

New mutation linked to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma

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Some patients with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) -- a cancer of B cells -- harbor a particular mutation in the gene encoding the receptor for B cell activating factor (BAFF), according to a paper published online on November 1 in the *Journal of Experimental Medicine*. BAFF, a soluble protein needed for B cell survival and maturation, is elevated in the blood of some NHL patients and is associated with poor prognosis.

This BAFF-R mutation, identified by a team led by Anne Novak and Gail Bishop, generates a receptor that transmits stronger than normal signals, thus boosting [B cell](#) function.

Although present in fewer than 10% of the tumors analyzed in the study, this mutation provides further evidence of the importance of BAFF signaling in this dangerous malignancy.

More information: Hildebrand, J.M., et al. 2010. *J. Exp. Med.*
[doi:10.1084/jem.20100857](https://doi.org/10.1084/jem.20100857)

Provided by Rockefeller University

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