

## U.S. approves first gene therapy for cancer

An IV bag of the drug Kymriah.

The United States approved the first gene therapy in the nation on Wednesday — a treatment that uses a patient's own immune cells to fight childhood leukaemia.

The treatment is made by Novartis and is called Kymriah (tisagenlecleucel).

This type of immunotherapy, known as a CAR-T cell therapy, was known by the term CTL019 until now.

It was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for children and young adult patients up to age 25 with a form of acute lymphoblastic leukaemia.

'Historic action'

The FDA described the approval as "a historic action" that would usher "in a new approach to the treatment of cancer and other serious and life-threatening diseases," said a statement.

Studies have shown that 83% of patients responded to the treatment, achieving remission within three months.

The treatment is not a pill or a form of chemotherapy. It uses a patient's own immune cells, called T-cells, along with white blood cells.

These cells are removed from a patient, sent to a lab, and encoded with a viral vector, reprogrammed, and returned to the patient.

Lifestyle-related risk factors are being cited, compounded by an inadequate number of treatment centres in the region

Without policies to stop the worrying spread of antimicrobial resistance, the mortality rate could be disturbing

END

Downloaded from [crackIAS.com](http://crackIAS.com)

© **Zuccess App** by [crackIAS.com](http://crackIAS.com)