

THERAPEUTIC MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES: MOVING THROUGH THE HUMAN BODY LIKE A GUIDED MISSILE TARGETING CANCER

Alexandria client tenant Biogen Idec, Inc., developed the first-ever FDA approved monoclonal antibody therapeutic targeting cancer. Rituxan®, one of the most successful biotechnology drugs, has revolutionized the way in which doctors treat non-Hodgkins lymphoma. This therapeutic monoclonal antibody moves through the body like a guided missile, specifically attacking cancer cells while simultaneously recruiting the body's immune system to assist in the attack. Normal healthy cells are left intact. This is a far more advanced form of treatment than traditional chemotherapy, in which cancer cells are not distinguished from healthy cells. The outstanding success of Rituxan marks the significant progress made in molecular biology research over the past decade.