



Identification and Management of Immune-Related Adverse Events in the Emergency Setting

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Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Disclosures

- No relevant financial relationships to disclose

Mechanism CTLA-4 & PD-1

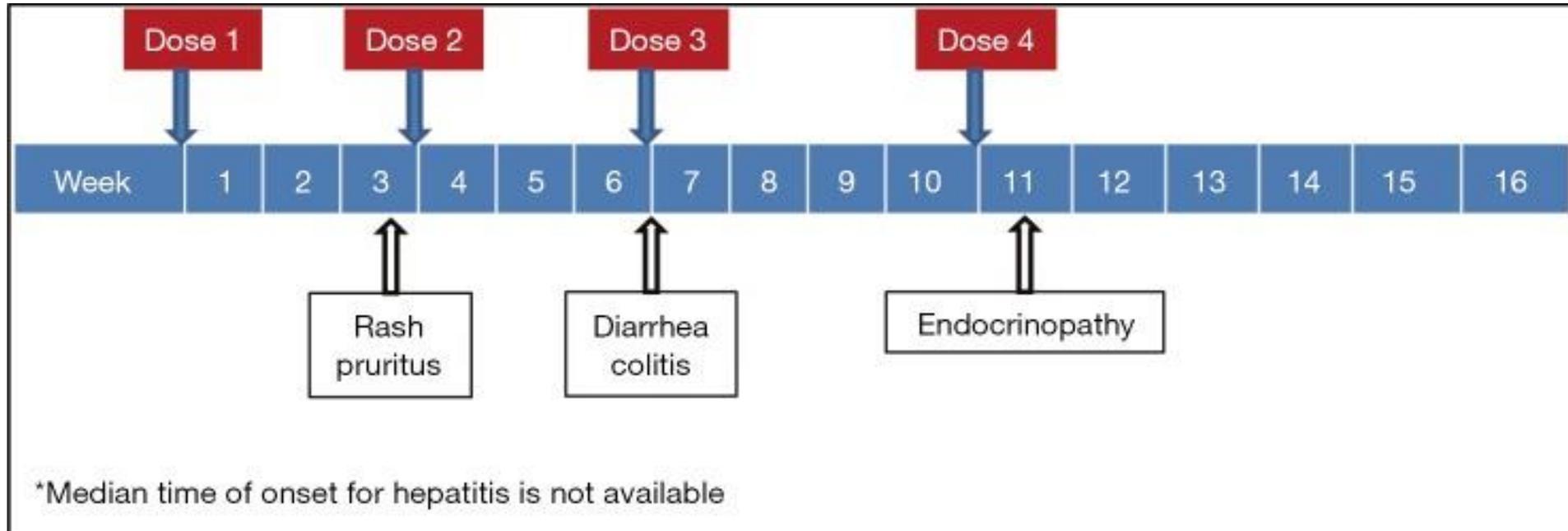
- Involved in maintaining appropriate immune response
- Downregulates & prevents inappropriate activity
- Autoimmune type response
- Thinking “Chemo” will lead down wrong path
- **Think Graft versus Host disease**

Timing

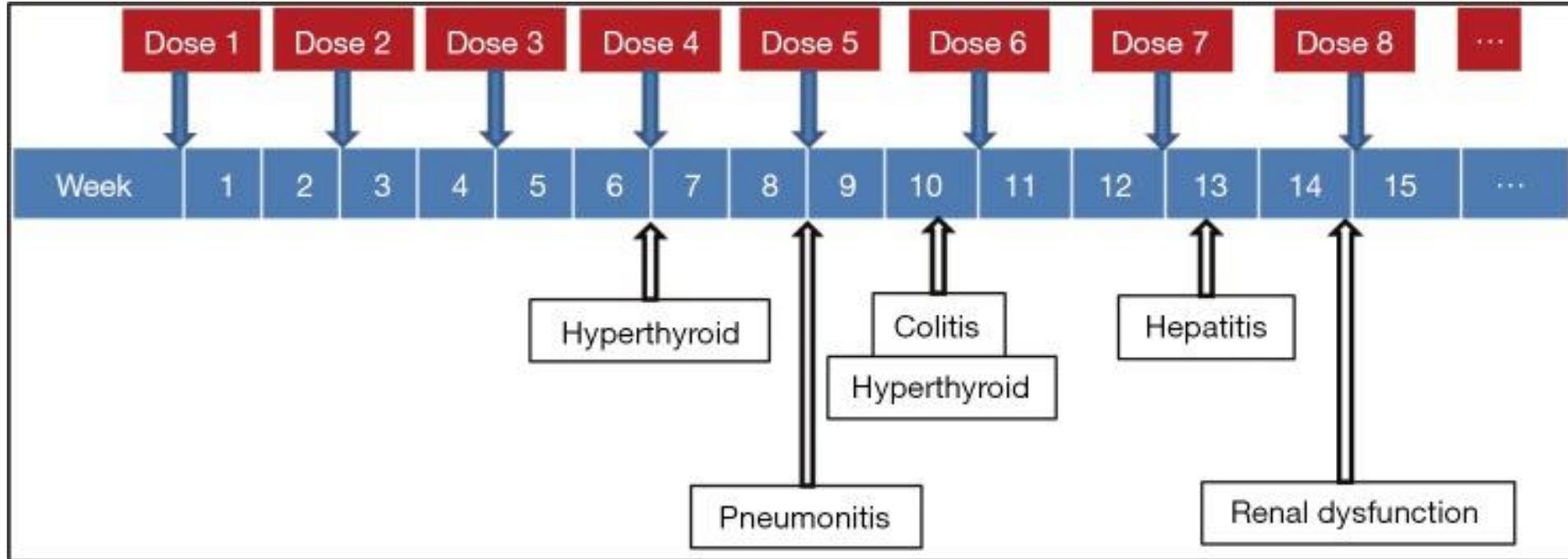
- Most occur within first 3 months
- May occur after final dose
- Some dose dependent
- Grade 3-4 toxicity 10% overall



Phase III Trial ipilimumab



Phase III Trial nivolumab



Common Medications

- Corticosteroids
 - **Prednisone**
 - Dexamethasone
 - Methylprednisolone
 - Hydrocortisone
 - Cortisone
- Mycophenolate mofetil (CellCept)
 - Standard BID
- TNF inhibitors
 - Infliximab
 - Adalimumab
 - Others



Dermatologic Toxicity

- Presents three weeks into therapy
- Mild – maculopapular rash with or without symptoms
 - Pruritis, burning, tightness
 - 10%-30% TBSA
 - Limiting ADL's
 - Topical steroids, hydroxyzine, diphenhydramine, famotidine, doxepin
- Moderate – diffuse, non-localizing rash
 - 30-50% TBSA
 - Topical steroids, hydroxyzine, diphenhydramine, famotidine, doxepin
 - Consider systemic corticosteroids if no improvement in one week (0.5-1mg/kg/day)



Dermatologic Toxicity

Severe

- Blisters, dermal ulceration, necrotic, bullous or hemorrhagic
- Systemic corticosteroids 1-2 mg/kg/day prednisone equivalent
- Taper over one month following improvement

Vitiligo

- Most cases permanent
- No treatment
- Intra oral lesions – consider candidiasis.

Stevens Johnsons Syndrome (SJS) / TEN (Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis)





Vitiligo



Patient 1



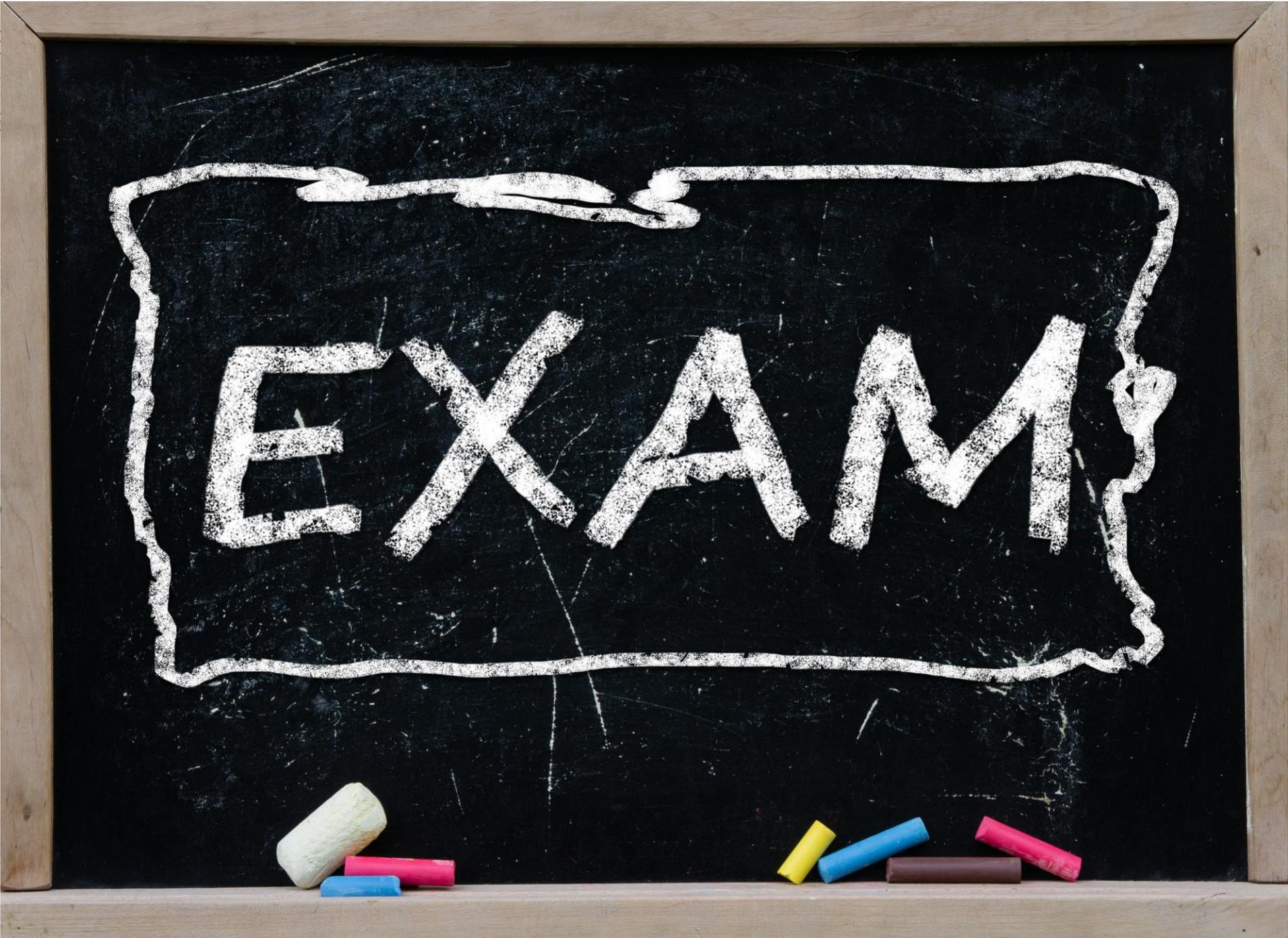




- PMH: Small Cell Lung Cancer, HTN, DM

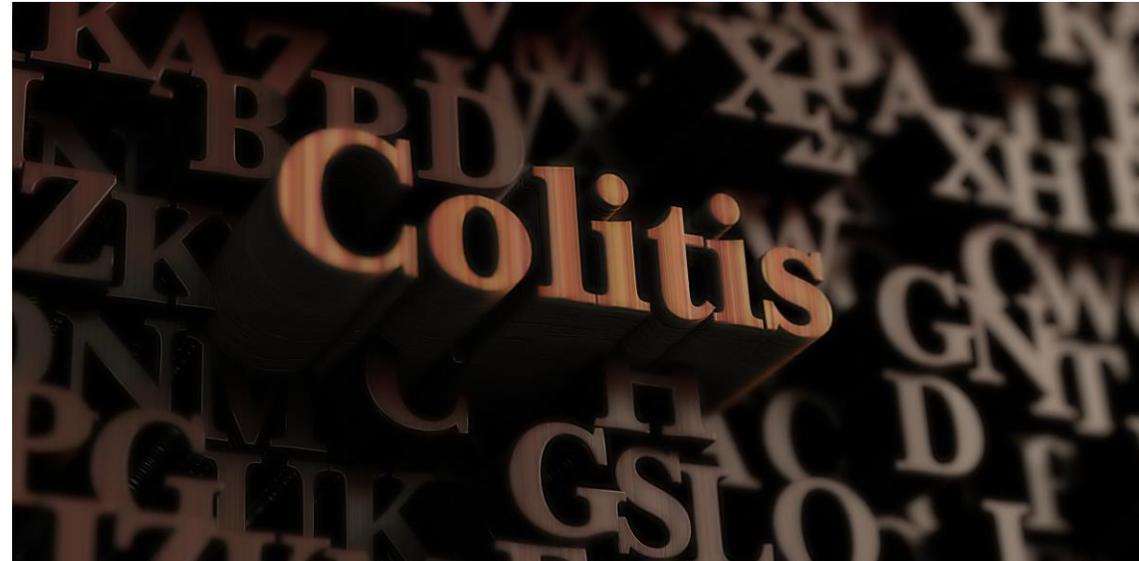
- Meds: Nivolumab





Management

- Fluids & Anagelsia
- Stool Studies
- CT scan
- ABX & steroids



Diarrhea / Colitis

- Mild - <4 stools above baseline/day
- Testing
- Treatment
 - Symptomatic: oral hydration & bland diet
 - No corticosteroids
 - Avoid meds
 - Budesonide – no significant difference

- Moderate – 4-6 stools above daily baseline
- Abdominal pain, blood or mucus in stool
- Testing - C. diff., lactoferrin, O & P, stool Cx
- Systemic corticosteroids 0.5/mg/kg/day equivalent if symptoms > one week

Severe

- 7 stools above baseline/day
- Peritoneal signs, ileus or fever
- Admission
- IV hydration
- Rule out perforation
- Stool studies

- Systemic corticosteroids 1-2mg/kg/day equivalent, if no perforation
 - Hold if clinically stable until stool studies available (24hrs)
- Unstable – High dose corticosteroids: methylprednisolone 125 mg IV daily x 3 days to evaluate responsiveness
- Consider empiric antibiotics for fever or leukocytosis
- Infliximab 5 mg/kg if no response to corticosteroids
- Consider mycophenolate mofetil for select patients

Hepatotoxicity

- 8-12 weeks after therapy initiation
- Avoid ETOH & acetaminophen



Grade 2 toxicity

- $2.5 < \text{AST/ALT} < 5$ times ULN
- $1.5 < \text{Bilirubin} < 3$ times ULN
- Corticosteroids 0.5-1 mg/kg/day & 1 mo. taper

Grade ≥ 3 toxicity

- Admission
- Methylprednisolone IV 125mg/day
- Consider mycophenolate mofetil 500mg PO Q12hrs

Hypophysitis

- Fatigue, headaches, visual field defects
- ACTH, TSH, FSH, LH, GH, prolactin
- Imaging – enlarge pituitary gland
- 1-2 months after initiation of therapy
- Corticosteroids 1 mg/kg/day. Or IV dexamethasone 6 mg Q6hr x 3 days, or methylprednisolone 125 mg daily

Endocrinopathies cont.

- Hypothyroidism
 - 1 wk-19 months onset after therapy initiation
 - Appropriate levothyroxine replacement
- Hyperthyroidism
 - Check TSH level
 - Acute thyroiditis secondary to immune activation
 - Corticosteroids 1 mg/kg for symptomatic patients
- Adrenal Insufficiency
 - Admission
 - Corticosteroids 60-80 mg prednisone or equivalent

Pneumonitis

- Occur with CTLA-4 & PD1 inhibitors
- 5 months after treatment initiation
- New cough or dyspnea
- Multiple grades

Pneumonitis

- Grade 2
 - Admission
 - Prednisone/prednisolone
 - Taper over one month after improvement seen

- Grade 3-4
 - Admission
 - Prednisone/prednisolone
 - Six week taper



Pancreatitis

- Elevation lipase / CT findings
 - With both CTLA-4 & PD1 inhibitors
 - Without overt pancreatitis– monitor
 - Grade 3-4 with symptoms – hold therapy
- New onset diabetes with DKA
 - Normal ED treatment
 - Aggressive treatment of DKA

Patient 2









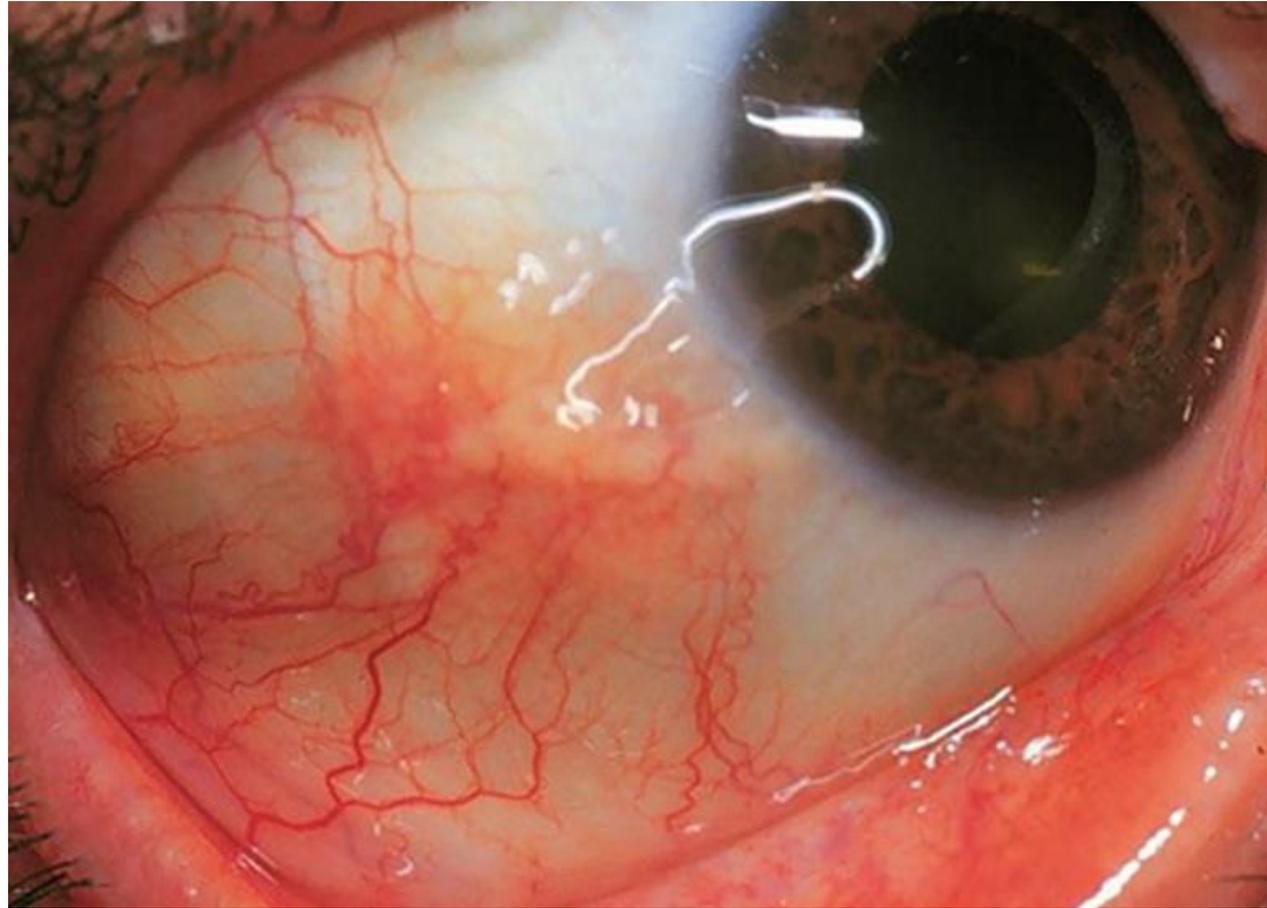


Renal Insufficiency

- <1%
- Grade 1: up to 1.5 times above baseline
- Grade 2 to 3: 1.5-6 times baseline
- 10-12 months after initiation of treatment
- Full recovery with high dose corticosteroids. (>40 mg/day)

Ophthalmologic

- <1%
- Episcleritis
- Uveitis
- Conjunctivitis
- Topical corticosteroids – prednisolone acetate 1%







Rare irAEs

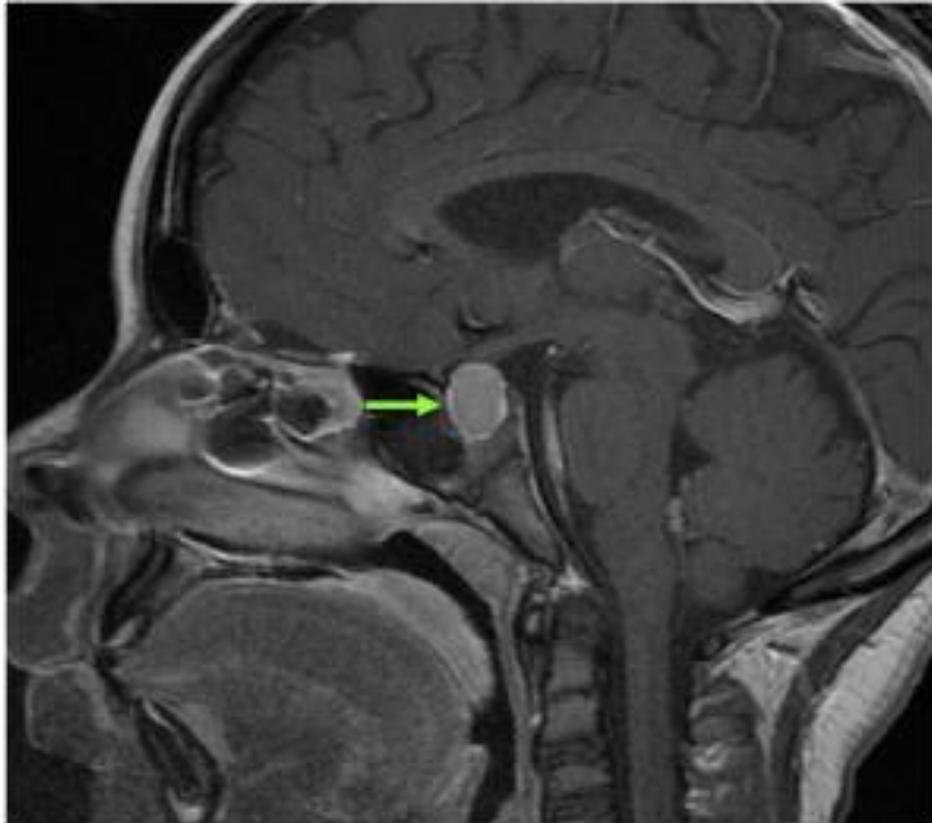
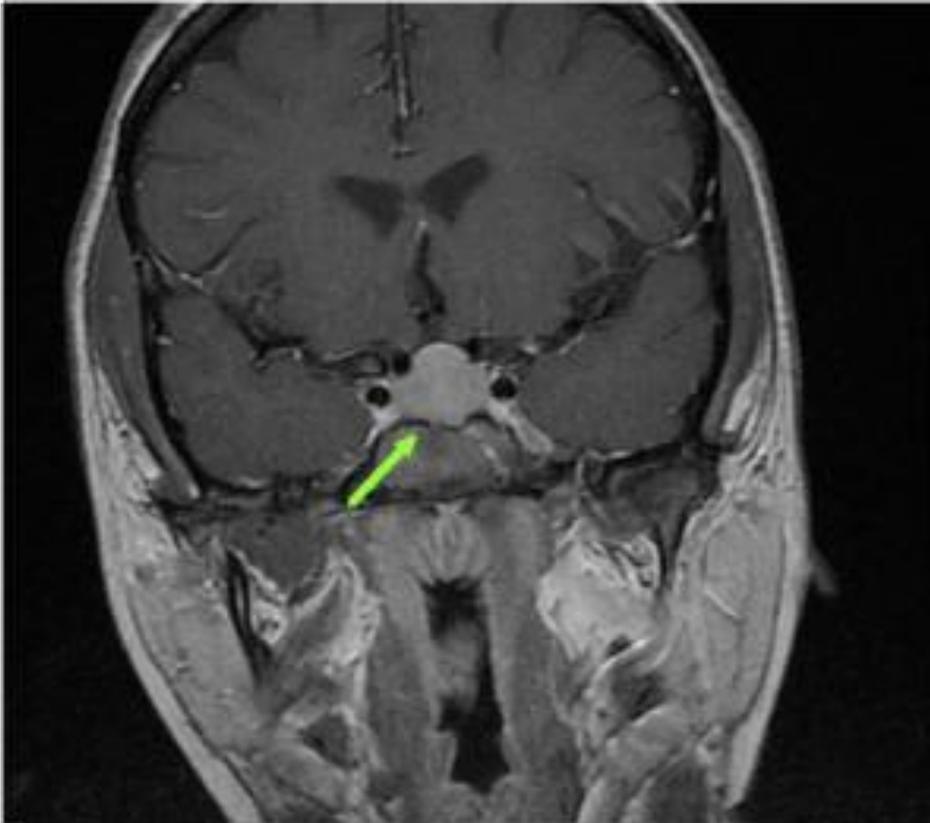
- <1%
 - Red cell aplasia
 - Thrombocytopenia
 - Hemophilia A
 - Guillain-Barre syndrome
 - Myasthenia gravis
 - Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome
 - Aseptic meningitis
 - Transverse myelitis
 - ??

Case Study #3: 54-year-old male with NSCLC

- New immunotherapy 8 weeks ago for lung cancer
- Vision is blurry, & glasses don't work anymore
 - Denies eye pain
 - Mild HA “because he reads a lot & his glasses don't work anymore”
- Exam
 - VA w/o correction: 20/25 right eye (OD), 20/125 left eye (OS)
 - IOP: 10 mmHg OD, 12 mmHg OS
 - Pupils: 5 → 3 mm in both eyes (OU)
 - Confrontation visual fields: temporal loss OD, central scotoma OS

Plan

- Imaging?
 - CT/MRI
- Labs?
 - Inpatient: ACTH, TSH, FSH, LH, GH prolactin



Treatment

- Corticosteroids 1 mg/kg/day
- IV dexamethasone 6mg Q6hr x 3 days
- Methylprednisolone 125mg daily
- Switch to oral prednisone after improvement
1-2 mg/kg qd
- Contact Hem/Onc

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