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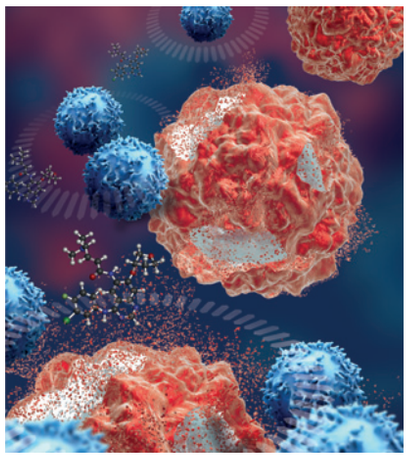

Results from clinical trials of EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI) and immunotherapy indicate that the combination remains inadequate for inducing long-term remission. The study by Tu and colleagues demonstrated that early treatment with EGFR TKI afatinib suppressed human $CD8^+$ T lymphocyte proliferation, which rebounded following long-term treatment, suggesting an immunomodulatory effect of afatinib on $CD8^+$ T lymphocytes. Sequential treatment with afatinib then anti-PD1 immunotherapy could enhance therapeutic efficacy by promoting the proliferation of tumor-infiltrating $CD8^+$ T lymphocytes. The image depicts the impact of timing of afatinib treatment on effective killing of tumor cells (red) by T lymphocytes (blue). For details, see article by Tu and colleagues on page 3270.

AACR American Association for Cancer Research

Cancer Research

The Journal of Cancer Research (1916–1930) | The American Journal of Cancer (1931–1940)

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