

# **CARCINOMA MAMMARIO: QUALI NOVITA' PER IL 2024?**

“Saper leggere” uno studio clinico  
per migliorare la pratica clinica



## **Gestione della tossicità da immunoterapia**

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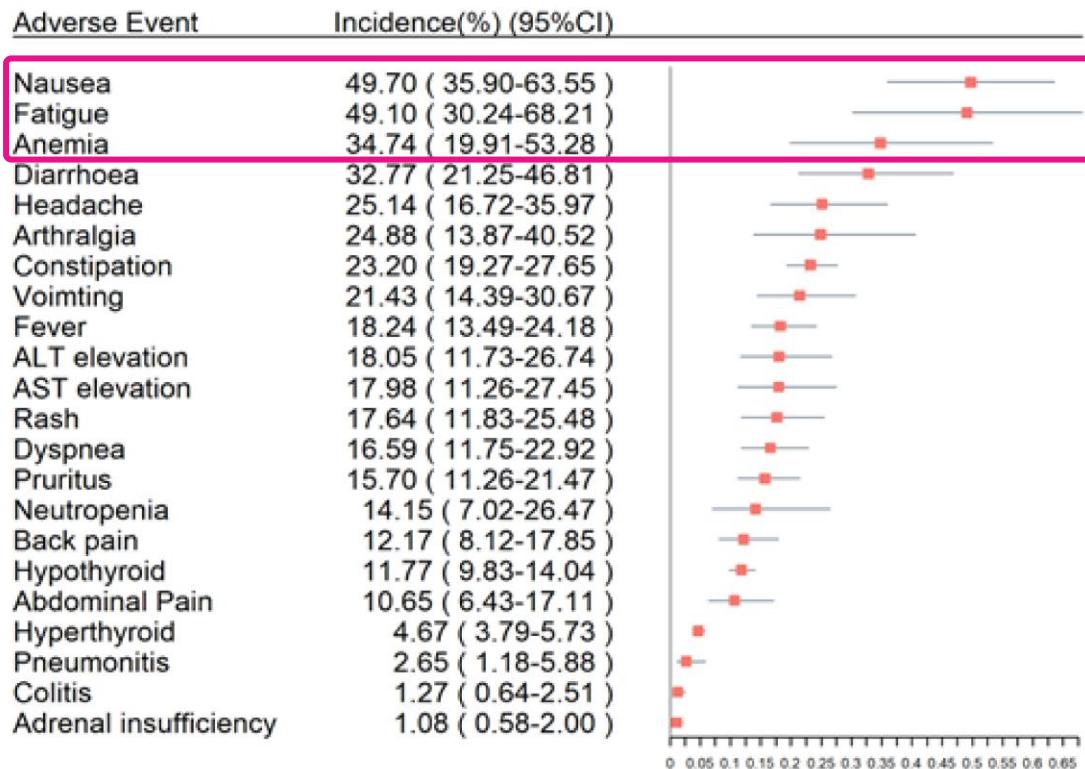
Oncologia Medica  
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Negrar di Valpolicella (VR)

# Disclosures

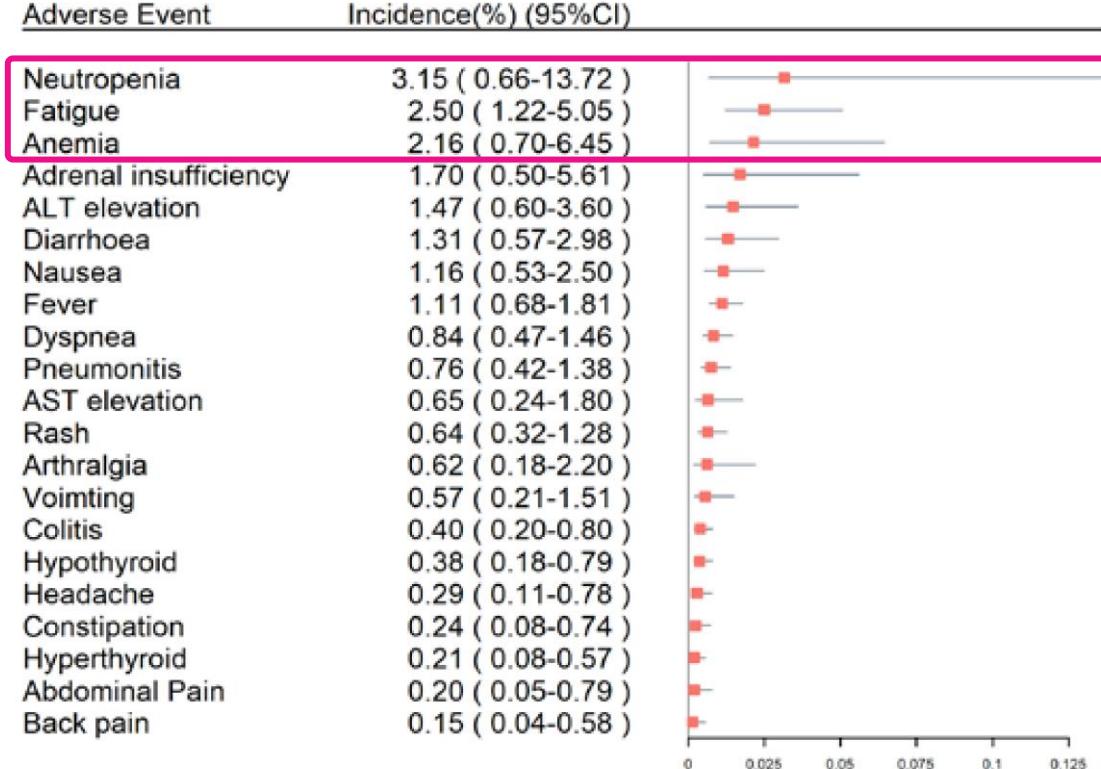
- Consulting activity: MSD, AstraZeneca
- Speakers' bureau activity: AstraZeneca, Novartis, Amgen, MSD, Roche
- Medical writing grant: Merck
- Travel support: Sanofi

# Tossicità IO/CTx nel carcinoma mammario

## Grade 1-2 AEs

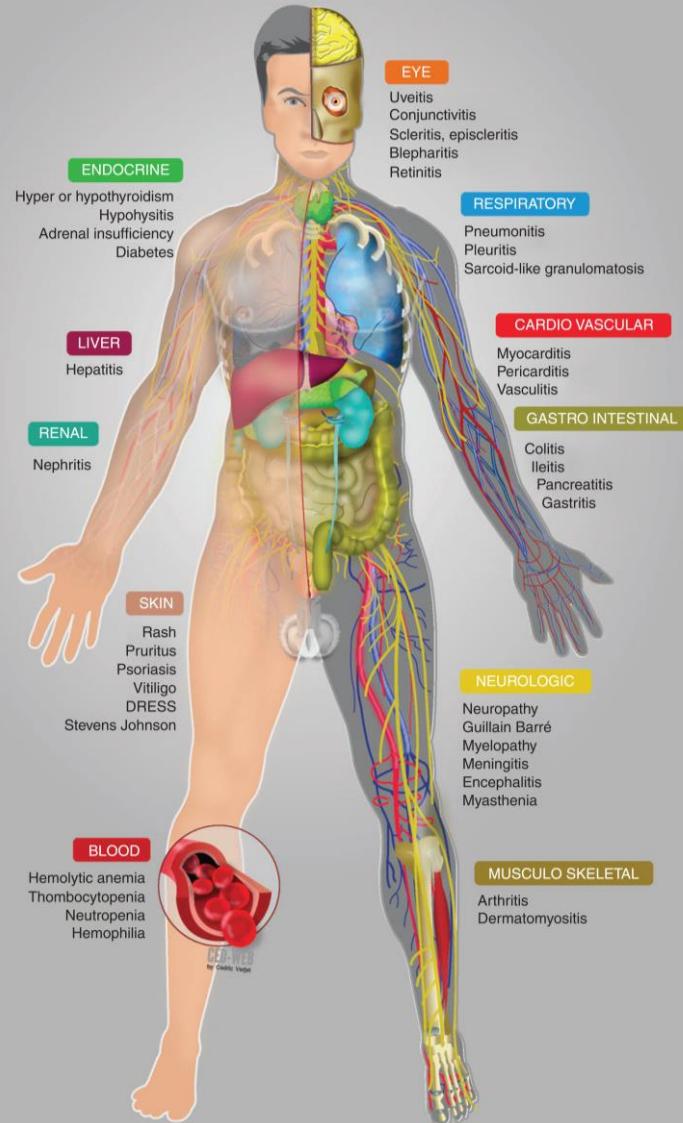


## Grade ≥ 3 AEs



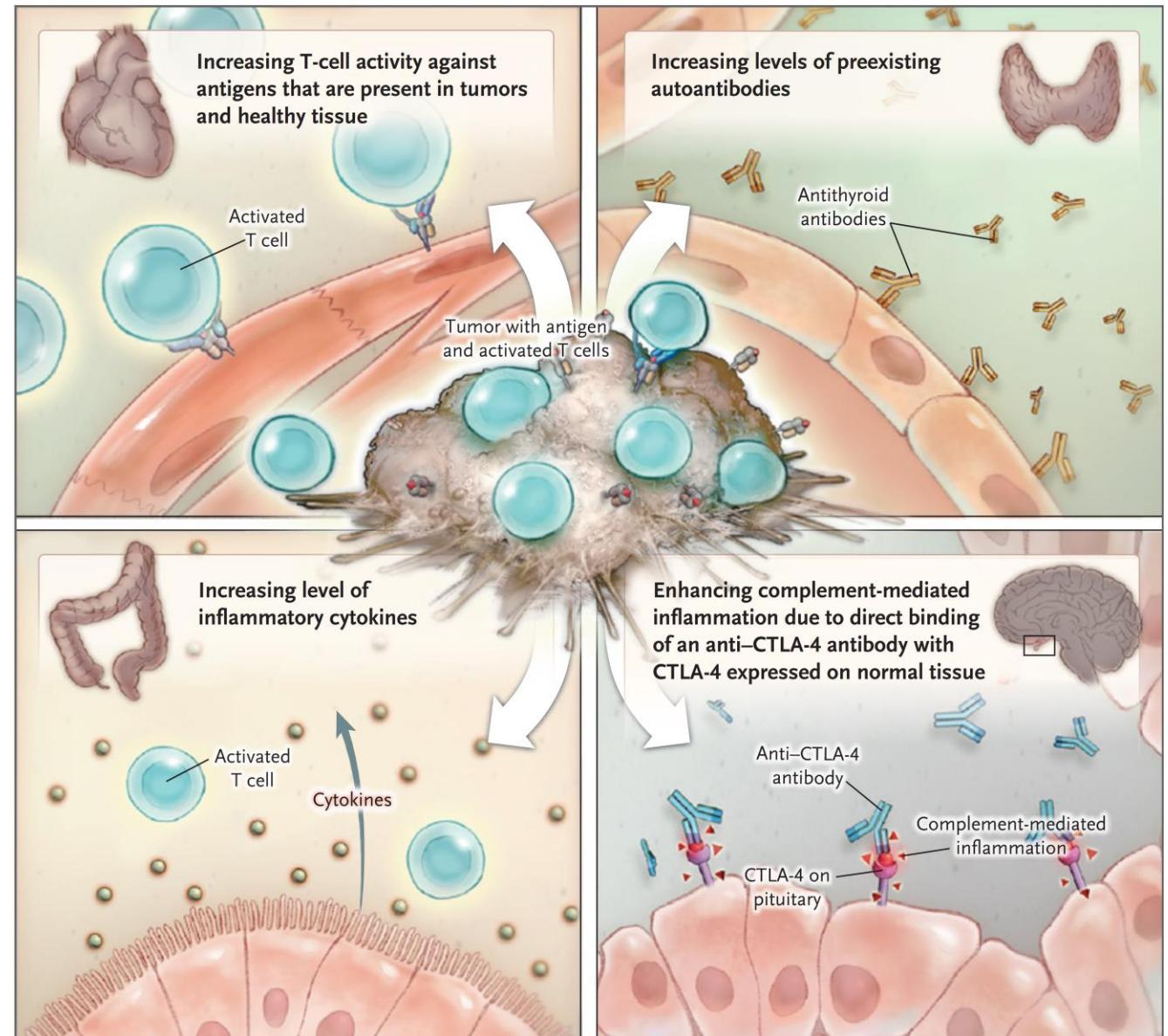
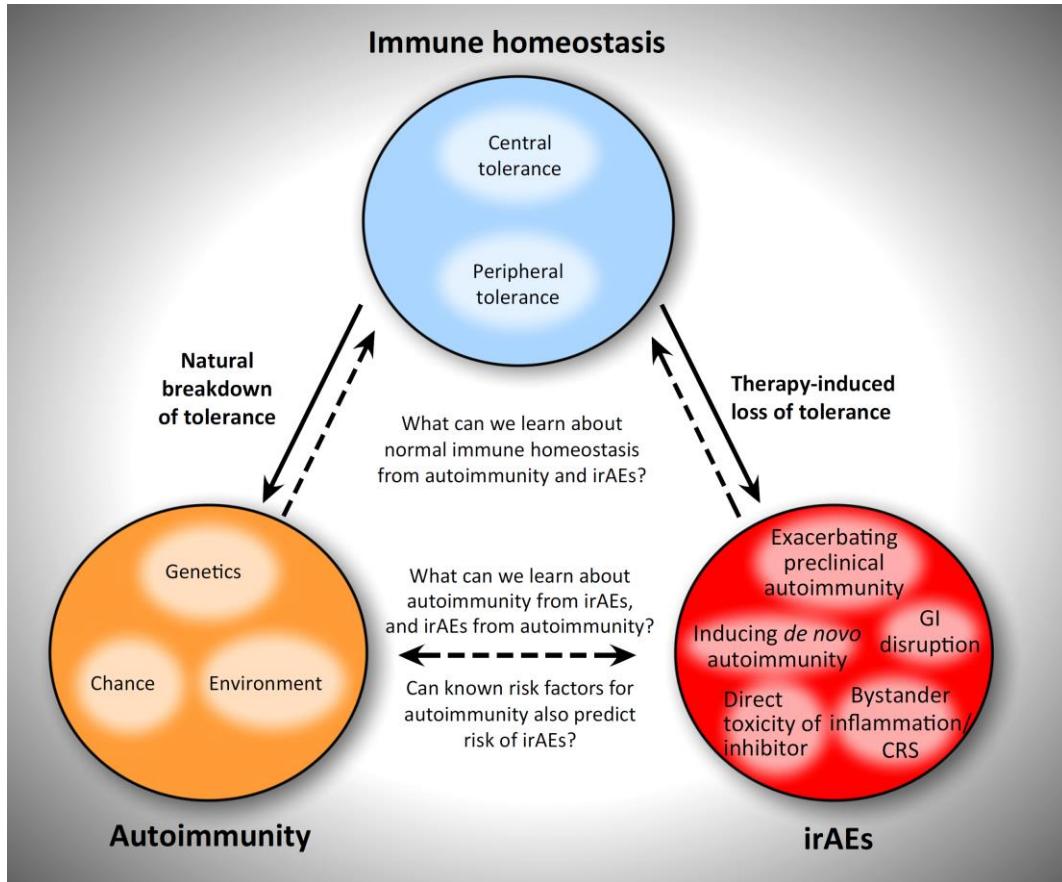
In una meta-analisi di 9 studi con anti-PD(L)1 (n=1) e combinazioni di anti-PD(L)1 e chemioterapia (n=8)  
in 2941 pazienti con carcinoma mammario triplo-negativo  
la **tossicità più frequente** è stata quella correlata alla **chemioterapia**

# Eventi avversi immuno-correlati (irAEs)



**Gli irAEs  
possono colpire  
potenzialmente qualsiasi  
organo/apparato**

# Patogenesi degli irAEs



# Impatto prognostico: irAEs e risposta patologica completa nel TNBC

**Table 4.** Incidence and types of irAEs observed in the study population. Of note, 22 patients (62.9%) experienced at least one irAE, with investigators reporting a total of 25 irAEs. Most (77.3%) irAEs occurred during the neoadjuvant treatment phase. Treatment of irAEs mainly involved the use of corticosteroids (in 68.2% of cases), and pembrolizumab was discontinued in most (81.8%) of patients experiencing irAEs.

| Type of irAE – no. (%)                          |           |
|---|-----------|
| Hypothyroidism                                  | 7 (20.0)  |
| Arthritis                                       | 3 (8.6)   |
| Hepatitis                                       | 3 (8.6)   |
| Pneumonitis                                     | 3 (8.6)   |
| Dermatitis                                      | 2 (5.7)   |
| Myokarditis                                     | 2 (5.7)   |
| Eosinophilia                                    | 1 (2.9)   |
| Hyperthyroidism                                 | 1 (2.9)   |
| Hypophysitis                                    | 1 (2.9)   |
| ITP   | 1 (2.9)   |
| Nephritis                                       | 1 (2.9)   |
| <b>Total iAEs observed (n=25)</b>               |           |
| <b>Patients with irAEs (N=22)</b>               |           |
| Steroid Use<br>yes-no. (%)                      | 15 (68.2) |
| Use of other immunosuppression<br>yes-no. (%)   | 1 (4.5)   |
| Discontinuation of Pembrolizumab<br>yes-no. (%) | 18 (81.8) |

**All patients**  
(N = 35)



**Patients with  
irAEs**  
(N = 22)



**Patients without  
irAEs**  
(N = 13)

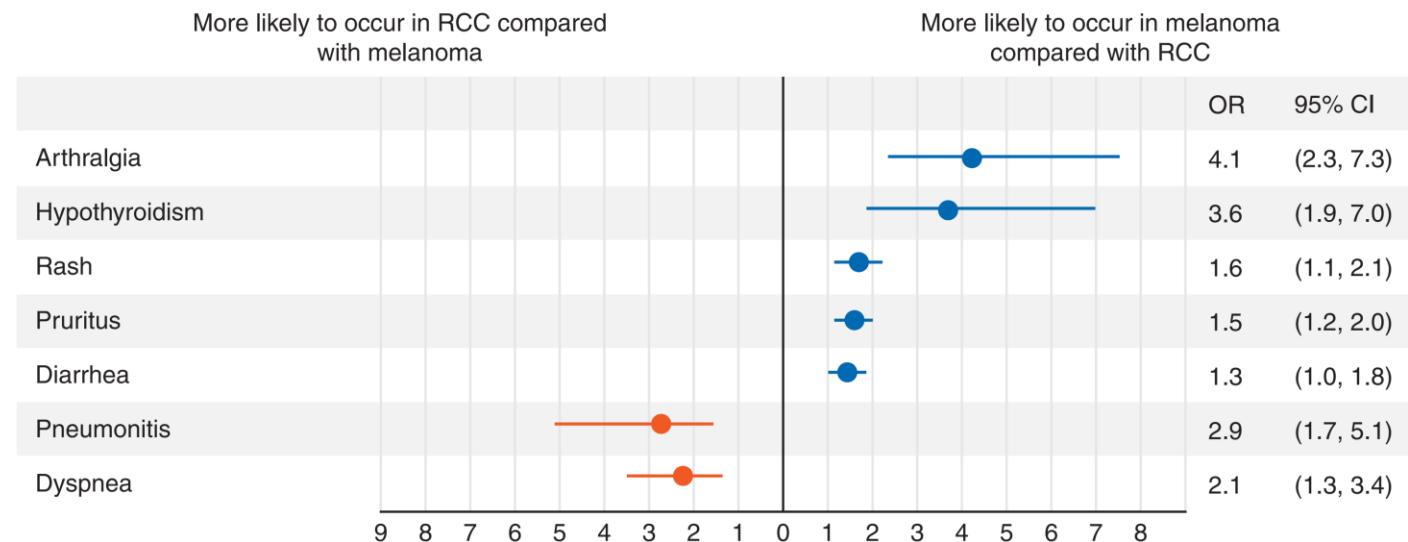
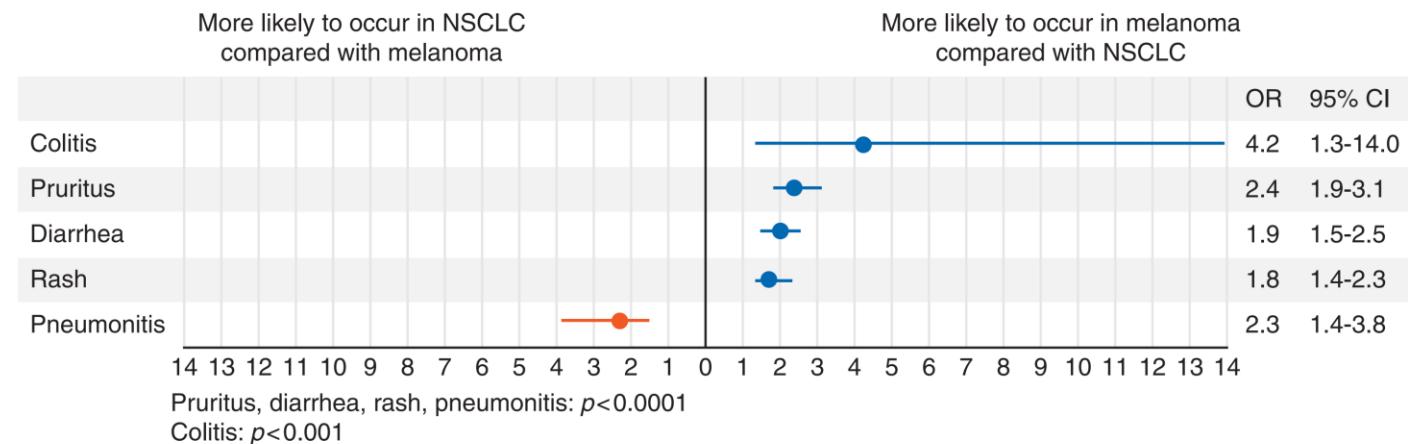


**P = 0.03**

pCR  
no PCR

pCR  
no PCR

# Pattern degli irAEs in relazione alla neoplasia primitiva

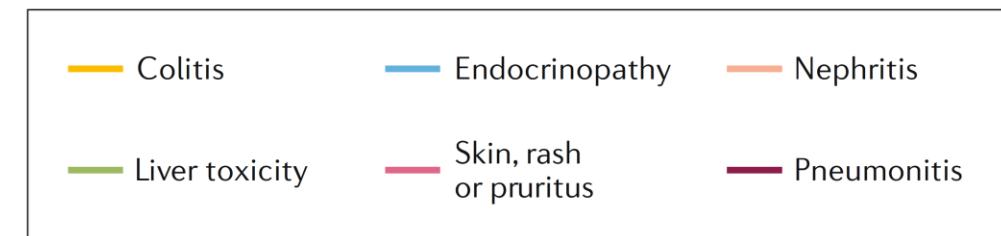
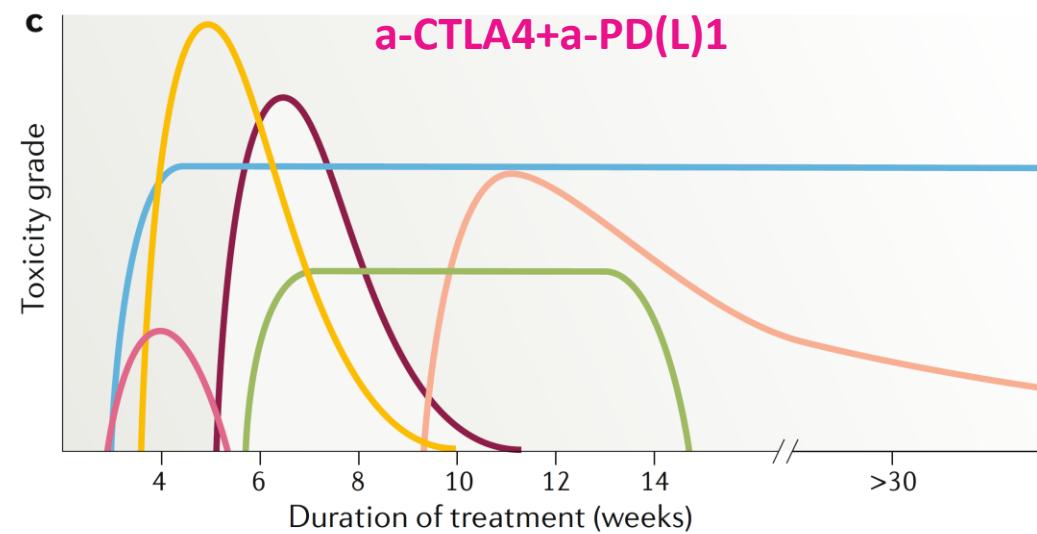
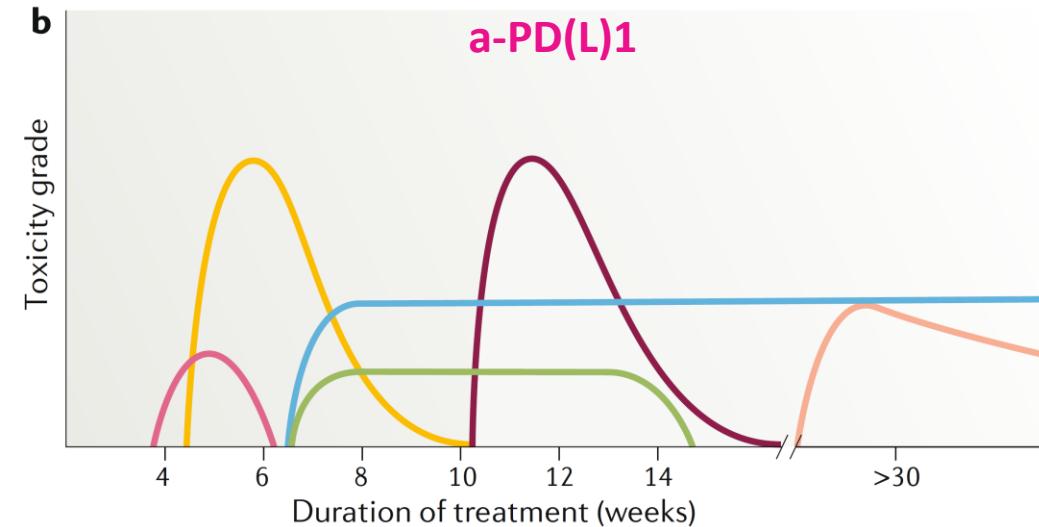
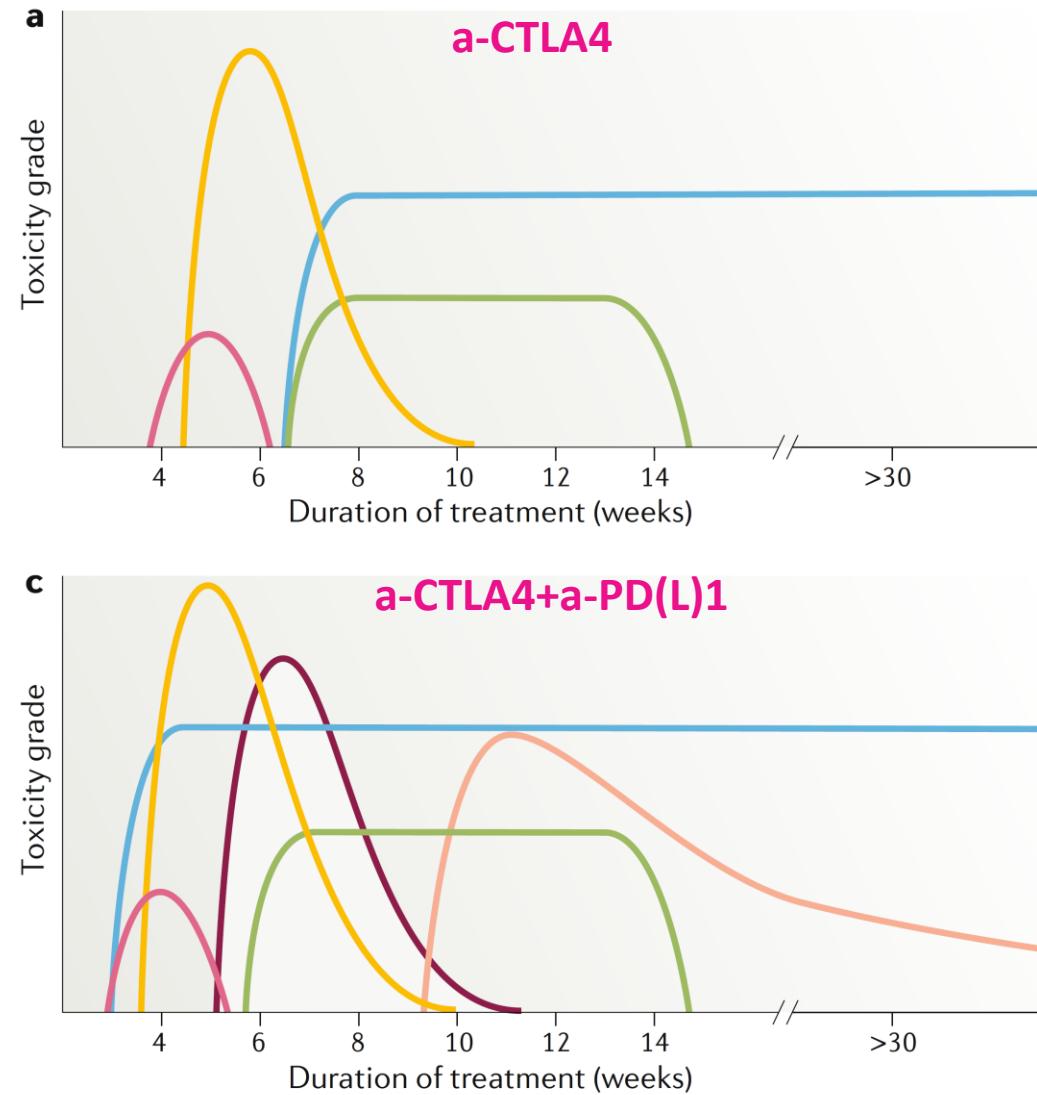


# Incidenza degli irAEs nel TNBC

|                       | Any Grade (%) | G 3-5 (%)  |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| <b>Overall</b>        | <b>35.7</b>   | <b>8.5</b> |
| Rash                  | 37.8          | 1.1        |
| Hypothyroidism        | 12.2          | 0.4        |
| Infusion reactions    | 12.0          | 1.6        |
| Hyperthyroidism       | 4.5           | 0.3        |
| Pneumonitis           | 1.8           | 0.6        |
| Hypophysitis          | 1.7           | -          |
| Hepatitis             | 1.6           | 1.0        |
| Adrenal Insufficiency | 1.1           | 0.6        |
| Colitis               | 0.9           | 0.4        |
| Thyroiditis           | 0.7           | 0.2        |
| Nephritis             | 0.7           | 0.4        |
| Myositis              | 0.5           | 1.0        |
| T1DM                  | 0.3           | 0.3        |
| Encephalitis          | 0.2           | 0.2        |

In una meta-analisi di 9 studi su 4697 pazienti con carcinoma mammario trattati con ICI, gli irAEs più frequenti sono stati la **tossicità cutanea**, la **tossicità tiroidea** e le **reazioni infusionali**.

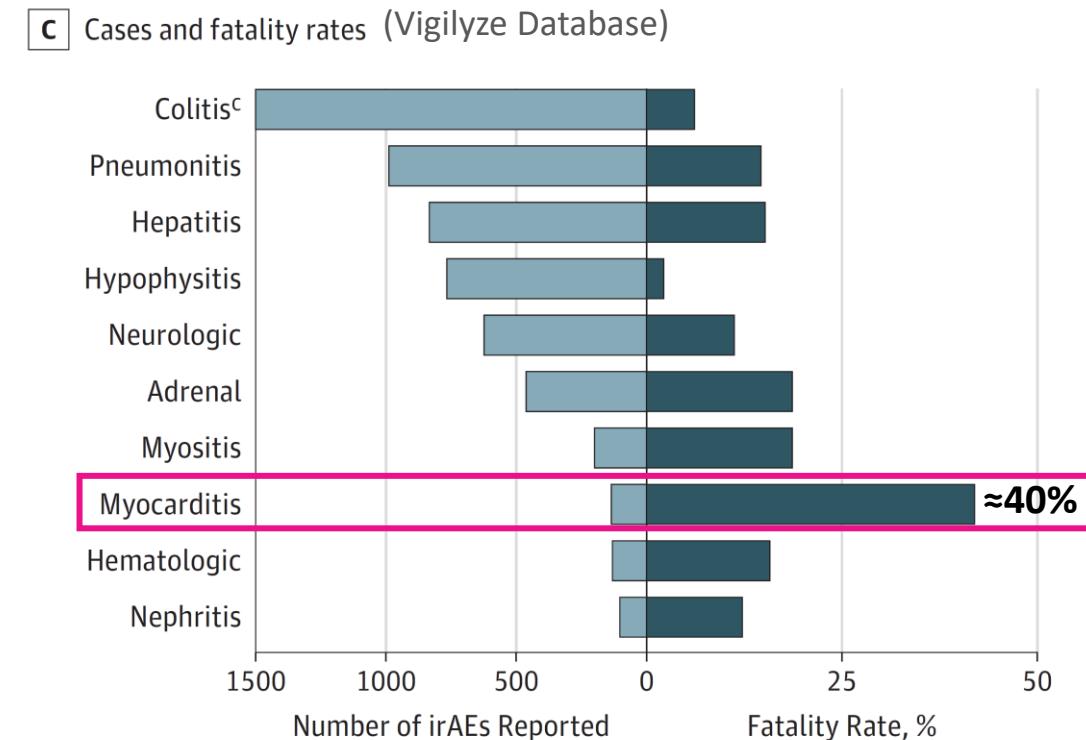
# Cinetica degli irAEs



# IrAEs fatali

**Table 2. Incidence and Types of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor-Related Fatalities**  
From Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

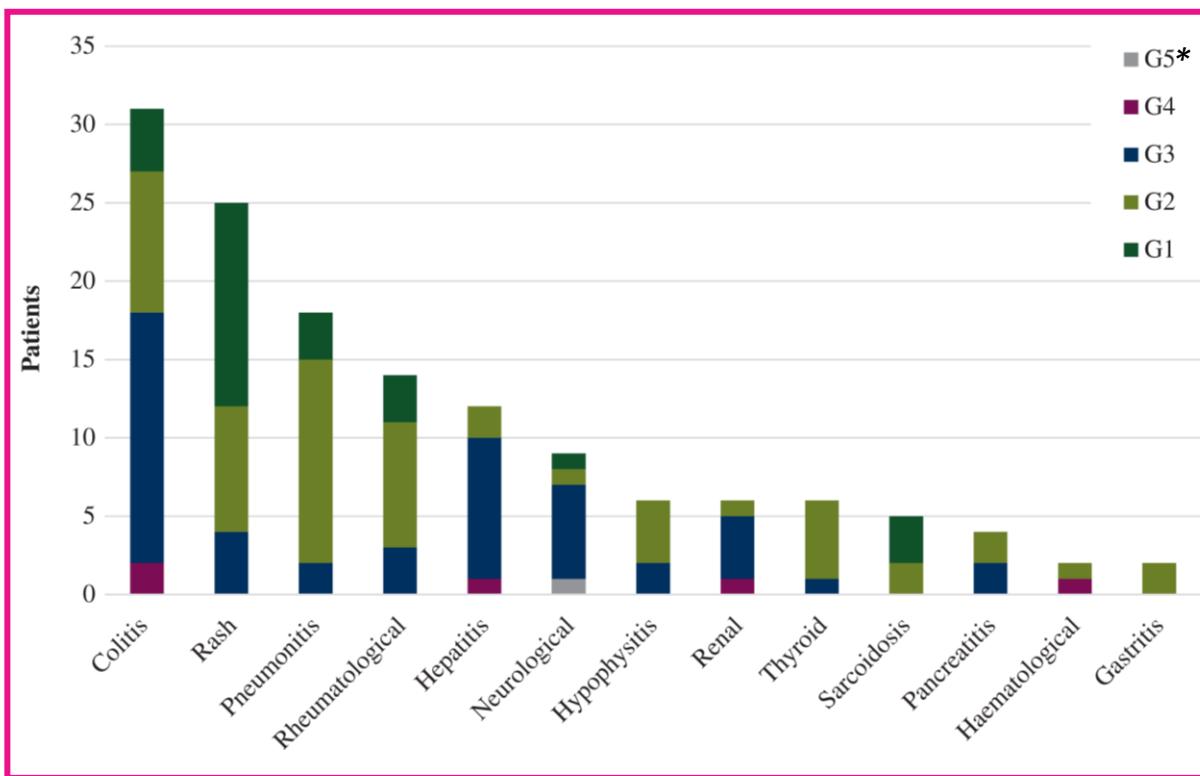
| Variable                   | Anti-CTLA-4<br>(n = 5368) | Anti-PD-1<br>(n = 9136) | Anti-PD-L1<br>(n = 3164) | Anti-PD-1/PD-L1 Plus<br>CTLA-4 (n = 1549) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Deaths, No. (%)            | 58 (1.08)                 | 33 (0.36)               | 12 (0.38)                | 19 (1.23)                                 |
| Type of fatal toxic effect |                           |                         |                          |   |
| Colitis                    | 23 (40)                   | 2 (6)                   | 0                        | 2 (11)                                    |
| Pneumonitis                | 3 (5)                     | 14 (42)                 | 5 (42)                   | 4 (21)                                    |
| Hepatitis                  | 5 (9)                     | 0                       | 1 (8)                    | 2 (11)                                    |
| Cardiac                    | 9 (16)                    | 4 (12)                  | 3 (25)                   | 4 (21)                                    |
| Neurologic                 | 1 (2)                     | 1 (3)                   | 0                        | 3 (16)                                    |
| Nephritis                  | 1 (2)                     | 0                       | 0                        | 1 (5)                                     |
| Hematologic                | 2 (4)                     | 2 (6)                   | 0                        | 2 (11)                                    |
| Infectious                 | 8 (14)                    | 5 (15)                  | 2 (18)                   | 3 (16)                                    |
| Hemorrhagic/thrombotic     | 2 (4)                     | 1 (3)                   | 0                        | 1 (5)                                     |
| Electrolyte imbalance      | 1 (2)                     | 2 (6)                   | 0                        | 0   |
| Multiorgan failure         | 3 (5)                     | 0                       | 0                        | 0   |
| Other                      | 1 (2)                     | 2 (6)                   | 1 (8)                    | 0   |



# IrAEs tardivi

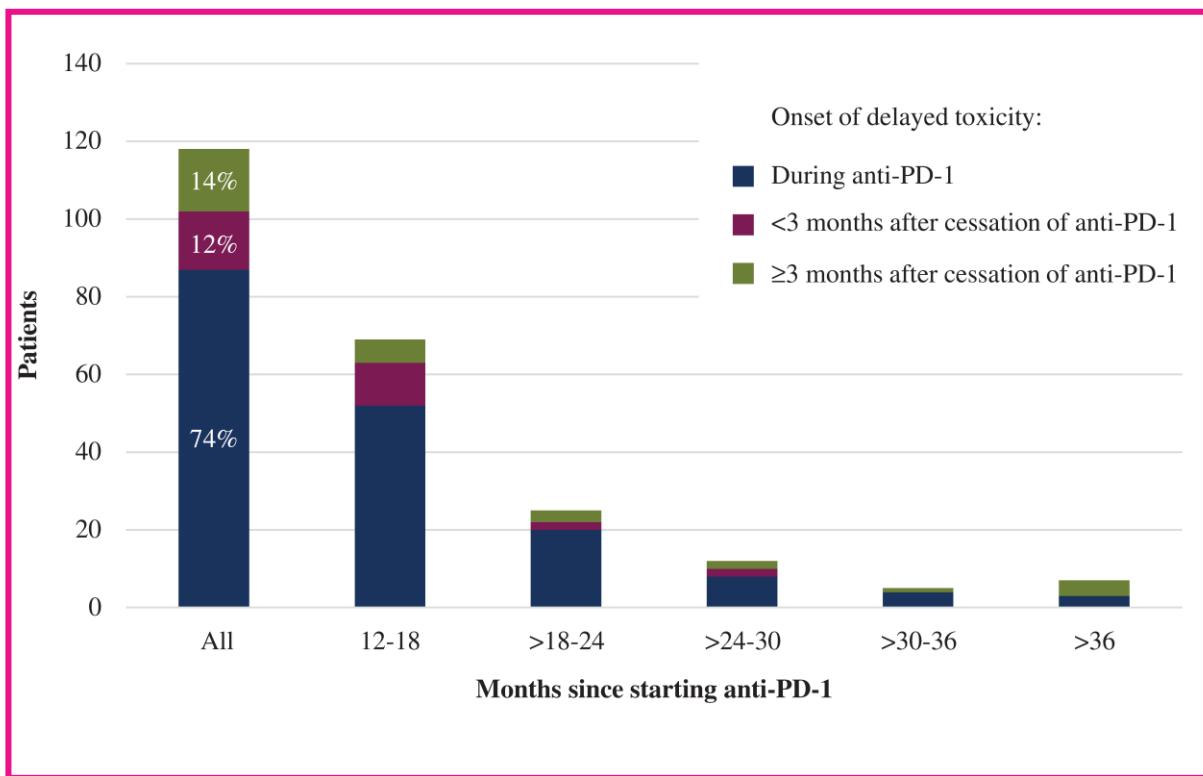
- 999 melanoma pts treated with immunotherapy surviving > 1 year (retrospective data)
- **Incidence** of delayed irAEs (occurring >1 year after immunotherapy initiation): **5.3%**; may be high-grade and can lead to death
- 58% also had a previous irAEs, often affecting a different organ (86%)

**N. of delayed toxicity cases by irAE subtype and grade**



\*1 case of G5 encephalitis and 1 case of multi-organ irAE

**Onset of delayed IrAEs in relation to anti-PD-1 therapy.**



# IrAEs cronici

n=387 pts with stage III-IV melanoma treated with adjuvant anti-PD-1

Table 2. Incidence of Chronic Immune-Related Adverse Events (irAEs)

| Chronic irAEs                    | Patients, No. (%)  |  |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|--|
|                                  | With chronic irAEs | Ongoing chronic irAE at last follow-up |
| Total chronic irAEs              | 167 (100)          | NA                                     |
| Required steroids                | 55 (32.9)          | NA                                     |
| Symptomatic                      | 82 (49.1)          | NA                                     |
| Resolved                         | 24 (14.4)          | NA                                     |
| ≥Grade 2                         | 90 (53.9)          | NA                                     |
| Grade 3-5                        | 6 (3.6)            | NA                                     |
| irAE Type <sup>a</sup>           |                    |  |
| Adrenal insufficiency            | 12 (3.1)           | 12 (100)                               |
| Arthritis/arthalgias             | 22 (5.7)           | 22 (100)                               |
| Colitis/diarrhea                 | 6 (1.6)            | 2 (33.3)                               |
| Dermatitis/pruritus              | 19 (6.6)           | 17 (89.5)                              |
| Xerostomia <sup>b</sup>          | 9 (2.3)            | 8 (88.9)                               |
| Hypophysitis                     | 8 (2.1)            | 8 (100)                                |
| Neuropathy                       | 3 (1.8)            | 1 (33.3)                               |
| Ocular toxic effect <sup>c</sup> | 5 (1.3)            | 5 (100)                                |
| Other neurotoxicity <sup>d</sup> | 8 (2.1)            | 5 (63.0)                               |
| Pneumonitis                      | 6 (1.6)            | 4 (66.7)                               |
| Thyroiditis/hypothyroid          | 54 (14.0)          | 54 (100)                               |

Abbreviation: NA, not applicable.

<sup>a</sup> Greater than 1% observation frequency.

<sup>b</sup> Dry mouth (n = 6), Sicca syndrome (n = 2), and Sjogren syndrome (n = 1).

<sup>c</sup> Conjunctivitis (n = 1), uveitis (n = 1), retinal vasculitis (n = 1), nonischemic optic neuropathy (n = 1), and blurred vision (n = 1).

<sup>d</sup> Guillain-Barré syndrome (n = 2), Bell palsy (n = 1), parkinsonian gait (n = 1), myasthenia gravis (n = 1), autonomic neuropathy (n = 1), tremors (n = 1), and transverse myelitis (n = 1).

43.2% had chronic irAEs

Chronic irAEs defined as irAEs persisting ≥ 12 wks after ICI cessation

# Linee guida sulla Gestione della Tossicità da Immunoterapia

## Management of Immune-Related Adverse Events in Patients Treated With Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy: ASCO Guideline Update



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Management of toxicities from immunotherapy:  
ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis,  
treatment and follow-up<sup>†</sup>

*Annals of Oncology* 28 (Supplement 4): i119–i142, 2017  
doi:10.1093/annonc/mdx225

Open access



Position article and guidelines

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) clinical practice guideline on immune checkpoint inhibitor-related adverse events

Schneider BJ, et al. J Clin Oncol 2021;39(36):4073-4126. Haanen JBAG, et al. Ann Oncol 2018;29(Suppl 4):iv264-iv266.

Brahmer JR, et al. J Immunother Cancer 2021;9(6):e002435. <https://www.iss.it/-/snlg-tossicità-immunoterapia>



**Linee guida**  
**GESTIONE DELLA TOSSICITÀ DA IMMUNOTERAPIA**

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In collaborazione con



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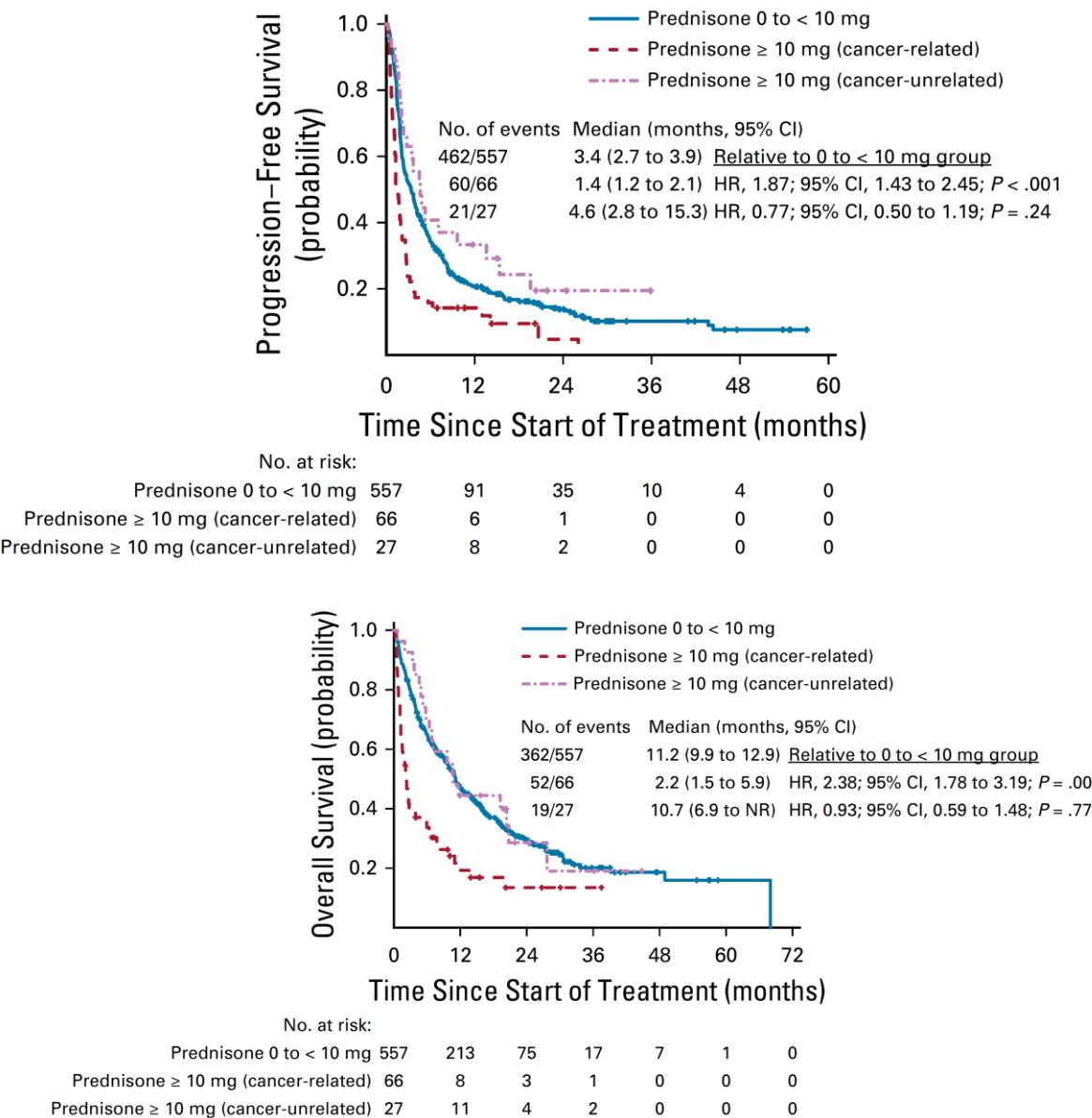
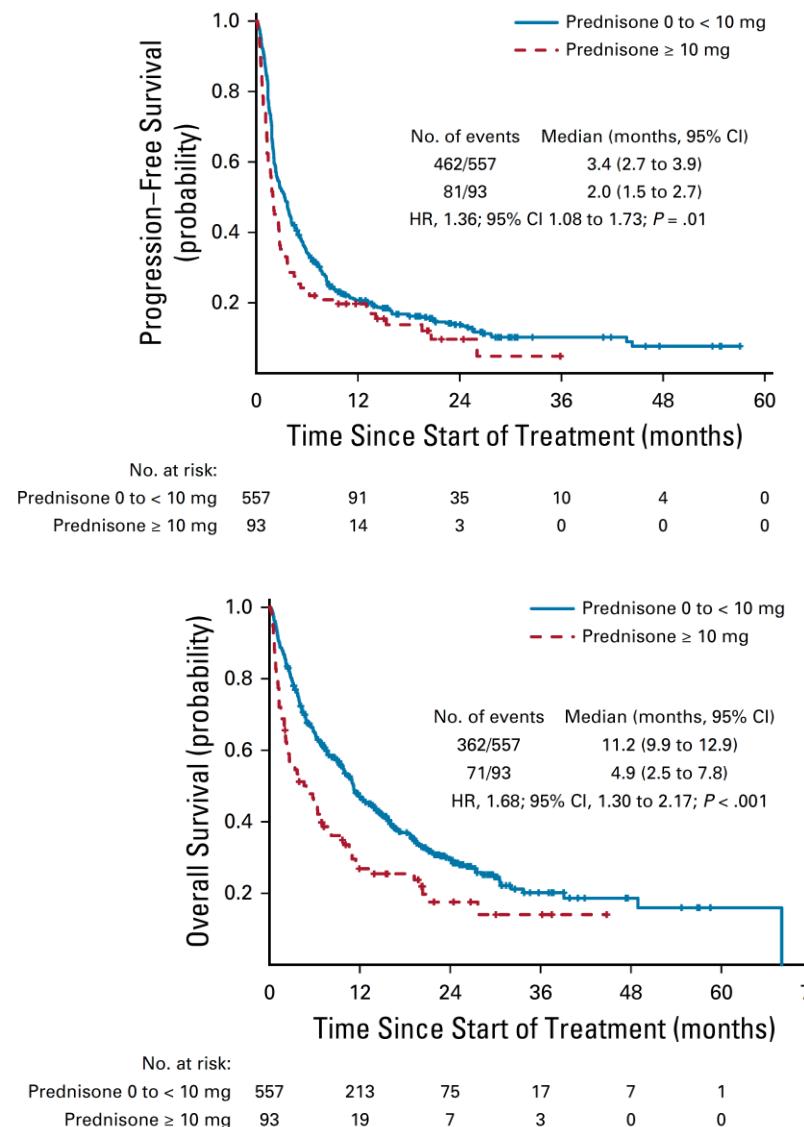
# Gestione della tossicità: principi generali

It is recommended that clinicians manage toxicities as follows:

- Patient and family caregivers should receive timely and up-to-date education about immunotherapies, their mechanism of action, and the clinical profile of possible irAEs before initiating therapy and throughout treatment and survivorship.
- There should be a high level of suspicion that new symptoms are treatment-related.
- In general, ICPi therapy should be continued with close monitoring for grade 1 toxicities, except for some neurologic, hematologic, and cardiac toxicities.
- Consider holding ICPis for most grade 2 toxicities and resume when symptoms and/or laboratory values revert  $\leq$  grade 1. Corticosteroids (initial dose of 0.5-1 mg/kg/d of prednisone or equivalent) may be administered.
- Hold ICPis for grade 3 toxicities and initiate high-dose corticosteroids (prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/d or equivalent). Corticosteroids should be tapered over the course of at least 4-6 weeks. If symptoms do not improve with 48-72 hours of high-dose steroid, infliximab may be offered for some toxicities.
- When symptoms and/or laboratory values revert  $\leq$  grade 1, rechallenging with ICPis may be offered; however, caution is advised, especially in those patients with early-onset irAEs. Dose adjustments are not recommended. Rechallenge with PD-1/PD-L1 monotherapy may be offered in patients with toxicity from combined therapy with a CTLA-4 antagonist once recovered to  $\leq$  grade 1.
- In general, grade 4 toxicities warrant permanent discontinuation of ICPis, except for endocrinopathies that have been controlled by hormone replacement.

# Impatto prognostico dello steroide nella gestione della tossicità

*n=650 NSCLC pts treated with anti-PD(L)1 drugs*



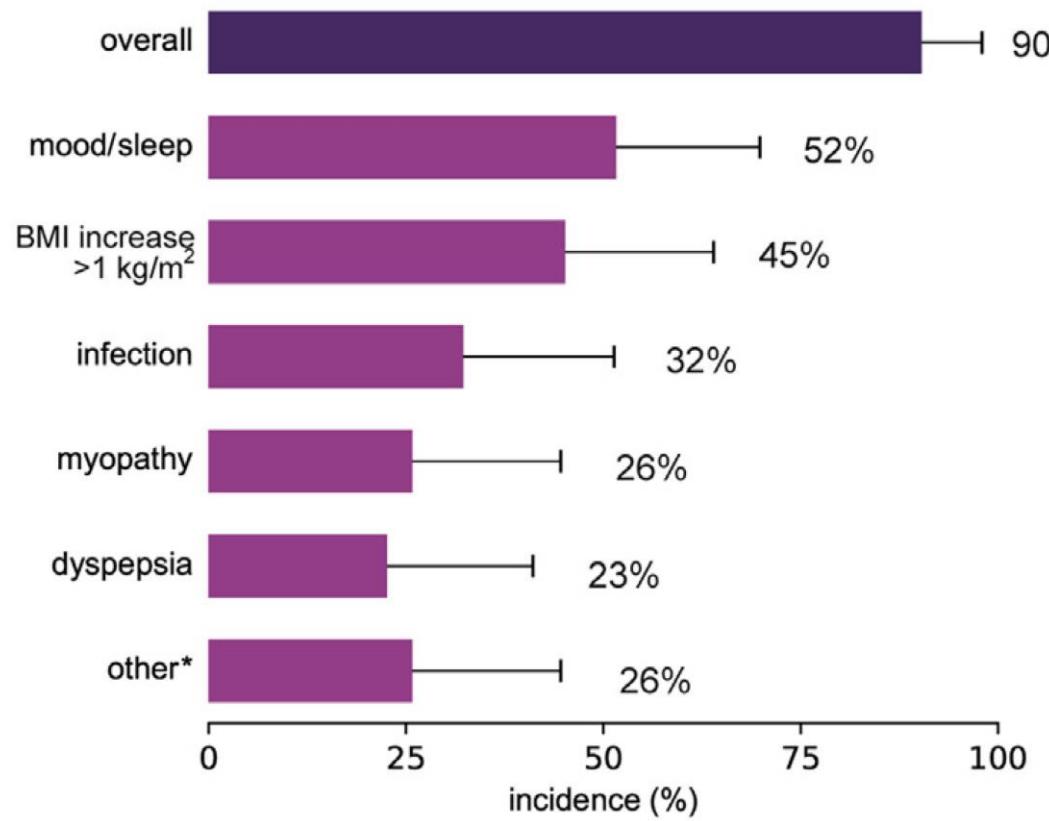
# Tapering dello steroide

n=16 melanoma pts with ICI-related pneumonitis

| Characteristics  | No recurrent pneumonitis (n = 13), n (%) | Recurrent unprovoked pneumonitis (n = 3), n (%) |
|--|--|---|
| Treatment  |  |   |
| Anti-PD-1  | 10 (77)                                  | 3 (100)   |
| Ipi-nivo   | 3 (23)                                   | 0 (0)   |
| BRAF <sup>V600</sup> mutant                                      | 1 (8)                                    | 1 (33)  |
| Onset of first event (median, range), wk <sup>a</sup>            | 26.4 (3.6–123.7)                         | 12.4 (12.3–22.1)                                |
| Additional organ classes involved with irAEs                     |  |   |
| 0 (only pneumonitis)   | 4 (31)                                   | 1 (33)  |
| 1 or more  | 9 (69)                                   | 2 (67)  |
| Grade of first event   |  |   |
| G1   | 5 (38)                                   | 1 (33)  |
| G2   | 7 (54)                                   | 1 (33)  |
| G3   | 0 (0)                                    | 1 (33)  |
| G4   | 1 (8)                                    | 0 (0)   |
| Grade of recurrent event   |  |   |
| G1   | n/a                                      | 0 (0)   |
| G2   | n/a                                      | 1 (33)  |
| G3   | n/a                                      | 2 (67)  |
| Duration of steroid treatment at first event, median (range), wk | 10.0 (4.6–26)                            | 5.1 (5.1–8)                                     |
| Disease control  |  |   |
| Yes  | 12 (92)                                  | 2 (67)  |
| No   | 1 (8)                                    | 1 (33)  |

# Eventi avversi dello steroide

*Adverse effects of systemic steroids reported by lung cancer patients who received treatment for at least 30 days (n = 31)*



Other adverse effects included hyperglycemia without diabetes (n=3), hypertension (n=2), bruising (n=2), symptomatic compression fracture (n=1), and acne (n=1).

## Preventing the adverse events associated with corticosteroids

### SIX KEY MEASURES



- 1 **rule out infections** before initiating corticosteroids (e.g. perform a bronchoalveolar lavage for pneumonitis). Protect against the main opportunistic infections, as follows:

| Drug                                 | Opportunistic Infection | Population of patients involved                       |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Sulfametoxazole                      | Pneumocystis            | All patients  |
| Ivermectin or albendazole (one dose) | Strongyloidiasis        | Patients living in or having travelled in the tropics |
| Aciclovir or Valaciclovir            | Varicella zoster virus  | Elderly patients                                      |
| Rifampicin and INH or INH alone      | Tuberculosis            | Patients with a history of tuberculosis               |



- 2 **Electrolytes imbalance**



- 3 **Decompensation of diabetes**



- 4 **Mood disorders**



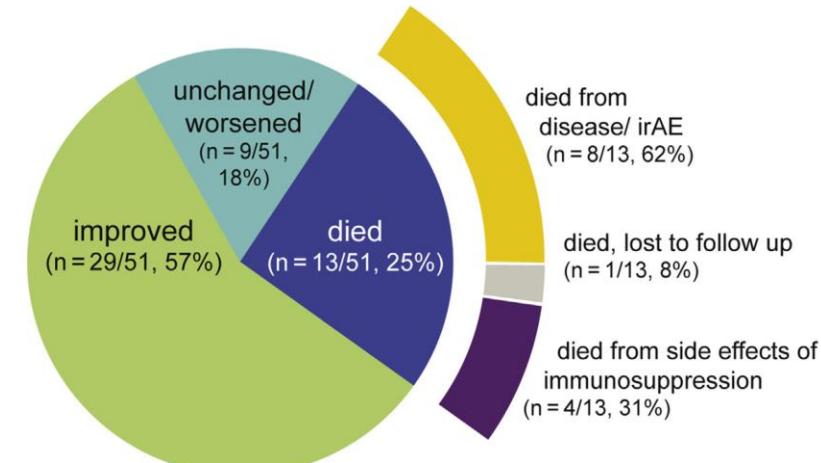
- 5 **Adrenal insufficiency**



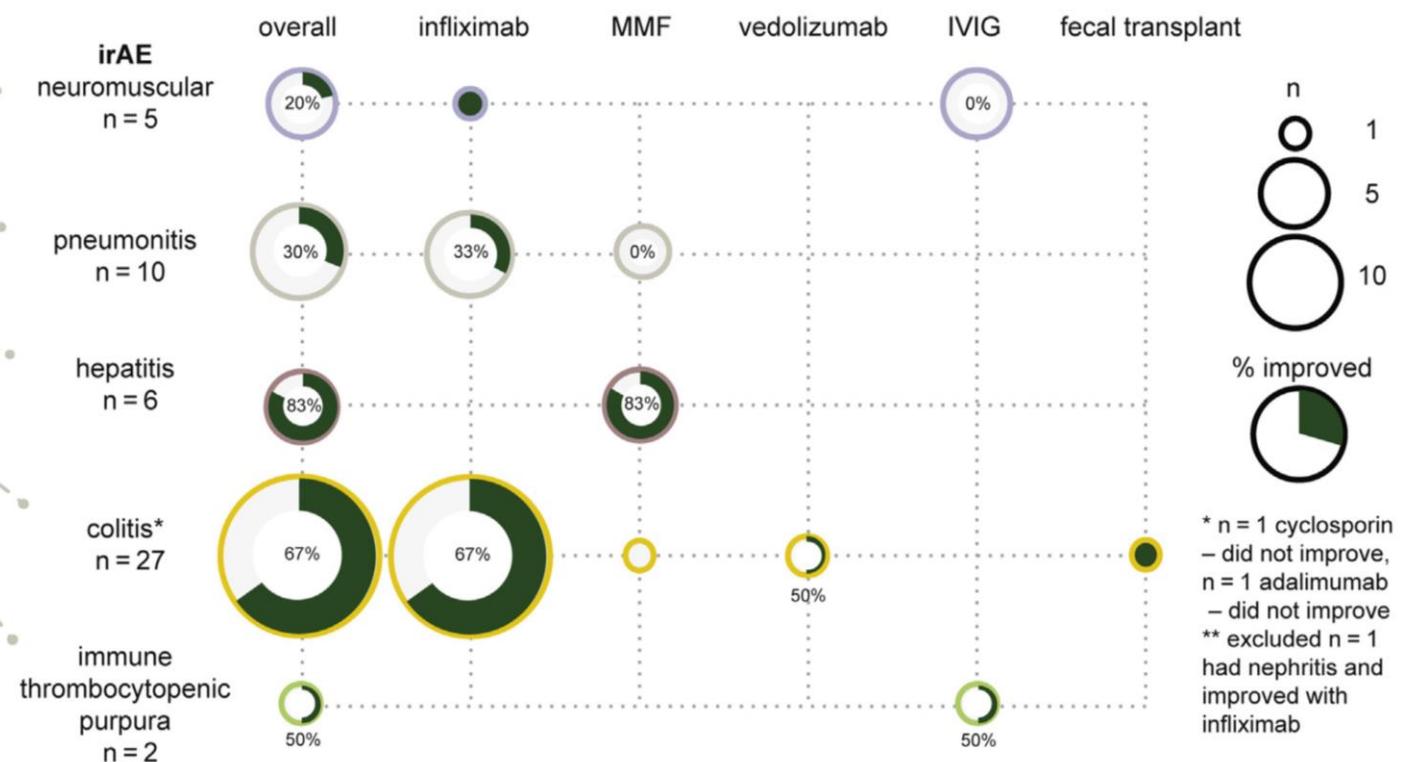
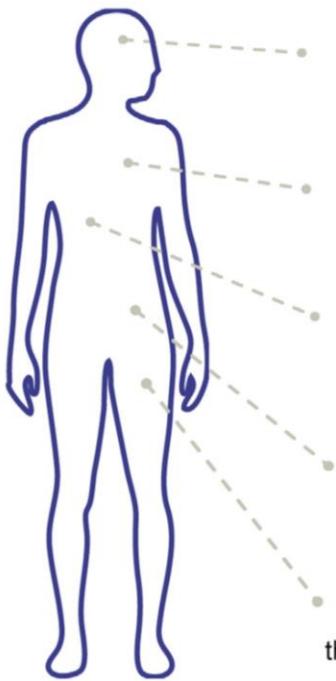
- 6 **Bone growth and osteoporosis**

# Trattamento delle tossicità steroido-refrattarie

n= 51 (2%) out of 2750 lung cancer pts treated with steroids + an additional immunosuppressant for severe irAEs



died from disease/ irAE (n = 8/13, 62%)  
died, lost to follow up (n = 1/13, 8%)  
died from side effects of immunosuppression (n = 4/13, 31%)



# Timing di inizio dell'immunosoppressore

*Retrospective study on 84 pts with immune-related colitis receiving selective immunosuppressive therapy<sup>1</sup>*

**Table 1** Clinical characteristics stratified by the timing of selective immunosuppressive therapy initiation (SIT)

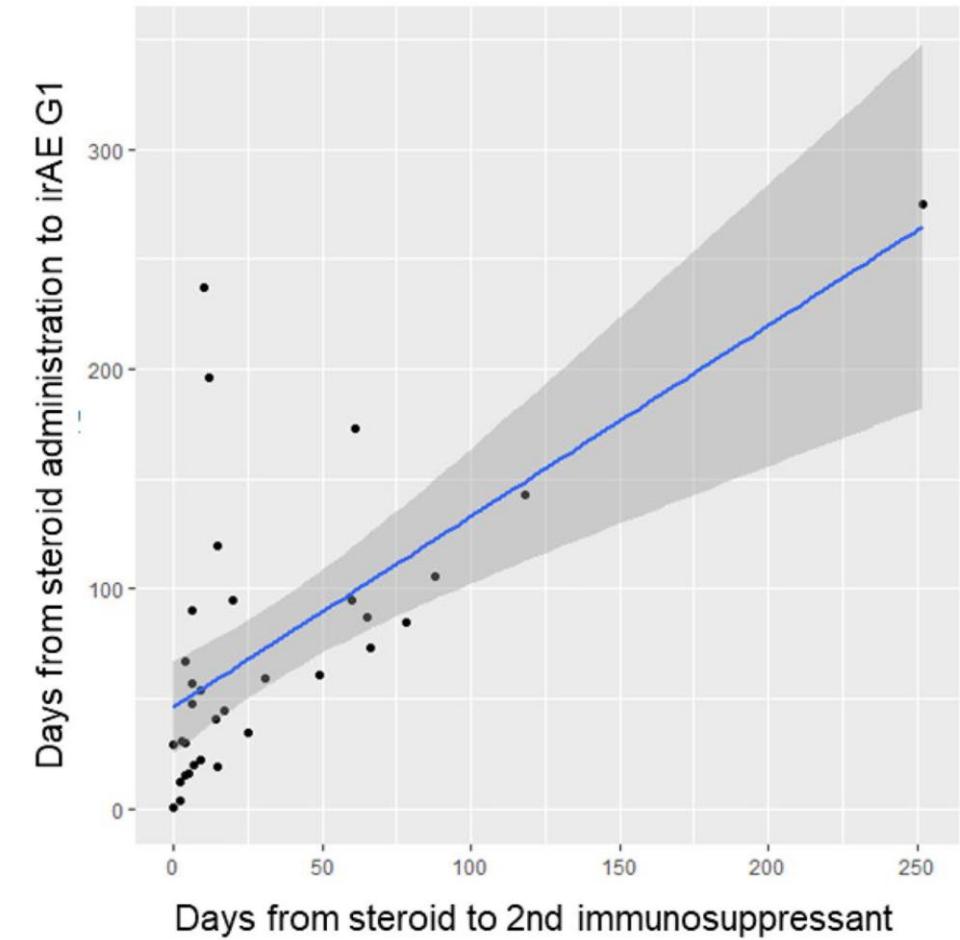
| Covariate   | $\leq 10$ days of onset<br>N = 44 | $> 10$ days of onset<br>N = 40 | P       |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| ICI type, No. (%)   |                                   |                                | 0.687   |
| Anti-CTLA-4 monotherapy                                       | 11 (25)                           | 10 (25)                        |         |
| Anti-PD-1/L1 monotherapy                                      | 19 (43)                           | 14 (35)                        |         |
| Combination   | 14 (32)                           | 16 (40)                        |         |
| Diarrhea grade, No. (%)                                       |                                   |                                | 0.668   |
| 1–2   | 8 (18)                            | 6 (15)                         |         |
| 3   | 28 (64)                           | 29 (73)                        |         |
| 4   | 8 (18)                            | 5 (13)                         |         |
| Colitis grade, No. (%)  |                                   |                                | 0.603   |
| 1–2   | 24 (56)                           | 22 (55)                        |         |
| 3   | 16 (37)                           | 17 (43)                        |         |
| 4   | 3 (7)                             | 1 (3)                          |         |
| Endoscopic features, No. (%)                                  |                                   |                                | 0.739   |
| Ulcer   | 13 (42)                           | 17 (52)                        |         |
| Non-ulcerative inflammation                                   | 12 (39)                           | 11 (33)                        |         |
| Normal  | 6 (19)                            | 5 (15)                         |         |
| High-risk endoscopic features initially, No. (%) <sup>a</sup> | 17 (55)                           | 23 (70)                        | 0.302   |
| Overall duration of steroids, mean days (SD)                  | 64 (38)                           | 82 (51)                        | 0.092   |
| Duration of hospitalization, mean days (SD)                   | 10 (8)                            | 12 (8)                         | 0.321   |
| Duration of symptoms, mean days (SD)                          | 25 (32)                           | 50 (40)                        | 0.002   |
| Follow-up duration, mean months (SD)                          | 5 (3)                             | 4 (3)                          | 0.875   |
| Number of steroids tapering attempts, median (IQR)            | 1 (1–4)                           | 2 (1–4)                        | < 0.001 |
| Multiple hospitalization, No. (%)                             | 13 (30)                           | 22 (55)                        | 0.026   |
| Failed steroid tapering after SIT, No. (%) <sup>b</sup>       | 9 (23)                            | 19 (49)                        | 0.033   |
| Recurrent IMC, No. (%)  | 8 (18)                            | 8 (20)                         | 1.000   |
| Infectious adverse events, No. (%)                            | 16 (36)                           | 9 (23)                         | 0.233   |

<sup>a</sup>High-risk features are ulcers deeper than 2 mm or wider than 1 cm, and extensive endoscopic inflammation involving the colon proximal to the splenic flexure

<sup>b</sup>Available for the 79 patients who received steroids

Abbreviation: SIT, selective immunosuppressive therapy

*Retrospective study on 73 NSCLC pts with steroid-refractory irAEs receiving second-line immunosuppressive therapy<sup>2</sup>*



1. Abu-Sbeih H, et al. J Immunother Cancer 2019;7(1):93.
2. Ogusu S, et al. Cancer Immunol Immunother 2023;72(11):3765-3772.

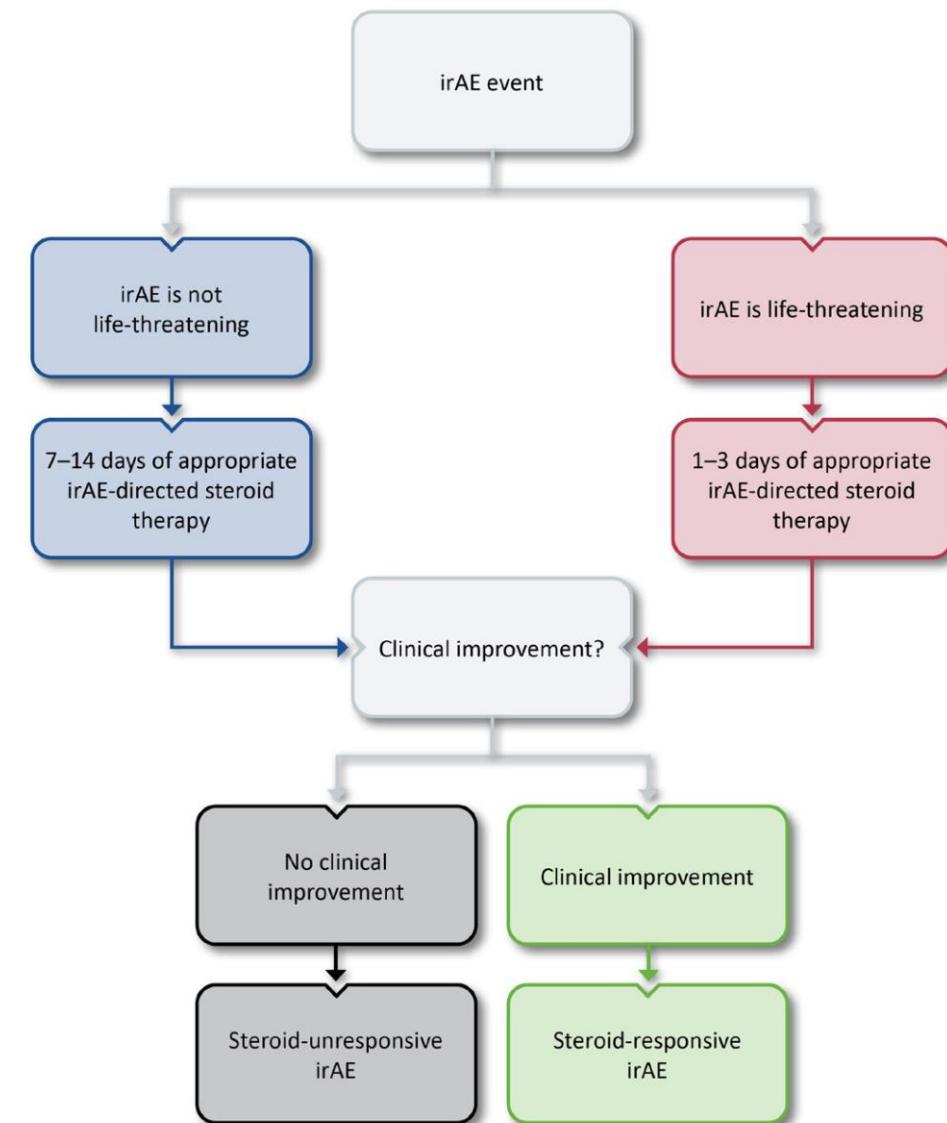
# Definizione di steroido-refrattarietà

## Steroid-unresponsive irAEs include:

- ⇒ irAEs in which there is no clinical improvement after a standard time frame of guideline-based irAE-directed steroid therapy.
- ⇒ Steroid-refractory irAEs are those that derived no clinical benefit with steroids.
- ⇒ Steroid-resistant irAEs derived some clinical benefit without resolution of the event.

## Life-threatening versus non-life-threatening irAEs:

- ⇒ For life-threatening irAEs (eg, pneumonitis, myocarditis, colitis), steroid-unresponsive irAEs are those in which there is no clinical improvement after 1–3 days of appropriate irAE-directed steroid therapy.
- ⇒ For non-life-threatening irAEs (eg, arthritis), steroid-unresponsive irAEs are those in which there is no clinical improvement after 7–14 days of appropriate irAE-directed steroid therapy.



# Ripresa dell'immunoterapia dopo irAEs

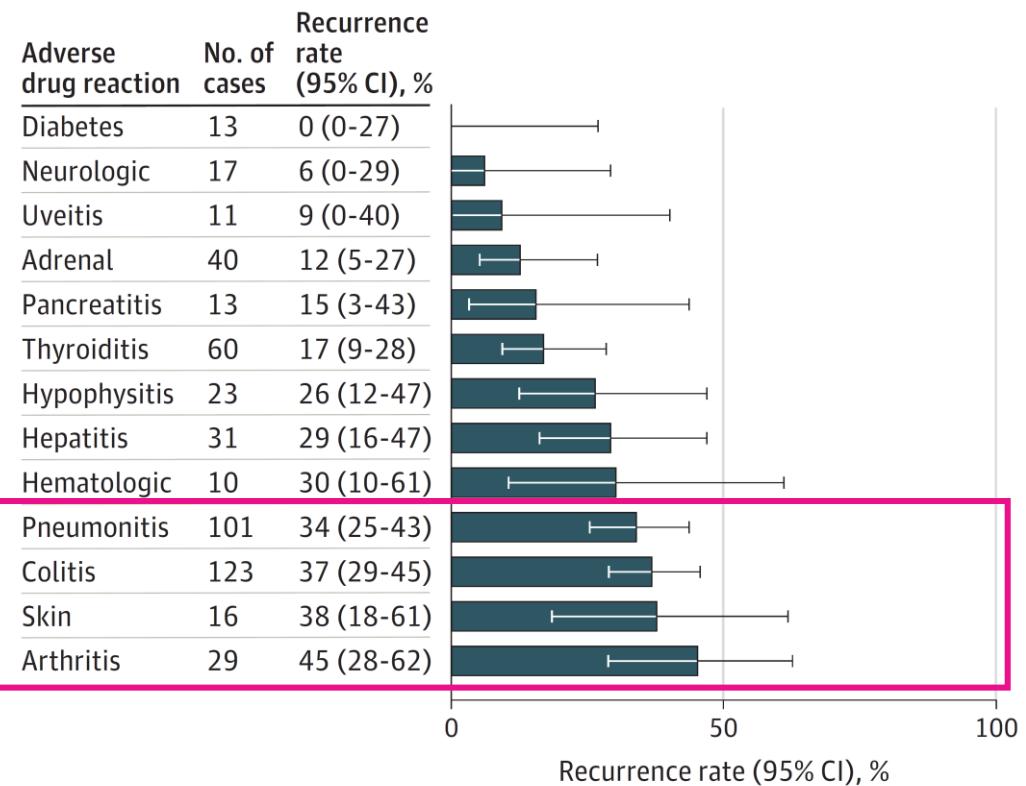
## *Summary of retrospective studies on rechallenge ICIs after irAEs*

|             | Santini <sup>1</sup> | Simonaggio <sup>2</sup> | Abu-Sbeih <sup>3</sup> | Naidoo <sup>4</sup> | Pollack <sup>5</sup> | Delaunay <sup>6</sup> |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| N<br>irAEs  | 68<br>various        | 93<br>various           | 167<br>colitis         | 43<br>pneumonitis   | 80<br>various        | 64<br>pneumonitis     |
| tumor       | NSCLC                | Multiple                | Multiple               | Multiple            | Melanoma             | Multiple              |
| Retreat.    | 38                   | 40                      | 167                    | 12                  | 80                   | 10                    |
| New/Recurr. | 52%<br>(40% G≥3)     | 55%<br>(60% G≥3)        | 34%<br>(10% G≥3)       | 25%<br>(0% G≥3)     | 18%<br>(0% G≥3)      | 30%<br>(0% G≥3)       |

**≈20-50% New/Recurrent irAEs**

Pharmacovigilance study (VigiBase)<sup>7</sup>  
Data on 452 informative rechallenge

Figure 2. Rate of Recurrence According to the Initial Immune-Related Adverse Event

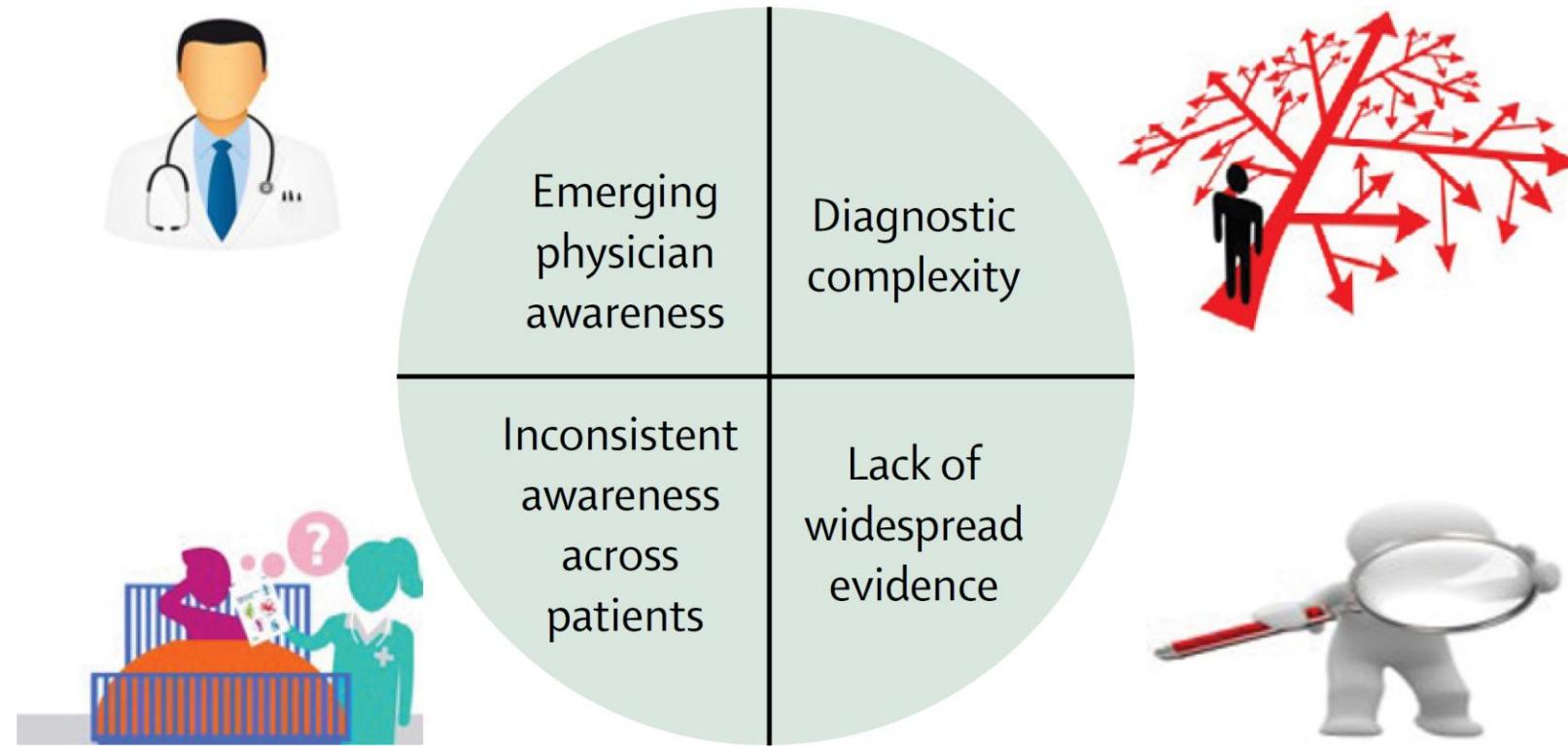


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# Principali criticità nella gestione della tossicità da immunoterapia



# Approccio multidisciplinare



Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

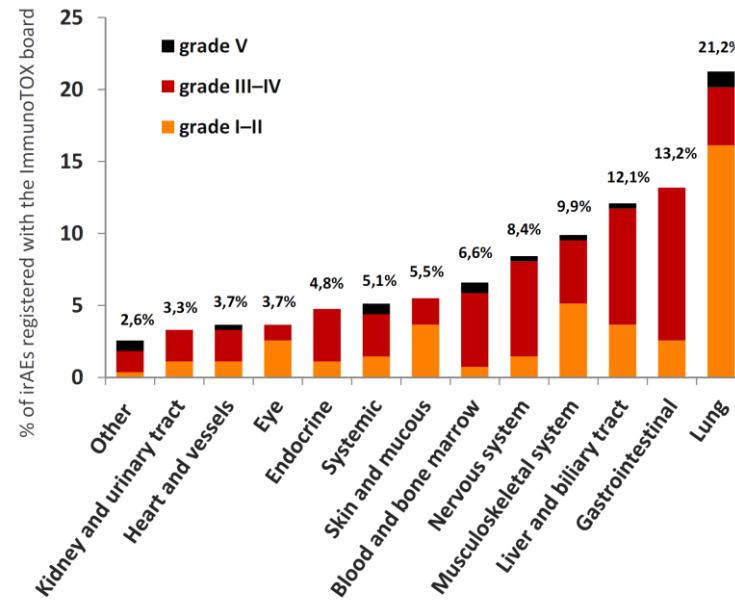
ScienceDirect

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Original Research

The 2016–2019 ImmunoTOX assessment board report of collaborative management of immune-related adverse events, an observational clinical study



Vantaggi di board multidisciplinari per gestione di tossicità immunorelate

- Ottimizzazione del management
- Identificazione di tossicità rare
- Incremento di conoscenza tramite **cross-contamination**
- Raccolta di dati clinici e traslazionali
- Network building con altri istituti e figure professionali

## Take Home Messages

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- L'immunoterapia è un trattamento ben tollerato
- La maggior parte degli irAEs è precoce e reversibile, ma esistono anche eventi tardivi, cronici o fatali
- Necessaria adeguata informazione a paziente e caregivers
- Necessario elevato livello di attenzione da parte del medico
- Diagnosi differenziale / di esclusione
- Trattamento secondo linee guida: introduzione tempestiva dello steroide quando indicato, lento tapering, profilassi degli eventi avversi correlati allo steroide, impiego di altri agenti immunosoppressivi nelle tossicità steroido-refrattarie
- Approccio interdisciplinare
- Necessaria formazione degli operatori sanitari
- Necessario maggior sforzo nella ricerca (di base, traslazionale, clinica) per generare evidenze

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Palliative Care



Grazie per l'attenzione

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