

# Cutaneous Lymphoma



## Why See a Hematologist

---

**Gena Pilotis**

**Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre**

**May 3, 2008**



# Role of the Hematologist

---

- **Ease your anxiety**
- **Create new anxiety**
- **Help to coordinate a long term plan of treatment**



# Ease your anxiety

---

- **Explain different types of Lymphoma**
- **Natural History of CTCL**
- **Prognosis**
- **Describe treatment options**
  - **Skin based treatments**
  - **“Systemic” treatments**

# What is Lymphoma



**Lymphoma is a type of blood cancer**

- The cells that have become cancerous are called **lymphocytes**
- Lymphocytes are normally made in the **bone marrow**, and can be found in the **blood** and **lymph nodes**
- Lymphocytes normally play a large role in our **immune system**
- Lymphocytes are either **B** cell or **T** cell



# What is Lymphoma

---

- **Cancerous lymphocytes are usually found in the blood, lymph nodes or bone marrow but practically can be found anywhere including skin, gut, spinal fluid**
- **Lymphoma** = most of the cancerous cells are in lymph nodes
- **Leukemia** = most of the cancerous cells are in the blood and bone marrow



# Why is Lymphoma Important

---

- **5<sup>th</sup> most common cancer in North America**
- **6000-7000 new cases per year in Canada**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of cancer death in young adults**
- **Many different kinds of lymphoma, some very rare**
- **Incidence of lymphoma is increasing**
- **Many new treatment options are available**



# What Causes Lymphoma

---

- **Lymphoma is caused by damage to the genes of lymph cells**
- **the genetic damage is acquired not inherited**
- **Cause of the genetic damage is not well known**
- **No single dominant cause**

# Types of Lymphoma



## **Diffuse Large B Cell**

- **Mediastinal large B Cell**
- **Small Lymphocytic**
- **Lymphoplasmacytic**
- **Slenic Marginal Zone**
- **MALT**
- **Nodal Marginal**
- **Mantle Cell**
- **Follicular**
- **Intravascular**
- **Primary Effusion**
- **Burkitt's**
- **Precursor B cell**
- **Lymphomatoid Granuloma**

## ■ **Adult T Cell**

- **Hepatosplenic  $\gamma\delta$**
- **Enteropathy type T Cell**
- **Blastic NK cell**
- **Mycoses Fungoides**
- **Extranodal NK/T**
- **Subcutaneous Panniculitis**
- **Anaplastic**
- **Primary Cutaneous T Cell**
- **Peripheral T Cell**
- **Angioimmunoblastic**
- **Precursor T Cell**
- **Hodgkin's Disease**



# Cutaneous Lymphomas

---

- **1 % of all non Hodgkin's lymphomas**
- **Confined to the skin**
- **Mycoses Fungoides makes up half**
  - **Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma = CTCL**



# How is CTCL Different ?

---

- **Very benign behaviour**
  - **Rash for years without diagnosis**
  - **Not many symptoms**
  - **Usually only found in the skin**
  - **Nuisance skin rash**



# How is CTCL Different ?

---

- **Prognosis**

- **Never really goes away for good**
- **Doesn't usually affect life span**

- **Very small percentage of patients develop a more aggressive form of CTCL**
  - **Spreads from the skin to the blood or organs**
  - **People are quite sick**



# How is CTCL Different ?

---

- **Treatment Options**

- **Avoid Traditional Chemotherapy**

- **Skin Based**

- PUVA
- Radiation

- **“Systemic”**

- Interferon
- Accutane
- Extracorporeal photophoresis



# Create New Anxiety

---

- **Staging**

- **Find out where the disease is to start**
  - **?Just skin**
- **Pictures**
- **Blood tests**
- **CT scans**



# Long Term Treatment Plan

---

- **Disease only in the skin**
  - **Steroid cream**
  - **PUVA**
  - **Local Radiation**
  - **Total Skin Electron Beam Therapy**



# Long Term Treatment Plan

---

- **Stubborn Skin**

- **Add Systemic Treatments**

- **Interferon**

- **Accutane**

- **Total Skin Electron Beam Therapy**



# Long Term Treatment Plan

---

- **More advance Disease**
  - **More Systemic Therapy**
    - **Interferon, accutane**
    - **Extracorporeal photophoresis**
    - **New clinical trials**
    - **Chemotherapy**



# Why Do you need a Hematologist?

---

- **For a nice long chat**
- **To know where to find one when you need one**
- **To send you to a good dermatologist**