

Switching From IV to SubQ: A Deeper Dive Into Subcutaneous Treatment

Show Notes

Hope With Answers: Living With Lung Cancer | Fall 2026

Guests: Dr. Coral Olazagasti and Jeanne Szurek

Brief Episode Summary

When a medication you've been receiving by IV becomes available as a subcutaneous (SubQ) injection, the questions start fast. Is it really the same treatment? Will it hurt? Can I switch in the middle of treatment, and can I switch back?

Patient host Jeanne Szurek, who switched from IV to SubQ herself, goes beyond the basics with thoracic oncologist Dr. Coral Olazagasti. Together they cover effectiveness, side effects, eligibility, insurance, and how much time SubQ can realistically give back to patients and caregivers.

Guests

Dr. Coral Olazagasti — Assistant Professor of Thoracic Oncology at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami. Originally from Puerto Rico, Dr. Olazagasti specializes in caring for patients with lung cancer, as well as head and neck cancers. Her work focuses not only on which treatments patients receive, but on how those treatments are delivered.

Jeanne Szurek — Patient host and patient advocate, living with lung cancer. After difficult IV infusions, Jeanne switched to a SubQ version of her treatment mid-course. She now spends the time she's gained volunteering in her community and advocating for lung cancer awareness.

Episode Highlights

Same Drug, Different Delivery: Dr. Olazagasti explains why a faster injection doesn't mean a weaker treatment, and the research every SubQ formulation goes through before approval.

What the Injection Feels Like: Where SubQ is given (arm, abdomen, or thigh), how long it takes, and the pressure, stinging, or injection-site soreness some patients may notice.

Side Effects, Sorted: The difference between systemic side effects from the drug itself and administration-related reactions. Jeanne shares how frequent infusion reactions shaped her decision to switch.

Eligibility and Insurance: Why not every lung cancer treatment has a SubQ version, what determines whether it's an option, and how care teams handle insurance denials through appeals and peer-to-peer review.

Switching Mid-Treatment, and Back: Patients can generally switch partway through treatment. Staying on IV, or switching back, is a valid choice.

The Real Time Savings: Administration time versus total appointment time, and how Jeanne's clinic visits went from up to four hours for a full IV appointment to about 90 minutes on days when the injection is all she's getting.

What to Ask Your Oncologist: Simple questions to start the conversation, now or for future treatment plans, plus where Dr. Olazagasti sees SubQ heading next.

Links and Resources

- [Subcutaneous Cancer Treatment: What It Is and How It Works](#)
- [Download the free SubQ Conversation Toolkit](#) — FAQ, SubQ vs. IV infographic, and conversation guide
- [Hope With Answers: What Is SubQ? How Subcutaneous Treatment Is Changing Life With Lung Cancer](#) — with LCFA Speakers Bureau member Stephanie Williams and Dr. Coral Olazagasti



- [Ask Me Anything: IV vs. Subcutaneous Cancer Treatment: What Patients Should Ask](#) — with James Hiter and Stephanie Williams
 - [How to Talk to Your Doctor](#)
 - [Find a Clinical Trial](#)
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