

Empowering patients and patient advocates to be fully engaged in healthcare decision-making

Why CONECTed?

Cancer patients in Canada are living in a paradox.

Despite advances in research that have allowed for new treatments and breakthrough potential of **innovative medications** that are coming into widespread use and are being tried in advanced types of cancer for which standard chemotherapy offers little hope, numerous hurdles still need to be overcome as not all of these therapies are available to patients. Providing **equal timely** and **appropriate access** to patients is increasingly challenging in our resource constrained Canadian healthcare system.

CONECTed is a Canadian network of oncology patient organizations formed to promote a greater understanding and the value of innovative medicines, companion diagnostics and supportive care. Our goal is to identify solutions to expand access to cancer treatments for patients through collaboration, innovation and education.



CONECTed

• Exchange • Innovation • Access • Education •

Cancer Treatment Innovation

This is a new era of medical innovation, powered in part by the advancements in cancer treatments. Cancer cells are continuously adapting; therefore, cancer treatments need to do the same. We are seeing the arrival of immunotherapies like **checkpoint inhibitors, virus therapy, targeted therapies** and **CAR-T** to name a few with high effectivity in treating cancer patients.

Immunotherapy is one of these innovative treatments that is allowing patients with metastatic and advanced disease a real chance of survival. Rather than killing cancer cells directly with tools like radiation or chemotherapy, immunotherapies seek to harness the body's immune system's power to eliminate the cancer or slow its ability to spread. Research is showing **improved outcomes** and survival rates for some patients, including patients with kidney, lung cancer and advanced melanoma.

We are only at the cusp of the possibilities of not only immunotherapy, but of other innovative medicines in the treatment of cancer for curative intent, offering renewed hope and potential of a longer life.