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City of Hope initiates T-cell therapy trial for HPV-associated cancers

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The first-in-human, Phase 1 trial will investigate Kite's T-cell receptor (TCR) therapy in patients who have human papillomavirus (HPV)-associated cancers that have relapsed or are resistant to treatment.

The study is now enrolling patients at City of Hope, one of America's best hospitals in cancer treatment. The institution is the first to open such a trial on the West Coast.

Kite's TCR therapy (KITE-439) is designed to target HPV-16, a viral strain associated with 70% of all cervical cancers worldwide as well as oropharyngeal, anal, penile and vaginal cancers. This personalized immunotherapy thus activates the immune system's ability to recognize and target specifically the tumor cells.

The trial is designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of KITE-439 in HLA-A*02:01+ Subjects with relapsed/refractory HPV16+ cancers. The receptor is designed to target antigens expressed in the cancer cells that are infected by HPV, potentially inducing T cell activation against the cells.

During the trial, a person's own T cells are collected and genetically engineered with KITE-439. They will receive cyclophosphamide and fludarabine conditioning chemotherapy prior to receiving the T cells to allow engraftment of the engineered T cells into the body.

The trial which will be conducted in two phases, Phase 1A and Phase 1B, will investigate the safety and efficacy of the treatment, respectively. Phase 1A will evaluate the dose-limiting toxicity, meaning the treatment-related adverse events within the first 21 days following KITE-439 infusion. Phase 1B will evaluate the efficacy, defined as the incidence of complete and partial responses.

Source: City of Hope Now Enrolling Patients for First-in-Human T Cell Trial for HPV-Associated Cancers; [Press Release](#)

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