



IMMUNOMEDIATED TOXICITY ASSOCIATED WITH IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) therapy can cause toxicities known as immune-related adverse events (irAEs), which are similar to autoimmune diseases because they arise from the immune system attacking healthy tissues.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To describe and analyze the incidence of irAEs in patients receiving treatment with ICIs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

A **retrospective, descriptive** and **observational study** was performed in cancer patients with ICIs (nivolumab, pembrolizumab, ipilimumab, cemiplimab, durvalumab, atezolizumab, and avelumab).
Inclusion criteria: Patients who had received at least 2 cycles with an ICI (February 2024 – 2025)
Variables: age, sex, treatment discontinuation and reason, irAEs experienced, severity, and management (treatment delay or discontinuation).

RESULTS



72 patients
65.3% men
67 (37- 88) years



irAEs: **47.2% patients**
Grade-2 irAEs: **61.2% (31.9% patients)**
Grade-3 irAEs: **9.3% (5.5% patients)**
No grade 4/5 irAEs reported



Admission inpatient unit: **3.8% irAE**
Treatment delay: **9.6% irAE**
Discontinuation: **17.3% irAE**

Table 1: ICI and % patients with an irAE

ICI	irAE (% Patients)
Atezolizumab	40
Nivolumab	55.5
Pembrolizumab	47.1
Durvalumab	50
Cemiplimab	25
Avelumab	66.7
Ipilimumab + Nivolumab	60

Table 2: irAEs experienced

irAEs	% Patients	Comments
Elevated liver enzymes	13.9	1 hepatitis
Hyperglycemia	20.8	5 diabetes
Altered thyroid profile	20.8	
Hypothyroidism	12.5	
Hyperthyroidism	12.5	
Immune-mediated skin reaction	13.9	
Colitis	5.5	4 Stop treatment
Grade 2 renal toxicity	2.8	1 Stop treatment
Arthritis	4.2	1 Stop treatment
Myositis	2.8	
Others: pancreatitis, grade-2 ocular xerosis, peripheral polyneuropathy, grade-2 adrenal insufficiency, hypoparathyroidism, gastritis	1.4	

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- Our experience reveals a new spectrum of toxicities associated with ICIs that are different from those of conventional chemotherapy.
- Toxicity is not the main reason for discontinuation. IrAEs complexity requires numerous specialists to detect and manage them correctly.