

Kansas Pharmacists Association // 2025 Annual Meeting & Trade Show August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS: THE E R A S TOUR

Elizabeth Rybolt
PharmD

Kentucky Pharmacy Education and Research Foundation, Inc. is accredited by ACPE as a provider of continuing pharmacy education.

ACPE UAN0143-9999-25-059-L01-P

1

Kansas Pharmacists Association // 2025 Annual Meeting & Trade Show August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

DISCLOSURES

Faculty	Planners
Elizabeth Rybolt, faculty for this activity, have no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.	None of the planners for this activity have any relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

2

PRE-TEST

- Which of the following agents works by binding to the cytotoxic T-cell lymphocyte-associated protein on T-cells to prevent binding to the B7-1/2 protein on cancer cells?
A. Durvalumab B. Atezolizumab C. Pembrolizumab D. Ipilimumab
- Which is the primary lab value associated with adrenal insufficiency?
A. Hyponatremia B. Hypokalemia C. Hypernatremia D. Hyperprolactinemia
- Which of the following ICI-related endocrinopathies is unlikely to be permanent?
A. Hypothyroidism B. Hypophysitis C. Hyperthyroidism D. Adrenal Insufficiency

3

3

ABBREVIATIONS USED

ACTH: adrenocorticotrophic hormone
 ASPS: alveolar soft part sarcoma
 CPK: creatinine phosphokinase
 CRC: colorectal cancer
 CNS: central nervous system
 CRH: cortisol release hormone
 CTLA-4: cytotoxic T-cell lymphocyte-associated protein 4 inhibitor
 dMMR: deficient mismatch repair
 FPG: fasting plasma glucose
 FSH: follicle stimulating hormone
 G1: grade 1
 G2: grade 2
 G3: grade 3
 G4: grade 4

GEJ: gastroesophageal junction
 GI: gastrointestinal
 GU: genitourinary
 HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma
 HL: hodgkin lymphoma
 HNSCC: head and neck squamous cell carcinoma
 IBD: inflammatory bowel disease
 ICI: immune checkpoint inhibitor
 irAE: immune-related adverse effect
 LAG-3: lymphocyte activation gene-3
 LDH: lactate dehydrogenase
 LH: luteinizing hormone
 MG: myasthenia gravis
 MHC II: major histocompatibility complex - II

MSI-H: microsatellite instability - high
 NSCLC: non-small cell lung cancer
 PD-1: programmed death receptor - 1
 PD-L1: programmed death ligand - 1
 PMBCL: primary mediastinal b-cell lymphoma
 PMR: polymyalgia rheumatica
 RCC: renal cell carcinoma
 SCC: skin cell carcinoma
 SCLC: small cell lung cancer
 TMB-H: tumor mutational burden - high
 TSH: thyroid stimulating hormone
 2hPPG: 2-hour post-prandial glucose

4

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

ABBREVIATIONS USED

ACTH: adrenocorticotrophic hormone
 ASPS: alveolar soft part sarcoma
 CPK: creatinine phosphokinase
 CRC: colorectal cancer
 CNS: central nervous system
 CRH: cortisol release hormone
CTLA-4: cytotoxic T-cell lymphocyte-associated protein 4 inhibitor
dMMR: deficient mismatch repair
 FPG: fasting plasma glucose
 FSH: follicle stimulating hormone
 G1: grade 1
 G2: grade 2
 G3: grade 3
 G4: grade 4

GEJ: gastroesophageal junction
 GI: gastrointestinal
 GU: genitourinary
 HCC: hepatocellular carcinoma
 HL: hodgkin lymphoma
 HNSCC: head and neck squamous cell carcinoma
 IBD: inflammatory bowel disease
ICI: immune checkpoint inhibitor
irAE: immune-related adverse effect
LAG-3: lymphocyte activation gene-3
 LDH: lactate dehydrogenase
 LH: luteinizing hormone
 MG: myasthenia gravis
 MHC II: major histocompatibility complex - II

MSI-H: microsatellite instability - high
 NSCLC: non-small cell lung cancer
PD-1: programmed death receptor – 1
PD-L1: programmed death ligand - 1
 PMBCL: primary mediastinal b-cell lymphoma
 PMR: polymyalgia rheumatica
 RCC: renal cell carcinoma
 SCC: skin cell carcinoma
 SCLC: small cell lung cancer
TMB-H: tumor mutational burden – high
 TSH: thyroid stimulating hormone
 zhPPG: 2-hour post-prandial glucose

5

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

**WHO'S
TAYLOR
SWIFT
ANYWAY?
EW.**



IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

6

OBJECTIVES



Explain the different mechanisms of action of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI)



Describe the management of ICI-related endocrinopathies



Describe the management of ICI-related rheumatologic disorders

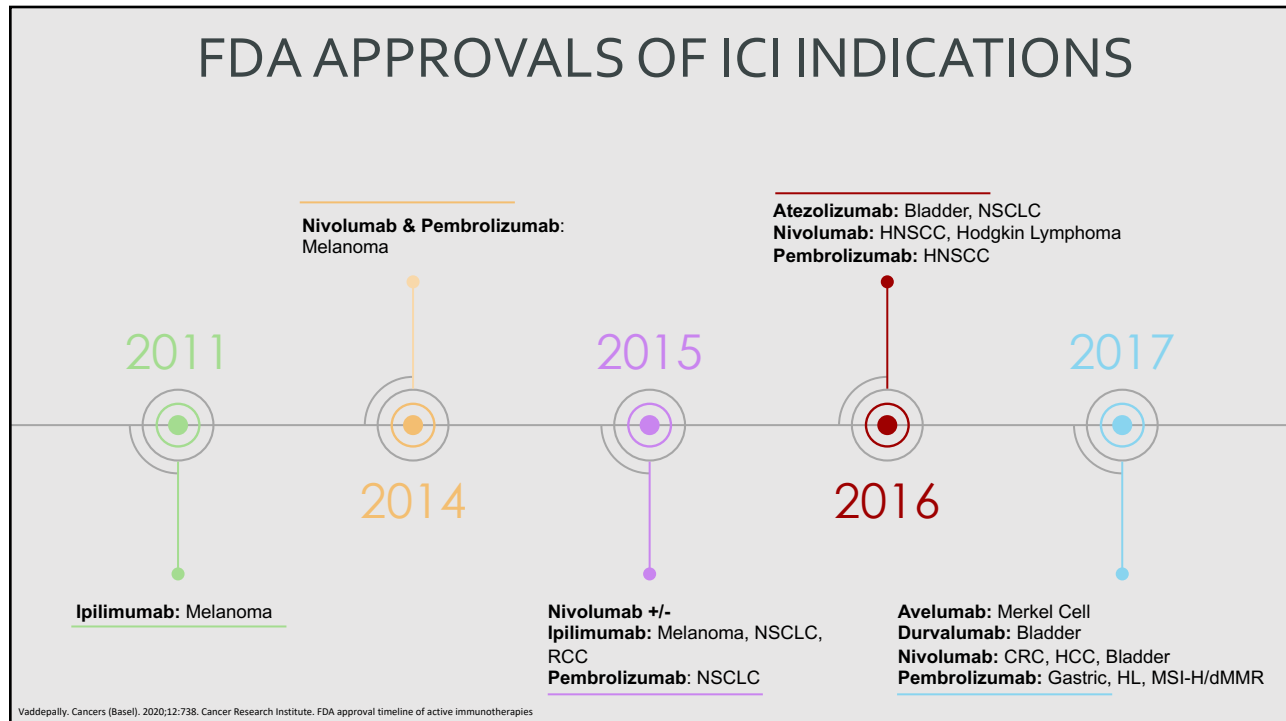
7

7

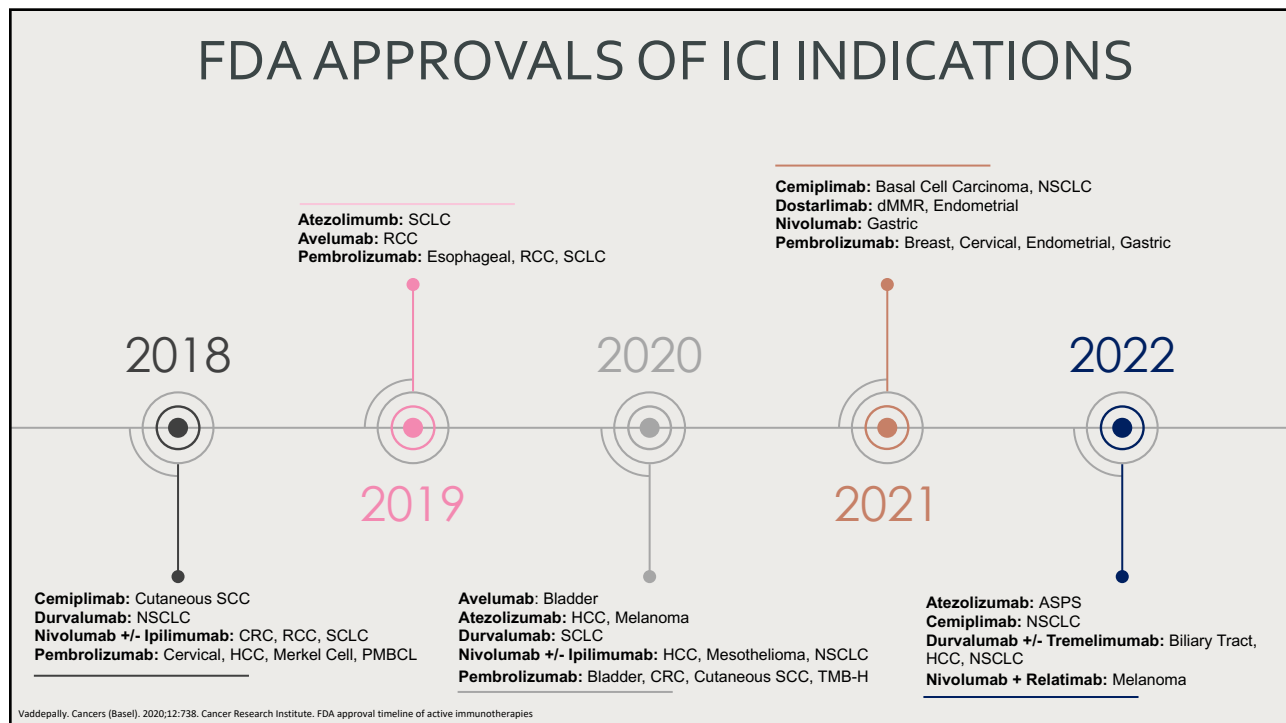
IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

Indications, mechanism of action, and common adverse effects

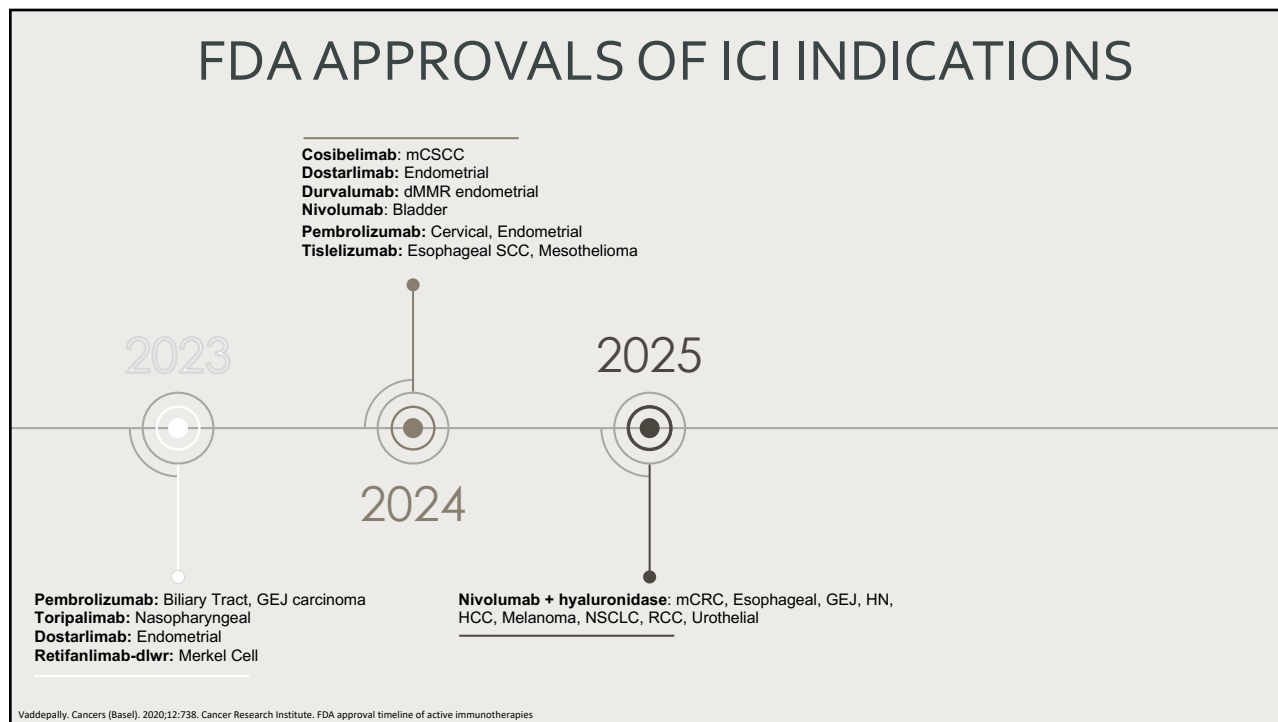
8



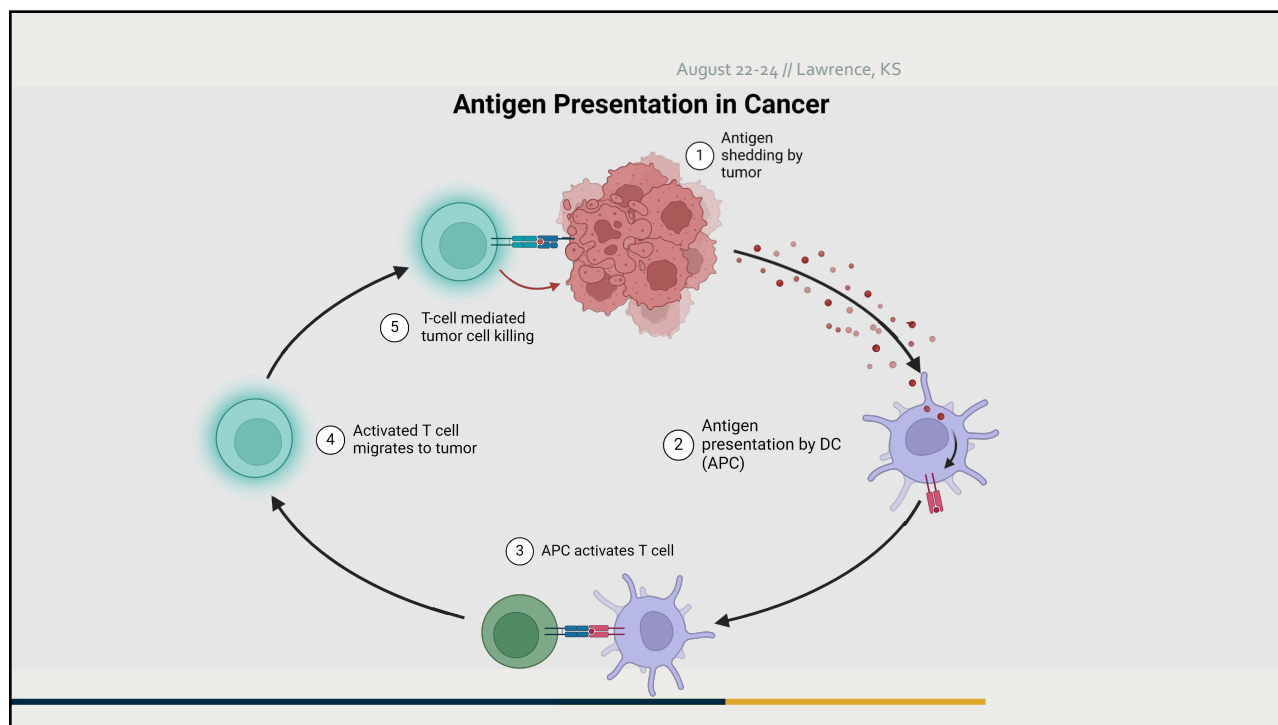
9



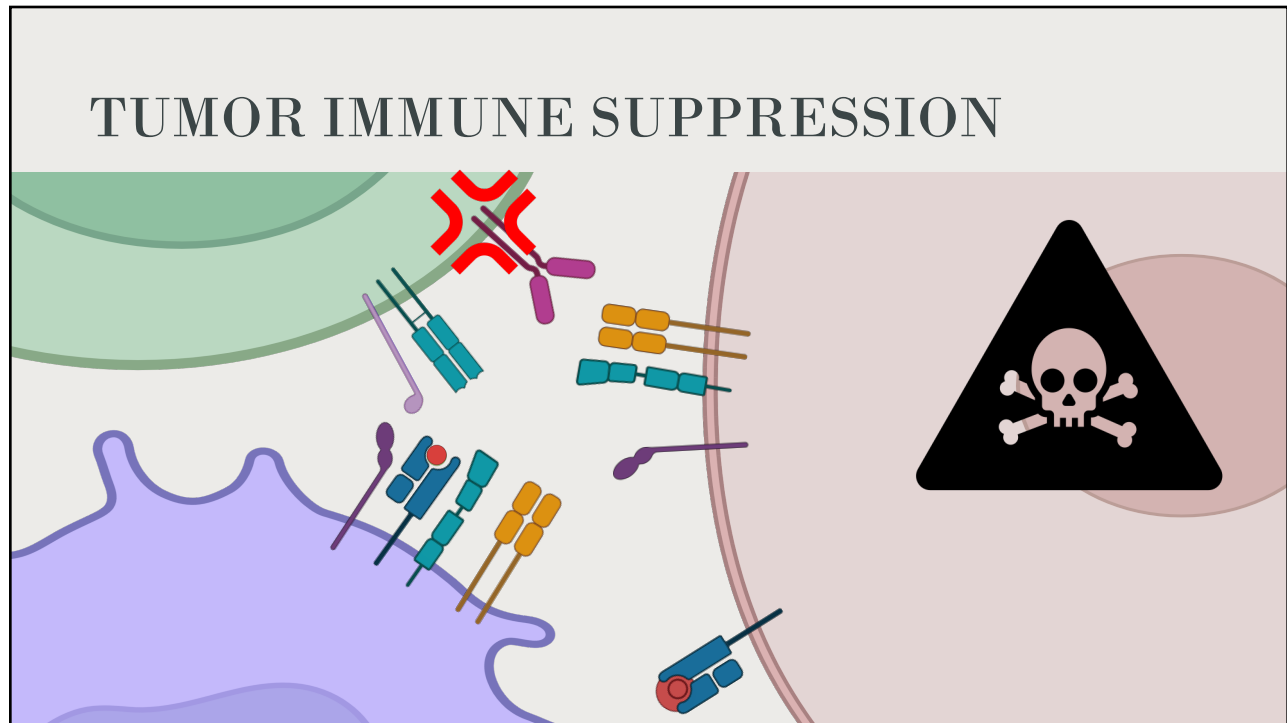
10



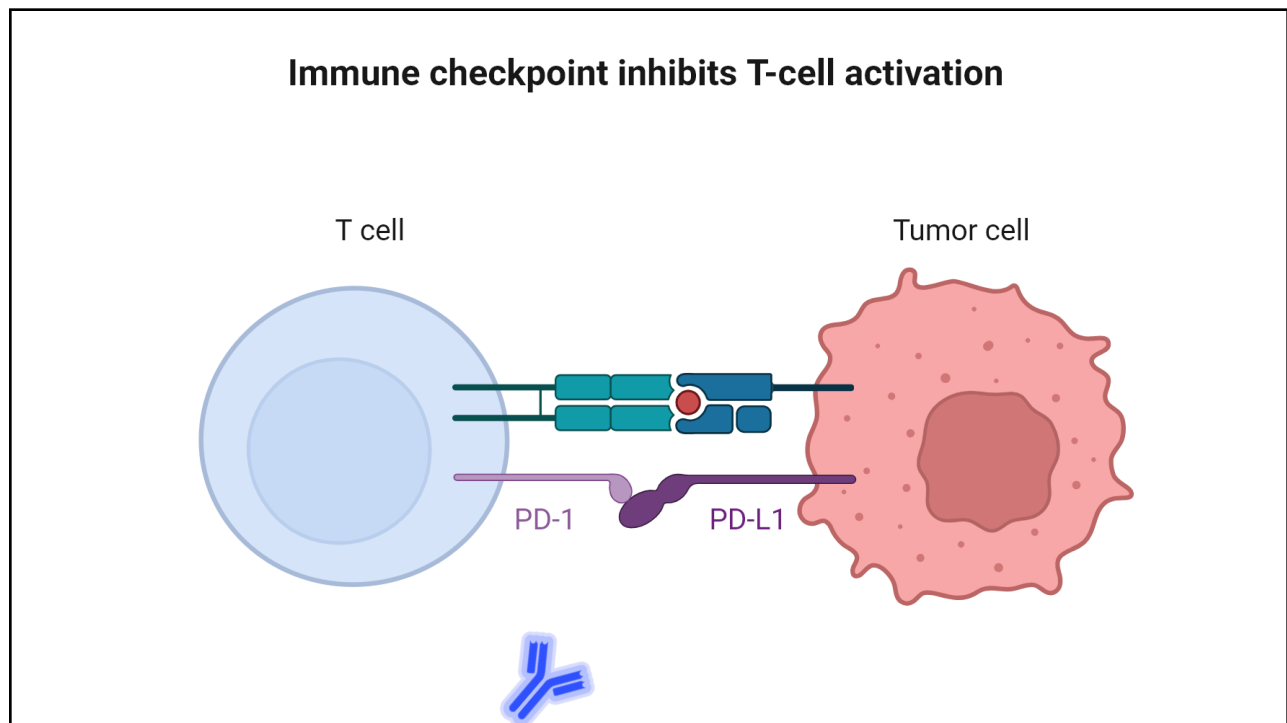
11



12

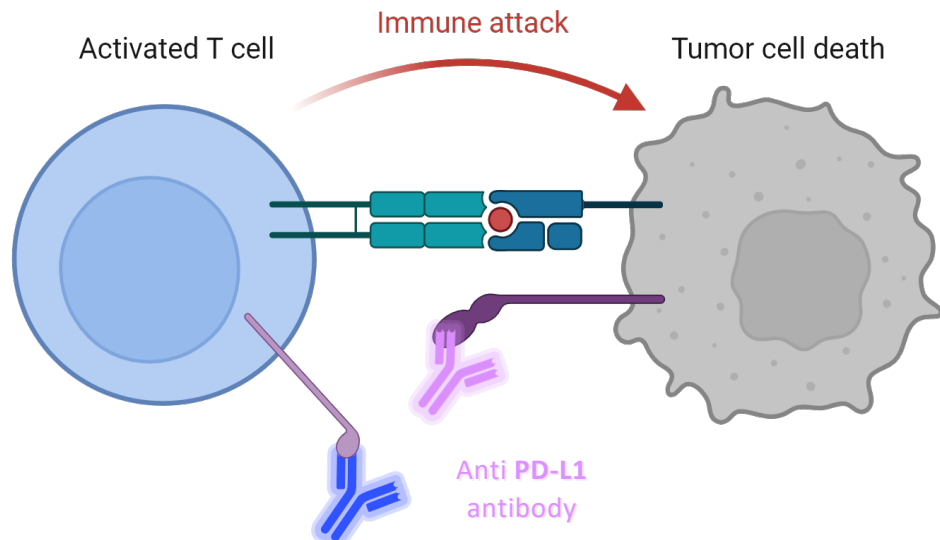


13



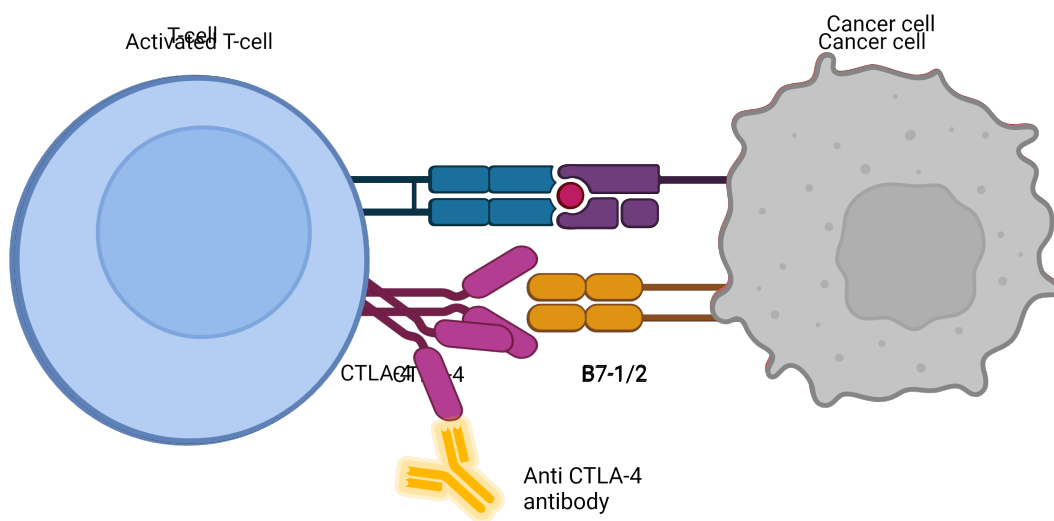
14

Anti-PD-1 antibodies permit T cell activation



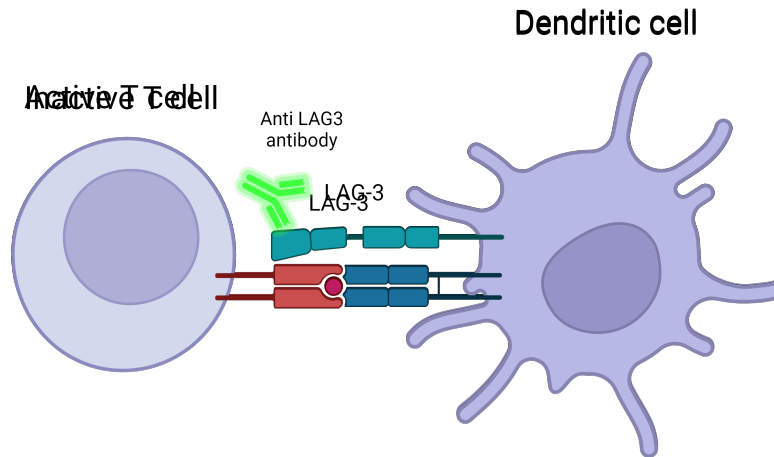
15

Immune checkpoint inhibits T-cell activation. Anti CTLA-4 antibodies permits T cell activation

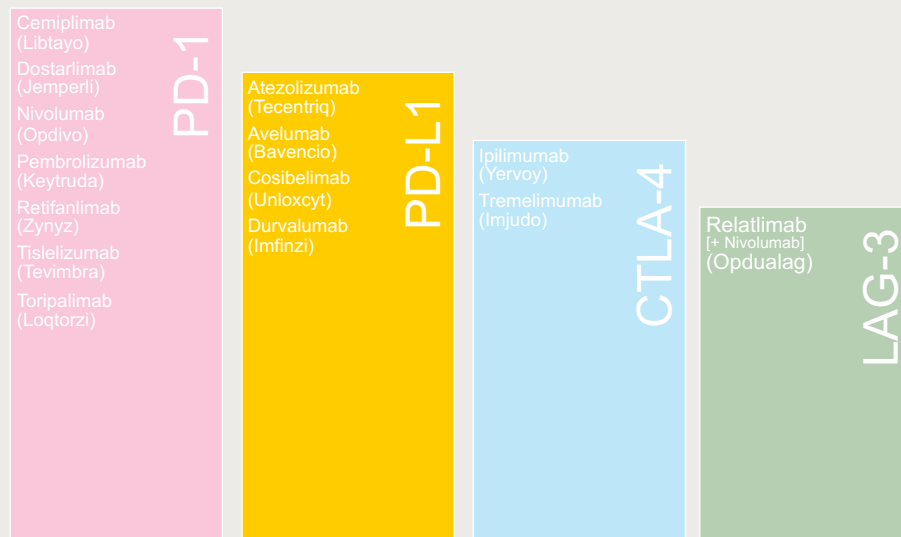


16

Anti-LAG3 antibody permits T cell activation



17

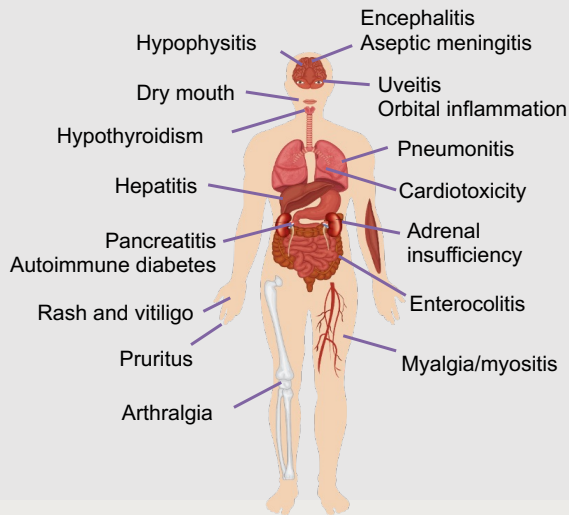


Bavencio (avelumab). Package Insert. Serono Inc. September 2023. Imfinzi (durvalumab). Package Insert. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals. April 2023. Imjudo (tremelimumab). Package Insert. AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP. June 2023. Jemperli (dostarlimab). Package Insert. GlaxoSmithKline Inc. January 2023. Keytruda (pembrolizumab). Package Insert. Merck Canada Inc. December 2023. Libtayo (cemiplimab). Package Insert. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. December 2023. Loqtorzi (toripalimab). Package Insert. Coherus BioSciences Inc. October 2023. Opdualag (nivolumab/relatlimab). Package Insert. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. March 2022. Opdivo (nivolumab). Package Insert. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. October 2023. Tecentriq (atezolizumab). Package Insert. Genentech Inc. May 2023. Yervoy (ipilimumab). Package Insert. Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. February 2023. Zynyz (Relifanlimab). Package Insert. Incyte Corporation. March 2023.

18

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

OVERVIEW OF IMMUNE-RELATED ADVERSE EFFECTS

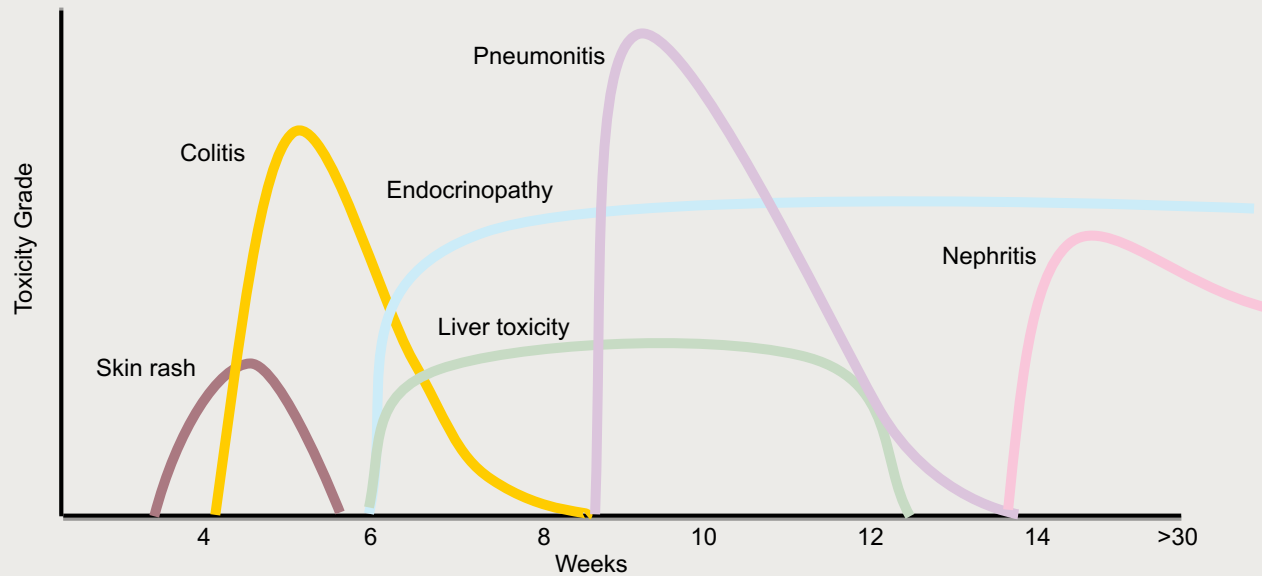


- Due to the nature of the immune system, all organ systems are at risk of irAEs.

Michot. Eur J Cancer. 2016;54:139. Albarrán-Artahona. Diagnostics (Basel). 2022;12:2091. Winer. J Thorac Dis. 2018;10(suppl 3):S480. Steven. Rheumatology (Oxford). 2018;58(suppl 7):ii19. Robert. ASCO 2017. Education session: checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy.

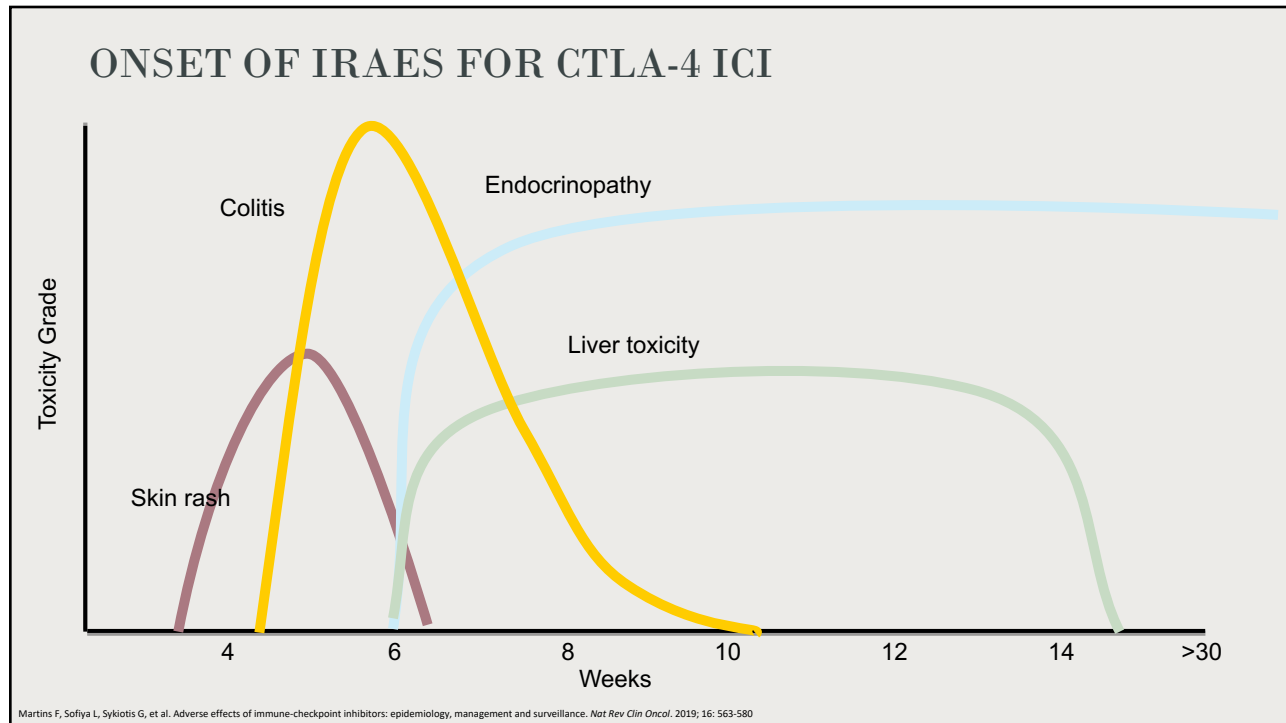
19

ONSET OF IRAES FOR PD-1/PD-L1 ICI

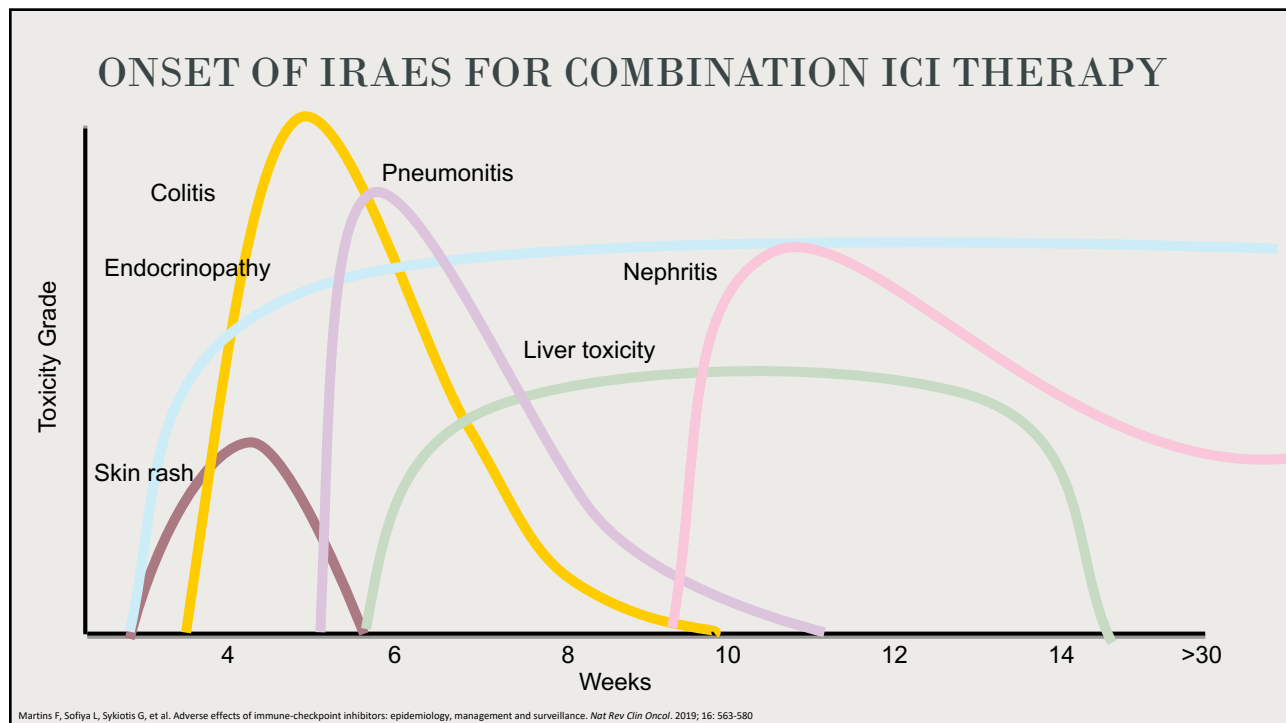


Martins F, Sofiya L, Sykietis G, et al. Adverse effects of immune-checkpoint inhibitors: epidemiology, management and surveillance. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*. 2019; 16: 563-580

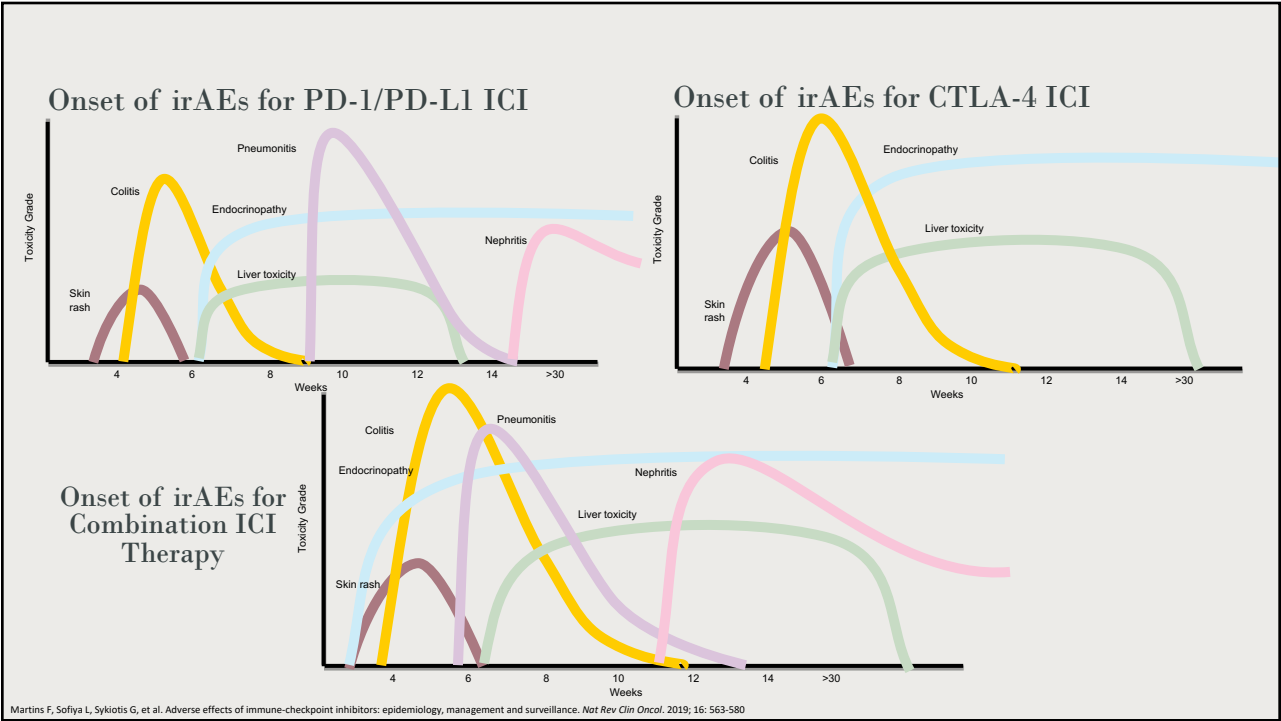
20



21



22



23

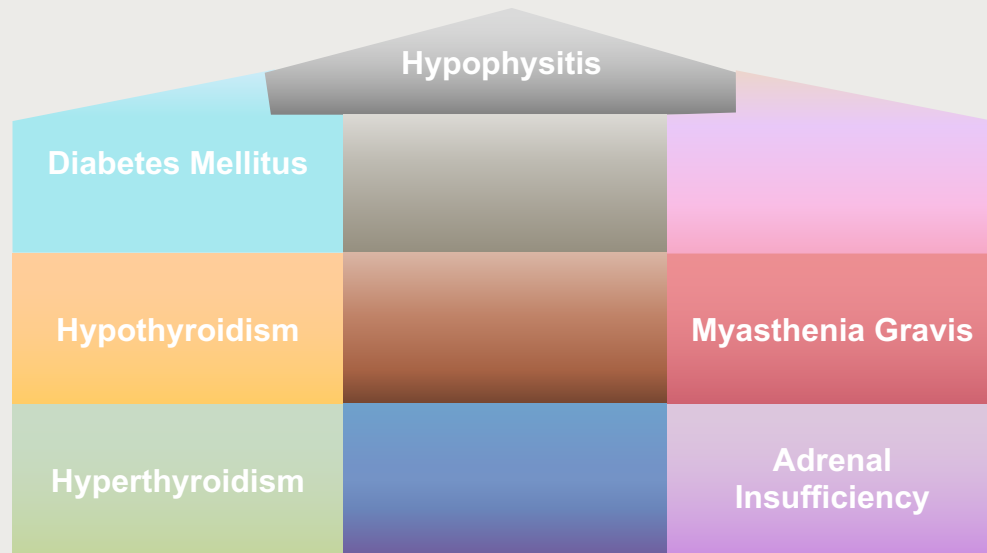
August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

ENDOCRINE
EFFECTS

Conditions, incidence, treatment, and monitoring

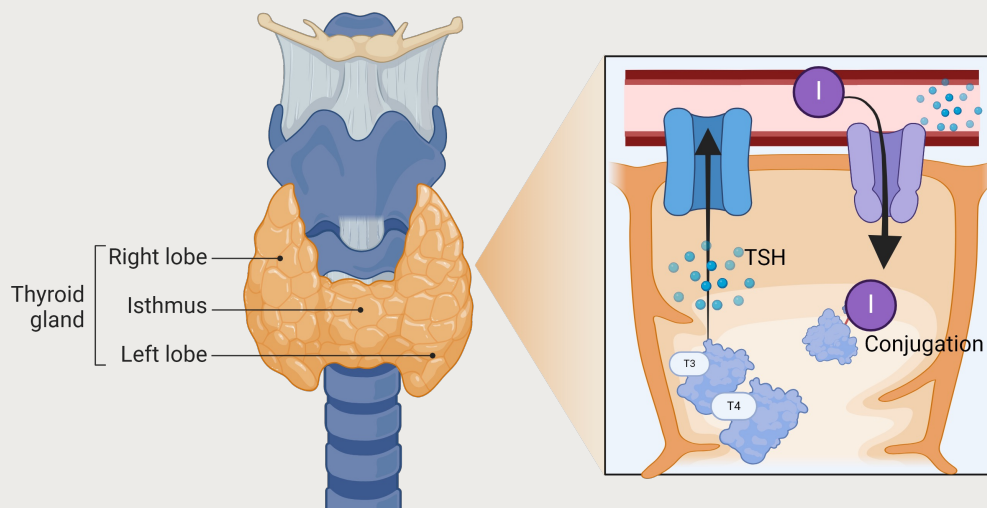
24

ENDOCRINOPATHIES OF ICI



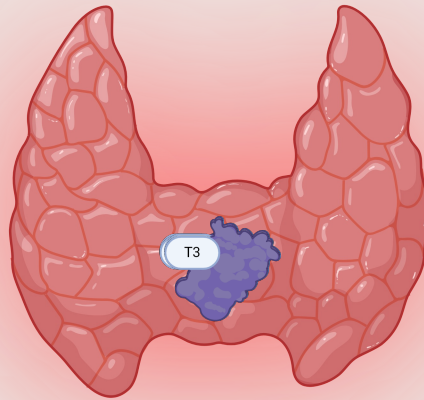
25

Pathophysiology of Thyroid Hormones



26

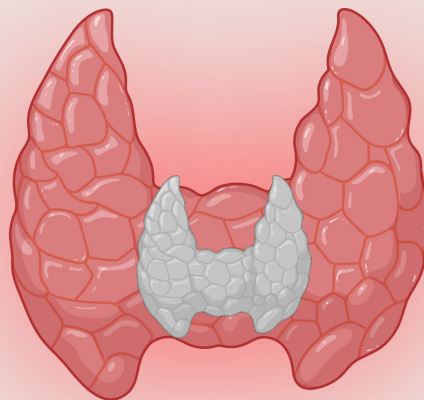
ICI-RELATED HYPERTHYROIDISM



Peiffert M, Cugnet-Anceau C, Dalle St, et al. Grave's disease during immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy (a case series and literature review). *Cancers*. 2021; 13: 1944

27

ICI-RELATED HYPERTHYROIDISM

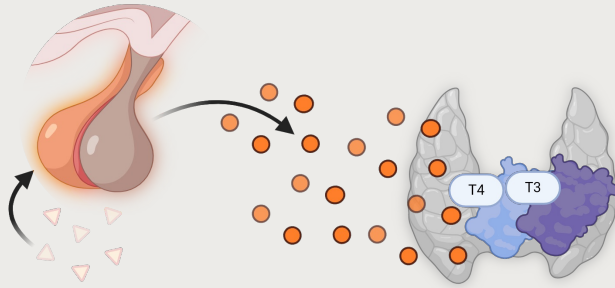


Peiffert M, Cugnet-Anceau C, Dalle St, et al. Grave's disease during immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy (a case series and literature review). *Cancers*. 2021; 13: 1944

28

ICI-RELATED HYPOTHYROIDISM

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

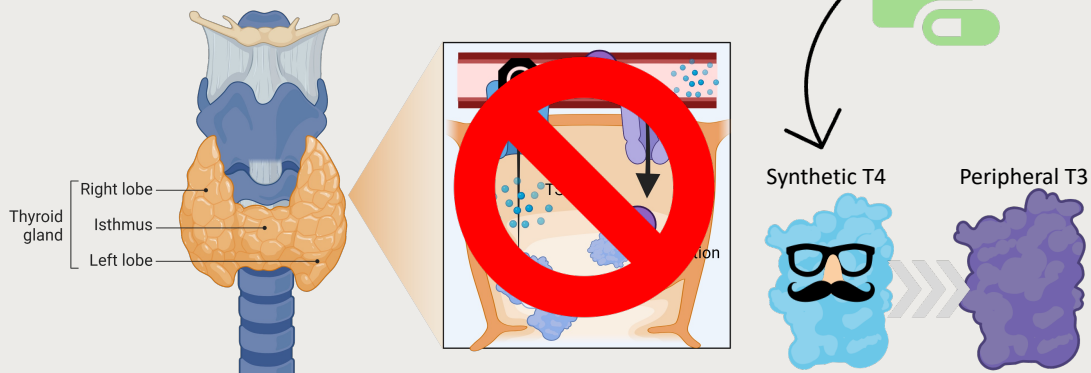


Osorio JC et al. Antibody-mediated thyroid dysfunction during T-cell blockade in patients with non-small-cell-lung cancer. *Ann Oncol.* 2017; 28(3): 583-589.
Chalan P et al. Thyroid dysfunctions secondary to cancer immunotherapy. *J Endocrinol Invest.* 2018; 41(6): 625-638.
Sabbagh RE, Azar NS, Eid AA, Azar ST. Thyroid dysfunctions due to immune checkpoint inhibitors: a review. *International Journal of General Medicine.* 2020; 1003-1009.

29

LEVOTHYROXINE

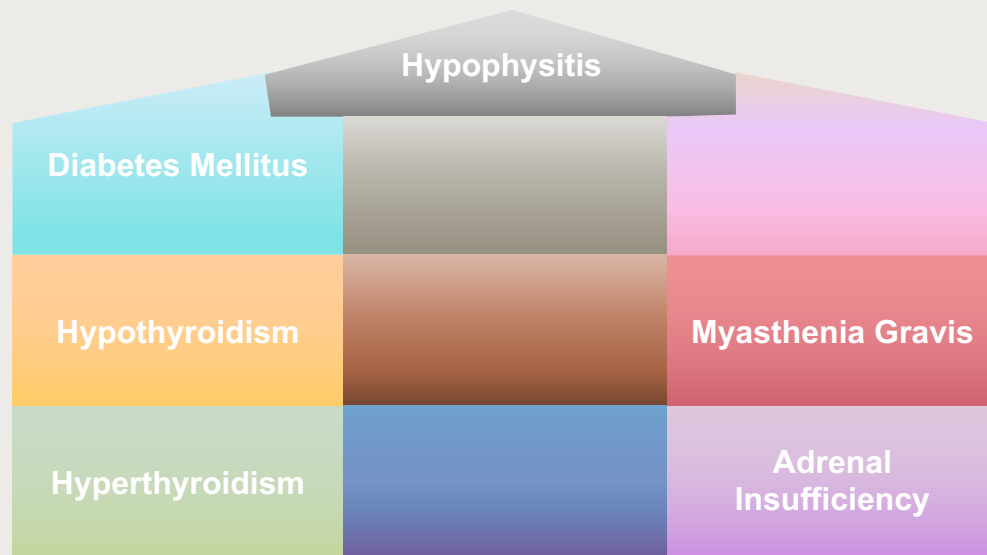
Pathophysiology of Thyroid Hormones



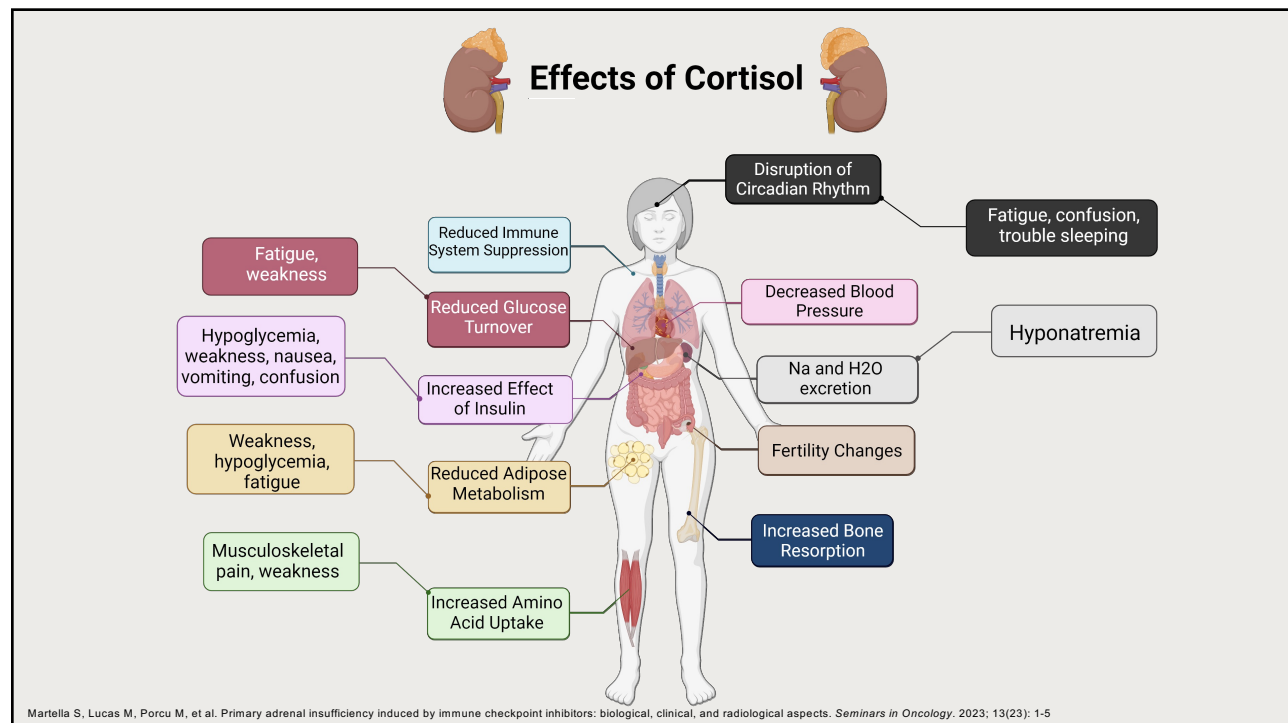
Synthroid (levothyroxine). Package Insert. AbbVie Inc. October 2022.

30

ENDOCRINOPATHIES OF ICI



31



32

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

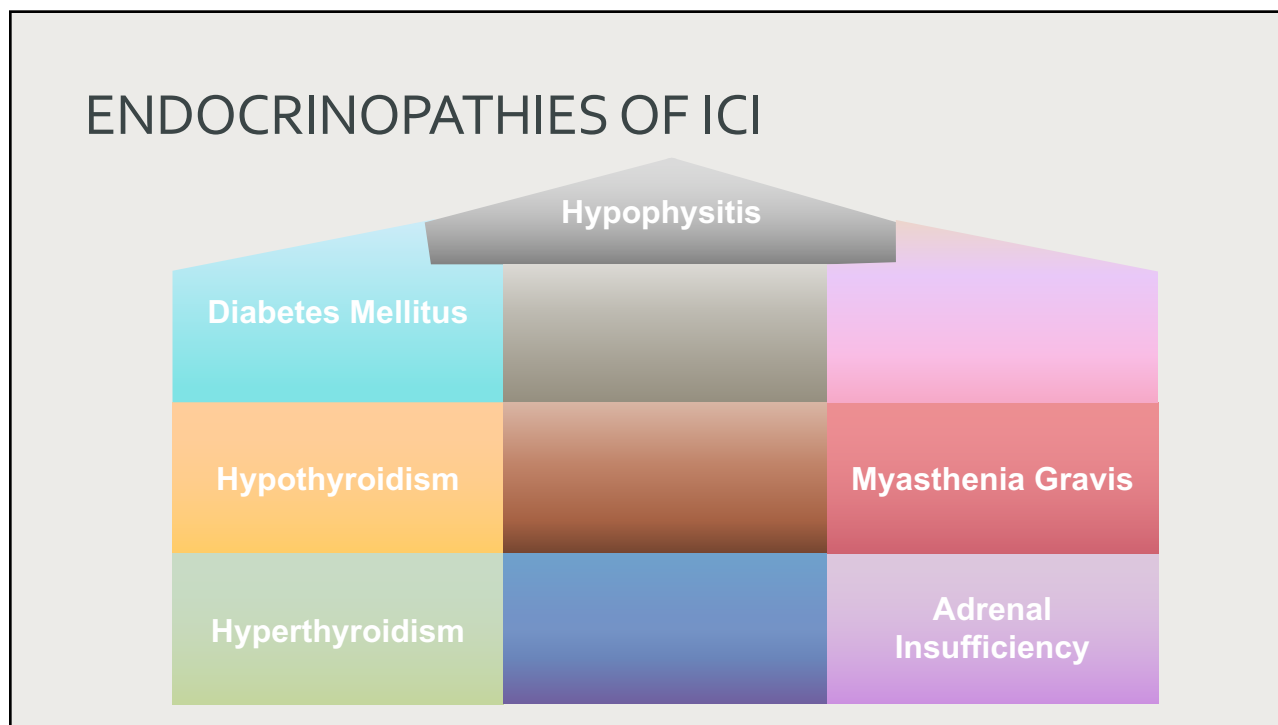
CORTICOSTEROIDS

Hyperglycemia	Weight Gain	Fluid Retention	Sodium Resorption	Hypertension	Increased Energy	Antiemetic Properties
Hypoglycemia	Weight Loss	Fluid Loss	Hyponatremia	Hypotension	Loss of Energy	Nausea/Vomiting

ADRENAL INSUFFICIENCY

Martella S, Lucas M, Porcu M, et al. Primary adrenal insufficiency induced by immune checkpoint inhibitors: biological, clinical, and radiological aspects. *Seminars in Oncology*. 2023; 13(23): 1-5

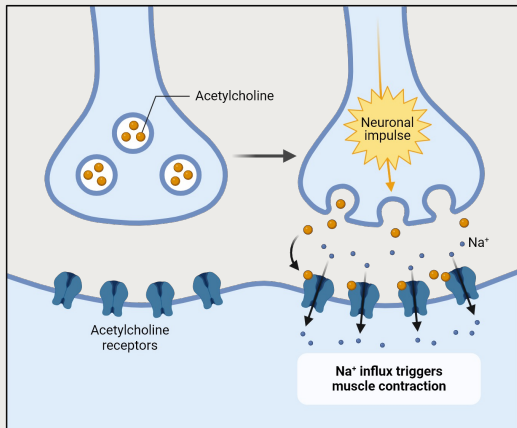
33



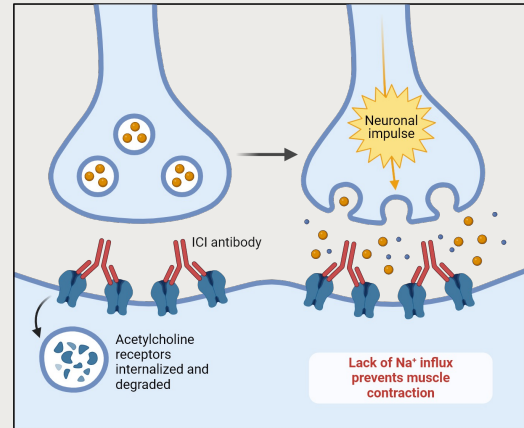
34

ICI RELATED MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

Normal events at the neuromuscular junction



Myasthenia gravis

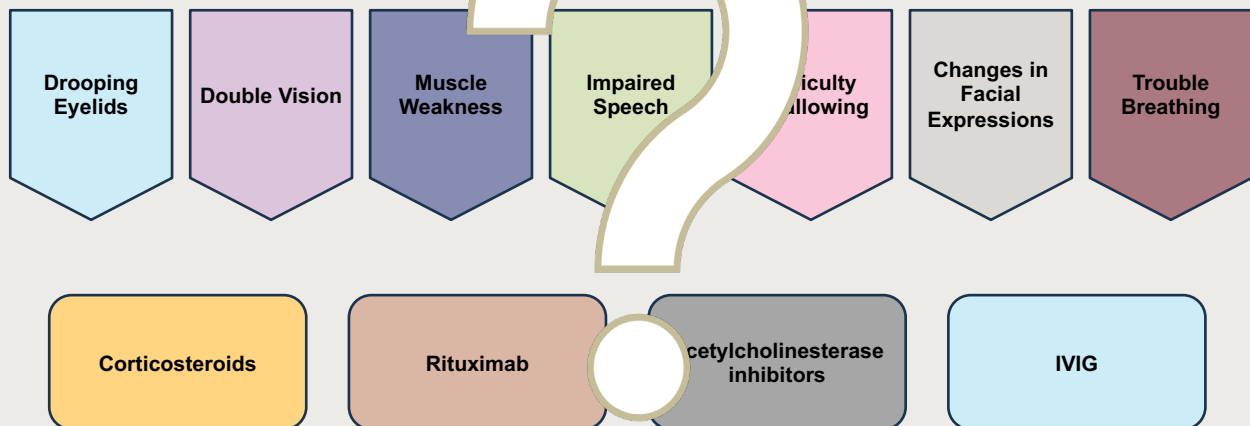


Huang YT, Chen YP, Lin WC, Su WC, Sun YT. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced myasthenia gravis. *Front. Neurol.* 2020; 11 (634): 1-10.

Safa H, Johnson DH, Trinh VA et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor related myasthenia gravis: single enter experience and systematic review of literature. *J Immunother Cancer.* 2019; 7: 319.

35

MANAGEMENT OF ICI RELATED MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

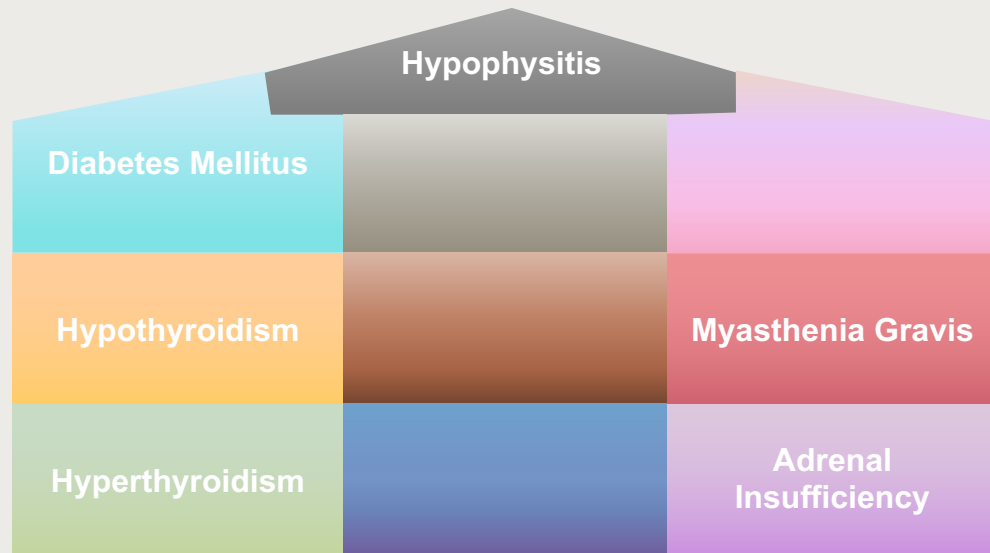


Huang YT, Chen YP, Lin WC, Su WC, Sun YT. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced myasthenia gravis. *Front. Neurol.* 2020; 11 (634): 1-10.

Safa H, Johnson DH, Trinh VA et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor related myasthenia gravis: single enter experience and systematic review of literature. *J Immunother Cancer.* 2019; 7: 319.

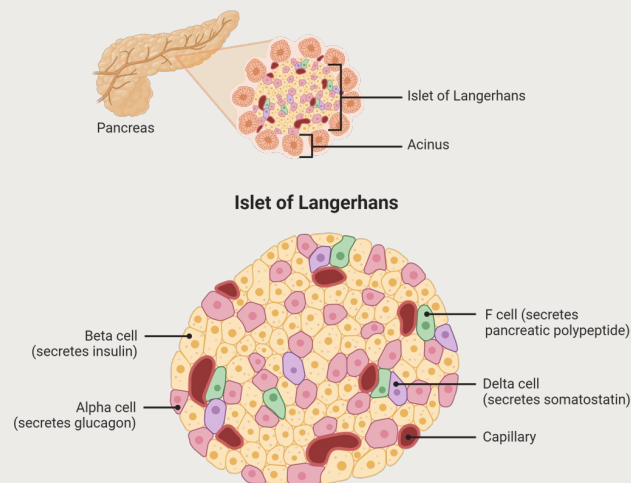
36

ENDOCRINOPATHIES OF ICI



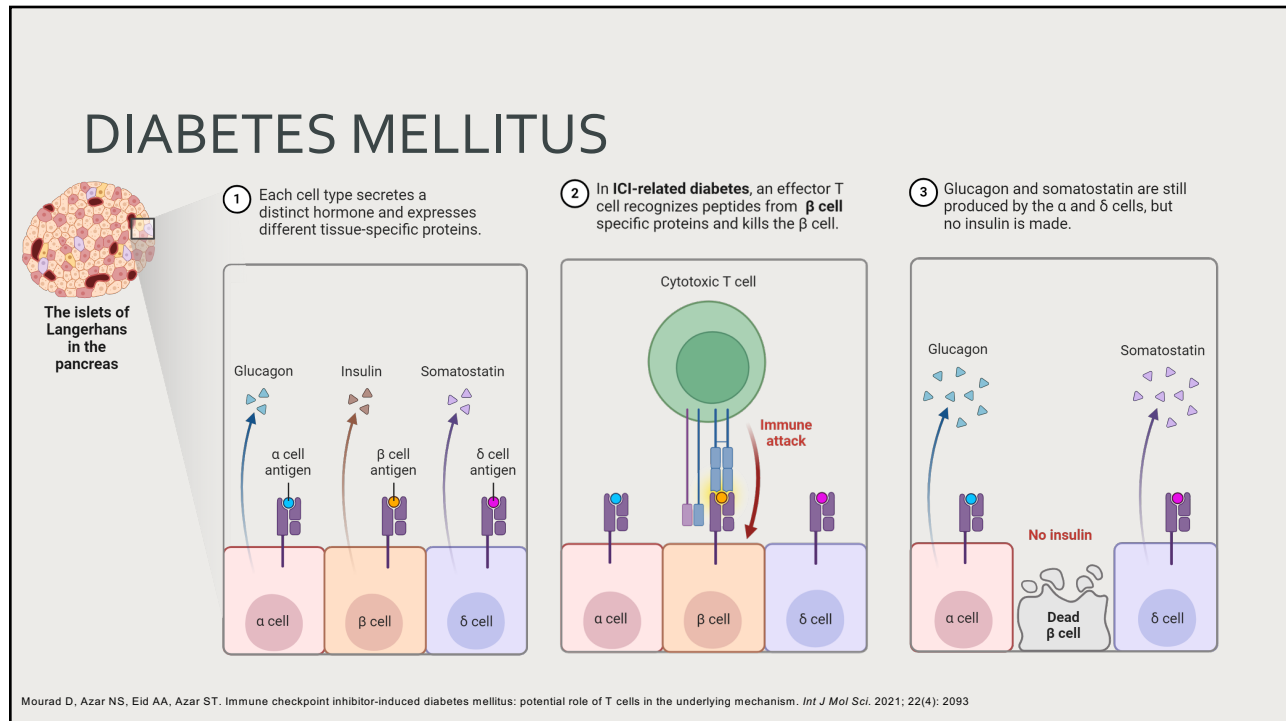
37

PANCREAS FUNCTION

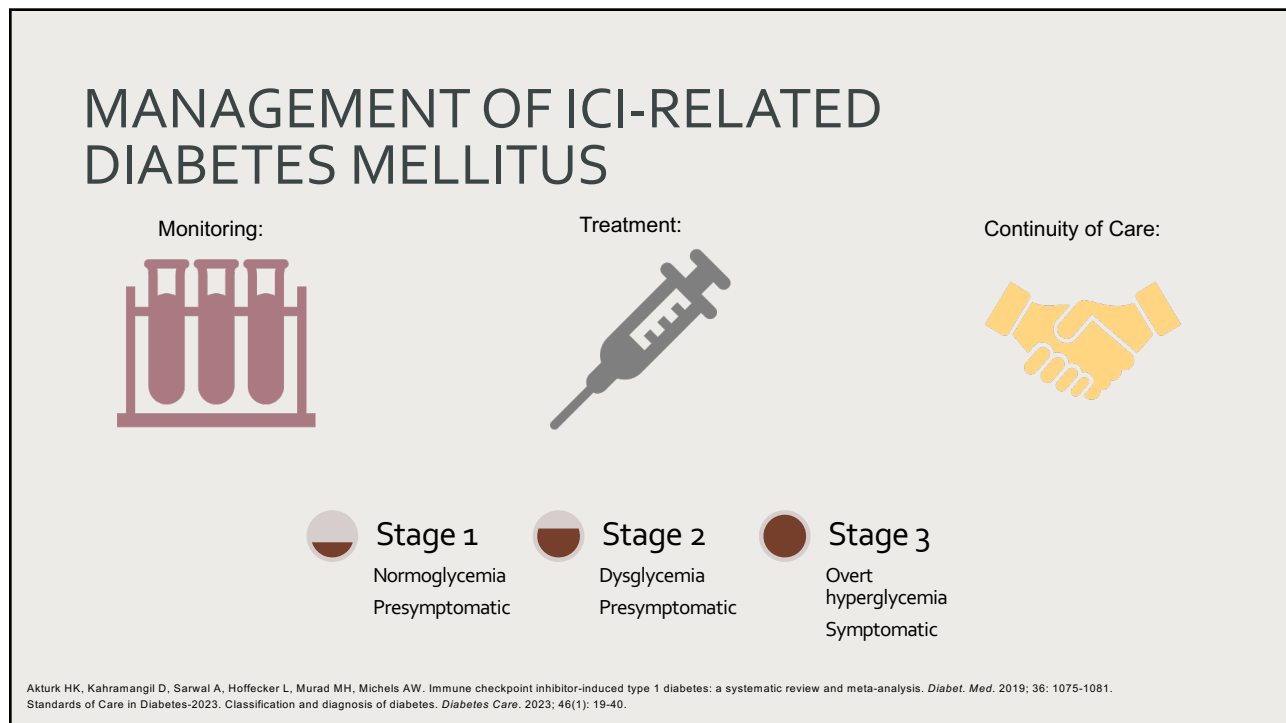


Akturk HK, Kahramangil D, Sarwal A, Hoffecker L, Murad MH, Michels AW. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced type 1 diabetes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Diabet. Med.* 2019; 36: 1075-1081.
Standards of Care in Diabetes-2023. Classification and diagnosis of diabetes. *Diabetes Care.* 2023; 46(1): 19-40.
Mourad D, Azar NS, Eid AA, Azar ST. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced diabetes mellitus: potential role of T cells in the underlying mechanism. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021; 22(4): 2093

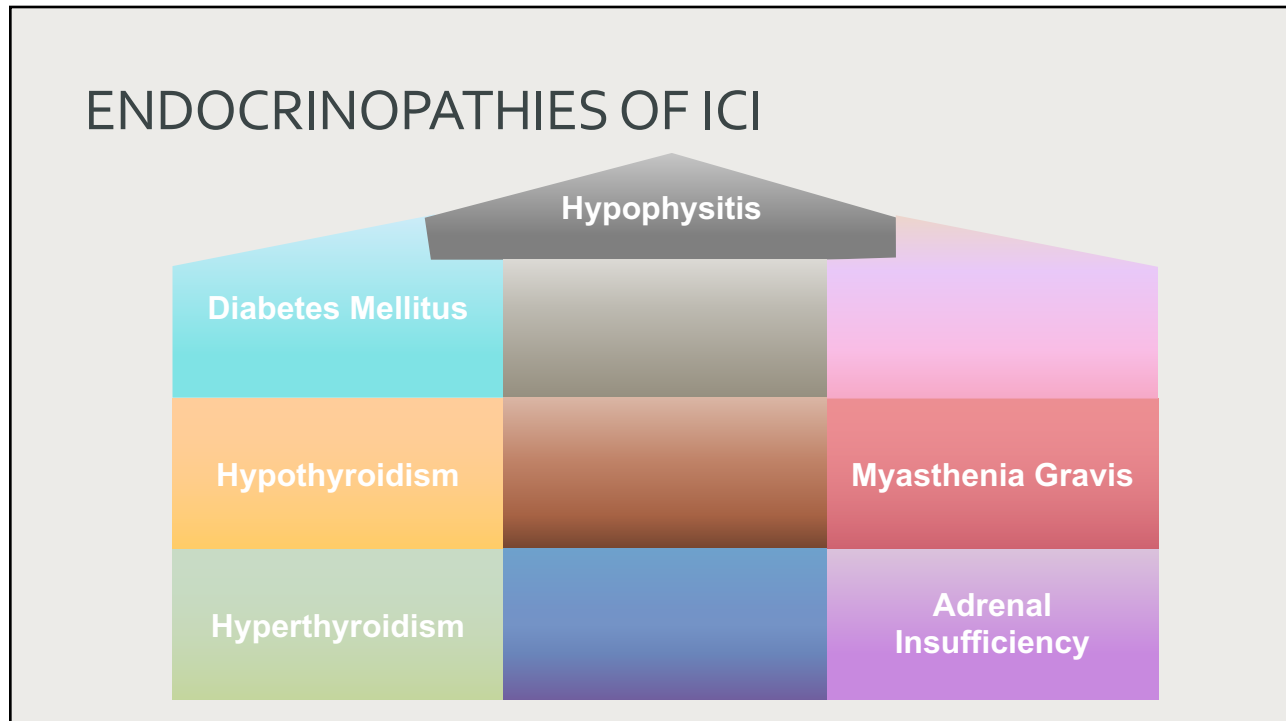
38



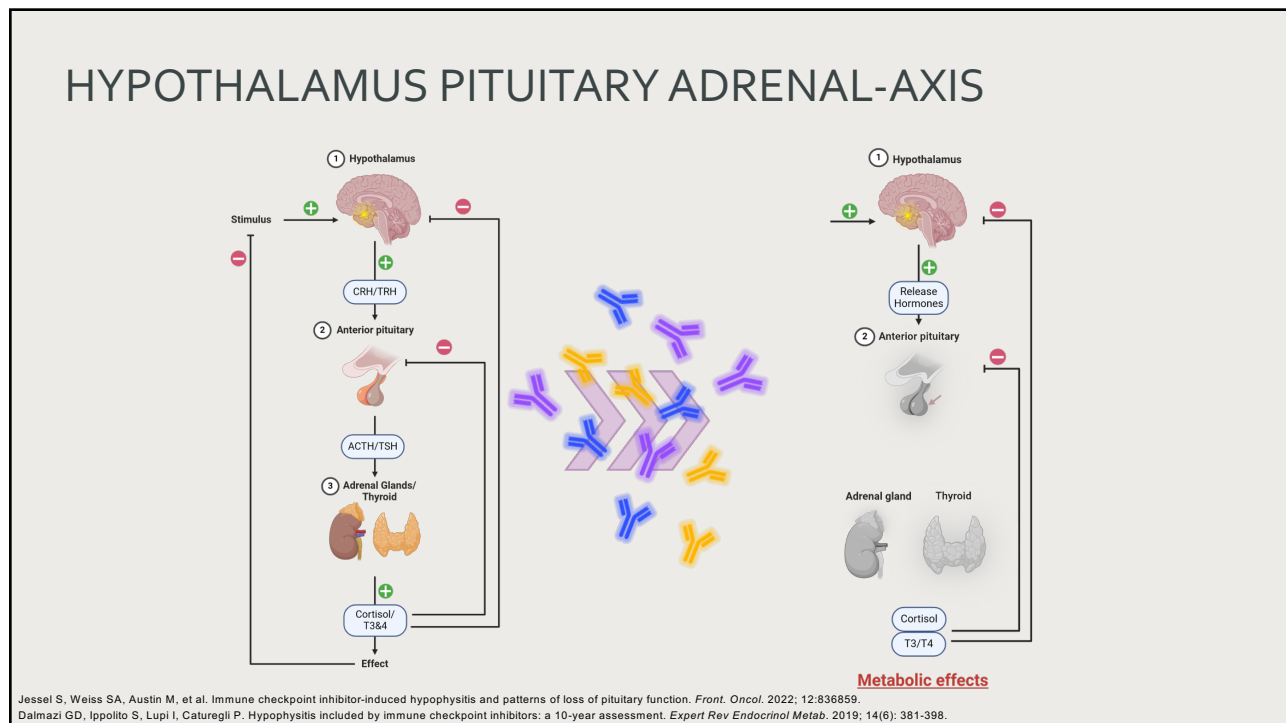
39



40



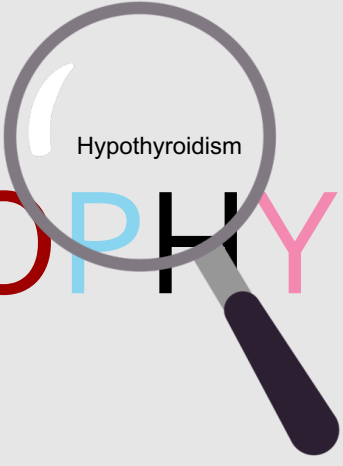
41



42

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

DIFFERENTIAL FOR



Diabetes Insipidus

Hypoprolactinemia

Hypothyroidism

HYPOPHYSITIS

Adrenal Insufficiency

Hypogonadism

Jessel S, Weiss SA, Austin M, et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced hypophysitis and patterns of loss of pituitary function. *Front. Oncol.* 2022; 12:836859.
 Dalmazi GD, Ippolito S, Lupi I, Caturegli P. Hypophysitis included by immune checkpoint inhibitors: a 10-year assessment. *Expert Rev Endocrinol Metab.* 2019; 14(6): 381-398.

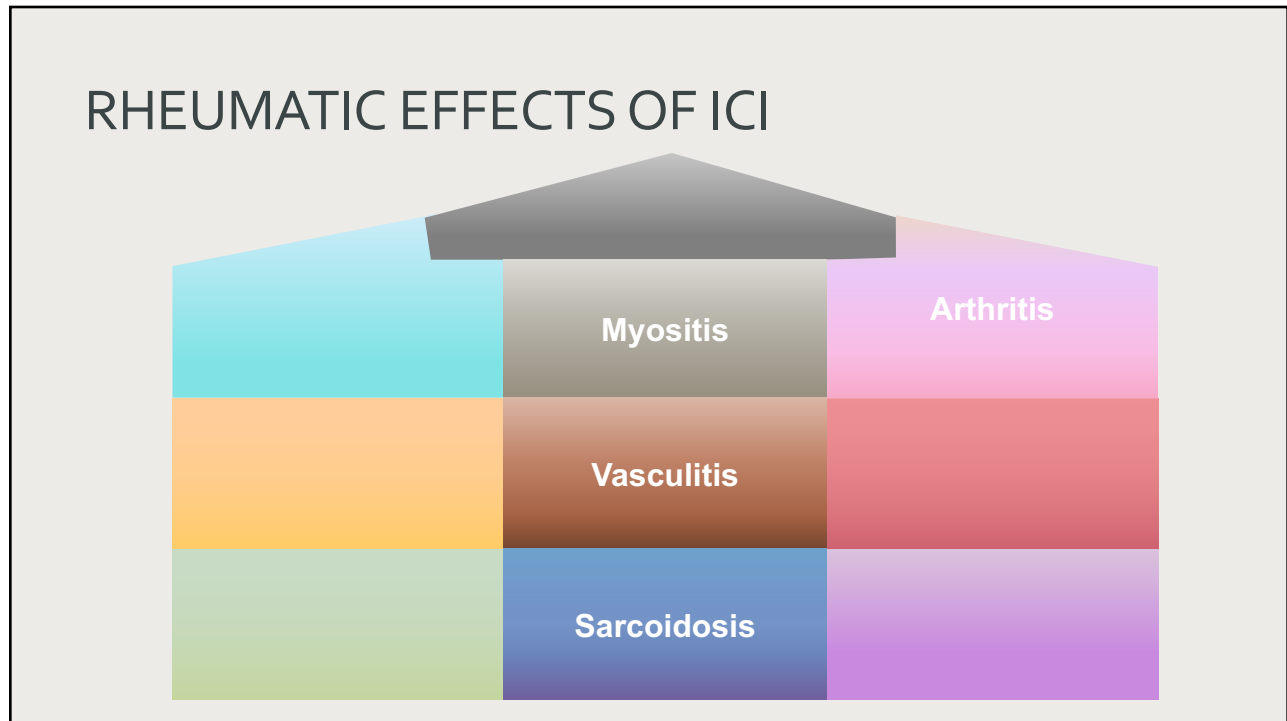
43

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

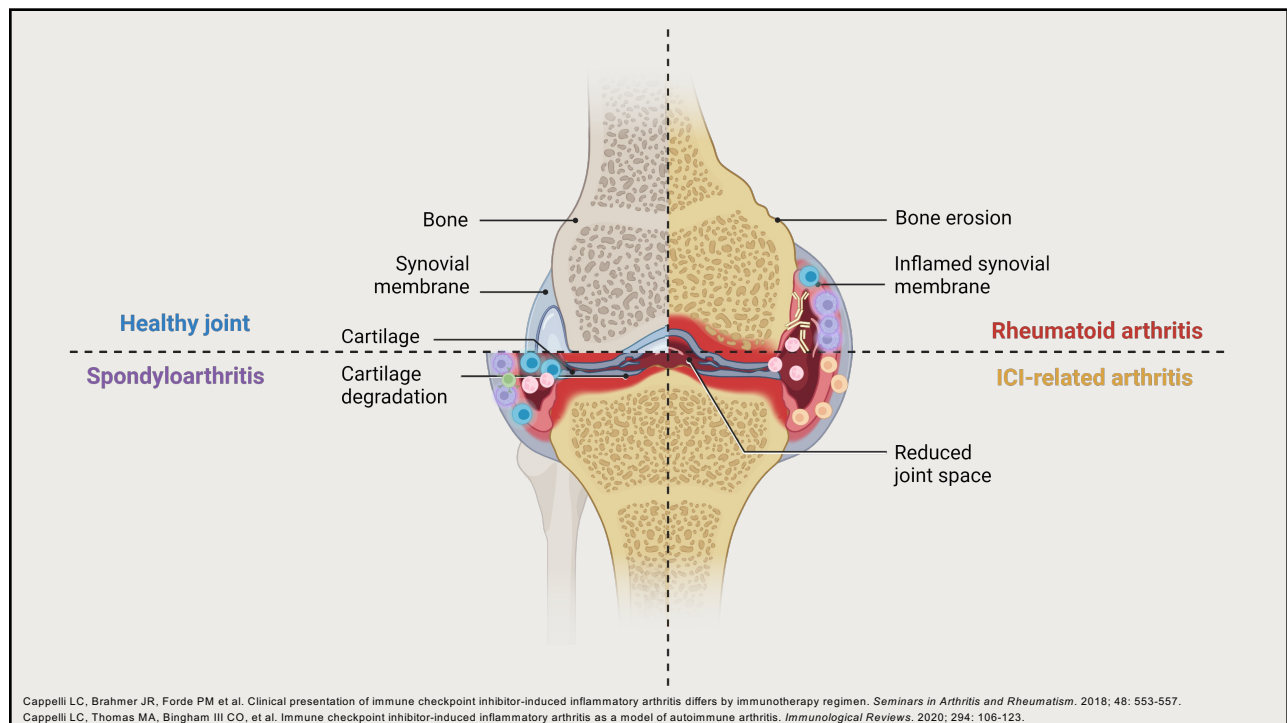
RHEUMATOLOGIC EFFECTS

Incidence, treatment, and monitoring

44



45



46

MANAGEMENT OF IMMUNE-RELATED ARTHRITIS

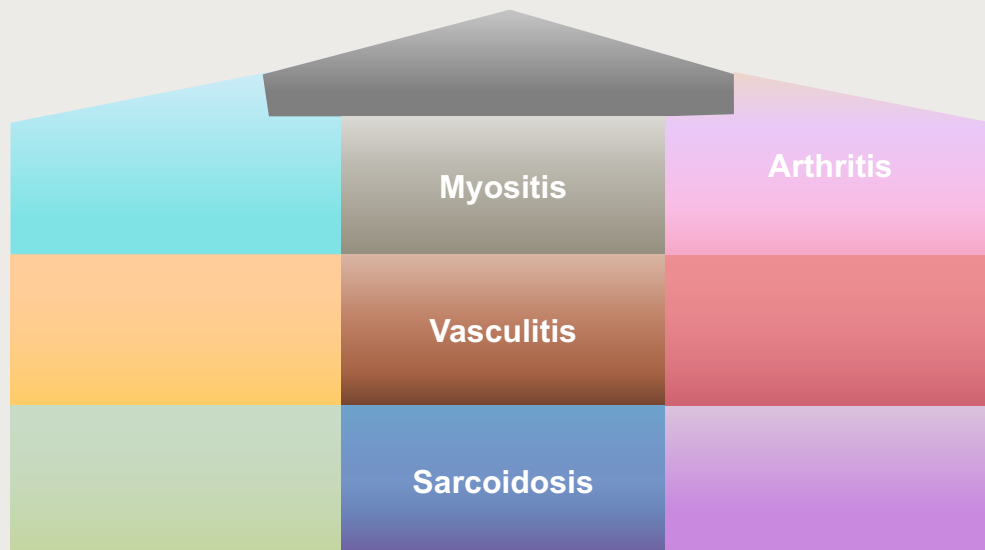
- Most patients will require **systemic corticosteroids**
- If no improvement after three months, additional **immunosuppression** may be necessary
(TNF inhibitors, methotrexate, etc.)
 - Patients treated with combination therapy are more likely to require additional immunosuppression

Drug/class	Efficacy in Rheumatoid	Efficacy in Spondylo-	Efficacy in ICI related-arthritis
Hydroxychloroquine	Yes	No	Yes
Sulfasalazine	Yes	Yes	Yes
Methotrexate	Yes	Yes	Yes
Leflunomide	Yes	Yes	Yes
Apremilast (PDE4 inhibitor)	No	Yes	Not reported yet
Abatacept (CTLA-4 agonist)	Yes	Yes	Not reported yet
TNF inhibitors	Yes	Yes	Yes
IL-6 inhibitors	Yes	No	Yes
IL-12/23 inhibitors	No	Yes	Not reported yet
IL-17 inhibitors	No	Yes	Not reported yet
JAK inhibitors	Yes	Yes	Not reported yet
Rituximab	Yes	No	Not reported yet

Cappelli LC, Brahmer JR, Forde PM et al. Clinical presentation of immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced inflammatory arthritis differs by immunotherapy regimen. *Seminars in Arthritis and Rheumatism*. 2018; 48: 553-557.
Cappelli LC, Thomas MA, Bingham III CO, et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced inflammatory arthritis as a model of autoimmune arthritis. *Immunological Reviews*. 2020; 294: 106-123.

47

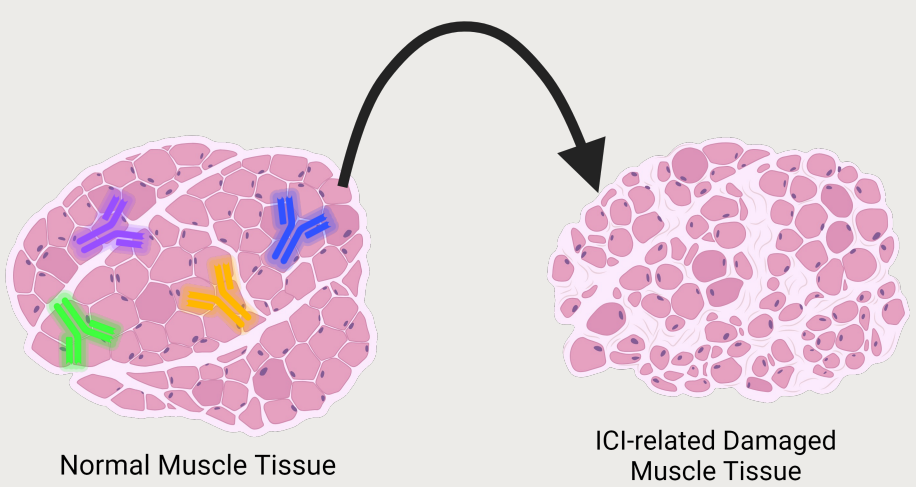
RHEUMATIC EFFECTS OF ICI



48

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

ICI-RELATED MYOSITIS



Normal Muscle Tissue

ICI-related Damaged Muscle Tissue

Aldrich J, Pundole X, Tummala S et al. Inflammatory myositis in cancer patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors. *Arthritis & Rheumatology*. 2021; 73(5): 866-874.

Allenback Y, Anquetil C, Manouchehri A, et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced myositis, the earliest and most lethal complication among rheumatic and musculoskeletal toxicities. *Autoimmunity Reviews*. 2020; 19: 102586.

49

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

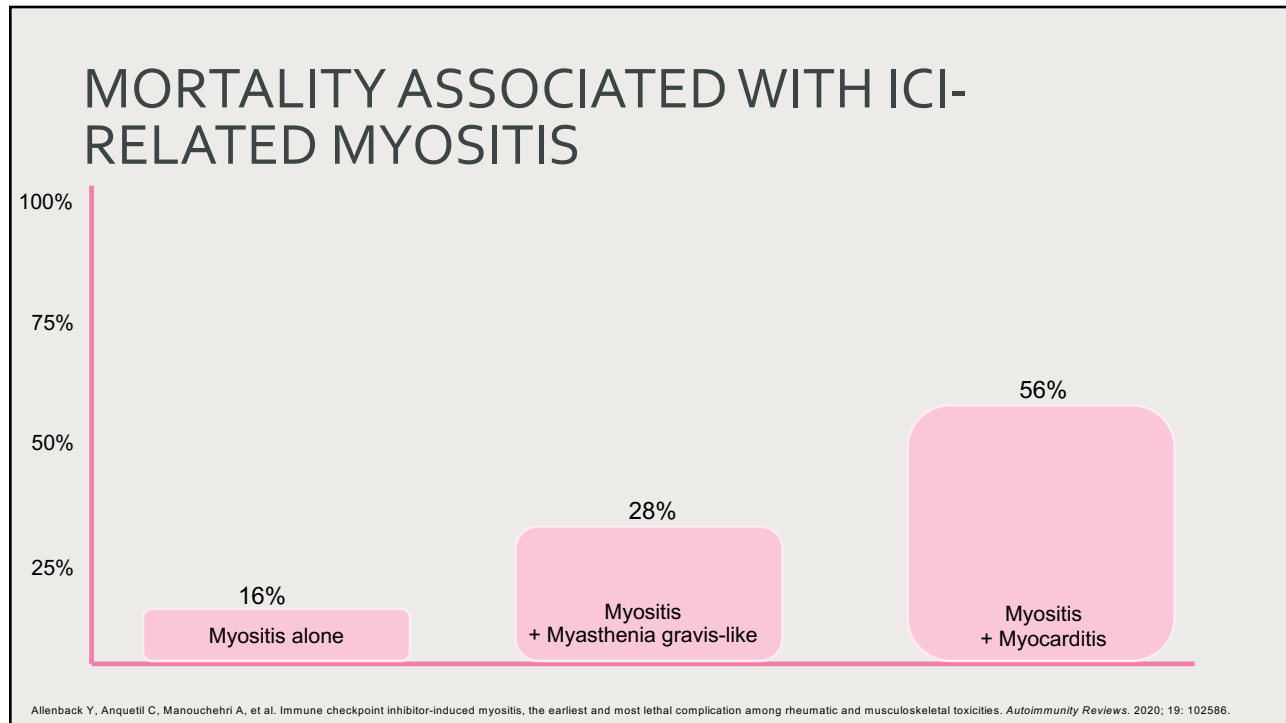
MANAGEMENT OF MYOSITIS

Immune-related myositis

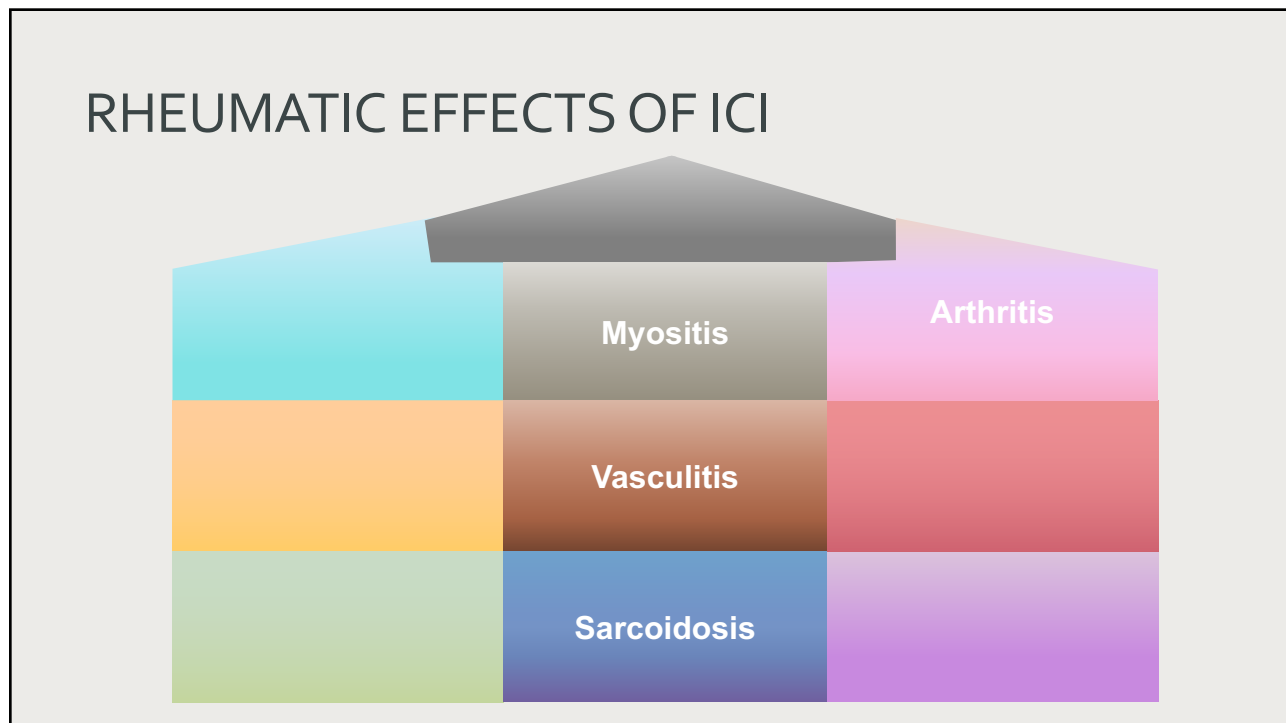
Aldrich J, Pundole X, Tummala S et al. Inflammatory myositis in cancer patients receiving immune checkpoint inhibitors. *Arthritis & Rheumatology*. 2021; 73(5): 866-874.

Allenback Y, Anquetil C, Manouchehri A, et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced myositis, the earliest and most lethal complication among rheumatic and musculoskeletal toxicities. *Autoimmunity Reviews*. 2020; 19: 102586.

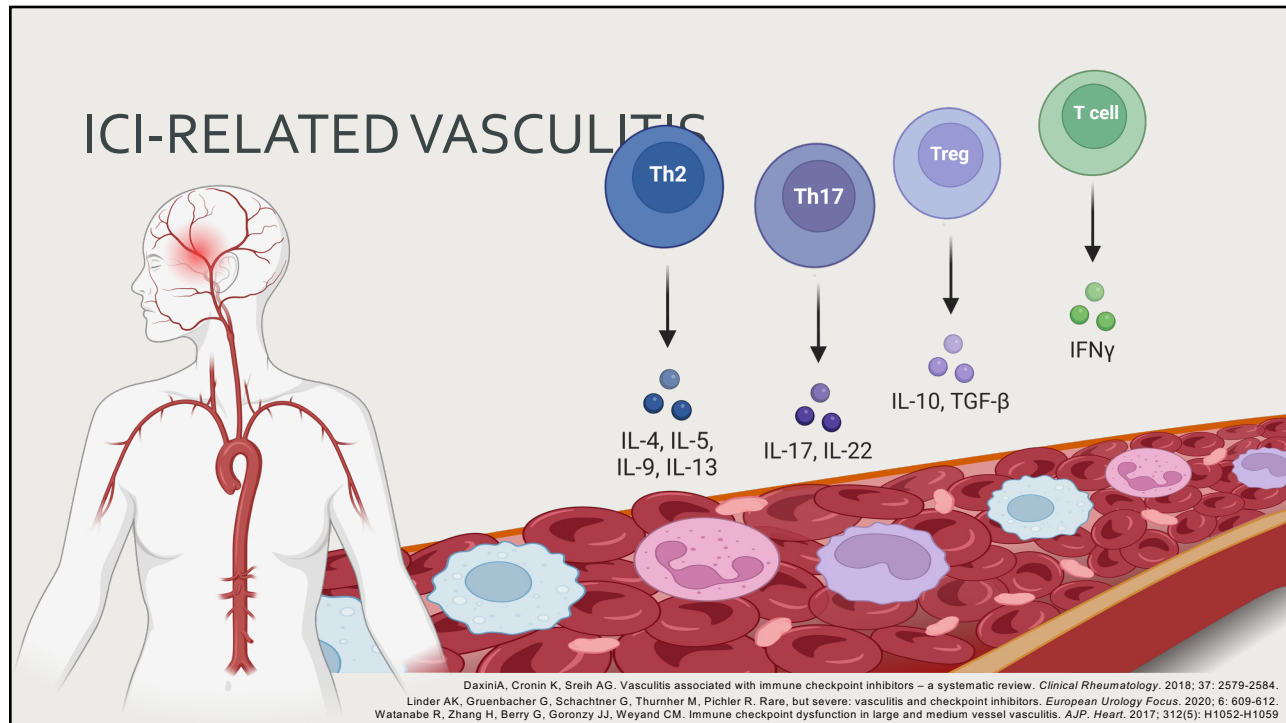
50



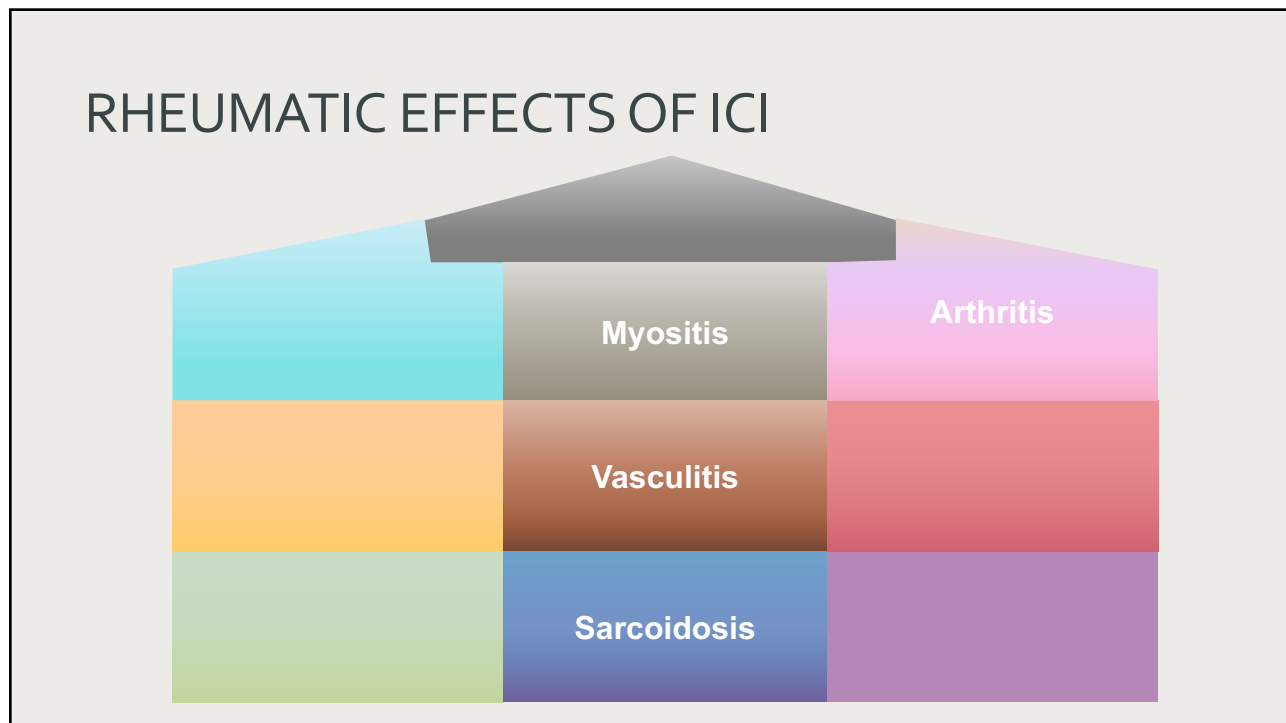
51



52



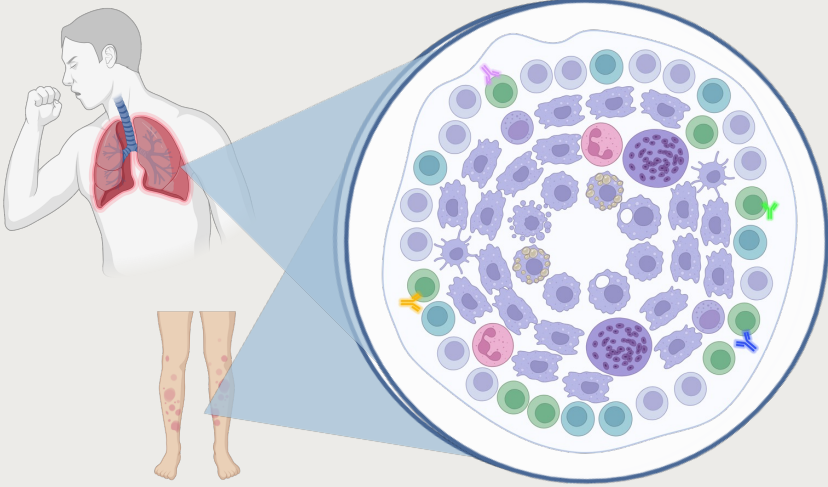
53



54

ICI-RELATED SARCOIDOSIS

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS



Rambhia PH, Reichert B, Scott J et al. Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced sarcoidosis-like granulomas. *International Journal of Clinical Oncology*. 2019; 24: 1171-1181.
Gkiozos I, Kopitopoulou A, Kiakanis A, Vamvakaris IN, Judson MA, Syrigos KN. Sarcoidosis-like reactions induced by checkpoint inhibitors. *Journal of Thoracic Oncology*. 2018; 13(8): 1076-1082.
(2023, September 1). Sarcoidosis. *AIArthritis*. <https://www.aiarthritis.org/sarcoidosis>

BEGIN AGAIN

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

	Hyperthyroidism	Hypothyroidism	Adrenal insufficiency	Myasthenia Gravis	Diabetes	Hypophysitis	Myositis	Vasculitis	Sarcoidosis	Arthritis
Incidence										
Onset*										
Presentation										
Management										
Reversibility										

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Immune checkpoint inhibitors carry-out treatment with different mechanisms of action that lead to different rates of adverse effects

Endocrinopathies of ICI are typically controlled with replacement of endogenous hormones with exogenous.

Rheumatologic effects of ICI are typically controlled with short, potent steroid regimens

Endocrinopathies discussed are not reversible, whereas some rheumatologic effects may reverse with treatment and time.

Prompt diagnosis, appropriate therapy, and close follow up are all essential to management of adverse effects for patients.

57

57

POST-TEST QUESTION...?

Which of the following agents works by binding to the cytotoxic T-cell lymphocyte-associated protein on T-cells to prevent binding to the B7-1/2 protein on cancer cells?

- A. Durvalumab
- B. Atezolizumab
- C. Pembrolizumab
- D. Ipilimumab

58

58

Kansas Pharmacists Association //

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

POST-TEST QUESTION...?

Which is the primary lab value associated with adrenal insufficiency?

- A. Hyponatremia
- B. Hypokalemia
- C. Hypernatremia
- D. Hyperprolactinemia

59

59

Kansas Pharmacists Association //

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

POST-TEST QUESTION...?

Which of the following ICI-related endocrinopathies is unlikely to be permanent?

- A. Hypothyroidism
- B. Hypophysitis
- C. Hyperthyroidism
- D. Adrenal Insufficiency

60

60

Kansas Pharmacists Association // 2025 Annual Meeting & Trade Show

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Taylor Swift
Kelly Brunk
Colleen Bohnenkamp
BioRender

61

61

Kansas Pharmacists Association // 2025 Annual Meeting & Trade Show

August 22-24 // Lawrence, KS

THANK YOU!

Collect Your CE
The Lecture Panda
code for this session is:

*All course credits from this
conference must be submitted by
Oct. 15, 2025.*

62

62