

# Using a patient's own tumor cells as ammunition to fight their cancer

*Clinical trial finds TIL therapy provides hope for survival to late-stage melanoma patients*

Orlando Health

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## NEWS PACKAGE

<b>SUGGESTED TEASE</b>	A NEW TREATMENT FOR LATE-STAGE MELANOMA USES A PATIENT'S OWN TUMOR CELLS AS AMMUNITION TO KILL CANCER. COMING UP, HOW THE NEW THERAPY IS SAVING THE LIVES OF PATIENTS WHO ARE OTHERWISE OUT OF TREATMENT OPTIONS.
<b>ANCHOR LEAD</b>	MELANOMA IS ONE OF THE MOST AGGRESSIVE TYPES OF CANCER AND QUICKLY SPREADS THROUGHOUT THE BODY. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE EXPENDED THEIR TREATMENT OPTIONS AND ARE FACING WHAT IS COMMONLY CONSIDERED A TERMINAL DISEASE, A NEW TREATMENT THAT USES A PATIENT'S CANCER AGAINST ITSELF MAY OFFER HOPE FOR REMISSION AND LONG-TERM SURVIVAL. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS THE DETAILS.
<b>(PACKAGE START) -----</b> <b>CG: Courtesy: Orlando Health</b> <b>:00 - :03</b> Shots of Toni doing puzzle	(Nats - Sound) :02  AFTER BEING DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE FOUR MUCOSAL MELANOMA, TONI ENGLISH FOUGHT FOR HER LIFE, ONLY TO FIND OUT HER CANCER HAD RETURNED A YEAR LATER. :08
<b>CG: Toni English</b> <b>Underwent TIL therapy for melanoma</b>  Shots of Toni doing a puzzle	<i>"I was shocked when I found out that it was there and it was in my brain, it was in my lungs, and it was in my kidney."</i> :06  SHE TRIED EVERY AVAILABLE TREATMENT, BUT HER TUMORS WERE NOT RESPONDING. :03
<b>Toni English (CG'd earlier)</b>  Shots of Dr. Thomas reviewing scans	<i>"We'd pretty much hit the end of the road for treatment. We'd done everything that I knew was out there."</i> :05  THAT'S WHEN HER ONCOLOGIST AT THE ORLANDO HEALTH CANCER INSTITUTE, DOCTOR SAJEVE THOMAS (suh-JEEVE TAH-mus), TOLD HER ABOUT A NEW CLINICAL TRIAL THAT WOULD USE HER OWN TUMOR CELLS TO FIGHT HER CANCER.

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<p><b>CG: Sajeve Thomas, MD</b> <b>Orlando Health Cancer Institute</b></p> <p>Shots of TIL infusion</p> <p><b>Dr. Thomas (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Dr. Thomas reviewing scans</p> <p>Shots of Dr. Thomas describing scans of lungs</p> <p><b>Toni English (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Toni walking out of house</p> <p><b>Toni English (CG'd earlier)</b></p> <p>Shots of Toni outside <b>(PACKAGE END)</b> -----</p> <p><b>ANCHOR TAG</b></p>	<p>:09</p> <p><i>“Once the tumor is resected, we isolate the T Cells, expand it, proliferate it, give it additional medications to turn it on and make it more active. :08</i></p> <p>THE ENGINEERED CELLS ARE THEN DELIVERED BACK TO THE PATIENT IN A SINGLE INFUSION. :04</p> <p><i>“You're taking those T Cells and expanding it to basically a clone army. And the number of cells that we can produce is anywhere from one billion, to 150 billion.” :09</i></p> <p>CLINICAL TRIALS OF TIL THERAPY FOR MELANOMA FOUND TUMORS SHRANK OR REMAINED STABLE IN FOUR OUT OF FIVE PATIENTS, AND MANY SAW RESULTS IN JUST A FEW WEEKS. :08</p> <p>--Nats of scans --</p> <p><i>“This is Ms. English’s tumor right here on the right lung. And this is the latest scan right now. You can see, nothing there. The rest of the lungs look wide open.” // “All that shrunk down within probably the first month or two.” :13</i></p> <p><i>“At that six weeks checkup after the treatment, when I came in the first time and it was already showing a response, and that’s when I really felt like I’ve got a chance at this.” :10</i></p> <p>NEARLY FOUR YEARS LATER, TONI IS CANCER FREE AND MAKING PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. :04</p> <p><i>“The blip in the radar for us, the short bump in the road for us, was worth the journey because it has given me back the life that I’ve always dreamed I would have.” :10</i></p> <p>AT THE ORLANDO HEALTH CANCER INSTITUTE, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03</p> <hr/> <p>RESEARCHERS ARE WORKING TO EXPAND TIL THERAPY FOR MORE TYPES OF CANCER, WITH TRIALS ONGOING IN PATIENTS WITH LUNG, CERVICAL AND HEAD AND NECK CANCERS.</p> <p>WITH CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT, THEY’RE HOPING IT WILL SOON BE A FIRST-LINE COURSE OF TREATMENT FOR THOSE DIAGNOSED WITH LATE-STAGE CANCER.</p>
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**SOCIAL MEDIA**

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<p> <b>Share it! Suggested tweet:</b></p>	<p>A clinical trial <a href="#">@OHCancer</a> that uses a patient's tumor cells as ammunition to fight their cancer is providing new hope for late-stage melanoma patients, and researchers hope to expand the therapy to more types of cancer in the future. <a href="http://bit.ly/3AzQFpe">bit.ly/3AzQFpe</a></p>
<p> <b>Suggested post:</b></p>	<p>A new clinical trial at <a href="#">Orlando Health Cancer Institute</a> treats advanced-stage melanoma by extracting tumor cells and engineering them in a lab to create an "army" of TIL cells that attacks the patient's cancer when infused back to the patient. <a href="http://bit.ly/3AzQFpe">bit.ly/3AzQFpe</a></p>

**EXTRA BITES**

<p><b>CG: Sajeve Thomas, MD</b> <b>Orlando Health Cancer Institute</b></p>	<p>Thomas explains the benefits of the one-time treatment: <i>"They don't require therapy that you have to do repeatedly over and over. If this works, this is where it's potentially easy for patients, easy for me too because I can just come in, check the scans and, "Look, tumors are shrinking down." They're looking better, they're feeling better, and we don't have to do anything further and the further we get away with this, where we don't see it come back, the better the chances. :19</i></p> <p>Thomas says without this treatment, late stage melanoma patients have few options: <i>"Once patients see therapy and if the initial therapy doesn't work, they're typically out of options. The drugs, they're just chemotherapy and that's just meant to probably slow the disease down, but at that point the prognosis is typically poor, maybe months to live. This is a unique therapy where hopefully if it works, tumors can melt down, it can be durable long term." :18</i></p> <p>Thomas says patients react quickly and results continue over time: <i>"To see those tumors shrink down, and most often when patients have response, it happens within the first scan. You could see tumors shrink within the first scan. And their responses can continue on and have deeper responses over time." :14</i></p> <p>Thomas explains the excitement of reading Toni's first scans after TIL therapy: <i>"I remember walking in and looking at that tumor in her lung, and then she has one by the kidney, and you saw that shrink by more than 50%. And by the current scans, it's nonexistent. That's exciting." :12</i></p>
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**CG: Toni English**  
**Underwent TIL therapy for melanoma**

Toni recounts the day Dr. Thomas told her about the clinical trial:  
*"It was like, okay, now what do we do? I've exhausted what's out there. What are we going to try? And that day, Dr. Thomas came in and he said, 'I'd like for you to know that there's a new experimental treatment, a clinical trial. Our hospital's been given four slots to enroll patients in it. Would you be interested in trying it?'" :21*

Toni says she was cancer free six months after receiving her infusion:  
*"The TIL cells went in and just took care of all the cancer. And 10:38 six months later, I was cancer-free and that has been two and a half years ago." :10*

### References

*<sup>1</sup>Long-term follow up of lifileucel (LN-144) cryopreserved autologous tumor infiltrating lymphocyte therapy in patients with advanced melanoma progressed on multiple prior therapies. Journal of Clinical Oncology, Volume 38, Issue 15, May 20, 2020. Online: [https://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2020.38.15\\_suppl.10006](https://ascopubs.org/doi/abs/10.1200/JCO.2020.38.15_suppl.10006)*

### **For viewer information on this story contact:**

Orlando Health: (321) 279-0417  
[mediarelations@orlandohealth.com](mailto:mediarelations@orlandohealth.com)

Produced by:



1800 West 5th Ave.  
Columbus, Ohio 43212  
Phone: (614) 932-9950 Fax: (614) 932-9920  
[www.mediasourcetv.com](http://www.mediasourcetv.com)

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