Cancer Q&A: Understanding the Role and Reality of CAR (Chimeric Antigen Receptor) T-Cell Therapy for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

A Live Webinar for Patients, Developed in Partnership with CancerCare®

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

Faculty

Jeremy S Abramson, MD, MMSc Manali Kamdar, MD, MBBS

Moderator Neil Love, MD



Faculty



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Dr Nastoupil — Disclosures Survey Participant

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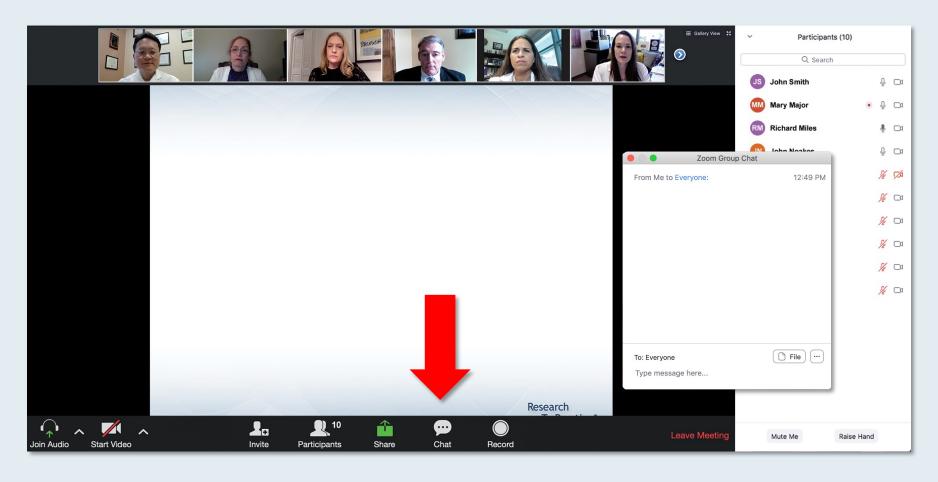
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We Encourage Patients to Submit Questions

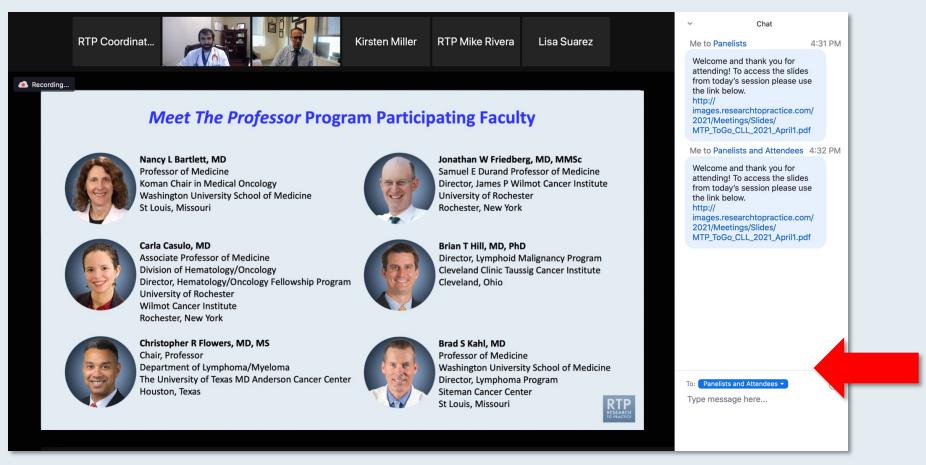


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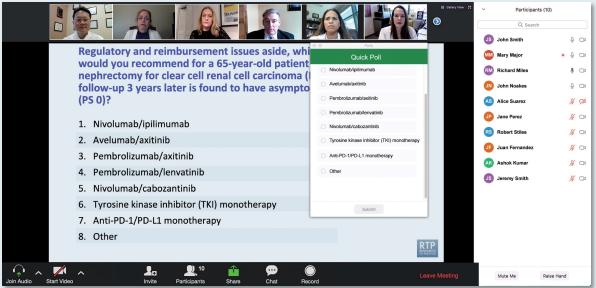


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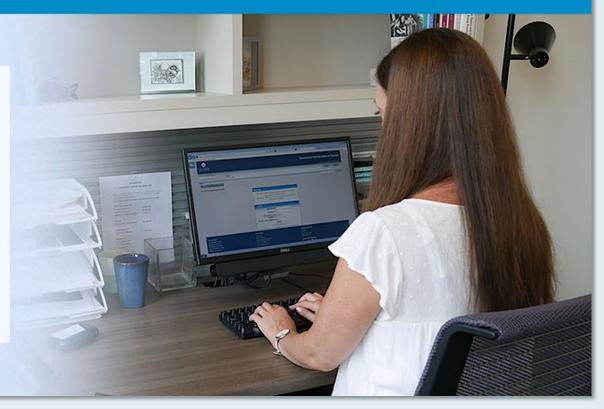
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Jeremy S Abramson, MD, MMSc Director, Center for Lymphoma Massachusetts General Hospital Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School Boston, Massachusetts



MODERATOR
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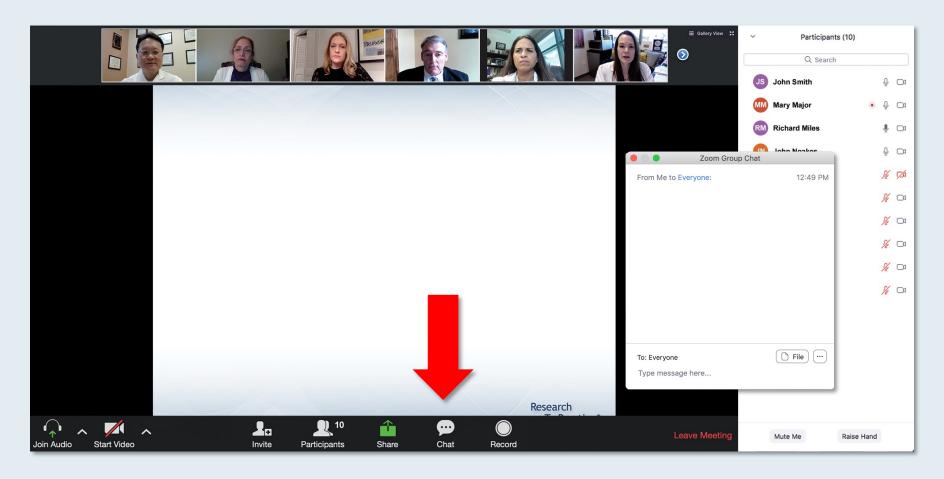
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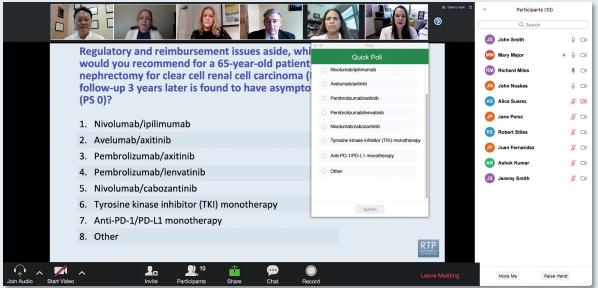


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Moderator Neil Love, MD



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Cancer Q&A: Understanding the Role and Reality of CAR (Chimeric Antigen Receptor) T-Cell Therapy for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

A CME/MOC-Accredited Webinar Developed in Partnership with CancerCare®

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET

Faculty

Jeremy S Abramson, MD, MMSc Loretta J Nastoupil, MD

Moderator Neil Love, MD





















Cancer Q&A CAR T-Cell Therapy for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Introduction: About This Program

Module 1: Overview of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Module 2: Potential Treatment Benefits of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Module 3: CRS (Cytokine Release Syndrome) and ICANS (Immune Effector

Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome)

Module 4: Finding Information About CAR T; Clinical Trials

Module 5: Financial Issues; Risk of Infection

Module 6: Coping with Anxiety; Healing and Moving On



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Cancer Q&A: Addressing Common Questions Posed by Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma

A Live Webinar for Patients, Developed in Partnership with CancerCare®

Wednesday, July 23, 2025 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

Faculty

Natalie S Callander, MD Sagar Lonial, MD, FACP

Moderator Neil Love, MD



Cancer Q&A: Addressing Common Questions Posed by Patients with Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma

A CME/MOC-Accredited Webinar Developed in Partnership with CancerCare®

Thursday, August 7, 2025 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM ET

Faculty

Natalie S Callander, MD Sagar Lonial, MD, FACP

Moderator Neil Love, MD





Webinar for patients and families on relapsed multiple myeloma with Drs Natalie Callander and Sagar Lonial.



Relapsed Multiple Myeloma: Where We Were, Where We Are (4 min)





Common Questions from the Beginning (5 min)

Choosing Treatment Options (4 min)





Clinical Research Trials (6 min)

Neuropathy (5 min)





Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-Cell Therapy (6 min)

Bispecific Antibodies (8 min)





Antibody-Drug Conjugates: Belantamab Mafadotin (8 min)

Interacting with the Oncology Team (5 min)





Other Questions (4 min)

Recording of Entire Webinar (62 min)



Feedback (Please!)
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Introduction: About This Program

Module 1: Overview of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Module 2: Potential Treatment Benefits of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Module 3: CRS (Cytokine Release Syndrome) and ICANS (Immune Effector

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Module 4: Finding Information About CAR T; Clinical Trials

Module 5: Financial Issues; Risk of Infection



Overview of CAR T-cell therapy







Overview of CAR T-Cell Treatment



Dr Abramson

CAR T cells harness the power of your own immune system to fight the lymphoma. Both CAR T-cell products have identical efficacy.

One is less toxic but takes about a week longer to manufacture.



Dr Kamdar

Cytopenias, secondary malignancy risk and infection risk are similar across constructs. Manufacturing time is different across different products.



Dr Nastoupil

Liso-cel is generally associated with lower rates of CRS and neurotoxicity. The one limitation is the median manufacturing time is about 24 days.



Dr Phillips

All CAR products are derived from the patients own T cells. They are modified to better recognize and kill cancer cells. Axi-cel/brexu-cel has a Ferrari engine; Liso-cel and tis-cel have a Corvette engine.



Dr Westin

The approved products are very similar – we take T cells and turn them in to lymphoma-fighting weapons, which are more effective to get and stay in remission than other treatments. The main differences are logistics and side effects.

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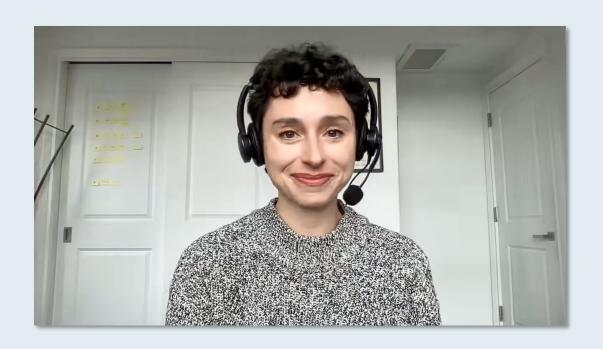
Module 3: CRS (Cytokine Release Syndrome) and ICANS (Immune Effector Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome)

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Potential treatment benefits of CAR T-cell therapy







Selecting a CAR T-Cell Product



Dr Abramson

We consider multiple factors, including efficacy, safety, manufacturing time and ability to administer in the outpatient setting.



Dr Kamdar

I consider disease subtype, efficacy data, tumour burden, patient symptoms, time it will take to manufacture, patient age, comorbidities, performance status, caregiver support.



Dr Nastoupil

Key factors are type of lymphoma, line of therapy, response to prior treatment, comorbid conditions, disease burden and tempo.



Dr Phillips

Liso-cel is appropriate alternative to axi-cel for DLBCL. For a patient w/ high burden or aggressive disease the choice might be axi-cel. For FL, the preference is liso-cel. For MCL the preference is brexu-cel.



Dr Westin

I weigh the pros and cons of each product: If the disease is progressing quickly, I choose speed and reliability of manufacturing. If the patient is frail, I choose safety of the toxicity profile.



Selecting a CAR T-Cell Product Manali Kamdar, MD, MBBS

When I choose a CAR-T product, I consider:

- Disease subtype and efficacy data for that construct in that histology
- Tumor burden, patient symptoms, time it will take to manufacture one construct versus the other
- Patient profile: age, comorbidities, performance status, caregiver support
- Logistics: inpatient versus outpatient feasibility, manufacturing time and caregiver support

The goal is to tailor the product to both disease biology and patient resilience.



Bridging Therapy



Dr Abramson

Bridging therapy is treatment used to control the disease and symptoms while the CAR T cells are being manufactured. We have both systemic options and radiation therapy.



Dr Kamdar

Bridging therapy is anything we do to stabilize disease while CAR T cells are being manufactured. The goal is to keep the disease under control.



Dr Nastoupil

Patients are likely to have better outcomes regarding both safety and efficacy if they proceed with CAR T with disease regressing as opposed to progressing.



Dr Phillips

Bridging therapy is needed to slow the progression of cancer long enough to allow for collection, manufacture and return of the CAR product; especially helpful for rapidly progressive disease.



Dr Westin

Bridging therapy is not always required, especially if the amount of lymphoma is low and speed of disease growth is slow.



Key Time Points in the CAR T Journey



Dr Abramson

CAR T-cells are a multi-step process, but the actual treatment is given as a single infusion, not multiple cycles like many other therapies.



Dr Kamdar

I map out the process clearly. I reassure them that if the first 2 weeks go smoothly, they can often transition home or local lodging, continuing close follow-up.



Dr Nastoupil

Patients are monitored at the treating center until they are deemed safe to return home. Patients are followed closely for the first 90 days.



Dr Phillips

The first step is insurance approval. This can vary from patient to patient.

Next step after approval is obtaining an apheresis slot,

for which thereafter we will collect cells.



Dr Westin

The key time points are the decision, the approval, the collection, the manufacturing, the delivery, and the follow-up. For follow-up, patients have testing like PET/CT scans and blood work, and to work with their local oncologist on recovering from any leftover side effects.



Key Time Points in the CAR T Journey Manali Kamdar, MD, MBBS

I map out the process clearly:

- 1. Initial consult and eligibility review
- 2. Apheresis (cell collection)
- 3. Bridging therapy (if needed)
- 4. Manufacturing period (usually 3-5 weeks)
- 5. Lymphodepleting chemotherapy
- 6. Cell infusion (day 0)
- 7. Monitoring phase (days 0-14) for CRS or ICANS
- 8. Response assessment at day 30 or 90, depending on institutional programmatic approach
- 9. Follow-up phase: infection prophylaxis, labs and clinic visits for at least 6 months

I reassure them that if the first 2 weeks go smoothly, they can often transition home or to local lodging, continuing close follow-up.



Follicular Lymphoma



Dr Abramson

Responses to CAR T last about 5 years on average, but far longer responses are possible. Some patients will never relapse after this treatment.



Dr Kamdar

My preferred CAR T is lisocabtagene maraleucel (liso-cel), which offers an attractive balance of efficacy and tolerability. Remission can be long-lasting — and possibly curative.



Dr Nastoupil

I recommend liso-cel primarily because it is associated with a manageable safety profile.



Dr Phillips

My preference is liso-cel; the hope is that w/ time we might identify a subset of patients that could potentially achieve a cure or a "functional" cure.



Dr Westin

Axi-cel. We choose this treatment because more than half of patients are alive and did not require additional lymphoma therapy with more than 5 years of follow up – hopefully some of those patients are cured.



Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma



Dr Abramson

The majority of patients will respond; about half will go into complete remission. Close to 40% will be cured.



Dr Kamdar

I generally prefer liso-cel for DLBCL. The 5-year follow-up data across all constructs suggest a roughly 40% chance of long-term remission or cure, but liso-cel has a more favorable safety profile.



Dr Nastoupil

I generally favor liso-cel for older or frailer patients given the favorable toxicity profile. For young, fit patients, I prefer axi-cel with the favorable manufacturing time.



Dr Phillips

Preference would be based on age/fitness; for younger/fit patients axi-cel and for older patients liso-cel. This would be administered w/ the intent to cure.

Patients in remission at day 90 have a great chance of long-term cure.



Dr Westin

Axi-cel. For your relapsed DLBCL, we have one chance to provide a curative intent therapy and thus reliability of manufacturing is key. Axi-cel cures about 40% of patients with this otherwise fatal disease.



Mantle Cell Lymphoma



Dr Abramson

The vast majority of patients in this situation will respond, and most will go into complete remission. Remissions last 1-2 years on average, but remission may last much longer. Pirtobrutinib may be used as bridging therapy.



Dr Kamdar

For younger, fit patients, brexucabtagene autoleucel (brexu-cel) remains my preferred choice. For older or frail patients, I favor liso-cel due to its lower toxicity and outpatient feasibility.



Dr Nastoupil

I would prefer liso-cel for multiply-relapsed MCL. I would favor brexu-cel for a young, fit patient with high-risk disease in first relapse.



Dr Phillips

Preference is brexu-cel. Treatment is not curative and the disease will relapse. For those unable to receive brexu-cel we use liso-cel.



Dr Westin

Liso-cel. For your relapsed MCL, we want to balance concerns for effective treatment and risk of side effects. The other options are impressive, but have a higher risk of severe side effects.



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CRS (cytokine release syndrome) and ICANS (immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome)







CRS



Dr Abramson

The most common symptom is fever, but it can uncommonly get worse. We give an antidote called tocilizumab with or without steroids which rapidly improves the CRS and usually prevents if from becoming severe.



Dr Kamdar

I describe CRS as the "immune storm" that tells us the CARs are expanding — fever, chills, low blood pressure, shortness of breath — ranging from mild to severe.



Dr Nastoupil

The spectrum of CRS is dependent on the product regarding the likelihood of experiencing it at all and how serious it might be. Nearly all patients will have fever. Generally, the course of CRS is relatively short.



Dr Phillips

CRS is manifested by fever but this is generally preceded by tachycardia.

Some patients require ICU.



Dr Westin

I describe CRS as similar to having an infection like the flu — sometimes you can have fever and body aches and that's it, other times you can see low blood pressure and a trip to the ICU.



ICANS



Dr Abramson

The most common symptoms are confusion, sleepiness or word-finding difficulties.



Dr Kamdar

ICANS often follows or overlaps with CRS, most commonly within 8-14 days post infusion. Early recognition is key, and we maintain daily neurologic checks during the acute phase.



Dr Nastoupil

ICANS is variable and unpredictable. It generally will occur after a patient has experienced CRS. It can be rapid in onset and resolution.



Dr Phillips

Initial management is w/ steroids and depends on severity and duration of symptoms. For most patients this is reversible.



Dr Westin

ICANS is brain dysfunction, which is nearly always reversible. There are no effective preventative strategies, and treatments can prevent ICANS from worsening.



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Finding information about CAR T; clinical trials







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Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome)

Module 4: Finding Information About CAR T; Clinical Trials

Module 5: Financial Issues; Risk of Infection



Financial issues; risk of infection







Financial Issues



Dr Abramson

Insurance covers the CAR T cells and associated care.

Costs may be associated with needing to stay near our center for 2-4 weeks,
but support and reimbursement programs are available.



Dr Kamdar

I emphasize the importance of caregiver support, possible work or income disruption, and the option of FMLA for caregivers.

Financial counselors and social workers assist.



Dr Nastoupil

Insurance coverage may impact which centers are available and this can result in long travel. Patients have several visits to the treating center and are generally not able to work and this too can be a financial stressor.



Dr Phillips

Work can be an important issue. Also, there is need for a caregiver, which requires another person to be off work for an extended period, which for some is not financially feasible.



Dr Westin

As anything complicated, CAR T treatment can have financial challenges, like needing to be away from home for monitoring and needing to have a caregiver(s) to take off work.



Potential Long-Term Complications



Dr Abramson

Prophylactic antibiotics are used until healthy lymphocytes have recovered. We also monitor antibody levels, and may use IVIG. We will also consider vaccines to help prevent infections.



Dr Kamdar

The primary concern is immunosuppression and infection risk due to prolonged B-cell aplasia and hypogammaglobulinemia.

I keep patients on antiviral and PJP prophylaxis for at least 6 months.



Dr Nastoupil

B-cell depletion can increase the risk of infection, particularly viral infections. Monitoring IgG levels and IVIG replacement is also a consideration to reduce the risk of infection.



Dr Phillips

We continue anti-infection prophylaxis until blood count recovery.



Dr Westin

CAR T cells kill B cells, both good and bad ones, and not having good B cells for months afterwards can open you up to unsual infections.



Introduction: About This Program

Module 1: Overview of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Module 2: Potential Treatment Benefits of CAR T-Cell Therapy

Module 3: CRS (Cytokine Release Syndrome) and ICANS (Immune Effector

Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome)

Module 4: Finding Information About CAR T; Clinical Trials

Module 5: Financial Issues; Risk of Infection



Coping with anxiety; healing and moving on



























Thank you for joining us!

Please take a moment to complete the survey currently up on Zoom. Your feedback is very important to us. The survey will remain open for 5 minutes after the meeting ends.

