The Nebraska Lymphoma Study Group (NLSG) brings community oncologists and pathologists and their counterparts at the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) together to provide the very best in treatment. Their patients — those with Hodgkin’s disease, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and other neoplastic hematologic disorders — receive state-of-the-art therapies where they live, while accessing the expertise and resources of an academic health sciences center. The NLSG brings together clinicians and pathologists throughout Nebraska with UNMC faculty in the departments of internal medicine, pediatrics, pathology and microbiology, preventive and societal medicine, and cell biology and anatomy, as well as the Eppley Institute for Research in Cancer and Allied Diseases to form the network. The study group also includes health-care professionals in Iowa and other Midwest states. Together, they provide a comprehensive evaluation and treatment plan for lymphoma patients.

PATIENTS BENEFIT THROUGH:
➤ The collaboration of oncologists and pathologists throughout Nebraska and Midwestern states, who share information for care and research.
➤ Review of diagnostic tissues for histology, immunology, molecular biology and cytogenetic studies by UNMC hematopathologists. This information then is shared with the patient’s primary physician.
➤ A centralized database that maintains clinical and pathologic information for statistical analysis. These data form the foundation for scientific contributions made to the worldwide medical community.

Over 4,000 patients have been treated and more than 40,000 biopsies reviewed since the study group was formed in 1982 by James O. Armitage, M.D. Dr. Armitage and Julie M. Vose, M.D., direct the Nebraska Lymphoma Study Group, while Dennis Weisenburger, M.D., leads the Hematopathology Section, which reviews all cases submitted to the group.

PROTOCOLS. The Nebraska Lymphoma Study Group offers various treatment options for previously untreated patients, as well as those with recurrent lymphoma. Patients are registered with the NLSG when their oncologist decides a treatment plan. Consent to evaluate tissues and analyze medical data is given by patients receiving standard therapy and participating in clinical trials.

STANDARD THERAPIES. Proven efficacious therapies using chemotherapy and radiotherapy for patients newly diagnosed with Hodgkin’s disease or non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma are standardized in the NLSG. Participating oncology groups administer these treatments in the patient’s own community.
CLINICAL TRIALS: Clinical trials using the newest cutting-edge therapies may be appropriate for different types of lymphoma patients depending on their clinical status. UNMC informs NLSG participants regarding investigator-initiated and pharmaceutical-sponsored clinical trials.

Investigational clinical trials include three phases in which treatment is studied before the new therapy is eligible for approval by the Food and Drug Administration.

The purpose of a Phase I study is to find the best way to give a new treatment, and how much of it can be given safely. Phase II trials determine the effectiveness of a research treatment after safety and dosing have been evaluated in a Phase I trial.

Phase III trials require a large number of patients. A "control" group of patients may receive standard (currently in use) treatment while another group, randomly assigned, may receive the new drug treatment under study. In this way, researchers can compare the two to find out whether the new treatment is more beneficial to survival and quality of life.

TREATMENTS IN CLINICAL TRIALS MAY INCLUDE:

➤ New Chemotherapy Drugs – studies designed to evaluate new chemotherapies discovered by scientists.

➤ Monoclonal Antibody Therapy – A monoclonal antibody is designed to attach to the lymphoma cell. When the antibody is injected, it binds to the lymphoma cell to alert the immune system to destroy the lymphoma cell.

➤ Radioimmunotherapy – When a monoclonal antibody tagged with a radioactive substance is injected into a patient’s blood stream, it provides a direct dose of radiation to the lymphoma tumor in addition to using the patient’s immune system to destroy the lymphoma.

➤ Transplantation – Combination therapies with chemotherapy, monoclonal antibodies and radiation are being developed to enhance transplantation for patients with lymphoma.

➤ Vaccine therapy – therapy that uses a patient’s genes from his or her tumor cells to boost the immune system and prolong remission.

Working together to optimize the diagnosis and therapy for lymphoma patients throughout the Midwest, your hematologist/oncologist and UNMC physicians have formed a strong partnership for the future.

For the latest information, visit our website: www.unmc.edu/lymphoma

1. SCOTTSBLUFF
   Horizon’s West Medical Group
   308-632-3676

2. NORTH PLATTE
   Good Samaritan Cancer Center
   308-534-8263

3. KEARNEY
   Heartland Hematology & Oncology
   308-865-2303
   Platte Valley Medical Group
   308-237-2263

4. HASTINGS
   Nebraska Cancer Care
   402-460-5873

5. GRAND ISLAND
   Cancer Specialists
   308-384-7080
   St. Francis Cancer Treatment Center
   308-398-5450

6. LINCOLN
   Nebraska Hematology-Oncology PC
   402-484-4900
   Southeast Nebraska Hematology Oncology
   402-420-7000

7. OMAHA
   IMA Hematology/Oncology
   402-552-2600
   Oncology Hematology West PC
   402-393-3190
   Bergan Mercy
   402-354-8124
   Methodist
   402-593-3141
   Midlands Oncology Associates, PC
   402-354-5860
   UNMC Peggy D. Cowdery Cancer Center
   402-559-5600

8. COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA
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NEBRASKA LYMPHOMA STUDY GROUP PARTICIPANTS

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2. NORTH PLATTE
3. KEARNEY
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5. GRAND ISLAND
6. LINCOLN
7. OMAHA
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9. SIOUX FALLS, SD