

SPEAKER 1: Photopheresis tends to be given on specialist units within a hospital. The treatment involves taking the blood off, treating it with oxsolaren and UVA light, and then putting the blood back into the body. This takes an hour and a half of time. The patients sat comfortably in a chair, and blood is removed from one arm and entered back into the other. The patient doesn't feel many adverse effects. They're encouraged to drink plenty of fluids. The treatment is then given the following day before a two week break, and then the cycle is repeated on two days consecutively.

Patients can sometimes have their treatment increased to four weeks in between treatments, and sometimes even further if they're good responders. Treatment can go on for many months and even years in some patients. Most of our patients with CTCL don't have a cure, so they're treated until loss of response.

Most patients are treated between 9 and 12 months. Some patients are treated longer. A response can take up to six months until it is at its maximum. The indicators that a response is starting to lessen includes worsening of the skin, which might be itching, or the skin may become more red, or the level in the blood of lymphoma cells increases. This can be seen by rises in the CD4 positive 7 negative cells, or 26 negative cells, which are usually tracked during the treatment.