

## LYMPHADENOPATHY (LAN) IN CHILDREN

### Also think about...TB

Is there a history of TB exposure, travel to a high-risk area - discuss concern with local infectious disease specialist.

	GREEN – Low risk	AMBER – Intermediate risk	RED – High risk
<b>Size Site History</b>	Less than 2cm	Lymphadenitis / lymph node abscess – painful, tender unilateral LN swelling. Overlying skin may be red/hot. May be systemically unwell with fever. EBV – cervical or generalised LAN, exudative pharyngitis, fatigue, headache +- hepatosplenomegaly. Atypical mycobacterial infection – non-tender, unilateral LN enlargement, systemically well. Most common between 1-5 years of age. Progresses to include overlying skin discolouration. Consider mycobacterium tuberculosis – any risk factors? Cat-scratch disease – usually axillary nodes following scratch to hands in previous 2 weeks. Highest risk with kittens	Larger than 2cm and growing
<b>Examination</b>	Cervical, axillary, inguinal		Supraclavicular or popliteal nodes especially concerning
<b>Size Site History</b>	Recent viral infection or immunisation		Fever, weight loss, night sweats, unusual pain, pruritis
<b>Examination</b>	Eczema, Viral URTI		Hepatosplenomegaly, pallor, unexplained bruising

### Green Actions

- Reassure parents that this is normal - improves over 2-4 weeks but small LNs may persist for years
- No tests required
- Provide [advice leaflet](#)

### LAN due to poorly controlled eczema

- Generalised LAN extremely common
- Optimise eczema treatment.
- If persists, check full blood count and blood film and/ or refer to general paediatric out – patients
- Provide [advice leaflet](#)

### Amber Action

- If lymphadenitis, treat with 7 days of Co-amoxiclav .
- Review progress after 48 hours. If remains febrile, may need drainage
- If systemically unwell or suspected LN abscess, phone paediatrician-on-call.
- If suspected atypical mycobacterial infection associated with disfigurement, refer to ENT clinic.
- Consider blood tests as appropriate such as full blood count, blood film, EBV serology
- Consider TB testing
- Provide [advice leaflet](#)

Differential includes malignancy (leukaemia / lymphoma) and rheumatological conditions (JIA / SLE / Kawasaki disease)

**Urgent referral to paediatric team**