

# Lymphadenopathy

(February 2017)

---

## Rationale

Lymphadenopathy can be localized or diffuse, and benign or malignant. Patients frequently present when they find a palpable lymph node.

## Causal Conditions

(list not exhaustive)

- Localized
  - a. Reactive (e.g., tonsillitis)
  - b. Neoplastic (e.g., metastatic cancer)
- Diffuse
  - a. Infectious (e.g., viral)
  - b. Inflammatory (e.g., sarcoidosis)
  - c. Neoplastic (e.g., lymphoma)

## Key Objectives

Given a patient with lymphadenopathy, the candidate will diagnose the cause, severity, and complications, will initiate an appropriate management plan, and in particular, determine the need for a biopsy.

## Enabling Objectives

Given a patient with lymphadenopathy, the candidate will

- list and interpret relevant clinical findings, including

- a. an appropriate history and physical examination;
- list and interpret relevant investigations, including
  - a. laboratory and radiological studies;
  - b. indications for a biopsy;
- construct an effective management plan, including:
  - a. determining whether basic observation and/or treatment is indicated, or if the patient requires urgent referral;
  - b. determining if the patient requires non-urgent referral (e.g., serum sickness);
  - c. counselling and education of the patient regarding the nature and scope of needed investigations.