

Clinical features associated with survival of patients with lymphoma of the ocular adnexa

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CLINICAL STUDY

Abstract

Purpose Although systemic or eyelid involvement by ocular adnexal lymphoma carries a worse prognosis, there have been few reports of the outcome in relation to clinical presentation. The outcome of malignant ocular adnexal lymphoma was, therefore, related to presenting clinical symptoms and signs.

Design and Methods A retrospective, noncomparative case-note review of 326 patients treated in the Orbital Clinic at Moorfields Eye Hospital. The associations between presenting symptoms or signs and three outcome measures (v.i.) were assessed by univariate and multiple variable regression together with Kaplan–Meier analysis.

Main Outcome Measures (i) Presence of extra-orbital disease at the time of presentation; (ii) development of systemic lymphoma after new presentation with solely ocular adnexal disease; and (iii) death attributable to widespread lymphoma.

Results Presentation with disseminated disease was rarer with over 1 year's ophthalmic symptoms (odds ratio (OR) 0.7; 95% CI 0.5–0.9) and much more frequent with bilateral adnexal disease (OR 5.8; 95% CI 3.0–11.2). With solely adnexal disease at presentation, subsequent extra-orbital lymphoma was more frequent and earlier with lacrimal gland disease (as compared to those without; hazard ratio (HR) 1.9; 95% CI 1.2–4.5) or with eyelid disease (compared to those without; HR 2.4; 95% CI 1.2–4.5), or with bilateral disease (compared to unilateral disease; HR 2.6; 95% CI 1.4–5.2).

Prior or concurrent systemic disease was the most significant predictive factor for lymphoma-related death (HR 6.8; 95% CI 4.3–10.9), but tumour-related death was also commoner and earlier with bilateral disease (HR 2.4; 95% CI 1.4–4.0) or where a relative afferent papillary defect was present (HR 2.8;

95% CI 1.6–4.9). Similarly, the rate of tumour-related death was slightly less where symptoms had been present for more than a year (HR 0.8; 95% CI 0.7–1.0) and slightly greater in the elderly (HR 1.03; 95% CI 1.01–1.05). Conjunctival lymphoma had the lowest rate of extra-orbital spread and lymphoma-related death, the rate of these two events being sequentially greater for patients with predominantly deep orbital lymphoma, lacrimal gland lymphoma, or eyelid lymphoma. **Conclusion** These data suggest that presenting symptoms and signs of patients with ocular adnexal lymphoma are significantly associated with the risk of systemic disease at orbital presentation, the rate of subsequent spread, and the rate of lymphoma-related death.

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Keywords: orbit; lymphoma; survival; clinical characteristics

Introduction

The prognosis for ocular adnexal lymphoma is closely related to histological type^{1,2} and is considerably worse for patients with high-grade tumours.^{1–4} Likewise, outcome is related to clinical stage at presentation, patients with disseminated disease (stage IVE) having a worse prognosis than localised disease (stage IE).^{1–3} Prognosis is also related to the primary location of the adnexal disease,^{2,5} eyelid lymphomas having a more aggressive course than orbital or conjunctival disease^{2–4} conjunctival lymphomas having a good prognosis, and patients with conjunctival and deep orbital disease having similar survival.^{4–9} Although not observed in larger studies,^{2,4,8} a recent small series suggested that lacrimal gland lymphoma presents a greater risk of subsequent systemic disease than orbital

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disease.¹⁰ Survival after unilateral or bilateral adnexal disease is similar,^{2,4,8-10} and there may be an association between bilateral orbital disease and systemic involvement at diagnosis.³ Other clinical features (such as symptom duration, inflammatory symptoms and signs, proptosis, visual function or eye movements) have not been examined in these relatively limited series, the largest having reviewed 112 patients.³

We have analysed the presenting symptoms and signs of 369 patients with adnexal lymphoma, relating these to the extent of disease at presentation and long-term

outcome. This analysis is solely designed to guide the clinician when first assessing a patient with a likely diagnosis of ocular adnexal lymphoma, prior to biopsy of the lesion; the histological type of adnexal lymphoma still remaining the most influential determinant of outcome.¹

Methods

The associations between several clinical parameters ('independent' variables or 'determinants'; Table 1) and

Table 1 Univariate analysis comparing presenting clinical characteristics with the risk of concurrent disseminated lymphoma, future extra-orbital lymphoma (in patients presenting with solely adnexal disease), and LRD (solely adnexal disease does not include 38 patients with localised (nonsystemic) extra-orbital extension)

Clinical characteristics	All patients (326 pts.)	Patients presenting with solely adnexal disease (225 pts.)	Concurrent SLAD		Future spread of solely adnexal disease (SSOL)		LRD	
	No. of cases (% of total)	No. of cases (% of total)	No. of cases	OR (95% CI)	No. of cases	HR (95% CI)	No. of cases	HR (95% CI)
Age				1.0 (1.0-1.0)		1.0 (1.0-1.0)		1.0 (1.0-1.0)
Age >65 years	165 (51%)	114 (51%)	29	0.8 (0.5-1.4)	32	1.3 (0.8-2.1)	49	2.5 (1.6-4.0)
Male	154 (47%)	101 (45%)	32	1.2 (0.7-2.1)	30	1.1 (0.7-1.8)	38	1.1 (0.7-1.7)
Autoimmune disease ^a	80/311 (26%)	55/210 (26%)	14	1.0 (0.5-1.8)	16	1.0 (0.6-1.8)	18	0.8 (0.5-1.4)
Symptoms								
Symptom duration (LN)				0.8 (0.6-1.0)		0.9 (0.8-1.1)		0.8 (0.7-1.0)
Duration >12 months	72 (22%)	60 (27%)	7	0.4 (0.2-0.9)	17	0.8 (0.4-1.3)	15	0.5 (0.3-0.9)
Lump	197 (60%)	130 (58%)	43	1.5 (0.8-2.7)	37	1.0 (0.6-1.6)	50	1.1 (0.7-1.7)
Diplopia	88 (27%)	54 (24%)	24	2.1 (1.2-3.7)	17	1.2 (0.7-2.1)	25	1.4 (0.8-2.2)
Soreness	67 (21%)	50 (22%)	12	0.9 (0.4-1.8)	13	1.2 (0.7-2.2)	12	0.8 (0.5-1.6)
Pain	24 (7%)	11 (5%)	8	2.2 (0.9-5.5)	5	1.7 (0.7-4.3)	13	3.2 (1.8-5.9)
Watering	78 (24%)	54 (24%)	14	0.8 (0.4-1.5)	15	1.0 (0.6-1.8)	16	0.7 (0.4-1.3)
Decreased vision	35 (11%)	21 (9%)	6	0.8 (0.3-2.1)	7	1.2 (0.5-2.7)	11	1.5 (0.8-2.8)
Signs								
Bilateral clinical signs	52 (16%)	21 (9%)	24	5.2 (2.7-9.8)	11	2.4 (1.2-4.5)	20	2.2 (1.3-3.7)
Subconjunctival mass	93 (29%)	68 (30%)	20	1.2 (0.7-2.2)	18	0.9 (0.5-1.6)	19	0.9 (0.5-1.4)
Subcutaneous mass	53 (16%)	27 (12%)	14	1.6 (0.8-3.3)	12	2.4 (1.2-4.5)	19	1.7 (1.0-2.8)
Caruncular mass	9 (3%)	5 (2%)	2	1.2 (0.2-5.9)	3	3.8 (1.2-12.2)	4	2.4 (0.9-6.6)
Lacrimal sac mass	9 (3%)	4 (2%)	3	2.1 (0.5-8.8)	0	-	2	1.1 (0.3-4.4)
Superotemporal mass	85 (26%)	51 (23%)	20	1.4 (0.8-2.6)	19	1.7 (1.0-2.9)	24	1.4 (0.9-2.2)
Conjunctival redness	93 (29%)	68 (30%)	20	1.2 (0.7-2.2)	21	1.1 (0.7-1.9)	24	0.9 (0.6-1.5)
Conjunctival chemosis	92 (28%)	59 (26%)	22	1.5 (0.8-2.7)	17	1.2 (0.7-2.1)	28	1.4 (0.9-2.2)
Lid puffiness	93 (29%)	69 (31%)	14	0.7 (0.3-1.3)	25	1.4 (0.8-2.3)	26	1.0 (0.6-1.6)
Disc oedema	27 (8%)	17 (8%)	5	0.9 (0.3-2.6)	4	0.9 (0.3-2.4)	10	1.9 (1.0-3.7)
RAPD	44 (13%)	24 (11%)	10	1.3 (0.6-2.7)	7	1.3 (0.6-3.0)	16	2.6 (1.5-4.5)
Reduced Snellen acuity	51 (16%)	29 (13%)	11	1.2 (0.6-2.5)	10	1.5 (0.8-3.0)	19	2.3 (1.4-3.9)
EOM restriction (per 100 units)				1.1 (0.9-1.5)		1.2 (0.9-1.6)		1.4 (1.2-1.8)
EOM restriction by ≥200 units	53 (16%)	27 (12%)	13	1.4 (0.7-2.9)	9	1.7 (0.8-2.8)	18	2.5 (1.5-4.3)
Proptosis (per mm)				0.9 (0.9-1.0)		1.1 (1.0-1.1)		1.0 (0.9-1.1)
Proptosis ≥8 mm	47 (14%)	27 (12%)	11	1.3 (0.6-2.8)	9	1.4 (0.7-2.8)	14	1.4 (0.8-2.6)
Ptosis (per mm)				0.9 (0.8-1.1)		1.0 (0.9-1.1)		1.1 (1.0-1.2)
Ptosis ≥4 mm	28 (9%)	16 (5%)	7	1.4 (0.6-3.6)	6	1.3 (0.6-3.1)	11	2.0 (1.1-3.8)
Displacement (per mm)				1.0 (0.9-1.0)		1.1 (1.0-1.1)		1.0 (1.0-1.1)
Displacement ≥7 mm	49 (15%)	31 (14%)	12	1.4 (0.7-2.9)	9	1.4 (0.7-2.8)	17	2.0 (1.2-3.4)
Total number of patients	326	225	63		62		78	

^aHistory of autoimmune disease sought in only 311 patients.

OR: odds ratio; HR: hazard ratio; CI: confidence interval; LN: natural logarithm; RAPD: relative afferent pupillary defect; EOM restriction; limitation of ocular ductions (0 - 400 units).

Bold numbers indicate where odds ratio or hazard ratio are significantly different from 1.0 ($P < 0.05$).

three variables were assessed using logistic regression and Cox proportional hazards. The variables were (i) presence of systemic lymphoma at diagnosis (SLAD), (ii) rate of systemic spread of lymphoma (SSOL) in patients newly presenting with solely adnexal disease, and (iii) rate of lymphoma-related death (LRD).

Various clinical details (Table 1) were gathered by a retrospective review of the case records for 369 patients with a histological diagnosis of lymphoma, presenting to the Orbital Clinic at Moorfields Eye Hospital between 1980 and 1994. Any relative afferent pupillary defect (RAPD) or decreased acuity (two or more Snellen lines) was considered relevant only where it was due to tumour mass. Uniocular ductions were estimated on a scale of 0 – 100 for each of the four cardinal directions, giving a total 'motility score' (for unioocular lymphoma) between 0 and 400.

Staging for systemic disease and long-term outcome were determined from notes at Moorfields and the two oncology units to whom patients were referred, and from the patient's general practitioner. Death from lymphoma was confirmed from death certification, hospital records and information from cancer registration agencies and the Office for National Statistics.

Site of disease

The area of predominant adnexal involvement was categorised into deep orbit, lacrimal gland, eyelid or conjunctiva. Disease was considered 'lacrimal gland' where it was centred on the gland, even if involving neighbouring areas. 'Deep orbital' was considered where the total duction score was 300 or less, or where the globe was displaced in the sagittal or coronal plane by 2 mm or more. Distinct subcutaneous masses in the eyelid (but without deep orbital disease) were classified as 'eyelid' lymphoma, as were localised caruncular or lacrimal sac tumours. 'Conjunctival' lymphoma was considered where the mass was centred on the pre-equatorial subconjunctival space.

Disseminated lymphoma discovered within 3 months of orbital biopsy was regarded as concurrent 'SLAD'.

Statistical procedures

SPSSTM software was used to assess the relation between each clinical variable (determinant) and the three dependent variables (Table 1); prior to inclusion, continuous variables were checked for Gaussian normality and, to stabilise its variance, the natural logarithm of 'symptom duration' was used. Five variables (age at presentation, symptom duration, proptosis, ptosis, motility restriction) were treated as continuous data.

Those variables occurring in over 10% of patients, and bearing a significant ($P < 0.01$) univariate relationship to any of the three outcome parameters, were retained for multiple regression analysis (Table 2). The relationship of the independent variables to SLAD was examined by logistic regression, whereas the relationship to time-dependent outcome data 'SSOL' or 'LRD' was examined by Cox modelling and Kaplan–Meier analysis. For all survival models where the confidence interval for the hazard ratio excludes the unity of nonassociation, Schoenfeld residuals were examined. All time-dependent data were related to the time of orbital biopsy.

The whole statistical analysis was conducted to generate hypotheses regarding clinical signs and patient outcome and, with the large number of tests conducted, the results should be treated cautiously.

Results

Of 369 patients with lymphoma, adequate clinical data were available in 326 (88%), this latter study group having a mean age at diagnosis of 66 years (range 3–90) and a median follow-up of 55.5 months (range 0–434). The frequency of each clinical parameter, and association with the three 'dependent' variables are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Although there are only small numbers later in the follow-up, the Kaplan–Meier survival curves stabilise at about 14 years following biopsy (Figures 1 and 2) and a half of the patients get orbital disease by 5 years after diagnosis and 19% have suffered LRD by this time (Figure 1; Table 3).

Univariate analysis (Table 1)

No association was found between sex, smoking, or the presence of autoimmune diseases and the three outcome variables although, of no practical significance, there was a marginally greater risk of LRD with age (hazard ratio (HR) 1.03).

Where symptoms are present for more than a year (72/326 cases; 22%), there was a significantly lower rate of SLAD (odds ratio (OR) 0.4) and a lower rate of LRD (HR 0.5). The commonest symptoms were a 'lump' or 'swelling' (60% of patients, and not associated with any survival parameters) and diplopia (27%), the latter symptom carrying an increased risk of SLAD (OR 2.1).

Pain, not occurring with conjunctival lymphoma, was strongly associated with LRD (HR 3.2). Of the 16 patients with a painful orbital lesion, 10 died of lymphoma, in contrast to one-sixth with painful lacrimal gland lymphoma and none of the two with painful eyelid lymphoma. Although pain was significantly (HR 2.0) associated with the risk of systemic disease *at some stage*

Table 2 Multiple regression analysis showing adjusted OR and HR associated with SLAD, future SSOL in patients presenting with solely adnexal disease, and LRD

Clinical characteristic	SLAD OR (95% CI)	SSOL HR (95% CI)	LRD HR (95% CI)
Bilateral clinical signs	5.8 (3.0–11.2)	2.6 (1.4–5.2)	2.4 (1.4–4.0)
Subcutaneous mass	–	2.4 (1.2–4.5)	–
Superotemporal mass	–	1.9 (1.2–4.5)	–
Presence of RAPD	–	–	2.8 (1.6–4.9)
Age	–	–	1.1 (1.0–1.3)
Symptom duration (LN)	0.7 (0.5–0.9)	–	0.8 (0.7–1.0)

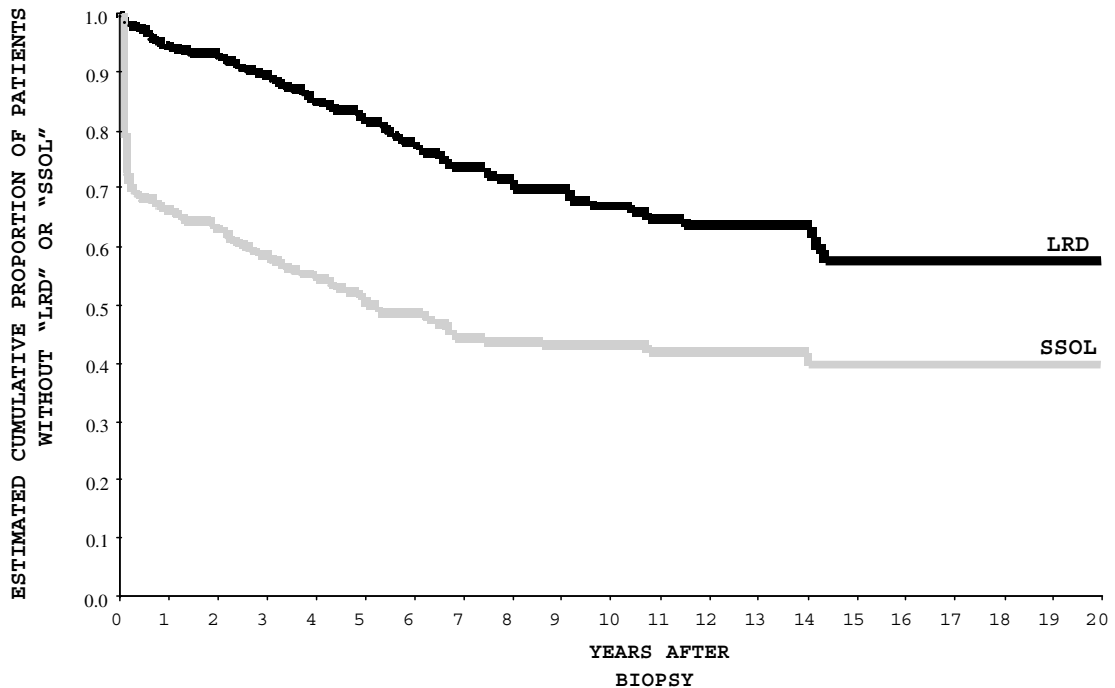


Figure 1 Cumulative proportion of patients without extra-orbital lymphoma (SSOL) or without a lymphoma-related death (LRD) for 326 patients presenting with ocular adnexal lymphoma. Patients with no extra-orbital disease at the last follow-up (SSOL line) or who had died without lymphoma (LRD line) are censored. The figures under the graph represent the number of patients alive without extra-orbital lymphoma (SSOL data) or alive at a given time after biopsy (LRD data).

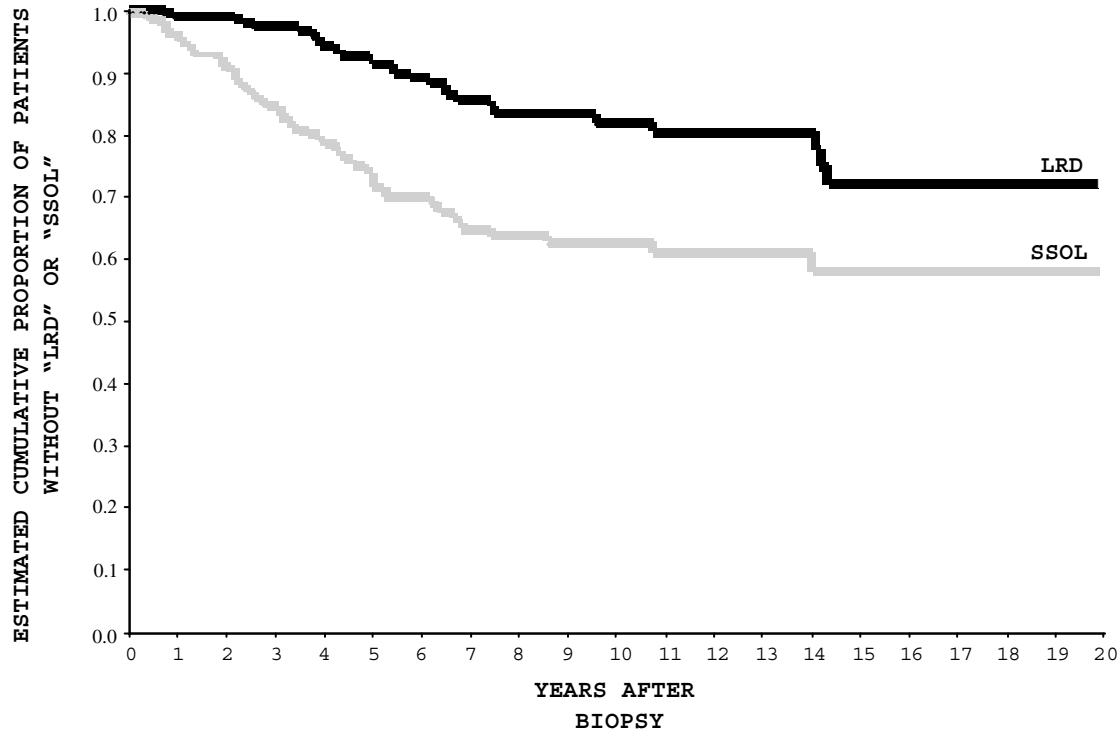
of the disease (known as ‘prior, concurrent or future’ (PCF) spread), there was no association between pain and the individual parameters of spread (SLAD or SSOL).

One-sixth of the group presented with bilateral adnexal disease, this being associated with a significantly increased risk of SLAD (OR 5.2), rate of SSOL (HR 2.4), and rate of LRD (HR 2.2).

A total of 44 patients presented with an RAPD, this being associated with increased rate of LRD (HR 2.6). Of the 44 patients, 39 (87%) had decreased acuity, 20 (45%) had papilloedema, 16 (36%) had marked (>6 mm)

displacement of the globe, and 10 (23%) had pain. Although limitation of movement was associated with LRD (Table 1), it was not included in multiple regression analysis because of the strong association with the presence of an RAPD, the latter being a much more reliable sign. Moreover, for ‘limitation of movement’, there is a suggestion that the proportional hazards assumption was not adhered to, with evidence that the hazards ratio increased with time.

Subcutaneous involvement, associated with a significantly higher rate of SSOL (HR 2.4) and LRD (HR



SSOL Line:	225	205	176	150	125	101	85	72	60	47	41	36	32	24	20	15	12	7	7	6	5
LRD Line:	225	210	189	169	145	123	106	92	78	64	55	49	43	35	31	23	19	13	12	9	7

Figure 2 Cumulative proportion of the 225 patients, presenting with solely adnexal disease, who are without evidence of extra-orbital disease (SSOL) or without lymphoma-related death (LRD).

1.7), was present in 53 (16%; Table 1) patients: 30/53 adnexal tumours were purely in the eyelid and they had a markedly worse prognosis than 23 patients with deep orbital tumours extending into the preseptal tissues (Figure 3). In contrast, the prognosis for 93 patients with subconjunctival lymphoma (Table 1) was relatively good, whether including (Table 1) or excluding (Table 3, Figure 4) deep orbital involvement.

Multiple regression analysis (Table 2)

The risk of SLAD was greater with a shorter duration of symptoms (OR 0.7), or with bilateral disease (OR 5.8). For patients newly presenting with solely adnexal lymphoma, the presence of bilateral disease (HR 2.6), an eyelid mass (HR 2.4), or a lacrimal gland mass (HR 1.9) is associated with a significantly greater rate of SSOL. The rate of LRD is greater with bilateral disease (HR 2.4) and weakly related to symptom duration and age (Table 2).

When included in multiple regression analysis, adnexal presentation with stage IVE disease (ie prior or concurrent disseminated lymphoma) was a more powerful determinant of LRD than bilaterality: the estimated HR for LRD (adjusted for age and RAPD) in

such patients with stage IVE disease was 6.8 (95% CI 4.3–10.9).

Site of predominant adnexal disease and sites of extra-orbital spread (Tables 3 & 4)

The frequency of SSOL (Figure 5) and LRD (Figure 6) increased progressively through anatomical categories—from ‘conjunctival’ lymphoma, to ‘deep orbital’, to ‘lacrimal gland’, to purely ‘eyelid’ lymphoma. A similar progressive increase in morbidity and mortality across these anatomical categories was also observed for the subgroup of patients newly presenting with solely adnexal disease (Figure 7).

Patients with conjunctival lymphoma had the lowest incidence of prior lymphoma (1%) or future spread (21%), these lymphomas most often spreading to lymph nodes (24%) and only rarely (3%) showing direct extra-orbital invasion. Deep orbital lymphomas were mainly unilateral (91%) and had the lowest incidence (13%) of SLAD, but tend to invade locally (13%) with 7% involvement of paranasal sinuses. In contrast, lacrimal gland lymphomas rarely invaded locally (5%) and most commonly spread to lymph nodes (43%). Eyelid lymphoma has the highest

Table 3 Characteristics of ocular adnexal lymphoma grouped by site of adnexal involvement

<i>Clinical characteristic</i>	<i>Conjunctival</i>	<i>Deep orbital</i>	<i>Lacrimal gland</i>	<i>Eyelid</i>	<i>All sites</i>
Proportion presenting at named predominant site	70/326 (21%)	143/326 (44%)	84/326 (26%)	29/326 (9%)	326
Age at presentation (years)					
Median	65	67	64	70	66
Range	18–88	3–90	9–85	39–87	3–90
Proportion of males	37/70 (53%)	75/143 (53%)	31/84 (37%)	11/29 (38%)	154/326 (47%)
Bilateral disease at presentation	16/70 (23%)	13/143 (9%)	16/84 (19%)	7/29 (24%)	52/326 (16%)
Proportion newly presenting solely adnexal disease	56/70 (80%)	107/143 (75%)	50/84 (60%)	12/29 (41%)	225/326 (69%)
History of prior lymphoma	1/70 (1%)	7/143 (5%)	10/84 (12%)	4/29 (14%)	22/326 (7%)
SLAD	13/70 (19%)	19/143 (13%)	21/84 (25%)	10/29 (34%)	63/326 (19%)
Concurrent local extra-orbital extension at diagnosis	0/70	10/143 (7%)	3/84 (4%)	3/29 (10%)	16/326 (5%)
SSOL	12/56 (21%)	26/107 (24%)	19/50 (38%)	6/12 (50%)	63/225 (28%)
PCF spread	26/70 (37%)	62/143 (43%)	53/84 (63%)	23/29 (79%)	164/326 (50%)
Deaths during study					
Lymphoma related	10/70 (14%)	32/143 (22%)	25/84 (30%)	11/29 (38%)	78/326 (24%)
Deaths all causes	29/70 (41%)	67/143 (47%)	34/84 (40%)	17/29 (59%)	147/326 (45%)
Median follow-up (range) (months)					
All patients	62 (0–242)	65 (1–310)	51 (3–434)	37 (1–231)	56 (0–434)
Survivors	84 (4–242)	71 (3–310)	53 (3–224)	33 (7–114)	65 (3–310)
Proportion (%) with SSOL (all cases)					
At 5 years	40	44	60	78	50
At 10 years	43	51	70	89	57
Proportion (%) with LRD (all cases)					
At 5 years	12	16	24	37	19
At 10 years	16	33	44	45	33
Proportion (%) presenting with solely adnexal disease and later SSOL					
At 5 years	25	25	33	48	29
At 10 years	29	33	48	34	38
Proportion (%) presenting with solely adnexal disease and LRD					
At 5 years	6	7	11	17	8
At 10 years	6	20	21	17	13

'PCF spread' includes patients with prior, concurrent, or future dissemination and patients with local extra-orbital extension.

rate of prior lymphoma (14%), rate of concurrent local extension (10%—usually to the cheek, forehead, or temporalis fossa), and rate of SLAD (34%).

The rate of LRD for patients with deep orbital lymphoma is greatest where there is painful optic neuropathy, less in cases of painless optic neuropathy and least where there is neither pain nor an RAPD (Figure 8). Involvement of paranasal sinuses or temporalis fossa was present at the time of diagnosis in 11/33 patients with orbital lymphoma and an RAPD.

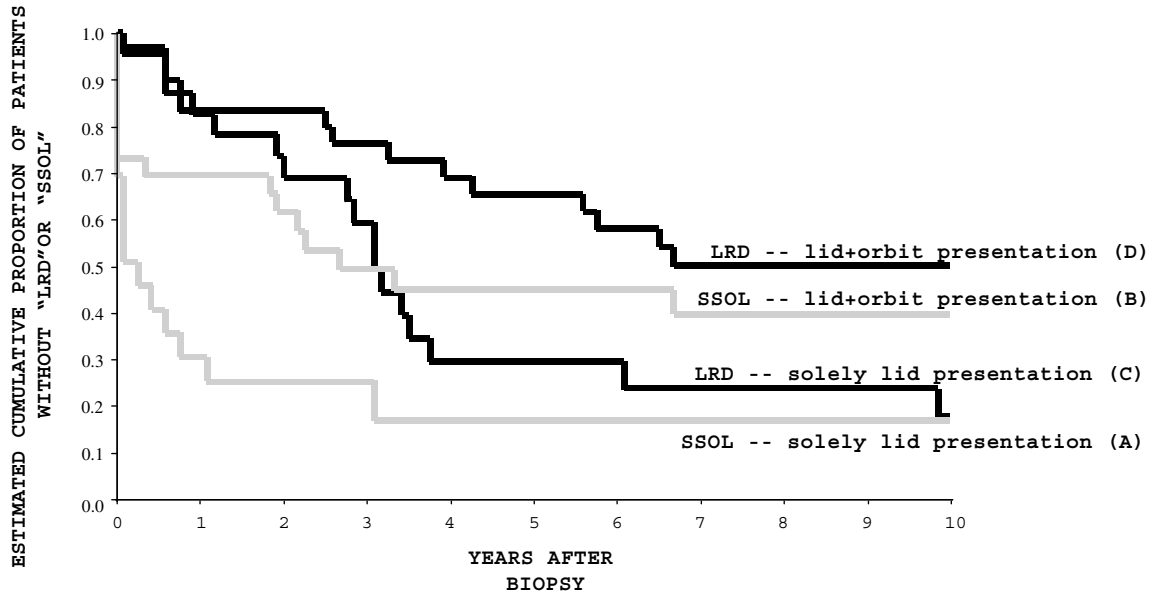
Discussion

Histological type is predictive for outcome in patients with ocular adnexal lymphoma,^{1–4} but clearly clinical

signs also provide a useful guide to the probability of systemic disease, disease relapse, and mortality as a result of lymphoma.

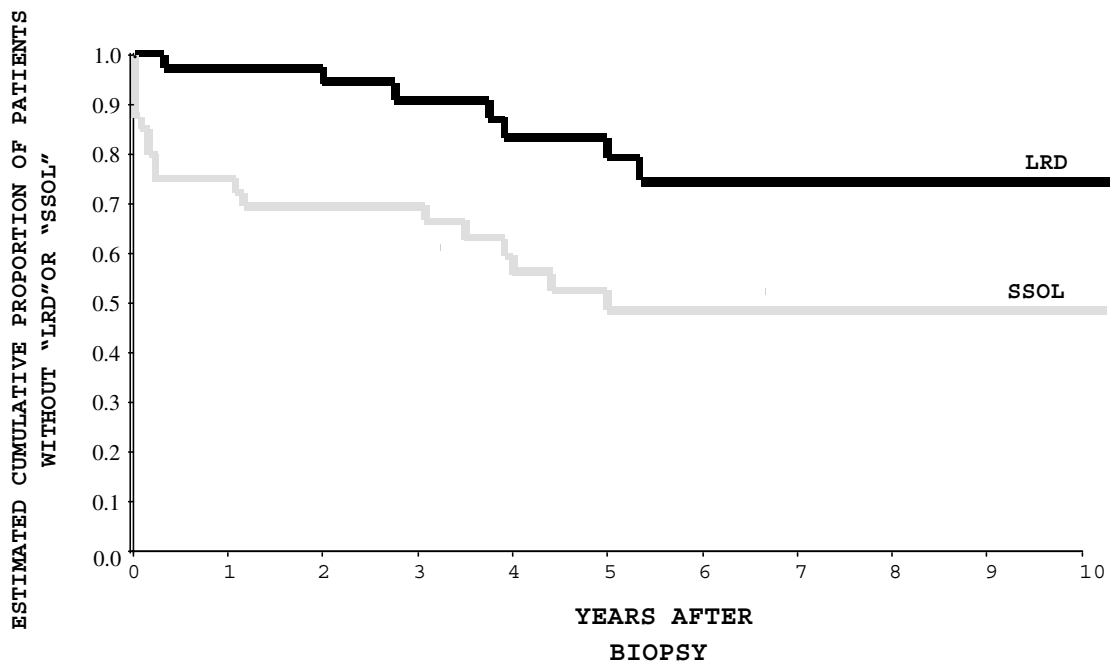
Risk of systemic involvement

Concurrent SLAD or prior lymphoma Extra-orbital disease, the presence or absence of which significantly alters the choice of treatment for adnexal lymphoma, was detected in 19% at the time of ophthalmic presentation. Patients with symptoms for a year or more were half as likely to have SLAD and were less likely to suffer LRD (Table 1), suggesting that such patients have a lymphoma of relatively benign phenotype.



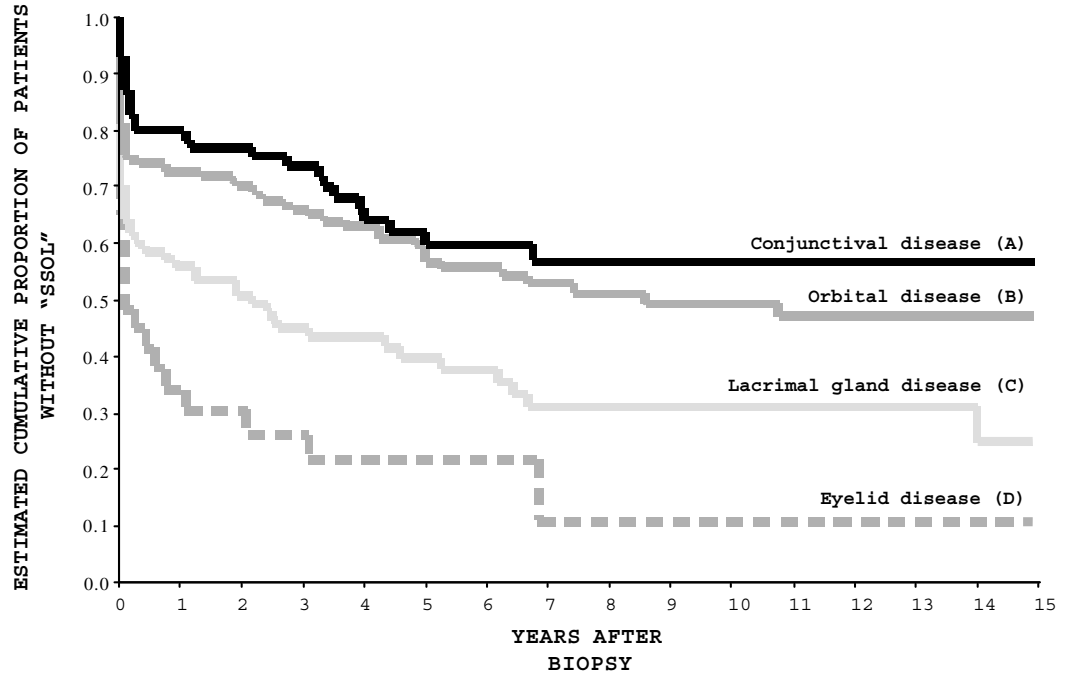
SSOL Line (A):	20	6	4	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
SSOL Line (B):	28	18	16	12	10	10	9	8	8	6	5
LRD Line (C):	23	19	16	12	6	5	5	4	4	4	3
LRD Line (D):	30	25	25	22	19	18	15	13	13	11	10

Figure 3 Comparison of the proportion of patients without evidence of systemic spread (SSOL: lines A and B) or lymphoma-related death (LRD: lines C and D)—for patients with subcutaneous eyelid tumours either with (B,D) or without (A,C) deep orbital signs.



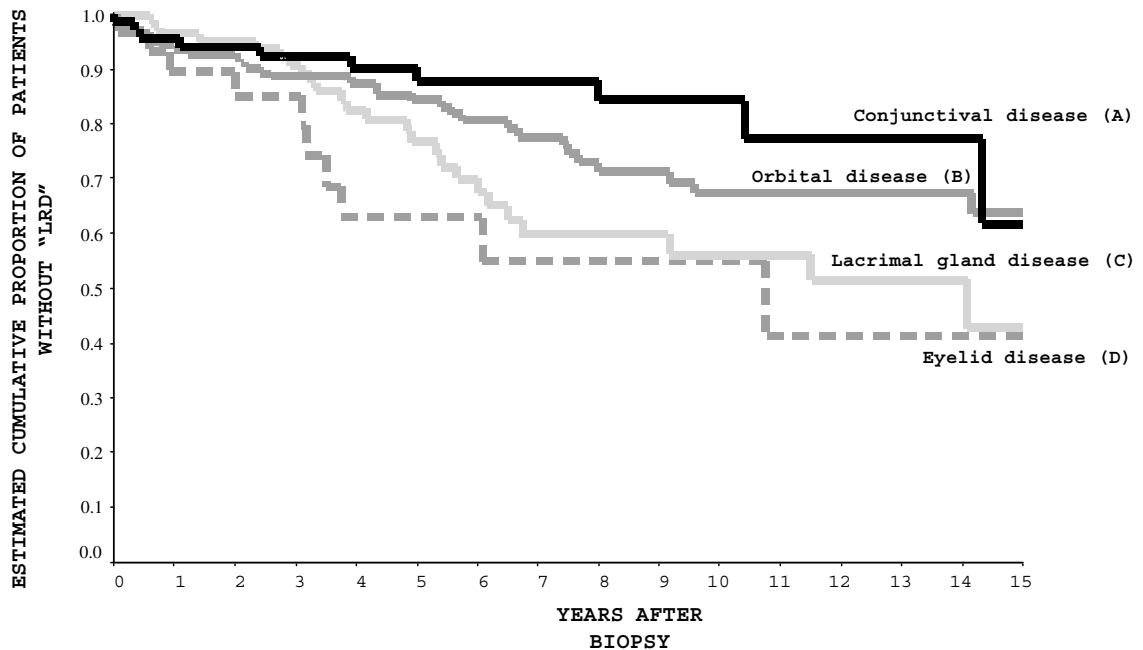
SSOL Line	39	29	24	22	17	14	12	10	7	5	3
LRD Line	40	36	31	26	22	20	16	14	11	8	5

Figure 4 Proportion of patients, presenting with purely subconjunctival lymphoma, who remain free of extra-orbital disease (SSOL) or lymphoma-related death (LRD).



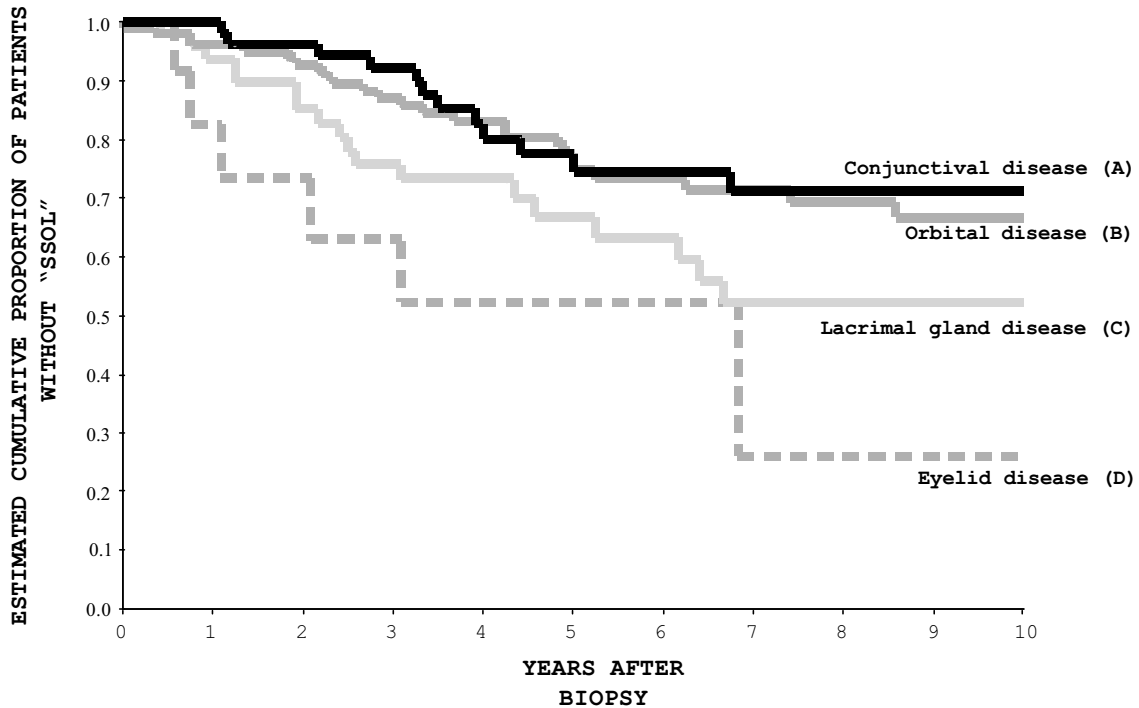
Conjunctival Line(A):	69	54	48	41	32	26	23	20	15	12	9	7	7	4	3	3
Deep orbital Line(B):	136	98	85	73	62	55	44	37	31	23	21	20	16	12	11	7
Lacrimal gland Line(C):	74	45	37	31	28	19	17	14	13	11	10	8	8	7	5	4
Eyelid Line(D):	24	9	7	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Figure 5 Proportion of all presenting patients without evidence of extra-orbital disease (SSOL), grouped by predominant site of involvement at presentation.



Conjunctival Line(A):	70	62	55	49	42	37	33	31	25	19	15	11	9	6	5	4
Deep orbital Line(B):	143	124	112	99	84	76	63	52	44	36	31	28	24	20	19	14
Lacrimal gland Line(C):	84	78	71	58	49	36	27	21	19	17	15	12	10	9	7	5
Eyelid Line(D):	29	23	20	15	10	8	7	6	6	4	3	3	3	2	2	2

Figure 6 Proportion of all presenting patients without lymphoma-related death ('LRD'), grouped by predominant site of involvement at presentation.



Conjunctival Line (A):	56	54	48	41	32	26	23	20	15	12	9
Deep orbital Line (B):	107	97	84	72	61	54	43	37	31	23	21
Lacrimal gl. Line (C):	50	45	37	31	28	19	17	14	13	11	10
Eyelid Line (D):	12	9	7	6	4	2	2	1	1	1	1

Figure 7 Proportion of patients presenting with solely adnexal disease who remain without evidence of extra-orbital disease ('SSOL'), grouped by predominant site of involvement at presentation.

Of patients with bilateral disease, 46% had SLAD—compared to 14% where signs were unilateral (OR 5.2; Table 1)—this being in contradistinction to the widely held view that unilateral and bilateral diseases are clinically similar.^{2,4,8–11} Logically, bilateral disease must either be extra-orbital lymphoma that has spread to both orbits, or 'primary' adnexal tumour that has spread to the opposite side, and the two scenarios may be represented by bilateral eyelid lymphoma (with 3/7 patients having prior lymphoma) and conjunctival disease (with none of 16 patients having a prior history). Conjunctival lymphoma might display similar properties to some cutaneous lymphomas, which can occur at symmetrical sites,¹² possibly as a result of a 'homing' of neoplastic B lymphocytes onto specific adhesion molecules in these tissues.^{13,14}

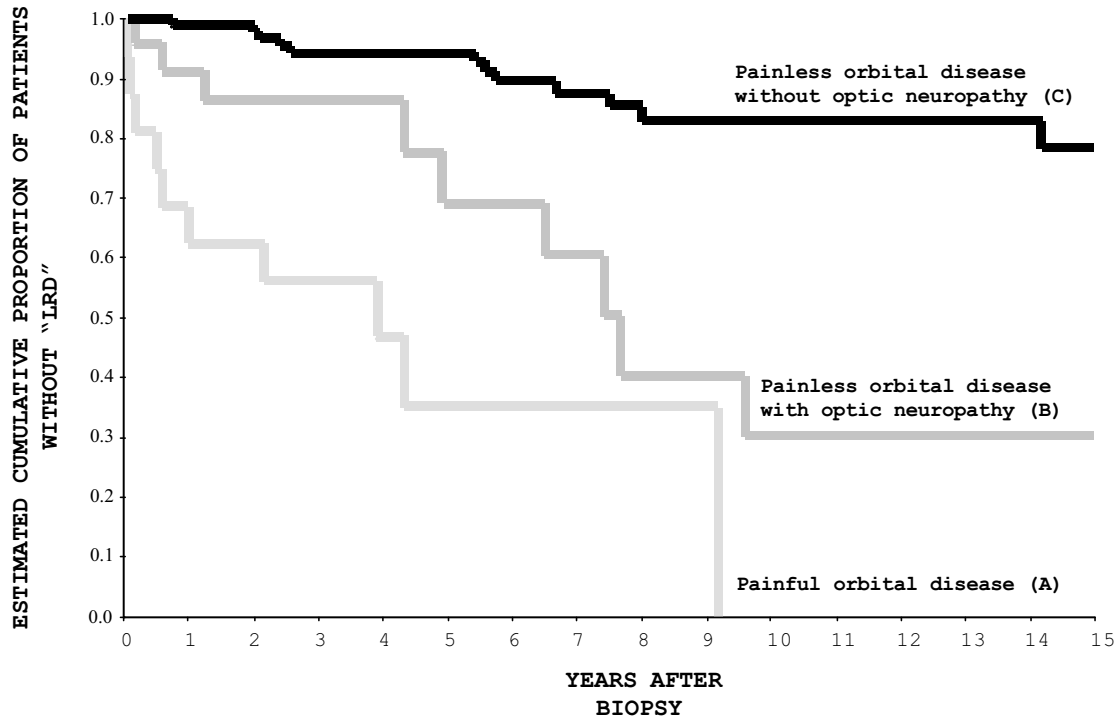
In all 23 (7%) patients had a history of prior lymphoma, often presenting with a caruncular² or superotemporal¹⁰ mass—clinical presentations also associated with SSOL (Table 1).

Future systemic disease (SSOL) in patients presenting with solely adnexal disease The patient presenting with

bilateral solely ophthalmic disease is more likely to develop SSOL (HR 2.3), this suggesting that these patients may already have *occult* systemic spread (or a tumour of *occult* systemic origin). The phenotypic heterogeneity of ocular adnexal lymphoma is displayed by the greater risk of SSOL with lacrimal gland or eyelid tumours, compared with conjunctival disease (Figure 4).

Prior, concurrent, and future (PCF) spread As in other studies,^{4,8–10} extra-orbital disease occurred at some stage (PCF spread) in about half of the patients but, in contrast to other studies, we found a significant association between bilateral disease and PCF spread (HR 2.9, 95% CI 2.0–4.2).

PCF spread is rarest with conjunctival lymphoma but, compared with deep orbital disease, there are only minor differences—as noted in previous studies.^{4,8,9} Previously observed,^{8,9} but only recently confirmed statistically,¹⁰ PCF spread of lacrimal gland lymphoma is more frequent than deep orbital lymphoma (Table 3) or nonlacrimal adnexal lymphomas (HR 1.6, 95% CI 1.1–2.2).



Line (A):	16	11	10	7	4	3	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Line (B):	25	20	14	12	10	8	8	6	4	4	2	2	2	1	1	1
Line (C):	102	93	88	80	70	65	52	43	37	31	29	26	22	19	18	13

Figure 8 Proportion of patients presenting with deep orbital lymphoma (not involving conjunctiva or lacrimal gland) who remain without lymphoma-related death ('LRD'). Patients were divided into (A) those who complained of pain, (B) those with a relative afferent pupillary defect but no pain, and (C) those without pain or a relative afferent pupillary defect.

Risk of LRD

A quarter of this series' patients had LRD, comparable with other published mortalities of 7.4 and 23%,^{3,14} and the 5-year mortality was 19% and the 10-year mortality was 33% (Table 3).

Clinical parameters at presentation associated with LRD were duration of symptoms, age, and the presence of bilateral disease or optic neuropathy (as manifested by an RAPD) (Table 2). Increasing age (of poor prognosis for other B-cell lymphomas¹⁵) was predictive for LRD in the present study. Likewise, many of the 44 patients with optic neuropathy had high-grade lymphomas or involvement of the paranasal sinuses. Painful optic neuropathy, associated with a poor prognosis (Tables 1 and 2), has not previously been reported and—while pain is more typical of inflammatory disease¹⁶—it may be an important marker of aggressive orbital lymphoma (Figure 7).

Patients with solely lid disease had a worse prognosis than those with lid and orbital involvement (Figure 4), whereas conjunctival lymphomas with or without deep orbital involvement had a similar prognosis.

The present study confirmed the significant association between LRD and the clinical stage at diagnosis (reported by some,^{2,4,8} but not all,⁹ workers) but, after adjustment for stage, only age and the presence of optic neuropathy remained predictive for reduced patient survival. The rate of LRD is similar in patients with bilateral solely adnexal disease and unilateral involvement and so, while some may have occult systemic disease, it is reasonable to continue treating these patients as stage IE disease.

In conclusion, the symptoms and signs of patients with ocular adnexal lymphoma were good indicators of clinical course: patients presenting with symptoms for more than a year prior to biopsy were less likely to have widely disseminated disease at diagnosis or to subsequently die of lymphoma. Bilateral disease is associated with a higher frequency of disseminated lymphoma and, indirectly therefore, of LRD. Likewise, patients with lacrimal gland or eyelid lymphoma have a higher risk of systemic disease and LRD, as compared with those having conjunctival or deep orbital disease. Finally, patients presenting with optic neuropathy (13% of the study population) or with pain had a higher risk of LRD.

Table 4 Site of extra-orbital disease for 326 patients with ocular adnexal lymphoma, classified by predominant site of adnexal disease (column percentages in parentheses)

Site of later extraorbital disease	Predominant site of adnexal disease				All sites (326 cases)
	Conjunctiva (70 cases)	Deep orbital (143 cases)	Lacrimal gland (84 cases)	Eyelid (29 cases)	
Local	2 (3%)	19 (13%)	4 (5%)	5 (17%)	30 (9%)
Temporalis fossa	1 (1%)	10 (7%)	3 (4%)	3 (10%)	17 (5%)
Sinuses	1 (1%)	10 (7%)	2 (2%)	0	13 (4%)
Nasopharynx	0	2 (1%)	3 (4%)	3 (10%)	8 (2%)
Intracranial	1 (1%)	7 (5%)	2 (2%)	0	10 (3%)
Lymph nodes	17 (24%)	32 (22%)	36 (43%)	9 (31%)	94 (29%)
Bone marrow	1 (1%)	13 (9%)	7 (8%)	5 (17%)	26 (8%)
Spleen	3 (4%)	9 (6%)	6 (7%)	3 (10%)	21 (6%)
Liver	2 (3%)	4 (3%)	2 (2%)	1 (3%)	9 (3%)
Skin	7 (10%)	14 (10%)	9 (11%)	11 (38%)	41 (13%)
Salivary gland	2 (3%)	2 (1%)	9 (11%)	1 (3%)	14 (4%)
Lung	4 (6%)	5 (3%)	2 (2%)	1 (3%)	12 (4%)
Gut	2 (3%)	4 (3%)	2 (2%)	2 (7%)	10 (3%)
Breast	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	2 (7%)	6 (2%)
Body cavity	2 (3%)	4 (3%)	0	0	6 (2%)
Kidney	1 (1%)	4 (3%)	1 (1%)	0	6 (2%)
Heart	1 (1%)	3 (2%)	0	0	4 (1%)
Muscle	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0	0	2 (1%)
Bone	0	3 (2%)	1 (1%)	0	4 (1%)
All sites of spread	26 (37%)	62 (43%)	53 (63%)	23 (79%)	164 (50%)

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