



Updates on CAR T-Cell Therapy in Myeloma: Is the Future Bright?

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Andrew Schorr:

Many people are starting to hear about CAR-T, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy for myeloma.

Dr. Berenson:

Right.

Andrew Schorr:

Experimental, some of us who cover myeloma know a woman named Cherie Rineker in Houston who had one recently. She was near death, and a couple of days ago, folks, she was gardening. What's your view about CAR-T? It's experimental, doesn't work for everybody. Does that have a place notwithstanding how you feel about transplant?

Dr. Berenson:

Let's go different because we're not just generally throwing a bunch of chemo, but the general bone marrow we're trying to target against specifically the myeloma cell. I think it's a work in progress. It's certainly active. Now, where it's going to fit in I'm not sure yet. We're going to have to tamp down the toxicity, and we're certainly going to have to look at the cost of this newer modality treatment of myeloma.

There are a number of ways it's being done. A lot of people are targeting BCMA. Others are targeting other protein, and, you know, there's a lot of work to be done on this in order to make it user friendly. Right now it's pretty cumbersome. It's really being done at major medical centers only, and there's certainly some side effects, something called cytokine release syndrome, which can be really daunting for these health staff, the nurses and ancillary healthcare professionals to take care of.

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