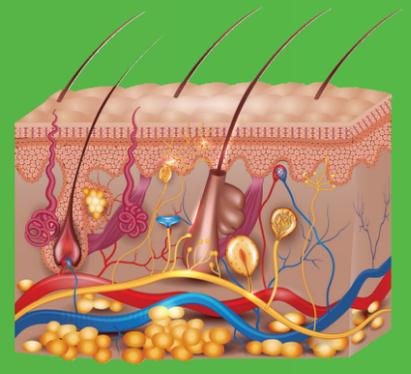


MERKEL CELL CARCINOMA: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



CROSS-SECTION THROUGH HEALTHY SKIN.

What is Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC)?

- MCC is a skin cancer that arises from uncontrolled growth of a specific type of skin cell (Merkel cells).
- Development of MCC can be linked to exposure to ultraviolet rays, and to a virus called Merkel cell polyomavirus.
- Even when MCC responds to treatments like surgery, radiation therapy or chemotherapy, it often grows back and spreads.
- We now know that your own immune system can be harnessed to help fight MCC!

About **1,500**

people are diagnosed with MCC every year in the United States. Be sure to see your doctor as soon as possible if you develop any unusual skin changes. Early treatment significantly improves long-term outcome.

Understanding Immunotherapy

There is now a new immunotherapy treatment for MCC

- The FDA has approved a new immunotherapy, a checkpoint inhibitor drug called avelumab, to treat MCC.
- Checkpoint inhibitors stop cancer hiding from the immune system, so immune cells can recognize and destroy cancer cells.
- In one important clinical trial¹, avelumab caused MCC to shrink in nearly one third of patients who had not responded to chemotherapy, and this benefit continued over many months.
- Additional immunotherapy treatments may become available to treat MCC in future.



What is the difference between immunotherapy and chemotherapy?

Immunotherapy

- ✓ Activates immune cells to recognize and destroy tumor cells
- ✓ Response can last many months

Side Effects

- ✓ Common: fatigue, rash and itching, diarrhea and hormonal changes
- ✓ Infusion reactions and immune-related adverse events may occur
- ✓ Serious side-effects occur infrequently but need prompt treatment
- ✓ Most patients report good quality-of-life

Chemotherapy

- ✓ 'Chemo' drugs slow or stop tumor cell growth
- ✓ Often effective against MCC in the short-term, but less effective once disease has spread

Side Effects

- ✓ Common: fever, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, hair loss, mouth sores, diarrhea, increased risk of infection
- ✓ Less common side effects include nerve injury in the hands and feet, and kidney failure
- ✓ Most patients feel quite unwell

Where can I get support from other people living with MCC?

Merkel Cell Carcinoma: merkelcell.org/resources/get-support/

Cancer Support Community: cancersupportcommunity.org

Skin Cancer Foundation: skincancer.org/skin-cancer-information/support

IS IMMUNOTHERAPY THE RIGHT TREATMENT FOR ME?

Ask Your Doctor...

- 1 What stage is my disease, and what is the difference between Merkel Cell Carcinoma disease stages?
- 2 Is immunotherapy right for me?
- 3 Will I need any other tests before we decide whether I should receive immunotherapy?
- 4 Is immunotherapy covered under my insurance plan?
- 5 Are there other doctors I should see?
- 6 Would participating in a clinical trial be a good idea?



This Merkel Cell Carcinoma infographic was produced with generous support from EMD Serono.

1. Kaufman HL, Russell J, Hamid O et al. Avelumab in patients with chemotherapy-refractory metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma: a multicentre, single-group, open-label, phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncol.* 2016;17(10):1374-1385.