



Introduction to Anti-Cancer Intravenous Therapy

Anti-cancer drugs used base on the stage of disease, the histopathology or genetic study report. Anti-cancer drugs are commonly administered via intravenous (IV), subcutaneous (SC), or oral route. No matter which route is used, the drug can enter body and attack cancerous cells.

TYPES OF ANTI-CANCER INTRAVENOUS THERAPY

Chemotherapy



It is a kind of drug treatment which is used to kill cancer cells or prevent their growth in order to reduce signs and symptoms

Targeted Therapy



It works by blocking and interfering the signal transmission of cells in order to control the growth of cancer cells. Besides, it minimizes the damage to normal cells during the treatment

Immunotherapy



It uses certain parts of a person's immune system to fight cancer. It stimulate your own immune system to work harder or smarter to attack cancer cells

METHOD OF INTRAVENOUS INJECTION

Most drug are given by intravenous infusion after diluted as prescribed by doctor. It is administered from few minutes to few hours (out-patient) or dew days (in-patient) depends on an individual's regimen.

PROCEDURES BEFORE IV THERAPY

1. Patient, relatives will be arranged an appointment to consult Oncologist before starting the treatment. The Oncologist explains the effect, side effect and the regimen of the IV therapy to the patient.
2. Patient's significant others and relatives are encouraged to accompany each consultation and treatment.
3. Blood or urine test before each therapy.
4. Informed consent should be signed before treatment by patient/ significant others.
5. The dosage of anti-cancer drugs will be prescribed by the oncologist according to general condition, blood result, body weight and body height.
6. Patient / relatives will go to the Pharmacy to pay for the medication and bring back to Oncology Centre. Our staff will collect the chemo drug from pharmacy after the reconstitution in pharmacy.
7. IV therapy will be started after the drug is ready.
8. Patient's vital signs will be monitored & recorded before and after each therapy for evaluation of his / her condition.

FOLLOW UP

Patient will be arranged investigation and follow up the appointment after each therapy.

If patient feel discomfort / sick after the therapy, he / she can contact us within office hours for earlier appointment or directly contact oncologists in-charge after office hours.

(This leaflet is for reference only)



SIDE EFFECTS

Chemotherapy

The most common side effects are bone marrow suppression, such as decreased in red blood cell, white blood cell or platelet count. Patient has the potential to get infection and feel tired. Other side effects include nausea, vomiting, alopecia, constipation, diarrhea, sore mouth, muscle pain, tingling sensation in hands or feet and infertility.

Targeted Therapy

They include diarrhea, rash, itching, dry or cracked skin, acne, nail changes, mouth infections and pneumonitis.

Immunotherapy

Common side effects are similar to targeted therapy.

Rare side effects include: Immune-Mediated Pneumonitis, Colitis, Hepatitis, Nephritis and Endocrinopathies, e.g. Thyroid dysfunction.



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