IL-2 is used to artificially boost the immune response against certain human cancers. It is released by certain key cells of the immune system (T-lymphocytes) that have been activated by foreign antigens. IL-2 amplifies the proliferation of other types of T-cells - particularly the “killer” T-cells that attack cancer cells directly. In one immunotherapy technique, blood is removed from a cancer victim, doped with IL-2 and cultured in vitro to raise the population of T-cells. The product is then reinjected into the patient. (With permission from J. C. Revy / Science Photo Library.)