



About immunotherapy



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

How does immunotherapy work?

Your body has its own system for fighting infections and disease. Called the immune system, it fights bacteria, viruses and bad or old cells. Immunotherapy is a treatment that uses this system to fight cancer.



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How does immunotherapy work?

- Cancer cells send out signals to fool the immune system, such as “I am a normal, healthy cell” or “Don’t kill me. It is not my time to die.”
- Immunotherapy takes away those signals. So your immune system can see the cancer cell and kill it.
- Immunotherapy makes your body grow more immune cells. So there are more to fight the cancer cells in your body.



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

About side effects

Immunotherapy can cause side effects, like all treatments. Your immune system may become too active. It can attack healthy cells in your skin, lungs, digestive system and glands that make important hormones in your body. You might have:

- Rash
- Diarrhea or pain in your stomach area (belly)
- Cough or sudden breathing problems

You might also feel very tired.



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

About side effects

Side effects may not start until 2 or 3 months after you start taking immunotherapy. But please call our office immediately if you have any of the side effects above. They can be serious even if they do not bother you much at first.



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

About side effects

We may give you medication to calm your immune system. You may also need lower doses of your immune therapy or you may stop altogether until you feel better.



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

When to call your care team

Call Medical Hematology/Oncology Clinic at **503-494-6594** or Hematologic Malignancies Clinic Triage at **503-418-0669** if you have:

- A fever of 100.4 degrees (F) or higher
- Vomiting or diarrhea that does not go away with medication
- Blood in stool (poop) or urine (pee)
- Diarrhea more than 3 times a day or not relieved by medication
- Bleeding that does not stop, or bruises you do not remember getting



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

When to call your care team

- Sores in your mouth that make it difficult for you to eat or drink enough
- A headache, balance problems or difficulty seeing
- A cough or breathing problems
- A rash or skin problems
- Redness or swelling around your central line, or on the same side of your body as the central line



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

When to call your care team

When receiving immunotherapy, it is very important to report side effects to the clinic if you are feeling any of the below:

- Diarrhea more than 3 times a day, or not relieved by medication
- New cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Any rash or skin problems



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

When to call your care team

You can also call your care team at **503-494-6594** on weekends, evenings and holidays. It will connect you with the cancer doctor who is available for questions and problems (on call). We may ask you to come to the Emergency Department to be checked.



ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY

Phone numbers to remember

- Medical Hematology/Oncology Clinic at CHH2
Clinic Phone (M-F from 8am -5pm) **503-494-6594***
- Hematologic Malignancies Clinic at CHH2
Triage Nurse **503-418-0669***
– If your caregiver becomes sick, please call the triage line for advice on how to stay safe.
Clinic Scheduling **503-494-5058**

*These phone numbers will connect you to the on-call physician when the clinic is closed.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHEMOTHERAPY

Contacting your Community Hematology/Oncology (CHO) team

Regular clinic hours are 7 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Beaverton Clinic

15700 S.W. Greystone Court, Beaverton, OR 97006

971-262-9000

East Portland (Adventist) Clinic

10000 SE Main St., Suite 350 Portland, OR 97216

971-262-9800

Gresham (Mt. Hood) Clinic

24988 SE Stark St., Suite 140 Gresham, OR 97030

971-262-9500

Northwest (Good Samaritan) Clinic

1130 NW 22nd Ave., Suite 150 Portland, OR 97210

971-262-9600

Tualatin (Meridian) Clinic

19260 SW 65th Ave. Suite 140 Tualatin, OR 97062

971-262-9700

A provider is available for emergencies after-hours (before 7 a.m. & after 5:30 p.m.) through your clinic phone number.

Thank you!

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Certificate of Completion

SIGNATURE

DATE