Evaluation of the prognostic meaning of C-reactive protein (CRP) in children and adolescents with classical Hodgkin's lymphoma (HL).

In adult cancer patients the negative predictive value of elevated CRP levels has been described for several malignancies. Only few studies have analyzed the prognostic role of CRP in children and adolescents with classical HL. In these studies elevated CRP levels correlate with the presence of classical risk factors and adverse outcome. The prognostic role of CRP for patients with classical HL admitted to the GPOH-HD-2002 study was analyzed retrospectively. CRP levels were documented for 369 of 573 patients. Significant (p<0.05) elevated CRP levels were associated with classical risk factors of HL. CRP and ESR may reflect different biological processes. CRP was prognostic within early stage TG-1 patients treated with reduced treatment, but not within advanced stage TG-2+3.