



National Comprehensive
Cancer Network®

NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

Histiocytic Neoplasms

Version 1.2021 — March 1, 2021

[NCCN.org](https://www.nccn.org)

[Continue](#)



Ronald S. Go, MD / Chair ‡
Mayo Clinic Cancer Center

Eric Jacobsen, MD / Vice-Chair †
Dana-Farber/Brigham and Women's
Cancer Center |Massachusetts General
Hospital Cancer Center

Robert Baiocchi, MD, PhD †
The Ohio State University Comprehensive
Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital
and Solove Research Institute

Iliia Buhtoiarov, MD €
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center/University
Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center and
Cleveland Clinic Taussig Cancer Institute
Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital

Erin B. Butler, MD €
UT Southwestern Simmons
Comprehensive Cancer Center

Patrick K. Campbell, MD, PhD €
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital/
The University of Tennessee Health Science
Center

Don W. Coulter, MD €
Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center

Eli Diamond, MD Ψ
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Aron Flagg, MD €
Yale Cancer Center/Smilow Cancer Hospital

Aaron M. Goodman, MD ‡
UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center

Gaurav Goyal, MD ‡ †
O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB

Dita Gratzinger, MD, PhD ≠
Stanford Cancer Institute

Paul C. Hendrie, MD, PhD ‡
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center/
Seattle Cancer Care Alliance

Meghan Higman, MD, PhD ‡
Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center

Michael D. Hogarty, MD €
Abramson Cancer Center
at the University of Pennsylvania

Filip Janku, MD, PhD †
The University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Reem Karmali, MD, MS ‡
Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive
Cancer Center of Northwestern University

David Morgan, MD, ‡
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Anne C. Raldow, MD, MPH §
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center

Alexandra Stefanovic, MD ‡
Duke Cancer Institute

Srinivas K. Tantravahi, MBBS, MRCP ‡
Huntsman Cancer Institute
at the University of Utah

Kelly Walkovich, MD €
University of Michigan
Rogel Cancer Center

Ling Zhang, MD ≠
Moffitt Cancer Center

NCCN
Susan Darlow, PhD
Mary Anne Bergman



[NCCN Histiocytic Neoplasms Panel Members](#)

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis:

- [Work-Up/Evaluation \(LCH-1\)](#)
- [Tissue Biopsy Analysis \(LCH-2\)](#)
- [Unifocal LCH \(LCH-3\)](#)
- [Multisystem or Multifocal Single-System LCH or Unifocal LCH Involving Critical Organs \(LCH-4\)](#)
- [Follow-Up, Relapsed/Refractory Disease \(LCH-5\)](#)

Erdheim-Chester Disease:

- [Work-Up/Evaluation \(ECD-1\)](#)
- [Tissue Biopsy Analysis \(ECD-2\)](#)
- [Presentation \(ECD-3\)](#)

Rosai-Dorfman Disease:

- [Work-Up/Evaluation \(RDD-1\)](#)
- [Tissue Biopsy Analysis \(RDD-2\)](#)
- [Unifocal/Multifocal Disease \(RDD-3\)](#)

[Principles of Pathology \(HIST-A\)](#)

[Principles of Systemic Therapy \(HIST-B\)](#)

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management for any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

To find clinical trials online at NCCN Member Institutions, [click here: nccn.org/clinical_trials/member_institutions.aspx](#).

NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

See [NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus](#).

NCCN Categories of Preference: All recommendations are considered appropriate.

See [NCCN Categories of Preference](#).

The NCCN Guidelines® are a statement of evidence and consensus of the authors regarding their views of currently accepted approaches to treatment. Any clinician seeking to apply or consult the NCCN Guidelines is expected to use independent medical judgment in the context of individual clinical circumstances to determine any patient's care or treatment. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) makes no representations or warranties of any kind regarding their content, use or application and disclaims any responsibility for their application or use in any way. The NCCN Guidelines are copyrighted by National Comprehensive Cancer Network®. All rights reserved. The NCCN Guidelines and the illustrations herein may not be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of NCCN. ©2021.



INTRODUCTION

These Guidelines describe treatment recommendations for adults with histiocytic neoplasms. In scenarios where there is little evidence in the adult population, recommendations are extrapolated from pediatric studies.



WORKUP / EVALUATION^a

Common Sites of Involvement:

- Bone
- Skin
- Lymph node
- Liver
- Spleen
- Oral mucosa
- Lung
- CNS

Medical History and Physical Examination

- **Constitutional:** Fevers, night sweats, fatigue, headache, myalgias
- **HEENT:** Double vision, blurry vision, decreased hearing, mass, lymphadenopathy
- **Cardiovascular:** dyspnea, orthopnea
- **Pulmonary:** dyspnea, cough, hemoptysis, chest pain, crackles, pneumothorax; evaluate smoking history^b
- **Musculoskeletal:** bone pain, back pain
- **Lymphatic:** Lymphadenopathy
- **Gastrointestinal:** diarrhea, melena
- **Skin:** erythematous rash, subcutaneous nodules, attention to ear canals, infraorbital region, perineum, axillae, inguinal region, xanthelasma
- **Endocrine:** polydipsia/polyuria, decreased libido
- **Neurologic:** ataxia, dysarthria, seizures, cognitive decline, disconjugate gaze, cranial nerve palsies, dysarthria, ataxic or magnetic gait
- **Psychiatric:** Depression, anxiety

Radiologic Evaluation

- Whole-body PET/CT^c including distal extremities (vertex to toes)
- High-resolution CT of the chest for pulmonary LCH

Selected Patients Based on Symptoms or Organ Involvement

- MRI brain/mastoid/pituitary with contrast
- MRI sella turcica
- Right heart catheterization
- Trans-thoracic echocardiogram

- Pulmonary function tests
- CT chest, abdomen, and pelvis with contrast
- US abdomen (liver/spleen)
- Endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) (if LFTs abnormal or ducts dilated on CT/US)
- Panorex x-ray

Laboratory Evaluation

- Complete blood count (CBC) with differential ([see LCH-2](#))
- Comprehensive metabolic panel including liver and kidney function assessments
- C-reactive protein
- Morning urine and serum osmolality
- Morning serum cortisol with ACTH
- FSH/LH with testosterone (males) and estradiol (females)
- TSH and free T4
- Prolactin and IGF-1
- Tissue biopsy^d ([see LCH-2](#))
 - ▶ *BRAF* V600E (VE1) immunohistochemistry
 - ▶ Targeted-capture, next-generation sequencing (NGS) in *BRAF* V600E wild-type or equivocal cases for mutations in the MAPK pathway such as *ARAF*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*, and *PIK3CA*
 - ▶ Gene fusion assay
- Bone marrow aspirate/biopsy ([see LCH-2](#))

Subspecialty Consultations as Needed

- Pulmonary
- Neurology
- Endocrinology
- Dermatology prior to initiation of BRAF or MEK inhibitor therapy^e
- Ophthalmology prior to initiation of MEK inhibitor therapy^e
- Dental/Periodontal
- Smoking cessation^b
- Palliative medicine

[See Treatment \(LCH-3\)](#)

^aAdapted with permission from Goyal G, et al. Mayo Clin Proc 2019;94:2054-2071.

^bProvide resources for smoking cessation. [See NCCN Guidelines for Smoking Cessation.](#)

^cFor patients with high-risk bone lesions and/or suspected to have multisystem disease.

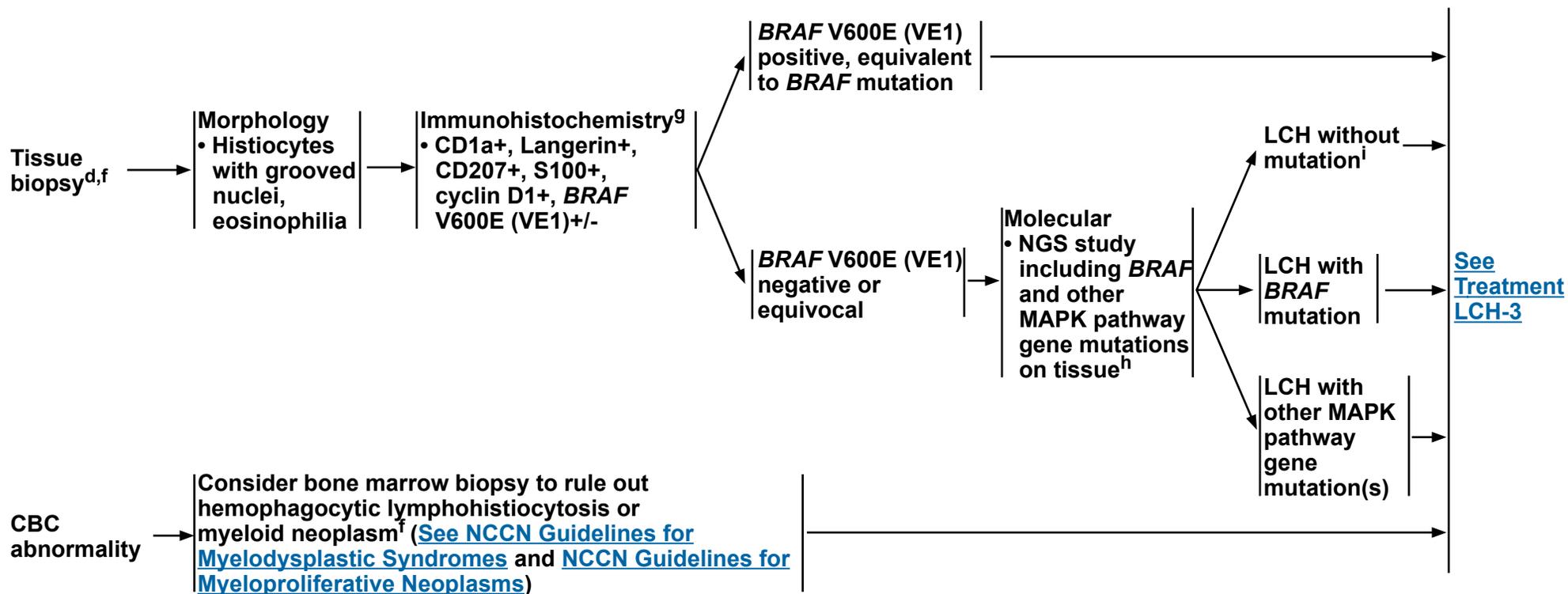
^d[See Principles of Pathology \(HIST-A\).](#)

^e[See Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy \(ME-K\) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.](#)

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

TISSUE BIOPSY ANALYSIS FOR LCH



Immunophenotype key: +/-: positive or negative; +: positive; -: negative

^dSee [Principles of Pathology \(HIST-A\)](#).

^fFor patients with suspected LCH or histiocytosis and biopsy is not possible because of location or risk factors, mutational analysis of the peripheral blood is an option.

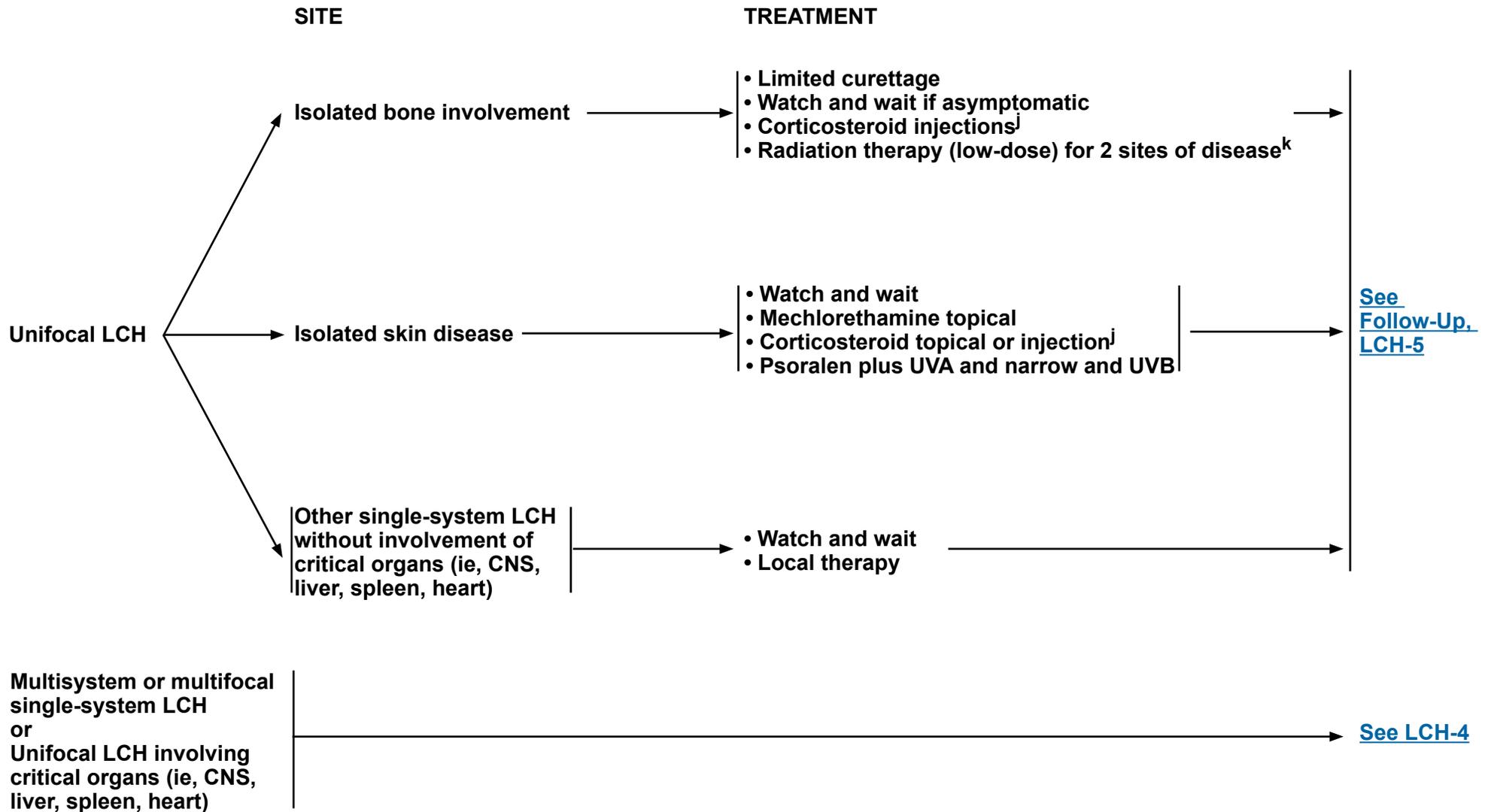
⁹A minimal panel would include CD1a, S100, and Langerin; cyclin D1 and *BRAF* V600E (VE1) immunohistochemistry is recommended.

^hFresh or paraffin-embedded tissue is used for NGS study; peripheral blood may be informative in multisystem disease. The NGS panel should cover the common MAPK pathway mutations (*BRAF*, *ARAF*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*, and *PIK3CA*).

ⁱMolecular testing for somatic mutations and fusions can be performed in a stepwise manner or in parallel, depending on clinical need and institutional protocols. The frequency of suspected molecular lesions should drive the order of testing if a stepwise algorithm is chosen. Allele-specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for *BRAF* V600E mutations can be the first step if *BRAF* V600E (VE1) immunohistochemistry is not available or is equivocal. Somatic mutation NGS panel testing should cover the common MAPK pathway mutations. RNA-based molecular panel including fusion testing should cover *BRAF*, *ALK*, and *NTRK1* rearrangements. If there is clinical concern for *ALK* rearrangement, or if fusion panel testing is not available, *ALK* immunohistochemistry and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) studies may be performed.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



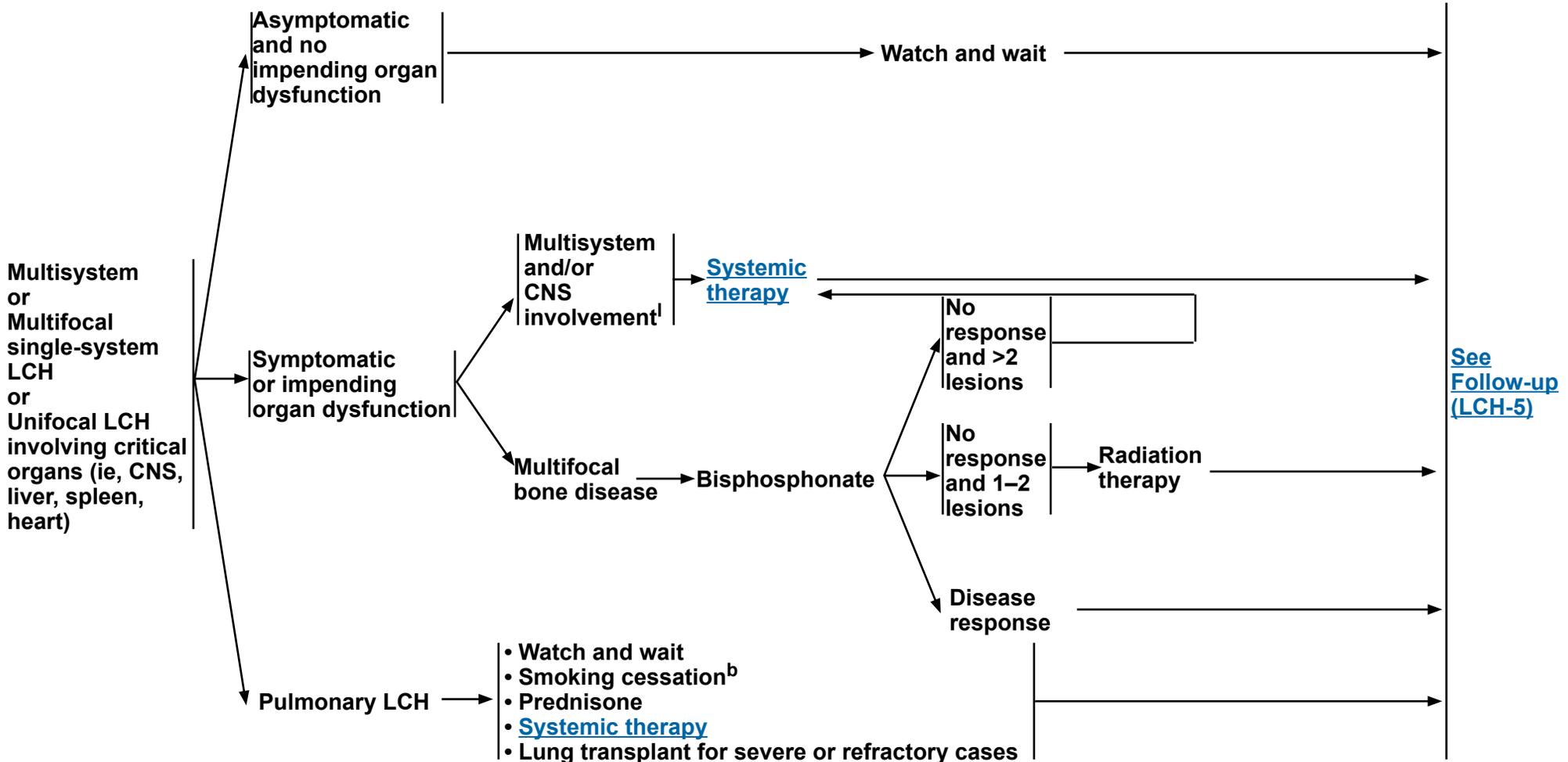
^JTriamcinolone injection or equivalent corticosteroid.

^KUse clinical judgment for 3 sites.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

PRESENTATION

TREATMENT



^bProvide resources for smoking cessation. [See NCCN Guidelines for Smoking Cessation.](#)

¹For neurodegenerative LCH, imaging changes precede clinical progression. Cognitive symptoms should be carefully monitored, and early treatment considered.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

FOLLOW-UP

Imaging of involved sites to evaluate treatment response (PET/CT [preferred], CT, or MRI)

- After 2–3 cycles of systemic therapy and at completion
- After completion of surgical curettage
- After radiation therapy

Surveillance

- H&P and labs as clinically indicated
- Imaging: PET/CT (preferred), CT, or MRI
 - ▶ Every 3–6 months for the first 2 years post completion of treatment
 - ▶ >2 years: no more than annually
 - ▶ For asymptomatic patients with a single-site bone lesion, imaging surveillance can potentially end after year 1, with continued tracking of symptoms
- Pulmonary function testing for pulmonary LCH
- Bone marrow evaluation in the presence of cytopenias or other blood count abnormalities (to rule out associated myeloid neoplasm)
- Regular skin examination and ECG for patients treated with BRAF inhibitors^e
- Monitor every 1–2 years for pituitary hormone abnormalities

**RELAPSED/
REFRACTORY DISEASE**

Systemic therapy

- If duration of response >1 year, consider same regimen; otherwise use a regimen not used for first-line

^e[See Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy \(ME-K\) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.](#)

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



WORKUP / EVALUATION^a

Common Sites of Involvement

- Long bones in most cases
 - Bilateral and symmetric diaphyseal and metaphyseal osteosclerosis with subchondral sparing
- Other sites include:
 - Orbits: retro-orbital mass with exophthalmos; xanthelasma
 - CNS: pituitary gland, posterior fossa
 - Lungs - interstitial changes
 - Vascular: periaortic infiltrate; pericardium, right atrium
 - Retroperitoneal/perinephric ("hairy kidney"); mesentery

Medical History and Physical Examination

- Constitutional: Fevers, night sweats, fatigue
- HEENT: double vision, retro-orbital pain, xanthelasma, exophthalmos
- Cardiovascular: dyspnea, orthopnea, hypertension, irregular pulse, bradycardia, cardiomegaly, murmurs
- Pulmonary: dyspnea, cough, diminished aeration, rales
- Neurologic: disconjugate gaze, cranial nerve palsies, dysarthria, ataxic or magnetic gait, sensory or motor impairment, hyperreflexia, ataxia, dysarthria, dysphagia, limb weakness, cognitive decline
- Musculoskeletal: bone pain
- Dermatologic: xanthelasma, rash
- Endocrine: polydipsia/polyuria, gynecomastia, decreased libido
- Psychiatric: depression, anxiety, disinhibition, inappropriate laughing or crying, pseudobulbar affect

Radiologic Evaluation

- Whole-body PET/CT including distal extremities (vertex to toes)
- MRI brain with contrast
- Cardiac MRI

Selected Patients Based on Symptoms or Organ Involvement

- CT sinuses with contrast
- CT chest, abdomen, and pelvis with contrast
- Trans-thoracic echocardiogram

- MRI sella turcica
- Technetium-99^m MDP bone scintigraphy
- MRI orbit with contrast
- MRI total spine with contrast
- Renal artery ultrasound
- High-resolution CT chest
- Pulmonary function tests
- Testicular ultrasound

Laboratory Evaluation

- CBC with differential ([see ECD-2](#))
- Comprehensive metabolic panel including liver and kidney function assessments
- C-reactive protein
- Morning urine and serum osmolality
- Morning serum cortisol with ACTH
- FSH/LH with testosterone (males) and estradiol (females)
- TSH and free T4
- Prolactin and IGF-1
- Tissue biopsy^b ([see ECD-2](#))
 - *BRAF* V600E (VE1) immunohistochemistry
 - Targeted-capture, NGS in *BRAF* V600E wild-type or equivocal cases for mutations in the MAPK pathway such as *ARAF*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*, and *PIK3CA*
 - Gene fusion assay

- Bone marrow aspirate/biopsy ([see ECD-2](#))

Subspecialty Consultations as Needed

- Neurology
- Endocrinology
- Nephrology
- Urology
- Dermatology prior to initiation of BRAF or MEK inhibitor therapy^c
- Ophthalmology prior to initiation of MEK inhibitor therapy^c

[See Treatment \(ECD-3\)](#)

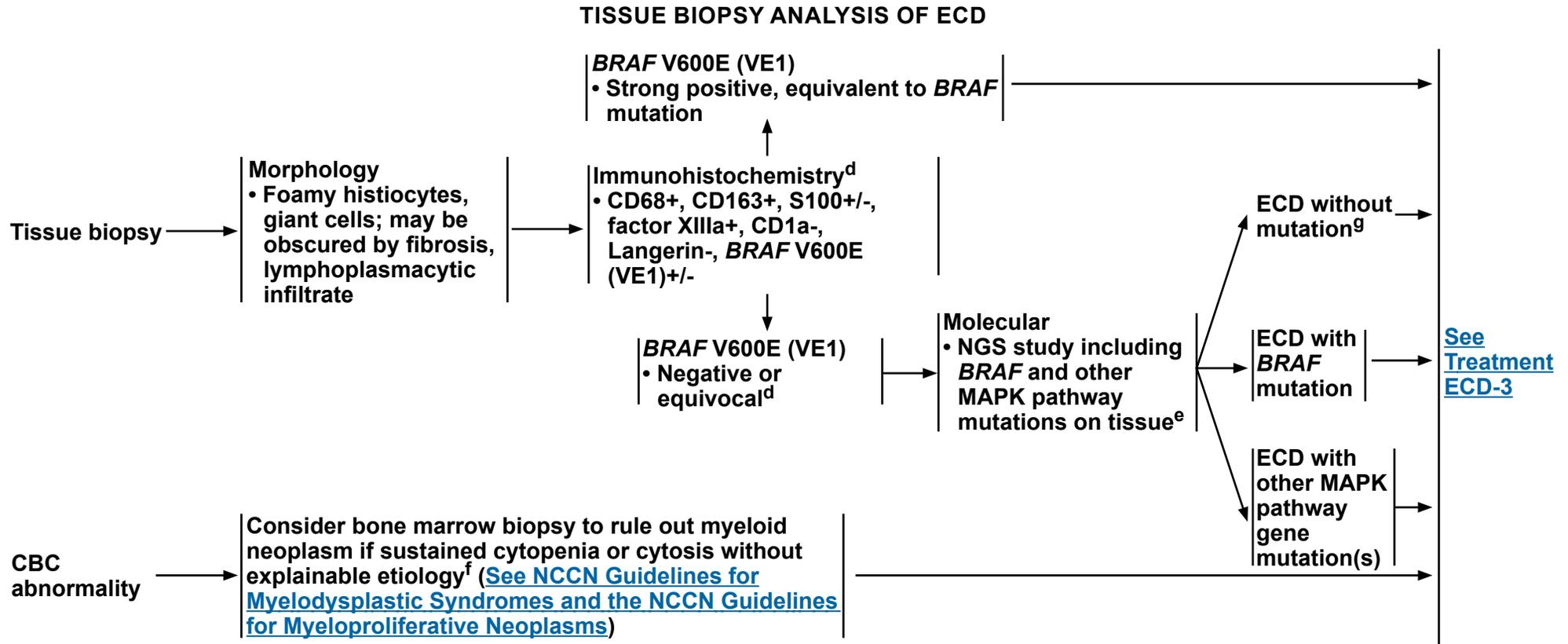
^aAdapted with permission from Goyal G, et al. Blood 2020;135:1929-1945.

^b[See Principles of Pathology \(HIST-A\)](#).

^c[See Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy \(ME-K\) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.](#)

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



Immunophenotype key: +/-: positive or negative; +: positive; -: negative

^dA minimal panel would include CD68 or CD163, factor XIIIa, S100, CD1a; *BRAF* V600E (VE1) immunohistochemistry is recommended.

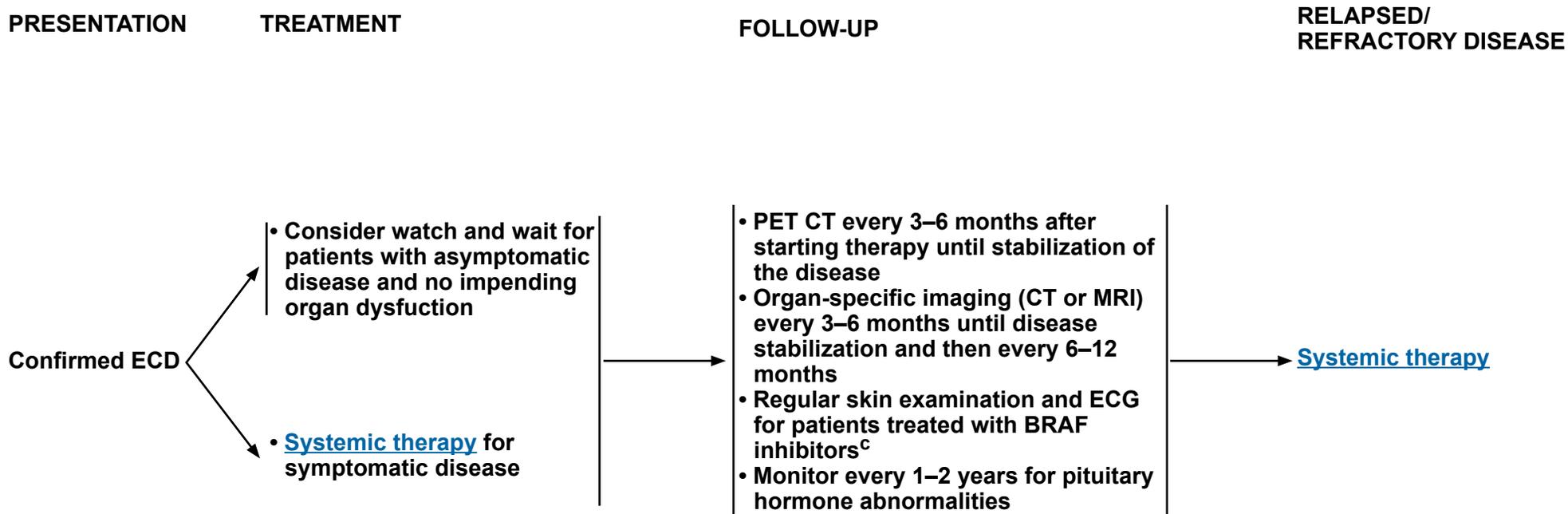
^eFresh or paraffin-embedded tissue is used for NGS study; peripheral blood testing may be informative in multisystem disease. The NGS panel should cover the common MAPK pathway mutations (*BRAF*, *ARAF*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*, and *PIK3CA*). If clinically indicated in cases without the usual MAPK pathway mutations, FISH for *BRAF*, *ALK*, or *NTRK1* fusions may be performed.

^fFor patients with suspected ECD or histiocytosis and biopsy is not possible because of location or risk factors, mutational analysis of the peripheral blood is an option. Janku F, et al. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2019;18:1149-1157.

^gMolecular testing for somatic mutations and fusions can be performed in a stepwise manner or in parallel, depending on clinical need and institutional protocols. The frequency of suspected molecular lesions should drive the order of testing if a stepwise algorithm is chosen. Allele-specific PCR for *BRAF* V600E mutations can be the first step if *BRAF* V600E (VE1) immunohistochemistry is not available or is equivocal. Somatic mutation NGS panel testing should cover the common MAPK pathway mutations. RNA-based molecular panel including fusion testing should cover *BRAF*, *ALK*, and *NTRK1* rearrangements. If there is clinical concern for *ALK* rearrangement, or if fusion panel testing is not available, *ALK* immunohistochemistry and FISH studies may be performed.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



^cSee Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy (ME-K) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



WORKUP / EVALUATION^a

Common Sites of Involvement

- Peripheral lymphadenopathy
- Subcutaneous nodules
- Extranodal sites:
 - ▶ Skin
 - ▶ Soft tissue
 - ▶ Upper respiratory tract
 - ▶ Bone
 - ▶ Retroperitoneum
 - ▶ Orbits

Medical History and Physical Examination

- Constitutional: fevers, night sweats, fatigue
- HEENT: cervical lymphadenopathy, double vision, retro-orbital pain, eyelids/lacrimal swelling, proptosis, nasal obstruction, epistaxis, hyposmia, oral sores, or pain, dysmorphic facies, and hearing abnormalities (familial RDD), enlarged tongue or tonsils
- Cardiovascular: dyspnea, orthopnea, hypertension, irregular pulse, cardiomegaly, murmurs
- Pulmonary: dyspnea, cough
- Thoracic: diminished lung aeration, rales, axillary nodes, breast mass
- Abdominal/gastrointestinal: flank mass, hepatosplenomegaly, enlarged inguinal nodes, abdominal pain, constipation, hematochezia
- Genital: testicular mass or enlargement
- Renal: hematuria, flank pain
- Musculoskeletal: bone pain, osseous mass
- Skin: rash, pruritus, nodules, papules, or plaques
- Endocrine: polydipsia/polyuria
- Neurologic: headaches, seizures, gait difficulty, limb or facial weakness, sensory changes, hearing impairment, new or focal back pain, disconjugate gaze, cranial nerve palsies, dysarthria, ataxic gait, hemiparesis, hyperreflexia
- History of autoimmune disease, autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome (ALPS), malignancy, LCH, or another histiocytic disorder
- Family history: consanguineous parents, autoimmune disease, Turkish/Pakistani or Middle Eastern background

Radiologic Evaluation

- Whole-body PET/CT including distal extremities (vertex to toes)

Selected Patients Based on Symptoms or Organ Involvement

- CT sinuses with contrast
- CT of the chest, abdomen, and pelvis with contrast
- MRI orbit/brain with contrast
- MRI spine with contrast
- High-resolution CT chest
- Trans-thoracic echocardiogram
- Pulmonary function tests
- Thyroid ultrasound
- Testicular ultrasound

Laboratory Evaluation

- CBC with differential
 - Serum immunoglobulins
 - ALPS panel, antinuclear antigen (ANA), antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA), rheumatoid factor (RF), HLA-B27: if autoimmune disease is suspected and based on clinical findings
 - C-reactive protein
 - Complete metabolic panel, coagulation parameters, uric acid, LDH
 - Patients with anemia: Coombs test, haptoglobin, reticulocyte count, and blood smear
 - Tissue biopsy^b ([See RDD-2](#))
 - ▶ Targeted-capture, NGS of lesional tissue for mutations in MAPK pathway (eg, KRAS, MAP2K1) ([See RDD-2](#))
 - ▶ Gene fusion assay
 - Bone marrow aspirate/biopsy (if cytopenias or abnormal peripheral blood smear are present)
 - Lumbar puncture (for brain lesions inaccessible to biopsy)
 - Germline mutations in *SLC29A3*: if familial RDD is suspected
- #### Subspecialty Consultations as Needed
- Dermatology and ophthalmology prior to initiation of MEK inhibitor therapy^c

^aAdapted with permission from Abl O, et al. Blood 2018;131:2877-2890.

^bSee [Principles of Pathology \(HIST-A\)](#).

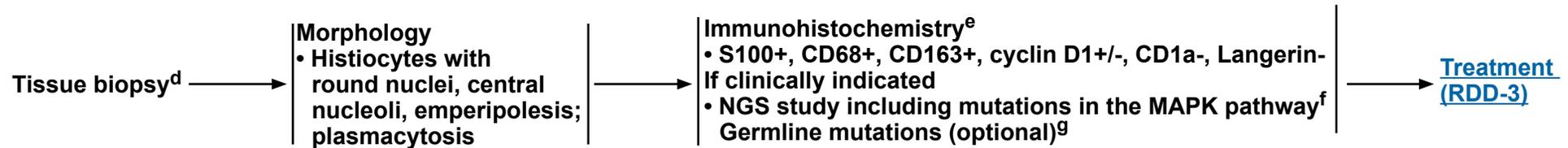
^cSee [Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy \(ME-K\) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous](#).

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[See Treatment \(RDD-3\)](#)

TISSUE BIOPSY ANALYSIS OF RDD



Immunophenotype key: +/-: positive or negative; +: positive; -: negative

^dFor patients with suspected RDD or histiocytosis and biopsy is not possible because of location or risk factors, liquid biopsy for mutational analysis in the peripheral blood is an option. Janku F, et al. Mol Cancer Ther. 2019;18:1149-1157.

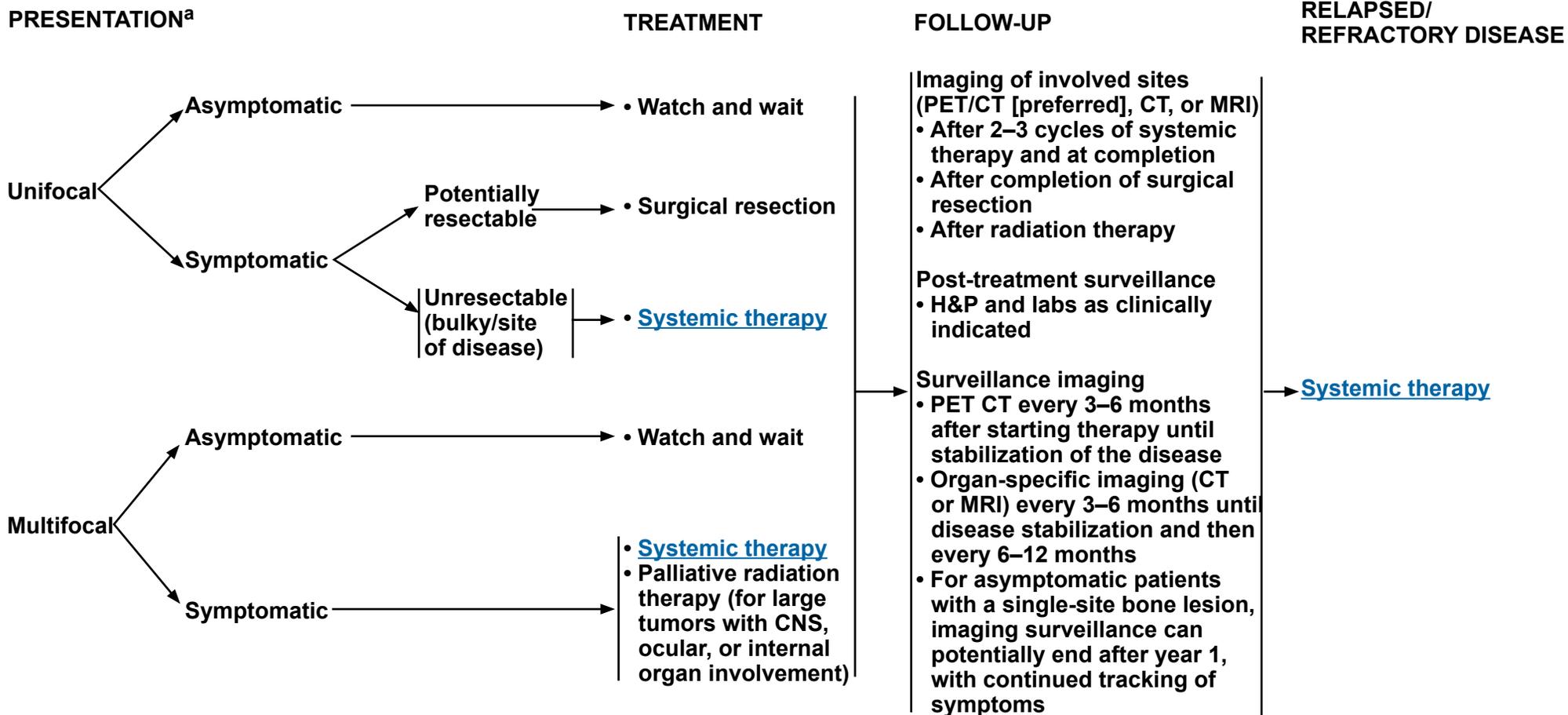
^eA minimal panel would include CD68 or CD163, S100, CD1a, and cyclin D1. Of caution, cyclin D1 could also be positive or detected in concurrent lymphocytic or histiocytic neoplasm.

^fNGS sequencing studies are performed if clinically indicated, which may reveal BRAF-RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK pathway mutations in the MAPK pathway (eg, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*) with or without additional somatic mutations also seen in myeloid neoplasia.

^gIf a familial RDD is suspected, germline mutations in *SLC29A3* should be considered. A germline gene mutation involving Fas gene *TNFRSF6*- found in 40% of RDD patients who had an ALPs type Ia.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



^aAdapted with permission from: Abla O, et al. Blood 2018;131:2877-2890.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY

General Principles

- Langerhans cell histiocytosis (LCH), Erdheim-Chester disease (ECD), and Rosai-Dorfman disease (RDD) pose a diagnostic challenge given their rarity, their overlap with each other, reactive processes, and co-occurrence with other hematologic or non-hematologic neoplasms.
- Numerous site-specific mimics of histiocytoses exist due to relatively nonspecific appearance and immunophenotype, such as granular cell tumor, giant cell tumors of the bone and soft tissue, xanthogranulomas, and multicentric reticulohistiocytosis. Manifestations may also vary by site.^{1,2}
- Comprehensive immunophenotyping should be performed including S100, CD1a, Langerin/CD207, CD68 and/or CD163, cyclin D1, *BRAF V600E* (VE1), factor XIIIa, and, if indicated, *ALK* and fascin. Discriminatory markers for carcinoma, melanoma, lymphoma, sarcoma, and other suspected disorders are useful for differential diagnoses. Cyclin D1 immunohistochemistry can be helpful to distinguish LCH from reactive Langerhans cell collections and has also been reported to be positive in RDD.³⁻⁵
- *ALK* immunohistochemistry may be considered, as *ALK*+ histiocytosis may carry a targetable *ALK* rearrangement.^{6,7}
- It is recommended to perform molecular mutation profiling to aid in confirming a clonal Langerhans or histiocytic process and to identify potential prognostically relevant mutations or therapeutic targets. Correlation with clinical presentation and imaging findings is crucial for accurate diagnosis. Tissue diagnosis should be confirmed by pathologists with expertise in site-specific histiocytic lesions (eg, hematopathology, dermatopathology, pulmonary pathology, neuropathology).⁸
- In patients with unexplained cytopenias, bone marrow biopsy should be considered due to possible concomitant bone marrow processes, such as hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis or myeloid neoplasia.⁹⁻¹⁴
- For LCH and ECD, molecular testing for somatic mutations and fusions can be performed in a stepwise manner or in parallel, depending on clinical need and institutional protocols. The frequency of suspected molecular lesions should drive the order of testing if a stepwise algorithm is chosen. Allele-specific polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for *BRAF V600E* (VE1) mutations can be the first step if *BRAF V600E* (VE1) immunohistochemistry is not available or is equivocal. Somatic mutation NGS panel testing should cover the common MAPK pathway mutations. RNA-based molecular panel fusion testing should cover *BRAF*, *ALK*, and *NTRK1* rearrangements. If there is clinical concern for *ALK* rearrangement, or if fusion panel testing is not available, *ALK* immunohistochemistry and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) studies may be performed.

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

- LCH is an abnormal proliferation of Langerhans-type cells with frequent driver mutations involving the MAPK pathway (RAS-RAF-MEK-ERK).
- Histopathologic features include cells with oval or twisted, grooved, or lobulated nuclei, finely granular chromatin, inconspicuous nucleoli, and abundant cytoplasm; these cells frequently have admixed eosinophils and histiocytes, including multinucleated forms, but not usually plasma cell rich. Ki-67 is variable.
- Langerhans cells show immunoreactivity for S100, CD1a, and CD207 (Langerin).
- Reactive Langerhans cell infiltrates may mimic LCH; by immunohistochemistry, expression of cyclin D1 (Bcl1) and *BRAF V600E* (VE1 clone) support LCH.⁶ VE1 staining is not 100% sensitive or specific, and concurrent molecular testing is recommended.
- Activating signaling pathway mutations found in LCH include *BRAF V600E*, *BRAF* indels, *MAP2K1*, *N/KRAS*, and *ARAF*. Kinase fusions (*BRAF*, *ALK*, *NTRK1*) and mutations in the PI3K-AKT-mTOR pathway have been reported in LCH as well.¹⁵⁻¹⁷ Concomitant panel testing for *BRAF V600E* (VE1) and other MAPK pathway mutations is recommended.^{18,19}

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)

PRINCIPLES OF PATHOLOGY

Erdheim-Chester Disease

- Histopathologic features include foamy (xanthomatous) histiocytes, including Touton cells in a background of spindled cells and fibrosis. Reactive lymphocytes, plasma cells, and neutrophils are also often present. Typical histologic findings vary by site.⁸ For example, bone lesions may be masked by significant fibrosis, including, in some cases, storiform fibrosis. In CNS and lung, the lesional histiocytes are non-lipidized, with eosinophilic cytoplasm, and lack the typical inflammatory infiltrate. In skin, the typical xanthomatous histiocytes are common but can be diffuse or interstitial and relatively subtle. In the retroperitoneum, findings are usually xanthomatous but sometimes extensively fibrotic, and can be associated with increased IgG4+ plasma cells meeting criteria for IgG4-related disease. Finally, in cardiac tissues, diffuse infiltrates of xanthomatous histiocytes may be observed.
- The neoplastic cells show immunoreactivities for some histiocytic markers (eg, CD68, CD163, fascin, and factor XIIIa). They are negative for CD1a and Langerin (CD207) and can be dim S100+.
- Activating signaling pathway mutations found in ECD are similar to those found in LCH, though *PIK3CA* activating mutation is more common in ECD. *BRAF* V600E mutation has been detected in about 50% of patients with ECD. Kinase fusions (*BRAF*, *ALK*, *NTRK1*) and *CSF1R* mutations have been reported rarely as well.^{15,17,20} The revised histiocytic classification recommends classification of all “JXG” with activating MAPK pathway mutations (*BRAF*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*) as ECD.^{21,22}

Rosai-Dorfman Disease

- RDD comprises a heterogeneous group of clinical presentations that can be associated with familial, automimmune, or malignant process. Classical sporadic RDD shows bilateral painless massive cervical lymphadenopathy associated with B symptoms. It is often also found in mediastinal, inguinal, and retroperitoneal lymph nodes. Extranodal RDD presentation is not uncommon.
- Hallmark histopathologic features of nodal RDD include dilated sinusoidal spaces filled with large histiocytes with a round to oval hypochromatic nucleus, an inconspicuous to distinct nucleolus, and abundant foamy to clear cytoplasm engulfing a variable number of intact inflammatory cells—namely emperipolesis, a phenomenon recognized in either physiologic or pathologic process. Large histiocytes are positive for monocyte-macrophage markers (S100, CD68, CD163) and negative for LCH markers (CD1a, CD207/Langerin). Cyclin D1/Bcl1 immunohistochemistry can be helpful to confirm the diagnosis. There are often increased polyclonal plasma cells, and further study is needed for confirmation of IgG4 disorder.²³ Extranodal RDD shows more fibrosis and less frequent emperipolesis.²⁴
- A subset of patients with RDD harbor gene mutations involving *NRAS*, *KRAS*, *MAP2K1*, and rarely *BRAF*.^{20,25,26}
- Inherited conditions predisposing to RDD are typically seen in pediatric cases but could be considered in adolescents and young adults:
 - ▶ Heterozygous germline gene mutation involving Fas gene *TNFRSF6*, which is found in 40% of RDD patients who had an ALPS type Ia.
 - ▶ *SLC29A3* germline gene mutation leading to familial or Faisalabad histiocytosis and H syndrome (histiocytosis-lymphadenopathy plus syndrome)
- Although RDD is not currently recognized by the WHO as a malignancy, some cases may truly be neoplastic with MAPK pathway driver mutations necessitating systemic therapies similar to other histiocytic neoplasms.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)



REFERENCES

- ¹Aramin H, Zaleski M, Prieto VG, Aung PP. Skin and superficial soft tissue neoplasms with multinucleated giant cells: clinical, histologic, phenotypic, and molecular differentiating features. *Ann Diagn Pathol* 2019;42:18-32.
- ²Ruby KN, Deng AC, Zhang J, et al. Emperipolesis and S100 expression may be seen in cutaneous xanthogranulomas: a multi-institutional observation. *J Cutan Pathol* 2018 May 24. Online ahead of print.
- ³Chatterjee D, Vishwajeet V, Saikia UN, et al. CyclinD1 is useful to differentiate Langerhans cell histiocytosis from reactive Langerhans cells. *Am J Dermatopathol* 2019;41:188-192.
- ⁴Shanmugam V, Craig JW, Hornick JL, et al. Cyclin D1 is expressed in neoplastic cells of Langerhans cell histiocytosis but not reactive Langerhans cell proliferations. *Am J Surg Pathol* 2017;41:1390-1396.
- ⁵Baraban E, Sadigh S, Rosenbaum J, et al. Cyclin D1 expression and novel mutational findings in Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Br J Haematol* 2019;186:837-844.
- ⁶Chang KTE, Tay AZE, Kuick CH, et al. ALK-positive histiocytosis: an expanded clinicopathologic spectrum and frequent presence of KIF5B-ALK fusion. *Mod Pathol* 2019;32:598-608.
- ⁷Murakami N, Sakai T, Arai E, et al. Targetable driver mutations in multicentric reticulohistiocytosis. *Haematologica* 2020;105:e61-e64.
- ⁸Ozkaya N, Rosenblum MK, Durham BH, et al. The histopathology of Erdheim-Chester disease: a comprehensive review of a molecularly characterized cohort. *Mod Pathol* 2018;31:581-597.
- ⁹Papo M, Diamond EL, Cohen-Aubart F, et al. High prevalence of myeloid neoplasms in adults with non-Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Blood* 2017;130:1007-1013.
- ¹⁰Galluzzo ML, Braier J, Rosenzweig SD, et al. Bone marrow findings at diagnosis in patients with multisystem Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Pediatr Dev Pathol* 2010;13:101-106.
- ¹¹Tzankov A, Kremer M, Leguit R, et al. Histiocytic cell neoplasms involving the bone marrow: summary of the workshop cases submitted to the 18th Meeting of the European Association for Haematopathology (EAHP) organized by the European Bone Marrow Working Group, Basel 2016. *Ann Hematol* 2018;97:2117-2128.
- ¹²Ma J, Laird JH, Chau KW, et al. Langerhans cell histiocytosis in adults is associated with a high prevalence of hematologic and solid malignancies. *Cancer Med* 2019;8:58-66.
- ¹³Goyal G, Shah MV, Hook CC, et al. Adult disseminated Langerhans cell histiocytosis: incidence, racial disparities and long-term outcomes. *Br J Haematol* 2018;2:579-581.
- ¹⁴Papo M, Diamond EL, Cohen-Aubard F, et al. high prevalence of myeloid neoplasms in adults with non-Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Blood* 2017;130:1007-1013.
- ¹⁵Diamond EL, Durham BH, Haroche J, et al. Diverse and targetable kinase alterations drive histiocytic neoplasms. *Cancer Discovery* 2016;6:154-165.
- ¹⁶Cai J, Huang X, Yin M, et al. A novel fusion gene PLEKHA6-NTRK3 in Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Int J Cancer* 2019;144:117-124.
- ¹⁷Durham BH, Rodrigo EL, Picarsic J, et al. Activating mutation in CSF1R and additional receptor tyrosine kinases in histiocytic neoplasms. *Nat Med* 2019;25:1839-1842.
- ¹⁸Ballester LY, Cantu MD, Lim KPH, et al. The use of BRAF V600E mutation-specific immunohistochemistry in pediatric Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Hematol Oncol* 2018;36:307-315.
- ¹⁹Nann D, Schneckeburger P, Steinhilber J, et al. Pediatric Langerhans cell histiocytosis: the impact of mutational profile on clinical progression and late sequelae. *Ann Hematol* 2019;98:1617-1626.
- ²⁰Janku F, Diamond EL, Goodman AM, et al. Molecular Profiling of Tumor Tissue and Plasma Cell-Free DNA from Patients with Non-Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis. *Mol Cancer Ther* 2019;18:1149-1157.
- ²¹Emile JF, Ablu O, Fraitag S, et al. Revised classification of histiocytoses and neoplasms of the macrophage-dendritic cell lineages. *Blood* 2016;127:2672-2681.
- ²²Picarsic J, Pysher T, Zhou H, et al. BRAF V600E mutation in juvenile xanthogranuloma family neoplasms of the central nervous system (CNS-JXG): a revised diagnostic algorithm to include pediatric Erdheim-Chester disease. *Acta Neuropathol Commun* 2019;7:168.
- ²³Deshpande V, Zen Y, Chan JK, et al. Consensus statement on the pathology of IgG4-related disease. *Mod Pathol* 2012;25:1181-1192.
- ²⁴Ablu O, Jacobsen E, Picarsic J, et al. Consensus recommendations for the diagnosis and clinical management of Rosai-Dorfman-Desombes disease. *Blood* 2018;131:2877-2890.
- ²⁵Garces S, Medeiros LJ, Patel KP, et al. Mutually exclusive recurrent KRAS and MAP2K1 mutations in Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Mod Pathol* 2017;30:1367-1377.
- ²⁶Fatobene G, Haroche J, Helias-Rodzwicz Z, et al. BRAF V600E mutation detected in a case of Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Haematologica* 2018;103:e377-e379.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)



SUMMARY OF PATHOLOGIC AND MOLECULAR FEATURES OF HISTIOCYTIC NEOPLASMS¹

Disease	LCH	ECD	RDD
Pathologic features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Xanthomatous histiocytes • Touton giant cells • Emperipolesis 	No No No	Yes Yes, (mainly dermal sites) Rare	No No Abundant
Cytologic features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclei • Nucleoli • Cytoplasm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oval; retiform, irregular nuclear contours or grooves • Inconspicuous • Abundant; eosinophilic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bland; round-to-oval; small; no grooves • Inconspicuous • Classically abundant, amorphous lipid-laden or granular/xanthomatous but often overlap with JXG/AXG • Inflammatory cells including few small lymphocytes and plasma cells, rare eosinophils, and dense, fibrosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large round; hypochromatic • Variable inconspicuous to distinct • Abundant foamy, clear without xanthomatous features; frequent emperipolesis • Increased mature plasma cells, polyclonal, IgG4; occasional neutrophils
Background cells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased eosinophils, eosinophilic microabscesses 		

JXG: juvenile xanthogranuloma; AXG: adult xanthogranuloma.

¹Adapted with permission from Goyal G, Heaney ML, Collin M, et al. Erdheim-Chester disease: consensus recommendations for evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment in the molecular era. Blood 2020;135:1929-1945.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)



SUMMARY OF PATHOLOGIC AND MOLECULAR FEATURES OF HISTIOCYTIC NEOPLASMS¹

Disease	LCH	ECD	RDD
Molecular Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BRAF</i> V600E (VE1) • <i>MAP2K1</i> • RAS isoforms (<i>KRAS</i>, <i>NRAS</i>) • <i>BRAF</i> deletions • PI3K isoforms (<i>PIK3CA</i>, <i>PIK3CD</i>) • <i>ARAF</i> • Other <i>BRAF</i> missense • <i>RAF1</i> • <i>MAP2K2</i> • <i>MAP3K1</i> • <i>CSF1R</i> • <i>BRAF</i> fusions • <i>ALK</i> fusions • <i>NTRK1</i> fusions 	55% 15% 2% 6% 1% 1% 3% None None Reported 1% 3% None None	50% 18% 8% 2% 3% 4% None 1% 1% (1 case) (Amplification) 1% 2% 3% 1%	3% 15% 30% None None 3% None None None None 1% None None None
Immunophenotype <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD68 (cytoplasmic) • CD163 (surface) • CD14 (surface) • CD1a (surface) • CD207 (Langerin)(cytoplasmic) • Cyclin D1 • S100 (cytoplasmic/nuclear) • Factor XIIIa (cytoplasmic) • Fascin (cytoplasmic) • <i>BRAF</i> V600E (VE1) (cytoplasmic)^a • <i>ALK</i> (cytoplasmic)^b • <i>NTRK1</i> (cytoplasmic) 	+ (paranuclear cytoplasmic dot) — — ++ ++ + + — — +/-* — —	++ ++ ++ — — +/- +/- + + +/-* +/-* +/-	++ ++ ++ — — +/- + +/- + — (Rare case reports++) — —

Immunophenotype key: ++, strongly positive; +, weakly positive; +/-, positive or negative; —, negative.

*Moderate to strong positivity should correlate with molecular alteration; *BRAF* VE1, *ALK*, and phosphorylated tyrosine receptor kinase (pTRK) are mutually exclusive.

Footnotes

^aNegative or equivocal immunohistochemistry for *BRAF* V600E (VE1) does not exclude mutated *BRAF* V600E. Test with NGS panel to cover the common mutations, including *BRAF*, *MAP2K1*, *NRAS*, *KRAS*.

^bTesting *BRAF*, *ALK*, and *NTRK1* fusions is recommended if clinically histiocytosis is suspected and NGS panel testing does not reveal *BRAF* or other MAPK pathway mutations. Testing for somatic mutations using NGS first or in parallel is recommended.

¹Adapted with permission from Goyal G, Heaney ML, Collin M, et al. Erdheim-Chester disease: consensus recommendations for evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment in the molecular era. *Blood* 2020;135(22):1929-1945.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

- Regimens may be used in the first- or subsequent-line setting

	Preferred Regimens	Other Recommended Regimens	Useful in Certain Circumstances
Multisystem or pulmonary LCH	<p><u>BRAF V600E mutated disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vemurafenib^{a,1,2} <p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobimetinib^{a,3} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cytarabine^{4,5} • Cladribine^{6,7} • Methotrexate + cytarabine⁸ 	<p><u>BRAF V600E mutated disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dabrafenib^{a,2,9} <p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trametinib^{a,9-13} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methotrexate (oral)^{14,15} • Hydroxyurea¹⁶ • Clofarabine¹⁷ • Vinblastine/prednisone⁴ 	<p>Targeted therapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crizotinib for <i>ALK</i> fusion¹⁸ • Pexidartinib for <i>CSF1R</i> mutation¹⁸ • Larotrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,20} • Entrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,21} • Sirolimus or everolimus for <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation^{22,23} • Selpercatinib for <i>RET</i> fusion¹⁸
Bone disease only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoledronic acid²⁴ • Pamidronate²⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	<p>Multifocal single-system bone disease not responsive to bisphosphonate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See preferred, other recommended, and useful in certain circumstances options above for multisystem disease
• Single-system multifocal skin disease (including mucosa)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methotrexate (oral)^{14,15} • Hydroxyurea¹⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenalidomide²⁵ • Thalidomide²⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

^aSee Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy (ME-K) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)

PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis

• Regimens may be used in the first- or subsequent-line setting

	Preferred Regimens	Other Recommended Regimens	Useful in Certain Circumstances
CNS lesions	<p><u>BRAF V600E mutated disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vemurafenib^{a,1,2} <p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobimetinib^{a,3} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methotrexate + cytarabine⁸ • Cladribine^{6,7} 	<p><u>BRAF V600E mutated disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dabrafenib^{a,2,9} <p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trametinib^{a,9,11-13} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cytarabine^{b,4} • High-dose methotrexate²⁷ 	<p><u>Targeted therapy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crizotinib for <i>ALK</i> fusion¹⁸ • Pexidartinib for <i>CSF1R</i> mutation¹⁸ • Larotrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,20} • Entrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,21} • Sirolimus or everolimus for <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation^{22,23} • Selpercatinib for <i>RET</i> fusion¹⁸

^aSee Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy (ME-K) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.

^bHigher dose (150 mg/m²) is indicated for CNS lesions.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

Continued



PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Erdheim-Chester Disease

- Regimens may be used in the first- or subsequent-line setting

Preferred Regimens	Other Recommended Regimens	Useful in Certain Circumstances
<p><u>BRAF V600E mutated disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vemurafenib^{a,1,28} <p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobimetinib^{a,29} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cladribine³⁰ • Pegylated interferon alpha-2a and alpha-2b³¹ 	<p><u>BRAF V600E mutated disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dabrafenib^{a,29,32} <p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trametinib^{a,11,33} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sirolimus + prednisone³⁴ • Methotrexate (oral)³⁵ • Anakinra^{a,36,37} 	<p><u>Targeted therapy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crizotinib for <i>ALK</i> fusion¹⁸ • Pexidartinib for <i>CSF1R</i> mutation¹⁸ • Larotrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,20} • Entrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,21} • Sirolimus or everolimus for <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation^{22,23} • Selpercatinib for <i>RET</i> fusion¹⁸

^aSee Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy (ME-K) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)



PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Rosai-Dorfman Disease

- Regimens may be used in the first- or subsequent-line setting

Preferred Regimens	Other Recommended Regimens	Useful in Certain Circumstances
<p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cobimetinib^{a,38,39} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cladribine⁴⁰ • Cytarabine⁴¹ • Methotrexate (oral)^{42,43} • Prednisone or other corticosteroid⁴⁰ 	<p><u>MAP kinase pathway mutation, or no detectable mutation, or testing not available</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trametinib^{a,11} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vinblastine + prednisone⁴⁴ • Methotrexate (IV)⁴⁵ 	<p><u>Targeted therapy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crizotinib for <i>ALK</i> fusion¹⁸ • Pexidartinib for <i>CSF1R</i> mutation¹⁸ • Larotrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,20} • Entrectinib for <i>NTRK</i> gene fusion^{19,21} • Everolimus for <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation^{22,23} • Selpercatinib for <i>RET</i> fusion¹⁸ • Sirolimus (for those associated with autoimmune lymphoproliferative syndrome and/or <i>PIK3CA</i> mutation)^{22,23,46} <p><u>Irrespective of mutation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rituximab^{c,d} (for nodal and immune-cytopenia diseases)⁴⁷ • Thalidomide (for cutaneous skin disease only)⁴⁸

^aSee [Management of Toxicities Associated with Targeted Therapy \(ME-K\) in the NCCN Guidelines for Melanoma: Cutaneous](#).

^cMay be used for IgG4 disease.

^dAn FDA-approved biosimilar is an appropriate substitute for rituximab.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)



REFERENCES

- ¹Diamond EL, Subbiah V, Lockhart AC, et al. Vemurafenib for BRAF V600-mutant Erdheim-Chester Disease and Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis: analysis of data from the histology-independent, phase 2, open-label VE-BASKET Study. *JAMA Oncol* 2018;4:384-388.
- ²Hazim AZ, Ruan GJ, Ravindran A, et al. Efficacy of BRAF-inhibitor therapy in BRAF(V600E)-mutated adult Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis. *Oncologist* 2020;25:1001-1004.
- ³Diamond EL, Durham BH, Ulaner GA, et al. Efficacy of MEK inhibition in patients with histiocytic neoplasms. *Nature* 2019;567:521-524.
- ⁴Cantu MA, Lupo PJ, Bilgi M, et al. Optimal therapy for adults with Langerhans cell histiocytosis bone lesions. *PLoS One* 2012;7:e43257.
- ⁵Miao HL, Zhao AL, Duan MH, et al. Clinical presentation and prognostic analysis of adult patients with Langerhans cell histiocytosis with pulmonary involvement. *BMC Cancer* 2020;20:911.
- ⁶Goyal G, Abeykoon JP, Hu M, et al. Single-agent cladribine as an effective front-line therapy for adults with Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Am J Hematol* 2021.
- ⁷Saven A, Burian C. Cladribine activity in adult Langerhans-cell histiocytosis. *Blood* 1999;93:4125-4130.
- ⁸Cao XX, Li J, Zhao AL, et al. Methotrexate and cytarabine for adult patients with newly diagnosed Langerhans cell histiocytosis: a single arm, single center, prospective phase 2 study. *Am J Hematol* 2020;95:E235-E238.
- ⁹Awada G, Seremet T, Fostier K, et al. Long-term disease control of Langerhans cell histiocytosis using combined BRAF and MEK inhibition. *Blood Adv* 2018;2:2156-2158.
- ¹⁰Lorillon G, Jouenne F, Baroudjian B, et al. Response to trametinib of a pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis harboring a MAP2K1 deletion. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2018;198:675-678.
- ¹¹Janku F, Patel H, Raghavan VK, et al. MEK inhibition with trametinib in patients with non-Langerhans histiocytosis irrespective of BRAF mutation status. 2019 International ECD Medical Symposium 2019.
- ¹²Messinger YH, Bostrom BC, Olson DR, et al. Langerhans cell histiocytosis with BRAF p.N486_P490del or MAP2K1 p.K57_G61del treated by the MEK inhibitor trametinib. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 2020;67:e28712.
- ¹³Papapanagiotou M, Griewank KG, Hillen U, et al. Trametinib-induced remission of an MEK1-mutated Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *JCO Precision Oncology* 2017:1-5.
- ¹⁴Steen AE, Steen KH, Bauer R, Bieber T. Successful treatment of cutaneous Langerhans cell histiocytosis with low-dose methotrexate. *Br J Dermatol* 2001;145:137-140.
- ¹⁵Womer RB, Anunciato KR, Chehrensa M. Oral methotrexate and alternate-day prednisone for low-risk Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Med Pediatr Oncol* 1995;25:70-73.
- ¹⁶Zinn DJ, Grimes AB, Lin H, et al. Hydroxyurea: a new old therapy for Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Blood* 2016;128:2462-2465.
- ¹⁷Simko SJ, Tran HD, Jones J, et al. Clofarabine salvage therapy in refractory multifocal histiocytic disorders, including Langerhans cell histiocytosis, juvenile xanthogranuloma and Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 2014;61:479-487.
- ¹⁸Durham BH, Lopez Rodrigo E, Picarsic J, et al. Activating mutations in CSF1R and additional receptor tyrosine kinases in histiocytic neoplasms. *Nat Med* 2019;25:1839-1842.
- ¹⁹Taylor J, Pavlick D, Yoshimi A, et al. Oncogenic TRK fusions are amenable to inhibition in hematologic malignancies. *J Clin Invest* 2018;128:3819-3825.
- ²⁰Drilon A, Laetsch TW, Kummar S, et al. Efficacy of larotrectinib in TRK fusion-positive cancers in adults and children. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:731-739.
- ²¹Doebele RC, Drilon A, Paz-Ares L, et al. Entrectinib in patients with advanced or metastatic NTRK fusion-positive solid tumours: integrated analysis of three phase 1-2 trials. *Lancet Oncol* 2020;21:271-282.
- ²²van Bommel EFH, van der Zijden MA, Smak Gregoor PJH, et al. Sirolimus monotherapy for Erdheim-Chester disease. *Acta Oncol* 2019;58:901-905.
- ²³Emile JF, Diamond EL, Helias-Rodzewicz Z, et al. Recurrent RAS and PIK3CA mutations in Erdheim-Chester disease. *Blood* 2014;124:3016-3019.
- ²⁴Chellapandian D, Makras P, Kaltsas G, et al. Bisphosphonates in Langerhans cell histiocytosis: an international retrospective case series. *Mediterr J Hematol Infect Dis* 2016;8:e2016033.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[Continued](#)



REFERENCES

- ²⁵Szturz P, Adam Z, Rehak Z, et al. Lenalidomide proved effective in multisystem Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Acta Oncol* 2012;51:412-415.
- ²⁶McClain KL, Kozinetz CA. A phase II trial using thalidomide for Langerhans cell histiocytosis. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 2007;48:44-49.
- ²⁷Ho P, Smith C. High-dose methotrexate for the treatment of relapsed central nervous system Erdheim-Chester disease. *Case Rep Hematol* 2014;2014:269359.
- ²⁸Ruan GJ, Hazim A, Abeykoon JP, et al. Low-dose vemurafenib monotherapy in BRAF(V600E) -mutated Erdheim-Chester disease. *Leuk Lymphoma* 2020;61:2733-2737.
- ²⁹Cohen Aubart F, Emile JF, Carrat F, et al. Targeted therapies in 54 patients with Erdheim-Chester disease, including follow-up after interruption (the LOVE study). *Blood* 2017;130:1377-1380.
- ³⁰Goyal G, Shah MV, Call TG, et al. Clinical and radiologic responses to cladribine for the treatment of Erdheim-Chester disease. *JAMA Oncol* 2017;3:1253-1256.
- ³¹Cohen Aubart F, Idbaih A, Galanaud D, et al. Central nervous system involvement in Erdheim-Chester disease: an observational cohort study. *Neurology* 2020;95:e2746-e2754.
- ³²Bhatia A, Ulaner G, Rampal R, et al. Single-agent dabrafenib for BRAF(V600E)-mutated histiocytosis. *Haematologica* 2018;103:e177-e180.
- ³³Nordmann TM, Juengling FD, Recher M, et al. Trametinib after disease reactivation under dabrafenib in Erdheim-Chester disease with both BRAF and KRAS mutations. *Blood* 2017;129:879-882.
- ³⁴Gianfreda D, Nicastro M, Galetti M, et al. Sirolimus plus prednisone for Erdheim-Chester disease: an open-label trial. *Blood* 2015;126:1163-1171.
- ³⁵Goyal G, Shah MV, Call TG, et al. Clinical and radiological responses to oral methotrexate alone or in combination with other agents in Erdheim-Chester disease. *Blood Cancer J* 2017;7:647.
- ³⁶Cohen-Aubart F, Maksud P, Saadoun D, et al. Variability in the efficacy of the IL1 receptor antagonist anakinra for treating Erdheim-Chester disease. *Blood* 2016;127:1509-1512.
- ³⁷Goyal G, Shah MV, Call TG, et al. Efficacy of biological agents in the treatment of Erdheim-Chester disease. *Br J Haematol* 2018;183:520-524.
- ³⁸Moyon Q, Boussouar S, Maksud P, et al. Lung involvement in Destombes-Rosai-Dorfman disease: clinical and radiological features and response to the MEK inhibitor cobimetinib. *Chest* 2020;157:323-333.
- ³⁹Jacobsen E, Shanmugam V, Jagannathan J. Rosai-Dorfman Disease with Activating KRAS Mutation - Response to Cobimetinib. *N Engl J Med* 2017;377:2398-2399.
- ⁴⁰Goyal G, Ravindran A, Young JR, et al. Clinicopathological features, treatment approaches, and outcomes in Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Haematologica* 2020;105:348-357.
- ⁴¹Wang W, Sun J, Zhang W, Zhou D. Successful treatment of intracranial Rosai-Dorfman disease with cytarabine and dexamethasone: case report and review of literature. *Ann Hematol* 2020;99:1157-1159.
- ⁴²Nasseri E, Belisle A, Funaro D. Rosai-Dorfman disease treated with methotrexate and low-dose prednisone: case report and review of the literature. *J Cutan Med Surg* 2012;16:281-285.
- ⁴³Nadal M, Kervarrec T, Machet MC, et al. Cutaneous Rosai-Dorfman disease located on the breast: rapid effectiveness of methotrexate after failure of topical corticosteroids, acitretin and thalidomide. *Acta Derm Venereol* 2015;95:758-759.
- ⁴⁴Cohen-Barak E, Rozenman D, Schafer J, et al. An unusual co-occurrence of Langerhans cell histiocytosis and Rosai-Dorfman disease: report of a case and review of the literature. *Int J Dermatol* 2014;53:558-563.
- ⁴⁵Inoue S, Onwuzurike N. Venorelbine and methotrexate for the treatment of Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 2005;45:84-85; author reply 86.
- ⁴⁶Golwala ZM, Taur P, Pandrowala A, et al. Sirolimus-a targeted therapy for Rosai-Dorfman disease. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 2019;66:e27994.
- ⁴⁷Rituximab in the treatment of Rosai-Dorfman syndrome with IgG4 disease. *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology* 2019;81:AB269.
- ⁴⁸Chen E, Pavlidakey P, Sami N. Rosai-Dorfman disease successfully treated with thalidomide. *JAAD Case Rep* 2016;2:369-372.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.



NCCN Categories of Evidence and Consensus	
Category 1	Based upon high-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 2A	Based upon lower-level evidence, there is uniform NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 2B	Based upon lower-level evidence, there is NCCN consensus that the intervention is appropriate.
Category 3	Based upon any level of evidence, there is major NCCN disagreement that the intervention is appropriate.

All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

NCCN Categories of Preference	
Preferred intervention	Interventions that are based on superior efficacy, safety, and evidence; and, when appropriate, affordability.
Other recommended intervention	Other interventions that may be somewhat less efficacious, more toxic, or based on less mature data; or significantly less affordable for similar outcomes.
Useful in certain circumstances	Other interventions that may be used for selected patient populations (defined with recommendation).

All recommendations are considered appropriate.



DISCUSSION UNDER DEVELOPMENT