



**This is the transcript for the video titled as:
Professor Higgins explains Immunotherapy as a treatment for cancer.**

Immunotherapies are a type of treatment used to treat cancer. They work by harnessing the body's own immune system to target and fight the cancer cells.

Immunotherapies are different to chemotherapy, which has traditionally been used for the treatment of many cancers. Chemotherapy is relatively non-specific. It effects not just cancer cells, but also some of the healthy cells in your body, so it is associated with many more side effects such as hair loss, feeling quite nauseated, and potentially being more prone to infection.

For many patients, immunotherapy is much better tolerated than chemotherapy, although there are some unique side effects that we're on the lookout for.

Immunotherapy is used increasingly for a variety of different cancers, but it's important to recognise that it doesn't suit all patients or indeed, all cancers. Your oncologist will discuss with you and consider different treatment options which may include: immunotherapy, immunotherapy with chemotherapy, potentially chemotherapy by itself, or other targeted treatment options.

In recent years I've been fortunate enough to have several patients living and doing well with immunotherapy while receiving cancer treatment. Those patients are living full lives, they're interacting with their families, in some cases they're working, they're learning, they're active and enjoying life and that's a wonderful thing to see for patients with advanced cancer.

It is exciting to see how far we've come in the treatment of patients with cancer and immunotherapy offers an exciting treatment for many patients. That said, we have patients who don't have successful outcomes and still are looking for better treatment options. What I hope we will continue to do is to ask thoughtful research questions, to enrol patients on clinical trials, and to continue to progress our knowledge to try improve outcomes for patients with cancer.