☐ NK-large granular lymphocytic leukemia
 - ☐ Adult T-cell leukemia / lymphoma
 - ☐ Sezary syndrome
 - ☐ Aggressive NK-cell leukemia
 - Primary cutaneous T-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas*
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous CD4-positive small or medium T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous acral CD8-positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder
 - ☐ Mycosis fungoides
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous CD30-positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder: Lymphomatoid papulosis
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous CD30-positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder: Primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous gamma / delta T-cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous CD8-positive aggressive epidermotropic cytotoxic T-cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Primary cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphoma, NOS
- Intestinal T-cell and NK-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas*
 - ☐ Indolent T-cell lymphoma of the gastrointestinal tract
 - ☐ Indolent NK-cell lymphoproliferative disorder of the gastrointestinal tract
 - ☐ Enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Monomorphic epitheliotropic intestinal T-cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Intestinal T-cell lymphoma, NOS
- Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma*
 - ☐ Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma
- Anaplastic large cell lymphomas*
 - ☐ ALK-positive anaplastic large cell lymphoma
 - ☐ ALK-negative anaplastic large cell lymphoma
 - ☐ Breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma
- Nodal T-follicular helper (TFH) cell lymphomas*
 - ☐ Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, angioimmunoblastic-type
 - ☐ Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, follicular-type

- ☐ Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, NOS
Other peripheral T-cell lymphoma
- ☐ Peripheral T-cell lymphoma, NOS
EBV-positive NK / T-cell lymphomas
- ☐ EBV-positive NK-cell and T-cell lymphoma
- ☐ EBV-positive nodal T- and NK-cell lymphoma
- ☐ Extranodal NK / T-cell lymphoma
EBV-positive T-cell and NK-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas of childhood
- ☐ Severe mosquito bite allergy
- ☐ Hydroa vacciniforme lymphoproliferative disorder
- ☐ Systemic chronic active EBV disease
- ☐ Systemic EBV-positive T-cell lymphoma of childhood
Other mature T- or NK-cell neoplasm
- ☐ Mature T- or NK-cell neoplasm (specify): _____
- ☐ Lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas associated with immune deficiency and dysregulation
- ☐ Hyperplasias arising in immune deficiency / dysregulation
- ☐ Polymorphic lymphoproliferative disorders arising in immune deficiency / dysregulation
- ☐ EBV-positive mucocutaneous ulcer
- ☐ Lymphomas arising in immune deficiency / dysregulation
- ☐ Inborn error of immunity-associated lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas
- +Specify Name of Lesion:** _____
- +Specify Virus Status:** _____
- +Specify Type of Immunodeficiency:** _____

+Possible Transformation from Indolent Lymphoma (Note [C](#))

- ☐ Not applicable
- ☐ No overt evidence of transformation from more indolent lymphoma / other lymphoma type
- ☐ Lymphoma favored to represent transformation event from indolent lymphoma (explain):

SPECIAL STUDIES (Note [D](#))

Immunohistochemistry

- ☐ Not performed
- ☐ Performed (specify results): _____
- ☐ Pending

Flow Cytometry

- ☐ Not performed
- ☐ No aberrancy detected at level of sensitivity of assay
- ☐ Positive for abnormal lymphoid population (specify immunophenotype, if possible):

- ☐ Pending

Conventional Cytogenetics

- ☐ Not performed

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- ☐ Normal diploid karyotype
- ☐ Abnormal karyotype (specify, if possible): _____
- ☐ Pending

Fluorescence in situ Hybridization (select all that apply)

- ☐ Not performed
- ☐ Normal probes (specify loci tested): _____
- ☐ Abnormal probes (specify loci tested): _____
- ☐ Pending

Molecular Alterations Detected# (select all that apply)

Select all those with significant mutations

- ☐ ALK translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ MALT1 translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ ATM mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ B2M mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ BCL10 translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ BIRC3 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ BTK mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ CARD11 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ CD79A / B mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ BCR::ABL1 p190 fusion transcript
- ☐ BCR::ABL1 p210 fusion transcript
- ☐ BCR::ABL1, unspecified transcript
- ☐ BCL2 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ BCL2 translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ BCL6 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ BCL6 translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ BRAF mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ CDKN2A / 2B mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ CCND1 (Cyclin D1) translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ CCND2 (Cyclin D2) translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ CCND3 (Cyclin D3) translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ CXCR4 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ DUSP22 translocation (specify): _____
- ☐ DNMT3A mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ ETV6 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ ETV6::RUNX1 fusion (specify): _____
- ☐ EZH2 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ FBXW7 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ GATA3 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ iAMP21 (specify): _____
- ☐ IDH1 / 2 mutation (specify): _____
- ☐ IGH::IL3 rearrangement (specify): _____
- ☐ IGHV mutated (specify): _____
- ☐ IGHV unmutated (specify): _____

___ IRF4 mutation (specify): _____
___ JAK1 mutation (specify): _____
___ JAK2 mutation (specify): _____
___ JAK3 mutation (specify): _____
___ KLKF2 mutation (specify): _____
___ KRAS mutation (specify): _____
___ KMT2A rearrangement (specify): _____
___ MYC rearrangement (specify): _____
___ MYD88 mutation (specify): _____
___ NOTCH1 mutation (specify): _____
___ NOTCH2 mutation (specify): _____
___ NRAS mutation (specify): _____
___ PDGFRA translocation (specify): _____
___ PLCG1 / 2 mutation (specify): _____
___ PTEN mutation (specify): _____
___ RB1 mutation (specify): _____
___ RHOA mutation (specify): _____
___ RPS15 mutation (specify): _____
___ SF3B1 mutation (specify): _____
___ STAT3 mutation (specify): _____
___ STAT5B mutation (specify): _____
___ STAT6 mutation (specify): _____
___ TET2 mutation (specify): _____
___ TCF3::PBX1 rearrangement (specify): _____
___ TCF3::HLF fusion rearrangement (specify): _____
___ TNFAIP3 mutation (specify): _____
___ TNFRSF14 mutation (specify): _____
___ TP53 mutation (specify): _____
___ TP63 translocation (specify): _____
___ TRAF3 mutation (specify): _____
___ XPO1 mutation (specify): _____
___ Other alterations detected (specify): _____
___ Pending: _____

+Specify Molecular Alterations Assayed: _____

COMMENTS

Comment(s): _____

Explanatory Notes

A. Site of Involvement in Sample

This cancer case summary may be used in any anatomical site that is involved including bone marrow, blood, mediastinum, lymph nodes, and skin/extranodal sites. If multiple sites are involved (for example, bone marrow and blood or cutaneous and lymph node), you may select multiple sites. For leukemias/lymphomas involving bone marrow or blood, specify the relative tumor percentage of nucleated cells.

B. Final Integrated Diagnosis

The final integrated diagnoses for the precursor and mature lymphoid neoplasms are based on the WHO 5th edition of Haematolymphoid Tumors.¹ The 5th edition significantly updates the last revision of the WHO 4th edition in 2017. There are important changes in terminology, diagnostic criteria, and increasing reliance on ancillary studies such as conventional karyotyping, fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH), and comprehensive molecular genetic profiling by next-generation sequencing with abilities to detect point mutations, insertions, deletions, copy number alterations, and gene rearrangements.

The final integrated diagnosis should be based on the major subsections of the WHO 5th edition, including precursor B lymphoid neoplasms, mature B-cell neoplasms, precursor T-cell lymphoid neoplasms, and mature T- and NK-cell neoplasms. It is worth noting that the WHO 5th edition includes the classification of Tumor like lesions with B-cell predominance and tumor like lesions with T-cell predominance. These were not included in the cancer case summary as these are not considered lymphoid neoplasms. Pre-neoplastic lymphoid proliferations, by virtue of being lymphoid neoplasms, albeit clinically not malignant, are included as an optional category in this cancer case summary (see below).

The diagnostic criteria for the entities in the WHO 5th edition are summarized in the WHO monograph and beyond the scope of the explanatory notes. Specific categories that may benefit from additional explanation regarding use of the cancer case summary are highlighted in the following sections.

Pending/other Diagnostic Category

This cancer case summary is designed to be used when a complete, integrated diagnosis can be rendered, including ancillary comprehensive immunophenotyping, cytogenetic, and molecular. There may be some who wish to use this cancer summary to render a preliminary diagnosis prior to receipt of all pending ancillary studies; ideally, this approach would be used when a cancer case summary can be updated/ added/ amended or a new complete cancer protocol can be issued. To accommodate that use, an optional subcategory of pending diagnostic studies has been added to precursor B- and T-cell neoplasms as an optional choice. In addition, for mature B-and T-or NK-cell lymphoid neoplasms, the category of other has been added to allow reporting of cases pending further studies or alternate terminology. If using the PENDING option, when all diagnostic ancillary studies are complete, it is strongly recommended to ensure that an updated complete diagnostic cancer case summary is submitted by updating the report.

Precursor B-cell neoplasms

B-lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL) is used when the blood or bone marrow is the primary site of

involvement, whereas B-lymphoblastic lymphoma (B-LBL) refers to neoplasms whose primary site of involvement are lymph nodes or extra-nodal sites. Historically, B-lymphoblastic leukemia is used to denote cases with 25% or more bone marrow blasts. The distinction between B-lymphoblastic leukemia and lymphoma is somewhat arbitrary, especially when both sites are involved, and for that reason, the cancer case summary lists B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma as a single category.

B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma, NOS is reserved for those neoplasms that lack diagnostic criteria for other subtypes after comprehensive testing. Do not use this category for B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma cases that are pending additional studies.

B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with high hyperdiploidy should be rendered when the karyotype identifies 51-65 chromosomes with the absence of other specific genetic subtypes defined by karyotype and/or FISH. In the setting of a failed karyotype, FISH studies for chromosomes X, 4, 6, 10, 14, 17, 18, and 21 can help identify high hyperdiploidy B-ALL.

B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with hypodiploidy is defined by the presence of fewer than 43 chromosomes with the absence of other specific genetic subtypes. Care must be taken to avoid misinterpretation of “pseudo-hyperdiploidy” due to doubling of previously hypodiploid cells.² The diagnostic criteria for B-cell lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with *BCR::ABL1* -like features are described in detail in the WHO 5th edition. While initially defined by gene expression profiling, the lack of availability of this method commercially often necessitates the use of fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH)/ molecular studies for genetic alterations, including those involving *PDGFRb* (5q32), *BCR/ABL1-ASS1* t(9;22), *JAK2* (9p24.1), *EPOR* (19p13.2) and *CRLF2* (Xp22.33/Yp11.32).¹

B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with other defined genetic alterations encompasses those with the following genetic alterations. It is worth noting that many of these rearrangements are cryptic on conventional karyotype and require sequencing-based methodologies (RNA and/or DNA based NGS, RT-PCR) or break-apart FISH studies.¹

List of B-lymphoblastic leukemia with other defined genetic alterations:

B lymphoblastic leukemia with *DUX4* rearrangement
 B lymphoblastic leukemia with *MEF2D* rearrangement
 B lymphoblastic leukemia with *ZNF384* rearrangement
 B lymphoblastic leukemia with *PAX5alt*
 B lymphoblastic leukemia with *PAX5* p.P80R
 B lymphoblastic leukemia with *NUTM1* rearrangement
 B lymphoblastic leukemia with *MYC* rearrangement

Table 1: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF B-LYMPHOBLASTIC LEUKEMIAS/LYMPHOMAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|--|---|
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B-ALL: more than 20% of B lymphoblasts by flow cytometry with B-cell lineage markers B-LBL: At histology effaced lymph node architecture or diffuse | Exclusion of a more specific category listed below using ancillary methods including karyotype, FISH and molecular genetics studies |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | infiltration of an organ by a monomorphic population of blasts with B immunophenotype (CD19, CD22, c CD79a, and/or PAX5) and markers of immaturity (TdT, CD34, and/or CD99), surface immunoglobulin negative. CD34 and TdT expression may be absent in rare cases and pose a diagnostic challenge | |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with high hyperdiploidy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets criteria for diagnosis of B-ALL/LBL Karyotype comprising 51-65 chromosomes in the absence of other subtype-defining translocations by karyotyping and/or FISH Flow cytometry DNA Index can be an indicator of high hyperdiploidy but cannot confirm the precise chromosomal gains | Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays to better exclude double near-haploid/low hypodiploidy |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with hypodiploidy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets criteria for diagnosis of B-ALL/LBL Karyotyping and/or FISH showing less than 44 chromosomes Flow cytometry DNA Index can be an indicator of hypodiploidy but cannot confirm the precise chromosomal losses | Single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) arrays to better identify 'masked' hypodiploidy |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with iAMP21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets criteria for diagnosis of B-ALL/LBL Demonstration of ≥ 5 copies of <i>RUNX1</i> per cell, with ≥ 3 or more copies on a single abnormal chromosome 21 | |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with <i>BCR::ABL1</i> fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL Detection of the <i>BCR::ABL1</i> fusion Exclusion of cases of B-ALL that acquire <i>BCR::ABL1</i> secondarily during therapy | Exclusion of lymphoid blast crisis of chronic myeloid leukemia |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with <i>BCR::ABL1</i> -like features | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL <i>BCR::ABL1</i>-like gene signature and/or genomic alteration described for this type | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/ lymphoma with <i>KMT2A</i> rearrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL • Demonstration of <i>KMT2A</i> rearrangement | Identification of <i>KMT2A</i> rearrangement partner |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with <i>ETV6::RUNX1</i> fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL • Demonstration of <i>ETV6::RUNX1</i> rearrangement | |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with <i>TCF3::PBX1</i> fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL • Demonstration of <i>TCF3::PBX1</i> rearrangement | |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with <i>IGH::IL3</i> fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL • Demonstration of <i>IGH::IL3</i> rearrangement | |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with <i>TCF3::HLF</i> fusion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets criteria for B-ALL/LBL • Demonstration of <i>TCF3::HLF</i> rearrangement | |
| B-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma with other defined genetic alterations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets general criteria for B-ALL/LBL • Demonstration of a specific genetic abnormality as defined in this section. • Absence of genetic mutations of other definitive and provisional B-ALL types. • Specific genetic abnormalities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>DUX4</i> rearrangement -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>MEF2D</i> rearrangement -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>ZNF384</i> rearrangement -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>PAX5alt</i> -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>PAX5</i> p.P80R -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>NUTM1</i> rearrangement -B-lymphoblastic leukemia with <i>MYC</i> rearrangement | Depends on particular subtype |

Pre-neoplastic and Neoplastic Small Lymphocytic Proliferations

The reporting of the pre-neoplastic lymphoid category of monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis is optional for the cancer case summary. With the development of high-sensitivity flow cytometry immunophenotypic assays, monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis may be detected with increasing frequency depending on patient age-ranging from 5% (40-50 years) to upwards of 50-75% (over 90 years).³ If monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis is to be reported, it is recommended to record the absolute count of the clonal B-cell population- not the absolute lymphocyte count or absolute B lymphocyte count. This will allow for distinction between low-count monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, CLL-type (absolute clonal lymphocyte population is below $0.5 \times 10^9/L$), and monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis, CLL-type ($\geq 0.5 \times 10^9/L$) in the blood. It is important to note that this diagnosis should not be rendered if there are other clinical features of lymphoma (lymphadenopathy, organomegaly) or established diagnosis of B-cell lymphoid neoplasm. Different categories of the optional category of pre-neoplastic lymphoid proliferations:

Table 2: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF PRE-NEOPLASTIC LYMPHOID PROLIFERATIONS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Monoclonal B-cell lymphocytosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demonstration of a monotypic B-cell population (light-chain restriction or rarely lack of surface light chain expression by flow cytometry or monoclonal immunoglobulin gene rearrangement with a peripheral B-cell count of $<5 \times 10^9/L$• Absence of lymphadenopathy, organomegaly, or any features diagnostic of another B-lymphoproliferative disorder• Low count MBL/clonal-cell expansion: Clonal B-cell count $<0.5 \times 10^9/L$ and typical CLL/SLL phenotype• CLL/SLL-type MBL: clonal B-cell count $\geq 0.5 \times 10^9/L$ and typical CLL/SLL phenotype• Non-CLL/SLLMBL: Any clonal B-cell expansion without typical CLL/SLL phenotype | CLL/SLL type: CD5+, CD23+, LEF1+ |

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

Table 3: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF CHRONIC LYMPHOCYTIC LEUKEMIA (CLL)¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features |
|---------------------|---|
| Chronic lymphocytic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classic morphology of CLL cells and absolute B-cell count $>5 \times$ |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma | <p>10⁹/L in blood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow cytometry (on blood and/or bone marrow aspirate samples) shows expression of CD5, CD19, CD20 (dim), CD23 (variable) and monotypic surface light chain(dim) Histopathology/immunohistochemistry demonstrate CD20+/weak+, CD5+/weak+, CD23 (variable), LEF1+ and SOX11-. No expression of cyclin D1 (except for a few weakly positive proliferation center cells). |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Splenic B-cell Lymphomas and Leukemias

Table 4: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF SPLENIC B-CELL LYMPHOMAS AND LEUKEMIAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Hairy cell leukemia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristic morphology (in a blood or bone marrow smear) characterized by small to intermediate size cells with oval to indented nuclei with bland ground-glass chromatin, absent or inconspicuous nucleoli, and variably abundant pale-staining cytoplasm with circumferential fine villous cytoplasmic projections and/or in a bone marrow biopsy specimen a characteristic “fried-egg” appearance with cells having oval or indented nuclei, abundant cytoplasm, and prominent cell-to-cell borders Strong positivity for CD20 and Annexin-1 by immunohistochemistry or co-expression of CD20/CD11c/CD103/CD25 by flow cytometry and/or immunohistochemistry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clonal <i>BRAF</i> p.V600E (NP_004324.2) mutation Useful adjuncts are the expression of CD123, bright CD22, bright CD200, bright surface immunoglobulins, cyclin-D1, and TBX21/T-Bet CD5 and CD10 are usually negative but there are rare exceptions |
| Splenic marginal zone lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small B-cell lymphoma involving bone marrow and/or blood composed of small lymphoid cells with villous processes Neoplastic cells express pan-B-cell markers, IgM and IgD and are negative for BCL6, annexin A1, CD103, cyclin D1, SOX11 and LEF1 Other splenic and nodal B-cell lymphomas should be excluded | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neoplastic cells negative for CD5 and CD10 |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clinical or imaging studies that show splenomegaly | |
| Splenic diffuse red pulp small B-cell lymphoma (SDRPL) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diffuse infiltration of the spleen by monomorphic small B-cells, accompanied by atrophic white pulp Blood with circulating small cells with abundant cytoplasm, broad-based and unevenly distributed cytoplasmic villous projections are well-visible and inconspicuous nucleolus Immunophenotype compatible with SDRPL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of <i>BRAF</i> p.V600E (NP_004324.2) mutation Absence of lymphadenopathy other than splenic hilar lymph node involvement |
| Splenic B-cell lymphoma/leukemia with prominent nucleoli | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulating medium-sized lymphoid cells with prominent nucleoli or convoluted nuclei. Although rare cells in the peripheral blood may show poorly defined cytoplasmic projections, circumferential fine villous (hairy) projections are absent Presence of B-cell antigens CD19, CD20, CD79a, or PAX5 Absence of characteristic phenotype of HCL, including expression of CD25, annexin A1, cyclin D1, and TRAP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diffuse involvement of the splenic red pulp with atrophic white pulp, but most cases are diagnosed without a spleen specimen Absence of <i>BRAF</i> p.V600E (NP_004324.2) mutation |

Lymphoplasmacytic Lymphoma/Marginal Zone Lymphoma

Table 5: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF LYMPHOPLASMACYTIC LYMPHOMA AND MARGINAL ZONE LYMPHOMAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BM infiltration by >10% small lymphocytes with plasmacytoid and/or plasma cell differentiation Immunophenotype of LPL cells: IgM+, CD19+, CD20+, CD22+, CD25+, CD10-, CD23-, CD103-, CD138+/- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of <i>MYD88</i> (NP_002459.2:p.L265P) [NGS based assays may show false negative in 1/3 of cases] Detection of CXCR4 somatic mutation Serum electrophoresis and immunofixation shows presence of monoclonal IgM |
| Extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphoma arising in an extranodal site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of light chain restriction on B- |

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| mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atypical small/medium-sized lymphoid cell proliferation mimicking reactive MALT and showing architectural distortion • Expression of B-lineage markers • Exclusion of other small B-cell neoplasms, e.g., follicular lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma, small lymphocytic lymphoma, lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma and plasmacytoma | <p>cells +/- monotypic plasma cells or clonal immunoglobulin (Ig) gene rearrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remnants of underlying inflammatory background e.g., reactive lymphoid follicles, Hashimoto thyroiditis in thyroid or lymphoepithelial sialadenitis in salivary gland |
| Primary cutaneous marginal zone lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morphology consistent with MZL • Presence of CD5-negative, CD10-negative small B cells • Demonstration of monotypic plasma cells, monotypic B-cells, and/or clonal immunoglobulin (Ig) gene rearrangement • No evidence of extracutaneous disease at the time of diagnosis • Exclusion of other cutaneous lymphomas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesions often on trunk or arms • Reactive lymphoid follicles in lesion |
| Nodal marginal zone lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proliferation predominantly of small, mature B-cells with scant to moderate amount of pale cytoplasm, with or without plasmacytic differentiation • Architectural distortion in a nodular/follicular, parafollicular, interfollicular, or diffuse growth pattern • Absence of markers supporting follicular lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma or other specific small B-cell lymphomas; presence of markers such as Myeloid cell nuclear differentiation antigen (MNDA) or immunoglobulin superfamily receptor translocation-associated 1 (IRTA1) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual follicles with follicular colonization • Detection of monotypic Ig light chain expression in B-cells and/or plasma cells • Detection of clonal immunoglobulin gene (Ig) rearrangements in challenging cases |
| Pediatric nodal marginal zone lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial effacement of LN architecture by interfollicular proliferation of marginal zone cells with monocytoid and centrocyte-like morphology • Monoclonal <i>IGH</i> and/or <i>IGK</i> genes rearrangements • Immunophenotype compatible with | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residual follicles with PTGC-like features • Follicular colonization • Monotypic light chain restriction • Increased PD1+ cells in reactive germinal centers |

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| | marginal zone B-cells (BCL6-, CD43+/-) | |
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Follicular Lymphoma

The category of In-situ follicular neoplasia (ISFN) was recognized to highlight cases in which the neoplastic cells are confined only to follicles with no extension past the mantle zones or interfollicular areas. Morphologic features by themselves are not diagnostic for this entity- although subtle changes in composition of the follicles and particularly the germinal center may suggest this diagnosis. ISFN is distinguished from normal, reactive lymphoid follicles by the presence of cells within the follicle that express abnormally bright/intense CD10 and BCL2. As there is typically partial involvement of the follicles, there exists an internal control for expression intensity of CD10 and BCL2 that can be compared to the adjacent follicular mantle zones that show less intense expression than ISFN. ISFN invariably carries BCL2 gene rearrangements; no precursor lesion is described for BCL2 gene rearrangement negative follicular lymphoma.

The grading and reporting of follicular lymphoma has changed in the WHO 5th edition of Hematolymphoid Tumors. Classic follicular lymphoma (cFL) encompasses grades 1-3A, maintains a follicular pattern, and is composed of a mixture of centrocytes and centroblasts (CB) (larger, transformed cells) as was defined in WHO 4th edition revision. Previously follicular lymphoma was graded on the basis of the number of centroblasts/transformed cells per 10 high-powered fields (HPF, 0.159 mm diameter), with grade 3A being defined as greater than 15 CB and grade 3B, those cases devoid of centrocytes. Given difficulties in reproducibility and lack of significant outcomes differences with existing treatment regimens, cFL will encompass those previously defined as grade 1-3A, with grade 3B (those with absence of centrocytes) being defined as follicular large B-cell lymphoma. One may still consider reporting a grade if this is an agreed-upon practice at the local facility, but for cancer case summary reporting purposes, such distinction is not required. Follicular lymphoma with unusual cytologic features is to be used for rare cases without typical centrocyte morphology, be it immature chromatin or large centrocyte cells with fine chromatin and inconspicuous nucleoli.^{4,5} Follicular lymphoma with a predominantly diffuse pattern (dFL) is another recognized variant most reliably diagnosed on excisional biopsy specimens, often involving the inguinal region and showing some microfollicles as well as diffuse areas, CD10 and CD23 positivity, absence of *IGH::BCL2* rearrangement and often abnormalities of chromosome 1p36 and/or mutations of *TNFRSF14*.⁶

Table 6: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF FOLLICULAR LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| In situ follicular B-cell neoplasm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable numbers of B-cells within germinal centers staining intensely for BCL2 Maintained lymph node or extranodal lymphoid tissue architecture, and lacking features of classic FL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong CD10 expression in the BCL2-positive B-cells within the follicles |
| Follicular lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B-cell lymphoma composed of varying proportions of centrocytes (CC) and/or | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least partly follicular growth pattern |

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| | <p>centroblasts (CB)/large, transformed cells, with the dominance of CC in the majority of cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunophenotype compatible with germinal center B-cell origin with positivity to markers such as CD10, BCL6, MEF2B, GCET1, GCET2 or LMO2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>BCL2</i> or rarely <i>BCL6</i> rearrangements and/or lack of <i>IRF4</i> rearrangement |
| Pediatric-type follicular lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pediatric and young adult age group (usually age <40 years, most 2-25 years) Localized nodal disease Purely follicular growth with marked architectural distortion and germinal center marker expression Predominance of intermediate to large-size 'blastoid' cells and high proliferation fraction Absence of diffuse proliferation of large cells meeting criteria for DLBCL Evidence of B-cell monoclonality by immunophenotyping or genetics Absence of <i>BCL2</i>, <i>BCL6</i>, and <i>MYC</i> rearrangements Absence of strong, uniform MUM1 expression and/or absence of <i>IRF4</i> rearrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markedly expansile follicles Mutations in <i>MAP2K1</i> and <i>TNFRSF14</i> |
| Duodenal-type follicular lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germinal center B-cell lymphoma with tumor cells confined predominantly to the mucosa of the intestine, and characterized by follicles composed predominantly of centrocytes, and with positivity for germinal center markers and BCL2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclusion of secondary involvement from nodal/systemic FL, especially when atypical pathological features are observed |
| Primary cutaneous follicle center lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follicular and/or diffuse proliferation of centrocytes and admixed centroblasts (diffuse lymphomas comprising exclusively centroblasts/immunoblasts are excluded) B cells with co-expression of germinal center markers (BCL6 and/or CD10 or other germinal center markers) No extracutaneous involvement by lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localization to head or trunk Evidence of B-cell monoclonality Absent or weak BCL2 expression (often) Lack of MUM1 expression Lack of <i>BCL2</i> rearrangement (often) |

Mantle Cell Lymphoma

In situ mantle cell neoplasm (ICMCN) is defined as the presence of mantle zone cells harboring *CCND1::IGH* fusions with resultant cyclin D1 overexpression confined to the follicular mantle. The immunophenotype may differ from overt nodal mantle cell lymphoma, with some cases showing absence of CD5 or SOX11.⁷ Leukemic non-nodal mantle cell lymphoma (nnMCL) represents a subset of clinically indolent mantle cell lymphoma cases that involve the bone marrow, blood and spleen without significant lymphadenopathy. Similar to mantle cell lymphoma, expression of CD5, bright CD20, and cyclin D1 overexpression attributable to a *CCND1::IGH* fusion are present. However, these cases are characteristically negative/weak for SOX11, show lower proliferative indexes by Ki-67, and may have some immunophenotypic overlap with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), including expression of CD200 and CD23.⁸

Table 7: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF MANTLE CELL LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---|---|--|
| In situ mantle cell neoplasm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation of lymphoid architecture without expansion of the mantle zone • Cyclin D1-positive B-cells predominantly restricted to the inner layers of mantle zones of lymphoid follicles • Staging negative for overt MCL | Detection of a <i>CCND1</i> rearrangement in the mantle cells could be performed in unclear cases |
| Mantle cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lymphoma cells of B-lineage (CD20-positive and usually CD5-positive) • Morphology of classic variant (monomorphic and centrocyte-like) or less often variant morphology • Cyclin D1-positive and/or detection of <i>CCND1</i> rearrangement and/or SOX11-positive | Very rare cases lack cyclin D1 expression and <i>CCND1::IGH</i> . In these cases, SOX11 is positive. |
| Leukemic non-nodal mantle cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical clinical presentation (lymphocytosis, mostly asymptomatic; no or insignificant nodal involvement) • Usually monomorphic small to medium-sized cells of B-lineage (CD20+) • Cyclin D1 positive and/or detection of <i>CCND1</i> rearrangement | SOX11 (commonly negative) |

Large B-cell Lymphomas

There have been important changes to the category of Large B-cell lymphomas in the WHO 5th edition Classification of Hematolymphoid Tumors that warrant clarification to appropriately use the cancer case summary.

The category of Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma, NOS (DLBCL, NOS), defines lymphomas composed of medium to large cells with a diffuse or only vaguely nodular growth pattern. Cytologically, three subsets may be seen: centroblastic (large, irregular cells with ample cytoplasm, non-prominent nucleoli); immunoblastic (moderate, more basophilic cytoplasm with prominent central nucleolus); or anaplastic (marked cytomegaly with bizarre nuclear features).

Gene expression profiling (GEP) studies recognized cell of origin and divided large B-cell lymphomas into germinal center B-cell like (GCB), activated B-cell like (ABC), and unclassified (~15%) groups, and the ABC group was reported to have a worse prognosis.⁹ However, not all studies have confirmed the association with worse prognosis, and more recent studies using GEP and other high-throughput methods have developed a far more granular system likely to be employed in the near future.^{10,11} Immunohistochemistry is typically employed as a surrogate for GEP in this classification: GCB and non-GCB groups can be derived using these methods, with imperfect correlation but more clinical availability. The commonly used Hans algorithm uses greater than 30% expression of CD10, BCL6, and MUM1 to separate into GCB and ABC/Non-GCB.¹²

Molecular/genetic analysis to evaluate for the presence of *BCL2* and *MYC* gene rearrangements is strongly recommended in cases that are morphologically diffuse large B-cell lymphoma or high-grade B-cell lymphoma (see discussion below). Fluorescence in-situ hybridization (FISH) panels targeting *BCL2* and *MYC* (and often *BCL6*) rearrangements via break-apart and/or fusion probes are the most common method. Cases that demonstrate a *BCL2* and *MYC* rearrangement should be assigned to the category DLBCL with *MYC* and *BCL2* gene rearrangements. Those cases that show a *MYC* rearrangement or *MYC* and *BCL6* should be reported as diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, NOS in the cancer case summary. The findings of *BCL6* and *MYC* rearrangement should be reported in the case and annotated in the molecular genetic findings portion of the Cancer Case Summary.

High-grade B-cell lymphoma, NOS (HGBCL, NOS) is reserved for tumors that are composed of intermediate size cells with Burkitt-like or blastoid morphology and frequently evidence of high tumor proliferation (apoptotic bodies or high Ki-67 proliferative fraction). It is to be distinguished from Burkitt lymphoma in which the tumor cells are more uniform compared to the more variable nuclear and cytoplasmic variability in high-grade B-cell lymphoma, NOS. It is also important to exclude lymphoma types with similar morphology that possess defining molecular genetic findings including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma with *MYC* and *BCL2* rearrangements, large B-cell lymphoma with *IRF4* rearrangement, high-grade B-cell lymphoma with 11q alterations and blastoid mantle cell lymphoma.

EBV-positive Diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma

Diagnosis of this entity is challenging and requires knowledge of clinical features and Epstein Barr virus (EBV) status of the lymphoma. Morphologically, these are similar to diffuse large B-cell lymphoma; however, the number of neoplastic lymphocytes may be variable and display morphologic features of Hodgkin/Reed Sternberg (HRS) like cells and express bright, uniform intensity of CD30. A distinguishing feature of EBV-positive large B-cell lymphoma is expression of EBV-associated markers (typically EBV-encoded small RNA - EBER). There is considerable overlap with the immune deficiency and dysregulation associated lymphoproliferative disorders, EBV+ mucocutaneous ulcer, and lymphomatoid granulomatosis. If there is a known immunosuppressive state- such as transplantation, immunodeficiency syndrome or iatrogenic immunosuppression-the category of immune deficiency and dysregulation

associated lymphoproliferative disorders should be used. This distinction can be difficult in the setting of immune senescence and there is likely some overlap; this category is best applied in the setting of a high proportion of tumor cells positive for EBV. EBV+ mucocutaneous ulcer is typically unifocal, localized, superficial, and involves mucocutaneous sites compared with the more frequent nodal and disseminated EBV+ large B-cell lymphoma. Lymphomatoid granulomatosis (LYG), another EBV-associated lymphoproliferative disorder, typically shows an angiocentric pattern in the lungs, and less often other extranodal sites, with variable numbers of small and large EBV+ cells increasing in number in higher grade lesions (Grade 3 LYG).

Table 8: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF LARGE B-CELL LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---|---|---|
| Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large B-cell lymphoma with a diffuse pattern (vague nodularity is acceptable if not follicular) Mature B-cell phenotype Exclusion of other specific entities of large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cell of origin subtyping Reporting of isolated <i>MYC</i> or simultaneous <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL6</i> rearrangements Genetic testing, if relevant for clinical decision making |
| T-cell/histiocyte-rich large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diffuse effacement of lymph node architecture Singly scattered large B-cells, without formation of aggregates or sheets Reactive background rich in histiocytes and small T cells, with no (or few) scattered small B-cells Absence of FDC meshworks by CD21 or CD23 stain Absence of nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymph node excision is preferred Exclude EBV association |
| Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma/high grade B-cell lymphoma with <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL2</i> rearrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morphology and phenotype consistent with aggressive B-cell lymphoma (large B-cell, Burkitt-like, or blastoid) Evidence of concurrent <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL2</i> rearrangements (with or without <i>BCL6</i> rearrangement) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Germinal center B-cell phenotype Determination of TdT protein expression status. Determination of <i>MYC</i> fusion partner |

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| ALK-positive large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large cell morphology • Plasmablastic immunophenotype (plasma cell-associated markers such as CD138, MUM1, VS38c, BLIMP1, XBP1 positive and CD20 negative/variable and weak) • <i>ALK</i> expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>ALK</i> genetic alterations (usually translocations) • No EBV association |
| Large B-cell lymphoma with <i>IRF4</i> rearrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate or large cell morphology and follicular and/or diffuse growth pattern • Mature B-cell immunophenotype with co-expression of BCL6 and MUM1 • <i>IRF4</i> translocation. If <i>IRF4</i> rearrangement analysis cannot be performed, the proper clinical setting in combination with a typical immunophenotype allows the diagnosis but as “not molecularly confirmed” | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of the <i>IGH::IRF4</i> translocation • Absence of <i>BCL2</i> and <i>MYC</i> gene rearrangement |
| High-grade B-cell lymphoma with 11q aberrations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lymphoma with an intermediate/blastoid or Burkitt-like morphology • Typical immunophenotype (B-cell markers+, CD10+, BCL6+, BCL2-) • Chromosome 11q-gain/loss, telomeric loss, or telomeric LOH pattern • Exclusion of a <i>MYC</i> translocation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of CD56, CD16 or CD8 in the absence of CD38^{high} by flow cytometry |
| Lymphomatoid granulomatosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extranodal disease (usually lungs) • Polymorphous lymphoid infiltrate with striking angiocentricity • Transmural involvement of small to medium-sized vessels by variable numbers of EBV+ large B-cells admixed, with abundant small T lymphocytes • Exclusion of immune deficiency other than immune senescence | |

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| EBV-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial or total architectural effacement of affected tissue • Atypical lymphoid infiltrate composed of either sheets of large malignant cells or many scattered large, transformed cells of variable morphology including, HRS-like cells in a richly cellular reactive background, often accompanied by necrosis • Large cells confirmed to be of B-cell lineage (e.g., CD20, PAX5, CD79a) • EBV present in most (>50%) of large B-cells • Absence of in-born or acquired immunodeficiency or a history of lymphoma • Exclusion of other EBV-related lymphomas and lymphoproliferative disorders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBV DNA detectable in serum or whole blood (in selected cases) |
| Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma associated with chronic inflammation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large B-cell lymphoma • Setting of local chronic inflammation • EBV association • Exclusion of other EBV-associated neoplasms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occurrence in a natural or acquired confined body or tissue space • Pyothorax-associated lymphoma is the prototype |
| Fibrin-associated large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microscopic aggregates of atypical large B-lymphocytes in fibrinous debris • At sites of chronic fibrin deposition in confined natural or acquired anatomic spaces and sites • No mass of lymphoma cells; no infiltration into pre-existing normal parenchymal tissue | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-GCB B-cell immunophenotype • EBV positivity |
| Fluid overload-associated large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large cell lymphoma restricted to body-cavity effusions • Secondary involvement by systemic lymphoma excluded • B-cell immunophenotype • KSHV/HHV8 negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonal Ig gene rearrangement |

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| Plasmablastic lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lymphoma with plasmablastic/immunoblastic morphology • Expression of plasma cell-associated antigens (e.g., MUM1, CD138, BLIMP1) • Negativity for CD20, PAX5, ALK and KSHV/HHV8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EBV (EBER) in ~60% of cases • Detection of <i>MYC</i> rearrangements • Detection of clonal Ig gene rearrangements |
| Primary large B-cell lymphoma of immune-privileged sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large B-cell lymphoma primarily confined to the CNS, vitreoretina (VR), or testis at presentation • Exclusion of secondary involvement by other entities of large B-cell lymphoma • Exclusion of immune deficiency/dysregulation-related settings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post germinal center B-cell phenotype (MUM1+; BCL6+; CD10-) • Absence of EBV (in >97% of cases) • Demonstration of clonal B cell population or a <i>MYD88</i> and/or <i>CD79B</i> hotspot mutations in cases in which histology is not definitive (e.g., corticosteroid-mitigated PCNS-LBCL or PVRL-LBCL) |
| Primary cutaneous diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, leg type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dermal and/or subcutaneous infiltration by sheets of large cells (centroblasts, immunoblasts, blastoid cells) • Mature B-cell immunophenotype • Diffuse growth with absence of follicular dendritic cell meshworks • Skin-confined disease at presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong <i>BCL2</i> expression • IgM+ and MUM1+, non-GCB phenotype |
| Intravascular large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large lymphoid cells with centroblastic, immunoblastic, or rarely anaplastic morphology • Restricted to intravascular spaces, especially capillaries; a minimal extravascular component is acceptable • Pan B-cell markers positive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KSHV/HHV8 negative (LANA immunohistochemistry) • EBV-negative by EBER in situ hybridization |

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| Primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large B cell lymphoma in the anterior mediastinum • Mature B-cell immunophenotype, accompanied by at least partial expression of CD23 and/or CD30 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinctive stromal sclerosis • Expression of at least one of the following markers: MAL, CD200, PD-L1 and PD-L2 • Copy gain or rearrangement of CD274/PDCC1LG2 locus and/or rearrangement involving <i>CIITA</i> (<i>C2TA</i>) |
| High-grade B-cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-size or blastoid cytomorphology not consistent with either diffuse large B-cell lymphoma or Burkitt lymphoma • Lack of TdT and CD34 expression to exclude lymphoblastic lymphoma. Lack of cyclin D1 expression to exclude MCL • Absence of a double hit translocation involving <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL2</i> • Absence of the 11q23.2-q23.3 gain and 11q24.1-qter deletion pattern of HGBL-11q | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Double hit' B-cell lymphoma gene expression signature • <i>KMT2D</i> and <i>TP53</i> mutations |

Burkitt Lymphoma

Burkitt lymphoma (BL) is characterized by monomorphic medium/intermediate-size cells with dense basophilic cytoplasm, high proliferative fraction with frequent apoptotic bodies, and *MYC* gene rearrangements detectable by FISH in most cases. As in some cases, *MYC* rearrangements can be cryptic and missed by conventional FISH studies, absence of *MYC* rearrangement in the presence of other typical morphological and immunophenotypic features should not deter from a diagnosis of BL. BL is in the differential diagnosis of HGBCL, NOS, and morphologically with HGBCL/DLBCL with *MYC* and *BCL2* rearrangements. Rearrangements of *MYC* and *BCL2* or *BCL6* exclude the diagnosis of BL. In cases with BL morphology and immunophenotype that lack a *MYC* gene rearrangement, it is important to exclude high-grade B-cell lymphoma with 11q aberration (duplication, inversion, or deletion). Alterations of 11q are not specific to HGBCL with 11q aberration and may occur in cases otherwise diagnostic of BL or HGBCL, NOS with *MYC* rearrangements.¹³

Table 9: SUMMARY OF MAJOR DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES OF DLCL, NOS, HIGH-GRADE B-CELL LYMPHOMA AND BURKITT LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Morphology | Molecular Genetic Findings |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large cells- centroblastic, immunoblastic or anaplastic | Absence of defining molecular genetic findings; may have <i>MYC</i> or <i>MYC</i> and <i>BCL6</i> rearrangements |

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|---|--|--|
| Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma/high-grade B-cell lymphoma with MYC and BCL2 rearrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable ranging from DLBCL- like to blastoid | MYC and BCL2 rearrangements, additional alterations may be present |
| High-grade B-cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-sized cells, some nuclear and cytoplasmic variability | Absence of defining molecular genetic findings |
| HGBCL with 11q aberration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium size, uniform, blastoid | Absence of MYC gene rearrangement, aberrations of 11q |
| Burkitt lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-sized, monomorphic lymphoma cells with basophilic cytoplasm and multiple small nucleoli CD20 and CD10 positivity Absence or (rarely) weak expression of BCL2 | MYC gene rearrangement |

KSHV/HHV-8 associated B-cell Lymphoid Proliferations and Lymphomas

Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus/human herpesvirus 8 (KSHV/HHV8) associated lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas encompass the diagnostic categories of primary effusion lymphoma (PEL)/extracavitary primary effusion lymphoma (EC-PEL), KSHV/HHV8 positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and KSHV-8/HHV8-positive germinotropic lymphoproliferative disorder. There is an update in the nomenclature in the WHO 5th edition Hematolymphoid Tumors to incorporate the full name of the associated virus (Kaposi sarcoma herpesvirus/human herpesvirus 8-KSHV/HHV8). There are a few areas of clarification that are important for the use of this diagnostic category in the Lymphoid cancer case summary.

The vast majority of KSHV/HHV8-associated lymphomas are associated with immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD). However, there do exist cases that do not appear to have associated overt IDD. For those that arise in the clinical setting of IDD, the use of the Lymphoma arising in the setting of immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD) is preferred. (See discussion below on IDD-associated lymphomas).

Primary effusion lymphoma is most common in patients with HIV/AIDS and treated with immunosuppression. Typically, PEL presents with pleural, pericardial, or abdominal cavity effusion containing variably immunoblastic/plasmablastic cells with a terminal B-cell immunophenotype (CD19-, CD20-, PAX5-, OCT2-, CD79a-, CD138+, CD38+, MUM1+, EMA+), and expression of the activation marker CD30.¹⁴ HHV8 is, by definition, positive by immunohistochemistry for KSHV/HHV8 latent protein LANA1. Co-infection with EBV, demonstrable by in-situ hybridization for Epstein Barr virus encoded early RNA (EBER), occurs frequently in HIV/AIDS, less often in endemic (Mediterranean) or immune senescence-associated cases. PEL may present as a solid extracavitary mass (EC-PEL). There is considerable diagnostic overlap between KSHV/HHV8-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and EC-PEL. KSHV/HHV8-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma is distinguished by expression of IgM

and absence of immunoglobulin somatic hypermutation (SHM) as the tumor cell of origin tumor is a naïve IgM+ without immunoglobulin somatic hypermutation (SHM).¹⁵

Table 10: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF KSHV/ HHV8 ASSOCIATED B-CELL LYMPHOID PROLIFERATIONS AND LYMPHOMAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|--|---|
| Primary effusion lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large B-cell lymphoma presenting as a serous effusion in the pleural, pericardial, or abdominal cavity A tumor mass, directly associated with the effusion is accepted. Absence of lymph node or other extranodal involvement Large pleomorphic malignant cells with immunophenotype of terminally differentiated B-cells KSHV/HHV8 positive (usually by LANA immunohistochemistry) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence of EBV, although neither necessary nor sufficient, is supportive of the diagnosis |
| KSHV/HHV8-positive diffuse large B-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation with primary nodal and/or splenic involvement Effacement of architecture by large blasts/transformed B-cells with generally plasmablastic, immunoblastic, or anaplastic morphology Positive immunostaining for LANA (KSHV/HHV8) and IgM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of immunoglobulin somatic hypermutations (SHM) EBER in situ hybridization (usually negative, but it can be positive in some cases) |
| KSHV/HHV8-positive germiotropic lymphoproliferative disorder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retained lymph node architecture with some germinal centers partially or completely replaced by clusters or sheets of plasmablastic, immunoblastic and/or anaplastic cells Positive immunostaining for LANA (KSHV/HHV8) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive in situ hybridization for EBV (EBER) and no evidence of clonal Ig gene rearrangement |

Hodgkin Lymphoma

In this revision, the separate cancer case summary for Hodgkin Lymphoma that included classic Hodgkin lymphoma (CHL) and nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NLPHL) was removed to reflect that these neoplasms are of B-cell origin.

While there are four subtypes of CHL recognized- nodular sclerosis, lymphocyte-rich, mixed-cellularity, and lymphocyte depleted- reporting of these in the cancer case summary is not required as there is limited prognostic relevance with modern treatments.

The diagnostic features of CHL and NLPHL are well covered in the WHO 5th edition monograph. For purposes of using the cancer case summary, it is important to remember that CHL may arise in the setting of immune deficiency and dysregulation (IDD), and when appropriate that category should be utilized.

Table 11: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF HODGKIN LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---|--|--|
| Classic Hodgkin lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary nodal or mediastinal presentation HRS cells and variants in a reactive microenvironment composed of varying proportions of small Lymphocytes, eosinophils, histiocytes, plasma cells, and neutrophils Immunophenotype of HRS cells: CD30+, PAX5+ (weak to moderate), CD15+/-, CD20-/ weak/ heterogeneous, CD45- | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunophenotype of HRS cells: decreased expression of OCT2 and BOB1 EBV positive (~20% of nodular sclerosis and ~70% of mixed cellularity) Histological subtyping (if possible) Exclusion of mimics of CHL by appropriate work-up |
| Nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nodular architecture, at least focally LP tumor cells: Single, scattered large cells with multilobated nuclei, vesicular chromatin, and one or more, generally small, nucleoli Immunophenotype: Uniform positivity for several B-cell antigens (usually CD20-positive) Immune microenvironment: Many small lymphocytes, histiocytes, and follicular dendritic cells; no significant eosinophils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristic immunophenotype of LP cells (CD20, OCT2, BCL6) and of background TFH cells (PD1-positive) rosetting around tumor cells Defining growth patterns (A-F). Since this may be highly challenging on core needle core biopsies, a lymph node excision is preferred |

Precursor T-cell Neoplasms

The diagnostic categories from the revised WHO 4th edition Hematolymphoid classification are retained in the WHO 5th edition. T-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma, NOS represents a neoplasm of T-cells with an immature immunophenotype demonstrated by expression of CD34, CD1a, CD117, CD99, or TdT. Remaining markers, when expressed, reflect various stages of T-cell maturation, including expression of cytoplasmic CD3, typically bright CD7, diminished CD5, variable CD4, and CD8 with frequent co-expression. Early T-precursor lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma is distinct in having a more immature

immunophenotype with committed T-cell lineage (expression of cytoplasmic CD3, absent CD1a, absent CD8) and expression of stem cell and myeloid markers (one or more CD34, HLA-DR, CD11b, CD13, CD33, CD65, CD117).¹⁶

The cancer case summary combines T-lymphoblastic leukemia and lymphoma. By convention, when bone marrow and blood are involved, leukemia is used; involvement of lymph nodes, thymus, or other extranodal sites are termed T-lymphoblastic lymphomas. Treatment protocols define T-lymphoblastic leukemia as having 25% or more blasts in the marrow when both sites are involved. This distinction can be made in the narrative diagnostic report; the cancer case summary allows reporting of the percentage of neoplastic cells in the bone marrow and/or blood.

Table 12: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF PRECURSOR T-CELL NEOPLASMS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---|---|--|
| T-lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presence of hematopoietic progenitors of T lineage, defined largely by the expression of surface and/or cytoplasmic CD3, having an aberrant immunophenotype | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of abnormal T progenitors or blasts exceeds 20% in the peripheral blood or bone marrow, or involves an extramedullary site However, unlike myeloid neoplasms, a defined number of blasts in blood or marrow is not required for the diagnosis of T-ALL/LBL. In practice, the diagnosis should be made with care when blasts are <20%, as there is no convincing evidence to suggest outcome is adversely affected by deferring therapy until blasts reach 20% |
| Early T-precursor lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma features by morphology Blasts must express an early T-precursor immunophenotype characterized by the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Positive for cytoplasmic CD3 - Absent (<5% positive blasts) CD1a and CD8 expression - Absent or dim (<75% positive blasts) CD5 expression - Positive (≥25% positive blasts) for 1 or | |

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| | more myeloid (CD11b, CD13, CD33, CD65, CD117) and/or stem cell (CD34, HLA-DR) markers - Negative (<3%) myeloperoxidase | |
|--|---|--|

Mature T-cell and NK-cell Neoplasms

There has been a significant increase in the understanding of mature T- and NK-cell lymphomas, particularly regarding underlying molecular genetic alterations. Despite this, the diagnostic categories from the revised 4th edition of WHO remain largely the same, with some notable changes.

Mature T-cell and NK-cell Leukemias

Chronic lymphoproliferative disorder of NK-cells was changed to NK-large granular lymphocytic leukemia (NK-LGLL) to reflect clonal nature and maintain consistency with the nomenclature of T- large granular lymphocytic leukemia.

Table 13: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF MATURE T-CELL AND NK-CELL LEUKEMIAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| T-prolymphocytic leukemia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphocytosis $>5 \times 10^9/L$ with T-PLL immunophenotype in peripheral blood or bone marrow T-cell monoclonality <i>TCL1A</i> or <i>MTCP1</i> rearrangement, alternatively TCL1A protein expression | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of a juxtaposition of the <i>TCL1A</i> or <i>MTCP1</i> gene next to a T-cell receptor (<i>TCR</i>) locus mostly the <i>TRA/TRD</i> locus |
| T-large granular lymphocytic leukemia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in circulating cytotoxic T-cells, often greater than $2 \times 10^9/L$ but may be less Presence of a T-cell population (usually CD8 positive) with down-regulation of CD5 and/or CD7 and/or abnormal expression of CD16 and NK-cell associated receptors Evidence of T-cell monoclonality (or oligoclonality) Presence of two of these three essential criteria in association with one desirable criterion is sufficient for a diagnosis of T-LGLL | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bone marrow immunohistochemistry revealing shows intra-sinusoidal cytotoxic T-cell infiltrates <i>STAT3</i> mutation |
| NK-large granular lymphocytic | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> An increase in circulating NK-cells, typically greater than $2 \times 10^9/L$, | |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| leukemia | <p>persisting greater than 6 months</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flow cytometric evidence of blood or bone marrow involvement by a uniform population of surface CD3 negative, CD16 positive NK-cell population Killer cell Ig-like receptors (KIRs) restricted pattern of expression, demonstrated by flow cytometry analysis (either a dominant expression of a relevant KIR or lack of them), is accepted as a surrogate marker of clonal expansion Bone marrow involved by intra-sinusoidal cytotoxic CD8 positive NK-cells and/or the presence of <i>STAT3</i> and/or <i>TET2</i> mutations with NK-cell lineage confirmed by flow cytometry <p>If both 2 and 3 are present, a diagnosis of NK-LGCL can be established in the absence of documented persistence of an absolute blood NK-cell count of greater than $2 \times 10^9/L$</p> | |
| Adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neoplastic lymphoid cell proliferation with mature T-cell phenotype Occurrence in HTLV-1 carrier | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphoid cells with prominent convolutions and lobulation Identification of monoclonal integration of HTLV-1 (may not be commercially available) |
| Sézary syndrome | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erythroderma involving greater than 80% body surface area Evidence of blood involvement defined by demonstration of clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangements and either an absolute Sézary cell count $\geq 1000/\mu L$ or CD4/CD8 ratio > 10, CD4+CD7- cells $\geq 40\%$ or CD4+CD26- cells $\geq 30\%$ | |
| Aggressive NK-cell leukemia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute presentation, with fever and systemic symptoms Systemic (multi-organ) proliferation of neoplastic lymphoid cells NK-cell immunophenotype | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBER positivity (positive in ~90% of cases) Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of TCR protein expression and/or lack of clonal rearrangement of <i>TCR</i> genes | |
|--|--|--|

Primary Cutaneous T-cell lymphoid Proliferations and Lymphomas

The category cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphomas, rare subtypes in the WHO 4th edition, was expanded to separately list the diagnostic entities of subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell lymphoma, primary cutaneous gamma/delta T-cell lymphoma, primary cutaneous CD8-positive aggressive epidermotropic cytotoxic T-cell lymphoma and finally primary cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphoma, NOS.

Table 14: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF PRIMARY CUTANEOUS T-CELL LYMPHOID PROLIFERATIONS AND LYMPHOMAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|---|---|
| Primary cutaneous CD4-positive small or medium T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asymptomatic solitary skin lesion located head and neck > trunk > extremities One of the 2 architectural patterns (nodular and/or diffuse versus band-like) Predominance of CD4+ small/medium-sized pleomorphic T cells admixed with B-cell component TFH cell phenotype: strong PD1 expression by atypical cells +/- ICOS, BCL6, CXCL13 but CD10 negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adnexotropism Absence of lymphoid follicles Scattered reactive cells: CD8+ T-cells, CD30+ cells, plasma cells, eosinophils, and histiocytes |
| Primary cutaneous acral CD8-positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dense predominantly dermal non-epidermotropic infiltrate of atypical small to medium-sized CD8-positive cytotoxic T-cells Typical clinical presentation of a usually solitary nodule at acral sites No extracutaneous involvement at diagnosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Characteristic Golgi dot-like expression of CD68 by tumor cells Monoclonal rearrangement of <i>TCR</i> genes Absence of immunodeficiency, EBV always negative |
| Mycosis fungoides | <p>-In early stage MF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of persistent and/or progressive patches and plaques especially in sun-protected areas Presence of small to medium-sized atypical T-cells with hyperchromatic hyperconvoluted (cerebriform) nuclei, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of pan T-cell antigens Demonstration of clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangements in skin biopsy in selected cases |

| | | |
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| | <p>preferentially in the epidermis</p> <p>-In tumor stage MF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of concurrent or preceding patches and plaques with histologic features characteristic of MF | |
| Primary cutaneous CD30-positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder: Lymphomatoid papulosis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infiltrates of mostly medium-sized, scattered (type A) or numerous (type C) atypical lymphoid cells with expression of CD30 and various background infiltrates expressing T-cell markers Clinical presentation with waxing and waning papulo-nodular skin lesions Spontaneous regression within weeks to a few months Exclusion of other lymphomas by clinico-pathological correlation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of clonal rearrangement of <i>TCR</i> genes may be helpful in selected cases (especially in LyP subtype A) |
| Primary cutaneous CD30-positive T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder: Primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution limited to skin and/or mucosa Cells with anaplastic, pleomorphic, or immunoblastic morphology CD30 expression in >75% of tumor cells No clinical history or evidence of mycosis fungoides, in order to exclude diagnosis of mycosis fungoides with CD30+ large cell transformation No history of lesions waxing and waning (exclude lymphomatoid papulosis) | |
| Subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobular subcutaneous infiltrate composed predominantly of atypical CD3+, CD8+, βF1+, T-cells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of clonal rearrangements of <i>TCR</i> genes may be helpful in selected cases Absence of gamma-delta T-cell receptor and EBV expression within the atypical cells |
| Primary cutaneous gamma/delta T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monoclonal proliferation of CD3+, TCR gamma/delta+ T-cells in skin or subcutis Exclusion of other lymphomas such as lymphomatoid papulosis and/or classic mycosis fungoides | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CD4-/CD8- or CD4-/CD8+ phenotype At least one cytotoxic marker expressed (TIA1, granzyme B, perforin) |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EBV negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No extracutaneous disease at diagnosis (may evolve later) |
| Primary cutaneous CD8-positive aggressive epidermotropic cytotoxic T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Epidermotropic and adnexotropic cutaneous infiltrate composed of pleomorphic cytotoxic $\alpha\beta$T-lymphocytes Lesions do not self-heal (as seen in lymphomatoid papulosis) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of activating mutations or gene fusions of the JAK2 pathway |
| Primary cutaneous peripheral T-cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diffuse or nodular dermal infiltrates of atypical T-lymphocytes No extracutaneous involvement of the lymphoma at time of diagnosis Diagnosis of exclusion; does not meet the diagnostic criteria of defined CTCL entities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molecular studies to exclude other specific entities in selected cases |

Intestinal T-cell and NK-cell lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas

Indolent T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder of the gastrointestinal tract was updated in the WHO 5th edition to indolent T-cell lymphoma to reflect an often protracted clinical course, but still with significant clinical symptoms and ability to disseminate.

Indolent NK-cell lymphoproliferative disorder of the gastrointestinal tract was added in the WHO 5th edition to capture cases that were previously diagnosed as NK-cell enteropathy- a clinically indolent, often regressing, non-disseminating atypical proliferation of NK-cells (CD2+, CD56+, CD7+, TIA-1+, granzyme B+, surface CD3-) in mucosal sites in the gastrointestinal tract. The recent discovery of frequent mutations supports the interpretation that this disease represents a neoplastic proliferation.¹⁷ An important consideration in the differential diagnosis is the clinically aggressive extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma. Distinction is made based on deep mucosal involvement, near-universal association with EBV(EBER in-situ hybridization+), and clinical aggressive course.

Table 15: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF INTESTINAL T-CELL AND NK-CELL LYMPHOID PROLIFERATIONS AND LYMPHOMAS AND HEPATOSPLENIC T-CELL LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---|---|---|
| Indolent T-cell lymphoma of the gastrointestinal (GI) tract | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-destructive, predominantly non-epitheliotropic infiltrate of small mature lymphocytes confined to the GI mucosa +/- submucosa T-lineage (CD4+, CD8+, CD4+/CD8+ or CD4-/CD8-), with TCR$\alpha\beta$ expression Low proliferation index (Ki-67 <10%) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of clonal <i>TCR</i> rearrangement (or somatic mutations) can assist in distinction from an inflammatory disorder |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Indolent NK-cell lymphoproliferative disorder of the GI tract | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superficial mucosal (and exceptionally lymph node) infiltrate of atypical cells with NK-cell immunophenotype • EBV negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangements |
| Enteropathy-associated T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An infiltrate of pleomorphic medium-sized to large lymphoid cells • Variable inflammatory background often including many eosinophils and histiocytes • Uninvolved intestinal mucosa shows features of CD (villous atrophy, crypt hyperplasia, intraepithelial lymphocytosis) • T-cell lineage, often with a CD4- CD8- phenotype, with expression of cytotoxic markers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD30 positivity (usually in cases of large cell or anaplastic morphology) • In problematic cases, presence of <i>JAK1</i> JH1-kinase and/or <i>STAT3</i> SH2 domain hotspot mutations can assist in distinguishing EATL from MEITL |
| Monomorphic epitheliotropic intestinal T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dense infiltration by relatively monotonous medium-sized or occasionally large lymphoma cells • Typically lacking necrosis • Epitheliotropism is common • No histological evidence of celiac disease in uninvolved mucosa • T-lineage, commonly CD3+, CD5-, CD4-, CD8+, CD56+, TIA1+ • EBV negative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>SETD2</i> inactivation due to mutation or deletion is very common. Often <i>JAK3</i> and <i>STAT5</i> mutations |
| Intestinal T-cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lymphoma with the bulk of disease localized to the GI tract • Medium to large-sized lymphoma cells • Expression of T-lineage markers • Exclusion of defined types of GI T- and NK-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonal <i>TCR</i> rearrangement |
| Hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristic pattern of extranodal disease (sinusoidal involvement) • Sinusoidal involvement of bone marrow, liver, or spleen • Small to intermediate-size lymphoma cells without intracytoplasmic granules • Cytotoxic T-cell lineage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristic immunophenotype: CD4-, CD5-/+ , CD8-/+ , CD56+/- • Isochromosome (7q); trisomy 8 |

Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma

A minor change in nomenclature was adopted in the WHO 5th edition Hematolymphoid classification by listing ALK-positive or ALK-negative before anaplastic large cell lymphoma to reflect the importance of

this distinction. ALK-negative anaplastic large cell lymphomas remain a heterogeneous group. *DUSP22* rearrangements are not uncommon (20-30%) within this group and may be recognizable by “doughnut cell” morphology, LEF1 expression, and absence of marked pleomorphism.¹⁸ The prognostic significance of *DUSP22* rearrangement is uncertain with earlier reports showing prognosis comparable to ALK-positive anaplastic large cell lymphoma; more recent studies show a prognosis intermediate between ALK-negative and ALK-positive.¹⁹ Less frequent *TP63* rearrangements can also be identified that are associated with a poor prognosis.¹⁹ It is important to distinguish systemic ALK-negative anaplastic large cell lymphoma from clinically localized variants primary cutaneous anaplastic large cell lymphoma and breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma.

Table 16: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF ANAPLASTIC LARGE CELL LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|---|---|
| ALK-positive anaplastic large cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALK expression in lymphoma cells • Characteristic strong uniform expression of CD30 in lymphoma cells | |
| ALK-negative anaplastic large cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete or partial infiltration of lymph node or extranodal tissue by large pleomorphic cells with lobated nuclei, distinct nucleoli, including “hallmark cells” • Uniform strong expression of CD30 • Absence of ALK protein expression or <i>ALK</i> rearrangement • Negative for EBV | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of T-cell markers and cytotoxic markers, albeit with frequent losses • Clonal rearrangement of <i>TCR</i> gene • Rearrangements of <i>DUSP22</i> (20-30% of ALK- cases) and <i>TP63</i> (about 5% of ALK- cases) or mutations of <i>JAK2</i> or <i>STAT3</i> (about 30% of cases) can be detected by appropriate molecular methods |
| Breast implant-associated anaplastic large cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of breast implant; CD30+ lymphoma cells with anaplastic features • Proven T-cell lineage supported by expression of one or more T-lineage markers and/or clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of lymphoma cells on luminal side of capsule in properly oriented tissue sections |

Nodal T-Follicular Helper (TFH) Cell Lymphoma

Nodal T-follicular helper (TFH) cell lymphomas represent a category of mature T-cell neoplasms that share immunophenotypic features of T-follicular helper cells. In the WHO 5th edition Hematolymphoid Classification of Tumors the different subgroups of this lymphoma were grouped with the common prefix-

nodal TFH cell lymphoma- followed by the particular subtype, including angioimmunoblastic-type, follicular type, and not otherwise specific (NOS). The lymphomas in this category share an immunophenotype that involves the expression of at least 2 T-follicular helper markers, the most commonly used being PD1, ICOS, BCL6, CXCL13, and CD10 along with variable CD2, CD3, CD5, and often diminished intensity of CD7.²⁰ The entities in this category are distinguished by architectural pattern with angioimmunoblastic showing a polymorphous infiltrate with background expanded follicular dendritic cell networks and prominent proliferations of high endothelial venules (HEV). Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, follicular type has a distinct follicular pattern without associated follicular dendritic or HEV proliferations. Finally, nodal TFH cell lymphoma, NOS is reserved for cases with more abundant tumor cells and lack of background polymorphous infiltrate or HEV proliferation. There may be significant overlap between tumor cell-rich nodal TFH cell lymphoma, angioimmunoblastic type, and the not otherwise specified (NOS) subtype. *RHOA* mutations are particularly common in this group (up to 70% of nTFHL-AI). It is important to note that these lymphomas often contain marked B-cell proliferations composed of immunoblasts that may progress to overt large B-cell lymphomas, commonly EBV-positive.

Table 17: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF NODAL T-FOLLICULAR HELPER (TFH) CELL LYMPHOMA¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|--|--|
| Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, angioimmunoblastic-type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nodal disease CD4-positive (occasionally CD4-negative), CD8-negative atypical lymphoid cells Extrafollicular follicular dendritic cell (FDC) expansion and high endothelial venule (HEV) hyperplasia (mild in tumor cell-rich cases) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression of ≥2 TFH markers, including strong PD1 Clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangement and/or mutation involving <i>RHOA</i> p.G17V(NP_001655.1) and/or <i>IDH2</i> p.R172 <i>TET2</i> and <i>DNMT3A</i> mutations very common EBV-positive B-cells |
| Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, follicular-type | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follicular growth pattern (FL-like or PTGC-like) No extrafollicular FDC expansion CD4-positive (occasionally CD4-negative), CD8-negative atypical T-cells that express ≥2 TFH markers including strong PD1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of polymorphous infiltrate and HEV hyperplasia Clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangement and/or mutation involving <i>RHOA</i> p.G17V (NP_001655.1), <i>IDH2</i> mutations rare <i>t(5;9)(q33;q22)/ITK::SYK</i> may be detected <i>TET2</i> and <i>DNMT3A</i> mutations very common |
| Nodal TFH cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nodal disease with effaced architecture/T-zone pattern by a morphologically atypical and/or immunophenotypically aberrant | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangement and/or mutation involving <i>RHOA</i> p.G17V |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | atypical T-cell infiltrate that is CD4-positive, CD8-negative, and expresses at least 2 TFH markers, including strong PD1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of extrafollicular FDC hyperplasia, perifollicular distribution of neoplastic T-cells, and follicular growth pattern | (NP_001655.1), <i>IDH2</i> mutations rare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>TET2</i> and <i>DNMT3A</i> mutations very common |
|--|--|---|

Other Peripheral T-cell Lymphomas

Peripheral T-cell lymphoma (PTCL), NOS should be reserved for those cases that do not fit into another defined diagnostic category. These neoplasms do not express 2 or more of T-follicular helper markers; ALK+ and ALK- anaplastic large cell lymphomas and extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma are excluded. Most PTCL, NOS cases lack substantial numbers of EBV+ (EBER) cells.

Table 18: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF PERIPHERAL T-CELL LYMPHOMA, NOS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Peripheral T-cell lymphoma, NOS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of an abnormal T-cell infiltrate, which is morphologically or immunophenotypically aberrant and/or monoclonal by ancillary studies • The tumor cells are negative or express only one TFH marker (to distinguish from nodal TFH cell lymphomas) and only show EBER in scattered B-cells (to distinguish from EBV-positive nodal T and NK-cell lymphoma) • Exclusion of other nodal or extranodal mature T and NK cell lymphomas (i.e., ALK+ anaplastic large cell lymphoma, ALK- anaplastic large cell lymphoma, adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma, extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangements • Distinguish PTCL-TBX21 and PTCL-GATA3 using antibodies specific for TBX21, CXCR3, GATA3 and CCR4 (not readily available in most commercial labs) |

EBV-positive NK-cell and T-cell Lymphomas

EBV-positive nodal NK-cell and T-cell lymphoma is a predominantly lymph node-based neoplastic proliferation of cytotoxic T-cells or NK-cells in which the vast majority of the tumor cells are positive for Epstein Barr virus by EBV-encoded small RNA (EBER) in situ hybridization. Most of these rare lymphomas have a cytotoxic T-cell immunophenotype, with the minority having an NK-cell phenotype. These are distinguished from extranodal NK/T-cell lymphomas by having a predominantly

nodal presentation, frequent expression of T-cell markers including CD8, and lack of CD56 expression as genetics features.¹

Extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma, nasal type from the WHO 4th edition revised classification had the qualifier “nasal type” removed in the WHO 5th edition to reflect that it may occur in other locations. Extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma predominantly occurs (80% of cases) in the nasal cavity, paranasal sinuses, nasopharynx, and oropharynx. The remaining cases (20%) involve skin, gastrointestinal tract, and testis, among others. Tumor cells may range from small to large in a given case but an angiocentric growth pattern with associated necrosis with EBV-positive tumor cells are present in all cases.

Table 19: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF EBV-POSITIVE NK-CELL AND T-CELL LYMPHOMAS¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|---|---|
| EBV-positive nodal T- and NK-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cytotoxic T-cell or NK-cell lymphoma • EBER present in the majority of neoplastic cells • Tumor primarily localized within lymph nodes but may involve a limited number of extranodal sites, no nasal involvement • Exclusion of immune deficiency associated T- and NK-cell lymphoproliferative diseases, ENKTL and systemic EBV-positive lymphoproliferative diseases of childhood, and aggressive NK-cell leukemia with progression or secondary involvement of lymph nodes | |
| Extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infiltration of extranodal tissues by lymphoma cells with variable morphology • NK or cytotoxic T-cell phenotype • Virtually all of tumor cells are positive for EBER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An angiocentric growth pattern occurs in ~70% of cases • Necrosis is very common |

EBV-positive T-cell and NK-cell Lymphoid Proliferations and Lymphomas of Childhood

There has been some update to the nomenclature for this group of rare Epstein Barr virus-associated lymphoproliferative disorders that have a predilection for Asians and Native Americans from Mexico, Central and South America, and most commonly occur in childhood. Severe mosquito bite allergy is a cutaneous form of chronic active EBV disease with high fever and marked skin involvement occurring after mosquito bites. Hydroa vacciniforme lymphoproliferative disease is a related process with similar morphology but absence of clear association with mosquito bites and, in the classic non-systemic form,

localized to sun-exposed skin. Systemic chronic active EBV disease is a systemic EBV+ lymphoproliferative process lasting longer than 3 months, more commonly T-cell compared to NK-cell, that involves multiple organs, bone marrow, and spleen. There may be associated hemophagocytic syndrome (HLH) and the prognosis is poor. Finally, EBV-positive T-cell lymphoma of childhood represents a cytologically obvious lymphoma often with prior chronic active EBV disease.

It is important to note that this group is reserved for the immunocompetent. If there is a prior inborn error of immunity or other immune deficiency or dysregulation (IDD) the resultant process should be classified in that category.

Table 20: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF EBV-POSITIVE T-CELL AND NK-CELL LYMPHOID PROLIFERATIONS OF CHILDHOOD¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|--|--|--|
| Severe mosquito bite allergy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High fever and severe skin manifestations after mosquito bites Bite site biopsy shows lymphoid infiltrate with NK-cell, or less commonly T-cell, immunophenotype EBER positive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High circulating EBV-DNA load Lack of T-cell receptor protein expression and/or clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangement in cases of NK-cell origin |
| Hydroa vacciniforme lymphoproliferative disorder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classic HV-LPD: no persistent systemic symptoms, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly, hepatitis, hemophagocytic syndrome, or NK-cell lymphocytosis Systemic HV-LPD: ≥1 of the persistent symptoms listed above, or signs of extracutaneous disease Papulovesicular skin eruption with or without photo-exacerbation that heals with varioliform scarring Peri-vascular and peri-adnexal atypical lymphoid infiltrate of cytotoxic T- or NK-cells EBER positive | |
| Systemic chronic active EBV disease | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infectious mononucleosis-like symptoms persisting >3 months Increased EBV-DNA in peripheral blood or EBER-positive cells in affected organs with evidence of EBV infection in T- or NK-cells Exclusion of known immunodeficiency, malignancy, or autoimmune disorders | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Systemic EBV-positive T-cell lymphoma of childhood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-organ infiltration by EBV+ atypical T-cells • Absence of immunodeficiency • Fever and systemic symptoms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clonal <i>TCR</i> gene rearrangements • Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH) • Hepatosplenomegaly • Abnormal karyotype |
|--|---|---|

Lymphoid Proliferations and Lymphomas associated with Immune Deficiency and Dysregulation

The WHO 5th edition Classification of Hematolymphoid Tumors incorporates the changes proposed by the 2015 Workshop of the Society for Hematopathology/European Association for Hematopathology to develop a more standardized framework for reporting of lymphoid proliferations/lymphomas associated with immune deficiency and dysregulation that incorporated three major elements: 1) histologic lesion; 2) presence of oncogenic virus(es); and 3) nature/etiology of the immunodeficiency.

The WHO 5th edition Classification of Hematolymphoid Tumors recognizes mass lesions that are not overt lymphomas- notably entities considered under hyperplasias arising in immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD), Polymorphic lymphoproliferative disorders arising in IDD and EBV-positive mucocutaneous ulcer. As these do not represent overt lymphomas- the reporting in considered optional in this cancer case summary. Briefly, the category of hyperplasias arising in IDD encompasses more uniform lymphoid/plasma cell proliferations without effacement of lymphoid architecture. Polymorphic lymphoproliferative disorders arising in IDD shows more cytologic atypia and architectural effacement. EBV-positive mucocutaneous ulcer represents a typically localized, superficial ulcer of mucosal sites or skin composed of an EBV-positive polymorphous lymphoid infiltrate with immunoblasts and HRS-like cells. A more detailed discussion is provided in the WHO 5th edition Classification of Hematolymphoid Tumors.¹

Lymphomas arising in immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD) and inborn error of immunity-associated lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas may represent any lymphoma that may occur in immunocompetent patients, including small B-cell lymphomas, diffuse large B-cell lymphomas, Burkitt lymphoma, classical Hodgkin lymphoma, and T-cell lymphomas, among others. The 2015 Society for Hematopathology/European Association for Hematopathology proposed that reporting should incorporate the nature of the lesion, presence of oncogenic virus(es), and type of immunodeficiency.

These elements are included in the cancer case summary as optional elements. Examples of such reporting include:

Example #1

Report narrative diagnosis: Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, EBV+, autoimmune setting

X Lymphoma arising in immune deficiency/dysregulation

-Name of lesion (specify): Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma

-Virus status (specify): EBV

-Type of immunodeficiency (specify): Autoimmunity

Example #2

Report narrative diagnosis: Primary effusion lymphoma, KSHV/HHV8+, EBV+, acquired immunodeficiency (HIV/AIDS)

X Lymphoma arising in immune deficiency/dysregulation

-Name of lesion (specify): Primary effusion lymphoma

-Virus status (specify): KSHV/HHV8, EBV

-Type of immunodeficiency (specify): Acquired immunodeficiency (HIV/AIDS)

Example #3

Report narrative diagnosis: Extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma, no viruses detected, common variable immunodeficiency

X Inborn error of immunity-associated lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas

-Name of lesion (specify): Extranodal marginal zone B-cell lymphoma

-Virus status (specify): None

-Type of immunodeficiency (specify): Common variable immunodeficiency

Table 21: SUMMARY OF ESSENTIAL AND DESIRABLE DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES FOR CATEGORY OF LYMPHOID PROLIFERATIONS AND LYMPHOMAS ASSOCIATED WITH IMMUNE DEFICIENCY AND DYSREGULATION (IDD)¹

| Diagnosis | Essential Diagnostic Features | Desirable Diagnostic Features |
|---|--|---|
| Hyperplasias arising in immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting confirmed or highly suspicious for immune deficiency/dysregulation Lack of architectural effacement Heterogeneous lymphoid and/or plasmacytic proliferations without atypia One of the following features: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detection of EBV/EBER in tissue in the majority of hyperplasias Detection of KSHV/HHV8 in multicentric Castleman disease Other specific features related to IDD (e.g., CD4/CD8 double-negative-cell proliferations in ALPS) | |
| Polymorphic lymphoproliferative disorders arising in | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting confirmed or highly suspicious for immune deficiency/dysregulation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I</i>G gene rearrangement studies to support exclusion of lymphoma |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architectural effacement • Polymorphous infiltrate with a spectrum of stages of B-cell differentiation • Atypical large cells positive for CD20 (variable), CD30 (variable), and PAX5 • EBV+ demonstrated in tissue (EBV viral load measurements in the blood are not sufficient for diagnosis) | |
| EBV-positive mucocutaneous ulcer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting confirmed or highly suspicious for immune deficiency/dysregulation • Well-circumscribed shallow ulcer in mucosal or cutaneous sites with a polymorphous lymphoid infiltrate • Atypical large cells positive for CD20 (variable), CD30 (variable), and PAX5 • EBV+ in tissue (EBV viral load measurements in blood are not sufficient for diagnosis) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band of CD3+ T-cells at the periphery |
| Lymphomas arising in immune deficiency/dysregulation (IDD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting confirmed or highly suspicious for immunodeficiency or immune dysregulation setting • Meets diagnostic criteria for corresponding lymphomas in immunocompetent patients | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detection of EBV (EBER) and/or KSHV/HHV8 (LANA) in tissue (EBV viral load measurements in the blood are not sufficient for diagnosis) • Demonstration of clonal B- or T-cell populations by molecular techniques in challenging cases |
| Inborn error of immunity(IEI)-associated lymphoid proliferations and lymphomas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for EBV+ B-LPD are the same as those specified in specific sections • Lymphoma diagnostic criteria are the same as those of sporadic lymphomas • EBV status must be assessed and the immunodeficiency background (IEI) should be mentioned • A diagnosis of granulomatous | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molecular classification including germline genetic testing for the underlying inborn error of immunity |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>and/or CD8+ T-cell-rich lesion requires exclusion of an infectious</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Etiology or occult malignancy, such as T-cell/histocyte rich B-cell lymphoma or overt T-cell lymphoma | |
|--|---|--|

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C. Transformation from Indolent Lymphoma

Transformation from Indolent Lymphoma (optional)

Histologic transformation occurs when a morphologically higher-grade lymphoma that is clonally related arises in a patient with a previously diagnosed or concurrent more indolent low-grade lymphoma. Common examples include the transformation of follicular lymphoma to a diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. The prognosis of transformation is worse compared to de novo high-grade lymphoma.¹ It can be difficult to determine if the higher-grade lymphoma is clonally related to the prior indolent lymphoma - for example, up to 20% of DLBCL arising in the setting of prior chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) are clonally unrelated.² Demonstration of clonal relationship between the transformed lymphoma and prior lymphoma are recommended; most frequently this involves demonstration of shared clonal Ig gene rearrangements or specific shared driver mutations.

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D. Special Studies

Immunohistochemistry

If immunohistochemistry is utilized to immunophenotype the leukemia/lymphoma cells specify the results in the cancer case summary. There is no proscriptive way to accomplish this and can reflect what is used at the institutional level. Suggested reporting methods could utilize (+) for positive result and (-) for negative and include descriptors if there is variability in staining (focal, patchy) or intensity (dim, bright staining). Immunohistochemistry is delineated separately from immunophenotyping by flow cytometry as there might be differences due to the different sensitivities of the assays (flow cytometry is typically more sensitive), differences in antibody used, differences in localization of the antigens (immunohistochemistry may be positive for cytoplasmic antigens that are negative on surface analysis by flow cytometry). To avoid potential confusion, these results are separated out even though some may be redundant.

Flow Cytometry

Flow cytometry is a quantitative method for rapid, multiparametric evaluation of the expression of cell surface and cytoplasmic antigens of a large number of cells. If flow cytometry was performed, report if there was no aberrancy detected in the sample at the level of sensitivity of the assay or specify what specific alterations were detected. As there is significant variability in the reporting of results the cancer case summary does not require a specific method. It is recommended to report the results of the tumor cell population in a semi-quantitative manner that would allow those reviewing the report to determine if there is heterogenous expression (not all tumor cells are positive) and the level of expression on the population. Examples of this reporting include: CD20 dim+ (low level expression of CD20), CD20+ (moderate level of expression of CD20), CD20++ (bright expression of CD20), CD20-/+ het (variable heterogeneous expression of CD20).

Cytogenetics

Report if conventional/karyotype cytogenetic analysis was performed on the sample, and if performed, the result. For those samples with abnormal karyotypes, specify the result.

Molecular Alterations Detected

With the advent of increasingly sophisticated molecular genetic techniques such as next-generation sequencing (NGS), chromosomal microarrays and large fluorescence in-situ hybridization panels reporting all these results in a synoptic format is a challenge. As many of these alterations are diagnostically, prognostically, or therapeutically important- reporting in a succinct manner is necessary. To make reporting easier for the pathologist and highlight what is most important for the treating clinician, this cancer case summary requires the reporting of any positive/abnormal alterations that were detected, followed by an optional listing of all the alterations that were tested. The cancer case summary lists some of the most common alterations that occur in lymphoid neoplasms, but it is in no way comprehensive. The option exists to provide those not specifically listed under "Other alterations listed (specify)", where the user would enter what molecular alteration was detected.

After each alteration, there is a specific field where users can delineate, if desired, the specific alterations, method (NGS, FISH), or additional information (variant allele frequency-*VAF*) that would be useful for that institution. While preferable to include specific information, this can also reference a separate report with this information (separate molecular pathology report). An example of how to use this section is as follows:

Molecular alterations detected:

 X RHOA mutation, (specify): NGS, *VAF* 47%
 X TP53 mutation, mutation, (specify): NGS, *VAF* 35%

Molecular alterations assayed:

(List): *ABL1, ABL2, ALK, ARHGEF1, ARID1A, ARID2, ASXL1, ATM, B2M, BCL2, BCL6, BCOR, BIRC3, BRAF, BTK, CARD11, CCND1, CCND2, CCND3, CD274, CD79A, CD79B, CDKN1B, CDKN2A, CDKN2B, CIITA, CREBBP, CRLF2, CSF1R, CTCF, CTNNB1, CXCR4, DDX3X, DIS3, DNMT3A, EBF1, EGR1, EP300, EPOR, ETV6, EZH2, FAM46C, FAS, FAT1, FBXW7, FGFR3, FOXO1, GATA3, GNA13, GNAI2, HIST1H1E, HRAS, ID3, IDH1, IDH2, IKBKB, IKZF1, IKZF3, IRAK4, ITPKB, JAK1, JAK2, JAK3, KLF2, KMT2D, KRAS, MALT1, MAP2K1, MAP3K14, MAPK1, MED12, MEF2B, MYC, MYCN, MYD88, NF1, NFKBIE, NOTCH1, NOTCH2, NOTCH3, NRAS, NT5C2, P2RY8, PDGFRB, PHF6, PIK3CA, PIK3CD, PIK3R1, PIM1, PLCG1, PLCG2, POT1, PPM1D, PRDM1, PRPS1, PTEN, PTPN11, RB1, REL, RHOA, RIPK1, RPS15, RUNX1, S1PR2, SAMHD1, SETD2, SF3B1, SGK1, SH2B3, SOCS1, SPEN, STAT3, STAT5B, STAT6, TBL1XR1, TCF3, TET2, TLR2, TNFAIP3, TNFRSF14, TP53, TRAF2, TRAF3, UBR5, WT1, XPO1, ZFHX4, ZMYM3.*

This method can simplify the reporting of large numbers of genes to highlight only those with alterations identified. It also provides a means of listing what was assayed- such lists can be typically obtained from laboratory performing the molecular studies. This is less labor intensive than listing all the negative results.