Lymphadenopathy

What is it?



- <u>Lymphadenopathy</u> usually a result of benign infectious causes; lymph nodes greater than 1 cm in diameter are considered to be abnormal; enlarged lymph nodes, refers to nodes that are abnormal in either consistency, size, or number; distinguish between localized or generalized; ¼ are generalized and 75% are localized
- <u>Localized</u>- node enlargement is limited to one area- head and neck-55%, supraclavicular- 1%, axillary- 5%, Inguinal-14%- localized= 75%
- Generalized if lymph nodes are enlarged in two or more noncontiguous areas (abnormal lymph nodes)= 25%

Signs and Symptoms:

 <u>Symptoms</u>- glands in the neck are swollen usually due to a virus, cold, or infection which is part of the immune response to any foreign invader

Facts:

- Related Terms- lymph nodes, lymph node disease, lymph node enlargement, adenopathy
- <u>Cause</u>- include viral, bacterial and fungal infections, if long-term might be caused by lymphomas or other malignancies
 - <u>Infectious Causes</u>- infectious mononucleosis. Toxoplasmosis, cat scratch disease, cytomegalovirus, scabies, varicella zoster virus, scarlet fever, tuberculosis, pharyngitis
- Cancer Risk 40 or older-4% cancer risk, under 40 0.5% cancer risk
- <u>Lymph Nodes</u>- bean shaped organ found in the groin, underarm, neck, chest and abdomen that act as filters for the lymph fluid as it circulates through the body; most common site is the cervical lymph nodes found in the neck

What can I do?

<u>See your Health Care Provider</u>- for a careful history and physical examination

<u>Tests</u>- ultrasound, MRI, CT and PET, small needle biopsy, complete blood workup, x-rays, hepatic function, renal function, urine analysis
<u>Lymph Node Biopsy</u>- insist that a scan and small needle biopsy is performed first