Foundations of Cancer Therapeutics Crash Course -CTTP, Aug 19, 2021

Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell (CAR-T) based immunotherapy

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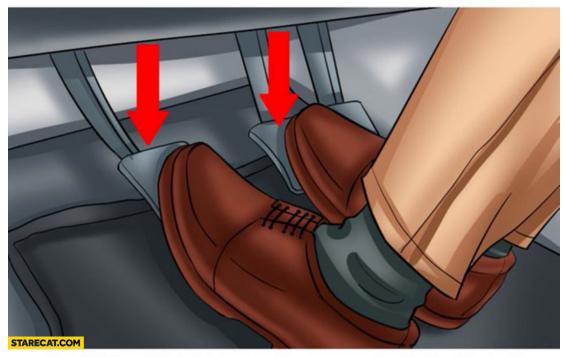
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Twitter: @ibtzhoulab

DID YOU KNOW?

Gas pedal:

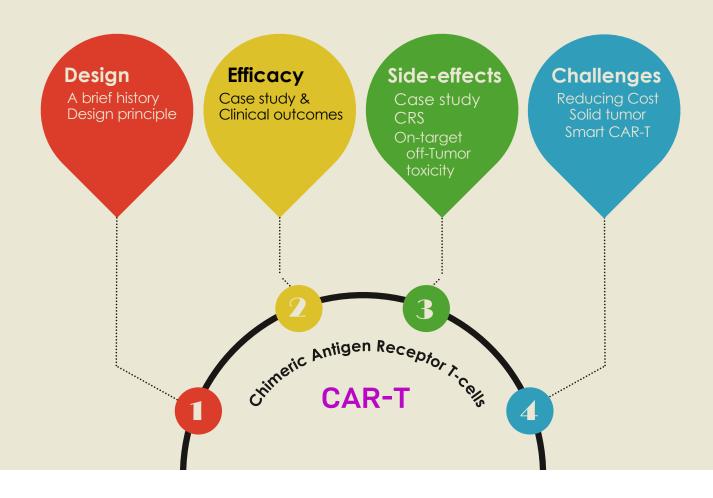
Activating CAR T-cells to boost anti-tumor immunity



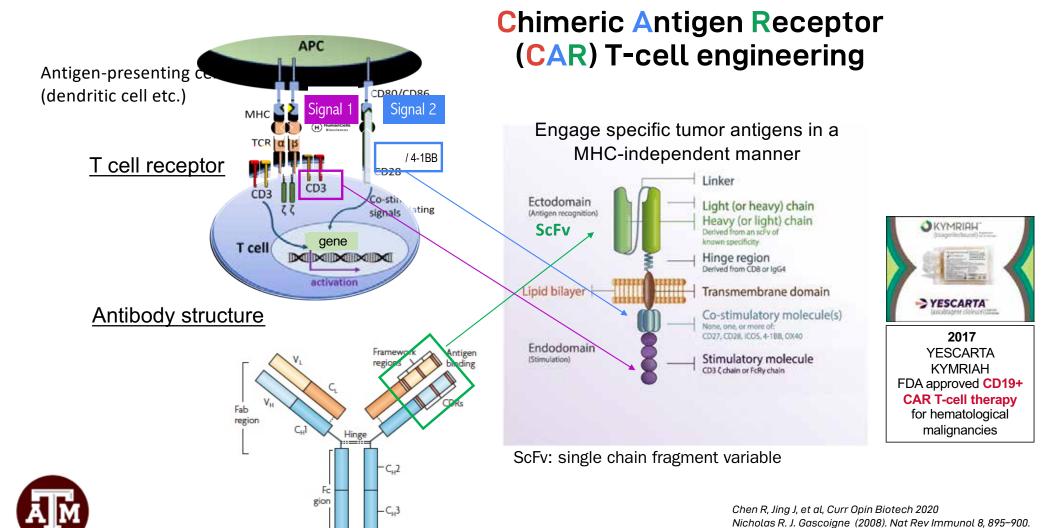
Release the **brake** by immunocheckpoint blockers (ICBs) to restore anti-tumor immunity

IF YOU PRESS ON THE GAS AND THE BRAKE PEDALS AT THE SAME TIME, YOUR CAR WILL TAKE A SCREENSHOT

Overview

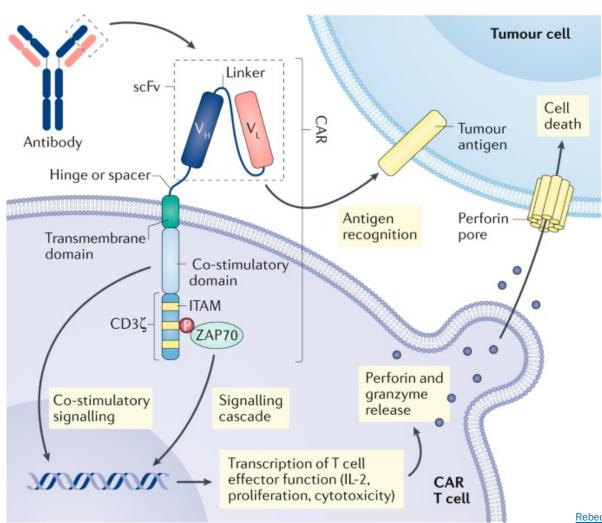






Hansel TT, et al. (2010) Nat Rev Drug Discov 9(4):325-338

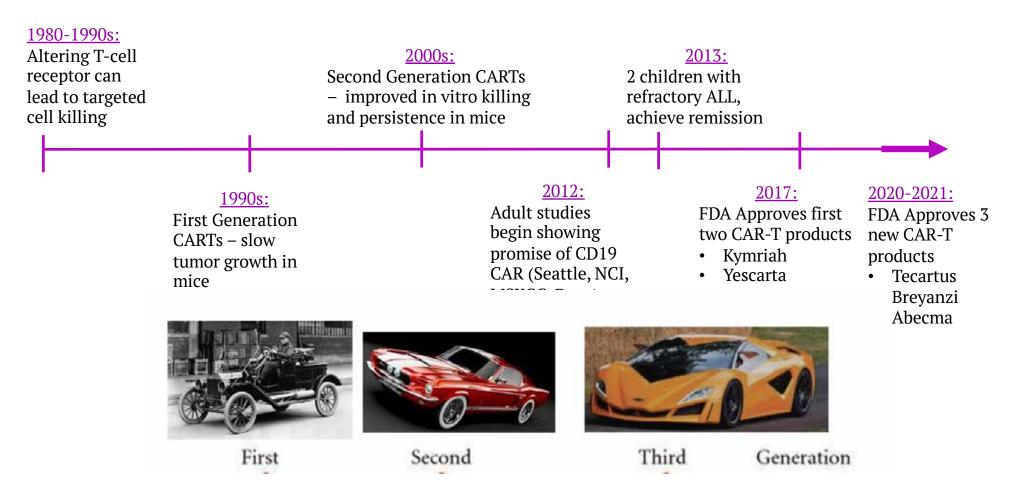
How CAR T-cell works



- Engineered to express a chimeric antigen receptor
- Reprograms T cells to target tumor cells
- T cell effector function: Release of perforin and granzyme to kill tumor cells

Rebecca C. Larson & Marcela V. Maus. Nature Reviews Cancer 21, pages145–161 (2021)

30+ years' bench-to-bedside research on CAR-T

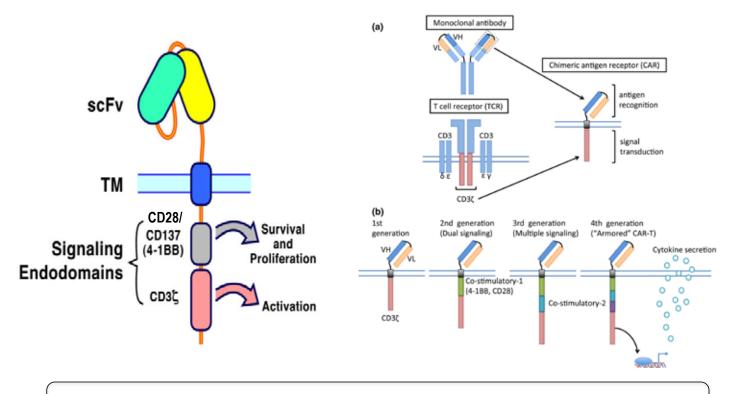








T cell



Advantages of CAR-T

"Live drug"

MHC-independent tumor recognition

Multiple antitumor immunomodulators can be engineered Target a variety of antigens (protein, carbohydrate, glycolipid)

CAR T-cell therapy: where we are?

FDA-approved CAR T-cell Therapies

Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy is a type of immunotherapy that uses a patient's own genetically modified T cells to find and kill cancer. UPMC Hillman Cancer Center currently offers two types of FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapy.

KYMRIAHTM Anti-CD19 [approved in 2017; Norvatis, Inc]

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is part of the network of certified treatment centers providing KYMRIAHTM (tisagenlecleucel), an FDA-approved CART-cell therapy for:

- · Adults with relapsed or refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)
- Young adult patients up to age 25 with relapsed or refractory acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)

YESCARTA[™] Anti-CD19 [approved in 2017; Kite Pharma, Inc]

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is the first center in western Pennsylvania providing YESCARTATM (axicabtagene ciloleucel), the first FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapy for adult patients with certain types of B-cell lymphoma.

The FDA has approved this treatment for patients with the following conditions that have either not responded to or have relapsed following two or more lines of systemic therapy:

- · Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL)
- Primary mediastinal B-cell lymphoma
- High grade B-cell lymphoma
- · DLBCL that results from follicular lymphoma
- Follicular lymphoma

Patients will undergo an extensive evaluation to determine their eligibility for this highly specialized treatment. To learn more, please call 1-833-UPMC-CART.

ABECMA® (idecabtagene Anti-BCMA [approved in 2021; BMS, Inc]

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center was one of the first in the United States certified to provide ABECMA® (idecabtagene vicleucel) for adult patients with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma after four or more prior lines of therapy, including an immunomodulatory agent, a proteasome inhibitor, and an antidCD38 monoclonal antibody.

BREYANZI® Anti-CD19 [approved in 2021; Bristol Myers Squibb, Inc]

Hillman was the first of 10 centers in the United States to offer BREYANZI® (lisocabtagene maraleucel), an FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapy for adult patients with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma after two or more lines of systemic therapy, including:

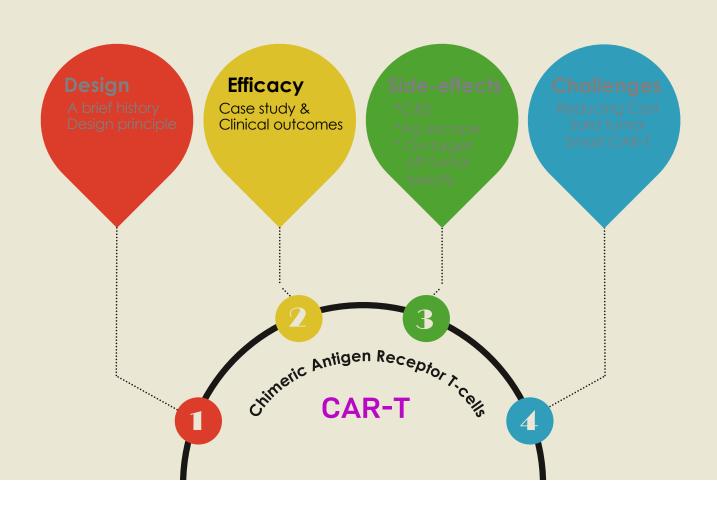
- Diffuse large B cell lymphoma (DLBCL) not otherwise specified (including DLBCL arising from indolent lymphoma)
- High-grade B-cell lymphoma
- Primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma
- Follicular lymphoma grade 3B

TECARTUS™ Anti-CD19 [approved in 2020; Kite Pharma, Inc]

UPMC Hillman Cancer Center is the first in western Pennsylvania to provide TECARTUSTM (brexucabtagene autoleucel), an FDA-approved CAR T-cell therapy for patients with relapsed or refractory mantle cell lymphoma.

*BCMA: B-cell maturation antigen

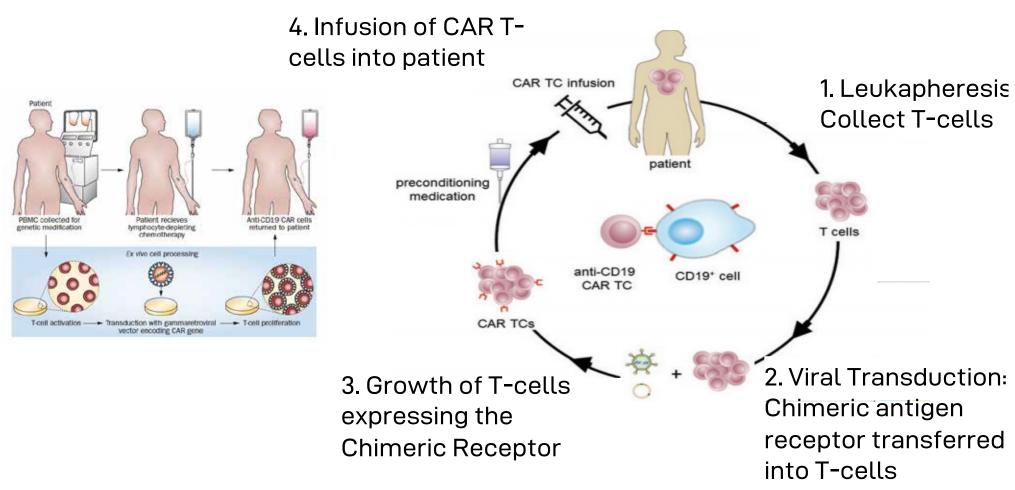
Overview



FDA Approval of the first 2 CART agents

- Tisagenlecleucel
 - Aka **Kymriah**
 - Novartis Inc.
 - \$475,000
 - Approved for pediatric patients with of refractory or 2nd or later relapse of B-cell ALL
- Axicabtagene
 - Aka Yescarta
 - Kite Pharma Inc.
 - \$373,000
 - Approved for adults with relapsed or refractory large B-cell lymphoma

Creating autologous CAR T-cells to target CD19+ leukemia



Shubert et al, Human Gene Therapy. 2016; Frey, NV and Porter, DL. Am J Hematol. 2016

Kochenderfer, J. N. & Rosenberg, S. A. (2013) Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol.

Curative potential in certain blood cancer patients



cure

Friday Frontline: First Patient to Receive CAR-T Cell Therapy Dies, Cancer Organizations Appeal to President for COVID-19 Vaccine Priority Access, and More

February 19, 2021 Jessica Skarzynski



From the death of Bill Ludwig, the first patient to receive CAR-T cell therapy to treat his end-stage CLL, to a letter to the President urging him to grant patients with cancer and survivors priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine, here's what's happening in the cancer space this week.

Bill Ludwig, the first patient to receive CAR-T cell therapy for treatment of end-stage chronic lymphocytic leukemia, died of COVID-19 pneumonia.

After being diagnosed in 2000, Ludwig managed to control his disease for years with intermittent chemotherapy. But it became increasingly more debilitating until he discovered the clinical trial examining the use of a patient's own genetically engineered T cells to fight cancer. While treatment was by no means easy, Ludwig eventually became the first person to receive the therapy and went on to have his cancer "wiped out" by it.

https://www.pennmedicine.org/cancer/about/patient-stories/leukemia-bill

https://www.chop.edu/news/five-years-later-first-pediatric-recipient-car-t-cell-therapy-remains-ca





First clinical trial in July of 2010

Celebrating 9 Years Cancer Free

May 10, 2021



Share

Today, Emily is 9 years cancer free!

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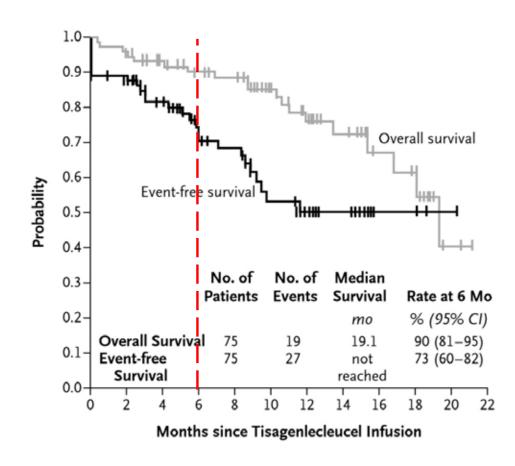
Emily recently celebrated her 16th birthday and is currently finishing up her sophomore year of high school. Nine years post CAR T-cell therapy, cancer is thankfully a distant memory for her.

His Ballanaki

CAR-T therapy efficacy: Validated in an international trial

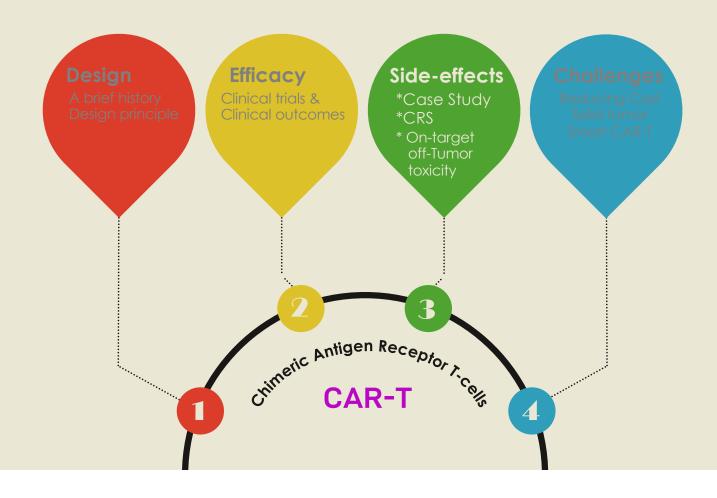
- International trial
- N=75 received CAR-T cell therapy
- 81% of patients achieved remission
- 59% relapse free survival at 12month
- 22 patients relapsed, 68% were CD19 negative at time of relapse

[issue: Tumor antigen escape]



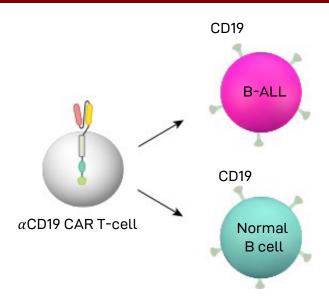
Maude et al. NEJM. 2018

Overview





Challenge: prominent side effects associated with CAR T-cell therapy



Side effects (ZUMA-5; occurred in 86% patients):

- ❖ Grade >=3 cytokine release syndrome (CRS; 7%)
- ❖ Grade >=3 neurological events (NE; 19%)

Potential On-target/Off-tumor toxicity:

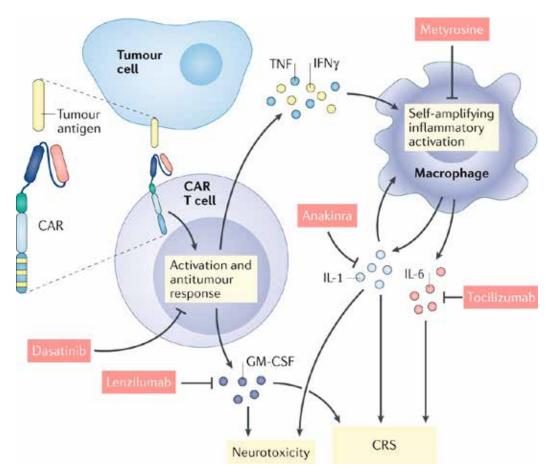
- ❖ B cell aplasia (depletion of healthy CD19⁺ B cells)
- ❖ Neutrapenia (27%) and anemia (23%)

Tisagenlecleucel (KYMRIAH) in patients with B-Cell Lymphoblastic Leukemia:

- ❖ 61/75 patients with complete remission
- ❖ All patients with a response to treatment had B-cell aplasia

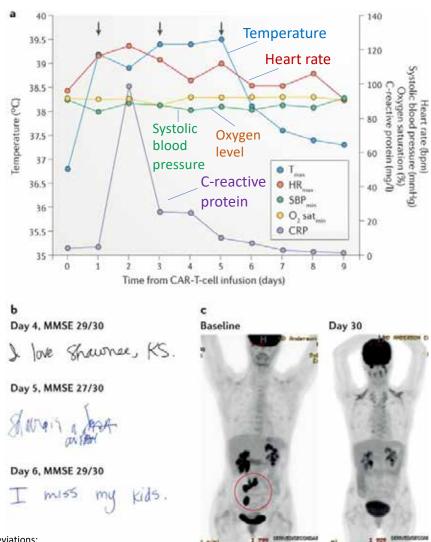
^{*}Zuma-5: A Phase 2 Study of Axicabtagene Ciloleucel (Axi-Cel) in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory (R/R) Indolent Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (iNHL)

Challenges facing CAR T-cell therapy



Dasatinib: an ATP-competitive protein tyrosine kinase inhibitor (targeting BCR/Abl)
Metyrosine: suppressing massively secreted catecholamines to disrupt the self-amplifying loop

- CAR-T activation → activation of innate immune cells owing to secretion of inflammatory cytokines such as granulocyte—macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF), tumour necrosis factor (TNF) and interferon-y (IFNy).
- A self-amplifying inflammatory activation loop in macrophages causing release of IL-1 and IL-6.
- Therapeutic intervention at various stages of this response can mitigate neurotoxicity and cytokine release syndrome (CRS).
- Therapeutics targeting GM-CSF (lenzilumab), the IL-6 receptor (tocilizumab) and the IL-1 receptor (anakinra) have been used for this purpose clinically. The tyrosine kinase inhibitor dasatinib affects T cell signalling to reduce CRS, and metyrosine inhibits macrophage inflammatory activation to achieve a similar effect.



maximum temperature (T_{max}), maximum heart rate (HR_{max}), minimum systolic blood pressure (SBP_{min}), minimum oxygen saturation (O_2 sat_{min}), serum C-reactive protein (CRP) level

Nature Reviews | Clinical Oncology

Case Study. CAR T-cell-related CRS + neurotoxicity

34-yo female presented with refractory diffuse large-B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) that had progressed following extensive chemotherapy

Signs/symptoms

<u>Day 1.</u> Fever 39.5 °C and Hypotension (systolic blood pressure 84 mmHg) – Grade 1 CRS–

<u>Day 3.</u> Hypoxia – Grade 2 CRS (cytokine storm)

<u>Day 5.</u> dysgraphia, disorientation – Grade 2 confusion - neurotoxicity

Day 9. mild symptoms

Treatment

acetaminophen/ibuprofen/cooling blanket+ IV tocilizumab (8 mg/kg)

IV bolus and nasal oxygen 3 I/min + IV tocilizumab (8 mg/kg)

IV tocilizumab (8 mg/kg) Symptom resolved after 12 h Corticosteroids were not administered due to concurrent CRS and fever

<u>Day 30.</u> complete remission >12 month CR

Tocilizumab: anti human IL-6R monoclonal antibody

Neelapu, S. S. *et al.* (2017) Chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy — assessment and management of toxicities

Nat. Rev. Clin. Oncol. doi:10.1038/nrclinonc.2017.148

Toxicity Management Algorithm

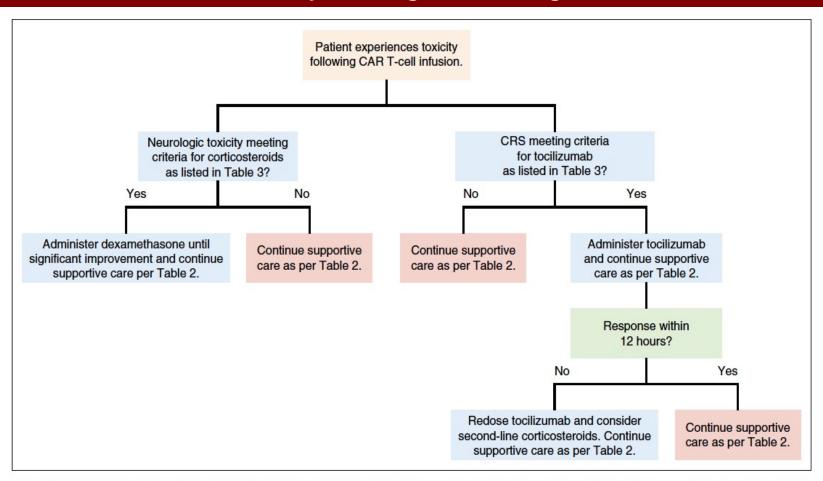


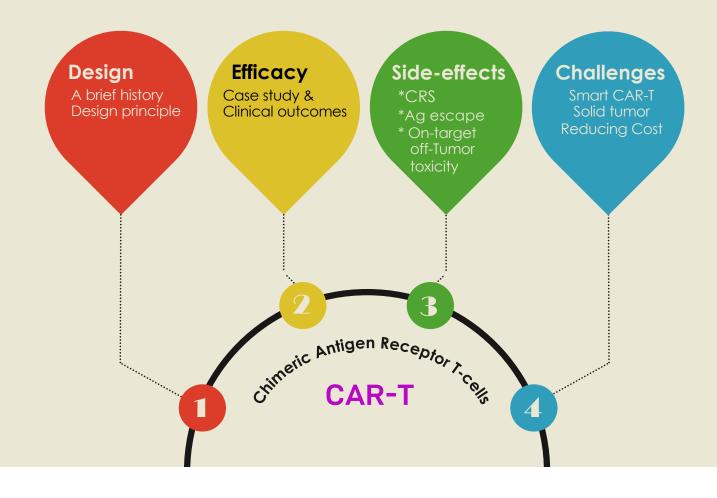
Figure 3. General treatment algorithm for CRS and neurologic toxicities. A general algorithm used for treatment of CAR T-cell toxicity occurring in patients at the NCI Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch is shown. Professional illustration by Patrick Lane, ScEYEnce Studios.

Toxicity Management: supportive care for CRS

Toxicity	Preventive/supportive measure			
Fevers	 Acetaminophen Cooling blankets Avoid NSAIDs, steroids and meperidine 			
Cardiovascular	 At least q 4 hour vitals, q 2 if HR > 115 IV fluid boluses for hypotension if SBP < 80% baseline and < 100 mm Hg; or if SBP < 85 mm Hg IVF to replace insensible losses; keep net positive ECG, troponin, and Echo if patients require > 1 fluid bolus for hypotension or are in the ICU 			
Infectious diseases	 Bactrim and acyclovir prophylaxis Pan-culture for any fever Pan-culture and broad spectrum antibiotics for neutropenic fever 			
Heme	 Allopurinol for tumor lysis syndrome prophylaxis Goals: Hb > 8, platelets > 20, ANC > 500 (with filgrastim) Goals: PTT normal; give FFP if > 1.5 x ULN; give cryoprecipitate for goal fibrinogen > 100. 			
Neurologic	 Neurology consult for all patients Brain MRI and lumbar puncture whenever possible 			

Ther Clin Risk Manag. 2019; 15: 323–335.

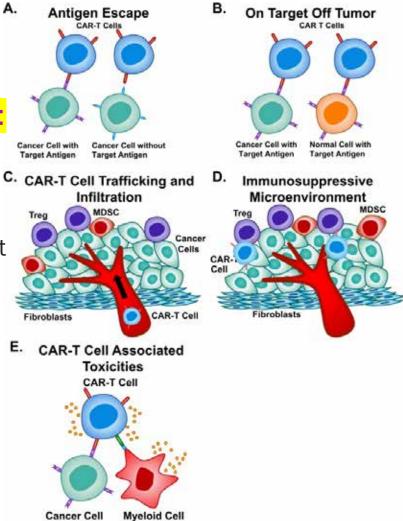
Overview



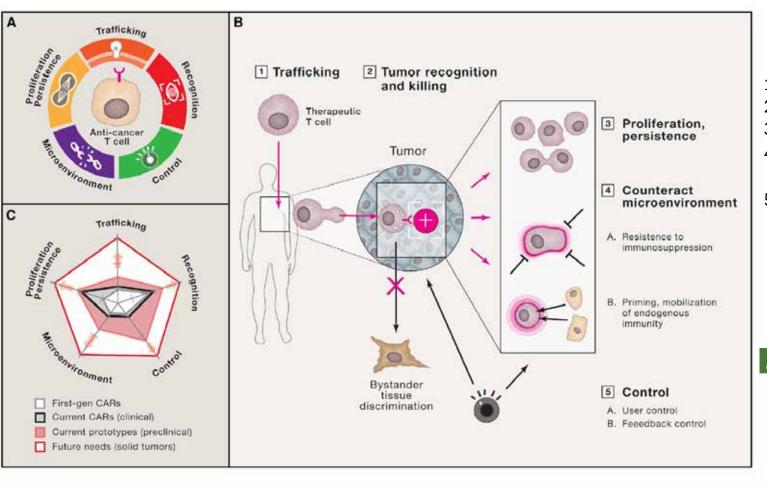


Current challenges in CAR-T cell therapy:

- Antigen escape
- Trafficking and infiltration of tumors
- The immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment
- CAR-T cell-associated toxicities -
 - CRS & on-target off-tumor effects



Toward the development of optimized next-generation Smart CAR T-cell therapy



- 1. Neoantigen & recognition
- 2. Precise control
- 3. TME
- 4. Proliferation/persistence (avoid exhaustion)
- 5. Trafficking to tumor sites

Cell

Review

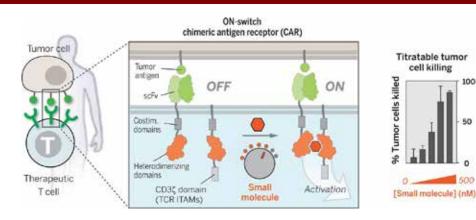
The Principles of Engineering Immune Cells to Treat Cancer

Woodel A., Unit." and Cell M. Ameri."

Throat Huges Andre Status. Department of Cellule and Muteuda Pleatmenting. (CET Cellule for Right Specified, Balling Specified, Cellules, Specified, Specified,

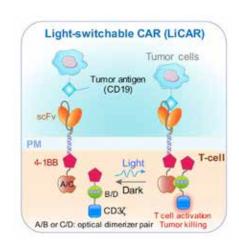
How to better CONTROL CAR-T?

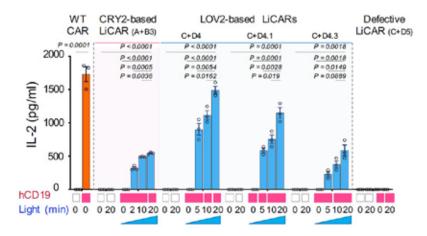
Small moleculecontrollable CAR-T



Wu CY et al., Science 350 (6258): aab4077 (2015)

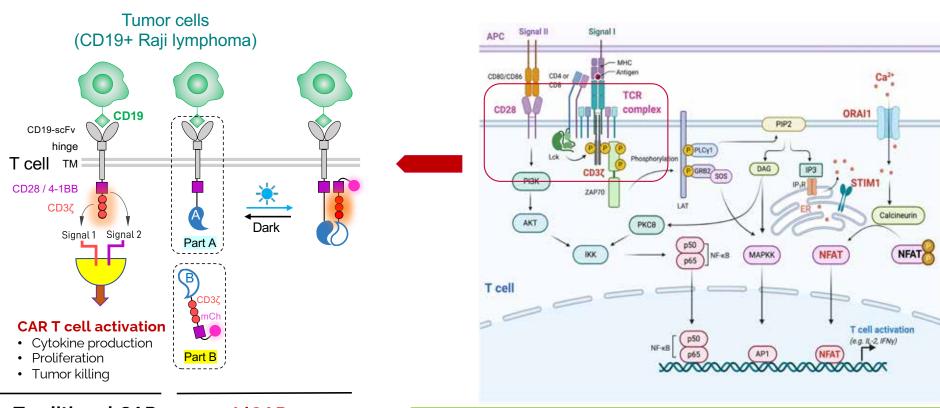
Lightswitchable CAR-T





He L et al., Nat Chem Biol; ; 17, pages 915–923 (2021) | Nguyen NT, et al., Nature Nano 2021 (accepted)

Optogenetic engineering of CAR T-cells



Traditional CAR

He L et al., Nat Chem Biol 21 (online) Nguyen, et al. Nat Nano (accepted)

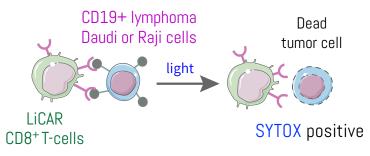
LiCAR

Light-switchable CAR T cell

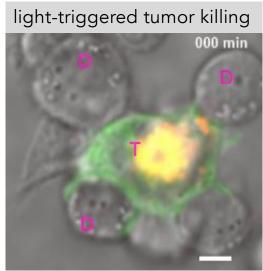
A/B: optical dimerizer

Precise control over the **time**, **location** and **duration** of CAR T-cell activation to mitigate side effects

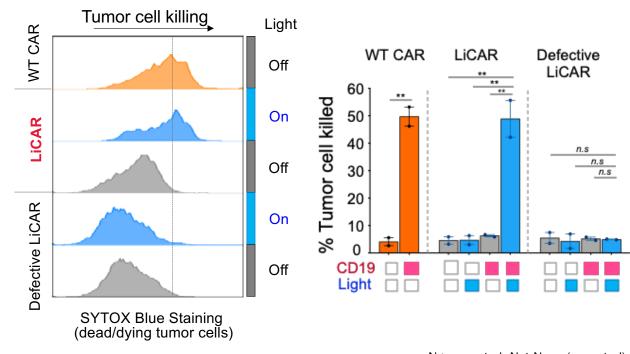
LiCAR-mediated photo-tunable tumor killing ex vivo



Antigen and Light dually gated CAR T-cells for precise tumor killing

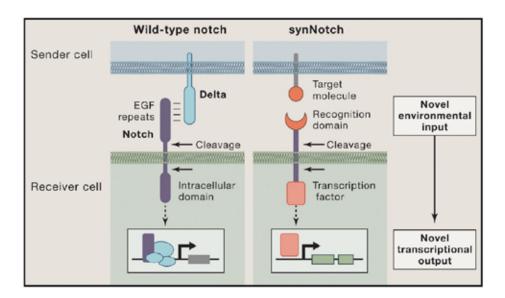


T: engineered LiCAR T-cell (green)
D: Daudi lymphoma cells with **SYTOX blue** (Cell death indicator)



Nguyen, et al. Nat Nano (accepted)

Addressing the recognition issue: the synNotch idea



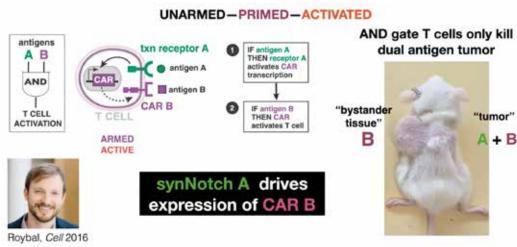


Figure 1. Design of SynNotch Receptors

Schematic structure/function relationships for endogenous Delta-Notch interactions (left) and engineered synNotch receptors (right).

Kole T. Roybal, ... Wendell A. Lim., Volume 164, Issue 4, 11 February 2016, Pages 770-779 Leonardo Morsut, ..., Wendell A. Lim. Cell, Volume 164, Issue 4, 11 February 2016, Pages 780-791

Addressing the tumor escape issue: multiple Ag targeting

nature medicine

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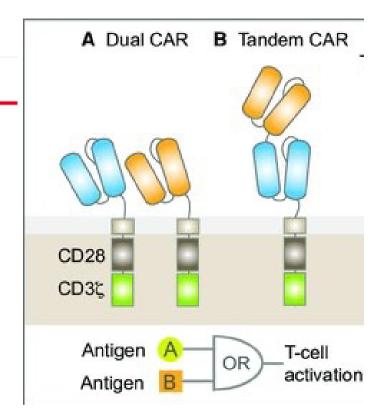
Article | Open Access | Published: 26 July 2021

CART cells with dual targeting of CD19 and CD22 in adult patients with recurrent or refractory B cell malignancies: a phase 1 trial

Jay Y. Spiegel, Shabnum Patel, [...] David B. Miklos □

Nature Medicine 27, 1419-1431 (2021) | Cite this article

9734 Accesses | 80 Altmetric | Metrics



Addressing the Trafficking issue

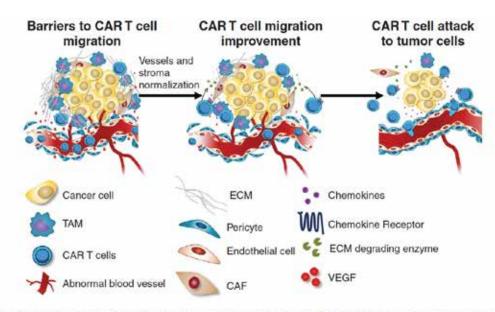
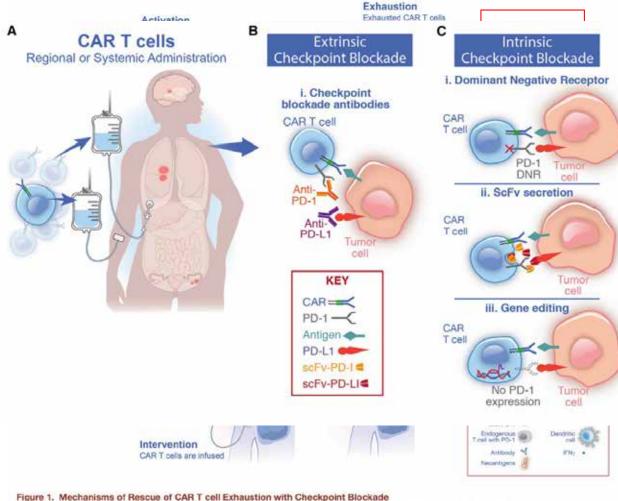


FIGURE 2 Barriers and improvements to chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell migration. CAR T cells should overcome the barriers to cell migration at tumor sites in order to perform their cytolytic effector function. Obstacles to T cell trafficking toward tumors might occur due to abnormal tumor blood vessels with pericyte detachment, dysregulation of chemokine-chemokine receptor interaction, deposition of extracellular matrix (ECM) proteins by cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAF), as well as encounter with tumor-associated macrophages (TAM). Therefore, targeting of tumor micro-environmental components represents an important approach for CAR T cell therapy improvement. The combination of chemokine-chemokine receptor signaling with co-expression of ECM degrading enzymes could be determinant for T cell function, as well as enhancing the therapeutic efficacy of CAR T cells

- One preclinical model showed that chemokine receptor type 2b (CCR2b) expression on GD2-CAR T cells improved homing to neuroblastoma tumor cells and pleural mesotheliomas.
- Blocking protein kinase A in T cells from reaching the immunological synapse improved T cells' ability to infiltrate tumors with increased expression of CXC motif chemokine receptor 3 (CXCR3) on T cells. [Clinical trial NCT03602157]

Addressing the TME/Persistence issue



Exhaustion: in response to IFN-g, tumor cells upregulate programmed death-ligand 1 (PD-L1), which interacts with programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) on the surface of exhausted CAR T cells.

Checkpoint blockade (CPB) intervention and reactivation: on administration of CPB, CAR T cell and endogenous T cell function is rescued to enable killing of tumor cells.

Ab, antibody;

DNR, dominant negative receptor; scFv, single chain variable fragment

> Cancer Cell Review



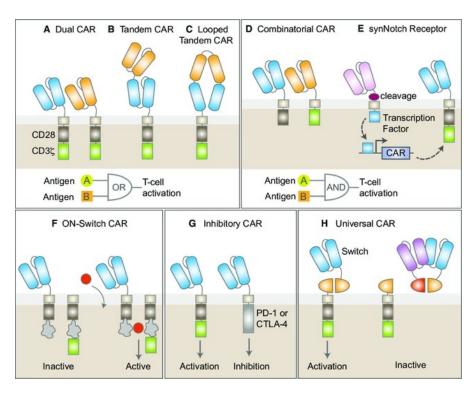
Combination Immunotherapy with CAR T Cells and Checkpoint Blockade for the Treatment of Solid Tumors

er. Leonid Cherkassky, Navin Chintala, and Prasad S. Adusumilli .

Combining CAR-T with Immunocheckpoint blockade

Trial	Launch	Phase	Center(s)	CPB Agent	CAR Target/Design	Cancer Diagnosis
NCT00586391	2009	ı	Baylor	ipilimumab	CD19/CD19CAR-28-zeta T cells	B cell lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, acute lymphocytic leukemia
NCT01822652	2013	1	Baylor	pembrolizumab	GD2/iC9-GD2-CD28- OX40 (iC9-GD2) T cells	neuroblastoma
NCT02650999	2016	I/II	University of Pennsylvania	pembrolizumab	anti-CD19 CARs	CD19 ⁺ diffuse large B cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma
NCT02706405	2016	1	Fred Hutchinson	durvalumab	autologous anti- CD19CAR-4-1BB-CD3ζ- EGFRt-expressing CD4*/ CD8* central memory T lymphocytes JCAR014	diffuse large B cell lymphoma
NCT02926833	2016	I/II	City of Hope, Stanford, Moffitt, Dana Farber, MD Anderson	atezolizumab	CD19/KTE-C19	diffuse large B cell lymphoma
NCT03310619	2017	I/II	City of Hope, Northwestern University, Massachusetts General, University of Nebraska, University of Pennsylvania, MD Anderson	durvalumab	JCAR017	lymphoma, non- Hodgkin lymphoma, diffuse large B cell lymphoma, follicular lymphoma
NCT03726515	2018	1	University of Pennsylvania	pembrolizumab	CART-EGFRvIII T cells	glioblastoma

More intelligent CAR-T therapies on the way





Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

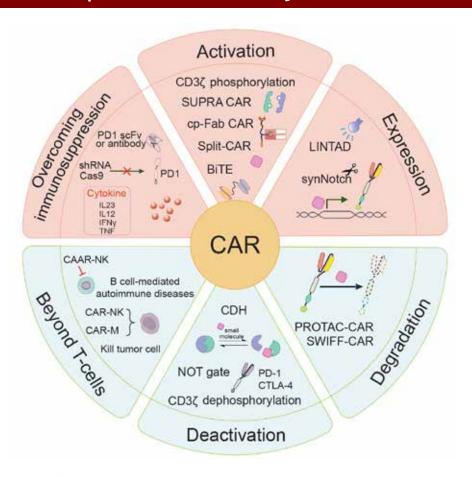
ScienceDirect

Biotechnology

Intelligent cell-based therapies for cancer and autoimmune disorders

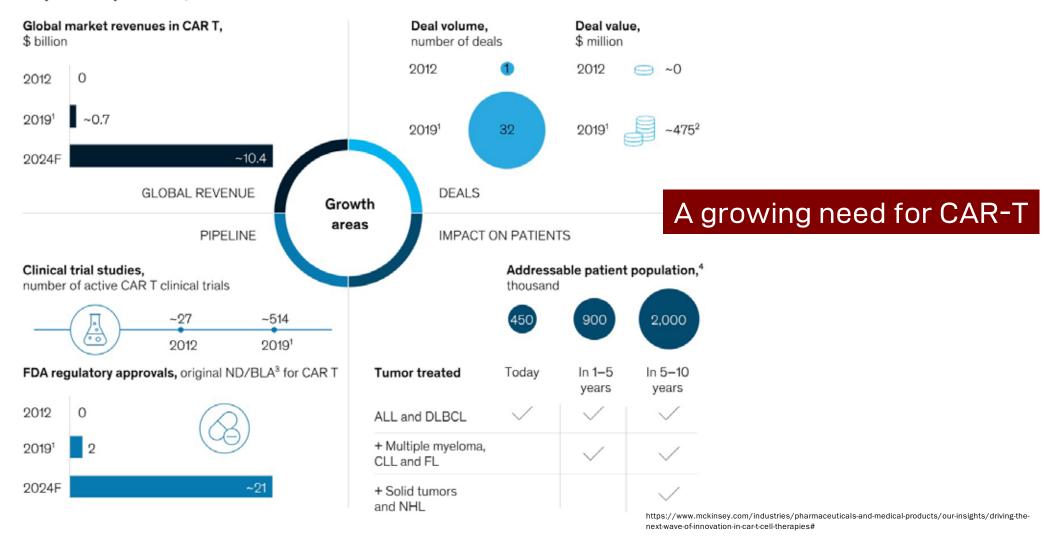
Rui Chen^{1,4}, Ji Jing^{1,4}, Stefan Siwko¹, Yun Huang^{2,3} and Yubin Zhou^{1,3}





Current Opinion in Biotechnology 2020, 66:207-216

Over the past seven years, multiple measures show that CAR-T activity, and its impact on patients, have increased.



Addressing the COST challenge

Commercialization faces major challenges on the CAR T patient journey.













1. Industrialize and automate cell production to scale-out manufacturing.

Patient journey Patient referral and entry Patient

qualifies and

is referred to

a CAR T

physician

Patient undergoes pretreatment eligibility assessment

Patient

eligibility

Leukapheresis

> Peripheral blood mononuclear cells undergo apheresis and are shipped to a manufacturing facility

Conditioning therapy

Patient undergoes conditioning chemotherapy during cell processing

CART CAR T creation and infusion expansion CAR T-CAR T

encodina

material is

transferred

CAR T cells

genetic

via viral

vector-

are then expanded

cells are administered to patient following lymphodepletion

Monitoring

Patient is closely monitored with a long-term follow-up plan

Automation is needed- The high operating cost of CAR T therapy is driven largely by labor (about 25 percent of operating expenses).

2. Shift from centralized to decentralized manufacturing.

"Bedside manufacturing" at the hospital.

Top three challenges

Complex manufacturing and supply chain

- Centralized manufacturing, low economies of scale, high cost of goods sold
- · Complex cold chain required
- Long vein-to-vein time affecting patient eligibility

High-touch commercial model

- High cost to set up, certify, and scale sites
- Complex center protocols and training requirements

Reimbursement challenges

- · Economic uncertainty set by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services policies
- Delayed preapproval reimbursement can impact the patient's CAR T eligibility

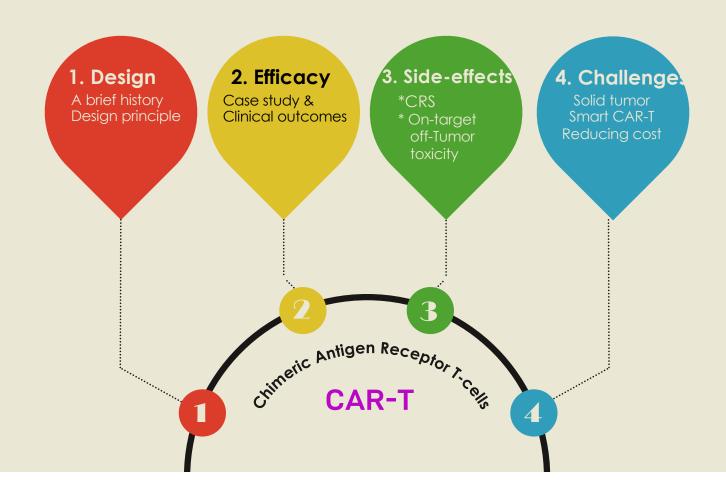
3. Develop allogeneic products.

- Reduced cost of goods sold; a simplified supply chain;
- Avoidance of issues with autologous CAR T cells
- Lack of graft-versus-host disease and clearance of allogeneic cells.

4. Advanced gene-transfer and modifying tools.

- Removing donor T-cell receptors
- Adding on-off switches that can turn off the CAR T to prevent toxicity
- Secreted factors

Learning Objectives





Further reading

1. Recent advances and discoveries in the mechanisms and functions of CAR T cells.

Nat Rev Cancer. 2021;21(3):145-161. doi: 10.1038/s41568-020-00323-z. Epub 2021 Jan 22.

2. A Milestone for CAR T Cells.

N Engl J Med. 2017 Dec 28;377(26):2593-2596. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMe1714680

3. Intelligent cell-based therapies for cancer and autoimmune disorders.

Curr Opin Biotechnol. 2020 Dec;66:207-216. DOI: 10.1016/j.copbio.2020.08.012

4. Chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy — assessment and management of toxicities.

Nature Reviews Clinical Oncology volume 15, pages47–62 (2018)

5. The Principles of Engineering Immune Cells to Treat Cancer.

Cell, 2017 Feb 9;168(4):724-740.