

Mononuclear Cell (MNC) Collection for Provenge[®] Therapy

Information Sheet

About mononuclear cell collection

Your physician has prescribed Provenge therapy as part of your cancer therapy. Provenge therapy uses your mononuclear cells, a type of white blood cell, to make a treatment that stimulates your immune system to target prostate cancer cells. Mononuclear cells are collected using a procedure called leukapheresis. You will undergo three leukapheresis procedures approximately two weeks apart. During a leukapheresis procedure, blood is drawn from the patient's arm - if the veins in the arms are not sufficiently large, a central venous catheter (CVC) may be inserted for these procedures. The blood then goes into a cell separating machine, which uses a centrifuge to separate the cells needed for the Provenge therapy. The blood components that are not used for the therapy are returned to the patient through a needle in the other arm or the CVC.

This process is similar to what thousands of blood donors do every day when they donate blood for people who are sick or injured and need blood products. A new sterile tubing set is used for every leukapheresis procedure. Your MNC collection procedure will take place at a Red Cross apheresis center where our specially trained staff will explain the procedure to you in detail, answer questions, and discuss any concerns you might have.

Assessing your veins for the leukapheresis procedure

A staff member at your physician's office or an apheresis staff member at the American Red Cross collection center will evaluate your veins to ensure they are adequate to support the needles used for the leukapheresis procedures, which are larger than needles used for blood draws in your doctor's office. The vein assessment is an important part of preparing you for your therapy.

At the time of your vein assessment please tell your doctor or the apheresis staff person about any prior problems you have had with blood draws or other procedures involving your veins.



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Information that would be important to share includes which veins were used, what you were told about any difficulties, and if you have ever had a venous access catheter placed because your veins could not be accessed.

In the event that the veins in your arms are not suitable for the apheresis procedure, your doctor will discuss other options with you. One of the options may be the placement of a central venous catheter. The placement of a CVC requires a minor surgical procedure and an x-ray to ensure proper placement.

Your doctor will make the arrangements for the placement and follow-up care of the CVC.

The mononuclear cell collection

Please review the "Instructions for Patients" sheet carefully prior to your day of collection so you know what to expect. Your leukapheresis procedure may take 3-4 hours. Please wear comfortable, loose fitting clothing. You may wish to bring personal entertainment items such as movie or music players, keeping in mind that if veins in your arms are used for the procedure you will not have use of your arms. If you have a CVC in place you will have full use of your arms.

After the collection is complete your MNCs will be packed and shipped to Dendreon for preparation for Provenge therapy. We will provide light refreshments following the procedure.

If you have any questions about the leukapheresis procedure, please contact your doctor's office.



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