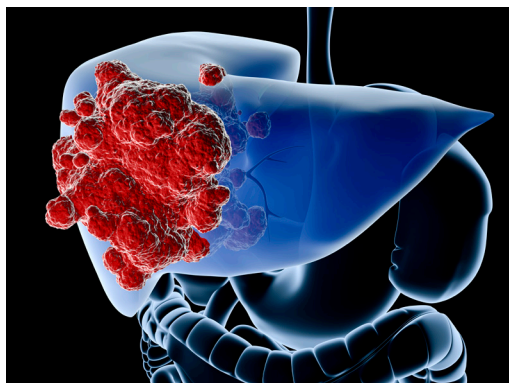


TACE

Transarterial Chemoembolization



WHAT IS TRANSARTERIAL CHEMOEMBOLIZATION (TACE)?

Transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) is a way of giving chemotherapy drugs to patients with liver cancer. TACE does not cure cancer but is used to slow down or stop the growth of tumors in the liver. This treatment can reduce the symptoms of the cancer and extend life.

WHAT HAPPENS DURING A TACE PROCEDURE?

The doctor in charge of this procedure is an interventional radiologist. A flexible tube called a catheter is inserted into a large artery in the groin or wrist. This tube is moved around to find the blood vessels, or arteries, that supply blood to the tumor(s) in the liver. Once the catheter is in the correct artery, a mixture of chemotherapy medication and a specific type of oil is injected through the artery into the tumor.

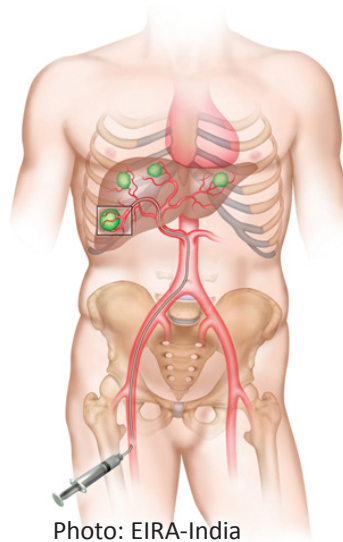
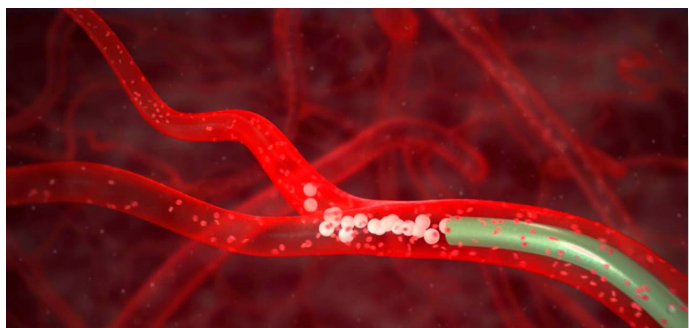


Photo: EIRA-India



HOW DOES TACE DESTROY CANCER CELLS?

The chemotherapy medication in the mixture destroys the cancer cells. The oil blocks the vessels supplying blood and oxygen to the tumor, which also causes its cells to die.

TACE TREATMENT TIMELINE

**Day before
your
procedure**

- You will be admitted to the hospital the day before you have TACE treatment.
- You will be given an IV so that you can receive IV fluids overnight. The IV will also be used to give you medications during your treatment the next day. The medications are antibiotics, anti-nausea and anti-inflammatory medications and ones to keep you comfortable.

DO:



- Bring all prescription medications, herbal products and vitamins you are currently taking to the hospital. Keep them in their original packaging.
- You will need to shave your groin. You can do this yourself, or a nurse can do it for you.

DO NOT:



- Do not eat solid food the night before your treatment.

**During
the TACE
procedure**

- You must stay very still.
- You will be given medication to make you as comfortable as possible.
- Be prepared to feel some discomfort when the chemotherapy mixture is injected.
- After the injection, the catheter will be taken out. Pressure will be placed at the site of the injection to reduce any bleeding.

After the TACE procedure

- You will be brought to the recovery room to be monitored before you are ready to return to your hospital room.
- After the treatment, you may be required to lay still in bed for 3 to 4 hours.
- You will stay in the hospital for one night after the treatment.
- Bloodwork will be done daily to make sure your liver is working correctly. If everything is functioning well, you may leave the hospital the morning after the TACE procedure



Follow-up care

- You will have regular visits with your health care team to monitor your health

WHAT SIDE EFFECTS CAN I EXPECT?

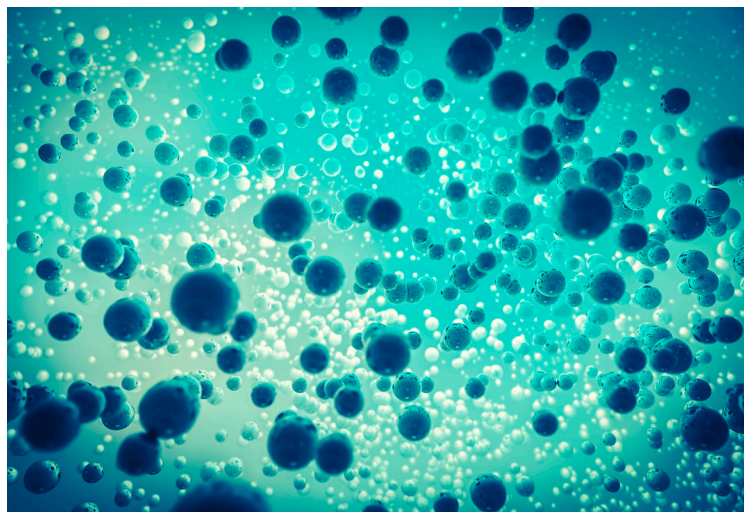
Some of the more common side effects that you may experience are listed below. Every patient is different and you may not experience any or all of the side effects below. If you have questions or concerns, ask your health care team. Contact your health care team if there is no improvement and/or if any of the side-effects are very severe.

Side effect	What to expect	What to do
Post-embolization syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea/vomiting Pain in the abdomen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take anti-nausea medications (i.e., Gravol or Ondansetron) as needed You are encouraged to ask your nurse for pain medication
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to the closest emergency department immediately if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sudden increase in abdominal pain, and/or b) A fever over 38.5°C <p>You may have a serious infection.</p>
Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiredness usually lasts 3-4 weeks after treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rest often You may continue usual activities, but may be advised to avoid operating 4 dangerous machinery or driving in rare cases Speak with your doctor if fatigue lasts longer than 4 weeks as there may be medications to help with this problem
Lack of appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may last anywhere from 1 - 4 weeks, but typically lasts 2 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat small meals throughout the day Drink plenty of fluids Eat small servings of foods that you enjoy

RADIOACTIVE MICROSPHERES

This treatment is similar to TACE except that instead of a mixture of chemotherapy and oil, very small radioactive beads are injected through the catheter. These beads are called radioactive microspheres and are usually thinner than a human hair.

The microspheres release radiation into the tumor to destroy it or slow its growth.



Radioactive microspheres are not covered under OHIP and there is a cost to patients for this treatment.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR CANCER TREATMENT



If your health care team recommends TACE or radioactive microspheres as a treatment, you will receive more information including a Post-Embolization Therapy Instructions pamphlet and more details about what happens during and after the procedure, side effects, and what you can expect for follow-up care. Your health care team is here to help, ask questions to help you understand.

NS8139 (2019/08/06)