



# Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy as a Novel Therapeutic Approach for Cancer

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## Abstract

Cancer treatment has been revolutionized by a new therapeutic approach called chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy. The molecular structure of CAR T cells, with its intricate components and adaptability, serves as the foundation for their therapeutic potential in targeting cancer cells and providing long-term immune surveillance in patients. In this paper, we will delve into the mechanism of the CAR-T therapy, its effectiveness in treating different cancers, and its limitations and future directions.

**Keywords-** Cancer, CAR T cell, Novel Cancer Therapy

## Introduction

Cancer has been one of the leading causes of deaths worldwide, with conventional treatments such as radiation and chemotherapy being the primary options for cancer patients. However, over the past few years, cancer treatment has been revolutionized by a new therapeutic approach called chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy. This therapy has shown remarkable results in treating various cancers, particularly B-cell lymphomas. In this analytical essay, we will delve into the mechanism of CAR T-cell therapy, its effectiveness in treating different cancers, and its limitations and future directions.

CAR T-cell therapy is a novel approach to cancer treatment that involves engineering T-cells to target cancer cells. The CARs recognize and bind to specific proteins, or antigens, on the surface of cancer cells. These receptors are "synthetic molecules" that combine the specificity of an antibody with T-cell signaling domains, which can activate the T-cell to attack the cancer cell [1]. One of the main ACT approaches is chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy. CAR T cells mediate MHC-unrestricted tumor cell killing by a process that involves T-cell activation, proliferation, and effector function [2]. The CARs recognize and bind to specific proteins, or antigens, on the surface of cancer cells. These receptors are "synthetic molecules" that combine the specificity of an antibody with T-cell signaling domains, which can activate the T-cell to attack the cancer cell [1].

CAR T-cell therapy has shown remarkable results in treating various cancers, particularly B-cell lymphomas. This therapy has revolutionized the treatment of patients with B-cell lymphomas by conferring durable clinical responses. Several ongoing clinical trials have tested the efficacy of CAR T-cell therapy for different malignancies [3]. However, the major hurdles of CAR T-cell therapy are the associated severe life-threatening toxicities such as cytokine release syndrome and limited anti-tumor efficacy [3]. Several ongoing clinical trials have tested the efficacy of CAR T-cell therapy for different malignancies [3].

Despite the promising results of CAR T-cell therapy, there are still several limitations and future directions that need to be addressed. Current challenges in CAR-T cell therapy include antigen escape, on-target off-tumor effects, trafficking and infiltration of tumors [4]. This review is an outlook on CAR-T development up to the beginning of 2023, with a special focus on the European landscape and its [5]. Barriers to effective CAR-T cell therapy include severe life-threatening toxicities, modest anti-tumor activity, antigen escape, restricted access to patients, and high costs [4].

CAR T-cell therapy has revolutionized cancer treatment, particularly for B-cell lymphomas, by conferring durable clinical responses. However, the major challenges of CAR T-cell therapy are the associated severe life-threatening toxicities and limited anti-tumor efficacy. Despite these challenges, CAR T-cell therapy has shown immense potential, and ongoing research aims to address these limitations and improve its effectiveness. With continued advancements in cancer treatment, CAR T-cell therapy offers a promising future in the fight against cancer.

### **Origin of CAR T cell therapy**

The concept of CAR T cell therapy, short for chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy, has transformed the landscape of cancer treatment by harnessing the power of the body's own immune system to combat cancer cells effectively. Originating from a pivotal study that showcased the safety and enduring presence of retroviral-modified T cells in patients, CAR T cell therapy has its roots in pioneering work conducted at the University of Pennsylvania in 2010 [6][7]. The first application of this innovative therapy was in addressing HIV with the CD4 $\zeta$ -CAR, paving the way for subsequent advancements in cancer treatment [1]. Notably, the first FDA-approved CAR T cell therapy, tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah) by Novartis Pharmaceuticals, ushered in a new era in cancer therapy by effectively treating acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) [6][8]. The groundbreaking research that laid the foundation for CAR T-cell therapy was spearheaded by Carl June, a prominent figure in immunotherapy and a driving force behind the successful application of this treatment in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) patients at the University of Pennsylvania [8][7]. Over the years, the optimization of CAR-T cell therapy has involved enhancing its efficacy through the incorporation of costimulatory domains and the identification of ideal target antigens like CD19, leading to improved outcomes in patients with B cell malignancies [9][6]. As CAR T cells are infused into patients as a living drug, they can persist in the body for extended periods, offering a sustained immune response against cancer cells [6]. Despite facing unique challenges in treating T-cell malignancies, CAR T cell therapy continues to show promise in revolutionizing cancer treatment by leveraging the body's immune system to target and eliminate cancer cells effectively.

### **Evolution of CAR T cell**

CAR T cell therapy has undergone remarkable advancements over time, transforming it into a potent weapon against cancer. The therapy has shown significant progress in treating cancer, leading to complete or partial remission in patients with advanced chronic lymphocytic leukemia and other B-cell malignancies, indicating its increased efficacy [6]. The evolution of CAR T cell therapy has seen the development of cells programmed to target specific antigens on cancer cells, acting as a "living drug" against tumors [10]. Moreover, CAR T cells have been engineered to enhance their cytotoxic effects on cancer

cells by increasing their toxicity and secretion of factors like cytokines and interleukins [10]. To ensure safety, CAR T cells are designed to be specific to antigens expressed on tumor cells while sparing healthy cells from harm [10]. The therapy has also progressed to include second-generation CAR constructs with specific components, such as anti-CD19 scFv, 4-1BB costimulatory endodomain, and CD3 $\zeta$  signaling endodomain, further enhancing its efficacy [6]. Furthermore, the evolution of CAR T cell therapy has led to significant improvements in cell proliferation, with cells expanding in patients by up to 1,000 times, showcasing its enhanced effectiveness over time [6]. As research in CAR T cell therapy continues to focus on areas such as off-the-shelf therapy, safety, cost, and non-cancer diseases, the future success of this treatment hinges on ongoing scientific innovation and investment in the field [6].

### **Milestones in the history of Car T cell therapy**

The evolution of CAR T cell therapy has marked a significant milestone in the treatment of various types of cancer. Notably, initial clinical trials have shown remarkably high remission rates of up to 90% among all patients who undergo CAR T cell therapy [10]. However, while short-term outcomes are promising, long-term survival rates are hindered by the emergence of leukemia cells that do not express the CD19 antigen, leading to lower effectiveness in the long run [10]. To address this challenge, ongoing trials are investigating bispecific targeting strategies to overcome CD19 down-regulation in CAR T cell therapy [10]. Additionally, the development of CAR T cells with dual targeting of CD19 plus CD22 or CD19 plus CD20 has demonstrated encouraging results in preclinical studies, showcasing the potential for enhanced efficacy in combating cancer. Furthermore, the recognition of cancer immunotherapy as the "Breakthrough of the Year" in 2013 by Science magazine underscores the importance and impact of approaches such as CAR T cell therapy in the field of cancer treatment. As research progresses, the exploration of combining CAR T-cell therapy with other cancer treatments has emerged as a promising avenue to further improve patient outcomes. Overall, the key milestones in the history of CAR T cell therapy, from initial clinical success to ongoing advancements in targeting strategies and combination therapies, highlight the significant progress and potential of this innovative approach in revolutionizing cancer treatment.

### **Molecular Structure and Function of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T Cells**

The molecular structure of CAR T cells is a multifaceted system that can be optimized for enhanced efficacy. Each component of the CAR T cell structure, which includes the ectodomain, the transmembrane domain, and the endodomain, has specific components and functions that contribute to the overall functionality of the CAR T cells. These components can be modified and tailored to improve the performance of CAR T cells, as demonstrated by the potential optimization of each component of the molecular structure. The basic molecular structure of CAR T cells consists of three modular components: the ectodomain, the transmembrane domain, and the endodomain, each playing a crucial role in the function of CAR T cells. Furthermore, the incorporation of specific transmembrane domains, such as CD8 $\alpha$ -derived HD/TMD or ICOS TMD, into CARs has been shown to enhance antitumor responses and signaling output, highlighting the importance of these regions in CAR T cell function. By modifying the CAR hinge and transmembrane regions, cytokine secretion can be modulated, potentially helping to mitigate CAR-T cell-associated toxicities. The clustering of CARs induced by antigen binding on the surface of tumor cells initiates signal transduction that leads to T cell activation and the killing of tumor cells, underscoring the critical role of the molecular structure in CAR T cell function. The adapters used in CAR-T cell systems allow for flexibility and clinical applicability by enabling the swapping of different single-chain variable fragments (scFvs) to redirect T cells, further showcasing the adaptability of the CAR T cell molecular structure. The molecular structure of CAR T cells, with its intricate



components and adaptability, serves as the foundation for their therapeutic potential in targeting cancer cells and providing long-term immune surveillance in patients.

### **Components of CAR T cells engineered to function together**

To ensure the optimal functionality of CAR T cells, various components are engineered to work in harmony. The strategy of modularizing the production of CAR-T cells allows for a more systematic approach to manufacturing, enabling enhanced quality control and pharmaceutical production processes [11]. One crucial aspect of engineering CAR T cells is the incorporation of costimulatory support through chimeric costimulatory receptors (CCRs), which can be tailored to enhance T cell function and survival [12]. Additionally, the modulation of CAR-transduced T cell function and survival can be achieved through the utilization of costimulatory receptor ligands and cytokines, providing a means to fine-tune the overall efficacy of CAR T cell therapy [12]. Furthermore, efforts have been focused on identifying the most suitable T cell subsets for adoptive cell transfer, emphasizing the importance of customizing CAR design for each specific cell type to optimize therapeutic outcomes [13]. Moreover, strategies to introduce CARs into diverse immune cell types beyond  $\alpha\beta$ -T cells have gained traction, broadening the scope of CAR T cell therapy and opening new avenues for treatment innovation [13]. By modifying the hinge and transmembrane regions of CAR-T cells, cytokine secretion can be modulated to mitigate potential toxicities and enhance therapeutic efficacy, as evidenced by successful clinical outcomes in patients with B cell lymphoma [14]. Fine-tuning each module of CAR T cells, including the hinge and transmembrane regions, is essential to enhance T cell specificity, antigen recognition, and overall function, underscoring the significance of optimizing these critical components for improved therapeutic outcomes [13][14].

### **Function of Domains in CAR T cells**

To enhance the efficacy of CAR-T cell therapy, researchers have delved into optimizing the various domains within these cells. The placement of intracellular domains in relation to the cell membrane is a critical factor in achieving optimal synergy and functionality within more intricate receptors [13]. By combining different intracellular domains in third-generation CARs, researchers have managed to activate diverse signaling pathways simultaneously, enhancing the overall performance of the T cells [13]. Furthermore, the choice of intracellular domains plays a crucial role in determining the persistence and function of CAR-T cells. For instance, the inclusion of the ICOS intracellular domain has been found to boost CD4<sup>+</sup> CAR T cell persistence, while the 4-1BB domain is more beneficial for CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell longevity [13]. Interestingly, the presence of CD27 signaling has been shown to improve CAR T cell survival compared to CD28 signaling [13]. Moreover, different lymphocyte subsets necessitate specific costimulation signals for optimal function and longevity, highlighting the importance of tailoring these domains to the targeted T cell population [13]. When ICOS is incorporated into a CAR, it directs CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells towards a Th1/Th17 phenotype, bolstering their T helper functions and enhancing in vivo T cell persistence [13]. The choice of transmembrane domains, such as CD8 $\alpha$  or CD28, can influence CAR expression and stability, impacting the overall effectiveness of the therapy [13]. By linking the proximal intracellular domain to the corresponding transmembrane domain, researchers can facilitate proper CAR T cell signaling, potentially improving treatment outcomes in the future [13].

### **Mechanism and Functionality of CAR-T Cell Therapy**

#### **Recognition of Target cancer cell**

CAR-T cell therapy has revolutionized cancer treatment by utilizing engineered T cells to target and destroy cancer cells with remarkable precision. These specialized T cells, armed with chimeric antigen receptors (CARs), are designed to recognize specific antigens present on the surface of cancer cells, enabling them to distinguish between healthy and malignant cells [15].

By incorporating chimeric antigen receptors, T cells can effectively target cancer cells by binding to specific biomarkers on their surface, such as CD19 and CD20 [16]. Moreover, the activation of CAR T cells triggers various antitumor mechanisms, including the secretion of cytotoxic substances like Granzyme B (GZMB) and pro-inflammatory cytokines, leading to the destruction of tumor cells [17][16]. The success of CAR-T cell therapy in targeting cancer cells hinges on the careful selection of appropriate targets based on the type of malignancy being treated. For instance, targeting CD19 has shown high efficacy against B-cell malignancies, while targeting CD5 has proven effective for specific T-cell lines [16]. Additionally, the ability of CAR-T cells to recognize and target cancer cells is influenced by factors such as the level of tumor antigen expression on malignant cells and the design of CARs to target multiple antigens simultaneously, enhancing their efficacy against cancer cells [16][18]. These advancements in CAR-T cell therapy hold great promise for improving cancer treatment outcomes and offer new hope for patients battling various types of malignancies.

### **Process of engineering CAR-T cells in the laboratory**

CAR-T cell engineering in the laboratory involves a meticulous process aimed at enhancing the specificity and efficacy of these therapeutic cells for cancer treatment. By incorporating multiple CARs, researchers can increase specificity by necessitating recognition of two antigens or by requiring the absence of a particular antigen, ultimately reducing unwanted CAR-T cell activation and on-target/off-tumor activity [19]. Additionally, advancements in CAR design and genetic manipulation of T cells contribute to preventing inflammatory toxicities by lowering the release of inflammatory factors through increased specificity and improved genetic modifications [19]. To further enhance CAR-T cell activity, new CAR constructs with additional domains are being designed, and the selection of specific T cell subsets during manufacturing is being explored to improve efficacy and minimize inflammatory toxicities [19][20]. Moreover, studies on the impact of different T cell subsets in CAR-T cell products reveal that understanding and manipulating these subsets can influence safety and efficacy, potentially allowing for the enrichment or depletion of specific subsets to enhance therapeutic outcomes [20]. The process of engineering CAR-T cells has shown remarkable success in treating hematologic malignancies, underscoring the importance of continuous advancements in cell engineering and gene editing to unleash the full potential of CAR T cell therapies in cancer treatment [21][22].

### **An immune response against cancer cells**

To induce an immune response against cancer cells, CAR-T cells must confront several challenges, including the suppressive tumor microenvironment that inhibits their activity [23]. Overcoming this barrier is crucial for these cells to expand and persist adequately within the patient, thereby ensuring the elimination of tumors and preventing relapse [23]. Recent advancements in CAR-T cell therapy involve additional genetic modifications to enhance T cell function and the use of combination treatments to boost their overall efficacy [23]. For CAR-T cells to effectively target and eliminate cancer cells, they must first locate and be activated by the cancerous cells, triggering the cascade of events leading to cell death [23]. Upon engagement with target antigens, activated CAR-T cells release soluble factors that contribute to the anti-tumor response or activate myeloid cells, further bolstering the immune reaction against cancer cells [19]. The release of inflammatory cytokines, such as IL-6 and IL-1 $\beta$ , by activated myeloid cells can result in the observed inflammatory toxicities in patients undergoing CAR-T cell therapy [19]. Additionally, the cytotoxic mechanisms of CAR-T cells involve the secretion of perforin, granzyme, TNF- $\alpha$ , and IFN- $\gamma$  following antigen recognition, leading to target cell death through processes like

pyroptosis [21]. Granzyme A and B, when entering the cytoplasm through perforin-induced pores, can activate gasdermin B, causing pyroptosis in target cells [21]. Despite the success of CAR-T cell therapy against hematological malignancies, challenges persist in targeting solid tumors due to the complexities in defining suitable target antigens and limitations in trafficking to the tumor site [23]. Efforts to address these challenges focus on optimizing CAR T cell subset compositions and developing strategies to overcome the inhibitory tumor microenvironment, thereby enhancing the immune response against cancer cells [23][22].

### **Recent advancements in CAR T cell therapy for cancer treatment**

Recent advancements in CAR T cell therapy for cancer treatment have brought about significant progress in the field, offering hope for managing refractory and metastatic neoplasms resistant to conventional treatments like HNSCCs. Innovations in engineering technologies, novel target antigen identification, and combination therapies have shown great potential in overcoming obstacles to developing CAR T cell therapy for HNSCCs, emphasizing the need for continuous evolution in structural design and intracellular signaling domains of CAR-T cells [24]. The evolution from first-generation to fifth-generation CAR-T cells, incorporating intracellular co-stimulatory domains from receptors like CD28, OX40, and CD137, underscores the continuous advancements in this therapy [24]. Furthermore, the development of dual-targeting CAR-T cells, aiming to prevent cancer cells from evading therapy by targeting multiple antigens simultaneously, represents a promising strategy in enhancing the effectiveness of CAR T cell therapy for cancer treatment [25]. Researchers are also exploring the potential of artificial thymic organoids to selectively differentiate CRT-transduced human iPSCs into CAR T cells, showcasing positive results in animal models and potentially revolutionizing T cell acquisition methods [26]. These recent advances in CAR T cell therapy not only signify a significant milestone in cancer treatment but also highlight the ongoing efforts to improve therapy effectiveness, safety, and applicability across various cancer types, underlining the potential for a more targeted, personalized, and efficient approach in cancer treatment [25][27].

### **Major challenges in the implementation of CAR T cell therapy in cancer treatment**

Implementing CAR T cell therapy in cancer treatment faces several substantial challenges that impede its widespread adoption. One of the primary obstacles is the scarcity of suitable tumor targets, such as TYRP1, which limits the effectiveness of the treatment despite yielding good anti-tumor responses when targeted successfully [28]. Additionally, the high cost and labor-intensive manufacturing process of CAR-T cells pose significant barriers to the popularization of this therapy, with treatments like Kymriah costing up to \$475,000 for a single infusion and almost reaching \$1 million per patient for the total treatment course with Kymriah or Yescarta [29]. Moreover, intrinsic factors like poor CAR-T cell expansion and short persistence, as well as extrinsic factors like tumor inhibitory microenvironments, contribute to the failure of CAR-T cell therapy, highlighting the complexity of overcoming these challenges in cancer treatment [29]. Furthermore, the delayed production cycle of CAR-T cells, taking approximately two weeks, allows highly proliferative malignancies to progress during this waiting period, underscoring the urgent need for more efficient manufacturing processes [29]. Consequently, addressing these challenges in CAR T cell therapy, such as enhancing tumor-killing specificity, reducing off-target effects, and improving CAR T-cell infiltration into solid tumors, remains critical to advancing the efficacy and accessibility of this innovative treatment approach in oncology.

### **Current Clinical Applications of CAR T Cell Therapy**

CAR T-cell therapy, a groundbreaking form of immunotherapy, has revolutionized cancer treatment by genetically modifying T cells to express Chimeric Antigen Receptors (CAR) that target specific proteins on cancer cells,



particularly in the realm of hematological malignancies like certain types of leukemia and lymphoma [30][31][32]. The success of CAR T-cell therapy in treating these diseases is noteworthy, especially for patients who have not responded well to traditional cancer treatments [30][32]. Moreover, the clinical applications of CAR T-cell therapy extend beyond hematologic malignancies, with ongoing research and trials exploring its efficacy in a broader spectrum of cancers, including solid tumors [31]. By harnessing the immune system's potent effector mechanisms, CAR T-cell therapy has displayed remarkable pharmacological success, emphasizing its importance in targeted antibody-based therapeutics [33]. Additionally, the therapy's ability to selectively target malignant T cells while preserving normal T cells underscores its potential in treating T-cell malignancies, further highlighting its versatility and promising clinical applications in combatting various diseases [34].

#### **Impact on Global market of CAR T Cell Therapy**

CAR T-cell therapy has revolutionized cancer treatment by directly targeting cancer cells, providing a precise and highly effective solution compared to traditional treatments such as chemotherapy or radiation [30]. This targeted approach not only enhances efficacy but also significantly reduces damage to healthy cells, minimizing common adverse side effects associated with conventional cancer treatments [30]. As a result, CAR T-cell therapy is expected to propel the growth of the cancer treatment market due to its superior effectiveness over traditional drugs [30]. The therapy has shown significant progress in the treatment of cancer, with ongoing research focusing on expanding its applicability to a broader range of cancers and developing off-the-shelf CAR T cell therapy and. Despite challenges such as treatment-related toxic reactions and high costs, CAR T-cell therapy has demonstrated remarkable success in curing certain forms of cancer, driving its market expansion as more treatments for various cancers are discovered and approved [32]. Continued investment in scientific research and innovation remains critical for the advancement of CAR T-cell therapy in cancer treatment, highlighting the importance of strategies aimed at enhancing safety, efficacy, and broadening the therapy's reach and. The evolving landscape of the CAR T-cell therapy market, with a surge in research and development activities and a rise in the prevalence of leukemia, is expected to shape the future growth potential of this innovative treatment approach [31][30].

#### **Challenges and Limitations Faced By CAR T Cell Therapy in Clinical Settings**

In clinical settings, CAR T cell therapy encounters a myriad of obstacles that impede its widespread adoption and efficacy. One of the primary challenges is the exorbitant costs associated with this innovative treatment method, making it inaccessible to many patients in need [35]. Moreover, the potential side effects of CAR T cell therapy, although effective in treating certain hematological malignancies like leukemia and lymphoma, can be severe and pose risks to patients undergoing this treatment [35][36]. While CAR-T therapy has shown remarkable success in hematological cancers, its progression in tackling solid tumors has been sluggish and fraught with difficulties [36]. The slow advancement in using CAR-T therapy for solid tumors highlights the complexities and limitations that researchers and healthcare providers face in translating the success seen in hematological malignancies to other types of cancer. To overcome these challenges, significant investments in research and development, as well as

improvements in infrastructure to support the administration of CAR T cell therapy, are essential for its broader application and success in clinical settings.

### **Current State of CAR T-Cell Therapy in India**

The landscape of cancer treatment in India is undergoing a significant transformation with the advent of CAR-T cell therapy, a groundbreaking approach that genetically modifies T cells to better combat cancer cells. Notably, India's drug regulatory body has given the green light for the commercial application of CAR-T cell therapy, marking a pivotal moment in the country's oncology landscape [37]. This approval has paved the way for patients like the individual at Tata Memorial Hospital, who became the first commercial patient in India to attain a cancer-free status after undergoing CAR-T cell therapy [37]. The patient's success story is not only a testament to the efficacy of this innovative treatment but also highlights a substantial cost advantage of receiving CAR-T cell therapy in India. While the patient paid Rs 42 lakh for the therapy domestically, the same treatment typically costs between Rs 3-4 crore abroad, making it a more affordable option for cancer patients in India [37]. Additionally, the collaboration between ImmunoACT and Tata Memorial Centre has further bolstered the development of indigenous CAR-T cell therapy within the country, showcasing India's commitment to advancing cutting-edge medical solutions in the field of oncology [38]. This collaborative effort has not only made CAR-T cell therapy more accessible but has also significantly reduced its cost for patients in need. As a result, CAR-T cell therapy is now available in 20 government and private hospitals across major Indian cities, offering new hope and advanced treatment options to individuals battling cancer [39]. Ultimately, the implementation of CAR-T cell therapy in India represents a critical step towards revolutionizing cancer care and providing patients with innovative and cost-effective treatment alternatives within the country's healthcare system.

### **Challenges to adopt of CAR T-cell therapy in the Indian healthcare system**

The advent of CAR T-cell therapy in the Indian healthcare system brings both hope and challenges. India's breakthrough in developing its first CAR T-cell therapy stands as a remarkable accomplishment, paving the way for future advancements in the field of immunotherapy [40]. This milestone was achieved through a collaborative effort led by Dr. Dwivedi and her team, setting a precedent that could potentially serve as a model for other low- and middle-income countries embarking on similar endeavors [40]. Despite these achievements, the adoption of CAR T-cell therapy in India faces unique challenges. Being one of the first developing countries to establish its indigenous CAR-T and gene therapy platform, India encounters hurdles that are inherent to integrating such advanced therapies into its healthcare system [41]. Developing nations often grapple with the arduous task of creating their own CAR-T therapies due to financial constraints and limited resources, leading them to rely on importing these treatments from more medically advanced countries [41]. This reliance on foreign sources not only poses logistical challenges but also raises issues related to accessibility, affordability, and sustainability of CAR T-cell therapy within the Indian healthcare landscape.

### **Current infrastructure to development and delivery of CAR T-cell therapy in India**

India's successful establishment of its indigenous CAR T-cell therapy marks a significant milestone in the country's healthcare landscape. The accessibility of NexCAR19 therapy in India at a considerably lower cost compared to



international prices has made it a more viable treatment option for patients in need [38]. Moreover, the widespread availability of the therapy in approximately 20 government and private hospitals located in major cities across the country demonstrates a concerted effort to ensure accessibility and delivery of this cutting-edge treatment to a larger population [38]. As a result, India's position in the realm of CAR-T therapy has been solidified, placing the country among the nations with the capability to develop and provide advanced cellular therapies like CAR T-cell therapy, showcasing a significant advancement in the country's healthcare infrastructure and technology adoption [38].

## Conclusion

CAR T-cell therapy involves genetically modifying a patient's own T cells to recognize and attack cancer cells. This personalized treatment has demonstrated impressive response rates in patients who have not responded to traditional therapies, leading to its approval for certain types of leukemia and lymphoma.

Despite its success, CAR T-cell therapy can cause severe side effects, including cytokine release syndrome and neurotoxicity, which can be life-threatening. Additionally, some patients do not respond to treatment or experience relapse after an initial response, highlighting the need for further research to enhance its efficacy.

Ongoing studies are focused on improving the design of CAR T cells, optimizing dosing regimens, and developing strategies to mitigate toxicities. Researchers are also exploring combination therapies, such as combining CAR T-cell therapy with checkpoint inhibitors or other immunotherapies, to enhance its anti-tumor activity.

Overall, the future of CAR T-cell therapy looks promising, with ongoing advancements aimed at overcoming its current limitations and expanding its application to a wider range of cancers. As research continues to progress, CAR T-cell therapy has the potential to revolutionize cancer treatment and offer new hope to patients facing difficult-to-treat malignancies.

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