

GLOSSARY

Anemia A low level of red blood cells or hemoglobin. This condition can cause a number of symptoms, including shortness of breath, weakness, and fatigue.

Anorexia An adverse effect of cancer or its treatment characterized by a loss of appetite and weight loss.

Antibodies Special proteins made by certain white blood cells (plasma cells) that fight infection and disease.

Bone marrow The spongy inner part of the bones where blood cells are made.

Clinical trial The testing of a new medical treatment on a selected disease population; helps determine if the treatment is safe and effective enough to be offered to the larger population with that disease. Clinical trials are often done in phases.

Complete response (CR) Results where there are $\leq 5\%$ plasma cells in the bone marrow and no evidence of myeloma proteins in the serum or urine, as measured by standard laboratory techniques. It does not mean the cancer has been cured.

Dexamethasone A drug that is similar to a chemical produced by the adrenal glands and is used to treat certain types of blood cancers.

Hemoglobin A protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen in the blood to all parts of the body.

Hypercalcemia A level of calcium higher than normal in the blood. This condition can cause many symptoms, including loss of appetite, nausea, thirst, fatigue (tiredness), muscle weakness, and confusion.

Intravenous Into a vein.

Melphalan A cancer drug from a class of drugs known as alkylating agents. A chemotherapy drug used to fight cancer; it works by slowing or stopping the growth of cancer cells.

MP Melphalan and prednisone.

MRI A technique that uses a large magnet and radio waves to look at organs and structures inside your body. MRI stands for magnetic resonance imaging.

Multiple myeloma A cancer of the plasma cells (white blood cells that produce antibodies).

Myeloma cells Cancerous plasma cells.

Neurotoxicity Nervous system side effects. Peripheral neuropathy is an example of neurotoxicity.

ORR (overall response rate) The percentage of patients whose cancer shrinks or disappears after treatment.

PET scan (positron emission tomography) A technique that uses radioactivity levels to reveal the locations of cancer cells in different parts of the body.

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Plasma cell Special white blood cells that produce a specific antibody.

Platelets A type of blood cell that helps prevent bleeding by causing the blood to form clots at the sites of blood vessel injuries (internal and external).

PN (peripheral neuropathy) A disease or condition that causes tingling and burning in the hands or feet. It can be caused by issues with metabolism, infections, injuries, and exposure to drugs or toxins.

PR (partial response) A decrease in the size of a tumor, or in the extent of cancer in the body, in response to treatment. Also called partial remission.

Prednisone A steroid drug that prevents the release of substances in the body that may cause inflammation or swelling.

Proteasome A part of a cell that breaks down unneeded proteins.

Proteasome inhibitor (PI) A drug that blocks the action of proteasomes.

Protein Proteins are molecules made up of amino acids that are needed for all cells in the body to function properly.

Red blood cells Cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body.

Relapse The return of a disease or symptoms after apparent recovery.

Shingles A disease caused by the varicella-zoster virus—the same virus that causes chickenpox.

Stem cell An early cell that matures into various types of cells in the body.

Stem cell transplant A procedure in which healthy stem cells are placed in the body through an IV to replace blood-forming stem cells in the bone marrow that have been damaged or destroyed by drugs, radiation, or disease. The stem cells may come from a patient's own blood or from a donor.

Subcutaneous Under the skin.

White blood cells Formed mainly in the bone marrow, these cells help protect the body from infection and disease.