CAR-T Masterstroke Or Biological Chaos?

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KEY TAKEAWAYS

- CAR-T cells use synthetic receptors to recognise cancer antigens directly, bypassing MHC - circumventing the main immune evasion strategies of haematological cancers
- CD19 CAR-T: 40-50% CR rates in relapsed/refractory DLBCL and 80%+ in paediatric ALL - unprecedented in multiply-pretreated disease
- Toxicities: CRS (managed with tocilizumab) and ICANS (managed with corticosteroids) require specialist centres with expertise
- Manufacturing remains autologous and patient-specific with a 2-5 week turnaround - a key practical limitation driving interest in allogeneic alternatives

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