Recognition of Tumor Cells: Tumor Antigens: Tumor cells often express abnormal proteins or altered levels of normal proteins that can serve as antigens. These tumor–associated antigens (TAAs) are recognized by the immune system as foreign. Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC): Tumor antigens are presented on the surface of tumor cells by MHC molecules. This presentation is crucial for the activation of immune cells, particularly T cells.