

What About My Privacy?

Research test results are confidential and are not part of your medical history while being used for research purposes. In some cases, you may be given the opportunity to learn of these results. Upon providing us with written permission, we would then release these results to your clinical care providers (physician, genetic counselor, etc). Only at that time and with your permission, will they become a part of your medical history.

Who to Contact?

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MC1185-57rev0614



FAMILY STUDY OF BLOOD AND LYMPH NODE CANCERS



Blood and Lymph Node Cancers

Blood and lymph node cancers are diseases of the blood and include lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and leukemia. Taken together these disorders make-up the fourth most common form of cancer. Blood and lymph node cancers can begin in either the lymphatic tissues (as in the case of lymphoma) or in the bone marrow (as with leukemia and myeloma), and they all are involved with the uncontrolled growth of white blood cells. There are many subtypes of these cancers, e.g., chronic lymphocytic leukemia and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

About the Study

There is evidence that blood and lymph node disorders cluster in families. The purpose of this research study therefore, is to identify inherited factors (genes) or substances (environmental) that make some people more likely to develop these disorders. To do this, we will look for abnormalities in the genetic material (DNA) taken from blood samples. We will also ask about environmental exposures and ones medical history to help determine whether certain substances or medical conditions increase the risk of blood and lymph node disorders.

Why Were You Selected?

You have been asked to participate in this research study because either you or a member of your family is known or thought to have a blood or lymph node cancer or precursor lesion. We have either obtained your name from a relative or from the Mayo Clinic database, which includes all patients diagnosed with one of these cancers and seen at Mayo Clinic.

What is Involved in the Study?

As a study participant you may be asked to:

- Answer questions about your health and family history of cancer. A questionnaire will be mailed to you. You can answer the questions by filling out this questionnaire and returning it in the enclosed envelope.

- Donate approximately 4 tablespoons of blood. This can be done during your visit at Mayo or via a kit that we mail to you to take to your local physician.
- Donate a sample of cheek cells. A kit may be mailed to you containing all necessary items to collect the sample and return to Mayo Clinic.

In addition, if you have had medical care for blood or lymph node cancer or related conditions, we may ask for your written permission to obtain medical records related to that care.

What are the Costs of Participation?

There are no monetary costs for participating in this study. Some of your time, however, will be spent completing a questionnaire and providing samples of your blood and cheek cells. You may send your bill for blood collection for this study to Mayo Clinic so that you will not be charged. If you choose not to participate, you will not jeopardize present or future medical care and treatment at Mayo Clinic or other benefits to which you may be entitled.