Are you LymphomAware?

Perception

Roche commissioned a European survey of 5,000 members of the general public which found that awareness and understanding of lymphoma, a common form of blood cancer, is greatly lacking.

Results of a European public awareness survey

- 30% of people wrongly believed that lymphoma is a cancer of the endocrine system.
- 70% of people surveyed were unaware that lymphoma is a cancer that affects the blood and bone marrow.
- Nearly a third (32%) of respondents were unable to identify lymphoma as a type of cancer.
- Less than a quarter (21%) of people surveyed were aware of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

In fact, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) is the most common type of lymphoma, found in 4 out of 5 patients.

- 1 Every 90 seconds worldwide someone is told that they have NHL, this adds up to almost 400,000 people each year.

- 85% of those who answered a question on their own lifetime risk of lymphoma said they thought it was 1 in 100 or less.
- Over half (53%) of respondents believed you are more likely to be diagnosed with cancer of the skin, pancreas, kidney or brain than lymphoma.

Lymphoma is a type of blood cancer which starts in white blood cells.

- 9% of people surveyed thought that babies, children or adolescents were most likely to develop NHL.
- NHL can occur at any age and in both men and women, but is most commonly diagnosed in men and in those aged 65-74 years.
- Around half (51%) of people surveyed were able to identify specific risk factors for NHL.
- The most common risk factors for NHL are:
  - Half or fewer of those surveyed correctly identified symptoms of NHL.
  - Most common symptoms of NHL include:
    - Swelling in the neck, armpits or groin
    - Fatigue
    - Unexplained weight loss
    - Fever
    - Night sweats
    - Severe itchiness
    - Weakened immune system
    - Chemical or radiation exposure
  - Actually, blood cancers are the fifth most common cause of cancer death worldwide. There are three main types of blood cancer:
    - Leukaemia
    - Lymphoma
    - Myeloma

References