



CHEMOTHERAPY:

Benefits & Risks

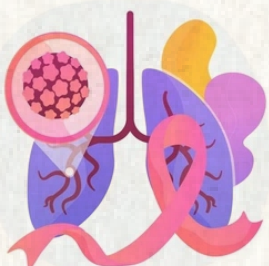
Chemotherapy refers to a cancer treatment approach that uses certain anti-cancer drugs to curtail and kill the growing cancerous cells. Chemotherapy is one of the most effective treatments for cancer or tumour. Since the treatment involves various anti-cancer drugs, it has associated risks as well as benefits. But the treatment is highly preferable especially in early-stage cancer cases.

There are various types of chemotherapy for treating various cancers:

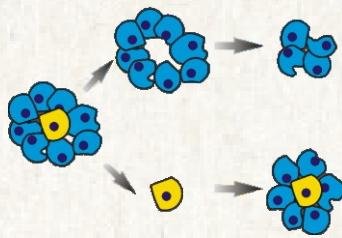
- ❖ Injected Chemotherapy
- ❖ Topical Chemotherapy
- ❖ Targeted Chemotherapy
- ❖ Oral Chemotherapy
- ❖ Hormonal Chemotherapy
- ❖ Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy



The type of chemotherapy administered to the patient depends on:



Location of cancer



Stage of cancer



Patient's general health



What is Chemotherapy Drug and How Is It Given?

Chemotherapy drugs are given to the patient into the vein or orally (medicine, pills); these drugs kill the cancer cells and stop their pervading to other parts of the body. These drugs are classified on a need basis. Such as-

ANTHRACYCLINES

Effective in the treatment of tumours as its attacks on enzymes responsible for DNA replication.

PLANT ALKALOIDS

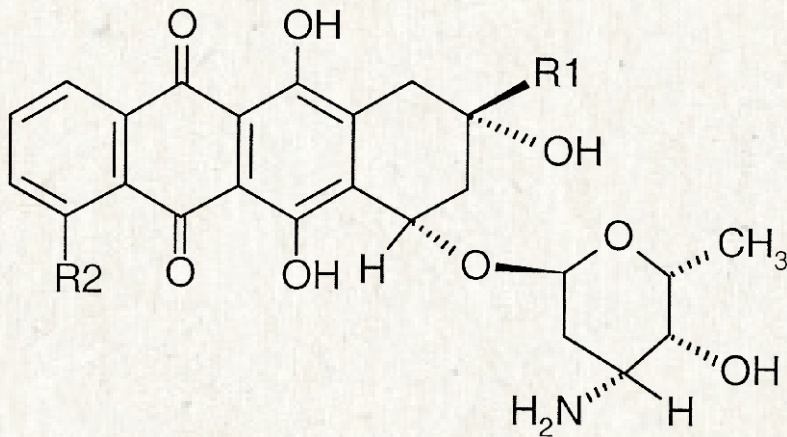
These drugs stop mitosis by directly attacking the M phase of the mitotic cell cycle.

ANTIMETABOLITES

Effective in the treatment of leukaemia as it inhibits cell replication.

ALKYLATING AGENTS

One of the most used chemotherapy drugs for the treatment of cancer. These drugs damage DNA, hence, stopping the replication process.



The majority of the chemotherapy drugs are given intravenously. These drugs are injected through a needle into the patient's vein. The doctor then examines the patient's health, and the patient might go under various tests to determine whether the body receives the drugs.

SIDE EFFECTS :

Here are some common side effects of Chemotherapy



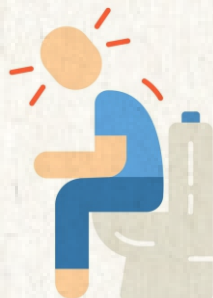
Nausea & vomiting



Hair loss



Anemia & Infection



Constipation
or diarrhoea



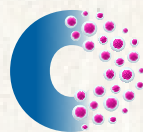
Mood Changes

ADVANTAGES OF CHEMOTHERAPY:

Despite its potential side effects, chemotherapy can be an effective, reliable cancer treatment. Chemotherapy can completely cure cancer or help lower the impact of the symptoms & improve the quality of life. Chemotherapy can also be used along with other treatments like radiation & surgery for better outcomes. Here are some benefits of chemotherapy:

- ❖ Prevents spreading of cancer
- ❖ Slows down the growth of cancer
- ❖ Kills cancer cells that have spread to other parts
- ❖ Reduces cancer pain & other problems caused by the tumour
- ❖ Higher success rate
- Lower chances of cancer recurrence

Cancer treatments can take a toll on the quality of life of the patient. Yet, they are life saving. Patients can consider cancer rehabilitation helpful in managing the effects of chemotherapy.



Dr.GVK.COM
DR. G. VAMSHI KRISHNA REDDY