

**Innovations in Oncology Pharmacy**

Jeanine F. Ewing PharmD, BCOP  
Clinical Oncology Pharmacist  
Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Financial Disclosures**

- ▶ No relevant financial disclosures

2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Learning Objectives**

- ▶ Review the mechanism of action for treatment options and targeted therapies available for a variety of cancers
- ▶ Recognize and treat specific oncology targeted-treatment related toxicities
- ▶ Discuss new regimens & mechanisms for therapies currently in development

3

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pre-Assessment Question**

- ▶ A companion diagnostic for a drug is used to
  - a) identify a specific gene mutation or biomarker that the drug targets
  - b) Induce genetic mutations that will make the drug more effective
  - c) Provide patient education on common adverse effects
  - d) All the above

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Pre-Assessment Question**

- ▶ A companion diagnostic for a drug is used to
  - a) identify a specific gene mutation or biomarker that the drug targets
  - b) Induce genetic mutations that will make the drug more effective
  - c) Provide patient education on common adverse effects
  - d) All the above
- ▶ Several companion diagnostic tests exist for both hematologic and solid tumors to detect biomarkers for a specific patient to allow use of targeted therapy.
- ▶ Some examples include IDH1/2, KRAS, HER2, BRCA1/2, HRR genes, EGFR, BRAF, ALK, MSI-H, TMB, PD-L1, RET, ROS1, FOLR1, etc.

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Precision Medicine**  
Targeted Oncology Treatment

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Agnostic Biomarkers

Target	Treatment	Trade Name	Route
BRAF V600E-positive	Dabrafenib + Trametinib	TAFINLAR + MEKINIST	PO
dMMR	Pembrolizumab	KEYTRUDA	IV
	Dostarlimab-gxly	JEMPERLI	IV
MSI-H or TMB-High	Pembrolizumab	KEYTRUDA	IV
NTRK gene fusion-positive	Larotrectinib	VITRAKVI	PO
	Entrectinib	ROZLYTREK	PO
RET fusion-positive	Selpercatinib	RETEVMO	PO

Clinical Trials Ongoing*		
ROS1	Taletrectinib	PO
KRAS G12C	Adagrasib	PO
	Sotorasib	PO
HER2	Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan	IV
ALK	Alectinib	PO
FGFRalt	Erdafitinib	PO

\*List not all inclusive

Tam, Y. et al. Agency Approval in Oncology. PharmacoEconomics. April 2023.  
Brennan, C. et al. Agnostic to Addressed Gene Sequences Including KRAS/G12C Mutations. JCO. April 2023.  
FDA. "FDA Approves Pembrolizumab and Dostarlimab-gxly for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors with Positive or dMMR/MSI-H or TMB-High. FDA. April 2023.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

7

### Disease-Specific Biomarkers

Biomarker	Treatment	Indication	Branded Name
FOLR1	Mirvetuximab soravtansine-gynx	Ovarian	ELAHERE
ESR1	Elacestrant	Breast	ORSERDU
PIK3CA	Alpelisib	Breast	PIQRAY
MET	Capmatinib	NSCLC	TABRECTA
KRAS/NRAS WT	Cetuximab	CRC	ERBITUX
	Panitumumab		VECTIBIX
Ki-67	Abemaciclib	Breast	VERZENIO
ALK	Alectinib*	NSCLC	Alecensa
	Crizotinib		Xalkori
	Ceritinib		Zykadia
	Lorlatinib		Lorbrena
	Brigatinib		Alunbrig

\*List is not all inclusive - Several targeted therapies exist across multiple oncologic indications

FDA Approval of Approval Complete. Biotech Digest. FDA website. April 11, 2023.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

8

### Elacestrant

- ▶ FDA approval on January 27, 2023 for the treatment of postmenopausal ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer (mBC) with disease progression following at least 1 line of endocrine therapy.
- ▶ ESR1 mutation is an ACQUIRED mutation commonly seen in patients previously treated with an aromatase inhibitor.
- ▶ ESR1 is detectable in the blood and occurs in up to 40% of patients with mBC.
- ▶ Elacestrant 345mg by mouth once daily with food until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity

FDA approves site-contrast for ER-positive, HER2-negative, ESR1-mutated advanced or metastatic breast cancer. FDA website. January 27, 2023.  
Elacestrant (ORSERDU) (prescribing information). New York, NY: Eisai Inc. 2023.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

9

### Elacestrant - Pharmacology

▶ Elacestrant binds to estrogen receptor-alpha  
 ▶ Acts as a selective estrogen receptor degrader (SERD)  
 ▶ Blocks transcriptional activity of the estrogen receptor and promotes degradation

Patel MK, et al. Pharmacol Ther. 2018;186:1-24.

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Elacestrant Safety

Lab Abnormality	All Grades	Grade 3-4
Cholesterol increased	30%	1%
Triglycerides increased	27%	2%
AST increased	29%	0%
ALT increased	17%	0%
SCr elevation	16%	0%
Anemia	26%	1%

Elacestrant (SERD) [Prescribing Information]. New York, NY: Sunovion Therapeutics, Inc. 2023.

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Antibody-Drug Conjugates

Targeted Therapy + Chemotherapy

12

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Antibody-Drug Conjugates (ADC)

**Key functions**

- Target antigen: Recognition of target cancer cells
- Antibody: Guidance system for cytotoxic drugs
- Linker: Bridge between antibody and drugs and to control the release of drugs inside cancer cells
- Cytotoxic drug: Warhead for destroying cancer cells

Fig. 2. et al. Antibody drug conjugates: the "biological missile" for targeted cancer therapy. Nature. March 2022.

13

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FDA-Approved Treatments

ADC	Target	Payload	Indications	Branded Product
Gemtuzumab ozogamicin	CD33	Ozogamicin	AML	MYLOTARG®
Ado-trastuzumab emtansine	HER2	DM1	Breast	KADCYLA®
Trastuzumab deruxtecan	HER2	Camptothecin	Breast, Gastric, NSCLC	ENHERTU®
Sacituzumab govitecan	TROP-2	SN-38	Breast, Bladder	TRODELVY®
Mirvetuximab soravtansine	FOLR1	DM4	Ovarian	ELAHERE®
Loncastuximab tesirine-lpyl	CD19	SG3199	DLBCL	ZYNLONTA®
Enfortumab vedotin	Nectin-4	MMAE	Bladder	PADCEV®
Brentuximab vedotin	CD-30	MMAE	HL, ALCL, CTCL, PTCL	ADCETRIS®
Tisotumab vedotin-tftv	Tissue Factor	MMAE	Cervical	TIVDAK®
Polatuzumab vedotin-piiq	CD79b	MMAE	DLBCL	POLIVY®

NSCLC: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer; SCLC: Small Cell Lung Cancer; HL: Hodgkin's Lymphoma; ALCL: Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma; CTCL: Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma; PTCL: Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma; DLBCL: Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma

Wongwattana P, et al. Antibody Drug Conjugates: A Comprehensive Review. Mol Cancer Res (Jan 7, 2020) 18(1): 3-19

14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki (ENHERTU®)

**HER2-directed mAb<sup>1</sup>**

- Provides targeted delivery of cytotoxic agent<sup>1,2</sup>
- Consists of the same amino acid sequence as trastuzumab<sup>2</sup>

**Topoisomerase I inhibitor payload<sup>2,3,4</sup>**

- Highly potent payload is an irinotecan derivative, known as DXd, with a short systemic half-life<sup>2</sup>
- Upon release, membrane-permeable payload causes DNA damage and cell death, resulting in destruction of targeted tumor cells and neighboring cells present in the tumor microenvironment, known as the bystander antitumor effect<sup>2,2</sup>

**Tumor-selective cleavable linker<sup>1,4</sup>**

- Attaches payload to the antibody<sup>1</sup>
- Linker-payload is stable in plasma<sup>2,3</sup>
- Linker selectively cleaved by enzymes that are upregulated in tumor cells<sup>1,2</sup>

Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan (ENHERTU) [package insert]. Boehringer Ingelheim, NJ: Daiichi Sankyo, Inc.; 2022.

15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki (ENHERTU®)

- FDA-Approved Indications:
  - HER2+ metastatic Breast Cancer (mBC) 5.4mg/kg IV every 21 days
  - HER2-low metastatic Breast Cancer (mBC) 5.4mg/kg IV every 21 days
  - HER2-mutant metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (mNSCLC) 5.4mg/kg IV every 21 days
  - HER+ advanced Gastric Cancer 6.4mg/kg IV every 21 days

Fam-trastuzumab-deruxtecan (ENHERTU) [package insert], Basking Ridge, NJ: Daiichi Sankyo, Inc; 2022.

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan: DESTINY-PanTumor02

- Ongoing Phase II trial for Pan-Tumor efficacy
  - Locally advanced, unresectable, or metastatic previously treated HER-2 expressing solid tumors not eligible for curative therapy
  - Cervical, Endometrial, Ovarian, Biliary Tract (BTC), Bladder, Pancreatic, & other rare cancers (head & neck, salivary gland cancer)

Efficacy	Cervical	Endometrial	Ovarian	BTC	Pancreatic	Bladder	Other	All
n	40	40	40	41	25	41	40	267
ORR	50%	57.5%	45%	22%	4%	39%	30%	37.1%
CR	5%	17.5%	10%	2.4%	0%	2.4%	0%	5.6%
PR	45%	40%	35%	19.5%	4%	36.6%	30%	31.5%
SD	30%	32.5%	35%	61%	68%	43.9%	60%	46.1%
DoR (months)	9.8 (4.2-NE)	NR (9.9-NE)	11.3 (4.1-NE)	8.6 (2.1-NE)	NR	8.7 (4.3-11.8)	NR (4.1-NE)	11.8 (9.8-NE)

ORR: Overall Response Rate; CR: Complete Response; PR: Partial Response; SD: Stable Disease; DoR: Duration of Response; NR: Not Reached

Daiichi Sankyo. Enherdu demonstrated clinical meaningful and durable responses across multiple HER2-expressing advanced solid tumors. June 5, 2023

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Toxicities

Toxicity	All Grade*	Grade 3-4*
Nausea	76%	7%
Vomiting	44%	1.6%
Diarrhea	29%	1.2%
Anemia	66%	7-10%
Neutropenia	71%	16-51%
Febrile Neutropenia	---	1.1-4.8%
Renal Impairment	15%	1.1%
Hepatic Impairment	48%	3%
ILD/Pneumonitis	10-12%	1% (Fatal)
Left Ventricular Dysfunction	3.6-8%	0.4%

- Early identification is key
- Counsel patients to report symptoms
- Monitor CBC w/diff, CMP, LVEF
- Monitor patients with moderate renal impairment more frequently
  - Higher incidence of ILD/pneumonitis reported
- Treatment includes dose interruptions, reductions, & pharmacologic intervention

\*Numbers are pooled from data across multiple clinical trials

Fam-trastuzumab-deruxtecan (ENHERTU) [package insert], Basking Ridge, NJ: Daiichi Sankyo, Inc; 2022.

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Immunotherapy Treatments

- Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors
- CAR T-cell Therapy
- Bispecific Therapy

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## The Immune System

**The Immune Response**

**INNATE IMMUNE RESPONSE**  
 Innate immune cells engulf and kill pathogens and release molecules to enhance the immune response.

**ADAPTIVE IMMUNE RESPONSE**  
 B cells make antibodies that target specific pathogens.  
 T cells kill pathogens and attack infected cells.  
 Some T and B cells become memory cells that quickly fight future infections by the same pathogen.

**Time**: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE → DELAYED RESPONSE

Thompson, Amy. The Immune System. JAMA. 2015;313(16):1686.

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Cancer Cells

- ▶ Changes to DNA occur, allowing damaged cells to divide rapidly and uncontrollably
- ▶ Tumor cells can trigger angiogenesis
- ▶ The tumor cells deactivate T cells
- ▶ Tumor cells may travel, leading to metastasis via the bloodstream or lymph

**Immune Checkpoints, InvivoGen**

**Tumor Cell** (Left): HEA-E, HEA-C, CD155/CD112/CD113, CD138/CD111, MHC-II, CEACAM-5, MHC-I, PD-L1, TIM-3, Galactin-9, ICAM-1, CD137, VISTA, CD47.

**NK Cell** (Top Right): CD96/NKG2A, KIR, CD96, LAG-3, TIM-3.

**Activated T Cell** (Bottom): GITR, CD40, OX40, 4-1BB, HVEM, ICOS, GITR, VISTA, TIGIT, CD138, CD137, CD27, HVEM, VISTA, SH2-alpha, CD47.

**Legend**: Red arrow = Inhibitory effect; Green arrow = Stimulatory effect.

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors - Pharmacology

- ▶ Block checkpoint proteins from binding with their partner proteins
- ▶ Prevents the "off" signal from being sent - allows T cell to kill cancer cells

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors; National Cancer Institute, April 2022  
Toshiba, S. et al. Mechanism-driven biomarkers to guide immune checkpoint blockade in cancer therapy. Nature. 16(379):287-294.

22

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Synergistic Mechanism

- ▶ Combination immune checkpoint therapy delivers enhanced anti-tumor response over single agent
  - ▶ PD-1/PD-L1 Inhibition
    - ▶ Existing T-cells may discover the tumor
  - ▶ CTLA-4 Inhibition
    - ▶ Activate and proliferate cytotoxic T-cells
    - ▶ Suppresses Treg function
    - ▶ Some T-cells may become memory T-cells to allow for long-term immune response
  - ▶ LAG-3 Inhibition
    - ▶ Reduces inhibition of the immune response
- ▶ Combining immune checkpoint therapy with chemotherapy

www.opdivo.com | Bristol Myers Squibb | Princeton, NJ

23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FDA-Approved Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

Target	Medication	Branded Product
CTLA-4	Ipilimumab	Yervoy®
CTLA-4	Tremelimumab-actl	Imjudo®
PD-1	Nivolumab	Opdivo®
PD-1	Pembrolizumab	Keytruda®
PD-1	Dostarlimab-gxly	Jempertli®
PD-1	Cemiplimab-rwlc	Libtayo®
PD-1	Retifanlimab-dlwr	Zynyz®
PD-L1	Atezolizumab	Tecentriq®
PD-L1	Avelumab	Bavencio®
PD-L1	Durvalumab	Imfinzi®
LAG-3	Relatlimab	Opdualag® (+ nivolumab)

24

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor-Related Toxicity

<b>Common</b>	<b>Rare, but serious</b>
▶ Rash	▶ Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) or Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN)
▶ Fatigue	▶ Myocarditis
▶ Endocrine adverse effects:	▶ Pancreatitis
▶ Hypothyroidism	▶ Hyperglycemia
▶ Hyperthyroidism	▶ Vision Changes
▶ Pneumonitis	
▶ Colitis	
▶ Hepatitis	
▶ Nephritis	

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (2023). Management of Immunotherapy-Related Toxicities (version 2.2023). Retrieved from [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/immunotherapy.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/immunotherapy.pdf) on August 28, 2023.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

25

### IO Toxicity Treatment

- ▶ High dose steroids are mainstay of treatment (1-2 mg/kg/day)
- ▶ Prednisone is preferred oral steroid / Methylprednisolone is preferred IV
- ▶ Levothyroxine for hypothyroidism
- ▶ Infliximab or IVIG may be considered for some Grade 3-4 toxicities

National Comprehensive Cancer Network (2023). Management of Immunotherapy-Related Toxicities (version 2.2023). Retrieved from [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/immunotherapy.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/immunotherapy.pdf) on August 28, 2023.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

26

### Audience Response Question

- ▶ Which of the following are true regarding the use of dual immunotherapy?
  - a) Complimentary mechanism of actions to promote further T-cell proliferation
  - b) Increased anti-tumor effect over single agent use
  - c) A and B
  - d) None of the above

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

27

**Audience Response Question**

- ▶ Which of the following are true regarding the use of dual immunotherapy?
  - a) Complimentary mechanism of actions to promote further T-cell proliferation
  - b) Increased anti-tumor effect over single agent use
  - c) A and B
  - d) None of the above

28

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Audience Response Question**

- ▶ Using dual immune checkpoint inhibitors or synergistic approaches of immune checkpoint inhibitors plus chemotherapy results in significantly higher toxicities without any additional clinical benefit?
  - ▶ True
  - ▶ False

29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Audience Response Question**

- ▶ Using dual immune checkpoint inhibitors or synergistic approaches of immune checkpoint inhibitors plus chemotherapy results in significantly higher toxicities without any additional clinical benefit?
  - ▶ True
  - ▶ False
- ▶ Combination immune checkpoint inhibitors may lead to higher IO toxicities with dual blockade, but data has showed improved outcomes with dual inhibition versus single agent.
- ▶ Combining immune checkpoint inhibitors with chemotherapy has similar toxicity profiles of each agent used in the regimen

30

---

---

---

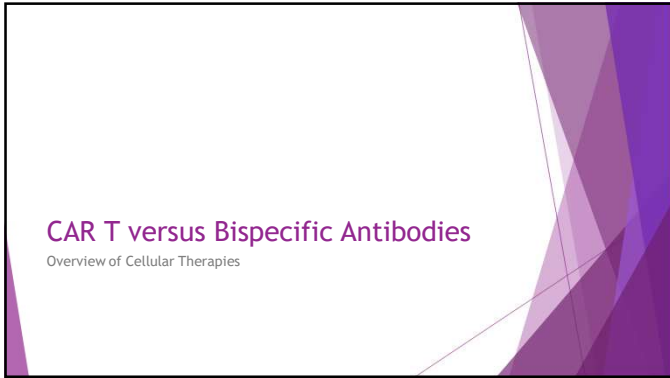
---

---

---

---

---



31

---

---

---

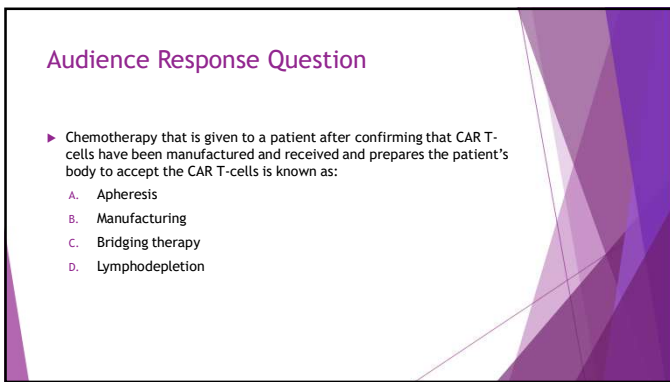
---

---

---

---

---



32

---

---

---

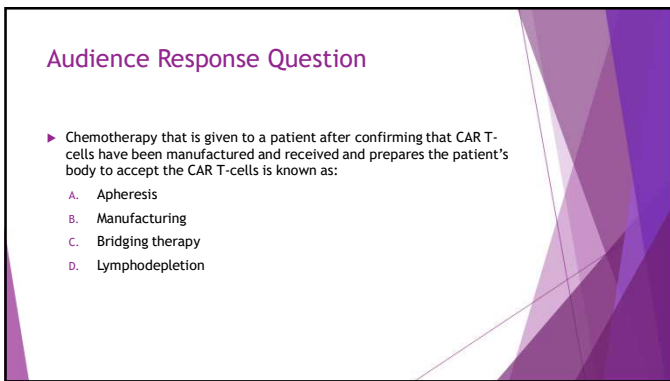
---

---

---

---

---



33

---

---

---

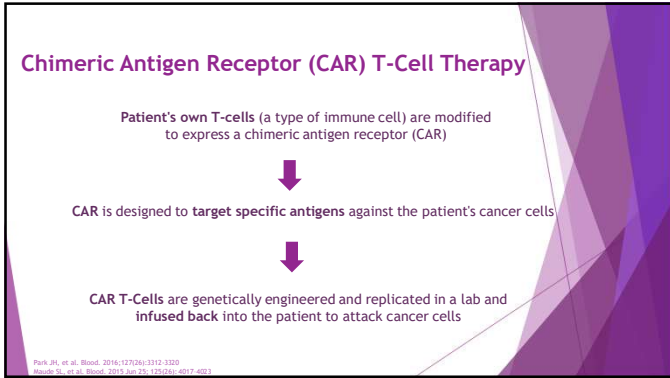
---

---

---

---

---



34

---

---

---

---

---

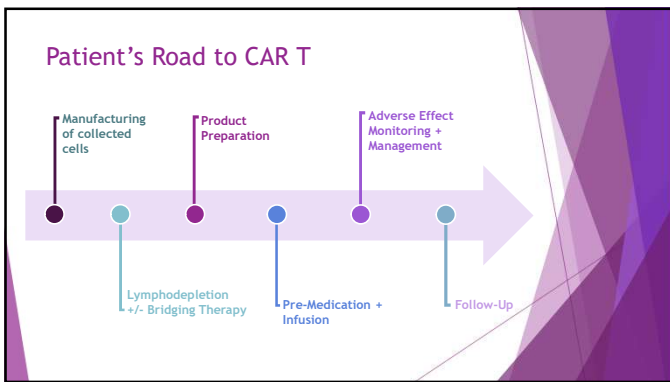
---

---

---

---

---



35

---

---

---

---

---

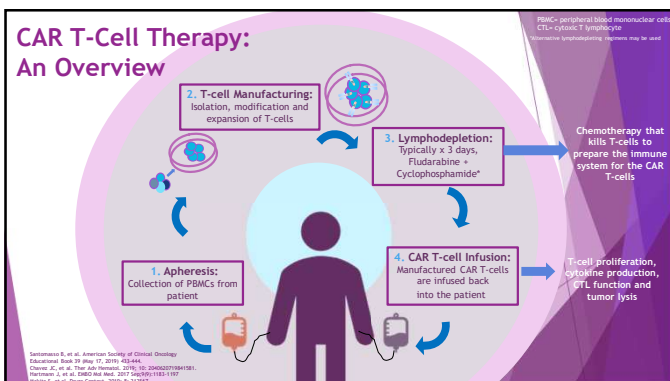
---

---

---

---

---



36

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Identifying the Ideal Target: CD19 & BCMA

**"Dream CAR" Target**

- Tumor specific
- Ubiquitously expressed on tumor cells
- Not expressed on normal cells

**Next Best Thing: CD19 and BCMA CARs**

- Expressed on a single cell lineage
- Dispensable and replaceable cell function

CD19 is a B-cell surface protein expressed throughout B-cell development

BCMA is a B-cell surface protein expressed on plasma cells

BCMA = B-cell maturation antigen  
Source: Li, et al. Blood. 2015; Apr 23; 125(16): 2492-2500.

37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### The Mechanics Behind the CAR

scFv = single-chain variable fragment  
CTL = cytotoxic T lymphocyte

- 1 Extracellular Antigen Recognition Domain: recognizes CD19 antigen on B-cell
- 2 Costimulatory Domain: increases T-cell activation & enhances cytolytic function
- 3 CD3-zeta intracellular signaling domain: induces T-cell activation

38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FDA Approved Indications

- Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)
- Large B-Cell Lymphoma (LBCL)
- Mantle Cell Lymphoma
- Follicular Lymphoma
- Multiple Myeloma

39

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### CAR T-cell Adverse Reactions

- ▶ Risk of hypersensitivity reactions during infusion
  - ▶ Pre-medications should be administered 30-60 minutes prior to infusion
    - ▶ Acetaminophen and Diphenhydramine
    - ▶ **AVOID** prophylactic use of systemic steroids - may interfere with efficacy of therapy
  - ▶ Infusion rates are product and dose specific
- ▶ Cytokine Release Syndrome
  - ▶ Typical onset within the first 7 days
  - ▶ May occur up to 14 days when T-cells are expanding
  - ▶ High-risk patients: Bulky disease and comorbidities
- ▶ Neurotoxicity (ICANS)
  - ▶ Premedicate with levetiracetam 750mg PO BID Day -1 to 30

Lee DW, et al. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2018 Apr;24(4):625-638.  
 Havelka SE, et al. *Am J Hematol Oncol*. 2018 Jun;15(1):14-22.  
 Sorensenson B, et al. *American Society of Clinical Oncology Educational Book*. 39 May 17, 2019:433-444.

40

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Cytokine Release Syndrome

• **Supraphysiologic response** following any immune therapy that results in the **activation or engagement of endogenous or infused T-cells and/or other immune effector cells**

Sorensen B, et al. *American Society of Clinical Oncology Educational Book*. 39 May 17, 2019:433-444.

41

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Multi-Organ Toxicity in CRS

**Fever +/- nausea, fatigue, anorexia, headache, myalgias, malaise**

- **Respiratory:** Tachypnea, hypoxia, pulmonary edema
- **Hepatic:** Transaminitis, hyperbilirubinemia
- **Renal:** Acute kidney injury, azotemia
- **Cardiovascular:** Hypotension, tachycardia, arrhythmias
- **Dermatologic:** Rash
- **Gastrointestinal:** Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting
- **Hematologic:** Disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) - including elevated D-dimer, low fibrinogen, bleeding

**Prevent life-threatening toxicities: DIC, acute respiratory failure, renal failure and liver failure**

Lee DW, et al. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2019;25(10):1625-1638.  
 Sorensen B, et al. *Am J Hematol Oncol*. 2018 Jun;15(1):14-22.  
 Lee DW, et al. *Blood*. 2014 Jul 23;124(12):1882-1892.

42

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Treatment of CRS

**Supportive Care**

- Antipyretics
- IV Fluids
- Vasopressors
- Oxygen Support
- Blood Products

*Prevent End-Organ Damage*

*Empiric broad-spectrum antibiotic therapy should be initiated as appropriate given overlap of CRS and sepsis symptoms*

**Anti IL-6 Therapy**

- Tocilizumab
- Siltuximab

*Rapid Reversal of CRS Symptoms via prevention of JAK/STAT signaling*

**Corticosteroids**

- Dexamethasone
- Methylprednisolone

*Suppress inflammatory responses to prevent immune activation, including T-cell suppression*

Lee DW, et al. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2019 Apr;25(4):625-638.  
Sonnekus SJ, et al. Hematol Clin Pract. 2018 Jun;12(1):47-62.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

43

### Neurotoxicity / ICANS (Immune Effector Cell Associated Neurologic Syndrome)

- ▶ Second most common adverse effect seen with CAR T-Cell Therapy
- ▶ "A disorder characterized by a pathologic process involving the central nervous system [...] resulting in activation or engagement of endogenous or infused T cells and/or other immune effector cells"
  - ▶ Passive diffusion of cytokines into the brain
  - ▶ Trafficking of T-cells into the CNS
  - ▶ Disruption of blood brain barrier
- ▶ Timing - Biphasic and Variable
  - ▶ Phase I - within 5 days: Concurrently with CRS
  - ▶ Phase II - beyond 5 days: After CRS subsides
  - ▶ Delayed - weeks after infusion: Seizures, confusion

Lee DW, et al. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2019 Apr;25(4):625-638.  
Sonnekus SJ, et al. Hematol Clin Pract. 2018 Jun;12(1):47-62.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

44

### Treatment of ICANS

**Prophylactic levetiracetam 750 mg BID (day -1 to 30)**

**Self-Limiting**

- Most cases of neurotoxicity resolve on its own within 3-4 weeks

*Tocilizumab does not appear to benefit neurotoxicity but may be used in setting of concurrent CRS*

**Additional Considerations:**

- Avoid medications that cause CNS depression
  - Lorazepam or haloperidol may be used for agitation with careful monitoring
- Minimize aspiration risk (head of bed elevation, assess swallowing, NPO as appropriate)
- Seizure prophylaxis and EEG monitoring
- MRI and LP

**Corticosteroids**

- Dexamethasone
- Methylprednisolone

*Treatment of Choice for Grade 2 or higher ICANS*

Lee DW, et al. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2019 Apr;25(4):625-638.  
Sonnekus SJ, et al. Hematol Clin Pract. 2018 Jun;12(1):47-62.  
Sonnekus SJ, et al. American Society of Clinical Oncology Educational Book 39 (May 17, 2019): 403-404.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

45

### Additional Toxicities

- ▶ Infections
  - ▶ Acyclovir 800 mg BID x 1 year post-CAR T
  - ▶ Fluconazole 400 mg daily and ciprofloxacin 500 mg BID during neutropenia
  - ▶ PJP prophylaxis
- ▶ Prolonged cytopenias
  - ▶ Beyond 28-days in up to 1/3 of patients
- ▶ Tumor lysis syndrome
  - ▶ Allopurinol 300 mg daily starting the day prior to lymphodepletion therapy in high-risk patients

Lee DW, et al. *Biol Blood Marrow Transplant*. 2019 Apr;25(4):627-638.  
Therneau SE, et al. *Am J Clin Oncol*. 2019 Jun;32(6):474-482.  
Therneau SE, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2019 Jun;37(17):2020-2028.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

46

### CAR T-Cell Therapy REMS

- ▶ REMS program required for all products due to risk of serious adverse effects
  - ▶ Hospitals and their associated clinics must be enrolled in product-specific REMS program

Immediate access to tocilizumab

- Minimum of 2 doses per patient

Patient proximity to clinical site

- Example: within 2 hours for at least 4 weeks following treatment
- Products may have minimum daily/weekly monitoring requirements

Ensure those who prescribe, dispense, or administer CAR T-cell therapies are aware of how to identify and manage adverse effects

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

47

### Audience Response Question

- ▶ DL received her axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta) infusion for her R/R DLBCL. On day +5 post-infusion, she begins to clinically deteriorate.
- ▶ It is determined that she has Grade 2 CRS based on hypotension requiring fluids and hypoxia requiring low-flow nasal cannula of 3L/hr.
- ▶ In addition to supportive care, what therapy should be initiated immediately in the setting of Grade 2 CRS?

- Tocilizumab 8 mg/kg x 1 dose initially
- Dexamethasone 5 mg IV q 6 hours
- Tocilizumab 4 mg/kg Q 12 hours
- No additional therapy is recommended at this time in addition to supportive care

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

48



### Audience Response Question

- ▶ DL received her axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta) infusion for her R/R DLBCL. On day +5 post-infusion, she begins to clinically deteriorate.
- ▶ It is determined that she has Grade 2 CRS based on hypotension requiring fluids and hypoxia requiring low-flow nasal cannula of 3L/hr.
- ▶ In addition to supportive care, what therapy should be initiated immediately in the setting of Grade 2 CRS?

- A. Tocilizumab 8 mg/kg x 1 dose initially
- B. Dexamethasone 5 mg IV q 6 hours
- C. Tocilizumab 4 mg/kg Q 12 hours
- D. No additional therapy is recommended at this time in addition to supportive care

49

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Pre-Assessment Question

- ▶ Which of the following is true of bispecific immune therapy?
- a) Collection of patients' immune cells for genetic engineering, then later reinfused into the patient
- b) Matched donor cells are infused into the patient
- c) Cytokine release syndrome must be vigilantly monitored
- d) All the above

50

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Pre-Assessment Question

- ▶ Which of the following is true of bispecific immune therapy?
- a) Collection of patients' immune cells for genetic engineering, then later reinfused into the patient
- b) Matched donor cells are infused into the patient
- c) Cytokine release syndrome must be vigilantly monitored
- d) All the above

51

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Bispecific Therapy

- Single monoclonal antibody with two immunoglobulin chains of differing specificity
- Brings two different antigens together to carry out its function
- Binds a T-cell and cancer cell, ultimately engaging T-cells to kill tumor cells
- Available as an off-the-shelf treatment option

Sekaran, R, Ding, J, Gregory, GP. Bispecific Antibodies: A Review of Development, Clinical Efficacy and Toxicity in B-Cell Lymphomas. J Pharm Med. 2017; Apr 30;1(1):129.

52

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Teclistamab for Multiple Myeloma

- Teclistamab-cqyv is a bi-specific antibody that targets both CD3 expressed on the surface of T cells and BCMA expressed on the surface of myeloma cells, thus mediating T-cell activation and subsequent lysis of BCMA-expressing myeloma cells

- Teclistamab-cqyv has a similar function to BCMA-targeted CAR T-cell therapies for advanced multiple myeloma (ABECMA® and CARVYKTI™)

National Cancer Institute. "Teclistamab Shows Promise for People with Heavily Pretreated Multiple Myeloma." <https://www.cancer.gov/news-events/cancer-currents-blog/2022/teccqvyl-multiple-myeloma>

53

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### FDA Approved Therapies

Therapy	Indication	Target	Branded Name	Approval
Blinatumomab	B-cell ALL	CD19/CD3	BLINCYTO	2014
Amivantamab-vmjw	mNSCLC with EGFR exon 20 insertion mutation	EGFR/MET	RYBREVANT	2021
Tebentafusp-tebn	Uveal Melanoma	HLA/CD3	KIMMTRAK	2022
Teclistamab	R/R Multiple Myeloma	BCMA/CD3	TECVAYLI	2022
Mosunetuzumab-axgb	R/R Follicular Lymphoma	CD20/CD3	LUNSUMIO	2023
Epcoritamab-bysp	R/R DLBCL	CD20/CD3	EPKINLY	2023
Glofitamab-gxbm	R/R DLBCL or LBCL	CD20/CD3	COLUMVI	2023
Talquetamab-tgvs	R/R Multiple Myeloma	GPRC5D/CD3	TALVEY	2023
Elranatamab-bcmm	R/R Multiple Myeloma	BCMA/CD3	ELREXFIO	2023

Bispecific Antibodies: An Area of Research and Clinical Applications. FDA website: August 7, 2023.

54

---

---

---

---

---

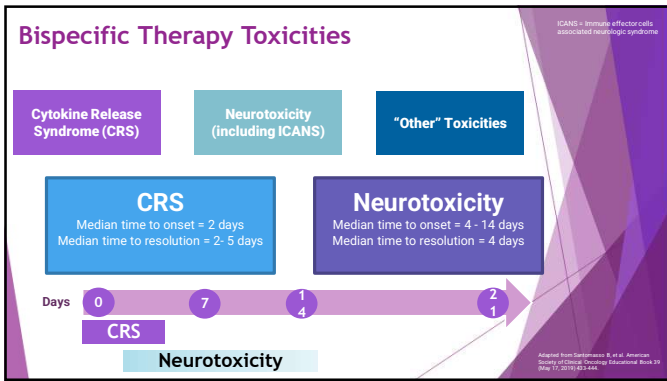
---

---

---

---

---



55

---

---

---

---

---

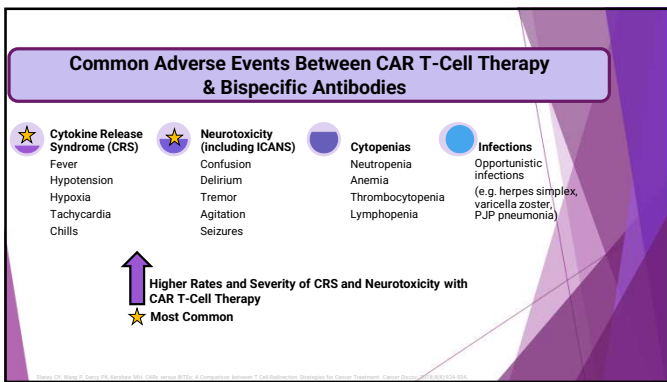
---

---

---

---

---



56

---

---

---

---

---

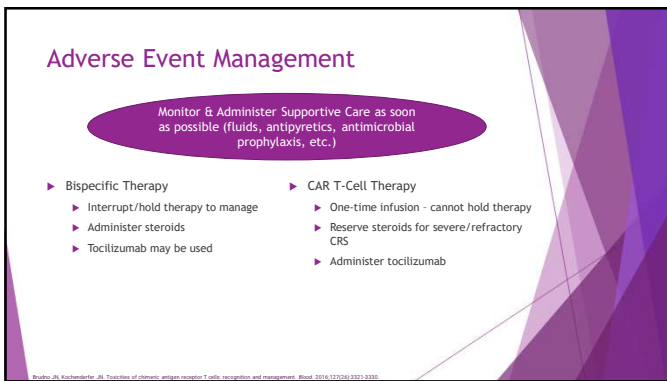
---

---

---

---

---



57

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Audience Response Question**

▶ Which one of the following bispecific antibody agents is indicated for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma and administered subcutaneously?

- A. Teclistamab
- B. Blinatumomab
- C. Mosunetuzumab
- D. Glofitamab

58

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Audience Response Question**

▶ Which one of the following bispecific antibody agents is indicated for relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma and administered subcutaneously?

- A. Teclistamab
- B. Blinatumomab
- C. Mosunetuzumab
- D. Glofitamab

59

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Look into the Future:  
Cancer Vaccines**

\*NOT currently FDA approved

60

---

---

---

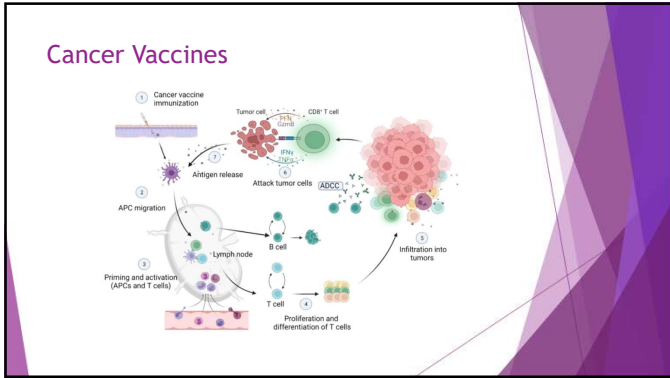
---

---

---

---

---



61

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### mRNA-4157 (V940) + Pembrolizumab

- ▶ Resected Stage IIIB, IIIC, IIID, or IV cutaneous melanoma
- ▶ mRNA-4157 is a personalized cancer vaccine
- ▶ The individualized neoantigen therapy is designed to target an individual patient's unique tumor mutations and encodes up to 34 neoantigens

Rhattak, A. et al. Abstract CT001: A personalized cancer vaccine, mRNA-4157, combined with pembrolizumab versus pembrolizumab in patients with resected stage IIIB melanoma. Cancer Res. April 2023.  
Rhattak, A. et al. Distal metastasis free survival results from the randomized, phase 2 mRNA-4157 P201 KEYNOTE-942 trial. SCO 41(17); June 7, 2023.

62

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### mRNA-4157 (V940) + Pembrolizumab

- ▶ These neoantigens then increase endogenous neoantigen T-cell responses & induce epitope spreading → drives antitumor responses and maintain memory with cytolytic properties, potentially producing long-term disease control

Rhattak, A. et al. Abstract CT001: A personalized cancer vaccine, mRNA-4157, combined with pembrolizumab versus pembrolizumab in patients with resected stage IIIB melanoma. Cancer Res. April 2023.  
Rhattak, A. et al. Distal metastasis free survival results from the randomized, phase 2 mRNA-4157 P201 KEYNOTE-942 trial. SCO 41(17); June 7, 2023.

63

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SurVaxM

- ▶ \*Currently NOT FDA approved
- ▶ Clinical trials continuing in Glioblastoma, Multiple Myeloma, Neuroendocrine Tumors

The diagram illustrates the mechanism of action of SurVaxM. It is divided into two main pathways: Antibody Mediated and T-Cell Mediated. In the Antibody Mediated pathway, SurVaxM (a dendritic cell) presents surface antigens to T cells, which then produce antibodies (IgG and IgM). These antibodies bind to tumor cells, leading to their recognition and subsequent lysis by effector cells. In the T-Cell Mediated pathway, SurVaxM presents surface antigens to T cells, which then recognize and kill tumor cells. The diagram also shows that antibodies can recognize surface antigens and that T cells can recognize surface antigens via MHC-I presentation.

<https://www.mimivax.com/survaxm/>

64

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SurVaxM in Malignant Glioma (GBM)

- ▶ Adults with newly diagnosed glioblastoma
- ▶ Resection/chemoradiation → 4 biweekly SUBQ doses of SurVaxM + sargramostim  
→ adjuvant temozolomide once daily Day 1-5 q28days x6 cycles
- ▶ Continue SurVaxM maintenance dosage once every 12 weeks
- ▶ Phase IIa study results:
  - ▶ 63 patients evaluated
  - ▶ 60/63 (95.2%) remained progression free at 6 months
  - ▶ mPFS: 11.4 months
  - ▶ mOS: 25.9 months

Ahluwalia, M, et al. Phase IIa Study of SurVaxM Plus Adjuvant Temozolomide for Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma. March 01, 2023. JCO 41:7(1453-1460). <https://www.mimivax.com/survaxm/>

65

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Questions?

66

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---