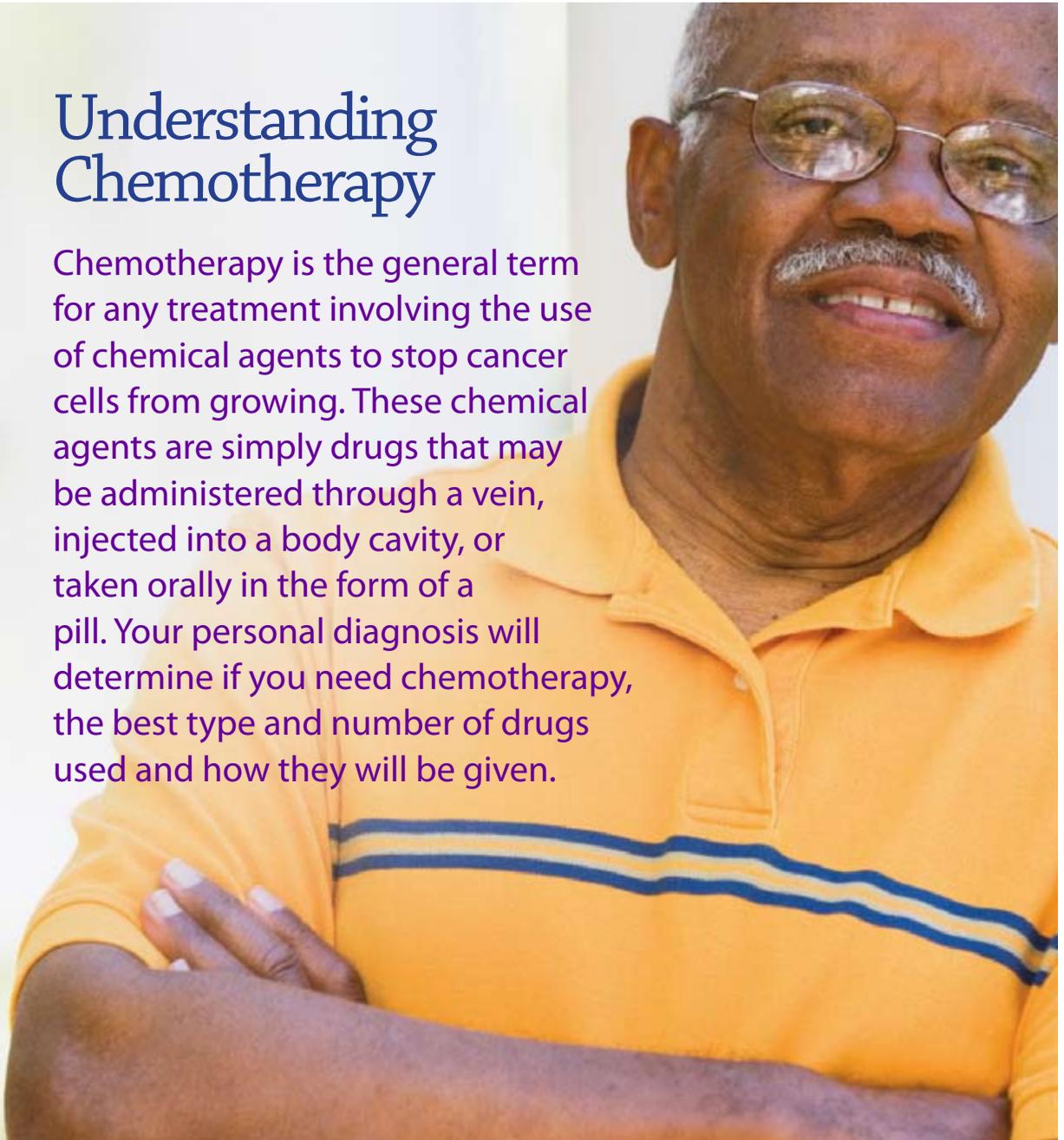


Understanding Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is the general term for any treatment involving the use of chemical agents to stop cancer cells from growing. These chemical agents are simply drugs that may be administered through a vein, injected into a body cavity, or taken orally in the form of a pill. Your personal diagnosis will determine if you need chemotherapy, the best type and number of drugs used and how they will be given.





Dr. Allison Wall chats with a patient in the outpatient infusion clinic located in Memorial Cancer Center.

Benefits of Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is used to:

- » Make a tumor smaller before surgery or radiation therapy
- » Destroy cancer cells that may remain after surgery or radiation therapy
- » Help radiation therapy and biological therapy work better

- » Destroy cancer cells that have come back (recurrent cancer) or have spread to other parts of your body (metastatic cancer)

The Duration of Chemotherapy Treatments

Generally, chemotherapy treatments may be given daily, weekly or monthly for various

periods of time. However, your schedule will be determined by your type of cancer and how advanced it is, the goals of your treatment (whether chemotherapy is used to cure your cancer, control its growth, or in preparation for surgery), the type of chemotherapy to be used, and how you react to chemotherapy.

Cancer Support Groups at Memorial Living with Cancer Support Group

This support group offers cancer patients, caregivers and survivors the opportunity to share their experiences of living with cancer.

(228) 865-3104

Look Good...Feel Better®

This program teaches female cancer patients beauty techniques to help restore their appearance and self-image during chemotherapy and radiation treatments. Look Good... Feel Better® is sponsored by the American Cancer Society, Cosmetic Toiletry and Fragrance Assn. (CTFA) Foundation, National Cosmetology Assn. and Memorial Hospital.

(228) 865-3611

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where do I receive treatment?

A: Chemotherapy treatments may be given during a hospital stay, at an outpatient facility, at home, or in a doctor's office.

Q: What about side effects?

A: The kinds of side effects you might experience depend on the type and dose of chemotherapy you get and how your body reacts. Before starting chemotherapy, your doctor will discuss possible side effects and medicines that may help.

Q: Can I take over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription drugs while taking chemotherapy? How about vitamins, minerals, dietary supplements or herbs?

A: Tell your doctor about all your prescription and OTC medicines. Some supplements and herbs can change how your chemotherapy works. So, ask your doctor before continuing to take them.

Q: Will I be able to work while taking chemotherapy?

A: Many people can work during chemotherapy, as long as they match their schedule to how they feel. Talk to your employer about ways to adjust your work during cancer treatment.

The Health & You segment entitled
“Understanding Chemotherapy”
was presented by Dr. Allison Wall,
Memorial Medical Oncologist.
For information call
(228) **867-5000**.



Portions of this information
were found on the Medicine Net web site:
<http://www.medicinenet.com/chemotherapy>

The information provided is not meant to diagnose or treat possible health problems. Consult your healthcare provider if you have any questions or concerns about Chemotherapy.



Health & You Online

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