

# Immunodeficiency

(or immune deficiency) is a state in which the immune system's ability to fight [infectious disease](#) is compromised or entirely absent. Immunodeficiency may also decrease cancer immunosurveillance. Most cases of immunodeficiency are acquired ("secondary") but some people are born with defects in their immune system, or primary immunodeficiency. Transplant patients take medications to suppress their immune system as an anti-rejection measure, as do some patients suffering from an over-active immune system. A person who has an immunodeficiency of any kind is said to be immunocompromised. An immunocompromised person may be particularly vulnerable to opportunistic infections, in addition to normal infections that could affect everyone.

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[Patients](#) with glioblastoma (GBM) exhibit a complex state of [Immunodeficiency](#) involving multiple mechanisms of local, regional, and systemic immune suppression and tolerance. These [pathways](#) are now being identified and their relative contributions explored. Delineating how these pathways are interrelated is paramount to effectively implementing [immunotherapy](#) for GBM <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Jackson CM, Lim M. Immunotherapy for glioblastoma: playing chess, not checkers. Clin Cancer Res. 2018 Apr 24. pii: clincanres.0491.2018. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-18-0491. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 29691293.

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