What is immunotherapy?

Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that helps the patient’s own immune system fight cancer.

1. Normal immune system
   T cells are the cells of the immune system that identify tumor cells and combat them.

2. Tumor cells fight back
   Some tumor cells develop a shield of molecules called PDL1. These bond to the T cells’ PD1 receptors and deactivate them.

3. Checkpoint inhibitors
   In this type of immunotherapy, drugs are given to reduce the cancer cell’s ability to trick the immune system.
   Checkpoint inhibitors block the PDL1 and PD1 from binding to each other, allowing the T-cells to attack tumor cells.

4. Restored defenses
   Checkpoint inhibitor drugs block the PDL1 and PD1 from binding to each other, allowing the T-cells to attack tumor cells.

SOURCES
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