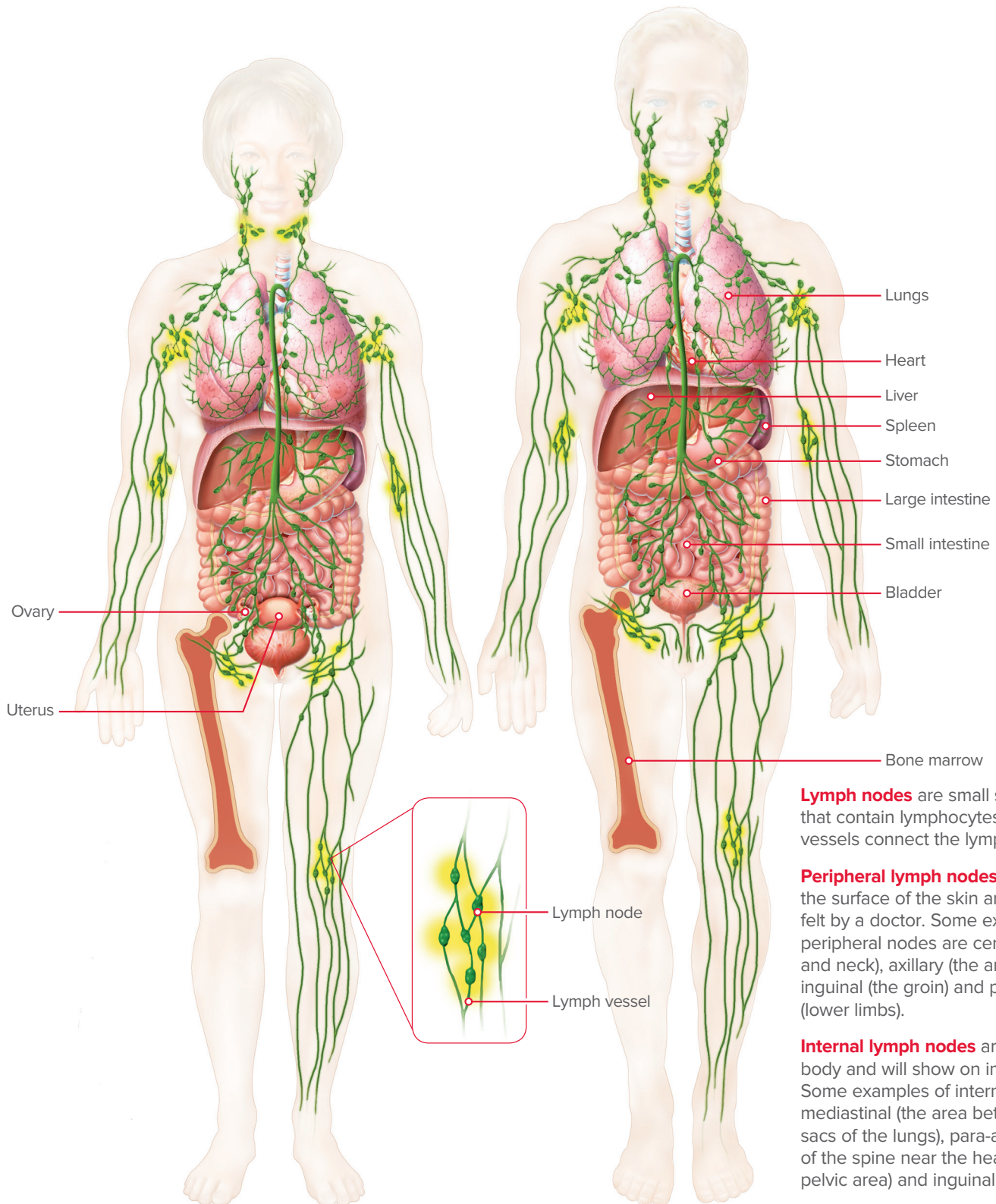




# THE LYMPHATIC SYSTEM



**Lymph nodes** are small structures that contain lymphocytes. Lymph vessels connect the lymph nodes.

**Peripheral lymph nodes** are near the surface of the skin and can be felt by a doctor. Some examples of peripheral nodes are cervical (head and neck), axillary (the arm pits), inguinal (the groin) and popliteal (lower limbs).

**Internal lymph nodes** are inside the body and will show on imaging tests. Some examples of internal nodes are mediastinal (the area between the air sacs of the lungs), para-aortic (in front of the spine near the heart), iliac (the pelvic area) and inguinal (the groin).

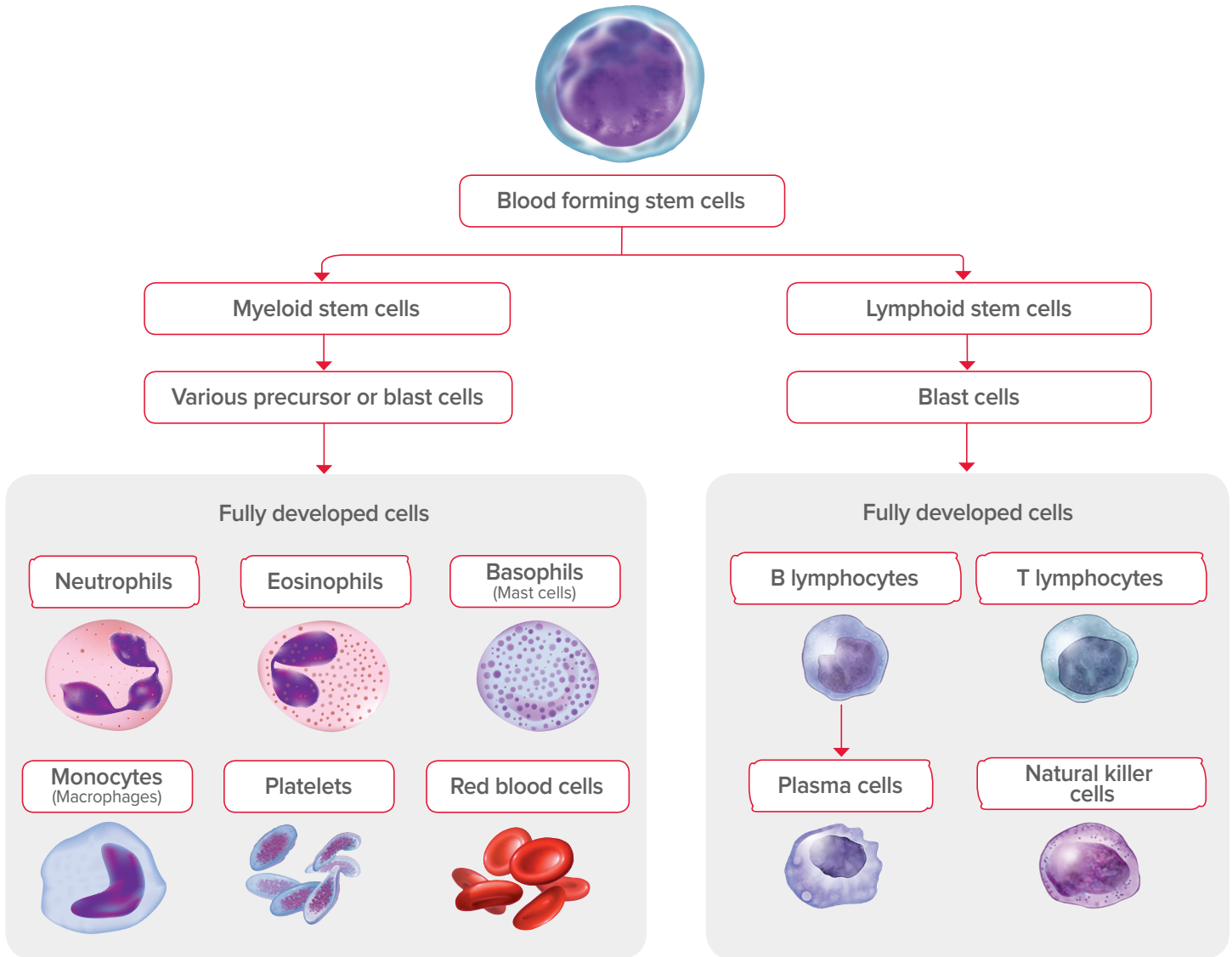
For the latest information on leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma and other blood cancers, contact our Information Specialists at **800.955.4572** or at **[www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org)**.

The mission of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life of patients and their families. Find out more at **[www.LLS.org](http://www.LLS.org)**.



# BLOOD CELLS

Blood cells are made in the bone marrow from stem cells. Blood passes through the bone marrow and picks up the fully developed blood cells for circulation in the blood.



**Stem cells** are multipotential cells (capable of developing into different types of blood cells). Some stem cells enter the blood and circulate.

**Red blood cells** carry oxygen from the lungs to cells throughout the body.

**Platelets** are fragments of cells that help to control bleeding or bruising.

**White blood cells** include neutrophils, monocytes (macrophages), lymphocytes, eosinophils and basophils. Each play a role in helping the body fight infection. For example, lymphocytes help create antibodies that attack the invading microbes and mark them for destruction by the neutrophils, monocytes and macrophages. Basophils and eosinophils are involved in the body's response to allergic reactions and eosinophils also help fight some parasitic infections.

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