

H&E — LYMPH NODE SWELLING



HISTORY

1) Chief Complaint

“Swelling in neck/axilla/groin × duration”

2) History of Present Illness

◆ Onset

- Sudden → reactive / infection
 - Gradual → TB / lymphoma / malignancy
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◆ Progression

- Increasing rapidly → lymphoma
 - Slowly progressive → TB
 - Fluctuating → reactive
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◆ Pain

- Painful → reactive lymphadenitis
- Painless → TB / lymphoma / metastasis

Very important differentiator.

◆ Fever

- High fever → acute infection
 - Evening rise → TB
 - Pel-Ebstein fever → lymphoma (classical but rare)
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◆ Weight Loss

Suggest TB or malignancy.

- ◆ Night Sweats

Suggest lymphoma or TB.

- ◆ Cough / Hemoptysis

Suggest pulmonary TB.

- ◆ Local Infection

Ask about:

- Tooth infection (cervical nodes)
 - Skin infection
 - Wound in limb (inguinal nodes)
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- ◆ Dysphagia / Hoarseness

May suggest head & neck malignancy.

◆ Itching (Pruritus)

Seen in lymphoma.

📌 Differential Suspicion After History

- Reactive lymphadenitis
 - Tubercular lymphadenitis
 - Lymphoma
 - Metastatic lymph node
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 EXAMINATION

Expose properly.

Always examine:

- Size
- Number

- Site
- Tenderness
- Consistency
- Mobility
- Matted or discrete

Also examine drainage area.

I INSPECTION

◆ Site

Common sites:

- Cervical
 - Supraclavicular
 - Axillary
 - Inguinal
-

◆ Number

- Single node → metastasis
 - Multiple nodes → TB / lymphoma
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◆ Skin

- Redness → acute infection
 - Sinus → TB
 - Ulceration → malignancy
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② PALPATION

◆ Temperature

Warm → infection

◆ Tenderness

Tender → reactive

Non-tender → TB / lymphoma / metastasis

◆ Consistency

Very important.

Consistency	Suggests
Soft	Reactive
Firm	TB
Rubbery	Lymphoma
Hard	Metastasis
Fluctuant	Abscess

◆ Mobility

- Mobile → benign
 - Fixed to skin or underlying tissue → malignancy
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◆ Matted Nodes

Nodes stuck together → TB.

Very classic.

◆ Fluctuation Test

If abscess suspected.

3] PERCUSSION

Not relevant.

4 AUSCULTATION

Not relevant.

IMPORTANT AREAS

- ◆ Supraclavicular Node

Left side → Virchow's node

Suggests gastric malignancy.

- ◆ Axillary Nodes

Check for breast pathology.

- ◆ Inguinal Nodes

Check lower limb, genital lesions.

 DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS TABLE

Feature	Reactive	TB	Lymphoma	Metastasis
Pain	Yes	No	No	No
Consistency	Soft	Firm	Rubbery	Hard
Matted	No	Yes	No	No
Fever	Acute	Evening rise	B symptoms	Rare
Weight loss	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fixity	No	Late	No	Yes

 RED FLAG SIGNS

- Hard, fixed node
 - Supraclavicular node
 - Rapidly increasing size
 - Weight loss + night sweats
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⚡ VIVA QUESTIONS

- Levels of cervical lymph nodes?
 - What is Virchow's node?
 - What are B symptoms of lymphoma?
 - Why TB nodes are matted?
 - Why metastatic nodes are hard?
 - What is FNAC?
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-> The End <-