



A Teaching Affiliate
of Harvard Medical School

“A Review of Cancer Immunotherapy Toxicity in Practice & Clinical Trials”

Kerry Reynolds, MD
Clinical Director, Inpatient Oncology Units
Director, Severe Immunotherapy Complications Service
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Financial Disclosures

No relevant financial relationships to disclose

Learning Objectives

- Review the terminology of grading toxicities for Immune Related Adverse Events (irAEs)
- Provide an overview of the evaluation of the oncology patient who may have an irAE related to immunotherapy treatment
- Review the steps in management of patients with irAEs that are hospitalized (e.g. myocarditis, pneumonitis)

Questions to Contemplate

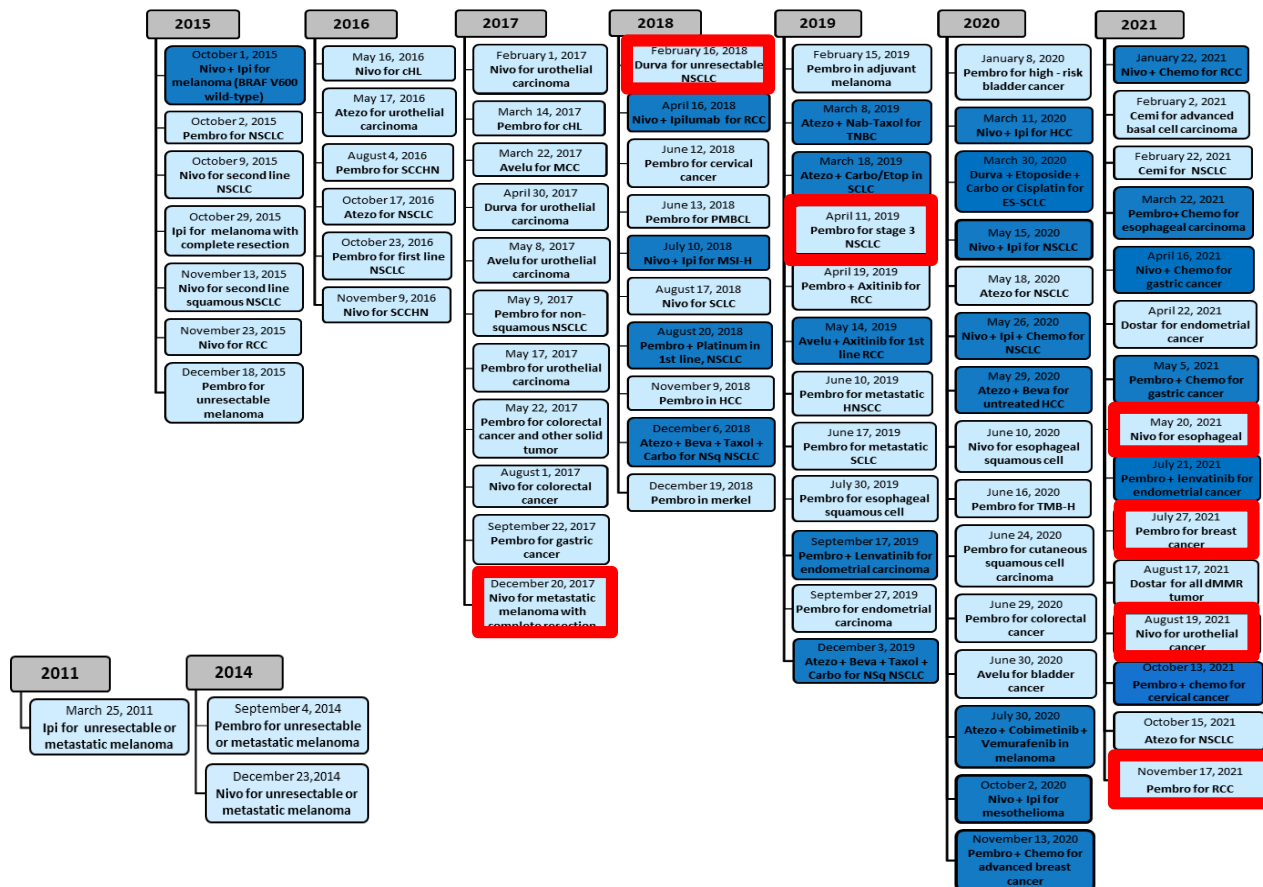
- How many patients are expected to have a serious immune-related adverse event (irAE) this year in the US alone? (300, 3,000, 10,000, well over 30,000)
- If a patient has one irAE, are they at risk for another? Y/N
- Are all irAE's treated with steroids? Y/N
- Do some irAE's require different doses of steroids? Y/N
- What is the most common organ system involved?
- What are the two most fatal toxicities?



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

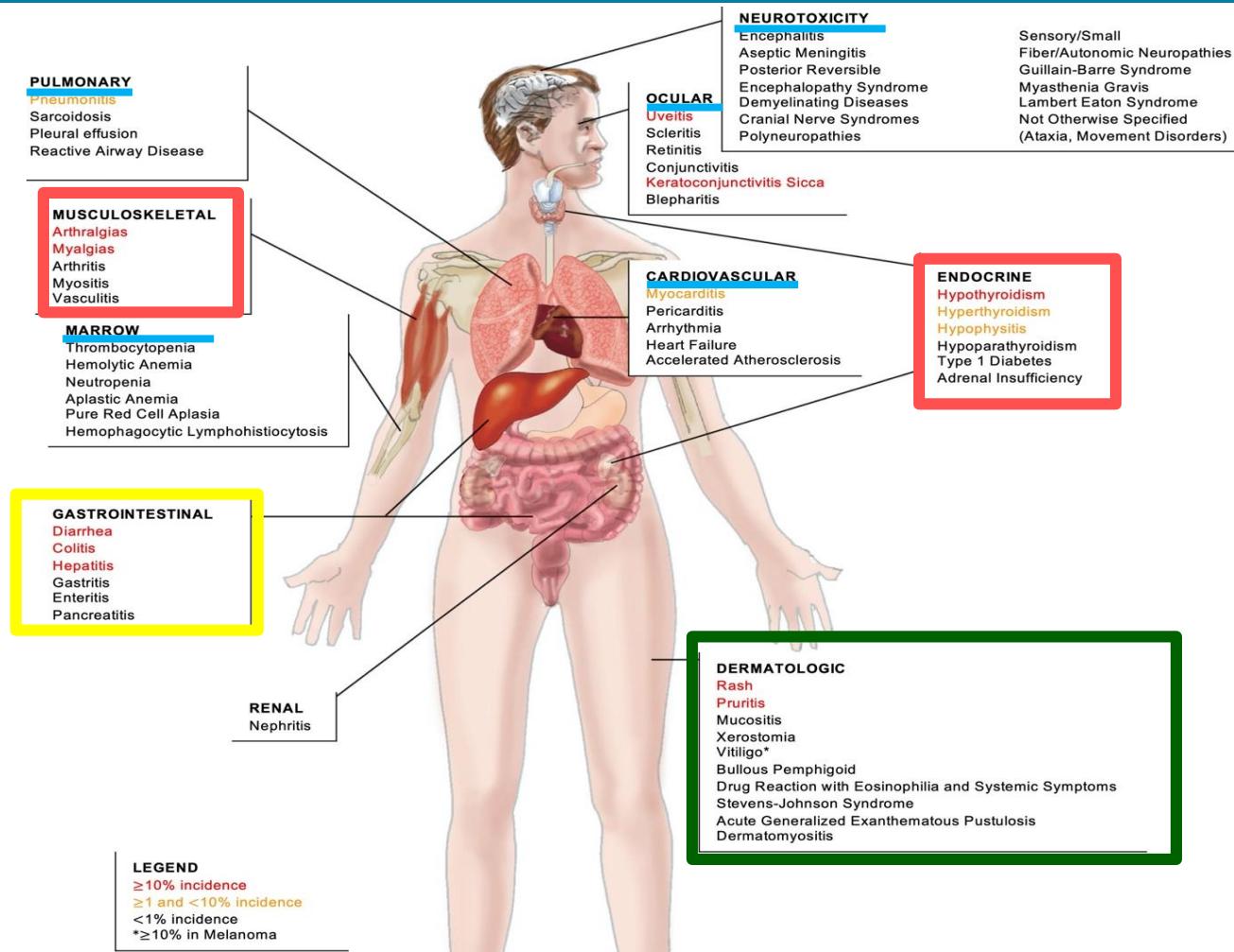
FDA Approvals for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Immune-Related AEs (irAEs)



Grading Criteria for Adverse Events

Adverse Event	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Gastrointestinal Toxicity					
Diarrhea	Increase of <4 stools per day over baseline; mild increase in ostomy output compared to baseline	Increase of 4 - 6 stools per day over baseline; moderate increase in ostomy output compared to baseline	Increase of ≥ 7 stools per day over baseline; incontinence; hospitalization indicated; severe increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; limiting self care ADL	Life-threatening	Death

Grading Toxicity

Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE)

Version 4.0

Published: May 28, 2009 (v4.03: June 14, 2010)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Cancer Institute

- Grade 1: Mild, asymptomatic, no intervention required
- Grade 2: Moderate, local or non-invasive intervention required
- Grade 3: Severe or medically significant, but not life-threatening.
- Grade 4: Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention required
- Grade 5: Death related to AE



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Adverse Events Frequency

	ANY TOXICITY	SEVERE G3-4	STOPPED Tx
PD-1	74%	14%	6%
CTLA-4	89%	34%	21%
COMBO ICI+ICI	90%	55%	38%
COMBO ICI+CHEMO	89%	46%	13%

DEATH

.6%

1.3%

1.23%

1.1%

Arnaud-Coffin, IJC, 2019

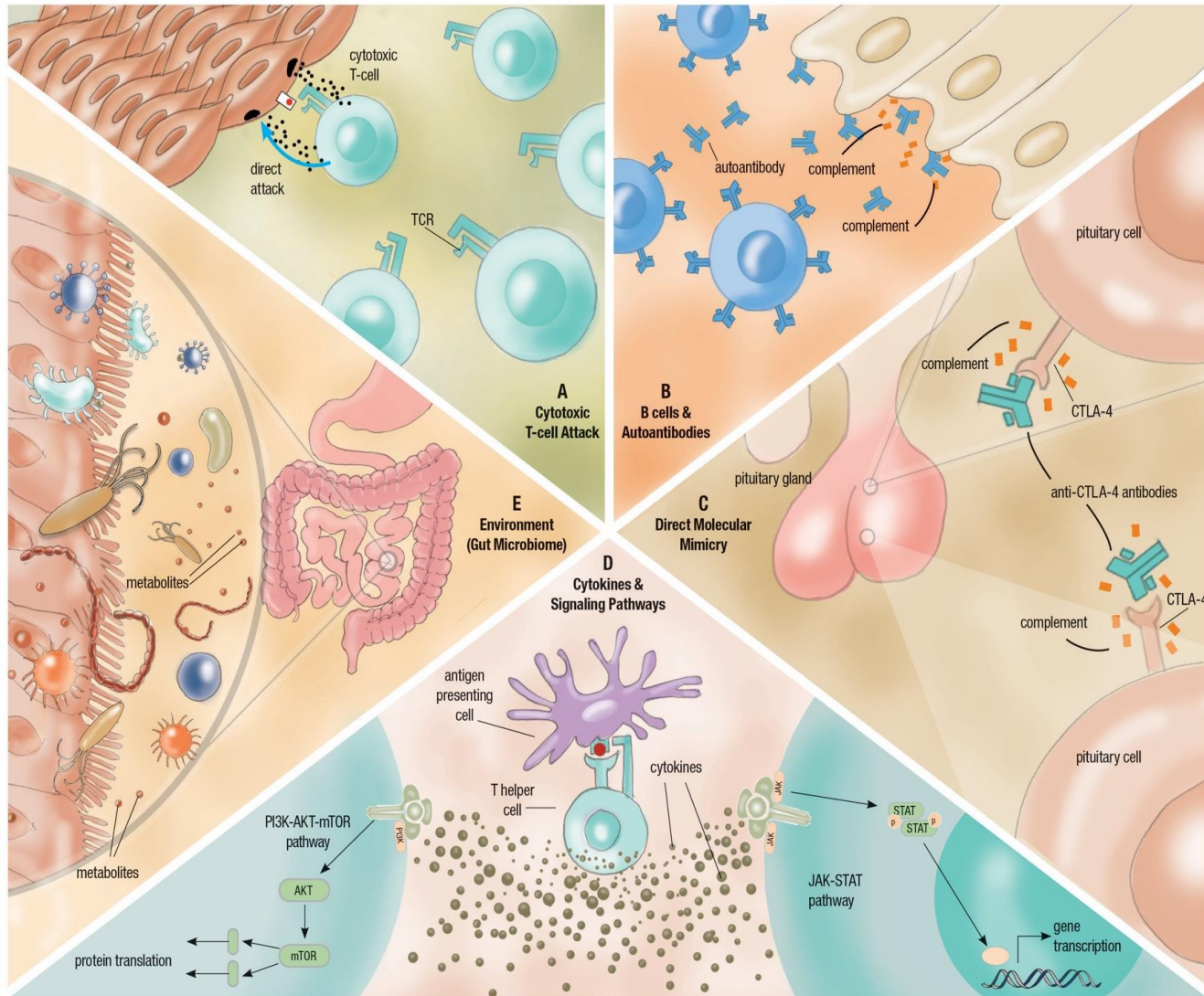
Wang, JAMA Onc, 2020



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Proposed Mechanisms



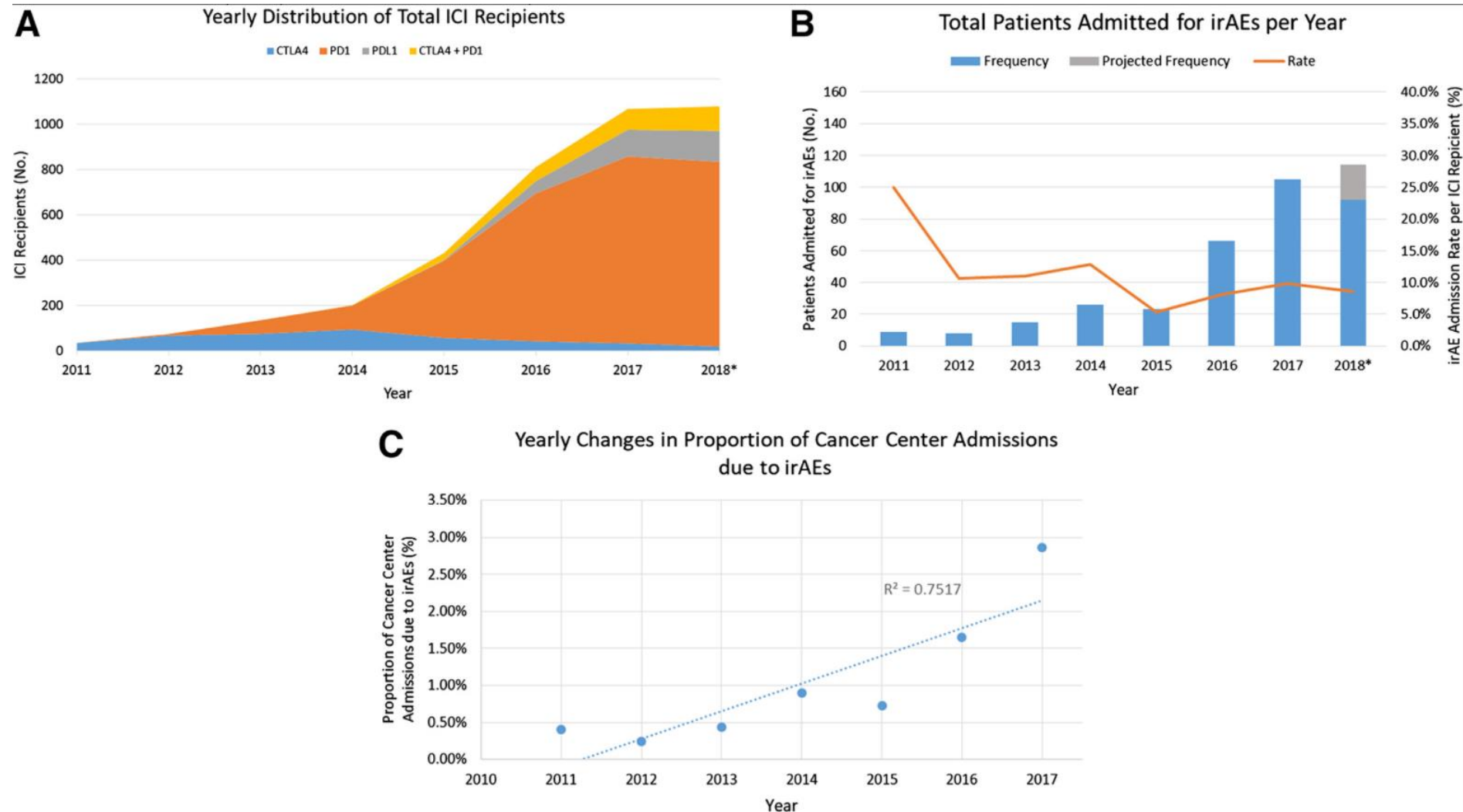
Lee, Curr Card Reports, 2021, In Press



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Massachusetts General Hospital



GYN ICI Patients at MGH

GYN								
ICI REGI	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	TOTALS
ipilimum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
nivoluma	0	12	32	20	11	11	10	96
ipilimum	0	1	2	2	6	6	5	22
pembroliz	2	16	27	22	34	55	48	204
atezolizum	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	8
avelumab	0	5	17	12	7	6	3	50
durvalum	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	10
nivoluma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	2	37	79	57	59	88	68	390



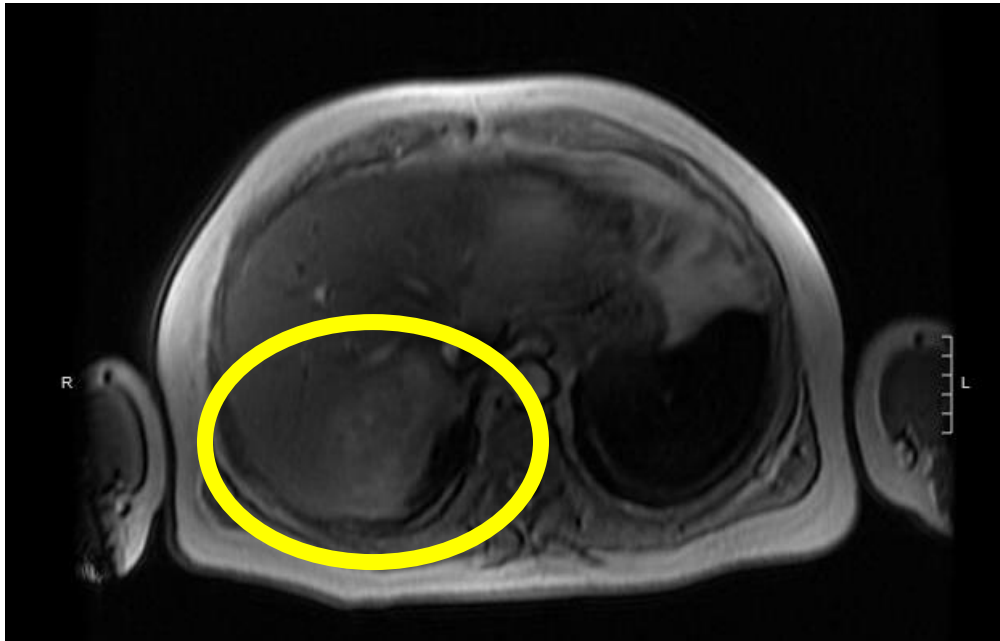
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

SUMMARY OF INTRO SLIDES

- Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors Are Now Standard of Care
- Success of Single Agent ICI Led To Combination Approvals
- Subset of Patients Experience Durable, Long Term Response
- Be Aware Of The Unique “Autoimmune” Toxicity Profile
- irAEs Often Within First 3-6 Months
 - Unlike chemotherapy they can last for weeks/months
 - Can occur after ICI discontinuation
- Mechanism is Not Well Understood
- irAEs are Typically Grade 1/2 but Severe irAEs Can Be Fatal
- Multi-disciplinary Care Team Implementation is Key

Case, 47 Year Old Man



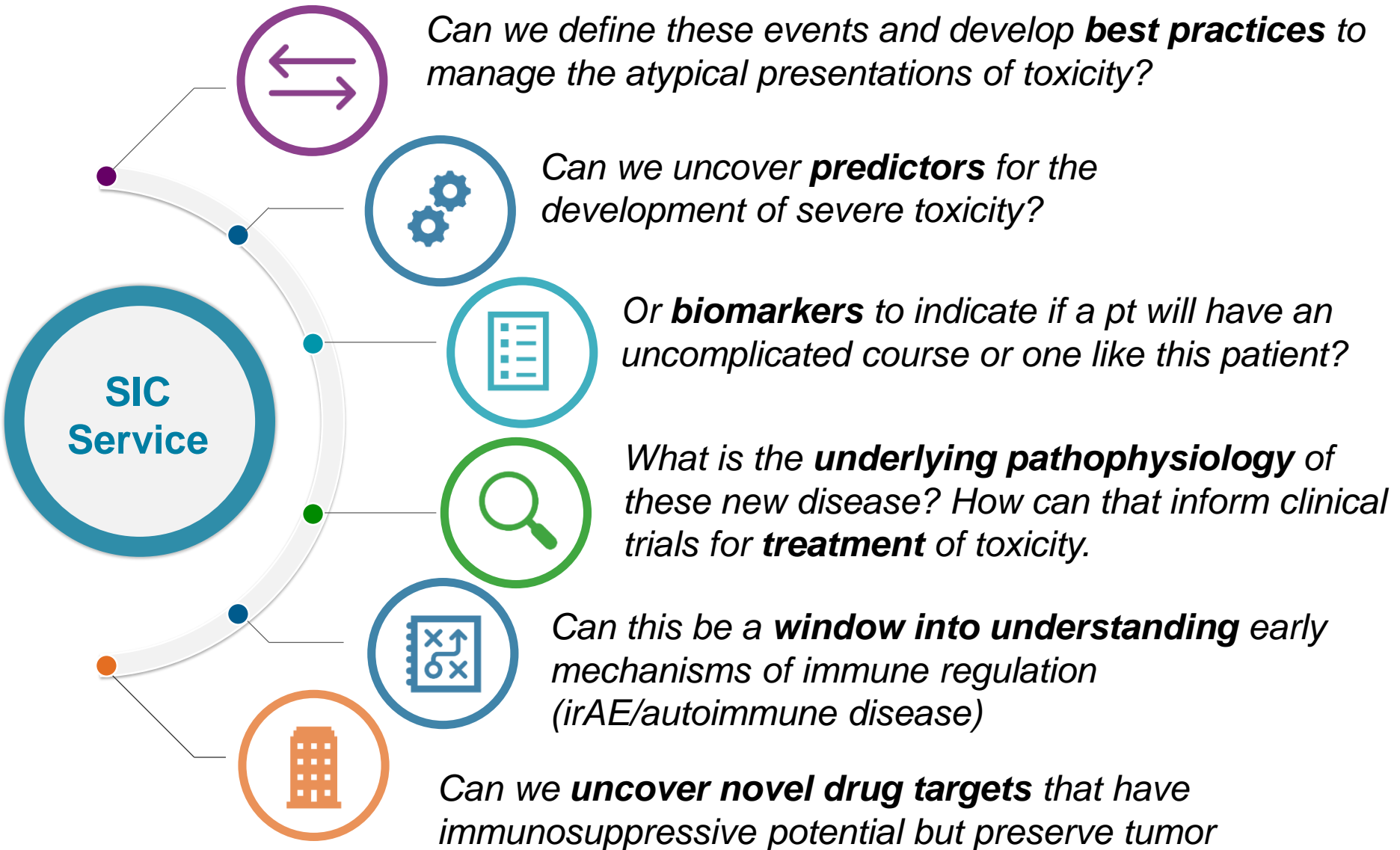
- 4/2016: Dx: Liver biopsy returned with malignant cells consistent with cholangiocarcinoma.
- 5/2016: Gemcitabine/Cisplatin
- 11/2016: Progressive disease, changed to Nivolumab + TAK-659
- 1/2017: Hypoxia/infiltrates/EF 45%, Myocarditis related to Nivolumab
- 2/2017: Slight decrease in liver lesion
- 3/2017: EF 68%, New Dx: Hepatitis related to Nivolumab
- 6/2017: Anemia/thrombocytopenia
- 2017: Extensive compression fractures due to osteoporosis from chronic high dose steroids, needed Kyphoplasty
- Pass away – Refractory Toxicity from Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Many Questions, Few Answers



Guidelines – ASCO, NCCN





NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology
in partnership with the American Society of Clinical Oncology

Management of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor-Related Toxicities

(Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Position article and guidelines

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer guideline on immune checkpoint inhibitor-related toxicities

Antonio Ascierto¹, Jill Brufsky⁴, Gerber⁸, Lamy Hamad⁹, Macouture¹², Gregory A Masters¹³, Angel Perales¹², Igor Puzanov¹⁰, Rajeev Sharma¹⁰, Turner¹, Marc S Ernstoff¹⁹

ABSTRACT
Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) are the standard of care for the treatment of several cancers. While these immunotherapies have improved patient outcomes in many clinical settings, they bring accompanying risks of toxicity, specifically immune-related adverse events (irAEs). There is a need for clear, effective guidelines for a wide variety of cancer types. A study of ICI usage estimated that in 2018, 44% of patients with metastatic solid or hematological tumors in the US were eligible for treatment with ICIs.² ICIs are also a focus of active drug development, and a number of ongoing trials are evaluating novel antibodies or testing

NCCN Guidelines, May, 2021

Brahmer, SITC Guidelines, JITC, June 25, 2021

Haanen, Annals of Oncology, 2017 (ESMO)

Brahmer, Journal of Clinical Oncology, February, 2018





MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Focus on SITC Guidelines

Position article and guidelines

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) clinical practice guideline on immune checkpoint inhibitor-related adverse events

Julie R Brahmer,¹ Hamzah Abu-Sbeih,² Paolo Antonio Ascierto ,³ Jill Brufsky,⁴ Laura C Cappelli,⁵ Frank B Cortazar,^{6,7} David E Gerber,⁸ Lamy Hamad,⁹ Eric Hansen,¹⁰ Douglas B Johnson,¹¹ Mario E Lacouture,¹² Gregory A Masters,¹³ Jarushka Naidoo,^{1,14} Michele Nanni,¹⁰ Miguel-Angel Perales,¹² Igor Puzanov,¹⁰ Bianca D Santomasso,¹⁵ Satish P Shanbhag,^{5,16} Rajeev Sharma,¹⁰ Dimitra Skondra,¹⁷ Jeffrey A Sosman,¹⁸ Michelle Turner,¹ Marc S Ernstoff ¹⁹

ABSTRACT

Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) are the standard of care for the treatment of several cancers. While these immunotherapies have improved patient outcomes in many clinical settings, they bring accompanying risks of toxicity, specifically immune-related adverse events (irAEs). There is a need for clear, effective guidelines for the management of irAEs during ICI treatment.

A wide variety of cancer types. A study of ICI usage estimated that in 2018, 44% of patients with metastatic solid or hematological tumors in the US were eligible for treatment with ICIs.² ICIs are also a focus of active drug development, and a number of ongoing trials are evaluating novel antibodies or testing

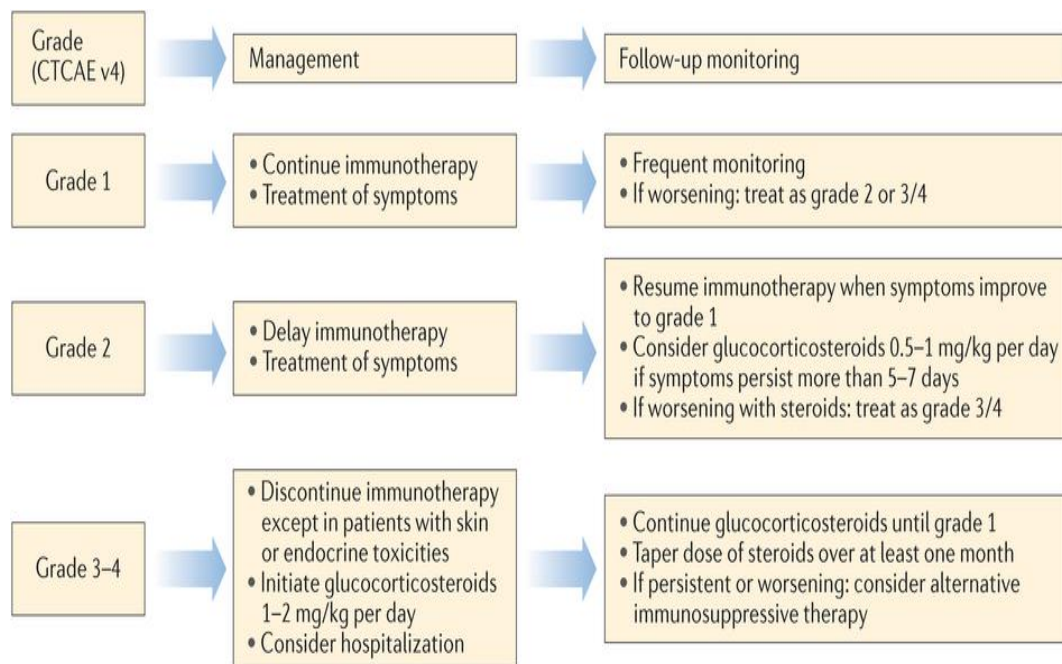


MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Basic Toxicity Management Summary

- MILD: Treat symptomatically
- PERSISTENT MILD or MODERATE: Oral corticosteroids (i.e. prednisone 1mg/kg/qd)
- PROGRESSIVE, SEVERE, OR LIFE-THREATENING:
 - Hospitalize & begin high dose IV steroids (i.e. methylprednisolone 1 mg/kg qd or bid)
 - If steroid refractory, consider starting immunosuppressive meds (such as mycophenolate mofetil in the case of hepatitis or infliximab in the case of colitis)



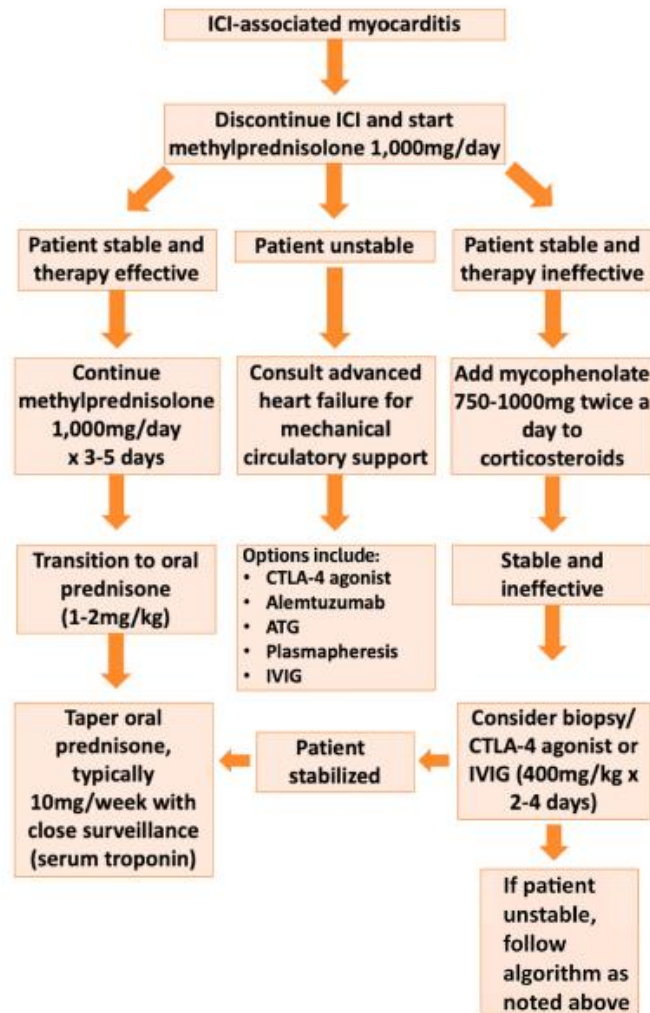
Nature Reviews | Clinical Oncology



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Managing Refractory Cases



Zhang, JACC, Cardiooncology, 2021
Frayberg, Curr Onc Reports, 2021

Hepatitis

- Hold immunotherapy > grade 2 (3-5X ULN) transaminases
 - Stop any hepatotoxic medications (Tylenol, herbal supplements, alcohol)
 - Rule out viral (Hep A/B/C/E, CMV, EBV, HSV, VZV, HIV) etiology
 - Rule out (other) drug-induced process
 - Look for evidence of disease/alternative diagnosis
 - Imaging – US, consider CT/liver MRI depending on clinical scenario
 - Consider ceruloplasmin, alpha-1-antitrypsin, ferritin, ANA titer, mitochondrial Ab M2, smooth muscle Ab, LKM type 1, tissue transglutaminase IgA and IgG, TSH, iron, transferrin
- - Management:
 - Grade 2 –prednisone .5-1 mg/kg/day
 - Grade 3 - prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day
 - If no improvement after 3 days, add Cellcept



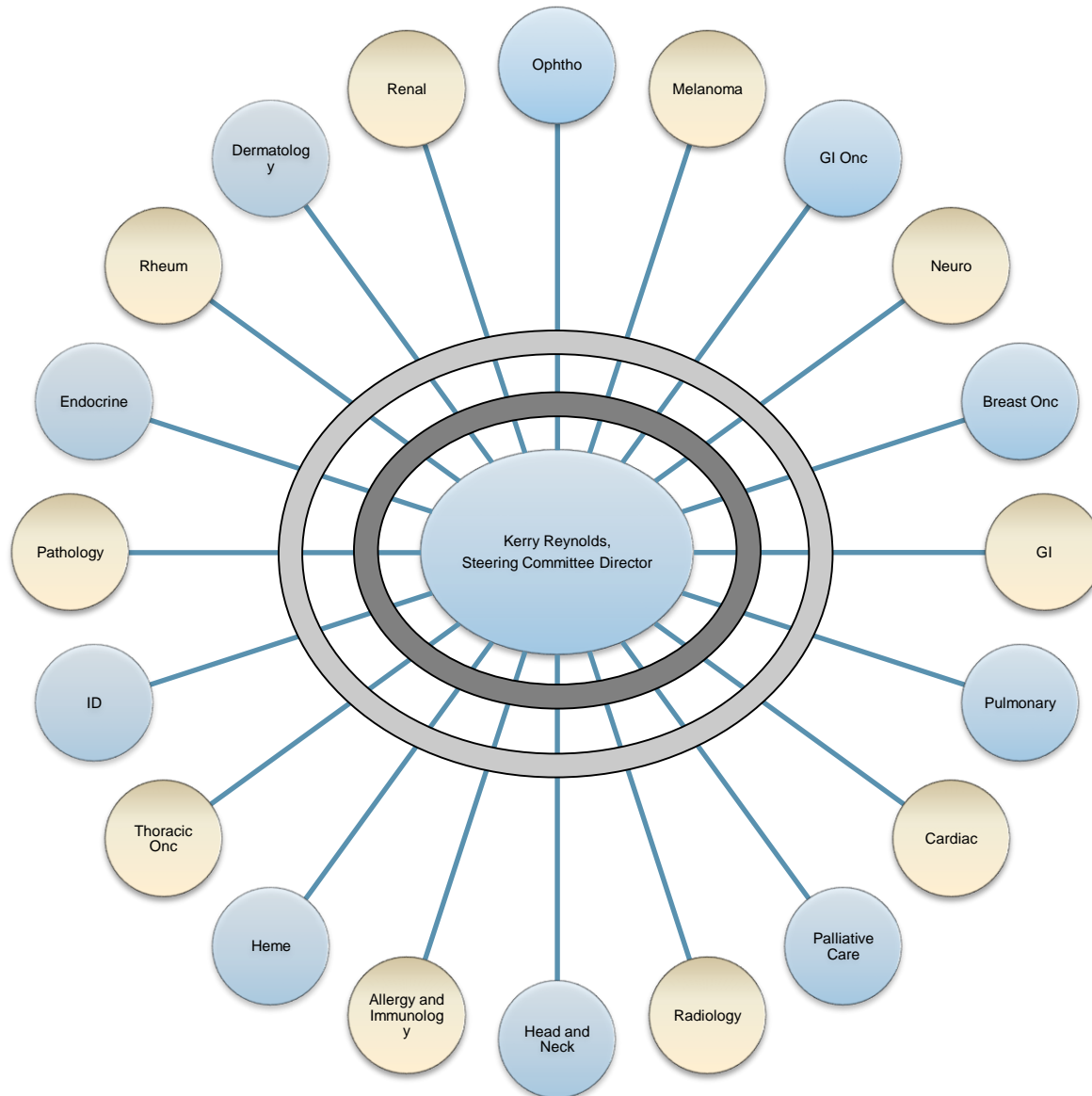
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Generalists/Specialists are All Critical

- Cardiac – Immediate **Cardiology** consultation
- Grade 1 pancreatitis – Consider **GI referral**
- Grade 2 colitis – Consider **GI consultation**
- Mild eye changes – Refer to **Ophthalmology**
- Myasthenia Gravis, GBS – Refer to **Neurology**
- Grade 2 – **Nephrology** consultation
- Grade 2 pneumonitis – **Pulmonary** consultation
- Moderate myositis – **Rheumatology or neurology** consultation
- Hyperglycemia < 200 – Consider **Endocrine** consultation, > 200 – endocrine consultation
- Primary AI – **Endocrine** consultation
- Hypophysitis – Consider **Endocrine** consultation
- Grade 3 LFTs – **Hepatology** consultation
- Grade 3,4 Rash – **Dermatology** consultation, SJS/TENS – dermatology, urology, ophthalmology

Immunotherapy Toxicity Service



For more information:
<https://www.massgeneral.org/cancer-center/treatments-and-services/severe-immunotherapy-complications/>

Represents Clinical Research

Represents Translational Research



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

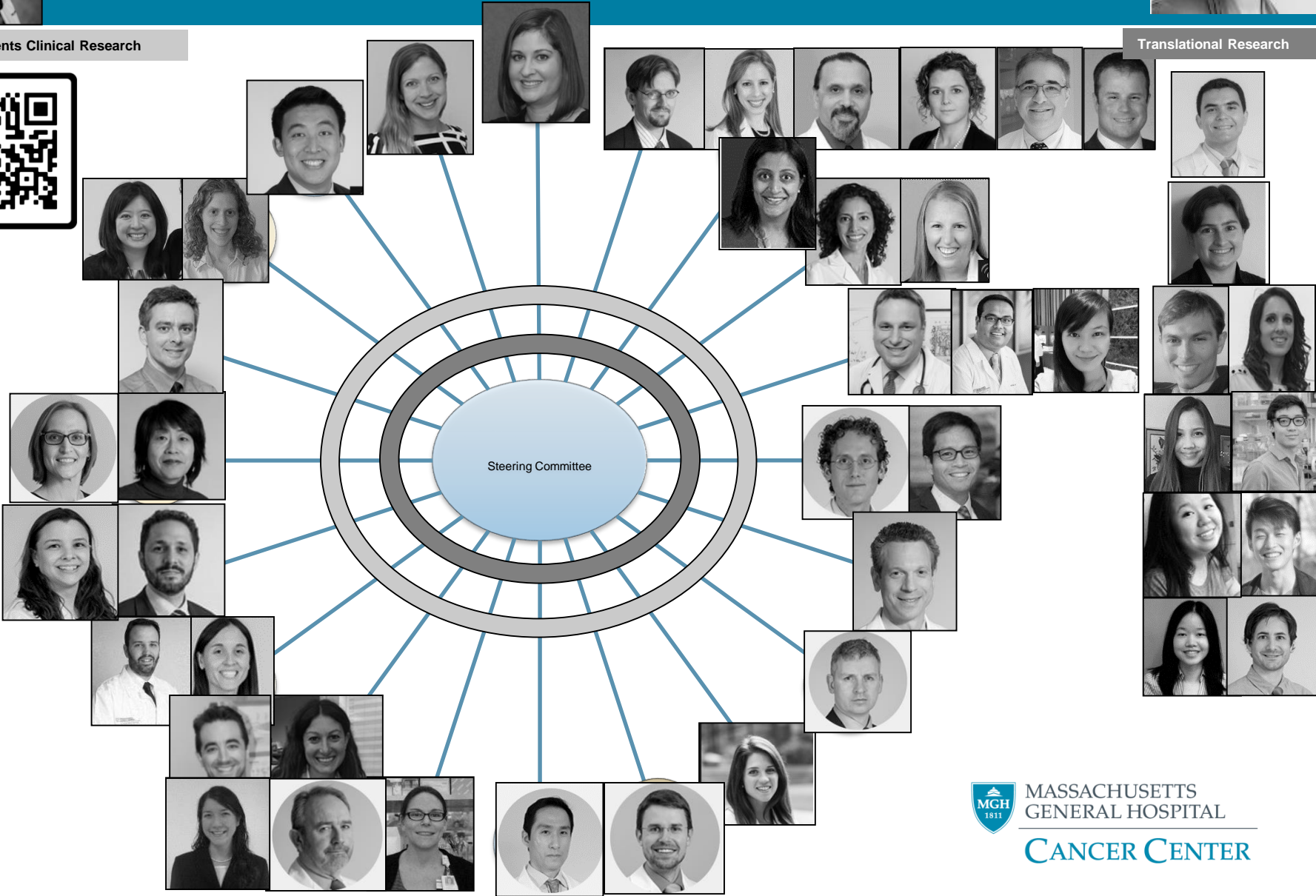


Immunotherapy Toxicity Service



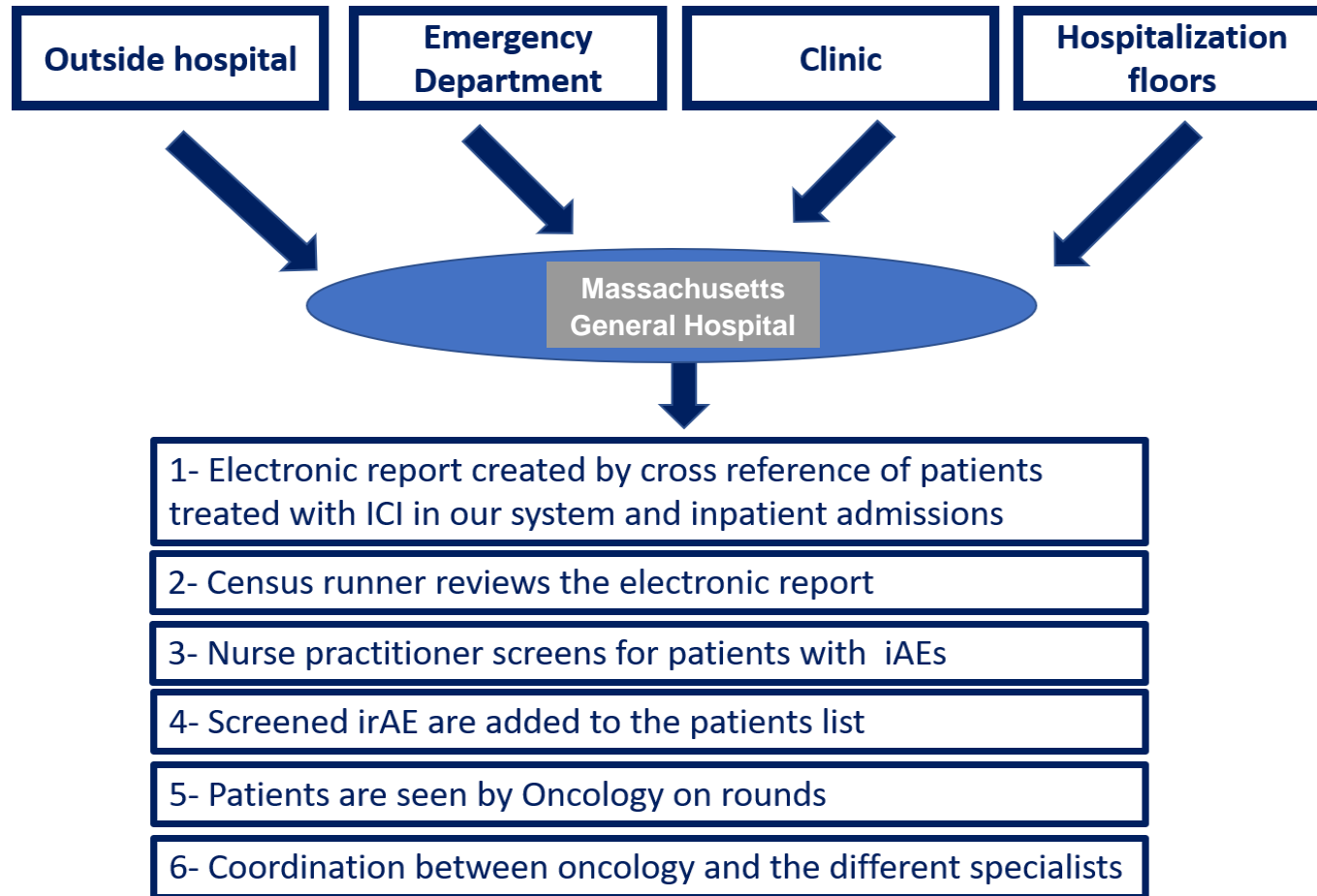
Represents Clinical Research

Translational Research



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

SIC Service



SIC Service Implementation

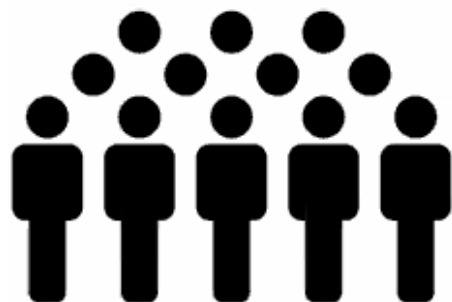


Table 1

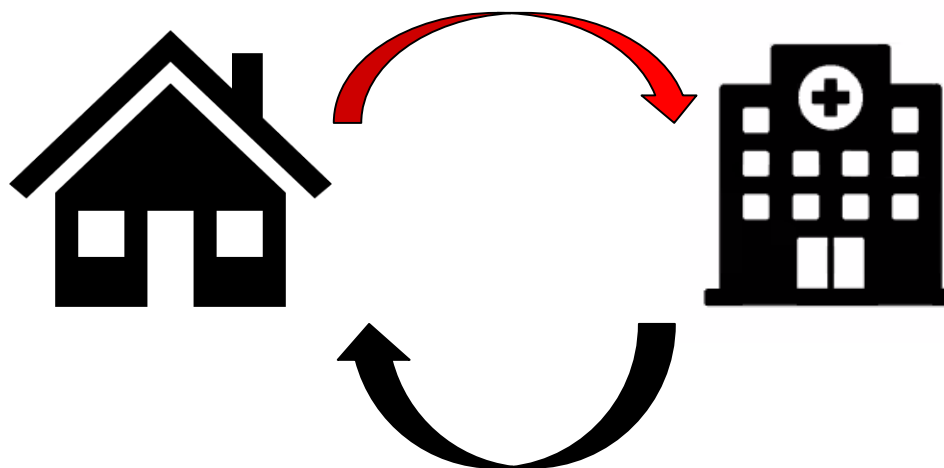
Table 1. Characteristics of Patients Admitted for irAE Before and After SIC Service Implementation

Characteristic	Pre-SIC ^a (n = 127 patients)	Post-SIC ^b (n = 122 patients)	P Value ^c
Age, mean (SD), y	62.6 (13.9)	64.6 (11.1)	0.216
Female Sex	44 (34.7%)	55 (45.1%)	0.093
Cancer Type			
Melanoma	48 (37.8%)	31 (25.4%)	0.156
Thoracic	35 (27.6%)	38 (31.2%)	
Gastrointestinal	14 (11.0%)	26 (21.3%)	
Genitourinary	8 (6.3%)	9 (7.4%)	
Hematologic	3 (2.4%)	7 (5.7%)	
Gynecologic	5 (3.9%)	3 (2.5%)	
Head and Neck	5 (3.9%)	2 (1.6%)	
Neurologic	3 (2.4%)	4 (3.3%)	
Breast	5 (3.9%)	2 (1.6%)	
Sarcoma	1 (0.8%)	0	
ICI Type			
CTLA4	9 (7.1%)	3 (2.5%)	0.147
PD1	84 (66.1%)	92 (75.4%)	
PDL1	8 (6.3%)	10 (8.2%)	
CTLA4 + PD1	26 (20.5%)	17 (13.9%)	
irAE Type			
Allergy	3 (2.4%)	1 (0.8%)	0.311
Cardiac	9 (7.1%)	11 (9.0%)	
Dermatologic	9 (7.1%)	3 (2.5%)	
Endocrine	15 (11.8%)	13 (10.7%)	
Gastrointestinal	28 (22.1%)	20 (16.4%)	
Hepatic	20 (15.8%)	23 (18.9%)	
Hematologic	4 (3.2%)	2 (1.6%)	
Neurologic	10 (7.9%)	14 (11.5%)	
Pulmonary	26 (20.5%)	26 (21.3%)	
Renal	1 (0.8%)	7 (5.7%)	
Rheumatologic	2 (1.6%)	2 (1.6%)	

Decreased Readmission Rates

Table 2. Impact of SIC Service Implementation on Key Outcomes – Logistic Regressions

Outcome	Pre-SIC ^a (n = 166 admits)	Post-SIC ^b (n = 149 admits)	Coefficient / OR (95% CI) ^c	P Value
Length of stay, median (IQR), days	5.5 (3-11)	5 (3-9)	-1.7 (-3.56-0.19) ^d	0.078
Discharged on corticosteroids ^e	121 (75.6%)	96 (69.1%)	0.60 (0.33-1.10) ^f	0.101
Use of non-steroidal immunosuppression	24 (14.5%)	18 (12.1%)	0.87 (0.43-1.77) ^f	0.702
ICI discontinuation for irAE ^g	74 (66.1%)	61 (67.0%)	1.04 (0.55-1.98) ^f	0.897
Died during irAE admission	11 (6.6%)	13 (8.7%)	1.46 (0.60-3.55) ^f	0.398
IrAE readmission	43 (25.9)	22 (14.8)	0.46 (0.22-0.95) ^h	0.036
Length of stay of irAE readmission, median (IQR), days	7 (3-16)	6 (3-10)	-8.08 (-16.03, -0.14) ^d	0.046



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

SUMMARY SLIDE FOR SECTION 2

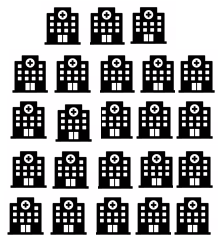
- Serious irAE can involve a wide range of organ systems
- There is recognition that all generalists and disease-specific subspecialists are essential in the management of irAEs
- It is important to develop expertise to recognize irAEs and to educate all types of providers (MDs, NPs, RNs, residents, patients)
- Steroids are the mainstay of treatment but:
 - Higher doses are required in myocarditis, encephalitis
 - Steroids are not required for endocrinopathies



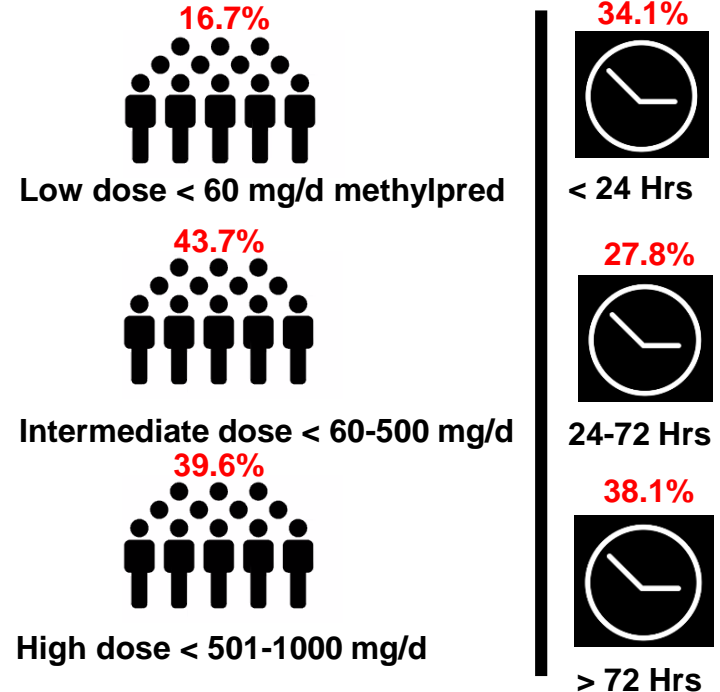
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Treatment – How Much? When?



23 Sites



High Dose Steroids for the Win

Early Steroids for the Win

MACE: Major adverse cardiac events: CV death, cardiac arrest/shock, or sig heart block requiring pacemaker

High Dose Steroid Group – 22% MACE
Int Dose Steroid Group – 54.6% MACE
Low Dose Steroid Group 61.9% MACE



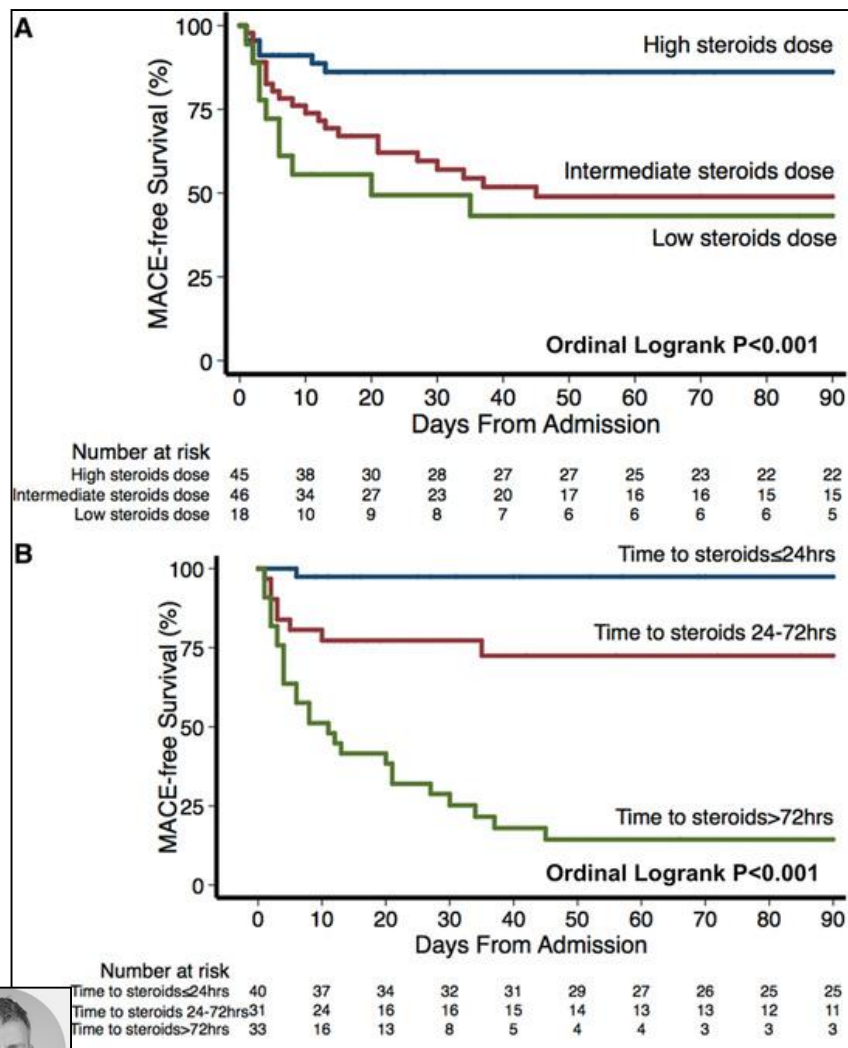
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER



Zhang, Circulation, 2020

Informing Treatment Guidelines



Clearly an inverse relationship between initial dose of corticosteroids and MACE

- High dose was associated with a 73% lower risk of MACE (HR .27)

Earlier the better! (HR for < 24 hrs, 0.03, HR for 24-72 0.3)



Zhang, Circulation, 2020



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Case – Too Much?

- 51 yo male with stage IIIB melanoma on adjuvant nivolumab (cycle 21 completed 7/16/18) presenting with AKI
 - 7/20/18: developed increasing fatigue, chills and night sweats
 - 7/27/18 clinic visit: creatinine 1.69 from baseline 1
 - Given 2L NS in office with no change in creatinine on re-check later that day
 - Sent home with follow-up in 4 days
 - 7/31/18 clinic visit: creatinine 2.90
 - Admitted to hospital



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Oncologic History

- Stage IIIB melanoma
 - 02/2013: melanoma in situ on right neck, resected
 - 05/2017: left thigh melanoma; wide excision with sentinel lymph node biopsy performed, SLN positive; PET-CT demonstrated left inguinal LN FDG uptake proximal to the surgical site
 - 07/17/17: completion dissection performed, 2/11 LNs positive, NED afterwards (stage IIIA or IIIB)
 - 10/6/17: started adjuvant nivolumab 240 mg (3mg/kg) q2wk as part of clinical trial
 - Serial scans afterwards show no evidence of disease
 - Underwent 21 cycles of nivolumab from 10/2017 to 07/2018
 - No IrAEs with treatment

Other medical history

- Medical history
 - DVT: diagnosed in 07/2017 following lymph node dissection, previously on Eliquis; discontinued iso no evidence of disease
 - GERD
- Home medications:
 - **Omeprazole** 20 mg daily
 - No prior steroid or other immunosuppressant use
 - No recent antibiotic use, minimal NSAID use (one dose in last week)
- Allergies
 - NKDA



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Physical Exam – Unremarkable, Labs:

BMP

Na 137

K 3.9

Cl 95

Bicarb 25

BUN ▲ 34

Cr ▲ 2.83

Gluc 106

LFTs

ALT 17

AST 17

Alk phos 65

Tbili 0.4

Alb 4.0

Prot 7.6

Extended labs

Ca 9.2

LDH ▲ 215

Sosm 293

TSH 1.91



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Diagnostics

CBC

WBC 9.8

- 74% NP
- 7% lymph
- 11.7% monos
- 6.3% Eos
- 0.3% basos

Hgb ▼ 12.4

Hct ▼ 37.8

Plt 322

Immunologic studies

- C3 160
- C4 45
- ANA neg
- dsDNA neg
- ANCA neg

U/A negative

Mild increase in protein

Micro

- HBV serologies neg
- HCV neg
- HIV neg
- BCx x 2 neg
- UCx neg

CT Abdomen/Pelvis (7/31/18):

“The kidneys are edematous with apparent enlargement relative to prior CT with new perinephric edema. No hydronephrosis, stones, or solid mass lesions”



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Diagnostics

Core biopsy (performed 8/1/18, HD 2):

- Severe acute tubulointerstitial nephritis:
 - “Interstitium contains a **severe inflammatory infiltrate** composed mainly of lymphocytes with admixed eosinophils and few plasma cells and neutrophils, involving approximately 70% of the cortical area and associated with moderate to severe tubulitis (more than 10 cells per tubular cross section).”
- No significant fibrosis or irreversible damage
- No glomerular pathology



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Treatment

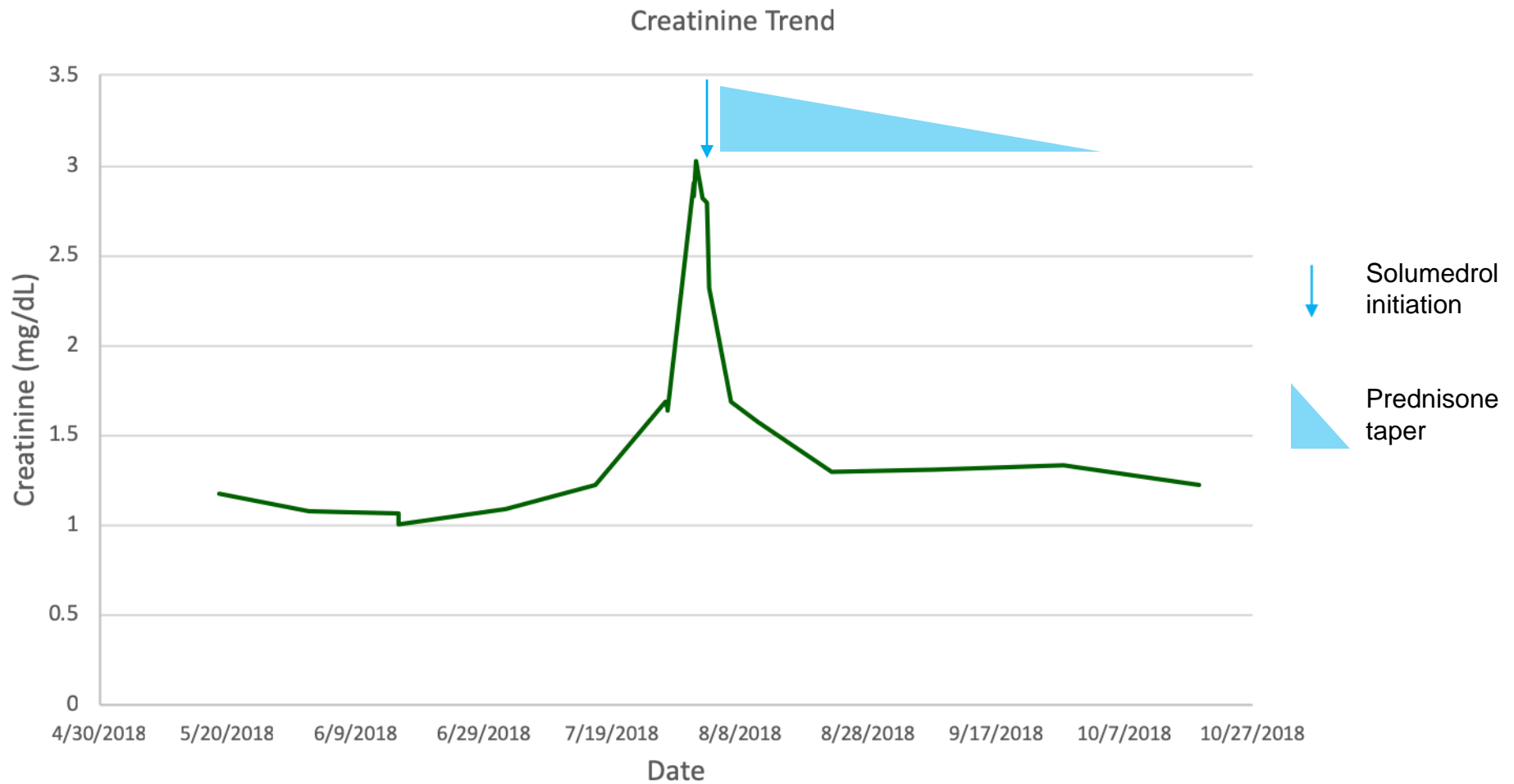
- **Omeprazole** discontinued, ranitidine started
- 8/2: Solumedrol 500 mg x 1 given
- 8/2: prednisone taper started (59 days, 8/2 – 10/2)
 - 7 days prednisone 60 daily (8/2 – 8/8)
 - 7 days prednisone 40 daily (8/9 – 8/15)
 - 7 days prednisone 30 daily (8/16 – 8/22)
 - 7 days prednisone 20 daily (8/23 – 8/29)
 - 14 days prednisone 15 daily (8/30 – 9/12)
 - 14 days prednisone 10 daily (9/13 – 9/26)
 - 5 mg prednisone daily indefinitely (9/27 – 10/2)
- Total steroid duration: 60 days
 - 1 day IV steroids (500 mg IV solumedrol x 1)
 - 59 days PO steroids



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

AKI Trend



AKI outcomes

- Improved to baseline within 1 month
 - Rapid improvement in AKI after steroid initiation
 - Creatinine halved by day 9 of treatment
 - Creatinine returned to baseline at day 20 of treatment
- Discharged home on hospital day 4



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

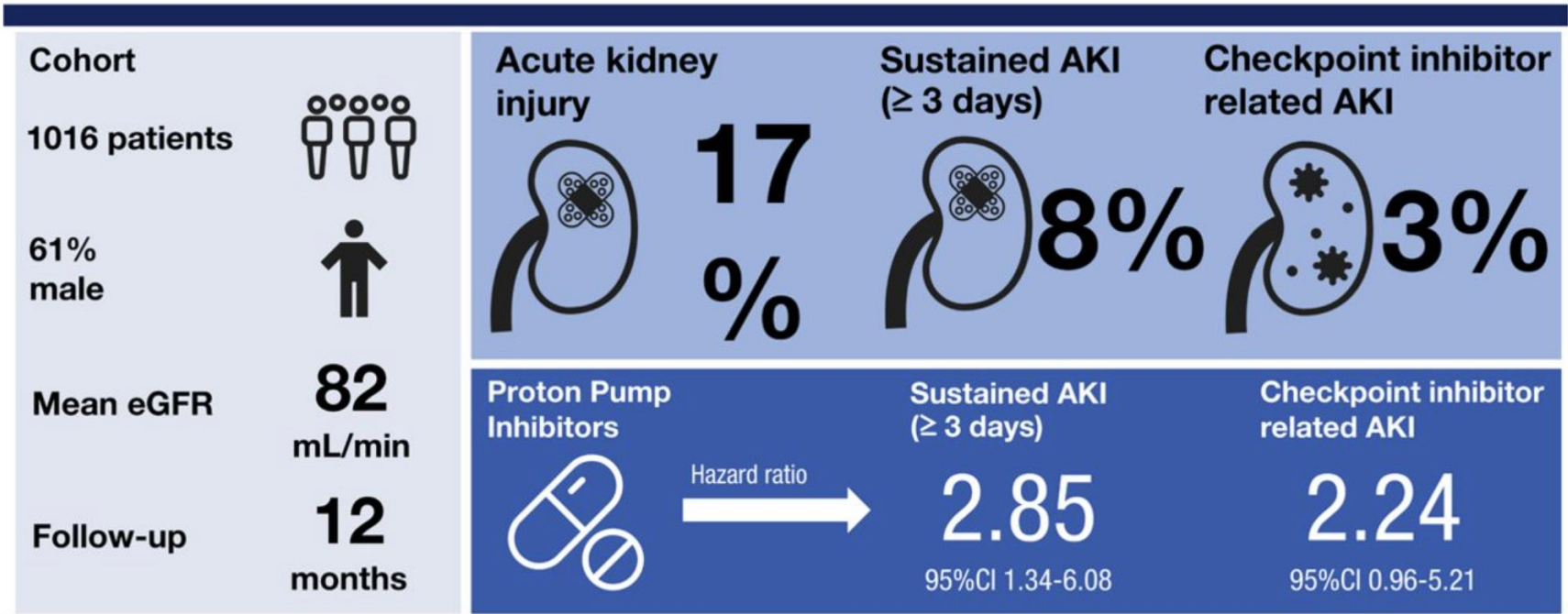
CANCER CENTER



Nephrology

What is the frequency & etiology of AKI and what are its risk factors in patients on checkpoint inhibitors?

CJASN
Clinical Journal of American Society of Nephrology



Conclusions: AKI is common in patients receiving checkpoint inhibitors, and the causes are heterogeneous. Proton pump inhibitor therapy is a risk factor for sustained AKI.

Harish Seethapathy, Sophia Zhao, Donald Chute, Leyre Zubiri, et al. *The Incidence, Causes, and Risk Factors of Acute Kidney Injury in Patients Receiving Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors*. CJASN doi: 10.2215/CJN.00990119. Visual Abstract by Pablo Garcia, MD

Do we need a long taper of steroids?

- **Permanently discontinue AIN-associated medications (PPI, allopurinol, NSAIDs, antibiotics).**
- **Temporarily hold ICI.**
- **Begin prednisone 1mg/kg/day In hospitalized patients, consider 1-3 days of intravenous methylprednisolone. Repeat creatinine in 5-7 days provided creatinine is improving by $\geq 25\%$.**
- **Continue rapid taper Rapid corticosteroid taper: 40mg x 3 days, 30mg x 3 days, 20mg x 3 days, 10mg daily.**
- **Repeat creatinine every 7 days and continue taper as long as creatinine continues to decline.**
- **If creatinine rises, restart 60mg day and taper over 4-6 weeks.**



Lee, JITC, 2020



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

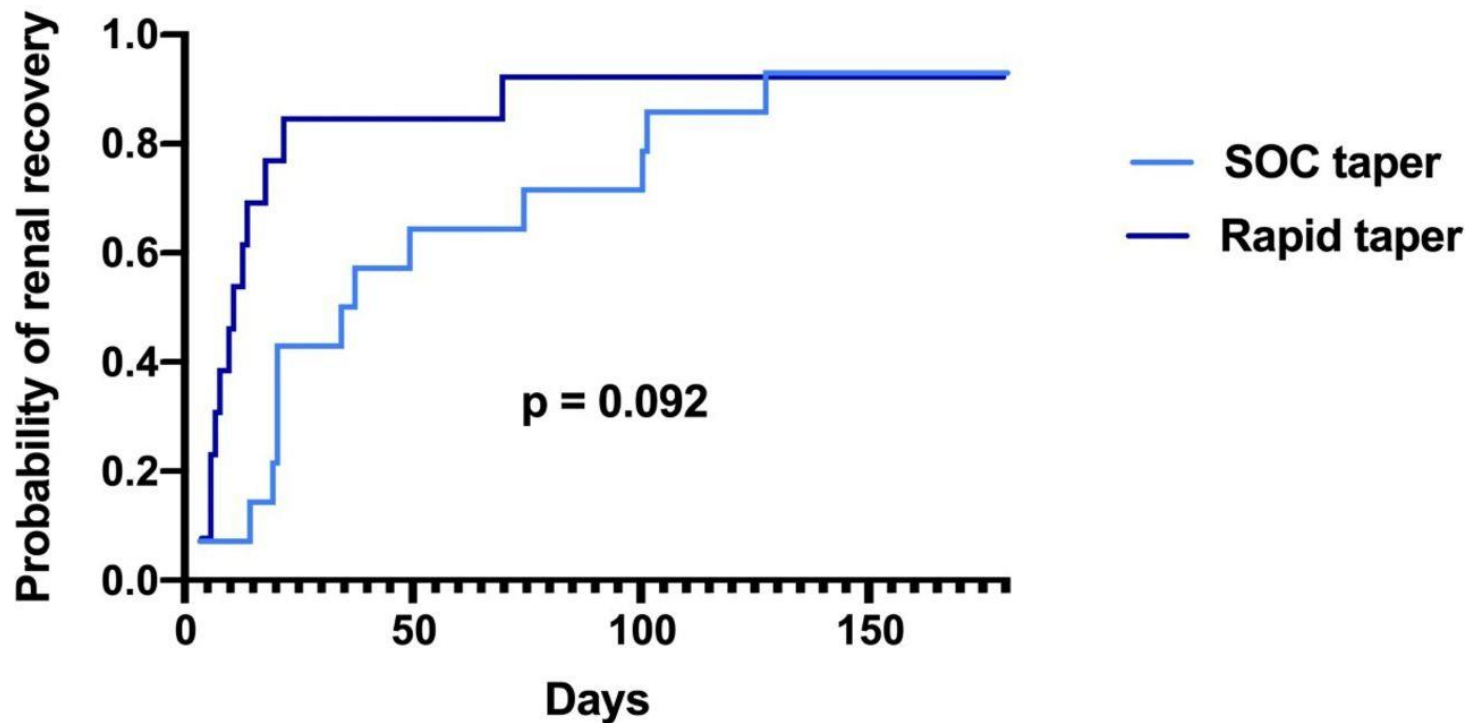
CANCER CENTER

Clinical Outcomes

Table 2 Clinical outcomes

	Rapid taper n=13	Standard of care n=14
Corticosteroid treatment, count (%) or median (IQR)		
Received intravenous pulse methylprednisolone	3 (23%)	6 (43%)
Grams of methylprednisolone	0.75 (0.2–1.0)	0.65 (0.13–1)
Initial daily oral prednisone dose, mg	60 (60–60)	60 (6–60)
Median days at initial oral prednisone dose*	7 (3–7)	7 (6–8)
Median days until ≤ 10 mg of prednisone	20 (15–25)	38 (30–58)
Received second-line immunosuppression	0	0
Renal recovery (defined by creatinine < 1.5 fold baseline)		
Renal recovery within 30 days	11 (85%)	6 (46%)
Best creatinine (mg/dL) within 30 days, median (IQR)	1.31 (1.13–1.45)	1.49 (1.29–1.62)
Renal recovery within 60 days	11 (85%)	9 (64%)
Best creatinine within 60 days	1.18 (1.02–1.34)	1.35 (1.29–1.49)
Corticosteroid refractory nephritis† at 90 days	1 (8%)	4 (29%)
Steroid re-initiated or re-escalated prior to ICI-rechallenge	2 (15%)	2 (14%)
Median time to renal recovery, days (IQR)	11 (7–18)	36 (20–100)
Rechallenge with ICI		
Rechallenged with ICI	7 (54%)	8 (57%)
Median days until rechallenge (IQR)	26 (15–182)	135 (53–290)
Relapse of ICI-induced nephritis after ICI rechallenge	1 (14%)	1 (13%)
Relapse within another severe irAE after rechallenge‡	2 (29%)	3 (38%)
Receiving prednisone at rechallenge	6 (86%)	7 (88%)
Median dose of oral prednisone at rechallenge	10 (3.8–10)	7.5 (3.8–10)
Experienced clinical benefit from ICI rechallenge	4 (57%)	4 (50%)

Patients on Rapid Taper Did Well



Lee, JITC, 2020



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER



A Teaching Affiliate
of Harvard Medical School

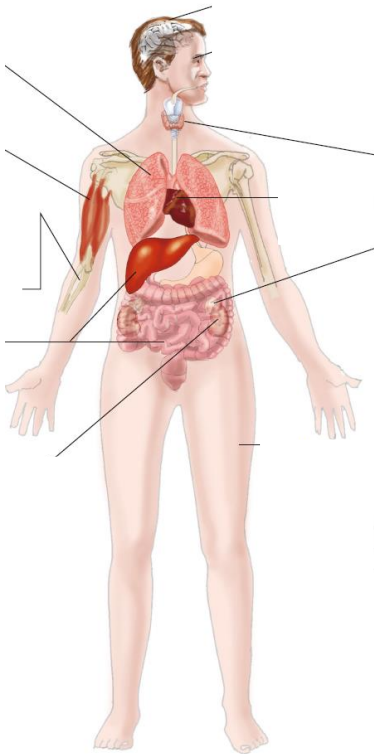
Cases



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

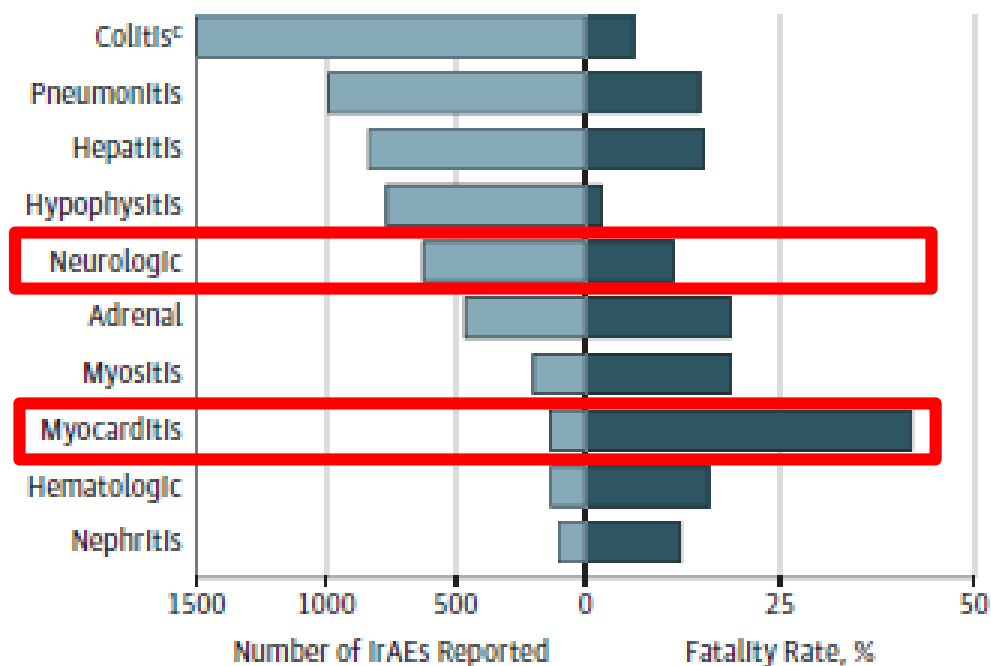
Fatigue (21-36% of pts on ICI)



Possible Causes:	Work Up:	Next Steps:
Hypophysitis (1-11%) (N/V, weak, H/A, loss of libido, glucose) Hypothyroidism New Onset Type 1 DM (1%) Primary AI (RARE!)	Morning Cortisol, ACTH, FSH, LH Cortisol Stimulation Test, consider brain MRI (pituitary protocol) if abnormal TSH/free T4 Glucose, AG, pH, urine/serum ketones, beta-hydroxybutyrate, c-peptide, consider anti-GAD, anti-islet cell	Determine hypophysitis vs primary AI Steroid replacement Levothyroxine Insulin
Insomnia/depression/anxiety		Exercise, CBT, nutrition

Fatality Rates

C Cases and fatality rates



Wang, Jama Onc, 2018



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

Further Research

- Patient: *“What you are doing is going to benefit so many, I will be happy and honored to help in any way possible, to make this journey easier for others, that will make mine even more worthy”*
- His Wife: *I feel exactly the same, if our journey helps someone else's be less painful, then it will be even more worthy, if awareness was created then what we endured has more meaning, this is how science advances, this is how we learn, this is how medicine writes the new chapters. I hope God gives me enough years to witness the progresses that I am sure MGH team will achieve. He will remain alive in that progress and one day my kids will have one more reason to be even more proud of their Daddy.*



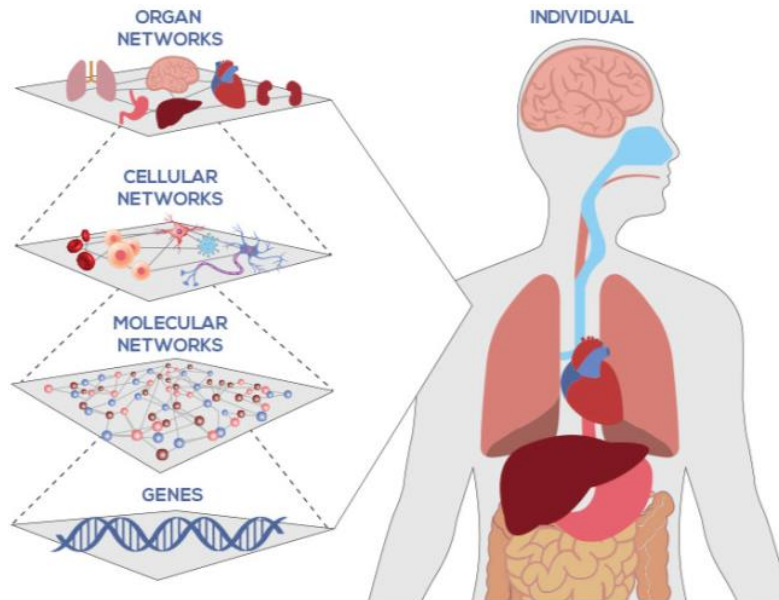
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Short Term - Systems Approaches Applied at Unprecedented Resolution

Building Knowledge Network

Different scales



Time:



At Diagnosis (pre-steroid)

- Blood, serum, plasma, stools
- Relevant body fluids
- Biopsy affected tissue(s)

Post-Steroids; collection until recovery

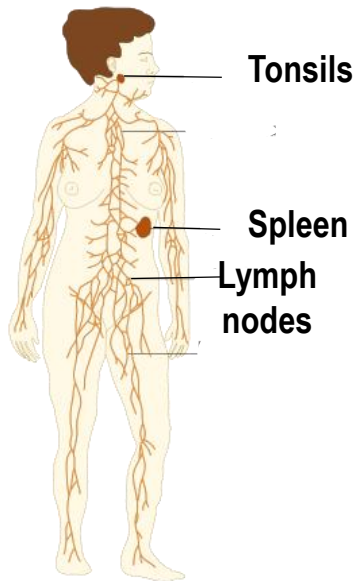
- Blood, serum, plasma, stools
- Body fluids (e.g., urine, CSF, SF)

Collect if patient relapse or develop other irAEs

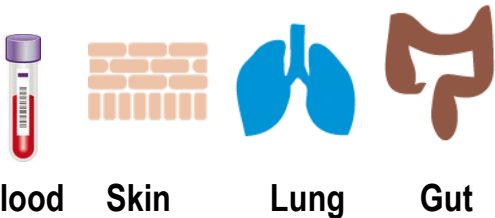
Next-Generation Microscope: Single Cell Genomics Strategies

Tissues to be profiled

Lymphoid Organs



Non-Lymphoid "Barrier" Organs



Sample
dissociation,

Solid Tissue

Dissociated Tissue

Single cell isolation

Extract every
cell genomic
information

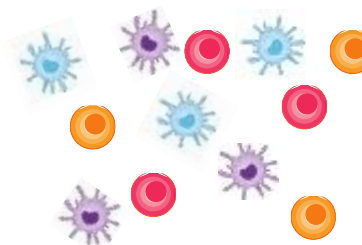


Single cell
RNA-Sequencing

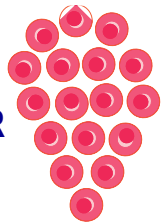


Expression profile
clustering

Cell subsets map



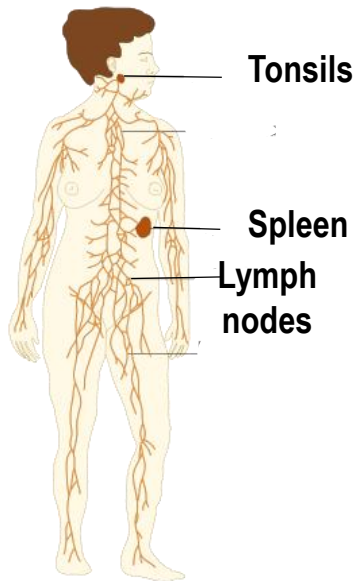
OR



Next-Generation Microscope: Single Cell Genomics Strategies

Tissues to be profiled

Lymphoid Organs



Non-Lymphoid "Barrier" Organs



Blood



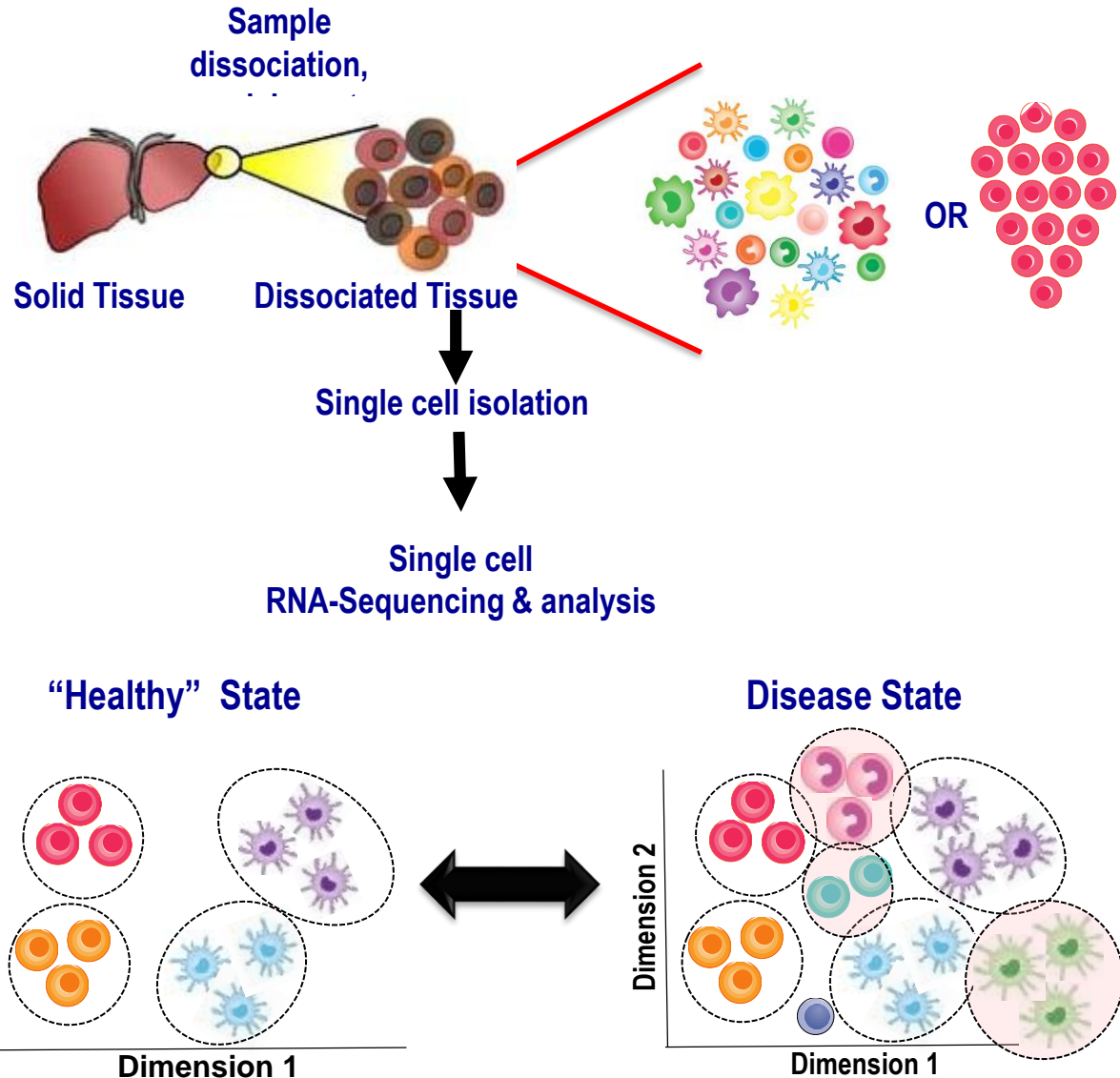
Skin



Lung



Gut



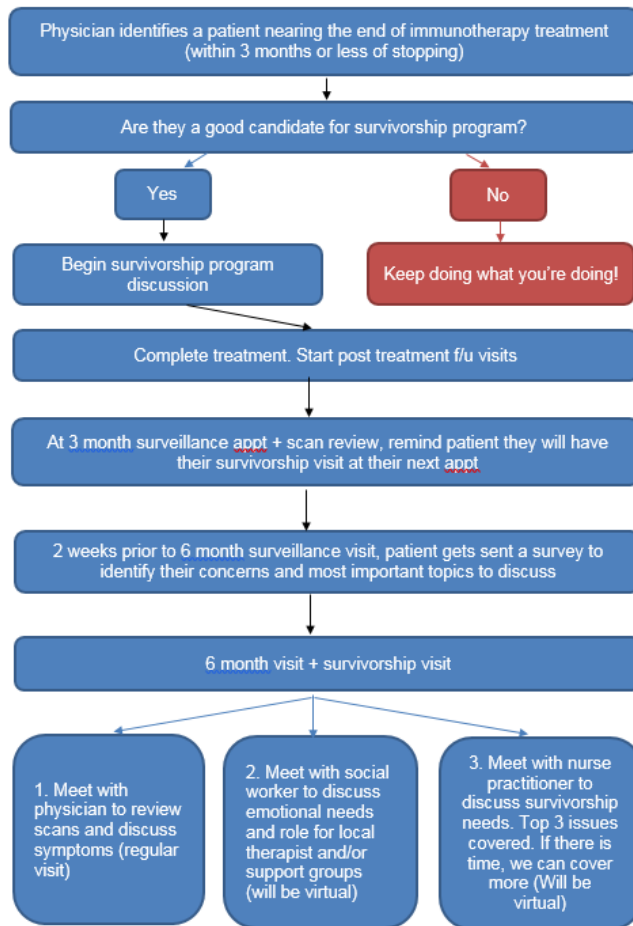
Rapid Autopsy



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

Long term - Survivorship! (Fadden, NP)

Survivorship program goals:
 Help patients transition to post-treatment care
 Make sure patients have a PCP and plugged back into preventative care
 Education about signs and symptoms to call us for vs other specialists
 Address outstanding financial, emotional, and physical issues from treatment (not active rAEs)



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

MELANOMA SURVIVORSHIP

Immune-Mediated Toxicity History

GI:	Eyes:
Skin:	Mucosal involvement <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Lungs:	Heart:
Liver:	Kidneys
Joints/MSK:	Neuro:
Heme:	Pancreas:
Infectious Disease:	Allergy:

Endocrinopathies

Primary Hypothyroidism:	Primary Adrenal Insufficiency:
Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus:	Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus:
Anterior Hypopituitarism with central/secondary: <input type="checkbox"/> Hypothyroidism <input type="checkbox"/> Adrenal Insufficiency <input type="checkbox"/> Hypogonadism	

Corticosteroid History (and Other Immunosuppression)

Cumulative Corticosteroid Dose (in mg prednisone):	
Still on steroids: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Current Daily Dose:
Other Immunosuppression & Dose/Date(s):	
<input type="checkbox"/> Infliximab: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Vedolizumab: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydroxychloroquine: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Sulfasalazine: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mycophenolate Mofetil: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Azathioprine: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	

Follow Up Care Plan

Follow Up Testing	Follow up Laboratory Screening
Bone Mineral Density:	Thyroid:
Colonoscopy:	Pituitary/Adrenal:
Skin Exam:	Diabetes:
Eye Exam:	CBC:
Echocardiogram:	Liver & Kidneys:
12-Lead ECG:	Vitamin D:
Pulmonary Function Tests:	Lipids/BP/Weight:
Medication:	Prescriber:

Let's Answer Our Questions

- How many patients are expected to have a serious immune-related adverse event (irAE) this year in the US alone? (300, 3,000, 10,000, well over 30,000)
- If a patient has one irAE, are they at risk for another? Y/N
- Are all irAE's treated with steroids? Y/N
- Do some irAE's require different doses of steroids? Y/N
- What is the most common organ system involved?
- What are the two most fatal toxicities?



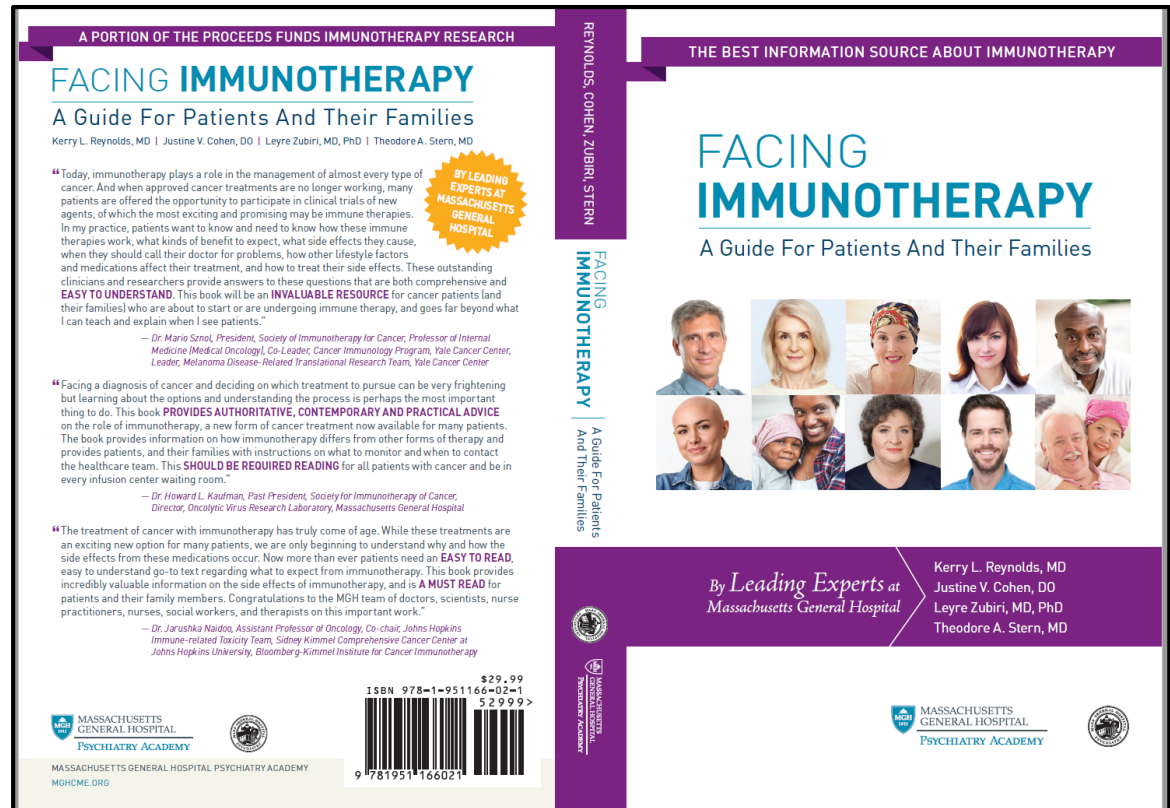
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Next Best Steps

Download the FREE management guidelines

- Haanen, Annals of Oncology, 2017
- Puzanov, Journal of ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, 2017
- Brahmer, Journal of Clinical Oncology, February, 2018
- **NCCN Guidelines, May, 2021**



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

Thank You

Patients and Families

Dr. Daniel Haber, Cancer Center Director
Dr. Dave Ryan, Chief of Hem Onc, MGH
Dr. Keith Flaherty, Cancer Center
Dr. Chloe Villani, CIID, Cancer Center, MGH
Dr. Steven Blum, MD
Dr. Amanda Guidon, Neurology, MGH
Dr. LeeAnn Burton, Neurology, MGH
Dr. Michael Dougan, GI, MGH
Dr. Andy Chan, GI, MGH
Dr. Tom Neilan, Cardiology, MGH
Dr. Dan Zlotoff, Cardiology, MGH
Dr. Rebecca Karp, Hematology, MGH
Dr. Michael Mansour, Infectious Disease, MGH
Dr. Alyssa Letourneau, Infectious Disease, MGH
Dr. Alex Faje, Neuroendocrine, MGH
Dr. Michelle Rengarajan, Endocrine, MGH
Dr. Minna Kohler, Rheumatology, MGH
Dr. Sara Schoenfeld, Rheumatology, MGH
Dr. Mazen Nasrallah, Rheumatology, MGH
Dr. Molly Thomas, GI, MGH
Dr. Steven Chen, Dermatology, MGH
Gabe Molina, Dermatology, MGH
Dr. Eugene Seminov, Dermatology, MGH
Dr. Yeku Oladapu, GYN Onc, MGH
Dr. Xin Gao, GU, MGH
Dr. Mary Aronow, MEEI/ Ophthalmology
Dr. Meghan Sise, Renal, MGH
Dr. Harish Seethapathy, Renal, MGH
Dr. Ryan Sullivan, Melanoma, MGH Cancer Center



Dr. Justine Cohen, Melanoma, U Penn
Dr. Don Lawrence, Melanoma, MGH Cancer Center
Dr. Russ Jenkins, Melanoma, MGH Cancer Center
Krista Rubin, NP, Melanoma, MGH Cancer Center
Riley Fadden, NP, Melanoma, MGH Cancer Center
Dr. Howard Kaufman, Melanoma, MGH Cancer Center
Dr. Aparna Parikh, GI, MGH Cancer Center
Dr. Dejan Juric, Phase I, Rapid Autopsy, MGH
Dr. Aditya Bardia, Breast, MGH Cancer Center
Dr. Ben Medoff, Pulmonary, MGH
Dr. Joey Kong, ITA, MGH
Dr. Laura Petrillo, Palliative Care, MGH
Dr. Florian Fintelmann, Radiology, MGH
Dr. Jong Park, Head and Neck, MGH
Dr. Aiden Long, Allergy and Immunology, MGH
Dr. Jocelyn Farmer, Allergy and Immunology, MGH
Dr. Sara Barmettler, Allergy and Immunology, MGH
Dr. Meghan Mooradian, Thoracic Oncology, MGH
Dr. Justin Gainor, Thoracic Oncology, MGH
Dr. Mari Mino-Knudson, Pathology, MGH
Dr. Ruth Foreman, Dermatopathology, MGH
Dr. Matthew Frigault, Heme Malignancies, MGH
Dr. Leyre Zubiri, Immunotherapy Toxicity Fellow
Mike Podolfi, Informatics, Partners ECare
Dr. Magid Adawallah, Fellow, Cardiology
Dr. Genevieve Boland, Surgical Oncology, MGH
Hellen Giang, Clinical Research, MGH
Elaina Phan, Clinical Research, MGH
Tariq Daouda, Villani Lab
Neal Smith, Villani Lab
Elizabeth Hockfield Byrne, Villani Lab



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

QUESTIONS



A Teaching Affiliate
of Harvard Medical School



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER



A Teaching Affiliate
of Harvard Medical School

Case 2



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Case #2

- ID: 65 y/o M with metastatic **melanoma**
- PMH: prostate cancer (in remission), depression, HL
- Prior treatments: High dose IL-2 and adoptive cell transfer therapy at the NCI. **Radiation** to brain and spine
 - Treatment Course
 - June 1st: C1D1 on a clinical trial. Combination **nivolumab** and **ipilimumab**
 - July 31st: C2D1 reported 2 weeks of **non-productive cough, DOE, pleuritic pain**, night sweats and increased fatigue
 - Chest CT: “New diffuse bilateral centrilobular **groundglass opacity** with superimposed areas of peribronchiolar consolidation within the right middle lobe, and peripheral areas of consolidation with central lucency ("reverse halo") concerning for hypersensitivity pneumonitis with organizing pneumonia secondary to drug reaction.”



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

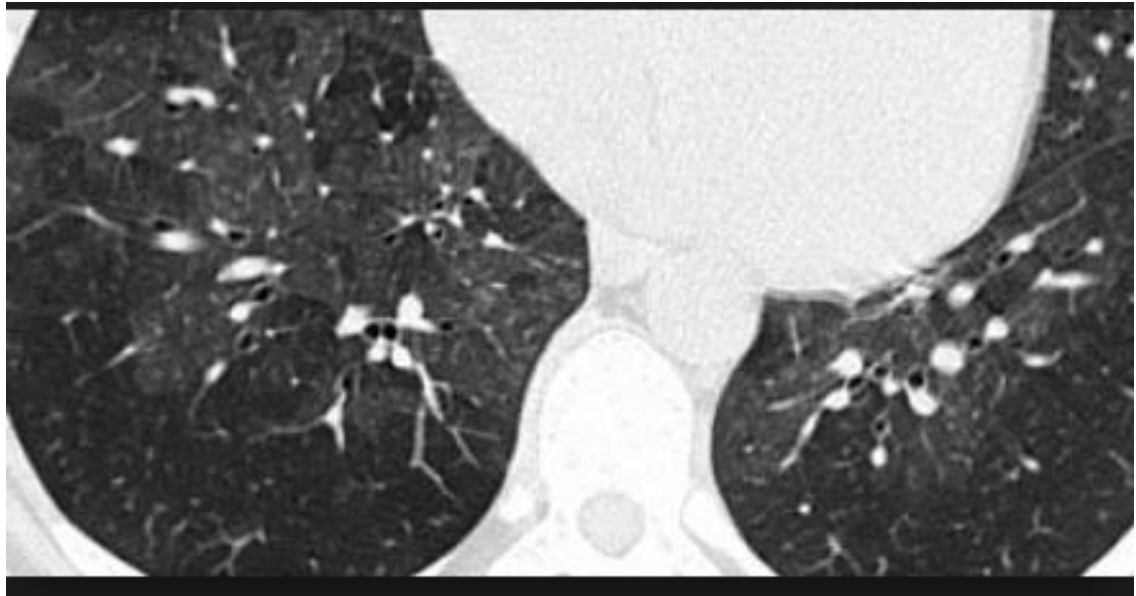
CANCER CENTER

Clinical Presentation

53% Dyspnea
35% Cough
12% Fever
7% Chest pain
33% Asymptomatic

Incidence

- PD1/PDL1 – 3%
- CTLA4 + PD1 – 10%
- Real World – 19%



Naidoo, JCO, 2016

Delauney, Eur Respir J, 2017

Suresh, J Thorac Oncol, 2018



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Differential Diagnosis

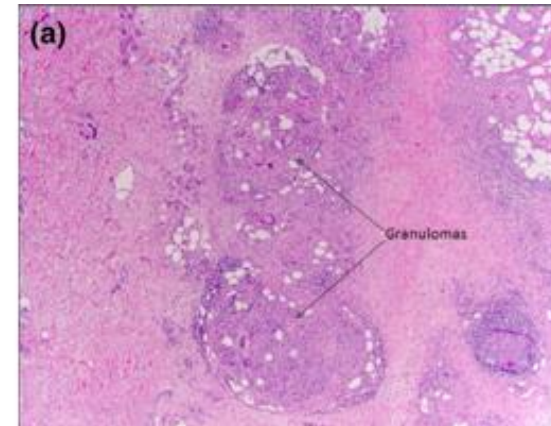
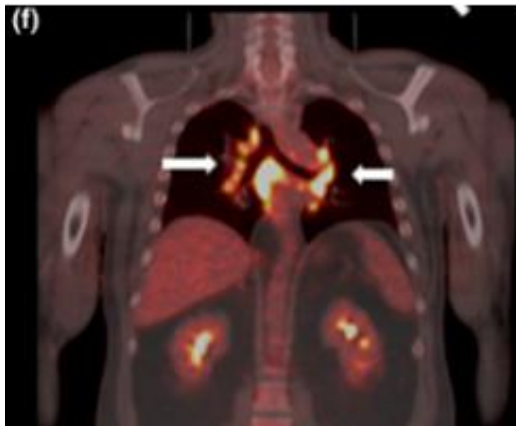
- Infection/pneumonia
- Disease - lymphangitic carcinomatosis, pseudoprogression
- Pulmonary edema
- COPD/bronchiolitis
- Alveolar hemorrhage
- Pleural and pericardial effusions
- And consider.....



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Sarcoidosis



Lomax, Int J Rheum Dis, 2017



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER

Pneumonitis

Work-Up

- It is a diagnosis of exclusion. Need to rule out active infection, worsening metastatic disease, medication induced ILD/IPF, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, CHF.
- Sputum/induced, viral panel, chest CT, bronchoscopy depending on level of suspicion. Decision to bronch is individualized.
- Chest CT, review with experienced radiologist
 - Ground-glass opacities (37%), Cryptogenic-organizing pneumonia-like (COP-like) (19%), Hypersensitivity type (22%), Interstitial type (7%), Pneumonitis – not otherwise specified (15%)

Management

Grade	Naidoo 2017 (N = 43)	Delaunay 2017 (N = 64)	Definition	Management
1	40%	15%	Asymptomatic, confined to one lobe or 25% of lung parenchyma	Hold drug, repeat chest CT in 4 weeks, if resolved restart drug
2	33%	39%	Symptomatic, involves more than 1 lobe or 25-50% of parenchyma	Pred 1 mg/kg, monitor closely, hold drug
3	23%	26%	Severe, involves all lung lobes or > 50% lung parenchyma	Hospitalize, IV antibiotics, IV steroids, consider bronch, if no improvement in 48 hours, escalate to grade 4
4	2%	9%		
5	2%	9%		



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Steroid Refractory Disease

Lack of Evidence Regarding Choice of 2nd Line Immunosuppression

Severe (G3–4)^d
pneumonitis^a

- Permanently discontinue immunotherapy^f
- Inpatient care
- Infectious workup:
 - Consider that patient may be immunocompromised
 - Nasal swab for potential viral pathogens
 - Sputum culture, blood culture, and urine culture
- Pulmonary and infectious disease consultation, consider PFTs
- Bronchoscopy with BAL to rule out infection and malignant lung infiltration
- Consider empiric antibiotics if infection has not yet been fully excluded
- Methylprednisolone 1–2 mg/kg/day. Assess response within 48 hours and plan taper over 2–6 weeks
- Consider adding any of the following if no improvement after 48 hours:
 - Infliximab 5 mg/kg IV, a second dose may be repeated 14 days later at the discretion of the treating provider
 - Mycophenolate mofetil 1–1.5g BID then taper in consultation with pulmonary service
 - Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG)ⁱ

- Ongoing Clinical Trial – PI: Naidoo

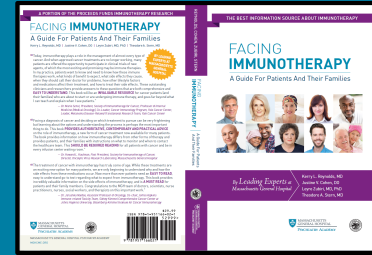
Nishino, Clin Cancer Res, 2016
Chipman, J Oncol Pharm Pract, 2017



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CANCER CENTER

Key Points



- Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors Are Now Standard of Care (> 50 indications, in over 15 types of Cancer)
- Success of Single Agent ICI Led To Combination Approvals
- Be Aware Of The Unique “Autoimmune” Toxicity Profile
- irAEs are Typically Grade 1/2 but Severe irAEs Can Be Fatal
- Steroids are a Mainstay of Treatment
- Beware of “fatigue” and “shortness of breath”

[Amazon.com, Facing Immunotherapy](https://www.amazon.com/Facing-Immunotherapy/dp/0765794444)



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANCER CENTER