

Keytruda

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Keytruda Latest News

Recent investigations have found an alarming rise of a counterfeit market in Keytruda fuelled by lack of access for most patients, and use of standardised high dosing that increases costs.

About Keytruda

- It is the **brand name of pembrolizumab**, an immunotherapy drug used for treating several cancers.
- It was manufactured by US-based global **pharma major Merck & Co (MSD)**
- It belongs to a class **called “checkpoint inhibitors”** — drugs that **remove the brakes preventing the body’s T cells**, which are a crucial weapon in the body’s immune system, from attacking cancerous cells.
- In other words, it uses the body’s own immune system to fight cancer.
- It belongs to the **category of monoclonal antibodies**.
 - **Monoclonal antibodies** are **laboratory-made molecules** designed to bind with specific targets, enabling the immune system to identify and destroy cancerous cells.
- **Working**

- Pembrolizumab works by **attaching to receptors called PD-1 on T cells**.
- This prevents T cells from binding with corresponding PD-L1 receptors on cancer cells, letting them **identify the abnormal cells** and triggering an immune response.
- It was first approved by the US FDA in 2014 for advanced skin cancer,
- Keytruda is now **used globally for certain lung cancers, cervical cancer**, renal cell cancer and aggressive breast cancer, among others.

Source: IE

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

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