



For Patients

Learn how immunotherapy enables your immune system to fight cancer and how that can help patients with liver and pancreatic tumors.

What is the Immune System?

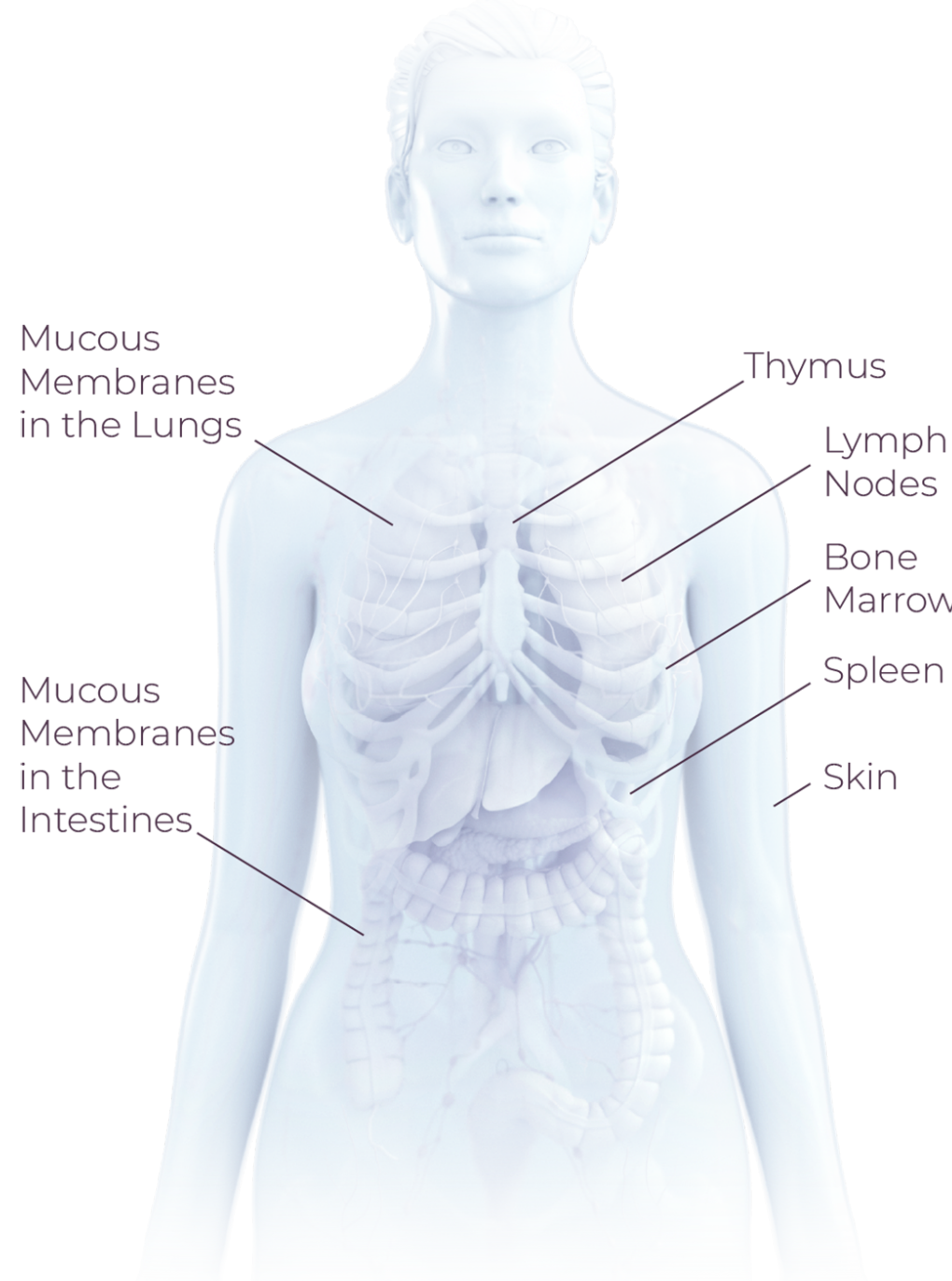
Our immune system is a complex network of cells and proteins located in tissues throughout the body that protects our bodies from outside invaders, like bacteria and viruses. It's our immune system that keeps us healthy during everyday exposure to pathogens.

The cells and proteins that make up the immune system are present in many different locations in the body such as lymph nodes, bone marrow, the spleen, intestines and even your skin. Another critical part of the system is the liver, which is exposed to a large number of bacteria and proteins from the food we eat because blood flows directly from the intestines to the liver.

The Role of the Immune System in Cancer

The immune system plays an important role in protecting us from tumors or cancer. Cancer cells are faulty or mutated versions of our normal cells and our immune systems have the ability to detect and destroy these cells.

Unfortunately, cancer cells can escape detection by the immune system or even shut down immune cell function by taking over normal control mechanisms. Helping our immune systems recognize and destroy cancer cells is a major focus of modern cancer treatment development.



What is Immunotherapy?

Immunotherapy is designed to harness the power of the patient's own immune system to fight cancer. These therapies have the ability to boost or restore immune cell function to allow for the recognition and destruction of cancer cells.

New immunotherapies you may have heard of include checkpoint inhibitors and CAR-T therapies. While emerging immunotherapies have improved patient outcomes in some types of cancer, unfortunately, patients with certain tumors, including the liver and pancreas often do not benefit from these treatments.

Immunotherapy in the Liver & Pancreas



Function of the Liver

The liver plays an essential role in the digestive system. The stomach and intestine digest what we consume, allowing it to be absorbed into the blood. The liver filters the blood to remove toxins, store nutrients and break down fats. It also plays a role in keeping the sugar levels in the bloodstream in balance.

The Liver's Unique Immune System

Due to its role in digestion, your liver is constantly exposed to materials foreign to your body. Specialized immune cells in your liver make sure your immune system doesn't respond too aggressively to things that aren't harmful, like proteins in the food that we eat.

Liver Tumors are Good at Evading the Immune System

Tumors in the liver are especially good at evading the natural immune system, taking advantage of the cells and processes that normally prevent hyperactive immune responses. Another complication is that, as cancer grows, high pressure develops which can cause tumor blood vessels to collapse, making immunotherapy delivery difficult. Scientists are just starting to understand how the immune system in the liver works and what that means for treating tumors.



How is Immunotherapy Administered?

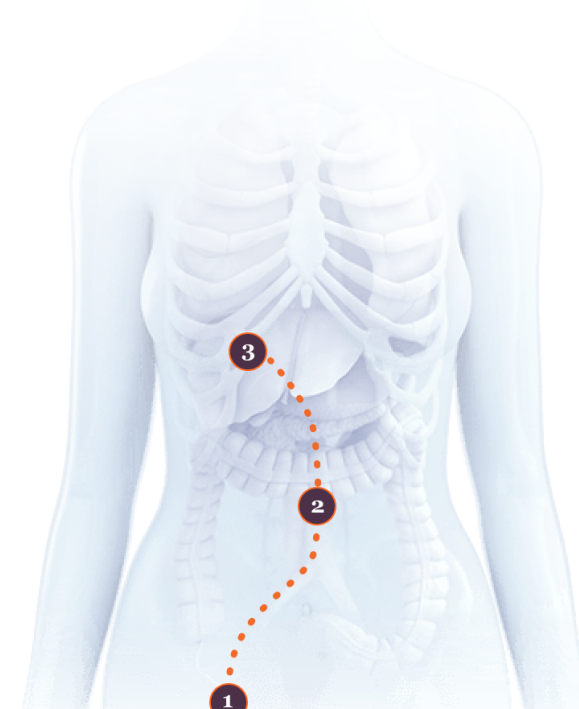
Immunotherapy can be delivered in several ways: to the whole body through systemic intravenous (IV) delivery, locally through needle injection and intravascular regional delivery.

At TriSalus, we are exploring intravascular regional drug delivery for the direct infusion of immunotherapy into a targeted region of tissue. We believe this will increase local therapeutic concentration and reduce systemic side effects.

Intravascular regional drug delivery is performed for tumors that can't be surgically removed or resected. Therapy is administered through a standard interventional procedure that is minimally invasive, out-patient and typically takes approximately an hour.

Steps for Therapy

- 1 A small puncture is made, usually into the brachial artery in the arm or the femoral artery near the groin.
- 2 Similar to a cardiac angiogram, x-rays are used to guide a catheter to the liver.
- 3 Therapy is then delivered achieving a highly concentrated dose directly into the tumor.



Our Commitment to Patients

Helping Immunotherapy Work in the Liver and Pancreas

TriSalus is studying ways to activate the immune system by getting a high concentration of the right drugs into liver or pancreas tumor tissue, while also minimizing exposure to non-diseased sites. Our platform approach is based on a scientific understanding of the barriers to treatment in the liver and pancreas. It aims to treat patients with tumors that do not reliably benefit from new advances in immunotherapy.

Our clinical trials are studying the combination of drugs that may help the immune system with a delivery device that may ensure drugs get to where they need to go.

To determine whether you or a loved one may qualify for one of our clinical trials, please see our [clinical trials](#).

We are Focused on Tumors that are Hard to Treat

We are working on treatments for tumors in the liver and pancreas, including:

Primary liver cancer

- Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)
- Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma (ICC)

Liver metastases

- Uveal melanoma with liver metastases
- Colorectal cancer with liver metastases
- Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) with liver metastases

Locally advanced pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC)

Patient Resources



► Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation (CCF)

CCF's mission is to find a cure and improve the quality of life for those affected by cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer). Founded in 2006, CCF has become the leading global resource in research, education and public awareness.



► Global Liver Institute (GLI)

GLI is a global patient-led liver health nonprofit that aims to improve the lives of individuals and families impacted by liver disease through promoting innovation, encouraging collaboration and scaling optimal approaches to help eradicate liver diseases.



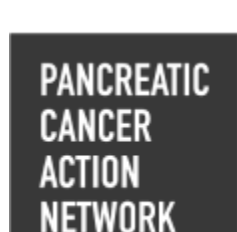
► Community United for Research and Education of Ocular Melanoma (CUREom)

CUREom is an initiative by the Melanoma Research Foundation (MRF) to increase awareness, education, and research funding for ocular melanoma while improving the lives of people affected by this disease.



► A Cure in Sight™ (ACIS)

ACIS supports families who have ocular melanoma and focuses on research for a cure.



► Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)

PanCAN is a national organization with the mission to take bold action to improve the lives of everyone impacted by pancreatic cancer by advancing scientific research, building community, sharing knowledge and advocating for patients.



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