

IMMUNOTHERAPY

What You Need to Know

Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that uses the immune system to identify and attack cancer cells. Immunotherapy can be used in concert with other cancer treatments.

● How Immunotherapy Works

Using substances made by the body or in a laboratory, immunotherapy boosts the body's natural defenses to combat cancer. Immunotherapy may help slow or stop the growth of cancer cells and prevent cancer from spreading to other parts of the body.

● Types of Immunotherapy

- **Monoclonal Antibodies:** Proteins designed to attack specific parts of cancer cells.
- **Checkpoint Inhibitors:** Help the immune system recognize and attack cancer cells.
- **Cancer Vaccines:** Activates an immune response against certain types of cancer.
- **Nonspecific Immunotherapies:** Boosts the immune system in a general way

● Administration of Treatment

Immunotherapy may be administered in a few different ways:

- **Intravenous:** The immunotherapy is put into a vein using an IV.
- **Topical:** The immunotherapy comes in a cream.
- **Oral:** The immunotherapy comes in a capsule or pill.
- **Intravesical:** The immunotherapy is administered into the bladder.



● Benefits of Immunotherapy

- Bolster other treatments
- Effective when other treatments aren't
- Fewer side effects
- Cancer less likely to return

● Risks of Immunotherapy

- **Side Effects:** Flu-like symptoms, weight gain, stuffiness, diarrhea, and swelling.
- **Harm to Organs:** Immune system may attack your intestines, kidneys, heart, etc.
- **Lengthy Treatment:** Takes longer to work than other options.
- **It May Not Work:** Works for less than half of people who try it.
- **It May Stop Working:** Can stop having an effect.

References

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