

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [646-926-0945](tel:646-926-0945) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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CAR T cell therapy involves removing immune cells called T cells from the blood and introducing a new gene into those cells that enables them to recognize the cancer. After the gene is inserted, the T cells are infused back into the bloodstream, where they multiply and initiate a variety of immune responses aimed at attacking the cancer cells.

CAR T cell therapy is used to treat certain kinds of [lymphoma](#) , [pediatric leukemia](#) , and [adult leukemia](#) . Our researchers played a pioneering role in developing CAR T cell therapy and demonstrating its safety and effectiveness in patients. They proved that this approach can be effective against some blood cancers and are investigating its use in other cancers, including some solid tumors that appear in the chest.

Patients Receiving CAR T Cell Therapy

We usually only recommend CAR T cell therapy if chemotherapy has not been sufficiently effective and the disease has returned or if you've developed resistance to your initial treatment.

CAR T cell therapy involves several steps. First, your blood will be run through a specialized machine that extracts T cells and returns the rest of the blood to your body. This process is painless — similar to donating blood — but takes several hours.

After the T cells have been collected, you'll receive what is called "salvage" [chemotherapy](#) to bring the disease temporarily under control. The T cells that were removed from you are genetically modified to recognize the cancer cells and then expanded in number to be effective against the disease. You will continue to see your MSK providers during this time.

The modified T cells are then infused back into your body (usually done over a two-day period for 45 minutes a day). After the infusion, our doctors will monitor you closely in the following days for side effects and to ensure that your condition is stable before discharging you to go home.

Call 1-888-MSK-CART to learn more about treatment for certain blood cancers.

