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Incidence, Histology and Immunohistochemistry Study of Nodular Lymphocyte-Predominant Hodgkin's Lymphoma in UMMC (1976-2005)

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Nodular lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin's Lymphoma (nLPHL) is a malignant lymphoma of germinal centre (GC) B-cell origin. Studies have shown that they possess distinct immunohistological, and clinical profiles. In Malaysia, this disease has not been well studied.

A total of 28 biopsies from 26 patients, diagnosed as nLPHL between years 1976 to 2005 in the UMMC were reconfirmed after histomorphological review. Patients were predominantly male (84.5%). Ethnic Chinese (53.8%) constitutes the largest proportion of patients. More than 75% of the cases are less than 30 years old, and peak in the age group of 10-29 years. The median age of nLPHL patients is 24 years. Cervical lymph node is the most frequent site of presentations in this cohort of 26 patients (32.1%).

The L&H cells consistently show strong positive stain for CD20 (clone L26) and negative for CD3 in tumour cells. None of the tumour cells shows immunoreactivity to CD15, and small numbers express CD30 (5/25, 20%). Of the 28 cases, 19 were observed to demonstrate CD21 and/or CD23, expanded meshwork, featuring splayed nodular pattern. Majority of the cases show many CD57+ T-cells, but without definite rosette surrounding tumour cells. EBER *in situ* hybridization performed in this study did not show presence of EBV in the L&H cells in all the cases.

These data shows that there is a tendency of nLPHL to occur in young Malaysian Chinese male, which differ from recent review paper with median age of 37 years. There is also the lack of CD57 rosettes around the L&H cells. The reasons of these differences remain unclear. However, our findings support other reports that nLPHL is not related to EBV infection.