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This pattern of normal cell growth partially explains some of the toxic effects of cytotoxic therapy and why some normal tissues are minimally spared. Renewing cell populations with constant turnover are most susceptible to acute injury from chemotherapeutic agents, as is reflected by the frequent occurrence of dose-limiting bone marrow suppression, mucositis, alopecia during cytotoxic drug treatment, with relative sparing of nonproliferative compartments such as skin, muscle, kidney, bone, and oocytes. However, even nondividing tissues can experience late chronic effects related to DNA damage.

Targeted and precision therapies try to exploit cancer evolution and cellular heterogeneity and therefore predominantly affect cancer cells more