



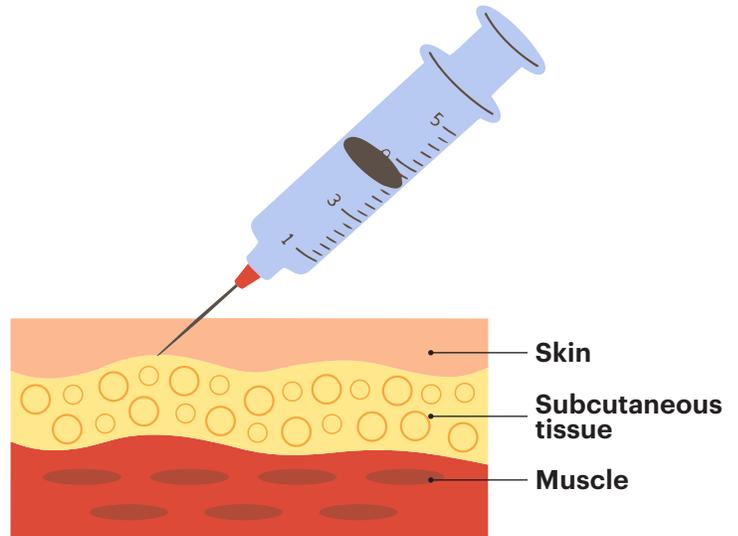
Subcutaneous Injections for Immunotherapy in Kidney Cancer

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



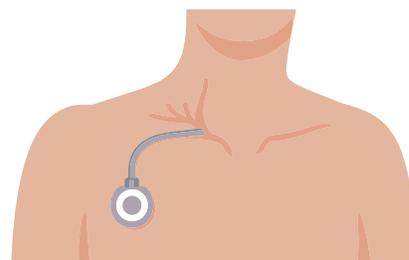
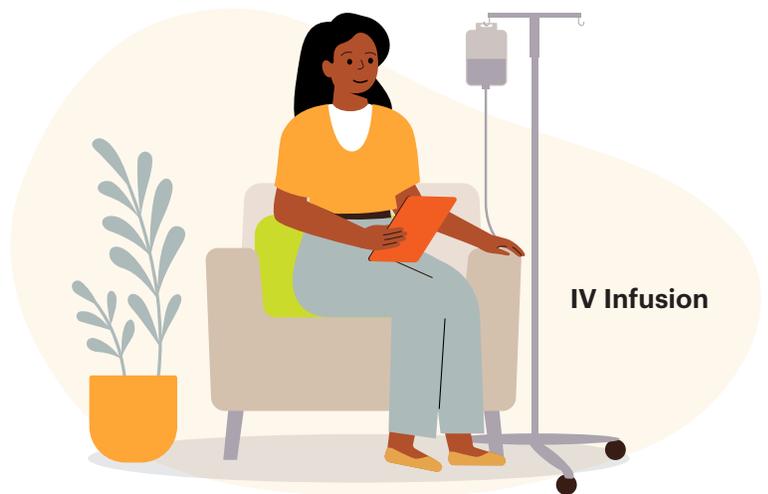
What is a subcutaneous (under the skin) injection?

- A subcutaneous injection pushes medicine directly into the layer of fat under the skin. The injection is usually given into the abdomen (belly) or thigh.
- Subcutaneous injections are used to give common medicines like insulin. They can now be used to give certain immunotherapy drugs for kidney cancer.
- Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that boosts or trains the body's own immune system to recognize and destroy cancer cells.



How does a subcutaneous injection for immunotherapy compare with an intravenous (IV) infusion?

- Both methods use the same medicine, but IV infusions need a lot more fluid and take longer to give than subcutaneous injections.
- A subcutaneous injection for immunotherapy takes about 3-5 minutes and can be given in a clinic or doctor's office. While certain subcutaneous injections like insulin can be self-administered, subcutaneous injections for immunotherapy must be given by a healthcare professional.
- An IV infusion takes about 30 minutes and is given at an infusion center.
- An IV infusion is given through a vein in the arm or through a port that is placed in the chest and connected to a vein.
- Studies show that immunotherapy drugs approved for subcutaneous injection work the same way in the body as IV infusions.





Questions to ask your healthcare team

Are subcutaneous injections an option for my kidney cancer treatment plan?

What side effects can happen with subcutaneous injection of an immunotherapy drug?

Will subcutaneous injections affect my lab results differently than if I had IV infusions?

Will my insurance cover subcutaneous injections?

Glossary

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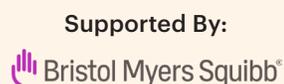
Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that boosts or trains the body's own immune system to recognize and destroy cancer cells.

An **intravenous (IV) infusion** is given through a vein in the arm or through a port.

A **port** is a small device placed in the chest that provides long-term access to a large vein for giving medicine. It has a self-sealing cover attached to a tube that's inserted into the vein. Injection into the port avoids repeated needle sticks.

For more information, contact the National Kidney Foundation

Toll-free help line: **855.NKF.CARES** or email: **nkfcare@kidney.org**



KIDNEY.ORG



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