

Chemotherapy Terms

Adjuvant chemotherapy: Chemotherapy given to destroy left-over (microscopic) cells that may be present after the known tumor is removed by surgery. Adjuvant chemotherapy is given to prevent cancer recurrence.

Neoadjuvant chemotherapy: Chemotherapy given prior to the surgical procedure. Neoadjuvant chemotherapy may be given to attempt to shrink a cancer so that the surgical procedure may not need to be as extensive.

Induction chemotherapy: Chemotherapy given to induce a remission. This term is commonly used in the treatment of acute leukemias.

Consolidation chemotherapy: Chemotherapy given once a remission is achieved. The goal of this therapy is to sustain a remission. Consolidation chemotherapy may also be called **intensification therapy**. This term is commonly used in treatment of acute leukemias.

Maintenance chemotherapy: Chemotherapy given in lower doses to assist in prolonging a remission. Maintenance chemotherapy is used only for certain types of cancer, most commonly acute lymphocytic leukemias and acute promyelocytic leukemias

First line chemotherapy: Chemotherapy that has, through research studies and clinical trials, been determined to have the best probability of treating a given cancer. This may also be called **standard therapy**.

Second line chemotherapy: Chemotherapy that is given if a disease has not responded or reoccurred after first line chemotherapy. Second line chemotherapy has, through research studies and clinical trials, been determined to be effective in treating a given cancer that has not responded or reoccurred after standard chemotherapy. In some cases, this may also be referred to as **salvage therapy**.

Palliative chemotherapy: Palliative is a type of chemotherapy that is given specifically to address symptom management without expecting to significantly reduce the cancer.