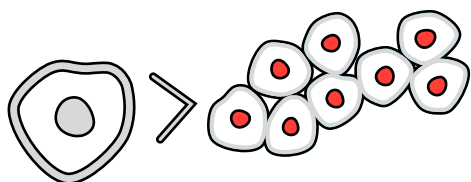


# Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia (WM)

## What is Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia?

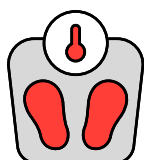


Waldenström's macroglobulinemia (WM) is a malignant disorder of the bone marrow and lymphatic tissues, a type of lymphoma, and is characterized by the presence of abnormally large numbers of a particular kind of white blood cell known as B lymphocytes.<sup>1</sup>

As these cells accumulate in the body, excessive quantities of an antibody known as IgM are produced. Large amounts of IgM cause the blood to become thick (hyperviscosity), which affects the flow of blood through the smaller blood vessels, leading to some of the symptoms of the disorder.<sup>1</sup>

## Signs and Symptoms

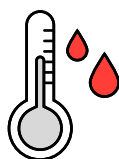
Common symptom of WM include:<sup>2</sup>



Unintentional weight loss



Anaemia, which may cause tiredness, weakness, and shortness of breath

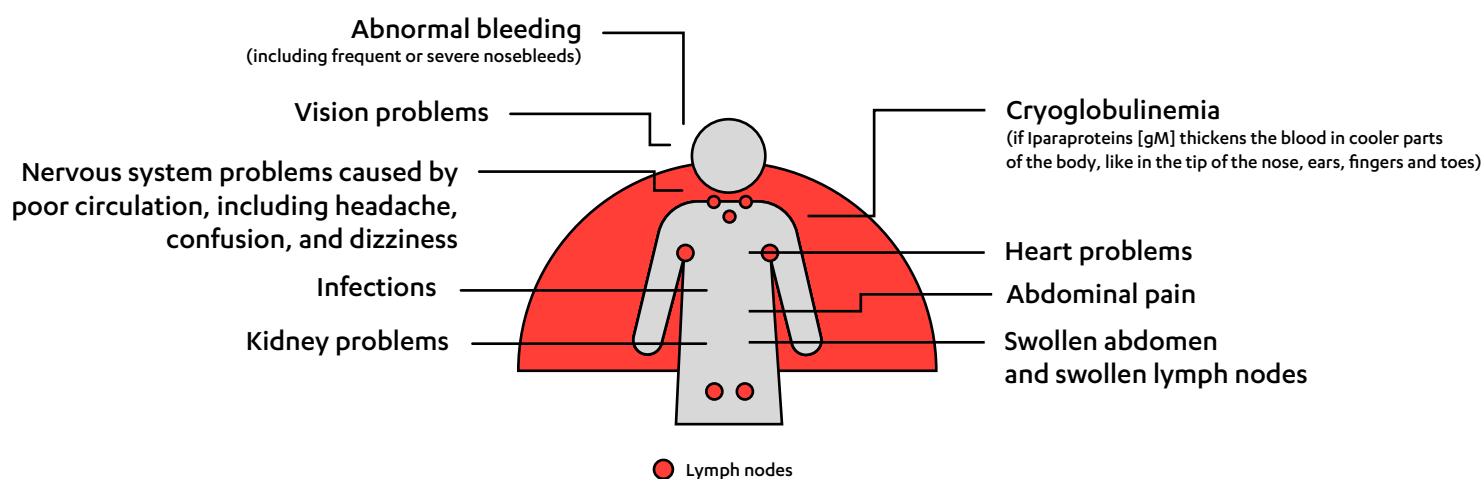


Excessive sweating at night, recurring fevers



Neuropathy ("pins and needles" sensation in the feet and legs)

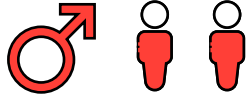
Less common signs and symptoms of WM might include:<sup>2</sup>



# Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia (WM)

## Prevalence and Patients

WM is more common in men than in women<sup>3</sup>



Incidence rates among men and women in Europe are approximately

**7.3**  
and **4.2**

per million persons, respectively

WM is a disease of the elderly<sup>3</sup>



**63-75**  
**years**

Median age at diagnosis

Median overall survival<sup>4</sup>



**5-12** years

## References

1. National Organization for Rare Disorders. Waldenström's macroglobulinemia. Available at: <http://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/waldenstroms-macroglobulinemia/>. Last accessed July 2021.
2. American Cancer Society. Waldenström Macroglobulinemia Early Detection, Diagnosis, and Staging. Available at: <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8875.00.pdf>. Last accessed July 2021.
3. Kastritis E et al. Waldenström's macroglobulinemia: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. Ann Oncol 2018; 29 (Suppl 4): iv41-iv50.
4. International Waldenström's macroglobulinemia Foundation. Prognosis. Last accessed October 2021. <https://iwmf.com/prognosis/>.

