

Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Lymphoma – A Guide for General Practitioners

This document was made available in October after some delay in funding for its distribution.

It is based on evidence available until the time of approval of the main Guideline document “Clinical Practice Guidelines for the Diagnosis and Management of Lymphoma” – approved by NHMRC December 2005.

Recent published data has reported improved outcomes from the Management of Diffuse Large BCell Lymphoma with Rituximab therapy.

While the most recent documentation has not been submitted to systematic review and the critical appraisal process of Guidelines, the data recently published from a reputable institution may encourage GPs and their patients to seek the best possible care and promote involvement in clinical trials.

The table (p4) depicts prediction of care/survival rate according to IPI risk category and is based on pre-rituxamab data. The updated relevant data is much more positive:

No. risk factors	4 year PFS	4 year OS
0	94	94
1-2	80	79
3-5	53	55

(Adapted from: Sehn LH, Berry B, Chhanabhal M et al. Blood 2007; 109: 5: 1857-61)

It is now the policy of ACN to put significant updates on the ACN website. It is anticipated that the 2005 Guidelines will be submitted to systematic review and critical appraisal in 2009.

Recent literature on the treatment of Hodgkin’s disease provides both factual and exciting reading for all clinicians who are searching for continuing improvement in the management of malignant disease (they are recommended for your reading interest and pleasure):

Fiome C, Eghbali H, Meerwaldt JH, et al. NEJ Med 2007; 357: 196-257

Editorial Hodgkin’s Disease – From Pathology specimen to cure. Diehl V. NEJ Med 2007; 357: 1968-1973.

Revision of the 2005 Guidelines is planned, but will be more likely to address controversial areas than revise every chapter.