Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

ADVANCES IN Cancer IMMUNOTHERAPY™

Toxicity Management

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AAEM AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE CHAMPION OF THE EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN

ACCC Association of Community Cancer Centers

HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

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Disclosures

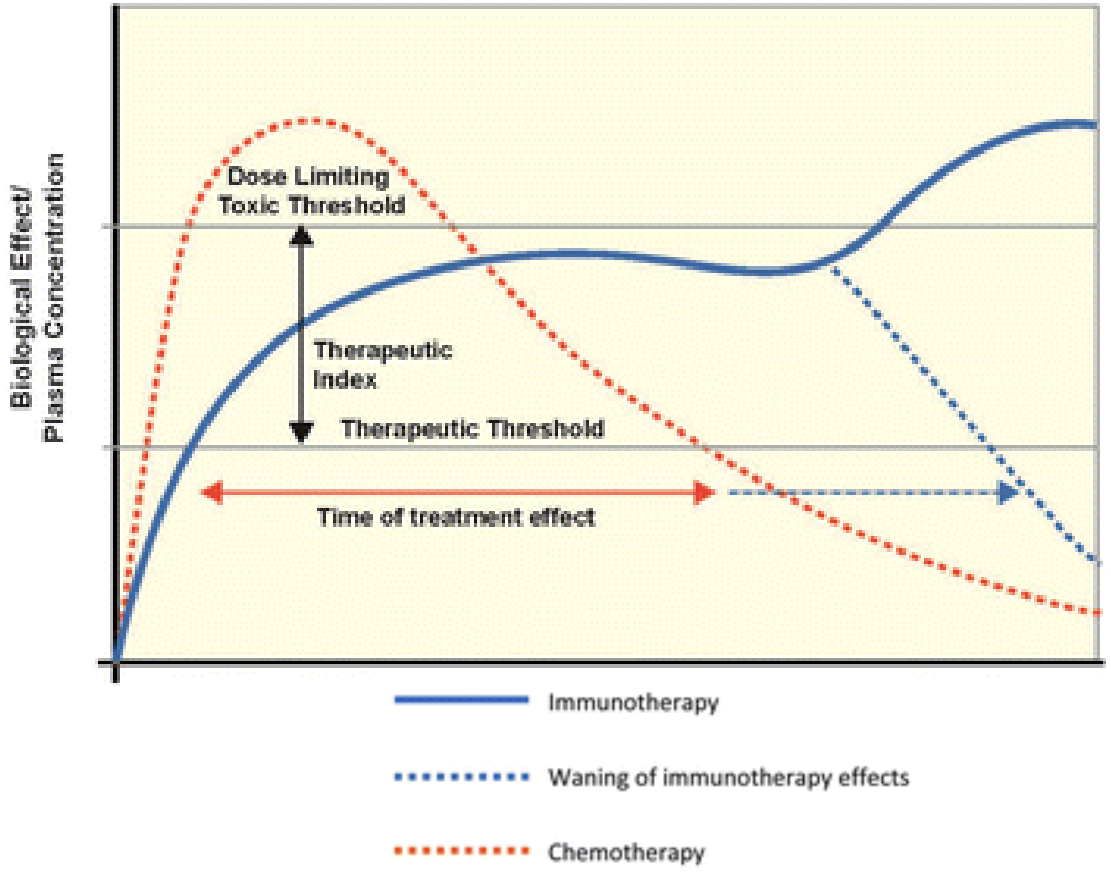
- Consulting Fees: Pfizer
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.

Outline

- Incidence, onset and severity grading
- Immune checkpoint inhibitors
  - Common adverse events
  - Rare but serious adverse events
- Immunotherapy in special patient populations
- Case studies

Immune-related adverse events (irAEs)

- Immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) toxicities often have delayed onset and prolonged duration relative to cytotoxic chemotherapy
- Toxicities result from activation of the immune response, and can mimic a number of autoimmune medical conditions



Puzanov and Diab, JITC 2017

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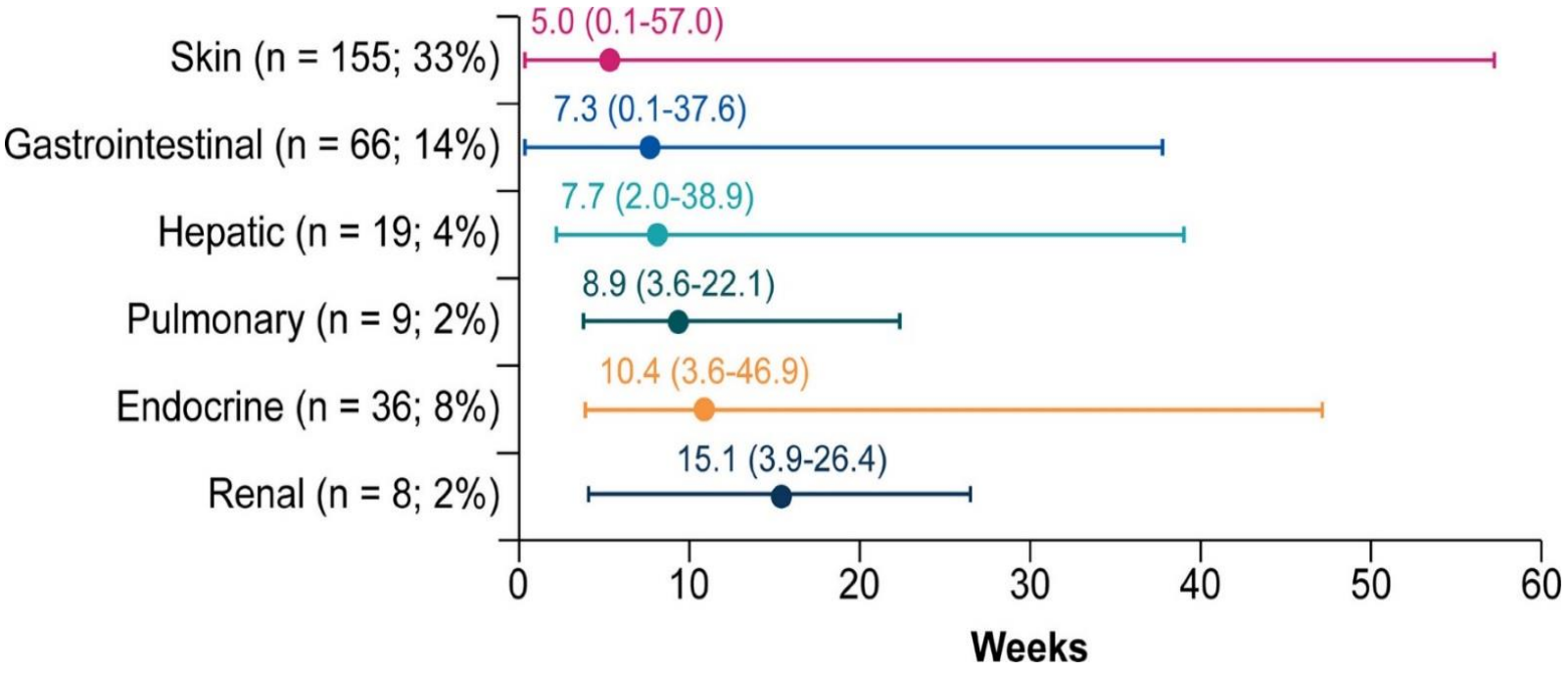
Onset of irAEs



- Can be days to months after therapy initiation
- May occur even after treatment is discontinued
- Onset may be earlier with combination treatments
- Important to identify patients who are currently **OR** previously on ICI treatment!

Pallin, Acad Emerg Med 2018
Puzanov and Diab, JITC 2017

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Common terminology criteria for adverse events

CTCAE Grade	Clinical description
1	Mild; asymptomatic or mild symptoms; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated
2	Moderate; minimal, local, or noninvasive intervention indicated; limiting age-appropriate instrumental ADL
3	Severe or medically significant but not immediately life-threatening; hospitalization or prolongation of hospitalization indicated; disabling; limiting self care ADL
4	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated
5	Death related to adverse event

US Dept of HHS, 2017.

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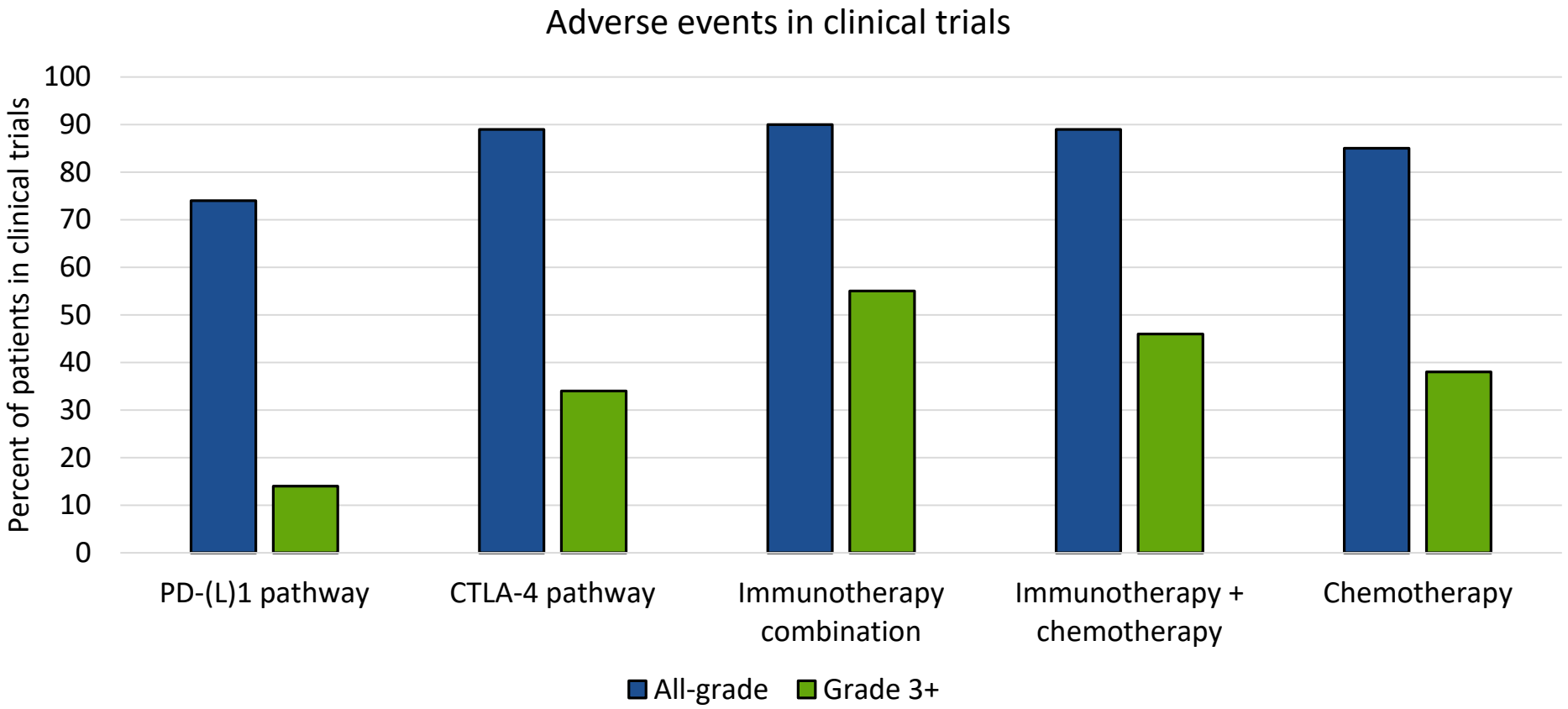
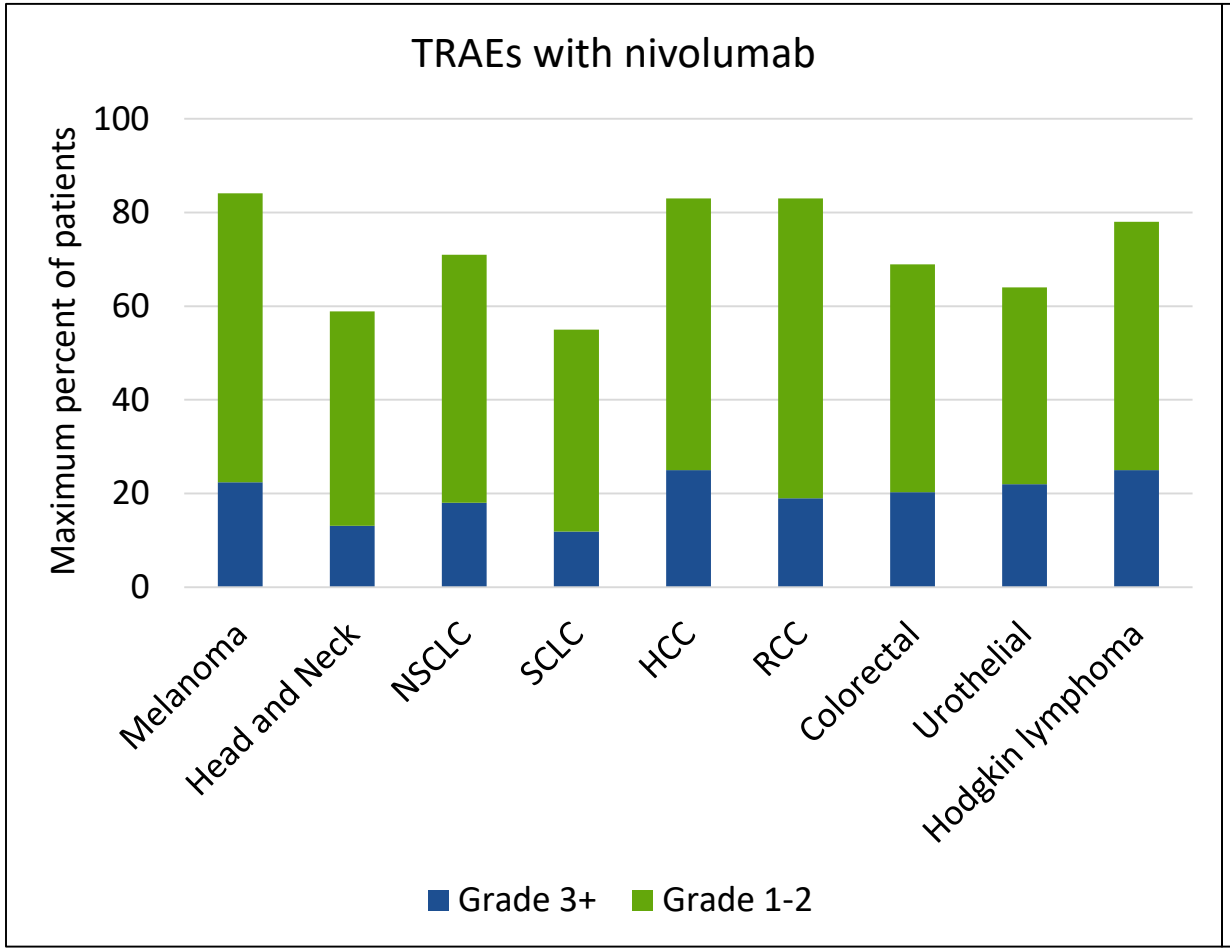
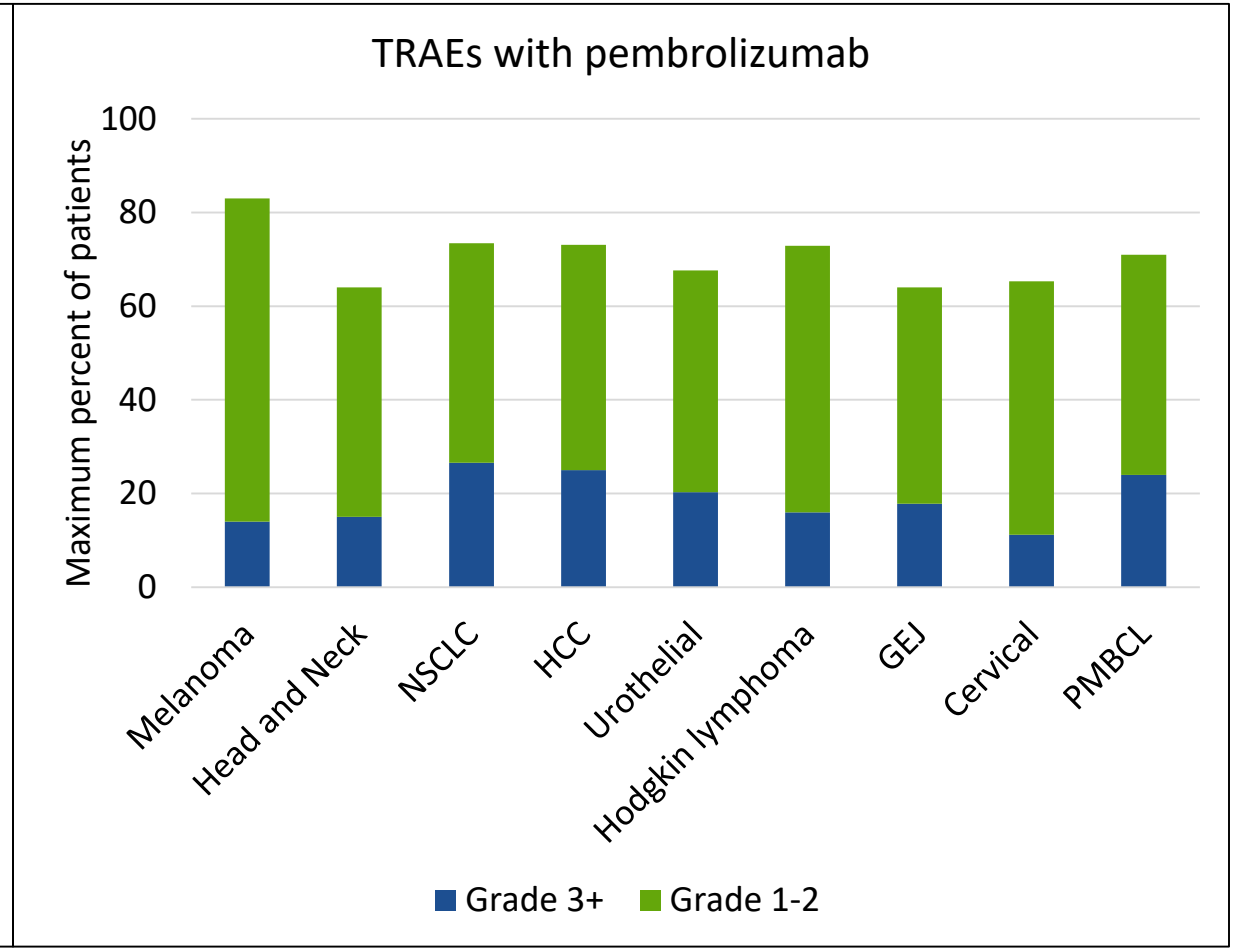
Toxicity with immune checkpoint inhibitors



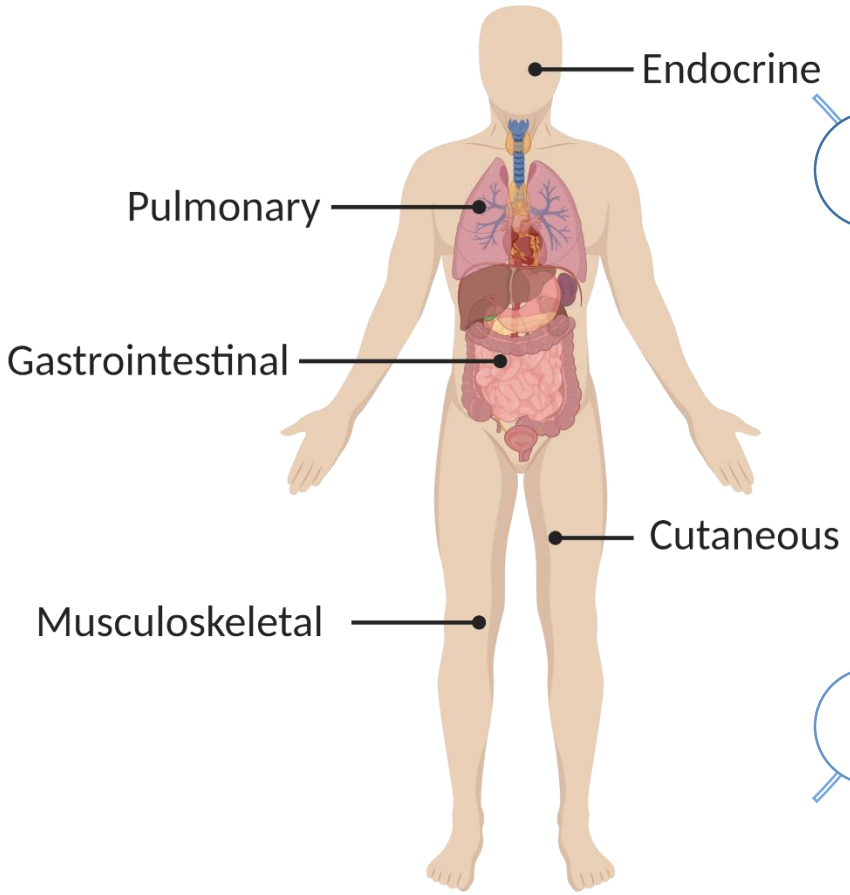
Arnaud-Coffin, Int J Cancer 2019

Toxicity with immune checkpoint inhibitors





Common irAEs with ICIs



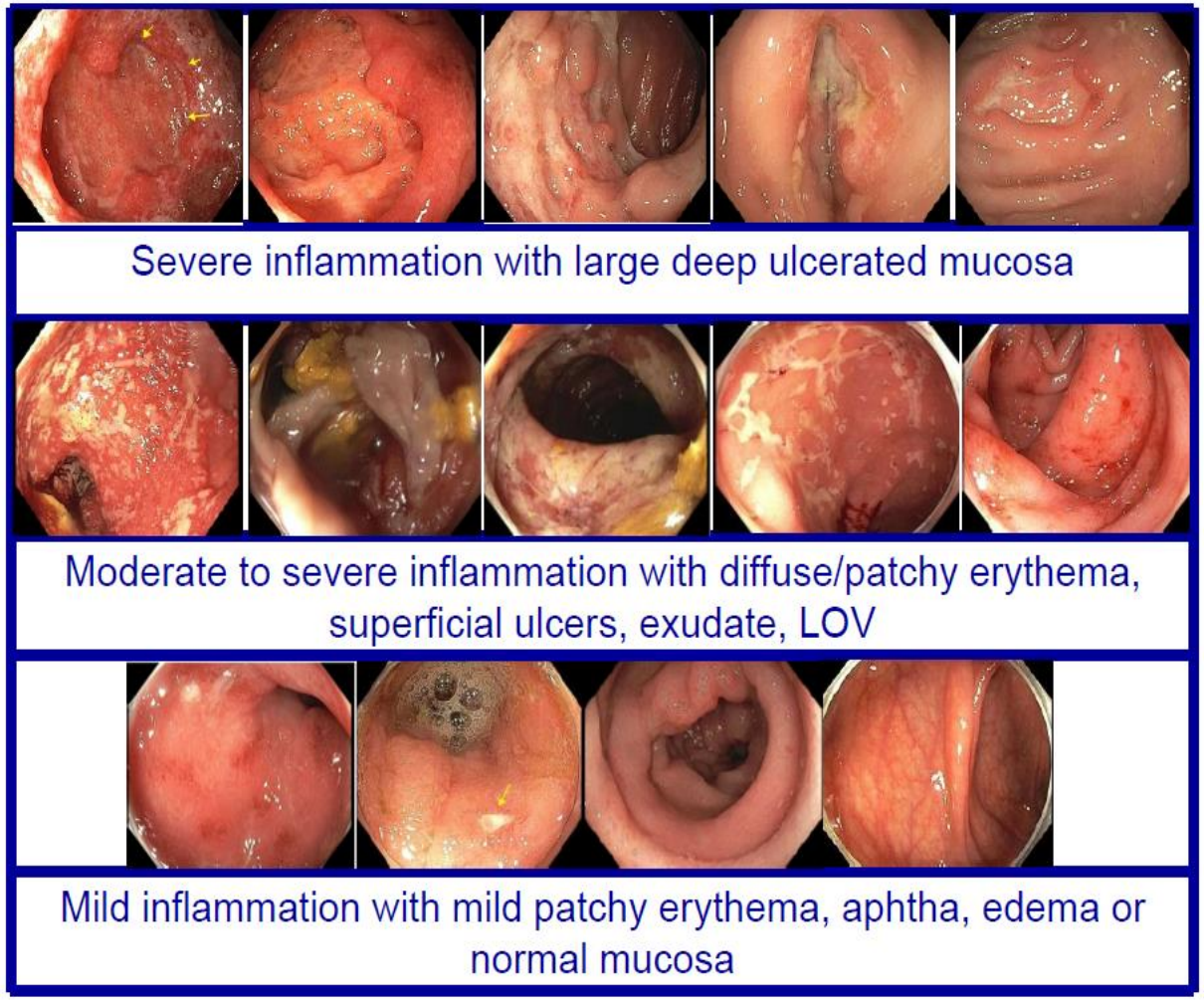
- Cutaneous: dermatitis (maculopapular, lichenoid), pruritis
- Gastrointestinal: diarrhea, colitis, hepatitis, gastritis
- Musculoskeletal: inflammatory arthritis, myositis, sicca syndrome
- Pulmonary: pneumonitis, sarcoidosis
- Endocrine: thyroid dysfunction, hypophysitis, Type 1 diabetes

Puzanov and Diab, JITC 2017.
NCCN Guidelines. Management of immunotherapy-related toxicities. Version 2.2019.

Diarrhea/Colitis

- Diagnostic evaluation
  - Rule out alternative diagnosis: C.difficile, other GI infections
  - Diarrhea while on ICIs should prompt suspicion of immune-mediated colitis
  - Consider testing with colonoscopy

- Management
  - Low threshold for starting corticosteroids given risk for bowel perforation; typical dose is prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day (or equivalent)
  - No benefit for corticosteroid pre-treatment (budesonide)
  - Colitis that is slow to improve/refractory to steroids: treat with anti-TNF
  - Infliximab 5mg/kg q14 days (1-3 doses typically required)



Wang et al, *JITC* 2018

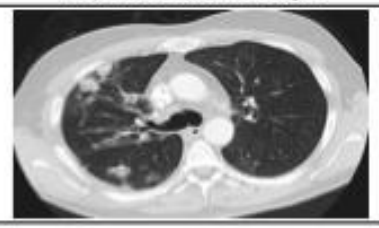
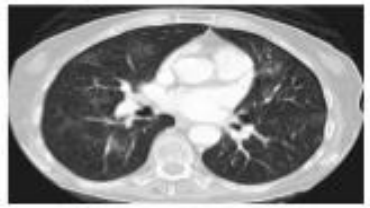
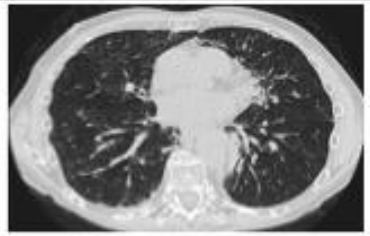
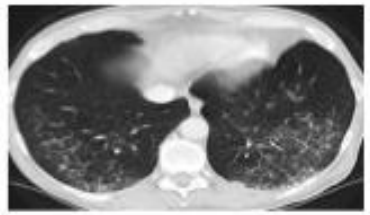
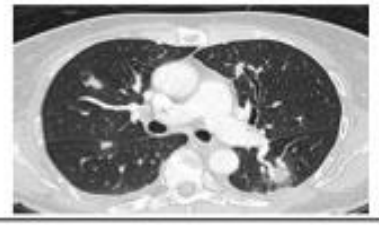
Hepatitis

- Hepatitis is often asymptomatic, but can lead to treatment discontinuation
- Elevations in AST and/or ALT
- Typically 6-14 weeks after treatment

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
• Liver function tests weekly	• Liver function tests weekly • Corticosteroids 0.5 mg/kg/day	• Liver function tests every 1-2 days • Withhold ICIs • Corticosteroids 1-2 mg/kg/day	• Liver function tests every 1-2 days • Discontinue ICIs • Corticosteroids 1-2 mg/kg/day
	• Diagnostic testing includes iron studies, autoimmune hepatitis panel and viral hepatitis panel • Taper steroids over 4-6 weeks once LFTs revert to grade $\leq$ 1 • If LFTs do not improve or recur after taper, may administer azathioprine or mycophenolate mofetil • Infliximab should not be used, given risk for hepatotoxicity		

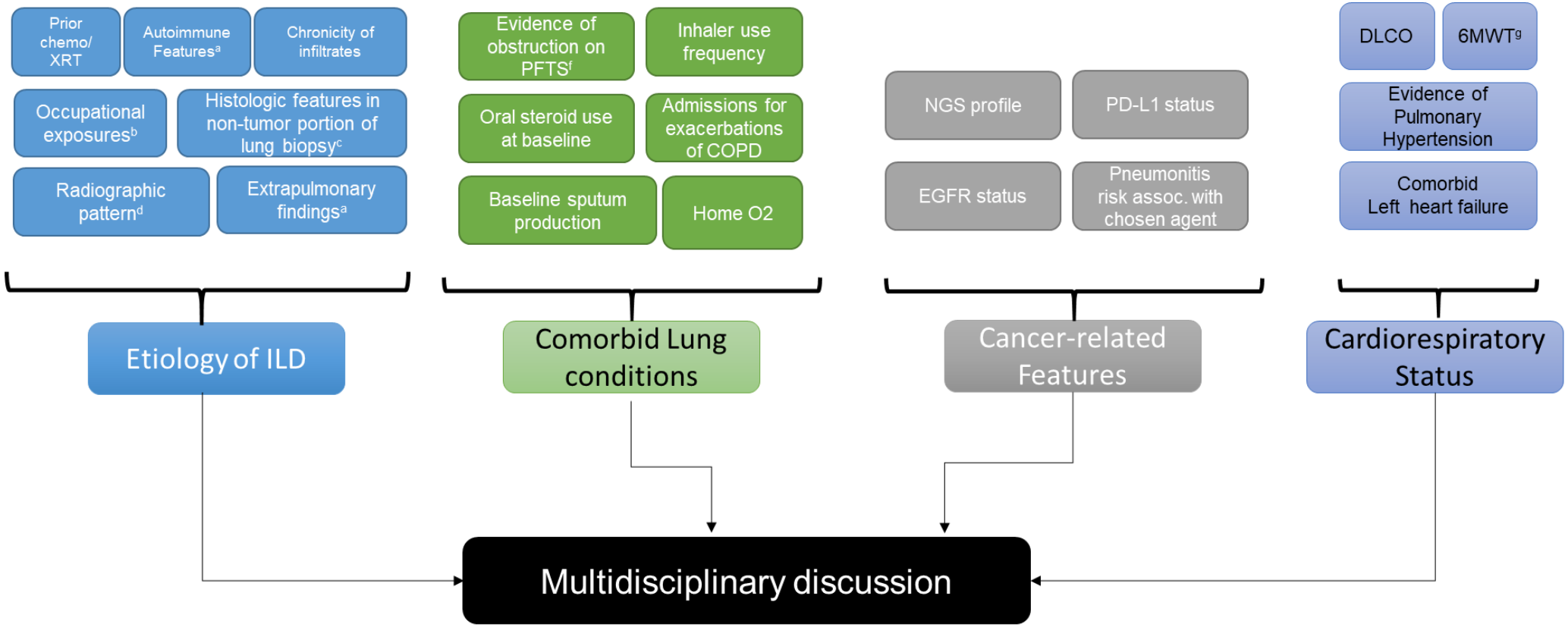
Pneumonitis

- Diagnostic evaluation
  - Symptoms: persistent dry cough, dyspnea on exertion
  - Rule out alternative diagnosis: infection, malignancy
  - Computed tomography
- Management
  - Can escalate quickly, so prompt symptom reporting is important
  - Withhold drug for low-grade
  - Corticosteroids with close follow-up
  - Additional immunosuppression may be needed

Radiologic Subtypes	Representative Image
Cryptogenic-Organizing Pneumonia-like (COP-like) (n=5, 19%)	
Ground Glass Opacifications (GGO) (n=10, 37%)	
Interstitial Type (n=6, 22%)	
Hypersensitivity Type (n=2, 7%)	
Pneumonitis Not-Otherwise Specified (n=4, 15%)	

Naidoo et al, *J Clin Oncol* 2016
Suresh, Naidoo et al, *J Thoracic Oncol* 2018

Discerning pneumonitis from other diagnoses

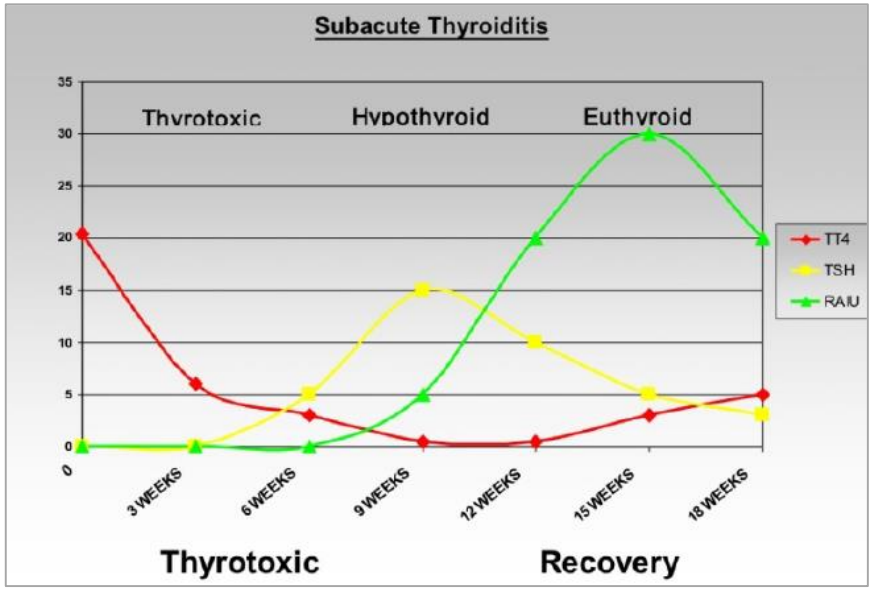


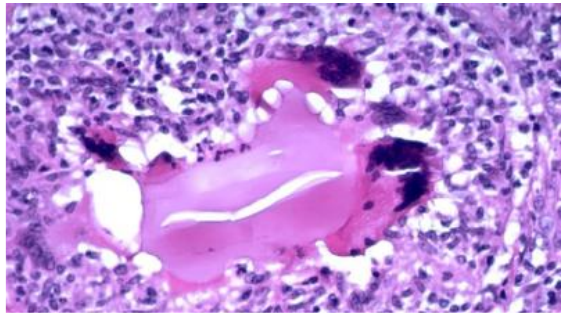
[a] Rashes (Gottron's papules, Heliotrope rash), evidence of synovitis, family history of RA/SLE, history of dry eyes/mouth, Raynaud's phenomenon
[b] Steelworkers, farmers, exposures to heavy metals, organic fumes, dusts, birds, etc. [c] such as poorly-formed granulomas, lymphocytic aggregates
[d] NSIP vs UIP-pattern, evidence of air-trapping, lobar dominance. [f] may present as complex obstruction (TLCpp – FVCpp > 15).

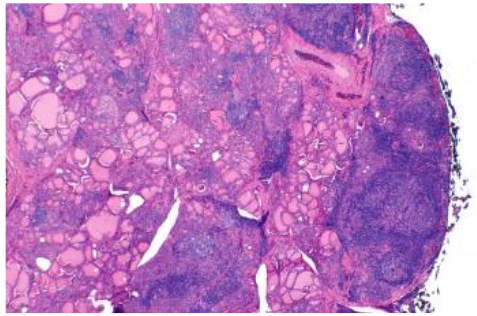
Naidoo, Suresh, The Oncologist 2020.

Thyroid dysfunction

- Hyperthyroid Phase
  - Leaky thyroid, variable symptoms
  - 2-6 weeks duration
- Hypothyroidism Phase
  - Recovery of depleted gland
  - Symptoms: fatigue, hair and skin changes, fluid retention, constipation
  - Transient or permanent
- Management
  - Hormone replacement
  - Endocrinology consultation
  - ICI does not need to be held if this is the only irAE



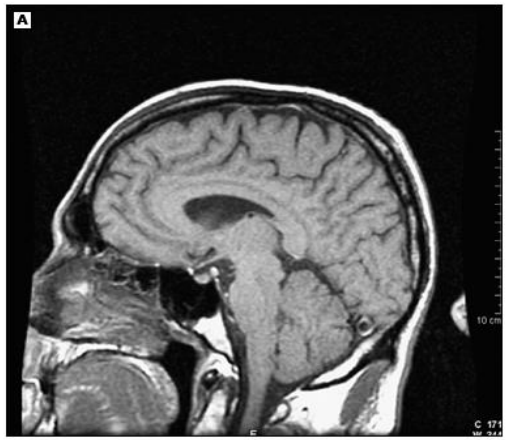




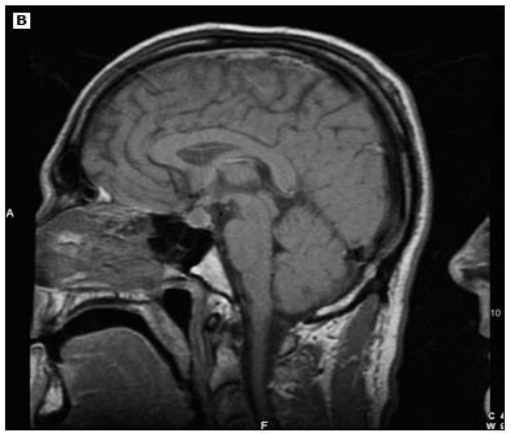
Kobayashi et al, *J Endoc Soc* 2018

Hypophysitis

- Diagnostic workup
  - Symptoms:
    - Due to increased intracranial pressure: headache, nausea, blurry vision
    - Due to hormonal deficit: fatigue, weakness, hypotension
  - Lab tests: ACTH, TSH, FSH, LH, GH, prolactin
  - Differentiate from primary adrenal insufficiency and hypothyroidism by lab results
  - Enhancement/swelling of pituitary on imaging
- Management
  - Hormone supplementation



06/30/04 - Baseline (4.5 mm)



12/03/04 - Headache/fatigue (10.8 mm)

Ryder et al, Endocr Relat Cancer 2014

Pre-treatment screening recommended by SITC

- Patient History
  - Autoimmune, infectious, endocrine, organ-specific diseases
  - Baseline bowel habits
- Dermatologic
  - Full skin and mucosal exam
- Pulmonary
  - Baseline O_2 saturation
- Cardiovascular
  - ECG
  - Troponin I or T
- Blood tests
  - CBC with diff
  - CMP
  - TSH and free T4
  - HbA1c
  - Total CK
  - Fasting lipid profile
  - Infectious disease screen:
    - Hepatitis serologies
    - CMV antibody
    - HIV antibody and antigen (p24)
    - TB testing (T-spot, quantiferon gold)

Pazanov & Diab, JITC 2017.

Potential additional screening for high-risk patients

- Endocrine tests
  - 8 am cortisol and ACTH
- Cardiac tests
  - Brain natriuretic peptide (BNP) or N-terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide (NT pro-BNP)
- Pulmonary tests
  - PFTs
  - 6MWT

Pazanov & Diab, JITC 2017.

Approach to Treatment

- Treatment approach is guided by grading of specific toxicity
- Resources for grading:
  - SITC Toxicity Management Working Group
  - Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events
  - National Comprehensive Cancer Network
- 1st line for **MOST** irAEs is systemic high-dose corticosteroids
  - Endocrine toxicities managed with hormone replacement
  - Some grade 1-2 irAEs may respond to topical steroids (dermatologic, ophthalmologic)
- OTC drugs may not be appropriate for managing symptoms
  - i.e. loperamide for colitis may result in bowel perforation and mask underlying symptoms

General corticosteroid management

Grade of irAE	Corticosteroid Management	Additional Notes
1	Usually not indicated	Continue immunotherapy
2	• Start **prednisone 0.5-1 mg/kg/day** (or equivalent dose of IV methylprednisolone) • If no improvement in 2-3 days, **increase dose** to 2 mg/kg/day • Once improved to ≤grade 1, start **4-6 week steroid taper**	• **Hold immunotherapy** during corticosteroid use • **Continue immunotherapy** once resolved to ≤grade 1 and off corticosteroids • Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis

Pazanov & Diab, JITC 2017.

General corticosteroid management

Grade of irAE	Corticosteroid Management	Additional Notes
3	• Start **prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day** (or equivalent dose of IV methylprednisolone) • If no improvement in 2–3 days, **ADD additional** immunosuppressant • Once improved to ≤ grade 1, start **4–6-week steroid taper**	• **Hold immunotherapy**; if unable to taper steroids over 4-6 weeks, **discontinue immunotherapy** • Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis • Add PJP prophylaxis if more than 3 weeks of immunosuppression expected (>30 mg prednisone or equivalent/day)
4		• **Discontinue immunotherapy** • Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis • Add PJP prophylaxis if more than 3 weeks of immunosuppression expected (>30 mg prednisone or equivalent/day)

Pazanov & Diab, JITC 2017.

Additional immunosuppressives for specific toxicities

Colitis

Infliximab
anti-TNF-α antibody
Dose: 5 mg/kg; 2nd dose may be administered after 2 weeks

Vedolizumab
A4β7 inhibition; gut-selective
Dose: 300 mg; repeat dose at 2 and 6 weeks

Pneumonitis

Mycophenolate mofetil
Inhibits T and B cell proliferation
Dose: 1 g twice per day

High dose intravenous immunoglobulin (hdIVIG)

Cutaneous

Topical tacrolimus
Calcineurin inhibitor

Indication-specific treatments
Pemphigus or bullous phemphigoid: rituximab
Eczema: dupilumab
Lichenoid rash: infliximab
Urticaria: omalizumab

Abu-Sbeih H. JITC. 2018.
NCCN Guidelines. Management of immunotherapy-related toxicities. Version 2.2019.

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Uncommon irAEs with ICIs

Cardiovascular:

Myocarditis, pericarditis, arrhythmias

Renal:

Interstitial nephritis, granulomatous nephritis

Endocrine:

Adrenal insufficiency, pancreatic insufficiency, type 1 diabetes mellitus

Hematologic:

Hemolytic anemia, red cell aplasia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia

Neurologic:

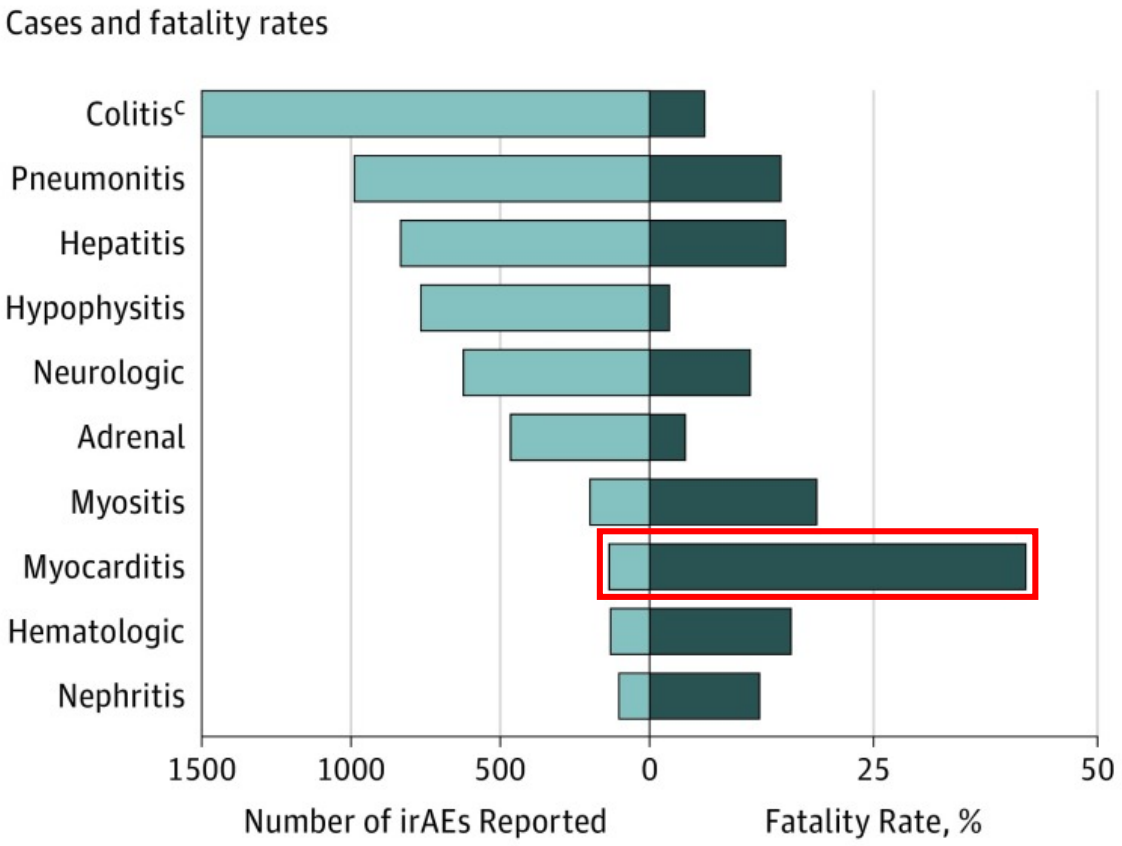
Myasthenia gravis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, peripheral neuropathies

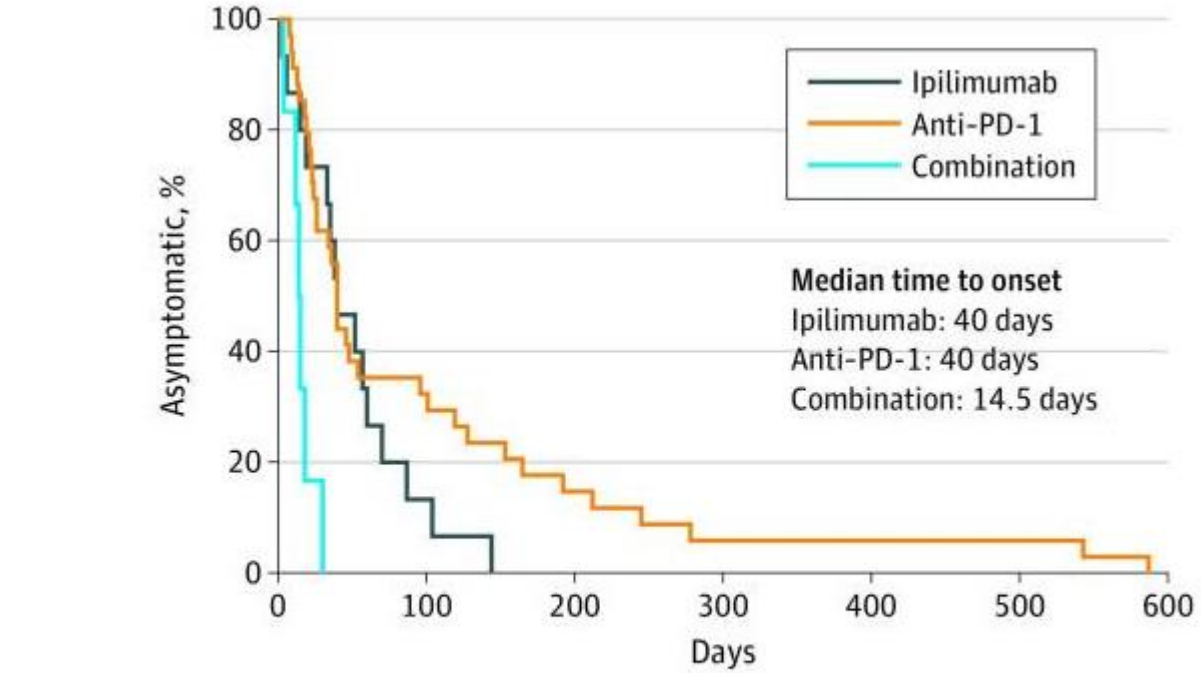
Ophthalmologic:

Uveitis, episcleritis, conjunctivitis

Puzanov and Diab, JITC 2017.
NCCN Guidelines. Management of immunotherapy-related toxicities. Version 2.2019.

Fatal Events with ICIs



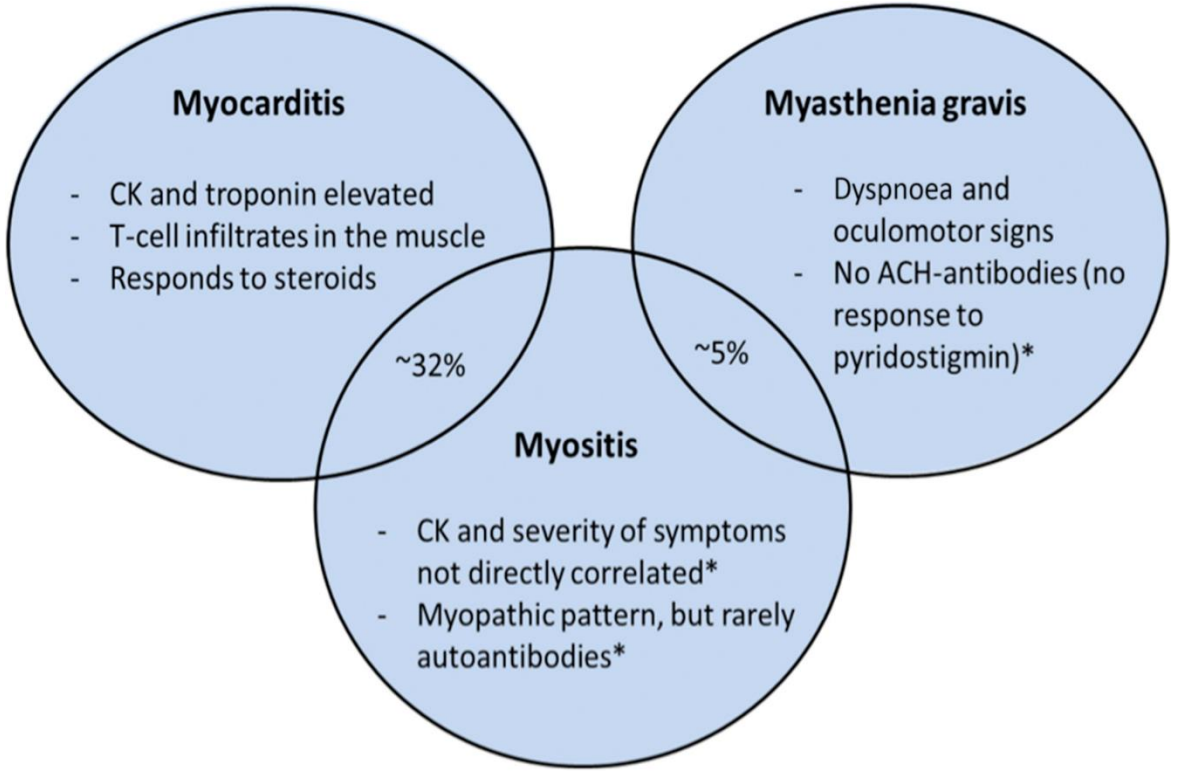


No. at risk							
Ipilimumab	15	2	0	0	0	0	0
Anti-PD-1	34	11	5	2	2	2	0
Combination	6	0	0	0	0	0	0

Wang et al, JAMA Oncol 2018.

Myocarditis

- More common with anti-CTLA-4 than anti-PD-1, but highest with combination
- Symptoms: dyspnea, chest pain, fatigue, myalgia, palpitations, syncope, dizziness
- Imaging findings usually normal
- Increased serum troponin in almost all patients – high suspicion of ICI-associated myocarditis!
- Management includes:
  - Withholding immunotherapy
  - Immunosuppressives based on grade of myocarditis
  - Heart failure support
- Often overlaps with other irAEs



Moreira et al, *Eur J Cancer* 2018
Naidoo et al, *JNCCN 2019*

Type 1 diabetes

- Diagnostic workup
  - Most common with PD-1 pathway inhibitors
  - Symptoms: severe and sudden onset of hyperglycemia, diabetic ketoacidosis
  - Monitor glucose levels at each dose of immunotherapy
- Management
  - Typically do not respond to immunosuppressives
  - Requires insulin therapy

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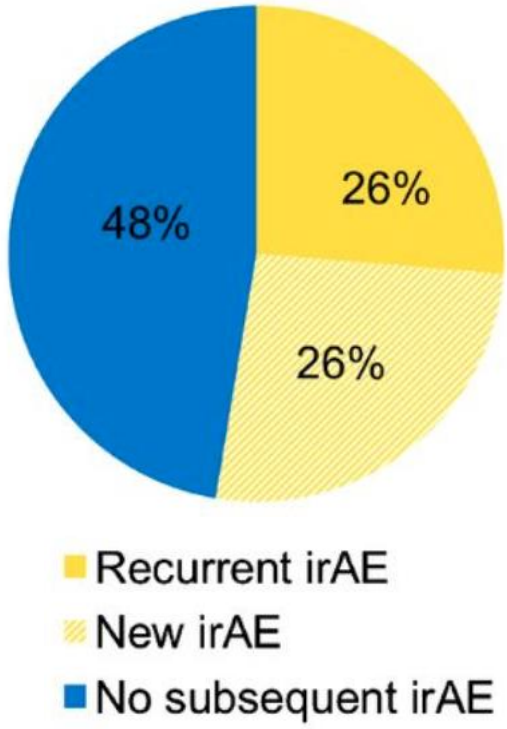
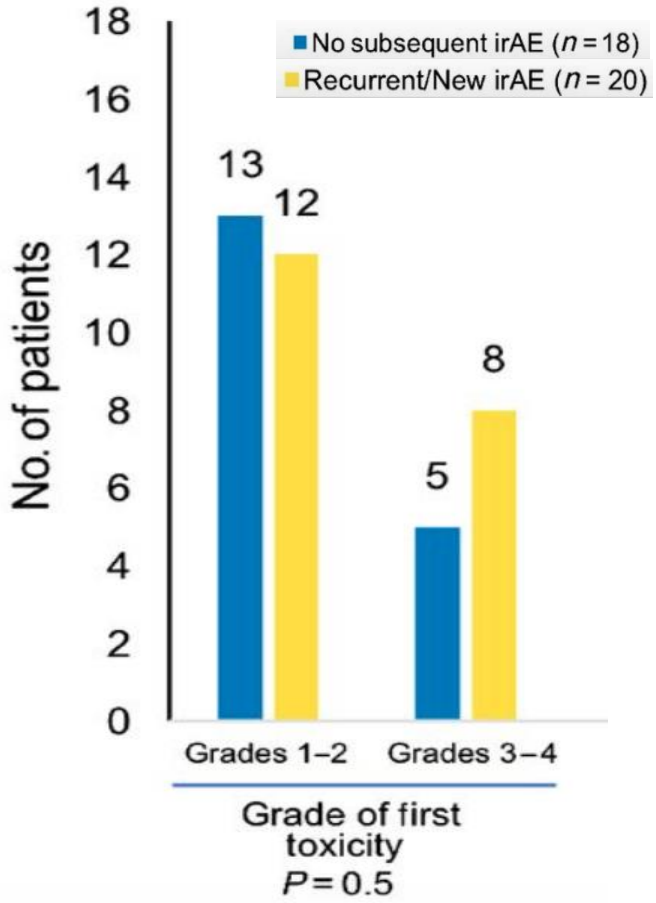
Rechallenging with ICIs after irAEs

- Patients should not be rechallenged until irAE resolved to grade ≤1
- Re-challenge with anti-PD-1/L1 after anti-CTLA-4 ± anti-PD-1 likely safe
- Caution in re-challenging with same ICI in patients who previously had grade 3-4 irAEs





Santini FC. Cancer Immunol Res 2018.

Patients with autoimmune disorders

- Ipilimumab in melanoma patients
  - 29% experienced flare of pre-existing disorder; 29% experienced new irAEs
  - 56% experienced no flare OR additional irAEs
- PD-1 in melanoma patients
  - 38% experienced flare; 29% experienced new irAEs
  - Lower response rates in patients who remained on immunosuppressive treatment (15% vs 44%)
- Efficacy appears similar for patients with autoimmune disorders compared to those without

Kahler KC. Cancer Immunol Immunother. 2018.

ICI use in patients with solid organ or stem cell transplants

- Patients who relapse after allogeneic SCT:
  - Ipilimumab: 32% response (10 mg/kg); 14% GVHD; 21% irAEs
  - Anti-PD-1: 77% response; 26% died due to new-onset GVHD
- Solid organ data is limited; most is in renal SOT patients
  - One retrospective study (n=39) reported graft loss in 81% and death in 46%
  - Also reported rapid time to rejection with median onset of 21 days
- PD-1 pathway appears to be more critical in allograft immune tolerance compared to CTLA-4 pathway

Davids MS. NEJM 2016
Haverkos BM. Blood 2017
Abdel-Wahab. JITC 2019

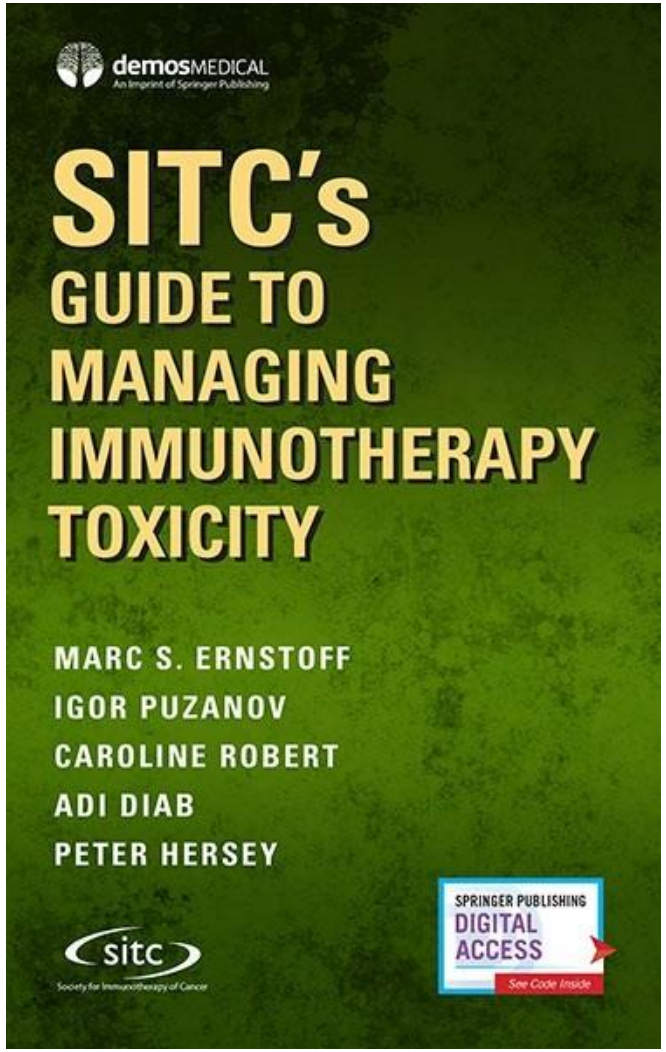
The importance of patient education

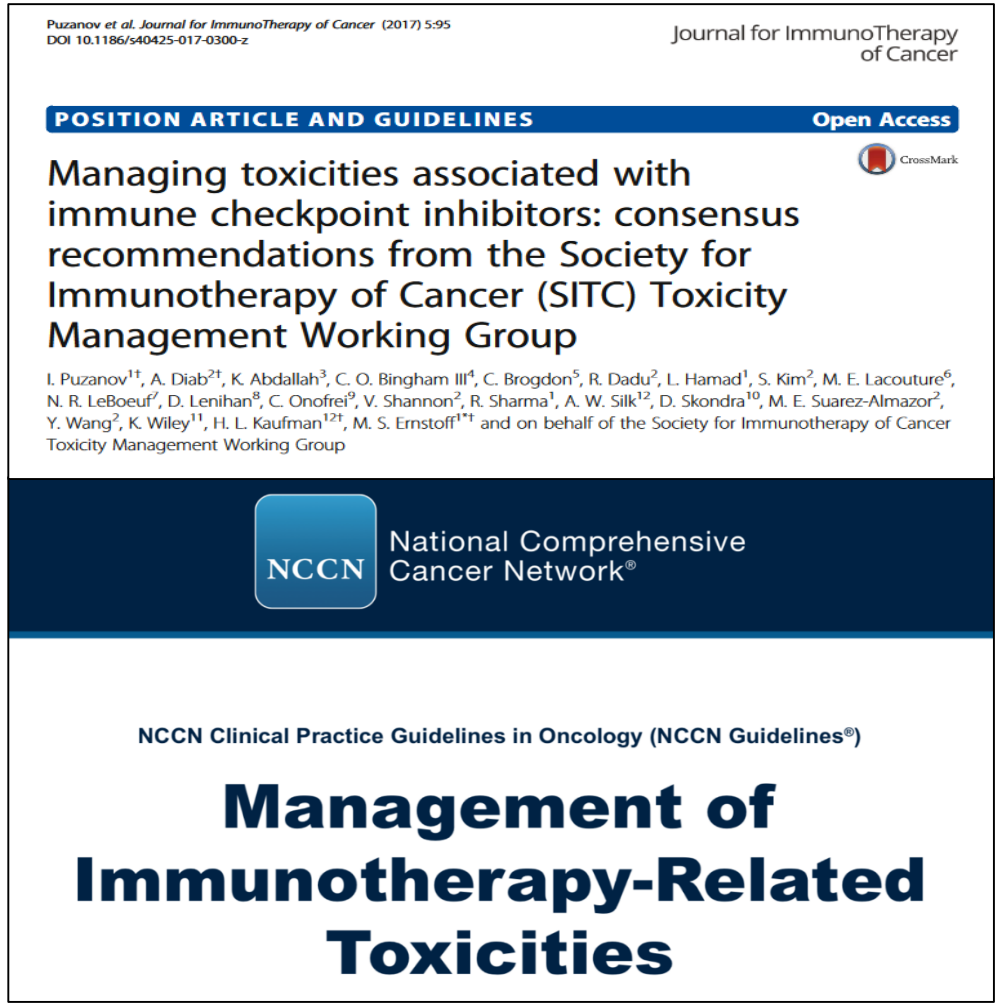
- Many immune-related adverse events can present in similar ways to other diseases, but the treatment of them is very different.
- Patients need to be able to identify themselves as immunotherapy recipients
- Reassure patients that irAEs will likely resolve over time (except endocrinopathies)

Education along the healthcare continuum

- Patients may not go back to their original clinic for adverse event management
- Emergency departments and primary care physicians need to recognize and know how to manage irAEs
- For example, the most common irAE in emergency departments is diarrhea – recognize immune-related symptoms versus other causes (including chemotherapy related diarrhea)

Additional Resources





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Case Study 1

MM 47 year old male dx pT3a N1 M0 ccRCC s/p right nephrectomy 7/18

Pre-exisiting DMII and hypothyroidism

- 9cm +vascular margin, invasive tumor thrombus in renal vein, 6/6+ nodes
- Adjuvant sunitinib 9/18
- CT CAP 9/19 extensive recurrent met disease in lungs, mediastinum and retroperitoneum
  - RPLN bx: met RCC
  - NGS: MSI stable, NTRK-, TMB low, BAP 1VUS, MET-, PBRM1-, PDL1-, SDHB-, VHL mut, RET-, TSC1 mut.
- Ipilumumab/nivolumab 2/20→maintenance nivolumab

Case Study 1

- Approximately 1 year later developed severe fatigue, diffuse muscle weakness/achiness, diffuse joint pain, anorexia/weight loss and a rash on right shoulder and scalp. Was swimming 4-5miles/day and no longer able to swim at all.
- What irAE should we be concerned about?

  A. Hypophysitis

  B. Adrenal insufficiency

  C. Myositis

  D. Inflammatory arthritis

  E. All of the above

Case Study 1

- Answer: E
- Lab evaluation:
  - ACTH 75
  - Cortisol 0.2
  - RF, LH, FSH, testosterone, CK, aldolase, FANA, ESR, CRP all WNL
  - TSH 11.2, FT4 normal
- Based on lab evaluation what is most likely irAE?

  A. Hypophysitis

  B. Adrenal insufficiency

  C. Myositis

  D. Inflammatory arthritis

Case Study 1

- Started on prednisone 60mg/day and got immediate symptom relief—"night and day" difference
- Levothyroxine adjusted
- Nivolumab HELD
- Tapered to 10mg/day
- Referred to endocrinology→ primary adrenal insufficiency
- Hydrocortisone 20mg po q am and 10mg po q pm
- Treatment resumed with next cycle

Acknowledgements

- Some figures created using Biorender.com