

A guide to

IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY



IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY USES THE BODY'S OWN IMMUNE SYSTEM TO HELP FIGHT CANCER

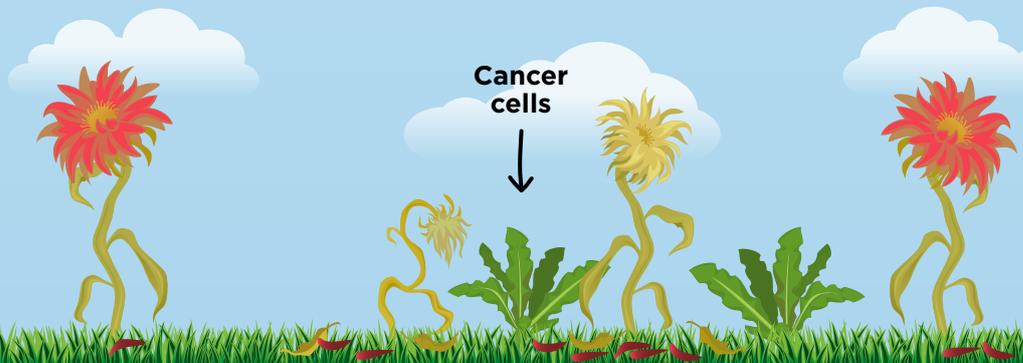
THE HEALTHY HUMAN BODY

Imagine your body as a garden, where the soil is your immune system. When you're healthy, the soil is rich and well tended, and the garden is green. Normally, the soil is able to prevent weeds from growing out of control.



AS CANCER PROGRESSES

When the weeds (cancer cells) multiply and start to spread, it causes the flowers (healthy cells) to deteriorate.



FIGHTING CANCER

Immuno-oncology treatments act like a fertiliser to make the soil (the body's immune system) strong enough to destroy the weeds (and fight the cancer).



TREATMENT EFFECTS

Everyone's cancer responds differently to immuno-oncology treatment. Some people may experience serious side-effects.



A GUIDE TO IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY

WHAT IS IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY?

Immunotherapy is any medicine that uses the body's immune system to prevent and treat disease. Immuno-oncology (I-O) is a specific type of immunotherapy that treats cancer. I-O treatments use the body's natural defences - the immune system - to fight cancer! I-O treatments enable the immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells, which often find ways to disguise themselves as normal cells or change over time (mutate) to avoid detection by the immune system.¹



HOW CAN THE BODY'S IMMUNE SYSTEM FIGHT CANCER?

The immune system is the body's natural defence system against infections and tumours. When the immune system recognises bacteria, viruses, other pathogens, or a cancer cell, it attacks using T cells. I-O treatments activate our immune system, enabling it to recognise and destroy cancer cells.

HOW ARE I-O TREATMENTS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER TYPES OF CANCER TREATMENTS?

Unlike traditional cancer treatments that target the tumour, I-O treatments target the body's immune system. I-O treatments activate our immune system, enabling it to recognise and destroy cancer cells.¹ I-O treatments have different side-effects (see below).

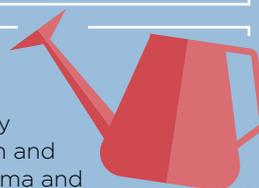


HOW DO I-O TREATMENTS HELP TO FIGHT THE CANCER?

I-O treatments give long-lasting memory to the immune system so that it can continually adapt to the cancer over time and provide a durable, long-term response to the cancer.¹ I-O treatment is administered as an infusion (a drip) into a vein in the arm.

WHAT TYPES OF CANCERS CAN BE TREATED WITH I-O TREATMENTS?

I-O treatments can potentially work across many different tumour types, including some common and hard-to-treat cancers such as advanced melanoma and lung cancer.² In addition, I-O compounds are currently being investigated in clinical trials across a number of different tumour types including kidney and bladder cancers, blood cancers, head and neck cancer and brain cancer.²



HOW CAN I ACCESS I-O TREATMENTS IN AUSTRALIA?

I-O treatments are currently approved in Australia for advanced melanoma and lung cancer. I-O treatments are available on the PBS for melanoma and lung cancer. I-O treatments are available on the PBS for melanoma. For other cancers, it may be possible to access I-O treatment on a clinical trial or on a private prescription. To find out more, please speak with your oncologist.



WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ON I-O?

You can find out more about I-O from the websites below and from the cancer patient groups listed below. If you have any questions specifically relating to your own, or your family members', cancer treatment, please speak directly with your treating oncologist.

International Kidney Cancer Coalition: www.ioforio.info

European Cancer Patient Coalition resource: www.ecpc.org

WHAT ARE THE SIDE-EFFECTS OF I-O TREATMENTS?

Typical side-effects of I-O treatments can include flu-like symptoms, fatigue and severe diarrhoea. I-O treatments work on the immune system and may cause inflammation. Inflammation may cause serious damage to a patient's body and some inflammatory conditions may be life threatening. It's important to tell your doctor about all side-effects you experience during or after treatment. A lack of side-effects does not mean the treatment is not working.



HOW CAN I FIND OUT IF AN I-O TREATMENT WILL WORK FOR MY CANCER?

The science of I-O is evolving and many clinical trials are underway to understand which cancers are candidates for I-O treatment. I-O treatments do not work for all patients and research is ongoing to understand why certain patients respond better than others. Please speak with your oncologist to find out more.

WORKING WITH PATIENT ADVOCACY OR PATIENT SUPPORT GROUPS

If you would like to connect with other cancer patients or families who may be in a similar situation as yours, a cancer patient group may be able to help. These groups provide access to support groups, important information about specific types of cancer and advocate on patients' behalf to government decision makers about services and access to new medicines. Some of these cancer patient groups are listed below.

Asbestosis & Mesothelioma Association:

www.asbestosassociation.com.au

Brain Tumour Alliance Australia: www.btaa.org.au

CanSpeak: www.canspeak.org.au

Kidney Health Australia: www.kidney.org.au

Leukaemia Foundation: www.leukaemia.org.au

Lung Foundation Australia:
www.lungfoundation.com.au

Lymphoma Australia:
www.lymphoma.org.au

Melanoma Patients Australia:
www.melanomapatients.org.au

Myeloma Australia: www.myeloma.org.au

Rare Cancers Australia: www.rarecancers.org.au

GARDEN