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Prior Immunotherapy

National Cancer Institute

Source

National Cancer Institute. *Prior Immunotherapy*. NCI Thesaurus. Code C16168.

Originally, therapeutic administration of serum or gamma globulin containing preformed antibodies produced by another individual; currently, immunotherapy includes nonspecific systemic stimulation, adjuvants, active specific immunotherapy, and adoptive immunotherapy. New forms of immunotherapy include the use of monoclonal antibodies. This approach has been widely adopted by cancer specialists, often in cases which fail to respond to other treatment. Immunotherapy aims to boost immune system function, as with the administration of interferons and interleukin-2, or to attack cancerous cells directly, as with the injection of monoclonal antibodies. Various immunotherapeutic techniques have also been employed among AIDS patients. In addition, a number of alternative medical practices are claimed to enhance immune function, and various over-the-counter substances (e.g., goldenseal, lysine have gained popularity for this supposed property.