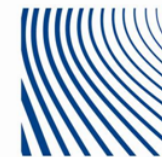


# Management of Toxicity during Immunotherapy

**Dirk Schadendorf**

**Director & Chair  
Department of Dermatology  
Skin Cancer Center**

**University Hospital Essen**



**Hauthumorzentrum  
Essen**



**Universitätsklinikum Essen**

- During the last two years I was either a member of the advisory board/consultant or received speakers' honoraria from the following companies:
  - Amgen, BMS, GSK, Merck, Novartis, Roche
- Received research funding from Merck





## PD 1 Antibodies

- Nivolumab
- Pembrolizumab

## Ipilimumab



Grading	Clinical severity index
Grade 1	Mild; asymptomatic or mild symptoms; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated
Grade 2	Moderate; minimal, local or non invasive intervention indicated; limiting age appropriate instrumental ADL
Grade 3	Severe or medically significant but not immediately life-threatening; hospitalisation or prolongation of hospitalisation indicated; disabling; limiting self-care ADL*
Grade 4	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated
Grade 5	Death related to AE



# Select Drug-Related Adverse Events ( $\geq 1\%$ ) Occurring in Melanoma Patients Treated with **Nivolumab**<sup>1</sup>

- Select AE: AE with potential immunologic etiologies that require more frequent monitoring and/or unique intervention
- All patients have  $\geq 1$  year of follow-up
- Safety analyses were not updated and were recently published<sup>1</sup>

Category	Any Grade % (n)	Grade 3-4 % (n)
Any select AE	54 (58)	5 (5)
Skin	36 (38)	0
Gastrointestinal	18 (19)	2 (2)
Endocrinopathies	13 (14)	2 (2)
Hepatic	7 (7)	1 (1)
Infusion reaction	6 (6)	0
Pulmonary	4 (4)	0
Renal	2 (2)	1 (1)



# Treatment-Related AEs With Incidence >5%

## by Pembrolizumab

Adverse Event, %	Total N = 411	
	Any Grade	Grade 3/4
Fatigue	36	2
Pruritus	24	<1
Rash	20	<1
Diarrhea	16	<1
Arthralgia	16	0
Nausea	12	<1
Vitiligo	11	0
Asthenia	9	0
Cough	9	0

Adverse Event, n (%)	Total N = 411	
	Any Grade	Grade 3/4
Myalgia	9	0
Headache	8	<1
Hypothyroidism	8	<1
Decreased appetite	7	<1
Dyspnea	7	<1
Chills	6	0
Pyrexia	6	0
ALT increased	5	<1
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>12</b>

- Similar safety profiles in IPI-N and IPI-T patients



# immune-related AEs by Pembrolizumab

Adverse Event, n (%)	Any Grade	Grade 3-4
Hypothyroidism	32 (8)	1 (<1)
Hyperthyroidism	4 (1)	1 (<1)
Pneumonitis <sup>a</sup>	11 (3)	1 (<1)
Colitis	3 (<1)	2 (<1)
Hepatitis <sup>b</sup>	2 (<1)	1 (<1)

- Some reported skin rashes may have been immune-mediated
- The following potentially immune-mediated AEs were reported in <1% of patients: nephritis, hypophysitis, and uveitis

<sup>a</sup>1 additional patient experienced interstitial lung disease of grade 1-2.

<sup>b</sup>Includes autoimmune hepatitis.

Analysis cut-off date: October 18, 2013.



# Ipilimumab

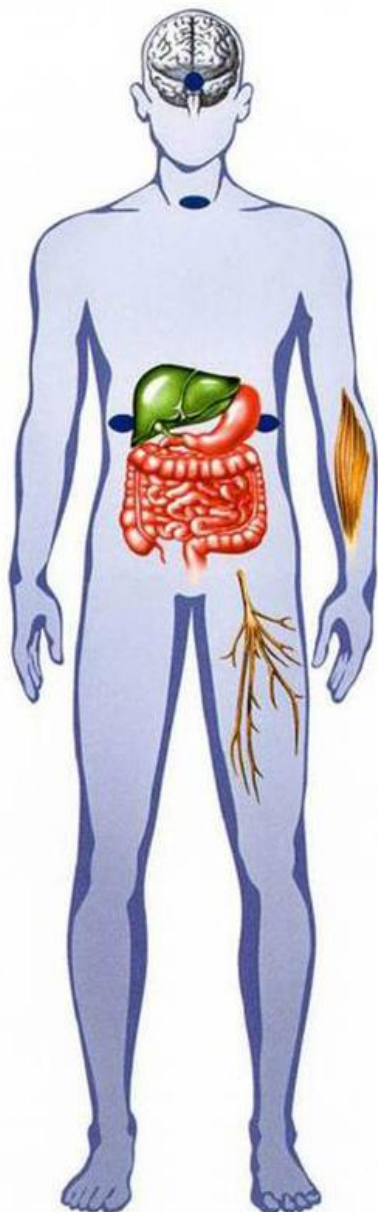
## irAE (immune-related adverse events)

### Most Common Immune-Related Adverse Events\* (irAEs; all Grades)

% of Patients*			
irAE	Ipi + gp100 N=380	Ipi + placebo N=131	gp100 + placebo N=132
All grades			
Any	58.2	61.1	31.8
Dermatologic	40.0	43.5	16.7
GI	32.1	29.0	14.4
Endocrine	3.9	7.6	1.5
Hepatic	2.1	3.8	4.5
Treatment-related deaths	2.1	3.1	1.5

\*Across entire study duration

Hodi, FS. et al., N Engl J Med 2010;363:711-23.





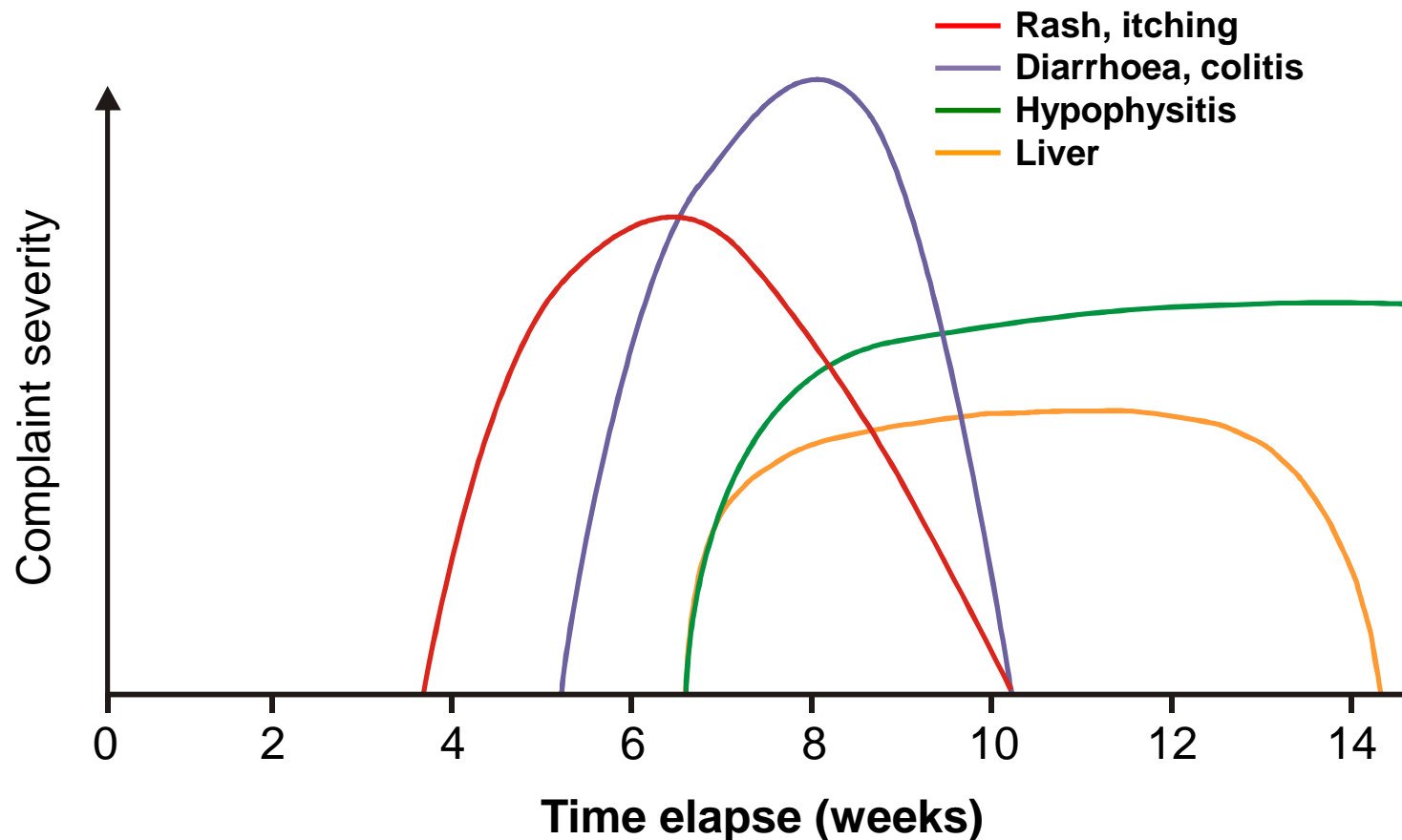
# Most common immune-related adverse events\* (grades 3, 4 & 5)

irAE	% of Patients					
	Ipi + gp100 N=380		Ipi + pbo N=131		gp100 + pbo N=132	
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 3	Grade 4
Any	9.7	0.5	12.2	2.3	3.0	0
Dermatologic	2.1	0.3	1.5	0	0	0
GI	5.3	0.5	7.6	0	0.8	0
Endocrine	1.1	0	2.3	1.5	0	0
Hepatic	1.1	0	0	0	2.3	0
Treatment-related deaths	1.3		1.5		0	

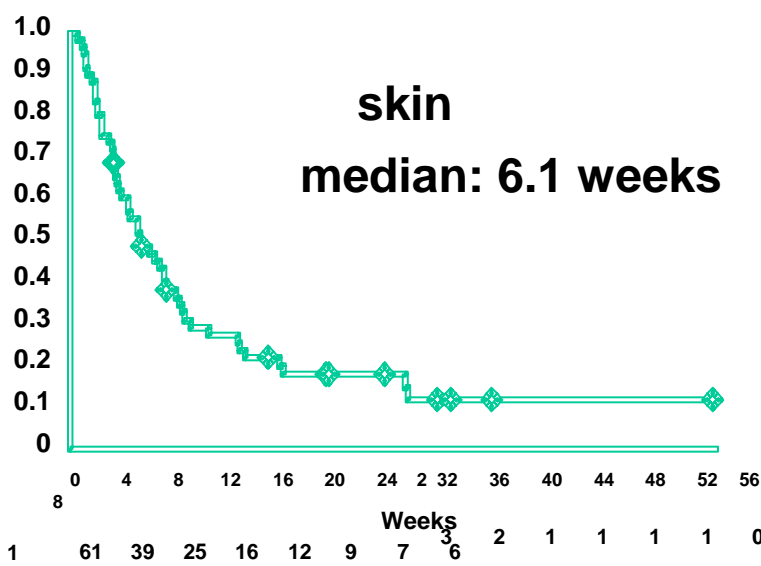
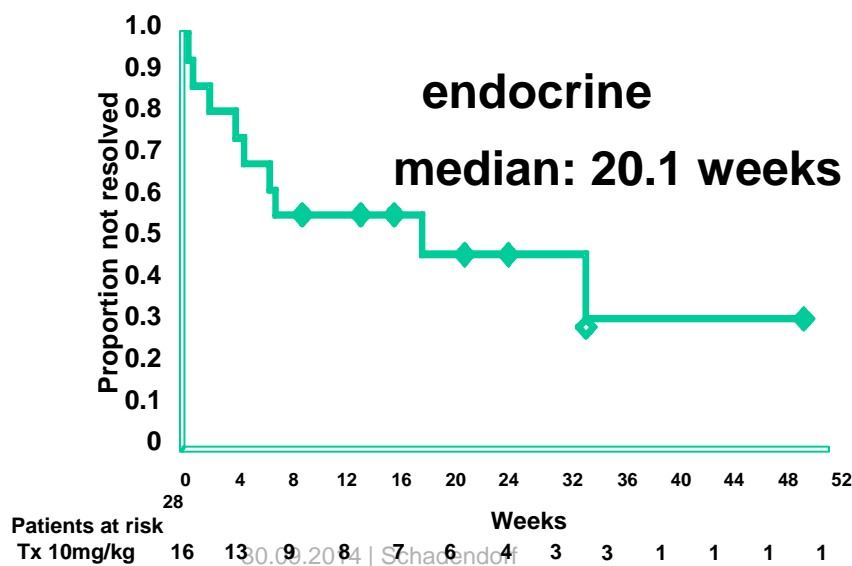
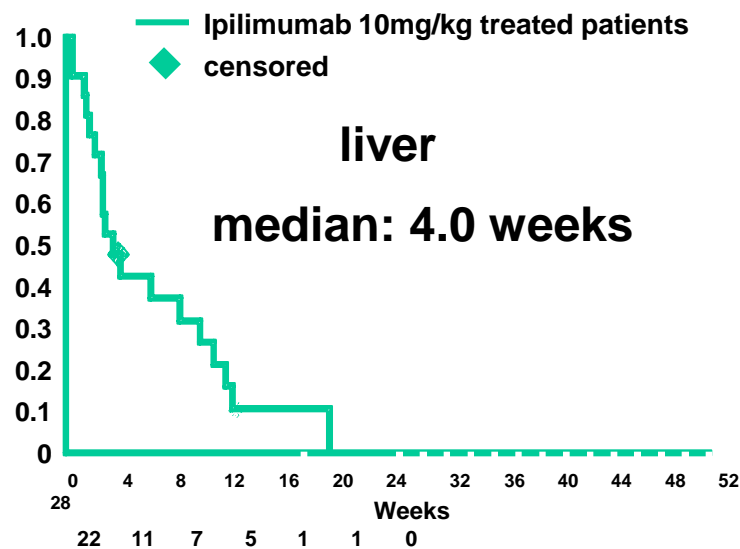
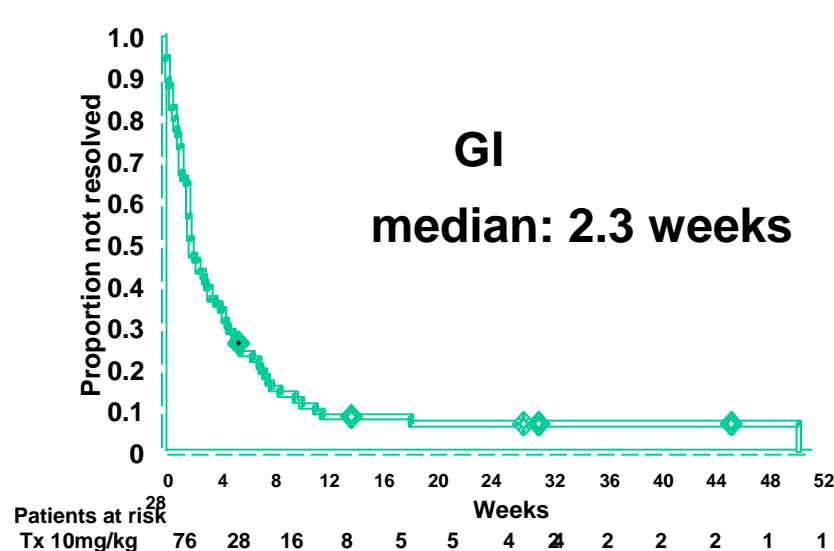
\* Across entire study duration



# Chronological sequence of typical side effects



# Time to Improvement of Grade 2-4 irAEs



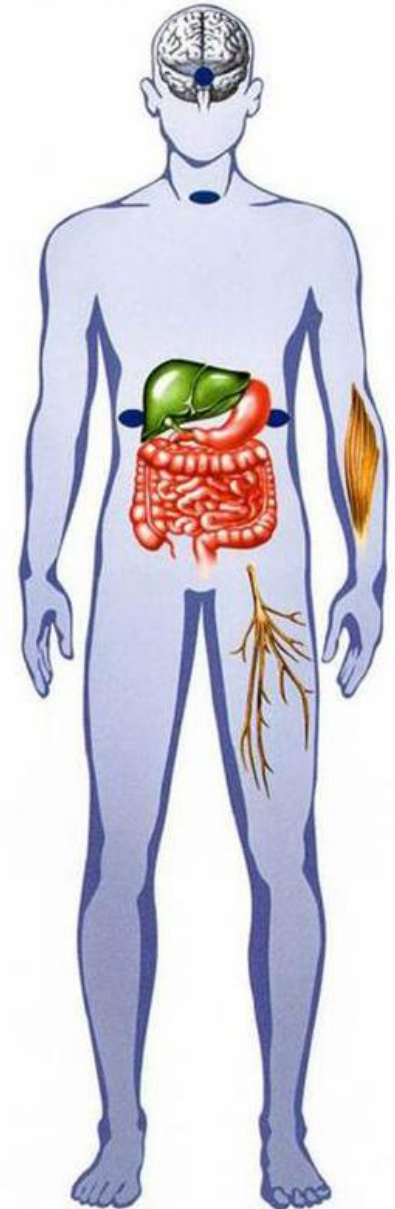
# Immune-mediated enterocolitis



## Signs and symptoms

- Diarrhea (frequency, blood/mucus)  $\pm$  fever
- Abdominal pain
- Peritonitis
- Ileus
- Electrolyte imbalance
- Weakness
- Weight loss

→ 5-8% Grade 3/4





# CTC: diarrhea/colitis

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
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; IV fluids indicated <24 hours moderate increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; not interfering with ADL	Increase of $\geq 7$ stools per day over baseline; incontinence; IV fluids $\geq 24$ hours hospitalisation; severe increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; interfering with ADL	Life-threatening consequences (e.g. haemodynamic collapse)	Death
Colitis	Asymptomatic; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated	Abdominal pain; mucus or blood in stool	Severe abdominal pain; change in bowel habits; medical intervention indicated; peritoneal signs	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated
				Death

Definition: a disorder characterised by inflammation of the colon



# irEnterocolitis

## Management

Grade 1:

Ø specific Dx, symptomatic Tx  
Loperamide, fluid replacement, e<sup>-</sup>lyte  
replacement if required.

From grade 2:

Exclude other GI infections/CIBD  
(stool diagnostics: leucocytes, calprotectin, stool  
culture, *Clostridium difficile* titre, endoscopy [+  
biopsy] if required.)

Therapy:

1. Budesonide 9 mg/day
2. Prednisolone 1 mg/kg

## Grade 3/4 irEnterocolitis (>5%)


### Management

- Discontinue therapy
- IV replenishment of fluid and electrolytes
- IV: methylprednisolone 2 mg/kg BW daily or dexamethasone 0.33 mg/kg BW daily



## Grade 3/4 irEnterocolitis

### Management

- Improvement in initial symptoms within 48–72 hours?
  - YES: taper over at least 30 days
  - **NO: infliximab 5 mg/kg single dose, followed by methylprednisolone (slow tapering)**
- Re-start of symptoms during tapering?
  -  corticosteroid, slower tapering, infliximab 5 mg/kg single dose

# Case

- 03/2009: Sentinel lymph node dissection, right groin (5/5 LN pos.)
- 04/2009: Radical lymphadenectomy, right groin (5/7 LN pos.)
- 14/07/2009: Start adjuvant study therapy with ipilimumab
- 05/08/2009: Admitted as in-patient suffering from watery diarrhoea for 8 days 7–10x daily, in addition nausea and a rash with fine spots all over the skin

# Diagnostics: what would you do?



Hauttumorzentrum  
Essen



- **Colonoscopy:** Evidence of non-specific colitis including ulcer and sigma diverticulitis and also no indication of malignancy in the biopsy of the colon
- **Skin biopsy:** superficial perivascular dermatitis, consistent with a drug-induced rash
- **Staging:** CT thorax/abdomen and MRI skull: no evidence of metastases
- **Stool diagnosis:** no evidence of entamoeba histolytica, giardia intestinalis or cryptosporidium EIA, furthermore no worm eggs or protozoa
- Classification according to **CTCAE criteria** 7–10 watery stools/day: grade 3 ( $\geq 7$  stools/day, incontinence, in-patient admission indicated)



## Diagnostics 2

- **Stool diagnosis:** no evidence of *entamoeba histolytica*, *giardia intestinalis* or *cryptosporidium* EIA, furthermore no worm eggs or protozoa
- Classification according to **CTCAE criteria** 7–10 watery stools/day: grade 3 ( $\geq 7$  stools/day, incontinence, in-patient admission indicated)

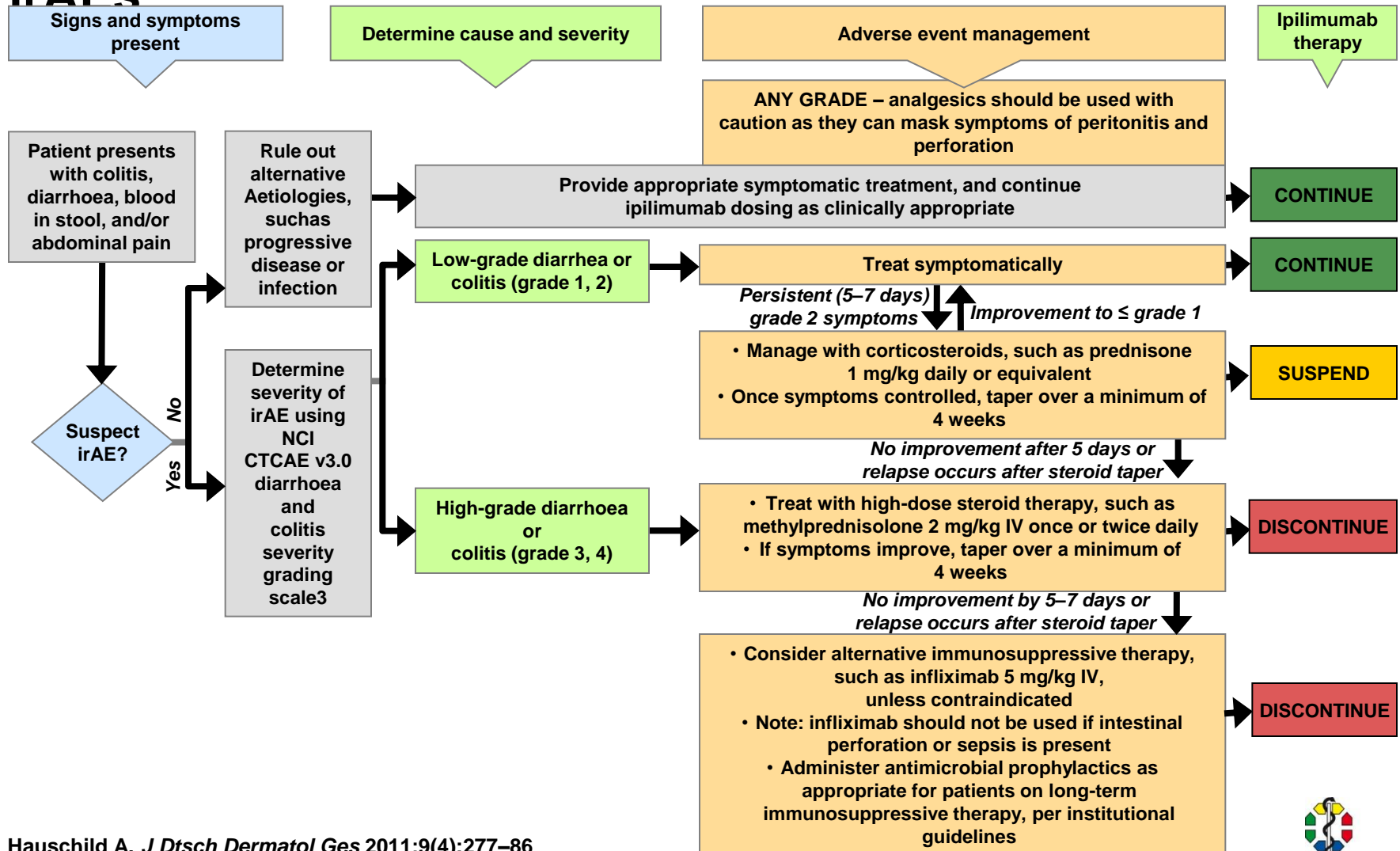
## Diagnosis

Autoimmune colitis grade 3 and drug-induced rash grade 3 on ipilimumab therapy

## Therapy: what would you do?

1. Wait & see
2. Discontinue therapy with ipilimumab
3. Symptomatic therapy and continue therapy with ipilimumab
4. Symptomatic therapy; there is no correlation with ipilimumab therapy

# Management guidelines for gastrointestinal-related irAEs





- 05/08/2009–24/08/209 hospital admission
- SDH initially 60 mg 1x daily IV
- Reduction to 45 mg until time of discharge
- Then, as outpatient, 5 mg reduction every 3 days
- Ranitidine 150 mg 2x daily and Salofalk 1000 mg 3x daily
- Adjust insulin regimen for existing diabetes *mellitus*
- As inpatient initially antibiotic therapy with metronidazole and ciprofloxacin – discontinued during the course



- 08/09/2009–09/10/2009 another in-patient admittance for recurrent colitis, grade 3 according to CTCAE
  - Administered SDH 150 mg/day over 8 days, insufficient improvement
- Single dose of infliximab (5 mg/kg BW)
- Within several days of this, diarrhoea cleared up
  - Administration of prednisolone could be reduced to 115 mg at time of discharge
  - Followed by 5 mg reduction every 3 days as outpatient



## Conclusion

- Autoimmune colitis when on ipilimumab should be considered at an early stage and treated accordingly to management guidelines!

# Immune-mediated hepatotoxicity



Universitätsklinikum Essen

## irHepatotoxicity (<5%)

### Signs and symptoms

- Asymptomatic elevated transaminases (GOT/GPT >2.5, ULN) bilirubin (>1.5 x ULN)
- Fever, sickness
- Jaundice

# irHepatotoxicity

## Management: diagnostics

- Transaminases (ALT, AST), bilirubin, SAP, albumine, coagulation values (Quick)
- Hepatitis serology
- Autoantibodies: ANA, SMA
- Grade 3–4: imaging, liver biopsy if required, gastroenterological consultation

# irHepatotoxicity

## Management

ALT/AST  $>5$  to  $\leq 8$  x ULN,  
gbili  $>3$  to  $\leq 5$  x ULN

ALT/AST  $>8$  x ULN,  
gbili  $>5$  x ULN

Excluded: progressive liver metastases, hepatitis (viral), tox drug reactions

- Ipilimumab pause
- Monitor liver parameters
- Continue treatment with ALT/AST  $<5$  x ULN and gbili  $<3$  x ULN

- Discontinue ipilimumab
- Begin IV methylprednisolone immediately 2 mg/kg BW daily
- Monitor liver parameters
- Reduce steroids over at least 4 weeks after LFT normalised

# irHepatotoxicity

## Management I

- Transaminase: monitoring
  - LFTs  $<8 \times \text{ULN}$ /gbili  $<5 \times \text{ULN}$ : every 3 days until stabilised/decrease, then weekly
  - LFTs  $>8 \times \text{ULN}$ /gbili  $>5 \times \text{ULN}$ : daily until decrease, then weekly
- If LFT increases again during reduction: increase steroids, very slow tapering  $>4$  week schedule



# irHepatotoxicity

## Management II

- No improvement after 5–7 days on steroids
  - Additional mycophenolate mofetil (1 g IV/1.5 g 2 x daily PO.)
  - Tacrolimus 0.1–0.25 mg/kg BW daily
  - Infliximab 5 mg/kg, single dose
  - Antibiotic prophylaxis for long-term immune-suppressed patients in accordance with the guidelines

# Case

Make sure that your patients are being treated in your center.....



- Male patient, age 57
- Superficial spreading malignant melanoma presternal right, TD 1.4 mm, ED 06/2010
- 06/10 Sentinel lymph node axilla right positive (2+/2 LN)
- 07/10 Lymphadenectomy axillary right. Tumour-free (0/12 LN)
- 08/10 Inclusion in the adjuvant ipilimumab therapy study BMS-CA184029 (EORTC 18071)
  - 23/08/2010 1. Administration study drug
  - 13/09/2010 2. Administration study drug



- Serology, Clin chemistry – normal at start of treatment
- HCV – negative
- HBV – negative
- HAV – titre indicative of current or past infection
- HIV – negative



- From 27/09/10: fever
- 30/9/10 admission to non-surgical department of a basic care hospital far away ( 2 weeks after 2<sup>nd</sup> ipi infusion)
- Initial lab findings **GOT at 584**



## Clinical course

### What would you do?

- A. With suspected cholecystitis, appropriate treatment in accordance with guidelines and continue study medication
- B. With suspected autoimmune hepatitis further diagnosis and stop study medication
- C. Initiate steroid therapy 1 mg/kg BW

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## Grade 1

ALT, SGPT (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase)	>ULN–2.5 x ULN
AST, SGOT (serum glutamic oxaloecetic transaminase)	>ULN–2.5 x ULN
Bilirubin	>ULN–1.5 x ULN

## Grade 2

ALT, SGPT (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase)	>2.5–5.0 x ULN
AST, SGOT (serum glutamic oxaloecetic transaminase)	>2.5–5.0 x ULN
Bilirubin	>1.5–3.0 x ULN

## Grade 3

ALT, SGPT (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase)	>5.0–20.0 x ULN
AST, SGOT (serum glutamic oxaloecetic transaminase)	>5.0–20.0 x ULN
Bilirubin	>5.0–20.0 x ULN

## Grade 4

ALT, SGPT (serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase)	>20.0 x ULN
AST, SGOT (serum glutamic oxaloecetic transaminase)	>20.0 x ULN
Bilirubin	>10.0 x ULN

## Grade 5

–

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\*National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events Version 3.0 (NCI-CTCAE v3)



## Procedure/diagnosis

- Algorithm faxed to colleagues, in-depth telephone consultation re further diagnosis (liver biopsy, ANA, SMA, hepatitis serology) and immediate initiation of treatment (120 mg methyprednisolone IV/d)



## Procedure/diagnosis (cont'd)

- **SMA** (smooth muscle antibody), **LNM-1** (anti-liver-kidney microsome antibody), **anti-SLA** (anti-soluble liver antigen antibody) negative, ANA 1:80
- **Liver biopsy 5/10/10:** severe acute to subacute hepatitis with 30% hepatocyte necrosis, perivenulitis, concomitant cholangitis, no fibrosis, suspected medically toxic liver parenchymal damage DD viral hepatitis
- **Hepatitis serology** (A/B/C), **EBV** and **CMV serology** negative
- **Abdominal sonography 1/10 + 6/10:** hepatomegaly, clear thickening of gall bladder wall, no ascites
- **Abdominal sonography 11/10:** suspected cholecystitis, no intra or extra-hepatic bile duct dilatation
- **MRI liver 14/10:** assessment: marginal thickening of gall bladder wall surrounded by free fluid, from morphological image analysis does not correlate with clinically recognised subacute liver failure

## Clinical course

01/10/10      **GOT 881, GPT 678, GGT 862, Bili 2.93**

→ **CTCAE Grade III**

04/10/10      **GOT 3063, GPT 1569, GGT 744, Bili 5.31**

Fulminant increase in liver values within 3 days

→ **CTCAE Grade IV**

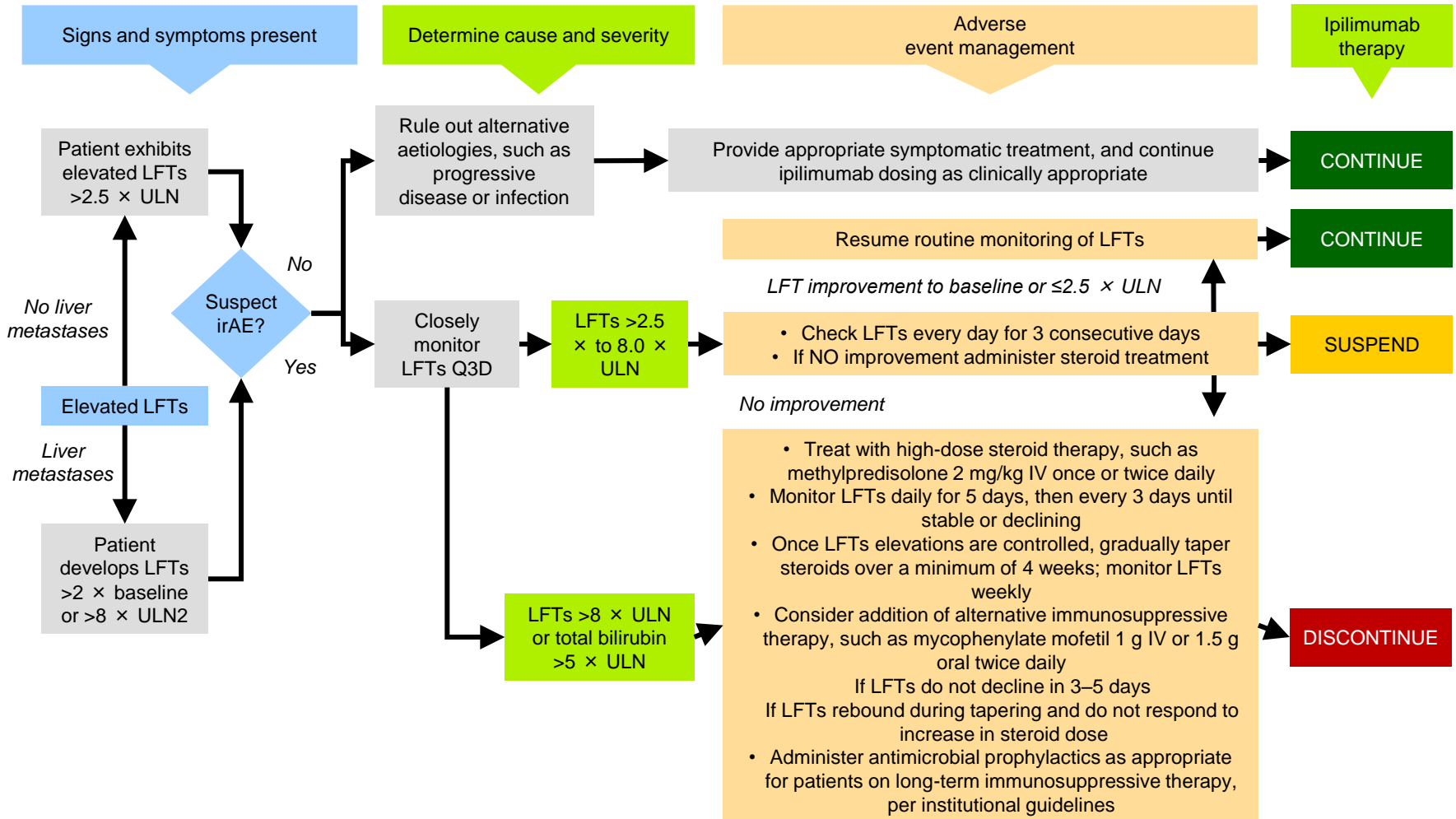
**Problem: liver biopsy delayed because of fever and thus no steroids**

05/10/10      **GOT 6169, GPT 2661, GGT 934, Bili 7.79**

Liver puncture, then initiate Urbason [*Medrone*] 120 mg IV

→ **CTCAE Grade IV**

# Management guidelines for hepato-related irAEs



## Clinical course (cont'd)

- 07/10/10      **GOT 4141, GPT 2871, GGT 1142, Bili 10.9, AP 881**

Patient transferred to Skin Cancer Unit Essen with jaundice, US and UA-oedema, increase Urbason [*Medrone*] to 2 x 125 mg IV with gastric protection and osteoporosis prophylaxis

- 08/10/10      GOT 2642, GPT 2428, GGT 1035, Bili 10.4, AP 685
- 11/10/10      GOT 476, GPT 1354, GGT 1103, Bili 12.0

## Clinical course cont'd

- 19/10/10      **GOT 60, GPT 341, GGT 407, Bili 3.5**  
Reduced Urbason [*Medrone*] on 20/10/ to 180 mg IV  
1x/day for 2 days, then 180 mg oral 1xday – 150 mg  
p.o. – 125 mg p.o. – 100 mg p.o., then 5 mg every 3 days
- 24/10/10      GOT 44, GPT 183, GGT 260, Bili 2.4
- 04/01/11      GOT 27, GPT 36, GGT 44 (Urbason [*Medrone*] at  
55 mg/day)

→ Normal liver values after....weeks

- Quick action indicated in suspected autoimmune hepatitis according to present algorithms
- Clinical picture largely unknown by internists and hepatologists. Caveat: premature reduction of steroid dose or insufficiently high steroid dose a frequent problem at the beginning
- Essential that patient transferred to ward familiar with management of side effects
- Close consultation with BMS monitors (in our case: daily follow-up, very good care from BMS re therapy)



# Immune-mediated endocrinopathies



## irEndocrinopathies (~8%)

- Hypophysitis
- Adrenal gland failure (including adrenal crisis)
- Hypopituitarism
- Hypo (or hyper)thyroidism





# irEndocrinopathies

Before initiating Ipi

FT3, FT4, TSH



## irEndocrinopathies (cont'd)

### Signs and symptoms

- Fever
- Hypoglycaemia
- Hyponatraemia
- Unusual bowel habits
- Hypotension
- Non specific symptoms which may resemble other causes such as brain mets or underlying disease

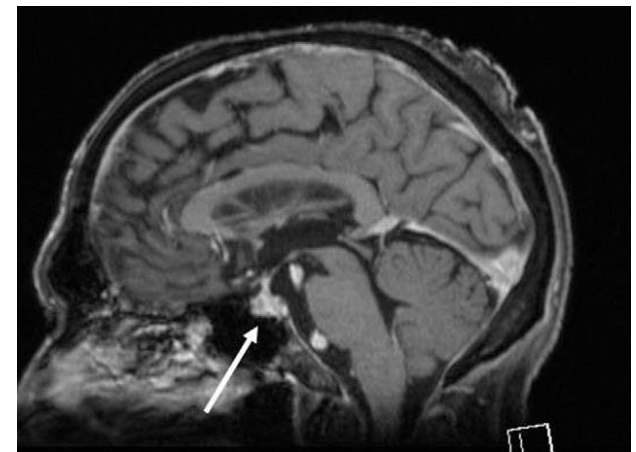


## irEndocrinopathies (cont'd)

Suspicion while on ipilimumab therapy

- FT3, FT4, TSH, anti-TPO
- Serum cortisol (morning)
- ACTH (corticotropin)
- Testosterone (men)
- FSH, LH (women)

Skull – MRI/cross-sections of pituitary



# irEndocrinopathy

## Determine endocrinopathy severity scale

- Moderate to life-threatening
- Signs of adrenal failure, not however adrenal crisis
  - Each sign of an adrenal crisis, e.g. severe dehydration, hypotension or shock

Pituitary imaging or laboratory tests of endocrine functioning shows up abnormalities

## Management

Discontinue YERVOY

- Possibly further examinations (including laboratory tests and imaging)
- Evaluation of lab results to determine endocrine functioning can take place before corticosteroids therapy starts
- Administer IV corticosteroids with mineralocorticoid activity immediately
- Examine patient for sepsis and infections
- Start short treatment with high dose corticosteroid (e.g. Dexamethasone 4 mg/6hours or equivalent)
- Starts suitable hormone replacement therapy; long-term hormone replacement therapy possibly required

## Further procedure

Symptoms or abnormal laboratory findings are under control<sup>1</sup>

- Continue YERVOY treatment and start reducing the corticosteroid dose
- Continue reducing the dose over a period of at least 1 month

## Other immune-mediated adverse reactions <1% incidence, including ocular manifestations

- Nephritis
- Pneumonitis
- Meningitis
- Pericarditis
- Uveitis, iritis, conjunctivitis, blepharitis, epi-/scleritis
- Haemolytic anaemia
- Myocarditis
- Angiopathy
- Temporal arteritis
- Vasculitides
- Polymyalgia rheumatica
- Erythema multiforme
- Psoriasis
- Pancreatitis
- Arthritis

**The Price of Tumor Control: An Analysis of Rare Side Effects of Anti-CTLA-4 Therapy in Metastatic Melanoma from the Ipilimumab Network** Voskens et al. PLOS One 2013



# Management adverse reactions: summary

Mild<sup>2</sup>

- Treat systematically

Persistently mild or  
moderate<sup>2</sup>

- Treat with oral corticosteroids (prednisone 1 mg/kg BW or equivalent daily)
- Stop the next dose of YERVOY until the symptoms subside or return to the original condition

Symptoms worsen,  
are severe or  
life-threatening

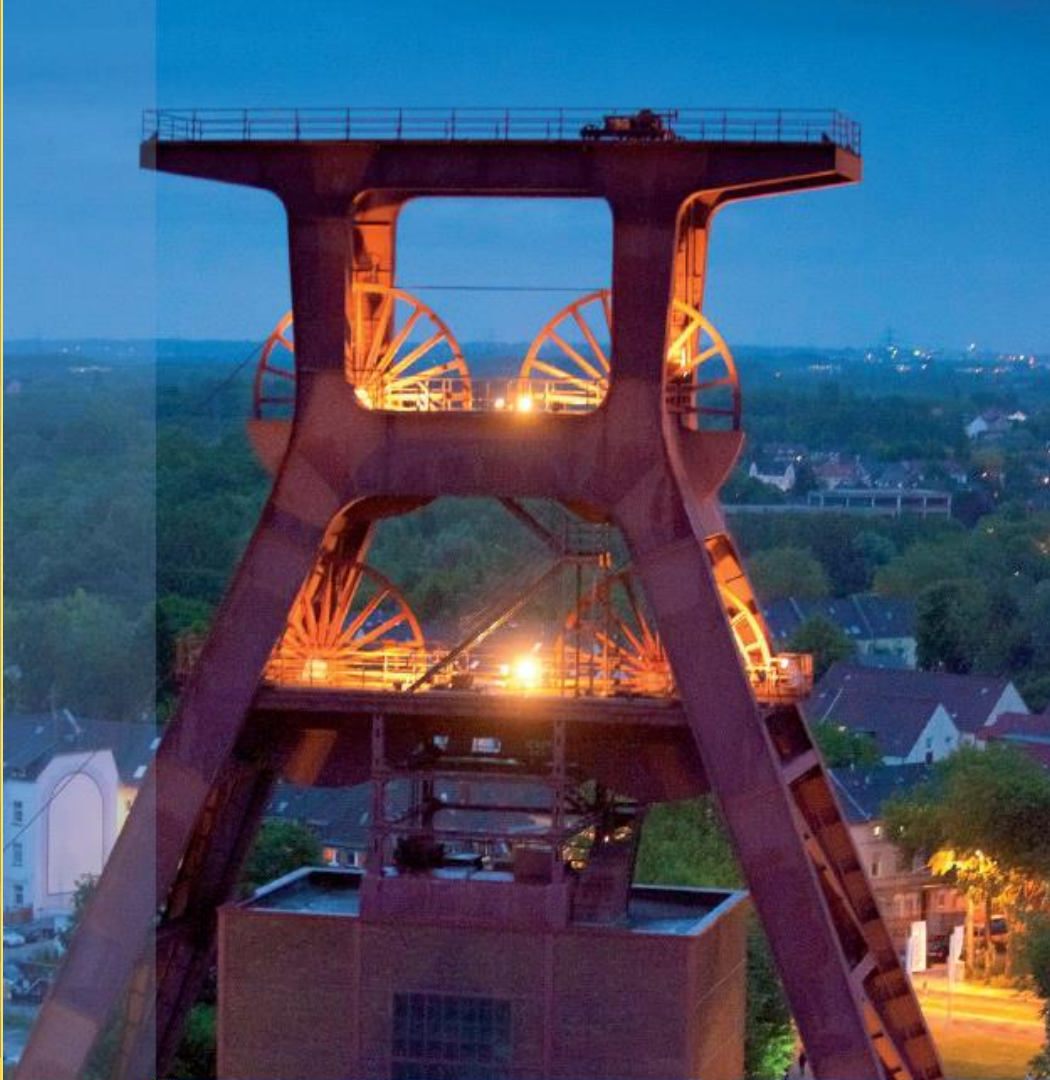
- Treat with high-dose IV corticosteroids (methylprednisolone 2 mg/kg BW or equivalent daily); when symptoms subside, consider gradually tapering the steroid dose over at least 4 weeks
- If the symptoms do not respond to treatment within 5–7 days, other immunosuppressive therapies should be considered
- Discontinue YERVOY permanently\*

\*With dermatological immune-mediated adverse reactions: scale 3: drop next dose of YERVOY; scale 4: rash or scale 3 pruritus: discontinue YERVOY permanently



## Discontinuation of therapy

- irDermatitis grade 4
- Severe or life-threatening (grade 3/4) irAE GI tract, neurological
- $\geq 3$  endocrinopathies + insufficient hormone replacement therapy
- GOT/GPT  $> 8 \times$  ULN, total bilirubin  $> 5 \times$  ULN
- irEye diseases  $\geq 2$  that do NOT respond to topical corticosteroid therapy
- Persistent moderate ARs (grade 2) or continuous prednisone dose of 7.5 mg/day



Thank you for your  
attention



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