

Oncolytic

The term **oncolytic** refers to the ability to selectively destroy cancer cells.

It is most commonly used in the context of:

Oncolytic viruses

Oncolytic viruses are viruses that are engineered or naturally selected to:

- Infect and replicate within **tumor cells**
- Cause **lysis** (destruction) of those cells
- **Spare normal, healthy cells** as much as possible

Examples include:

- **Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC)** – a modified herpes simplex virus, approved for melanoma
- **Reovirus, adenovirus, vaccinia, and measles virus** – under clinical investigation for various cancers

Oncolytic therapy

This refers to therapeutic approaches that use oncolytic viruses to:

- Directly kill cancer cells
- Stimulate the immune system to recognize and attack tumors
- Be combined with other treatments such as immunotherapy or chemotherapy

Advantages

- **Targeted tumor destruction**
- **Immune activation**
- **Synergistic with existing treatments**

Oncolytic virotherapy is an emerging and promising area of cancer treatment, especially in clinical research and personalized medicine.

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