

Starting the CAR T cell therapy conversation



You may have heard about CAR T cell therapy and have questions about what it is, what’s involved, and whether it’s an option for you or someone you’re caring for. While this treatment may not be for everyone, a good way to learn about your options and which one is right for you or someone you’re caring for is by talking with your doctor and healthcare team.

My treatment experience

To decide if CAR T cell therapy is right for you, your healthcare team will consider the type of cancer you have, past treatments, and your overall health. Take a moment to describe your treatment experience below:

- The type of cancer I have:

- My previous cancer treatments have included:

- Other health conditions I have (if any):

Questions for my healthcare team

Learning about CAR T cell therapy

- What is CAR T cell therapy?
- How does it work?
- How is it different from the other treatments I have had before or may be looking into (such as stem cell transplant, radiation, or chemotherapy)?
- What CAR T cell therapies are being used for my type of cancer?
- Are all CAR T cell therapies the same?

Becoming familiar with the treatment process

- What are the steps involved with CAR T cell therapy?
- How long does each step take?
- At what step in the process will I need to rely on my care partner?
- What kind of support is available to help me or my care partner throughout the process?

Preparing for the CAR T cell infusion

- How long does it take for the CAR T cells to be made?
- Is any treatment given prior to the CAR T cell infusion?
- What happens if my cancer grows or gets worse while I'm waiting for the CAR T cells to be made?

Receiving the CAR T cell infusion

- How long does the infusion take?
- Where would I receive CAR T therapy? If it is at the hospital, how long do I have to stay?

Understanding what happens after CAR T cell therapy

- What kind of results can be expected?
- What are the possible side effects?
- Are the side effects the same for all CAR T cell therapies?
- How long do the side effects usually last?
- Are some side effects more serious than others?
- Can a patient die from the side effects of CAR T cell therapy?
- Are there ways to manage side effects?
- What types of follow-up treatment may be needed? For how long?

