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## Are Immunotherapy Toxicities A Concern in Hodgkin Lymphoma?

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# Disclosures

Rebecca Follenweider: No relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose

Kaitlin Kelly: No relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose

Gilda Grace Rivera: No relevant financial or nonfinancial relationships to disclose

# Abbreviations

- AE: adverse event
- BV: brentuximab vedotin
- cHL: classical Hodgkin lymphoma
- EOT: end of treatment
- Hx: history
- GCSF: granulocyte colony stimulating factor
- HL: Hodgkin lymphoma
- IPS: international prognostic score
- IrAE: immune related adverse event
- Nivo: nivolumab
- ORR: overall response rate
- Pembro: pembrolizumab
- PN: peripheral neuropathy
- r/r: relapsed/refractory
- RT: radiation therapy
- TSH: thyroid stimulating hormone

# Objectives

- Describe treatment updates to frontline advanced-stage Hodgkin lymphoma
- Employ strategies for management of toxicities associated with checkpoint inhibitors and antibody-drug conjugates
- Apply toxicity treatment in patient case scenarios

# Hodgkin Lymphoma

cHL is considered a highly curable cancer

- 5-year relative survival
  - Overall: 88.9%
  - Early Stage: 91.8-95%
  - Advanced Stage: 80.5-86.7%

# Treatment History of Hodgkin Lymphoma

Goal to maximize efficacy while reducing toxicity

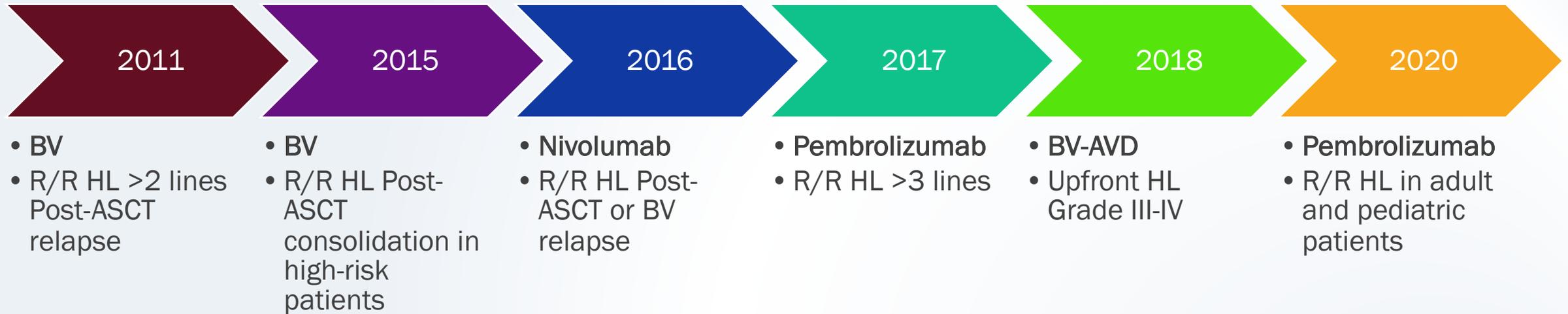
## Early Stage

- Treatment: ABVD x 2-4 cycles +/- radiation

## Advanced Stage

- Treatment: ABVD x 2 → AVD x 4 vs. BEACOPP

# Timeline History of FDA Approvals in cHL

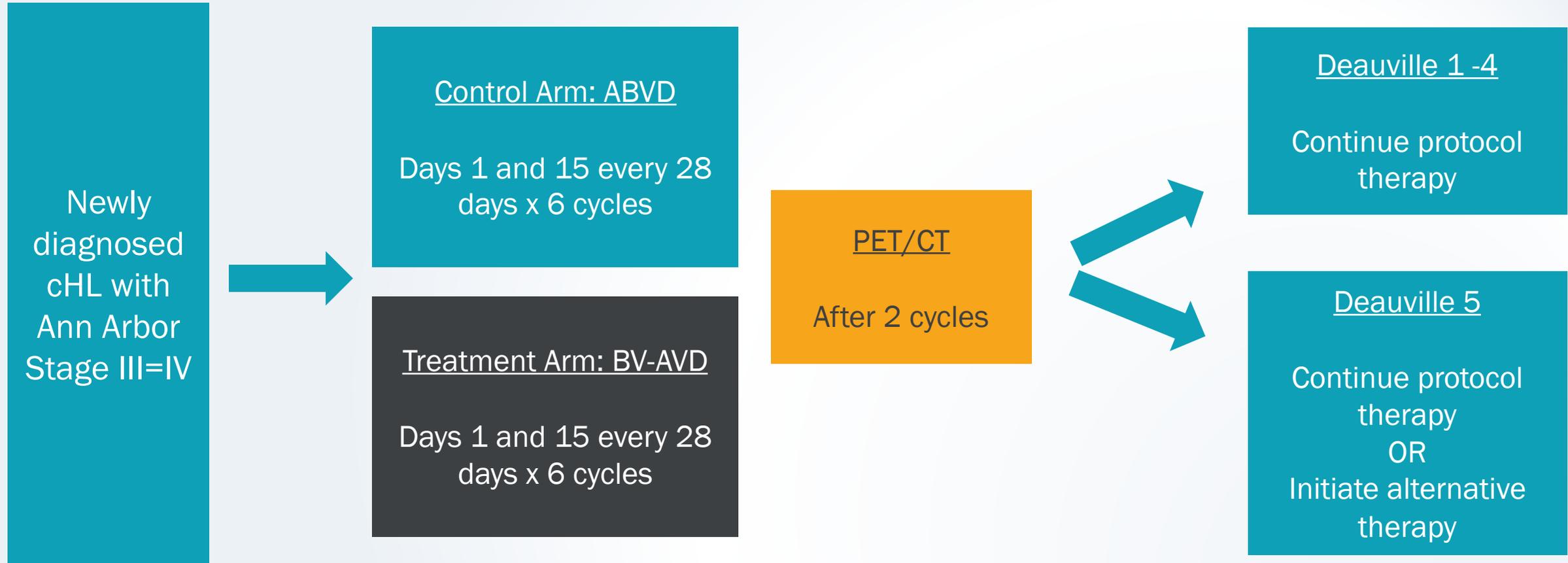


# Antibody Drug Conjugate

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Brentuximab Vedotin

# ECHELON-1 Study Design



# ECHELON-1 Safety

Events	BV-AVD (n=662)	ABVD (n=659)
Grade 3 or higher adverse event	549 (83)	434 (66)
Adverse event resulting in discontinuation	88 (13)	105 (16)
Neutropenia		
- Any Grade	383 (58)	295 (45)
- Grade 3 or higher	357 (54)	260 (39)
Febrile neutropenia during treatment	9/83 (19)	49/616 (8)
Peripheral Neuropathy		
- Any Grade	189 (29)	111 (17)
- Grade 3 or higher	31 (5)	3 (<1)
Hospitalizations	242 (37)	186 (28)
Pulmonary Toxicity	12 (2)	44 (7)

# Brentuximab Vedotin in R/R cHL

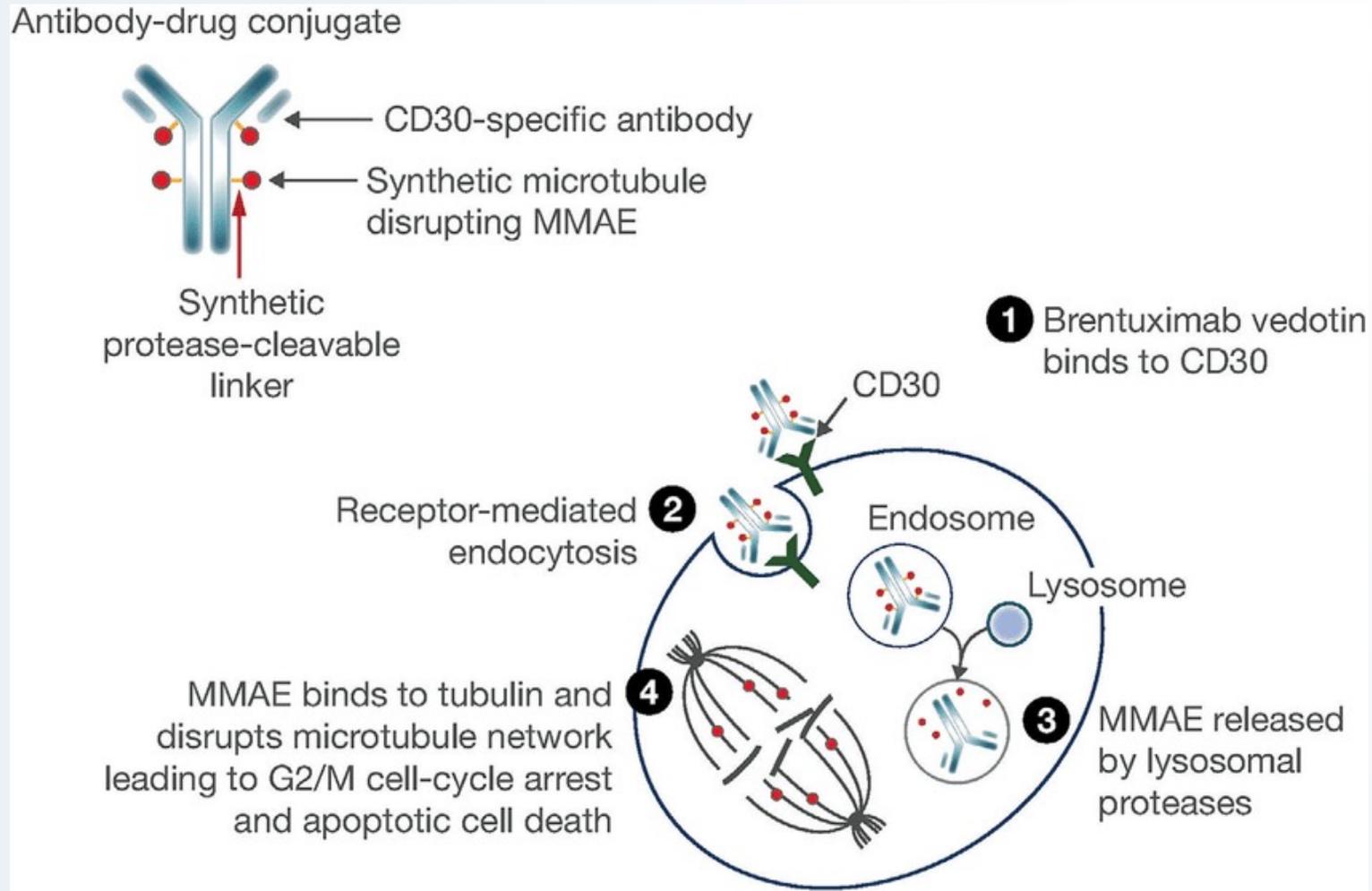
## BV-ICE

- Treatment toxicity due to BV instead of ICE
  - Peripheral neuropathy: 16/45 patients (36%)
    - Grade 2 or higher: 3 patients (7%)
  - Grade 3-4 Elevated transaminases
    - ALT: 5 patients (11%)
    - AST: 2 (4%)

## BV-Nivolumab

- Common Adverse Events
  - Nausea: 47 patients (52%)
  - Infusion related reactions: 39 patients (43%)
  - Fatigue: 36 patients (40%)
- Peripheral neuropathy: 16 patients (18%)
  - Grade 3: 1 patient
- Neutropenia
  - Grade 3: 4 patients
  - Grade 4: 1 patient
- Thrombocytopenia
  - Grade 3: 1 patient
  - Grade 4: 1 patient

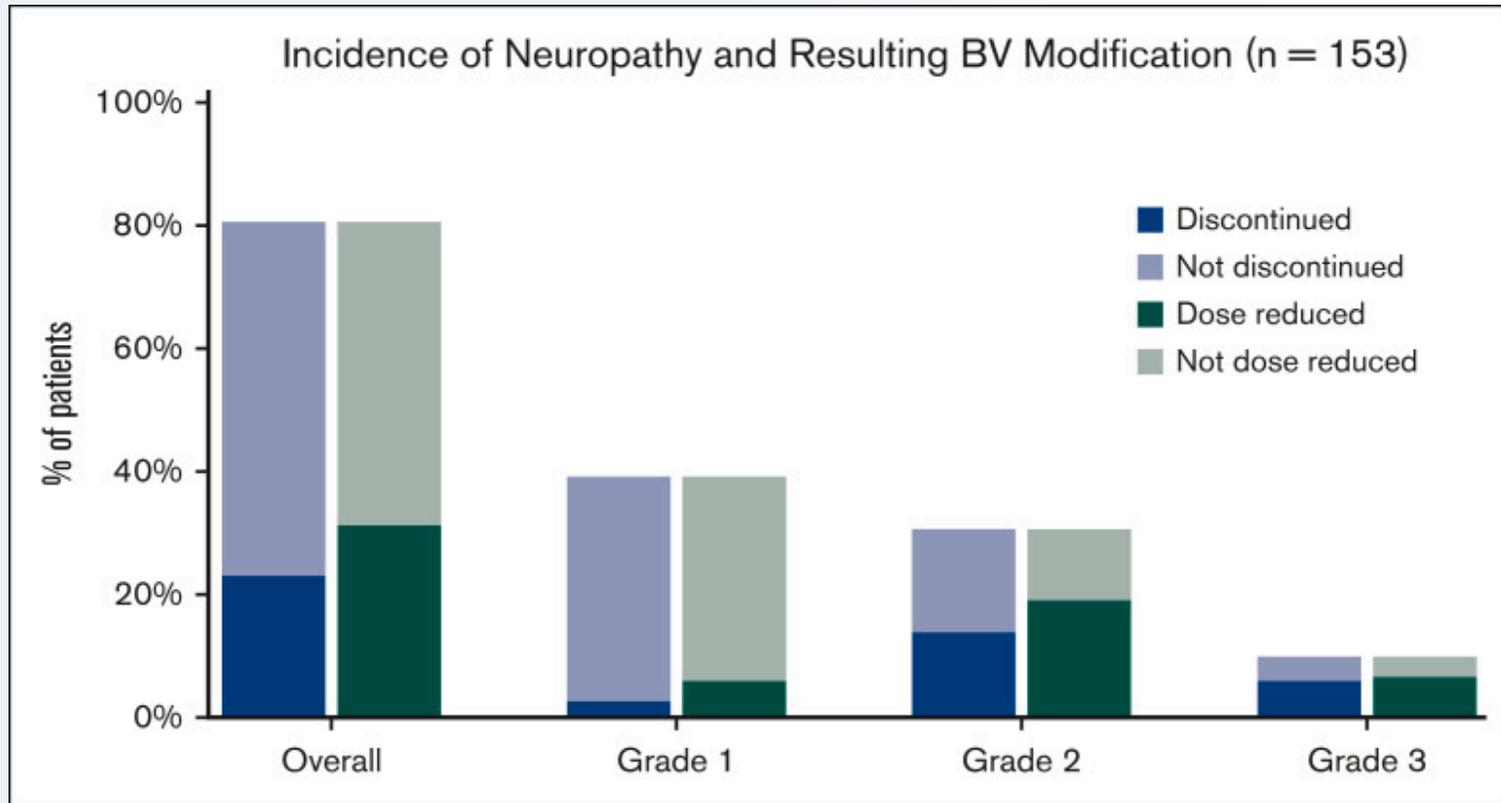
# Brentuximab Vedotin Mechanism of Action



# Peripheral Neuropathy with Brentuximab Vedotin

Recommended Initial Dose	Monotherapy or Combination	Severity	Modification
1.2 mg/kg up to max of 120 mg every 2 weeks	In combination with chemotherapy	Grade 2	Reduce to 0.9 mg/kg up to a maximum of 90 mg every 2 weeks
		Grade 3	Hold BV dosing until improvement to Grade 2 or lower Restart at 0.9 mg/kg up to a maximum of 90 mg every 2 weeks Consider modifying the dose of other neurotoxic chemotherapy agents
1.8 mg/kg up to a maximum of 180 mg every 3 weeks	As monotherapy	New or worsening Grade 2 or 3	Hold dosing until improvement to baseline or Grade 1 Restart at 1.2 mg/kg up to a maximum of 120 mg every 3 weeks
	In combination with chemotherapy	Grade 2	Sensory: Continue treatment at same dose Motor: 1.2 mg/kg up to max of 120 mg every 2 weeks
		Grade 3	Sensory: 1.2 mg/kg up to max of 120 mg every 2 weeks Motor: Discontinue

# Incidence and Management of Peripheral Neuropathy with BV-AVD



Characteristic	Overall (n=153)
Any Neuropathy	123 (80%)
<u>Distribution</u>	
- Sensory only	84 (55%)
- Motor only	1 (1%)
- Mixed sensory and motor	29 (19%)
- Unknown	9 (6%)
Median time to onset, mo (range)	2 (0.23-13)

# Incidence and Management of Peripheral Neuropathy with BV-AVD

Medication or therapy	Patients with neuropathy (n=123)
Gabapentin	53 (43%)
Duloxetine or other SNRI	12 (10%)
Vitamin B complex	12 (10%)
Pregabalin	8 (7%)
Exercise therapy	5 (4%)
Alpha lipoic acid	4 (3%)
Acupuncture	5 (4%)
Amitriptyline or other TCA	3 (2%)
Other	7 (6%)
None	48 (39%)

- Median follow up time: 24 months
- Resolved neuropathy: 41 patients (35%)
- Improved by 1 grade: 44 patients (38%)
- Complete resolution more common in less severe toxicity
- Unchanged neuropathy: 31 patients (27%)
- Persistent neuropathy: 75 patients (65%)

*\*Patients may have been prescribed more than 1 medication above*

# Neutropenia with Brentuximab Vedotin

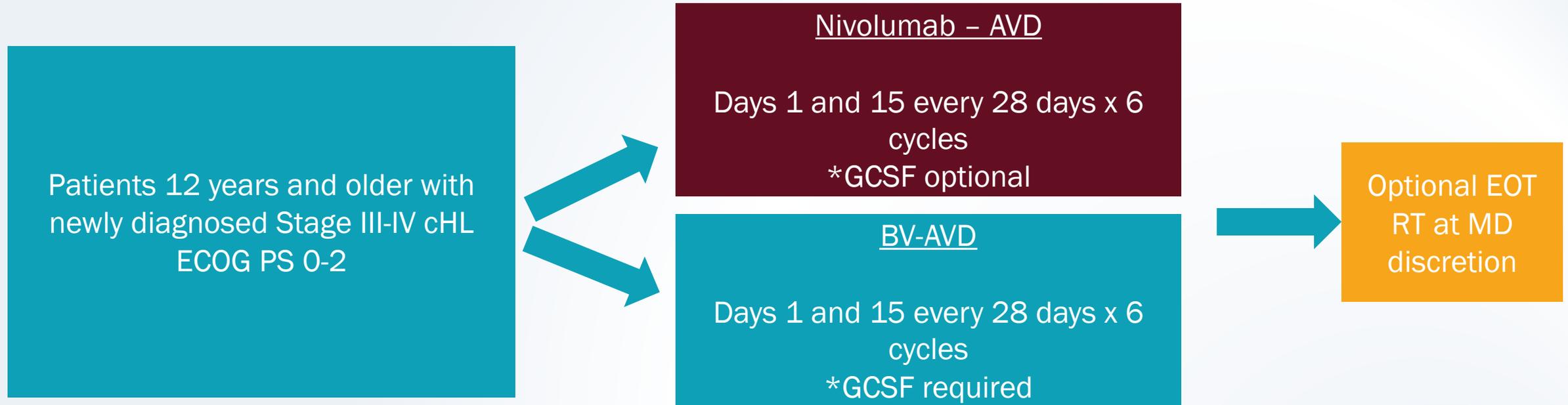
Recommended Initial Dose	Monotherapy or Combination	Severity	Modification
1.2 mg/kg up to max of 120 mg every 2 weeks	In combination with chemotherapy	Grade 3 or 4	Administer GCSF prophylaxis for subsequent cycles for patients not receiving primary GCSF prophylaxis
			<p>Hold BV dosing until improvement to Grade 2 or lower</p> <p>Restart at 0.9 mg/kg up to a maximum of 90 mg every 2 weeks</p> <p>Consider modifying the dose of other neurotoxic chemotherapy agents</p>
1.8 mg/kg up to a maximum of 180 mg every 3 weeks	As monotherapy	Grade 2 or 3	<p>Hold dosing until improvement to baseline or Grade or lower</p> <p>Consider GCSF prophylaxis for subsequent cycles</p>
		Grade 4 despite GCSF prophylaxis	Consider discontinuation of dose reduction to 1.2 mg/kg up to a maximum of 120 mg every 3 weeks

# Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

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Nivolumab, Pembrolizumab

# SWOG S1826: Study Design



# SWOG S1826 Safety

	Nivo-AVD (n=483)		BV-AVD (n=473)	
	Discontinued Nivolumab 53 (11%)		Discontinued BV 109 (22%)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 +	Any Grade	Grade 3 +
<u>Infections</u>				
• Febrile Neutropenia	26 (5%)	-	32 (7%)	-
• Infections	22 (5%)	-	36 (8%)	-
• Received GCSF	265 (54%)	-	463 (95%)	-
<u>Immune Related</u>				
• Increased ALT	156 (32%)	22 (5%)	194 (41%)	22 (5%)
• Increased AST	120 (25%)	12 (2%)	153 (32%)	13 (3%)
• Rash	51 (11%)	4 (1%)	58 (12%)	0
• Hypothyroidism	33 (7%)	1 (0%)	3 (1%)	0
<u>Peripheral Neuropathy</u>				
• Sensory	138 (29%)	6 (1%)	262 (55%)	37 (8%)
• Motor	20 (4%)	1 (0%)	35 (7%)	6 (1%)
<u>Hematologic</u>				
• Neutropenia	268 (55%)	227 (47%)	152 (32%)	118 (25%)
• Anemia	185 (38%)	29 (6%)	207 (44%)	42 (9%)
• Thrombocytopenia	48 (10%)	8 (2%)	82 (17%)	15 (3%)

# Checkpoint Inhibitors in R/R cHL

## Pembrolizumab-GVD

N=45

- Rash (49%)
- Elevated AST/ALT (41%)
- Hyperthyroidism: (13%)
- Fatigue (31%)
- Diarrhea (18%)
- Nausea (36%)

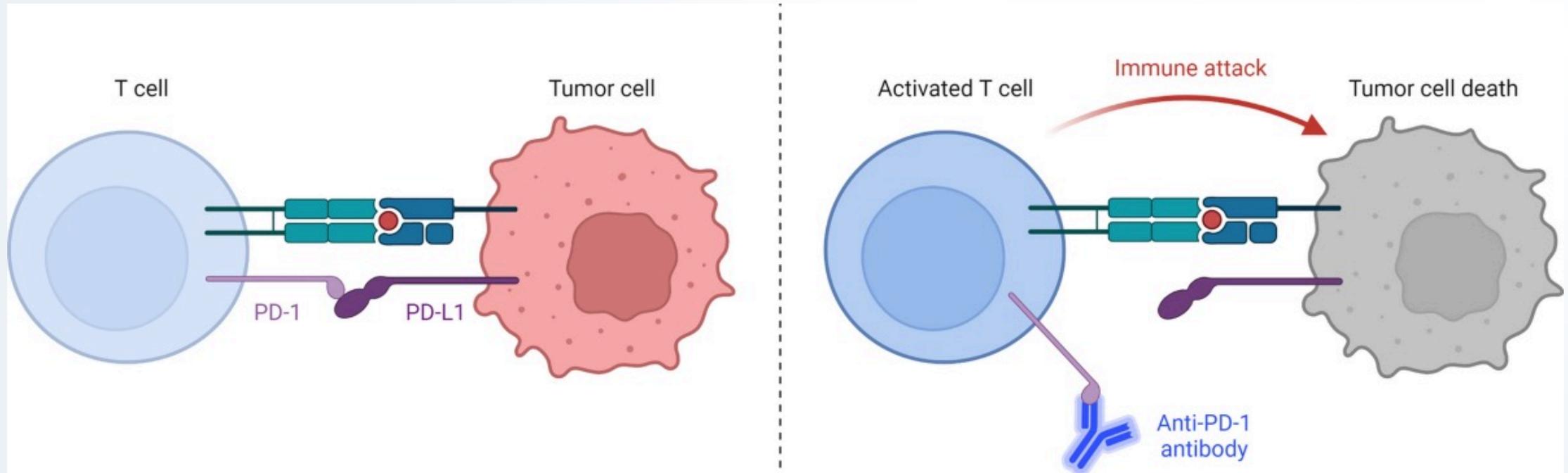
## Nivolumab-ICE

N=43

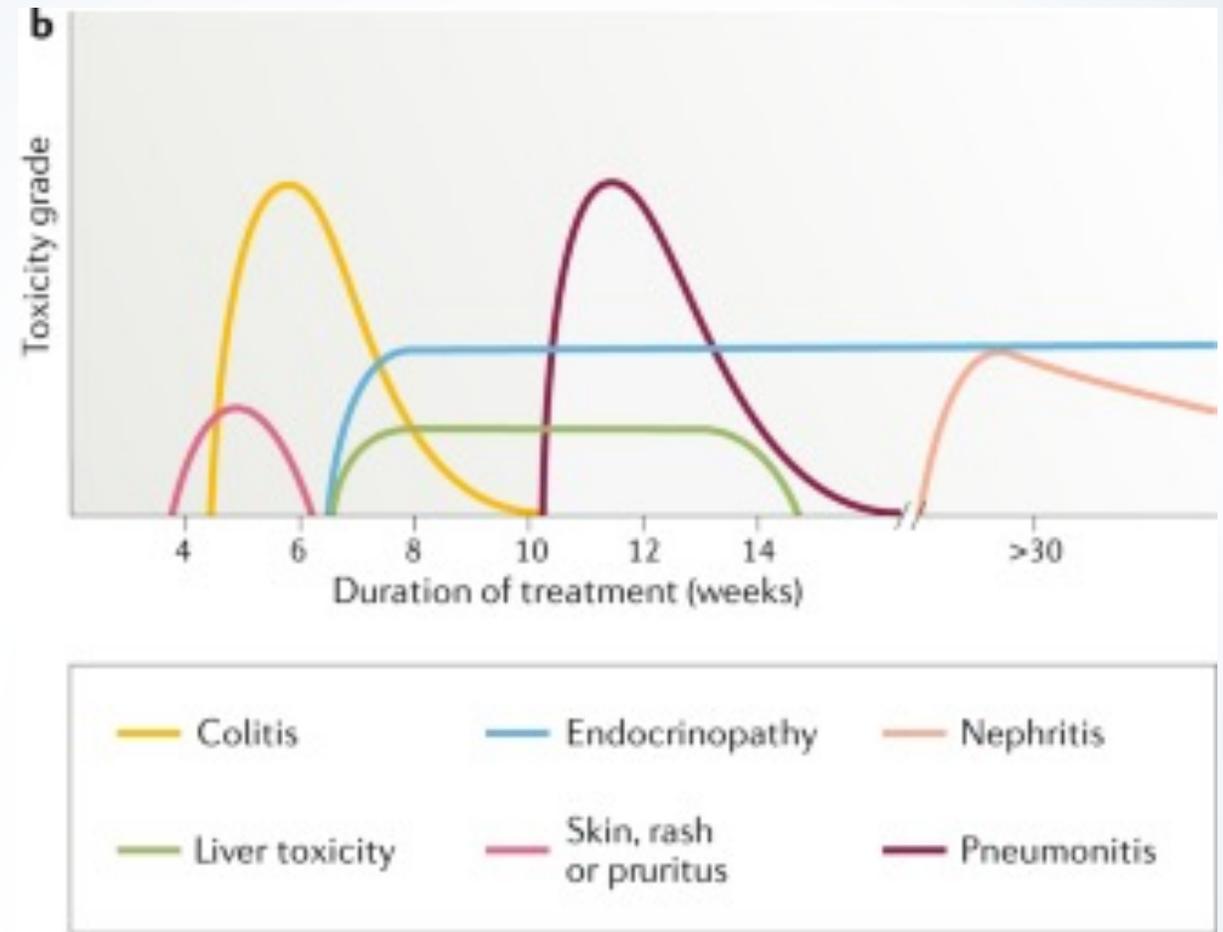
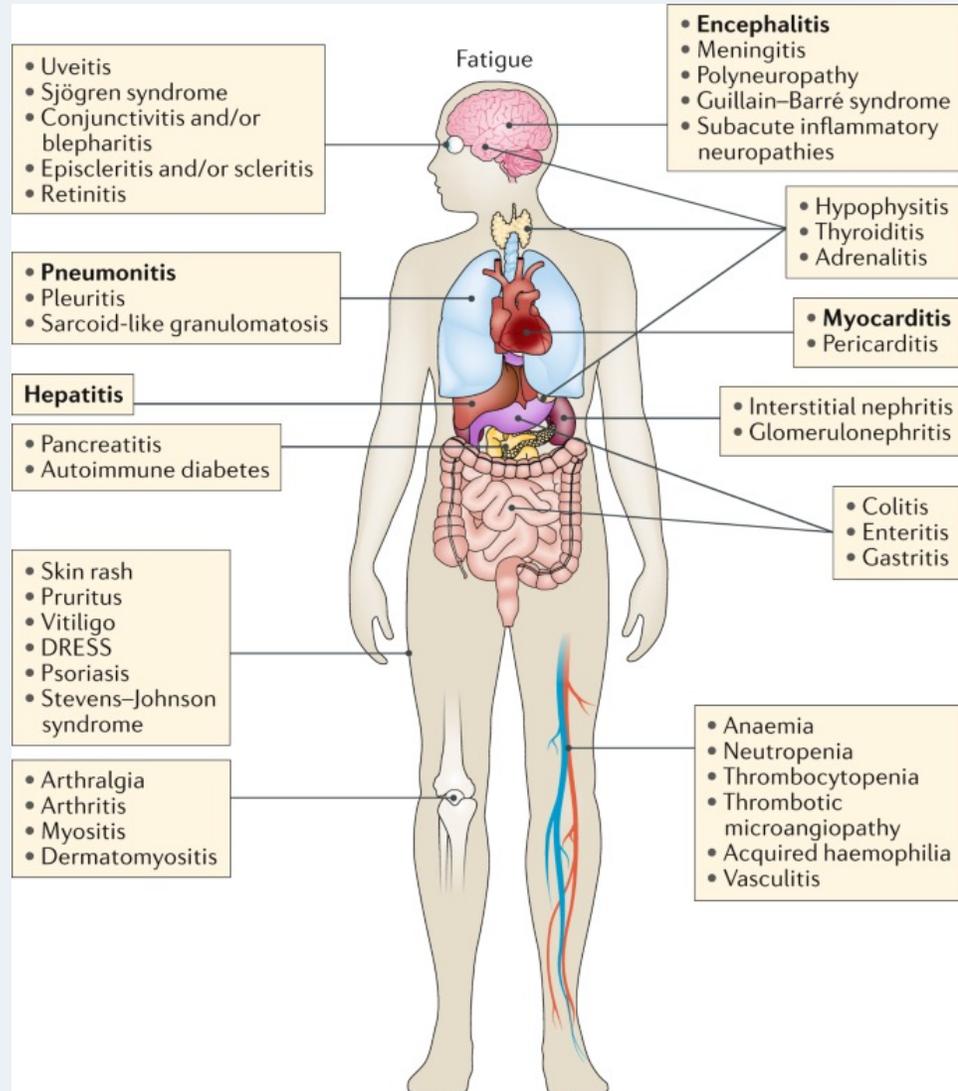
- Monotherapy Nivo (Grade 1-2)
  - Fatigue (33%)
  - Maculopapular rash (19%)
  - Arthralgia (16%)
- NICE (Grade 3+ toxicity)
  - Neutropenia: 2 patients
  - Hypophosphatemia: 2 patients
  - Febrile neutropenia: 1 patient
  - Colitis: 1 patient
- Immune Related AE
  - Maculopapular Rash: 8 patients
  - Thyroiditis: 3 patients
  - Acneiform rash: 2 patients
  - Grade 4 encephalitis: 1 patient
  - Grade 3 colitis: 1 patient

\*Other treatment regimens: Pembrolizumab, Nivolumab, Pembrolizumab-ICE

# Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Mechanism of Action



# PD-1 and PD-L1 Immune Related Adverse Effects (IrAE)



# Dermatologic Toxicity

## Maculopapular Rash

- Total body exam, assess for prior inflammatory dermatoses
- Consider biopsy if unusual features
- Eosinophil count, peripheral blood smear, and LFTs

Grade 1  
Mild

Grade 2  
Moderate

Grade 3  
Severe

- Continue immunotherapy
- Topical emollient and moderate potency steroids to areas
- Consider oral antihistamine with pruritus

- Continue immunotherapy
- Topical emollient and moderate to high potency steroids to affected areas
- Consider oral antihistamine with pruritus
- If unresponsive within 1 week consider oral prednisone 0.5 mg/kg/day
- Consider dermatology consult

- HOLD immunotherapy
- Treat with high potency topical steroids to affected areas
- Prednisone 0.5-1 mg/kg/day (increase to 2 mg/kg/day if no improvement)
- Urgent dermatology consultation, consider biopsy
- Consider inpatient care

# Topical Corticosteroid Potency Chart

Potency	Class	Generic (Brand)	Strength (%)
High	1	Betamethasone dipropionate	0.05
		Clobetasol propionate	0.05
		Halobetasol propionate	0.05
	2	Desoximetasone	0.05, 0.25
		Fluocinonide	0.05
Medium	3	Betamethasone valerate	0.1
		Triamcinolone acetate	0.1, 0.5
	4	Flurandrenolide	0.05
	5	Fluticasone propionate	0.05
Low	6	Desonide	0.05
	7	Hydrocortisone	0.5-2.5

# Hepatobiliary Toxicity

Therapy	All Grade (%)	Grade 3-4 (%)
Nivo-AVD	32	5
Pembro-GVD	41	10
BV + Nivolumab	1	1
Pembrolizumab Keynote-204	73	11
Nivolumab CHECKMATE 205 & CHECKMATE -039	64	6

- Majority of cases present asymptomatic elevation of AST, ALT, or total bilirubin
- Rule out other potential factors
  - Autoimmune hepatitis
  - New medications or supplements
  - Other chemotherapy in regimen

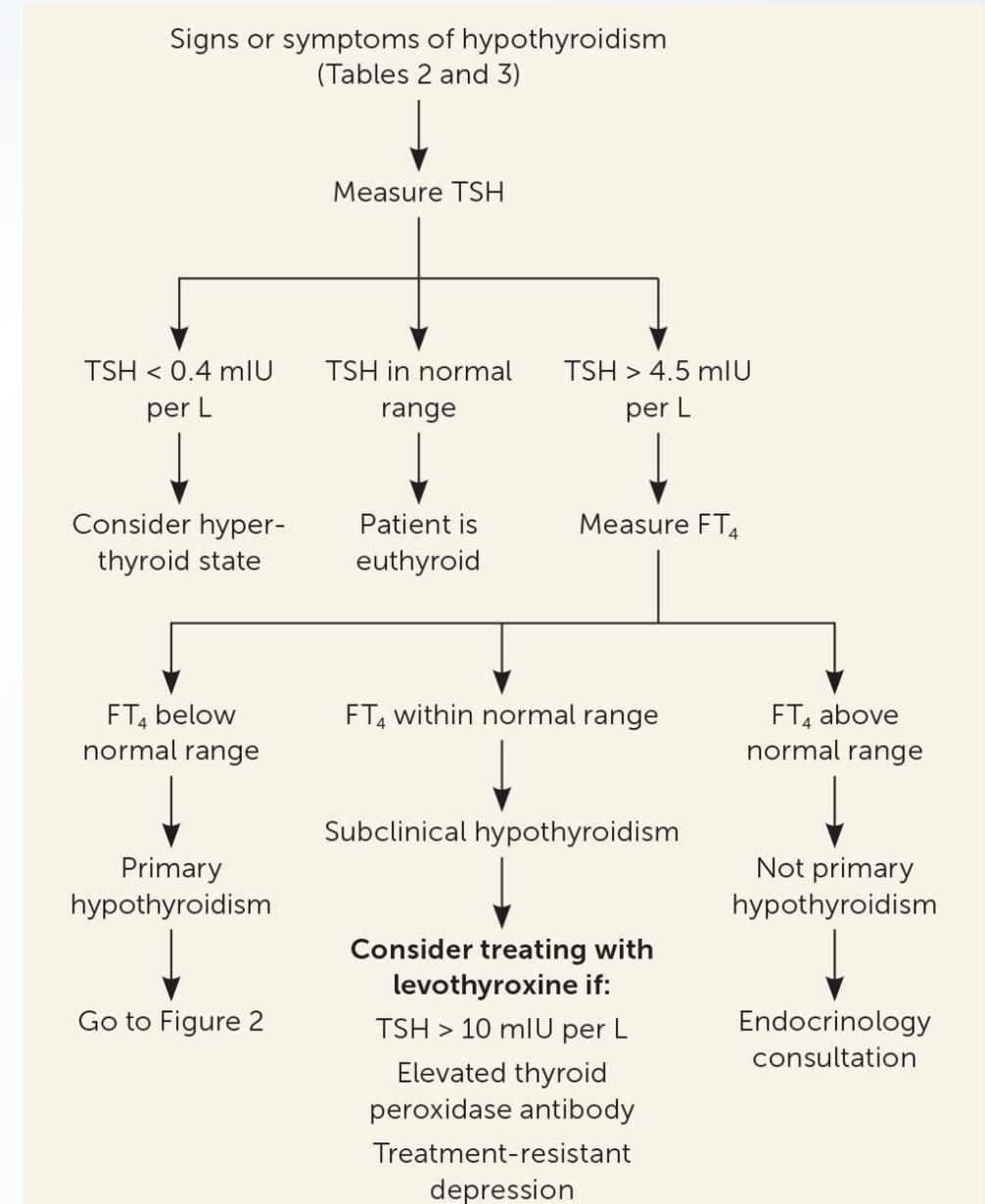
# Hypothyroidism

## Symptoms:

- Arthralgias
- Cognitive impairment
- **Cold intolerance**
- **Constipation**
- Depression
- Difficulty concentration
- **Dry skin**
- Edema
- **Fatigue**
- Hair thinning
- **Lethargy**
- **Voice changes**
- Weakness
- **Weight gain**

## Treatment

- Levothyroxine oral 1.2–1.4 mcg/kg/day
- For patients with advanced age, cardiac risk, or prolonged hypothyroidism, initiate at 0.8–1.0 mcg/kg/day.
- Take levothyroxine 30 minutes BEFORE breakfast or coffee or tea
- Decrease Absorption:
  - Calcium carbonate
  - Antacids, PPIs
  - Ferrous sulfate



# In Summary

- Antibody drug conjugates and immunotherapy have been incorporated into front-line and relapsed setting bringing unique adverse event profiles to traditional chemotherapy
  - Brentuximab vedotin: peripheral neuropathy and neutropenia
  - Nivolumab and pembrolizumab: immunotherapy related toxicities
    - Most common AEs: Hepatobiliary, hypothyroidism, and dermatologic

# Patient Cases

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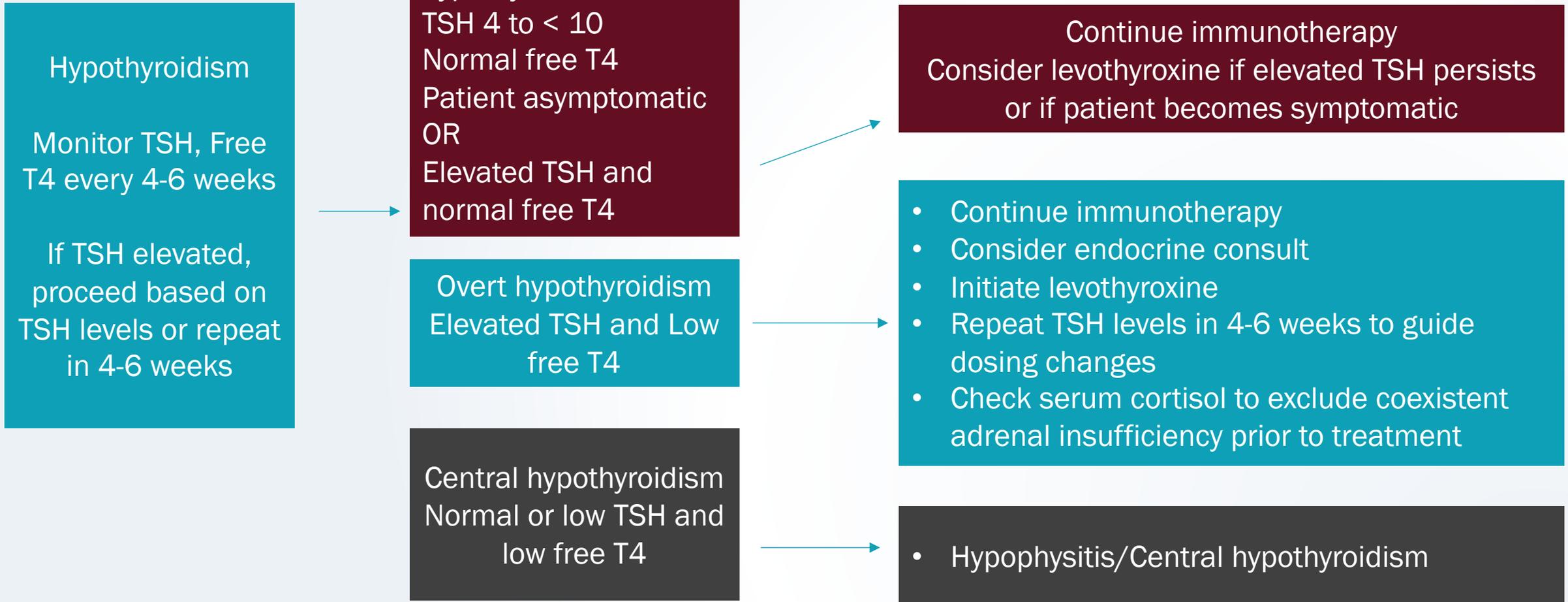
## Patient Case 1

ML is a 60-year-old female who was recently diagnosed with stage III cHL, mixed cellularity subtype, IPS 1. Nivolumab-AVD was initiated for treatment.

Today ML is here for Cycle 4, Day 1. You notice her energy is low but stable and she is overall asymptomatic.

Date	10/03	12/26	1/8
TSH	1.94	1.25	5.65

# Hypothyroidism



# Patient Case 1 continued

Patient weight: 83 kg

Date	10/03	12/26	1/8	1/23	1/30	2/6	2/14	2/20	2/27
TSH	1.94	1.25	5.65	27.3	22	5.97	10.5	17.9	1.99

↓  
Levothyroxine  
25 mcg/day

↓  
Levothyroxine  
100 mcg/day

↓  
Levothyroxine  
112 mcg/day

Initial levothyroxine: 1.2–1.4 mcg/kg/day  
Repeat TSH every 4-6 weeks  
Peak therapeutic effect: 4-6 weeks

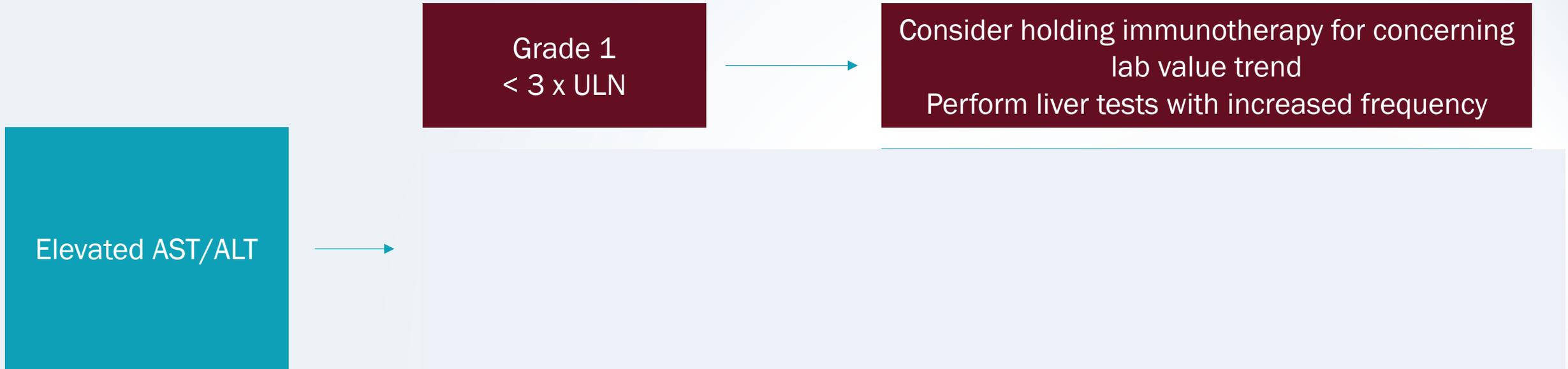
## Patient Case 2

ML is a 60-year-old female recently diagnosed with stage III cHL, mixed cellularity subtype, IPS 1. Nivolumab-AVD was initiated for treatment.

ML is in clinic for Cycle 4, Day 1 treatment. Labs are finalized and you come across this. What do you recommend?

Date	ALT	AST	T Bili
11/14	23	20	0.2
11/28	48	28	0.2
12/12	53	38	<0.1
12/26	65	44	0.3

# Hepatobiliary Toxicity



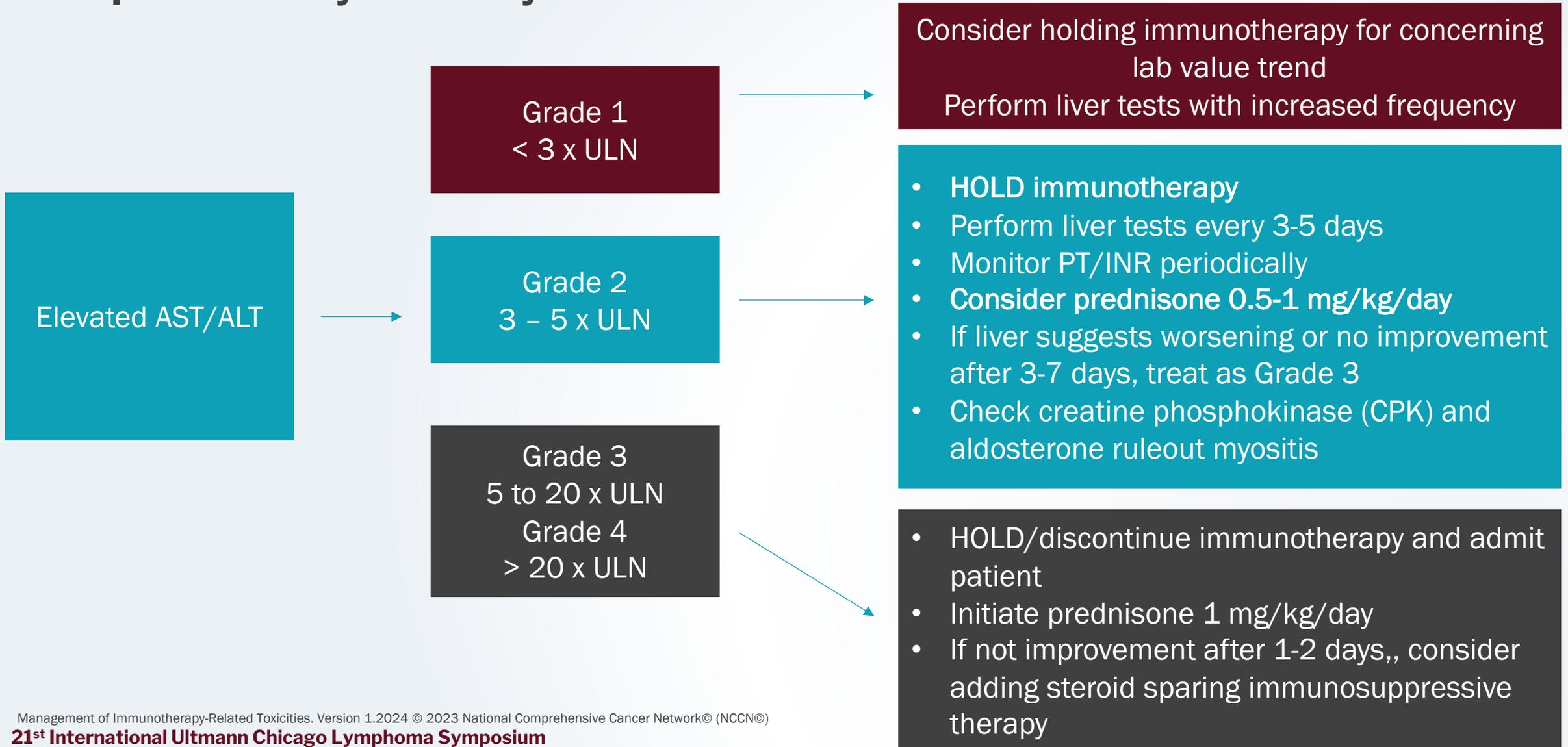
## Patient Case 2 continued

ML is a 60-year-old female recently diagnosed with stage III cHL, mixed cellularity subtype, IPS 1. Nivolumab-AVD was initiated for treatment.

ML is in clinic for Cycle 5, Day 1 treatment. Labs are finalized and you come across this. What do you recommend?

Date	ALT	AST	T Bili
12/12	53	38	<0.1
12/26	65	44	0.3
1/8	51	39	0.2
1/24	123	97	0.3

# Hepatobiliary Toxicity



# Patient Case 2 continued

Prednisone Dose	AST	ALT
80 mg (1 mg/kg/day) x 1 week	97	123 170
60 mg x 1 week (25% decrease)	39	90
40 mg x 2 weeks	33 39	87 72
20 mg x 2 weeks	30 47	67 86
40 mg x 1 week	47	102
30 mg x 1 week	34	82
20 mg x 1 week > 10 mg x 1 week etc...	28	58

## Oral Steroid Taper Guidance

- Start taper once symptoms are Grade 1 or baseline
- Steroid taper over 4-6 weeks
- Reduce steroid dose by 10 mg every 3 to 7 days (as toxicity allows) until dose is 10 mg/day
- Then reduce by 5 mg every 5 days and then stop

Remember PJP prophylaxis and if needed, PPI for stress ulcer prophylaxis!

## Patient Case 3

JG is a 59-year-old male with history of splenomegaly and newly diagnosed Stage IV, IPS score 6 cHL. BV-AVD was the treatment initiated.

JG presents to clinic for C6D1 with worsening neuropathy reporting numbness in the soles of feet affecting gait and numbness/tingling in hands impairing function. Patient states he is not experiencing pain.

*What do you recommend?*

## Patient Case 3 continued

Recommended Initial Dose	Monotherapy or Combination	Severity	Modification
1.2 mg/kg up to max of 120 mg every 2 weeks	In combination with chemotherapy	Grade 2	Reduce to 0.9 mg/kg up to a maximum of 90 mg every 2 weeks

The question lies to start treatment or not for this patient

- Is the patient experiencing pain?
- Is the neuropathy affecting the patient's daily activities?
- Are there drug-drug interactions with the chemotherapy or other medications?

# Questions?

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