

Is Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance of the IgM class (IgM MGUS) Always a Precursor to WM?

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IgM monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (IgM MGUS) is characterized by the presence of an IgM monoclonal protein < 3 g/dL, < 10% lymphoplasmacytic infiltration of the bone marrow and absence of symptomatic anemia, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly or hyperviscosity as well as no constitutional symptoms. The risk of progression to lymphoma, WM, AL amyloidosis or chronic lymphocytic leukemia is about 1.5% per year. Smoldering Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia (SWM) is characterized by the presence of a serum IgM monoclonal protein \geq 3 g/dL and/or a bone marrow containing \geq 10% lymphoplasmacytic infiltration, absence of symptomatic anemia, lymphadenopathy, hepatosplenomegaly or hyperviscosity and no constitutional symptoms. The risk of progression to symptomatic WM, lymphoma or AL amyloidosis is 11% each year for the first 5 years and then decreases to approximately 2% per year for the following 5 years. Virtually all patients with multiple myeloma have a previously recognized MGUS and the same is almost certainly true for WM.