

Chemotherapy

June 26, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Chemotherapy Latest News

A landmark study published recently has reported that about a fifth of chemotherapy drugs tested failed quality tests; 16 of the 17 implicated manufacturers are India-based.

About Chemotherapy

- Chemotherapy is a **treatment that uses medicines to destroy cancer cells.**
- There are many **different types** of chemo. They don't all work exactly the same way, so different types of chemo might be used **for different types of cancer.**
- **Most are given as an infusion into a vein (IV), but some are given as an injection, taken as pills, or applied to the skin.**

How is Chemo Different from Other Cancer treatments?

- Chemo is a **systemic treatment.**

- It **travels through the bloodstream** to **reach all parts of your body**.
- It can **kill cancer cells that have spread** (metastasized) to parts of the body far **away from the original** (primary) **tumor** or cancer cells in blood cancers, such as leukemia, that have spread throughout the body.
- This makes chemo **different from local treatments like surgery and radiation**, which only affect one part of the body.

How Does Chemotherapy Work?

- Chemotherapy works by **affecting cells when they are growing and dividing** to make new cells. During this **process (called the cell cycle)**, cells:
 - Grow in size.
 - Make copies of their genetic material (DNA).
 - Divide to form new cells.
- **Some cells, such as skin cells**, are **fast-growing**, meaning they move through this process quickly. Other cells, such as muscle cells, complete it more slowly.
- **Cancer cells tend to be faster growing**, moving through the **cell cycle very quickly**.
- **Different types of chemo target cells at different phases** of the cell cycle. This is why **certain chemo drugs work better for different types of cancer cells**, and sometimes different combinations of chemo work better together.
- Understanding how chemo works also helps doctors plan how often each chemo should be given, and how those doses should be timed.

Chemotherapy Side Effects

- **Chemo interrupts the cell cycles of normal cells, too—especially cells that grow faster.**
- **Blood cells and the cells in your skin, hair follicles, and digestive tract** are examples of cells that **grow and multiply quickly**.
- That's why some **common side effects** of chemotherapy **occur in these areas**, including:
 - **Anemia.**
 - **Bleeding.**
 - **Constipation.**
 - **Diarrhea.**
 - Fatigue.
 - **Hair loss.**
 - Infection.
 - Loss of appetite.
 - Nausea and vomiting.

Source: TH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/chemotherapy/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.