

Understanding AI Terminology in Oncology

Artificial Intelligence (AI): includes machine learning, deep learning and natural language processing (NLP) is already transforming cancer care, from diagnosis to treatment planning.

Large Language Models (LLMs): like ChatGPT can help you understand your cancer and treatment options. Consider these “super well-read parrots” that can read and summarize medical notes, helping detect serious side effects faster.

How AI May Impact Your Cancer Journey

- **Early Detection:** AI is already used in colonoscopies and imaging to catch cancer earlier.
- **Personalized Treatment:** AI matches therapies to your unique biology.
- **Faster Decisions:** Clinicians can use AI to analyze data and make quicker, more informed choices.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** AI may help detect relapse sooner using tools like circulating tumor DNA analysis.

What to Know About AI Tools

- **Not All Tools Are Equal:** Some are FDA-approved, others are still in testing.
- **Bias Can Exist:** AI is only as good as the data it’s trained on. Underrepresented communities may be less accurately served.
- **Ask Questions:** Always talk to your care team before relying on an AI tool. AI doesn’t replace expert clinical judgment or shared decision-making between you and your doctor.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- > Can AI tools help personalize my treatment plan?
- > Are there AI-based tests available for early detection of my cancer?
- > How reliable are these tools, and are they used at this cancer center?
- > Are there any risks or limitations I should know about?
- > How is my data protected if AI is used in my care?

AI Tools Empowering Cancer Care

- **Belong.Life:** AI-powered cancer support app that can be used for peer support, clinical trial matching
- **CancerChatbot:** NLP-based chatbot with Q&A feature for education, and symptom guidance
- **Ada Health:** Symptom checker using AI which can help with early symptom triage
- **IBM Watson for Oncology:** AI-driven treatment recommendations, can help match treatment options
- **National Health Council’s AI Affinity Meetings:** <https://nationalhealthcouncil.org/meetings-events/>
- **Tempus:** Uses AI and genomic data to support personalized treatment planning