

# Ends of lymphomas in the equatorial belt of Africa

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## **Abstract:**

Lymphomas represent one of the most frequent cancer types in Africa. In particular, approximately 30,000 non-Hodgkin lymphomas occur in the equatorial belt of Africa each year and these tumours are in among the top-ten cancers in this geographical region. Several pathogens and environmental factors have been detected in association with these tumours, suggesting that they may contribute to lymphomagenesis. Unfortunately, there are still striking differences between developed and African countries in terms of early detection, diagnosis and treatment of lymphomas. Of note, the disease burden appears to be increasing in Africa. In addition, a much lower cure rate in the low-income countries suggests that the difference in mortality will even become more pronounced in future. Therefore, improving diagnosis is crucial as without it, neither meaningful research projects nor effective patient management can be instituted. In this review, we will summarize the state-of-the-art of lymphoma epidemiology, pathobiology and therapy, and will highlight the still existing gaps between developed and African countries.