

CAR T Cell Therapy for Lymphoma

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Presentation is 53 minutes long followed by 14 minutes of Q&A.

Summary:

CAR T-cell therapy is a new treatment for patients with certain types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Learn what's involved in undergoing CAR T-cell therapy, who's a good candidate, and what the potential outcomes are.

Highlights:

- CAR T-cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy that uses the patient's own immune cells, the T-cells, to attack cancer cells.
- CAR T-cell therapy is currently approved for patients diagnosed with Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma, Mantle Cell Lymphoma, and Follicular Lymphoma
- Clinical trials are underway to explore whether CAR T-cell therapy is effective for patients with other diseases such as Hodgkin lymphoma.

Key Points:

(0:18:45) Patients not eligible for an autologous stem cell transplant may qualify for CAR T cell therapy.

(0:19:27) Factors such as biological age, physical fitness, comorbidities, toxicity risk, and illness characteristics are all important in determining whether a patient is a good candidate for CAR T-cell therapy.

(0:21:27) The patient must have a caregiver available 24/7 to monitor the patient and report any problems to the CAR-T team.

(0:22:24) CAR T cell therapy is a several-week process that involves collecting T-cells from the patient's blood, shipping them to a laboratory where they will be converted to CAR T-cells, and then reinfusing them into the patient.

(0:23:37) Patients may receive some chemotherapy while waiting for the CAR T-cells to be returned to the hospital. This is called bridging therapy.

(0:29:30) Outcomes after CAR T-cell therapy may be better than those achieved with a stem cell or bone marrow transplant.

(0:33:56) The two major side effects of CAR T-cell therapy are cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and neurotoxicity (ICANS).

(0:34:42) Cytokine release syndrome varies in intensity and, in some cases, can be life-threatening.

(0:38:01) Neurotoxicity (ICANS) causes a temporary change in mental status. Symptoms include confusion, slowness in answering questions, inability to count backward, and, in rare cases, seizures.

(0:40:35) Neurotoxicity is reversible in most cases.