

Immunotherapy, demystified

ANCHOR LEDE

When you hear about cancer care, chemotherapy, radiation and surgery are often the terms you hear the most. But your oncologist might also recommend immunotherapy. What does my immune system have to do with all this? Can this treatment really help me?

One OSF HealthCare oncologist says “it depends.” But, she says it’s worth approaching immunotherapy with an open mind.

TAKE VO

OSF oncologist Manpreet Sandhu says immunotherapy targets the whole body by using your immune system to fight cancer. It could be used alongside a treatment like chemotherapy, but that doesn’t necessarily mean you’ll have double the symptoms.

SOT

Dr. Manpreet Sandhu (man-PREET // SAND-dew)

OSF HealthCare oncologist

“If immunotherapy is brought as an option by the physician, at least consider that. Even in people with poor performance status – elderly or people with multiple medical problems – immunotherapy is generally a very well-tolerated treatment.” (:14)

VO TAG

Doctor Sandhu says the immunotherapy medicine is typically delivered through an IV, but doing so via a shot is an emerging option. The sessions usually last 30 to 60 minutes and are every three to four weeks for one to two years.