

Frequently Asked Questions about Cellular Therapy

Cellular Therapy is a very complex process that includes many steps. We hope these FAQs will help you better understand the process and learn the medical terms we often use. Please do not hesitate to ask us more questions as they come up.

How are T-cells collected?

Peripheral Blood – it is possible to collect T-cells directly from the patient's bloodstream. This is called peripheral blood. The blood is collected through an IV connected to a special machine called an apheresis machine. The machine separates the T-cells and returns the remaining blood back to the donor.

How are T-cells stored?

Depending on which cell product is being used, there are two storage methods:

- The cells are frozen in liquid nitrogen at a temperature below 50 degrees Celsius and sent to the manufacturing company 24-48 hours later.
- They are sent out fresh the same day as the collection.

Cells are returned frozen and stored until the day of infusion. They can be stored for several months to years.

How many cells are needed for Cellular Therapy?

This depends on the manufacturing company being used but generally, several billion cells are collected. However, this is a very small portion of your body's total number of blood cells.

What are Conditioning/Lymphodepleting chemotherapy (LD chemo) regimens?

Conditioning regimens are treatment plans that include a combination of

chemotherapy such as Fludarabine/Cytosan. The purpose is to:

- Kill off any existing cancer cells
- Make room in the new T-cells

How will the new cells grow in my body?

You will receive the cellular therapy through your central line. These cells will grow and multiply in your body after infusion.

When can I go home?

We will discharge you when the following have occurred:

- You have been without fever for 24 hours
- Your counts start coming up: WBC, Platelets, Hemoglobin
- You are eating and drinking adequately
- Side effects such as pain, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea are all under control with oral medications
- You are not requiring daily blood transfusions

How long do I have diet restrictions?

Cellular therapy recipients receive specific food safety guidelines to help protect against bacteria, fungi and other harmful organisms found in some food and drinks. An FDA *Food Safety* booklet for cellular therapy recipients is included in this binder. You will be required to follow these guidelines for the first 100 days after infusion of cellular therapy, unless directed by your cellular therapy doctor. The unit dietician will review guidelines in this booklet with you.