

# TARGETED CANCER THERAPIES



Targeted therapies are new types of drug therapy for cancer. They are part of a form of treatment that is often described as personalized therapy. They attack certain characteristics of the tumor or tumor properties and may block the growth of tumor, slow metabolism, or activate the immune system.

Targeted therapies focus on the biological properties of the tumor. Any modified property of a tumor compared to a healthy cell is referred to as a biomarker.

A patient can receive targeted treatment only if the tumor demonstrates such properties. Therefore, this treatment is not available for all types of tumors. Targeted therapies should only attack cancer cells, but the structures targeted by the new drugs sometimes occur in healthy cells. These therapies can therefore also have side effects.

You can obtain **additional background information** from the **Cancer Information Service (KID)** of the German Cancer Research Center at

🌐 [www.krebsinformationsdienst.de](http://www.krebsinformationsdienst.de)

✉ [krebsinformationsdienst@dkfz.de](mailto:krebsinformationsdienst@dkfz.de)

### Antibody Therapeutics

#### Effect

Therapy with antibodies which aims to work against certain characteristics of the tumor cell or to stop the growth or supply of the tumor cell.

#### Side effects

Antibody therapies, ideally, only recognize tumor cells. Sometimes, the properties of the tumor cells which should be attacked also occur in healthy cells. As a result, these treatments can cause side effects which depend on the therapy substance. Your physician will explain the effectiveness and possible side effects of the substance in detail.

### Immune therapies

#### Effect

Immune therapies aim to systematically support or activate the body's immune system to detect and attack cancer cells.

#### Side effects

A particular activation of the immune system may cause the risk that the immune cells turn against the body's healthy cells, triggering an autoimmune reaction. Side effects can be; infections of the skin, lungs, liver, thyroid, kidney, or gastro-intestinal tract. The potential reactions depend on the therapy and will be explained in detail by your physician. In addition, patients will receive an emergency ID card to indicate treatment with immunotherapeutics.