



# Patient Power

## Epidemiologic Research: What Causes Are Associated With Developing Hodgkin Lymphoma?

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**Andrew Schorr:**

You mentioned—so, I had never really thought about—you get a flu shot, and they talk about if you have a risk of Epstein-Barr—I don't even fully understand it—but, did these younger people—and even older people—was there anything that happened to them that caused the Hodgkin lymphoma?

**Dr. Brody:**

So far, I would say either no or nothing we've yet discovered. The Epstein-Barr virus has some association, but it's sort of a loose association. We have other lymphomas where there's a very clear association of that virus actually pushing that lymphoma forward, some of the rarer ones—MKT lymphoma, PTLD, some rare lymphomas. In Hodgkin, there's some association, but it's not as strong, and it doesn't really seem that we could attack the virus to get rid of the lymphoma cells, or not as much.

**Andrew Schorr:**

So, we don't know whether somebody at college was exposed to something, or anything like that.

**Dr. Brody:**

As best we can say, epidemiological studies have not been able to clearly show—so, we get Hodgkin lymphoma in poor people, rich people, boys, girls, old people, young people, as we've discussed, and there's not a clear exposure factor we could associate with Hodgkin's.

**Andrew Schorr:**

Any racial differences?

**Dr. Brody:**

Not significant ones, and not significant ones associated with other incidents or outcomes, ultimately. We do see this in all races.

**Dr. Evens**

But, it's important research, and it's so hard to go back and do this epidemiologic research because we haven't kept records of all your exposures, et cetera. There are some really good groups doing this in the world—the epidemiologic research—but we haven't put the puzzle together yet.

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