The measles virus is altered to make it bind to receptors displayed on tumor cells. Once the virus binds, it can enter the tumor cell. This viral entry allows the immune system to recognize that a cell is infected and attack the tumor cells.

**THE GOAL**

**WHY IS THIS TREATMENT BETTER?**

CANCER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 1 IN 6 DEATHS

- A new mindset on fighting cancer has entered the research world.
- It focuses on modifying deadly viruses to target and kill cells, rather than relying on toxic chemicals, such as chemotherapy.

**THE RESEARCH**

**WHY MEASLES?**

- The virus has stayed relatively stable for years, making it unlikely to revert back to a form causing disease.
- The altered virus binds to a receptor that is displayed on cancer tumor cells.
- Most people have been immunized against measles, so the virus will not spread easily.

**THE PROCESS**

**HOW DOES IT WORK?**

- The measles virus is altered to make it bind to receptors displayed on tumor cells.
- Once the virus binds, it can enter the tumor cell.
- This viral entry allows the immune system to recognize that a cell is infected and attack the tumor cells.

**THE RISKS**

**IS THE TREATMENT SAFE?**

- The altered form of the virus is incapable of causing disease in normal human tissues, but it triggers an immune reaction to the cancer-causing cells.
- It is stable, tumor specific, and safe in the United States since the population is generally immune due to vaccines.

**THE FUTURE**

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CANCER?**

- The use of viruses to treat cancer has been researched for many years, but has gained more attention recently.
- While it has been proven to be a successful treatment in some cases, there is still much research to be done.
- Other viruses of interest include the Polio Virus and HIV.

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Based on an original article by Olivia Collins in BU Well Volume 3. Created by Olivia Collins and Kelsey Cupp.