

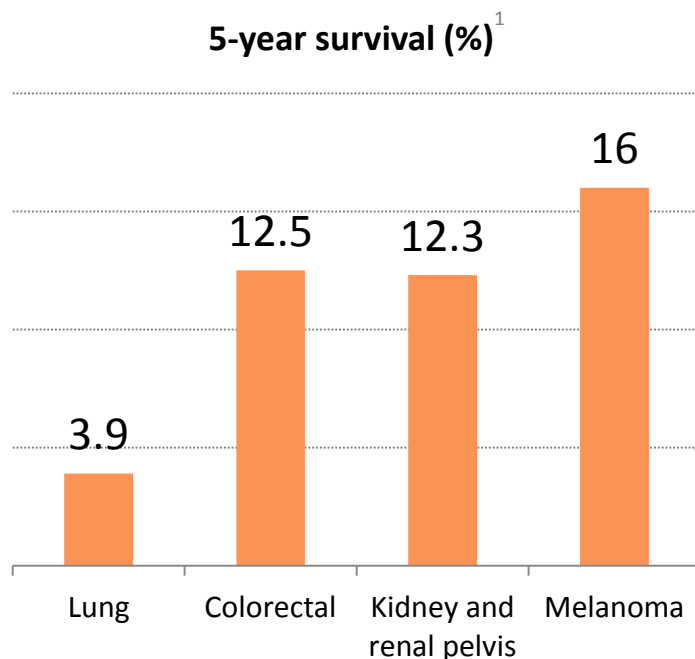
# Immuno-Oncology at a Glance

## TOPICS:

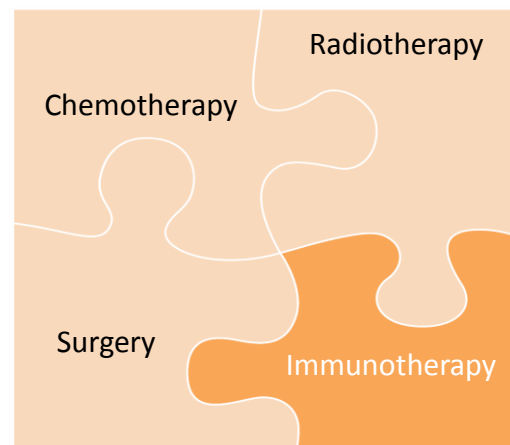
- What's immuno-oncology (I-O)
- Immune system and cancer
  - Tumor-associated antigens
  - Antigen-presenting cells (APCs)
  - T cells
  - B cells
  - Antibodies
  - NK cells
  - Tumor-associated antigens and immune system activation
- Practical and safety considerations
  - Potential patterns of response to I-O therapy
  - Pseudo-progression and I-O therapy
  - Adverse effects (AEs)
  - Clinical implications of immune-associated AEs

# What's immuno-oncology (I-O)

Improved survival remains a challenge in some advanced cancers. 5-year survival remains poor for many patients with metastatic solid tumors.<sup>1</sup> There is an ongoing need for **new treatments and therapeutic modalities** for patients with advanced cancers.<sup>2</sup>



## Pillars of Cancer Therapies

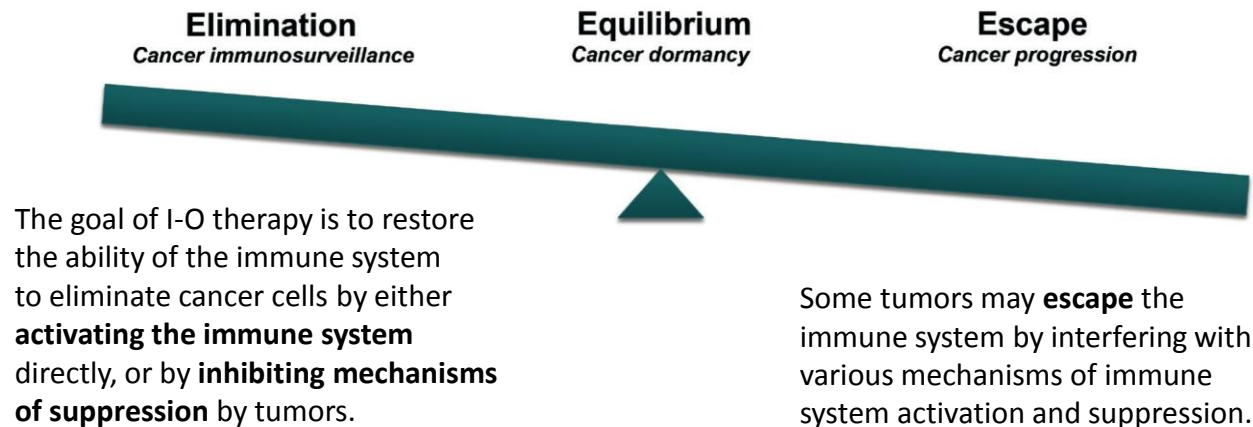


I-O therapies are being investigated in an attempt to utilize the body's own immune system to fight diseases.<sup>3-5</sup>

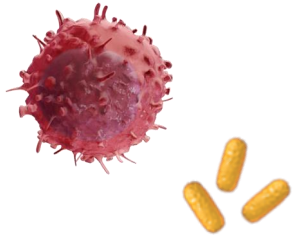
# The immune system and cancer: immunoediting

The process by which the immune system recognizes, destroys, and sculpts tumors is known as **immunoediting**.<sup>1</sup> There are 3 phases in immunoediting<sup>1,2</sup>:

1. **ELIMINATION** (cancer immunosurveillance) – Cancer cells are detected by the immune system and/or eliminated. Tumor cells not destroyed may enter the equilibrium phase.<sup>1,2</sup>
2. **EQUILIBRIUM** (cancer dormancy) – Some cancer cells persist but the immune system prevents tumor outgrowth.<sup>1,2</sup>
3. **ESCAPE** (cancer progression) – Resistant variant cells acquire the ability to evade immune detection or elimination.<sup>1,2</sup> This results in clinically apparent disease.<sup>2</sup>

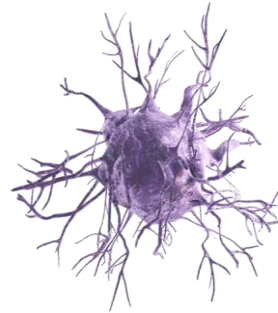


# Players in the immune response against cancer



## Tumor-associated antigens<sup>1</sup>

- Are abnormal cell substances/proteins (tumor antigens) which can be recognized and responded to by the immune system



## Antigen-presenting cells (APC)<sup>1</sup>

- Take up antigens from infected or malignant cells and process them into shorter peptide segments
- Present antigens to T cells to mobilize an immune response



## T cells<sup>1</sup>

- Have T-cell receptors, which can recognize tumor-associated antigens
- Play a major role in killing infected or malignant cells when activated
- Help perpetuate ongoing immune responses

# Players in the immune response against cancer



## B cells<sup>1</sup>

- Display B-cell receptors, which can bind free floating antigens in the blood or lymph
- Once activated, B cells differentiate to become plasma cells which can secrete large quantities of antibodies against a specific antigen<sup>1</sup>



## Antibodies<sup>1</sup>

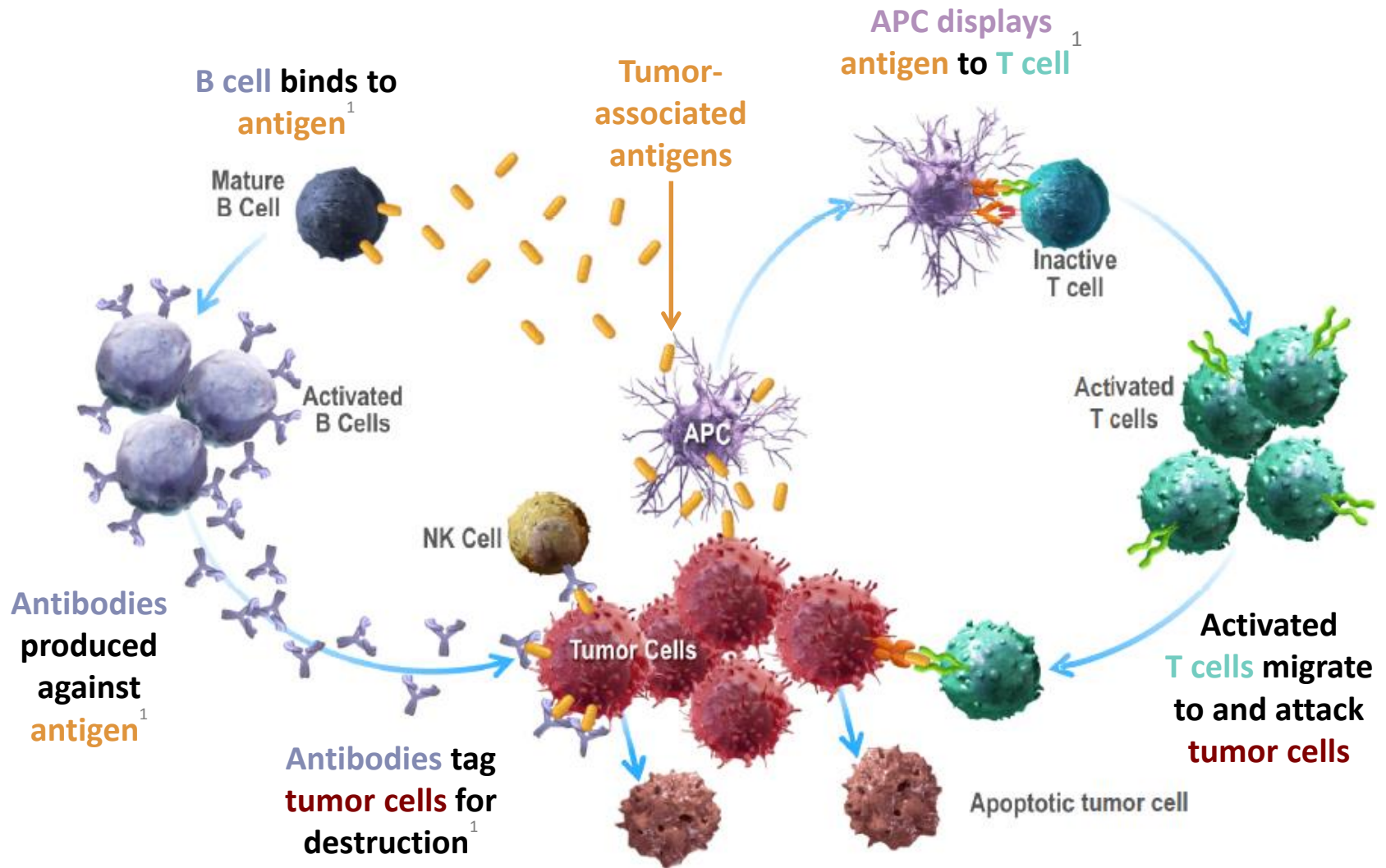
- Are secreted by activated B cells, called plasma cells
- Tag antigen-containing cells for attack by other parts of the immune system, or neutralize their targets directly by blocking important mechanisms



## NK cells<sup>1</sup>

- Can recognize infected or malignant cells innately without contact with an antigen-presenting cell or antibody (this allows NK cells to launch rapid responses against stressed cells)
- Can also attack based on recognition of antibodies on a cell surface

# Tumor-associated antigens can cause an immune response<sup>1</sup>



1. Janeway CA, et al. Immunobiology: The Immune System in Health and Disease. 6th ed. New York, NY: Garland Science; 2004

# Potential patterns of response to I-O therapy

Therapies that affect the immune system may not induce a measurable impact on tumor growth *immediately* after administration.<sup>13</sup> Potential effects may be seen weeks to months after initial administration.

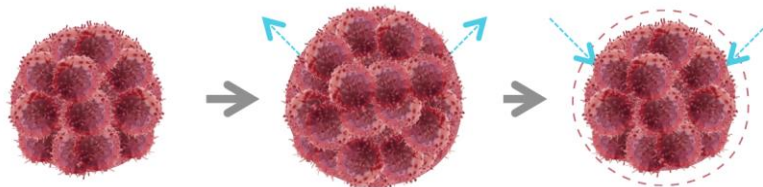
Immediate response<sup>1</sup>



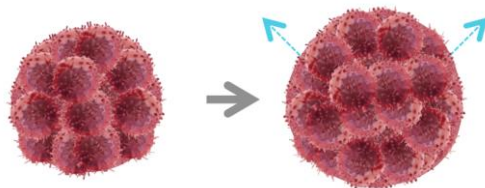
Lack of tumor shrinkage but a slowing of tumor progression<sup>2-6</sup>



Tumor regression after early radiographical progression<sup>1-3,5,7-11</sup>



Early but clinically insignificant progression<sup>1,4-5, 12</sup>



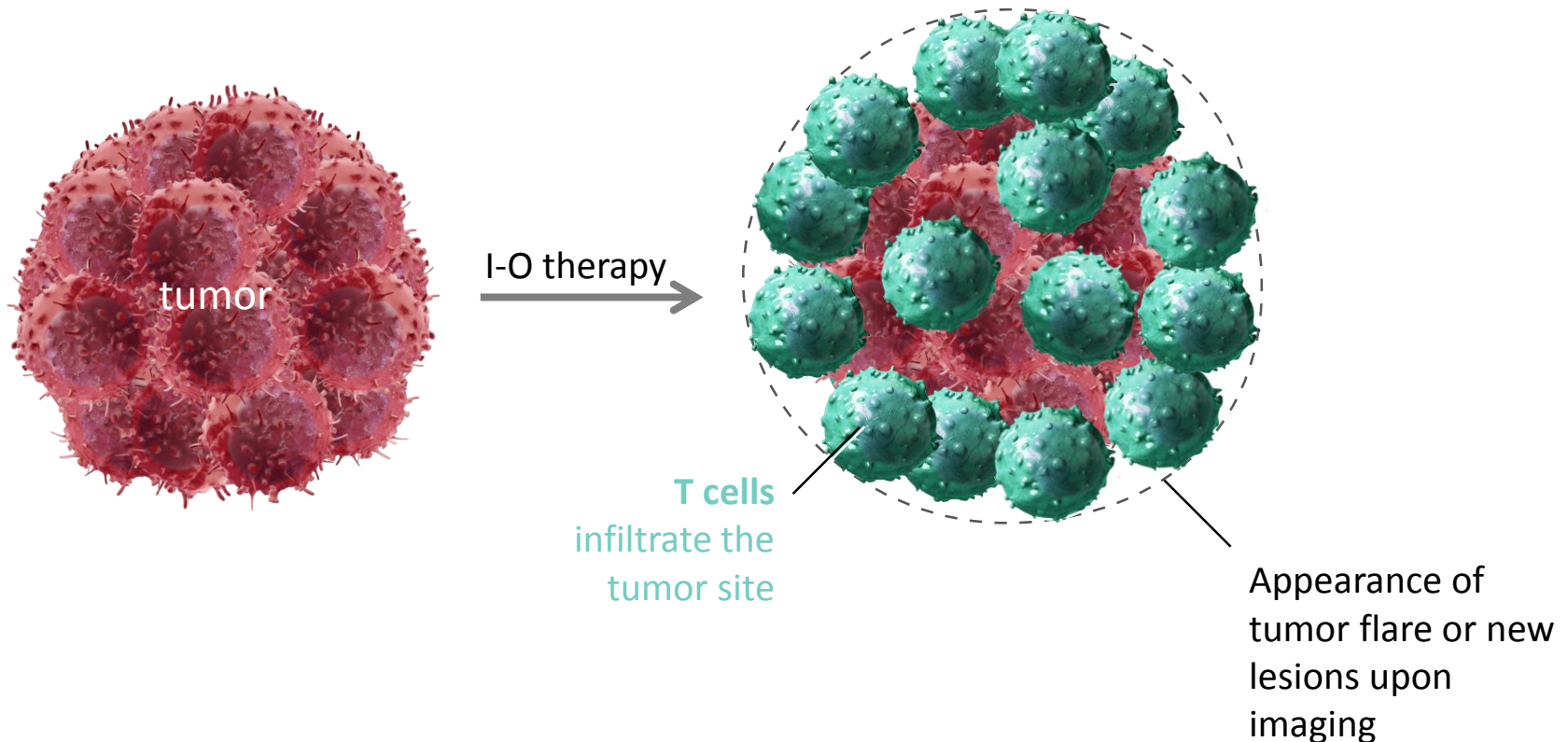
There is also the potential that patients may not respond to therapy.

1. Fox BA, et al. *J Transl Med*. 2011; 9:214-226 | 2. Hoos A, et al. *J Immunother*. 2007;30:1-15 | 3. Lipson EJ. *Oncol Immunology*. 2013;2:e23661-3 | 4. Suzuki H, et al. *J Transl Med*. 2013;11:97-106 | 5. Slovin SR. *Front Oncol*. 2012;2:43 | 6. Madan RA et al. *Oncologist*. 2010; 15:969-975 | 7. John T, et al. *PLoS One*. 2013-8:e67876 | 8. Aarntzem EHJF, et al. *Cell Mol Life Sci*. 2013; 70-2237-2257 | 9. FDA Guidance for Industry: Clinical Considerations for Therapeutic Cancer Vaccines. 2009 | 10. Sze DY, et al. *J Vasc Interv Radiol*. 2003;14:279-290 | 11. Senzer NN, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2009; 27:5763-5771 | 12. Naik JD, et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2011;17:4214-4224 | 13. Hoos A and Britten CM. *Oncol Immunology*. 2012;1:334-339



# Pseudo-progression and I-O therapy

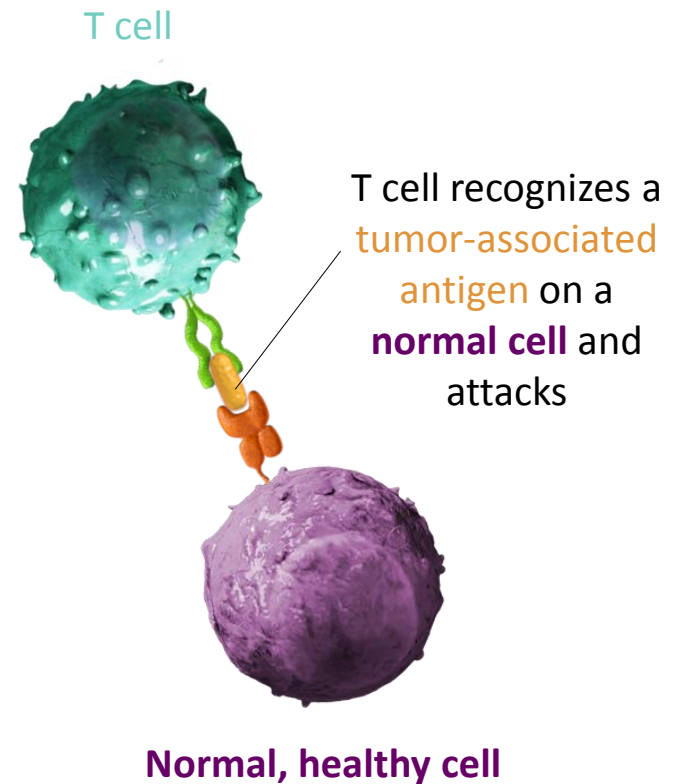
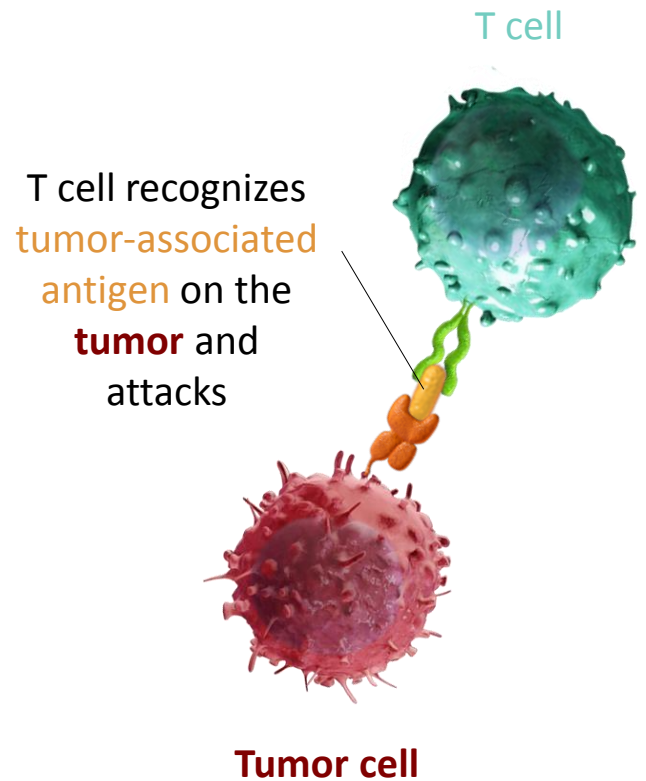
**Apparent progression** upon radiographic imaging after initial I-O therapy can actually be a sign of **pseudo-progression**. **Pseudo-progression** may occur when **T cells infiltrate the tumor site** and cause tumors to flare or new lesions to appear upon imaging.<sup>1,2,3</sup>





# Adverse effects (AEs)

Tumor cells arise from normal cells in our body so some **tumor-associated antigens** may also be associated with normal, healthy cells. By 'activating' the immune system with I-O therapy, a major concern is that the immune system will attack **normal, healthy cells** along with **tumor cells**.<sup>1</sup>



## Clinical implications of immune-associated AEs

- AEs can be serious and potentially fatal
- Remain vigilant throughout and after treatment
- Educate and encourage patients to monitor for and report symptoms of immune-associated AEs
- Not all AEs can be managed and some patients may have to discontinue treatment
  - To give patients the best chance of therapeutic success, follow management guidelines for immune-associated AEs

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