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# Leukaemia Section

## Short Communication

# del(17p) in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL)

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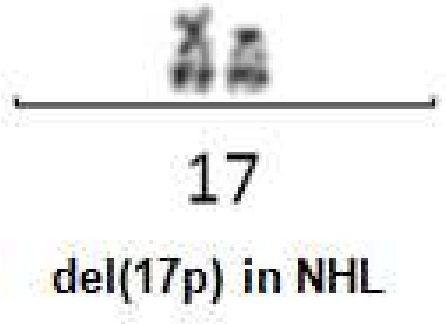
## Identity

**Note**
the 17p- chromosome is a secondary change in most cases of NHL




del(17p) in non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL) G- banding - Courtesy Melanie Zenger and Claudia Haferlach.

## Clinics and pathology

### Disease

Virtually all histologic subsets of NHL may harbour a 17p- chromosome; there is variation in the reported incidence due to heterogeneity of histologic classification and to the different sensitivity of the detection methods.
10 to 15% of follicle centre cell lymphoma (FCCL) and mantle cell lymphomas (MCL) may carry a 17p- chromosome; minority of marginal zone B-cell lymphomas may be associated with 17p deletion.
This anomaly is rarely found in T-cell NHL.

### Prognosis

The 17p- chromosome was reported to predict for a poor prognosis in low grade lymphomas; any abnormality of chromosome 17 was also reported to negatively affect survival in lymphomas of all histologic grades

## Cytogenetics

### Cytogenetics morphological

The deleted segment may vary in size and many cases with sub-microscopic deletions involving the 17p13 band were reported by FISH; cases with unbalanced 17p translocations leading to 17p loss were also described; these cases may be associated with dicentric rearrangements.
The 17p- is usually associated with transformation of a low-grade FCCL with t(14;18) into a high grade lymphoma; likewise, there is a higher incidence of 17p- in the blastoid variant of MCL with t(11,14) than in the typical form.

### Cytogenetics molecular

The deletion may be detected by G or R-banding; FISH using a 17p13/p53 probe is recommended, this technique being more sensitive than conventional cytogenetics.

## Genes involved and proteins

**Note**
The majority of cases with 17p- carry a p53 gene deletion, associated with mutation of the remaining allele; there may be a small fraction of cases with a more distal deletion involving an as yet unidentified locus.

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