



## Clue to Systemic Diseases: Cervical Lymphadenopathy

**Suhani Gupta\***

Department of Oral Medicine and Maxillofacial Radiology, Consultant Dental Surgeon, Mint Leaf Dental Clinic, Gurugram, Haryana, India

**\*Corresponding Author:** Suhani Gupta, Department of Oral Medicine and Maxillofacial Radiology, Consultant Dental Surgeon, Mint Leaf Dental Clinic, Gurugram, Haryana, India.

**Received:** April 19, 2023

**Published:** May 01, 2023

© All rights are reserved by **Suhani Gupta**.

An abnormal enlargement of lymph nodes in head and neck usually more than 1 cm in size.

Etiology: Infections: 1. Bacterial: Dental, tonsils, face or scalp infections, syphilis, cat-scratch disease, Lyme disease 2. Viral: Herpetic stomatitis, Infectious mononucleosis, HIV infection, Parasitic, Toxoplasmosis, Possibly infective Mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome (Kawasaki's disease). Neoplasms: Primary Hodgkin's disease, Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Leukaemia – especially lymphocytic, Secondary Carcinoma – oral, salivary gland or nasopharyngeal, Malignant melanoma, Other mesenchymal tumours. Miscellaneous: Sarcoidosis

### Investigation of cervical lymphadenopathy

- **History:** Is there a history of a systemic illness? Has there been any contact with infectious disease? Has there been an animal scratch? Are there any associated symptoms? Do any symptoms (e.g., epistaxis or hoarseness)? Are any drugs (especially phenytoin) taken?
- **Examination:** Check the temperature, Identify the node and its drainage area, Check carefully for dental, other oral, pharyngeal or skin causes in the area, If a possible primary cause is found, it should be biopsied, consider ENT referral, Examine the other side of the neck.
- **Special investigations:** Blood picture, Chest radiograph for mediastinal nodes (e.g., Hodgkin's disease, sarcoidosis), Serology, Angiotensin-converting enzyme and calcium levels (sarcoid), Mantoux test (tuberculosis), FNAC, Thyroid scan and function tests, Blind biopsy of nasopharynx and tonsils, Biopsy of node itself is a last resort.

### CAT scratch disease

Typical features of cat-scratch disease: Children frequently affected, Frequently a history of a scratch by a cat or other animal, formation of papule, which may suppurate, at the site of inocula-

tion, Mild fever, malaise and regional lymphadenitis 1-3 weeks after exposure, Lymph nodes soften and typically suppurate, Conjunctivitis may be associated.

### Tuberculous cervical lymphadenopathy

- **Clinical features:** Firm swelling, usually of a group of nodes, Nodes typically become matted, Abscess or sinus formation, Calcified nodes from past, healed disease.

### Syphilis

- **Clinical Features:** cervical lymph nodes are enlarged, soft and rubbery, Chancre is in the mouth or on the lip.
- Generalized lymphadenopathy secondary stage.

### Lyme disease

Typical features of Lyme disease: A rash spreading outwards, Enlarged regional lymph nodes, Fever and often other systemic symptoms, Arthritis rarely of TMJ, Neurological complications

### Infectious Mononucleosis

Typical features of infectious mononucleosis in children: Generalised lymphadenopathy, Sore throat, Fever In adolescents, Lymphadenopathy often less conspicuous, Vague illness with fever in the anginose type of disease, Sore throat, tonsillar exudate and pharyngeal oedema, Palatal petechiae

### Kawasaki's disease

Children under 5 years old affected, Fever persisting for more than 5 days, Generalised often morbilliform rash, Palms and soles become red, swollen and indurated, Erythematous stomatitis, pharyngitis, swelling and cracking of lips, Unilateral mass of lymph nodes, Abdominal symptoms frequently, Deterioration of mood ('extreme misery'), Heart disease in approximately 20%.

## Bibliography

1. International Journal of Health Sciences and Research 10.10 (2020).
2. Neville BW, *et al.* "Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology, edition 2". Philadelphia, WB Saunders (2001): 368-369.
3. Leung and Davies. "Cervical Lymphadenitis: Etiology, Diagnosis, and Management. Upper Respiratory, Head, and Neck Infections". *Current Infectious Disease Reports* 11.3 (2009): 183-189.
4. Cervical lymphadenopathy - a clue to systemic diseases - a recent update". *Medico-legal Update* 20.4 (2020): 3521-3528.