

The virus is derived from a typical cold virus, called an adenovirus. It infects, or begins to infect all cells. If the virus infects a normal cell, the DNA from the virus will get out of it and go to the nucleus. But then the cell has an antidote - p53 in fact. A tumor suppressor gene, which then prevents that viral DNA from replicating, and the cell lives. On the other hand, if the same virus infects a cancer cell, the DNA will get out from the virus, travel to the nucleus and there's no p53 around because the p53 is mutant, it's defective. Therefore, the viral DNA will continue to multiply, will eventually burst the cell, release lots of viruses into the environment, they will infect both normal and cancer cells, but the normal cells are kind of immune to the virus; whereas the cancer cells will continue to be killed by it because they have no p53.