

CUTANEOUS T-CELL LYMPHOMA

Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) is a form of cancer affecting a type of white blood cell known as T cells, with manifestations primarily on the skin. There are different types of CTCL, but the mycosis fungoides subtype is the most common. It is characterized by symptoms such as chronic itch, evolving from patches to plaques and potentially progressing to a lumpy tumor stage.

Key symptoms of CTCL include persistent itchy or red patches, lumps,

and plaques on the skin. Diagnosis can be challenging, often necessitating multiple skin biopsies. Unfortunately, patients may endure prolonged periods without a conclusive diagnosis.

Risk factors include older age and compromised immunity. Typically affecting adults over 50, CTCL progresses slowly. There are many treatment options, depending on the stage of the disease. These include topical therapy, phototherapy, radiation, and chemotherapy.

Most CTCLs are chronic lymphomas that are treatable but cannot be cured. Therapies are able to alleviate symptoms and slow progression.

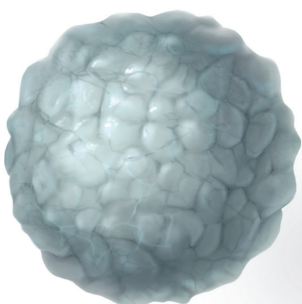
Patients who are diagnosed and treated in the early stages often have a normal life expectancy. If you experience persistent skin changes, continue to follow up with healthcare providers and advocate for yourself, until receiving a diagnosis.



Phase I
Patch

Phase II
Plaque

Phase III
Tumor



T cells, or T lymphocytes, are a type of white blood cell that plays a central role in the immune system. They are responsible for recognizing and attacking infected or abnormal cells in the body, contributing to the body's defense against infections and cancers.