

# CAR T-CELL AND BISPECIFIC THERAPIES: CLINICAL APPLICATIONS AND NURSING MANAGEMENT

**DERIVED FROM THE LIVE ACTIVITY WHICH  
OCCURRED ON APRIL 26, 2024.**

**Supported by an educational grant from Bristol Myers Squibb.**

Held in conjunction with the Oncology Nursing Society's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress



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## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**Lauren Berger, MPH**

*Senior Director*

Professional Education & Engagement

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Rye Brook, NY



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Meeting space has been assigned to provide a Symposia supported by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society during the Oncology Nursing Society's (ONS) 49th Annual Congress, April 24 – April 28, 2024 in Washington, DC. The Oncology Nursing Society's assignment of meeting space does not imply product endorsement.



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## Educational Objectives

*At the conclusion of this symposium, participants will be able to:*

- Describe the role of CAR T- cell therapy and bispecifics in treating blood cancer
- Apply knowledge of communication strategies, streamlined patient assessment, disparities in care, and strategies for multidisciplinary teams to improve patient-centered care
- Explain data surrounding CAR T-cell and bispecific therapies including their proper application, efficacy, and adverse events, and resources to support patients and their caregivers
- Optimize patient assessment to ensure effective, individualized patient care including implementation of bridging therapy when indicated
- Utilize appropriate tools to properly assess risk for progression and response to cellular therapies



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# CE Designation



## Nursing Continuing Professional Development Contact Hours

Approval for nurses has been obtained by the National Office of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society under Provider Number CEP 5832 to award 1.5 continuing education contact hours through the California Board of Registered Nursing.

## ILNA Recertification Points

The program content has been reviewed by the Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) and is **acceptable for recertification points in the following ILNA subject areas**: Care of the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Patient (CPHON), Cellular Collection, Preparative Regimens, and Infusion (BMTCN), Early Post-Transplant Management and Education (BMTCN), Foundations of Transplant (BMTCN), Late Post-Transplant Management and Education (BMTCN), Oncologic Emergencies (OCN, CPHON, AOCNP), Professional Practice/Performance (BMTCN, AOCNP), Psychosocial Dimensions of Care (AOCNP, CPHON, ONC, CBCN), Quality of Life (BMTCN), Symptom Management, Palliative Care, Supportive Care (OCN, CPHON, AOCNP), Transplant Process and Infusion (BMTCN), Treatment (OCN, CBCN, AOCNP, CPHON).

Total points: 1.5\*

\*Note that the course content applies to multiple subject areas across multiple credentials. The numerical value indicated above is the maximum number of points that can be claimed in each subject area. The total amount of points claimed may not exceed the total amount of nursing continuing professional development (NCPD) or CME awarded from this course and may only apply to the credential you are renewing.

## Nurse Practitioner Continuing Education



This activity is approved for 1.5 contact hour(s) of continuing education (which includes 0.35 hour(s) of pharmacology) by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners®. Activity ID# 2406677. This activity was planned in accordance with AANP Accreditation Standards and Policies

## Social Worker Continuing Education

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) Provider Number 1105, is approved as an ACE provider to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Regulatory boards are the final authority on courses accepted for continuing education credit. ACE provider approval period: 12/10/2023-12/10/2026. Social workers completing this course receive 1.5 clinical continuing education credits.

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is recognized by the New York State Education Departments State Board for Social Work as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed social workers #0117. LLS maintains responsibility for the program. Social workers will receive 1.5 clinical CE contact hours for this activity.



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**Our Mission:**  
**Cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's  
 disease and myeloma, and improve the  
 quality of life of patients and  
 their families.**

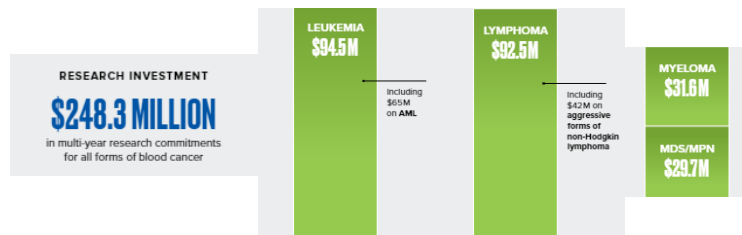


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## Breakthrough Research: Improving Treatments and Enhancing Quality of Life

LLS HAS INVESTED MORE THAN  
**\$1.7 BILLION**  
 IN RESEARCH FOR ALL TYPES OF BLOOD CANCER SINCE OUR FOUNDING

LLS HELPED ADVANCE MORE THAN  
**70%**  
 OF THE BLOOD CANCER TREATMENTS APPROVED BY THE FDA OVER THE LAST 2 DECADES



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## Free LLS Resources for Healthcare Providers

- CME & CE courses: [www.LLS.org/CE](http://www.LLS.org/CE)
- Fact Sheets for HCPs: [www.LLS.org/HCPbooklets](http://www.LLS.org/HCPbooklets)
- Videos for HCPs: [www.LLS.org/HCPvideos](http://www.LLS.org/HCPvideos)
- Podcast series for HCPs: [www.LLS.org/HCPpodcast](http://www.LLS.org/HCPpodcast)



**CAR T-Cell Therapy in 2024**  
 Virtual, Live, and On-Demand Roundtable Webinar Series (2)  
 Recorded on March 12, 2024

**Michael Fox, MD, PhD**  
 Senior Lecturer, Program  
 Director, Center for Cellular Therapy, Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute  
 Boston, MA, USA

**Co-Moderators:**  
 Jennifer M. Heston, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute  
 Jennifer M. Heston, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute

**Co-Moderators:**  
 Allie E. Szymanski, MD, Dana-Farber Cancer Research Institute  
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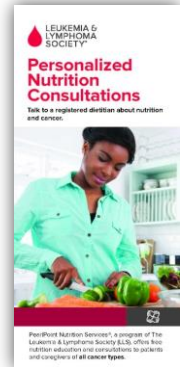
**Find us on your favorite podcasters**



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## Free LLS Resources for Patients

- ❑ **Information Specialists** – Personalized assistance for managing treatment decisions, side effects, and dealing with financial and psychosocial challenges (IRC).
- ❑ **Clinical Trial Nurse Navigators** – RNs provide a personalized service for patients seeking treatment in a clinical trial, sift through the information and provide information to bring back to their HC team (CTSC).
  - [www.LLS.org/CTSC](http://www.LLS.org/CTSC)
- ❑ **Nutrition Education Services Center (NESC)** – one-on-one **free** nutrition education and consultations to patients and caregivers of all cancer types with registered dietitians who have expertise in oncology nutrition.
  - [www.LLSnutrition.org](http://www.LLSnutrition.org)
- ❑ **Reach out Monday–Friday, 9 am to 9 pm ET**
  - Phone: (800) 955-4572
  - Live chat: [www.LLS.org/IRC](http://www.LLS.org/IRC)
  - Email: [www.LLS.org/ContactUs](mailto:www.LLS.org/ContactUs)
  - HCP Patient Referral Form: [www.LLS.org/HCPreferral](http://www.LLS.org/HCPreferral)



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## Free LLS Resources for Patients and Caregivers

### ❑ Webcasts, Videos, Podcasts, booklets:

- [www.LLS.org/Webcasts](http://www.LLS.org/Webcasts)
- [www.LLS.org/EducationVideos](http://www.LLS.org/EducationVideos)
- [www.LLS.org/Podcast](http://www.LLS.org/Podcast)
- [www.LLS.org/Booklets](http://www.LLS.org/Booklets)

### ❑ [www.LLS.org/CARTtherapy](http://www.LLS.org/CARTtherapy)

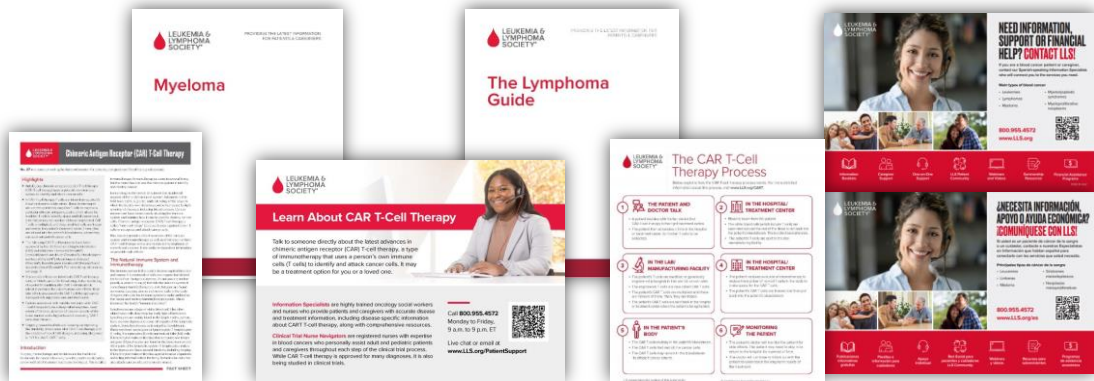
### ❑ Support Resources

- ❑ Financial Assistance: [www.LLS.org/Finances](http://www.LLS.org/Finances)
  - Urgent Need
  - Patient Aid
  - Travel Assistance
- ❑ Other Support: [www.LLS.org/Support](http://www.LLS.org/Support)
  - LLS Regions
  - Online Weekly Chats Facilitated by Oncology SW
  - LLS Community Social Media Platform
  - First Connection Peer to Peer Program



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## Free LLS Resources for Patients



### BOOKLETS AND FACT SHEETS

English – [www.LLS.org/Booklets](http://www.LLS.org/Booklets)

Spanish – [www.LLS.org/Materiales](http://www.LLS.org/Materiales)



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## Faculty

### Jessica R. Kassay-McAllister, DNP, RN, AGACNP-BC

Oncology APP Manager

Division of Hematology/Oncology

Cellular Therapy/Stem Cell Transplant Program, Effector Cell NP

UVA School of Nursing Clinical Faculty

University of Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Center

Charlottesville, VA

### Krithika Shanmugasundaram, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology

University of Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Center

Charlottesville, VA

### Dan T. Vogl, MD, MSCE

Director, Abramson Cancer Center Clinical Research Unit

Associate Professor of Medicine

Perelman School of Medicine

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA



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## Faculty Disclosures

**Jessica Kassay-McAllister DNP, RN, AGACNP-BC**, has no financial relationships with ineligible companies.

**Krithika Shanmugasundaram, MD**, has no financial relationships with ineligible companies.

**Dan T. Vogl, MD, MSCE**, has financial relationships with the following companies:

Advisory Board/Consultant: AbbVie, CSL Behring, Genentech, Takeda  
Research/Grant: Active Biotech, Takeda



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## CAR-T and Bispecific Antibody Therapies

**Jessica Kassay-McAllister, DNP, AGACNP**  
**Krithika Shanmugasundaram, MD**  
**Dan Vogl, MD**



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## Myth Busting Question



Patients requiring chronic narcotic pain management are not candidates for CAR-T or bispecific antibodies.



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## Myth Busting Question



CAR T cells are clearly more effective for myeloma than bispecific antibodies.



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## Myth Busting Question



You should avoid using steroids ever with CAR-T cells or bispecific antibodies because it decreases the efficacy of treatment.



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## Myth Busting Question



Bispecific antibodies for myeloma are too dangerous and complicated to give in a community practice.



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## Myth Busting Question



Patients with delirium who are within 30 days of CAR-T therapy should not receive steroids as it will make the delirium worse.



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## Learning Objectives

- Describe the role of CAR T- cell therapy and bispecifics in treating blood cancer
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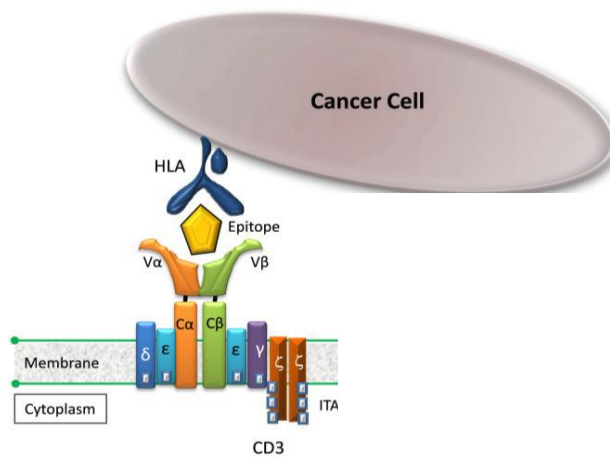
## Agenda

- Mechanism of CAR T-cell therapy
- Indications and Efficacy
- Toxicities of CAR
- Barriers to Access



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## Harnessing the Immune System

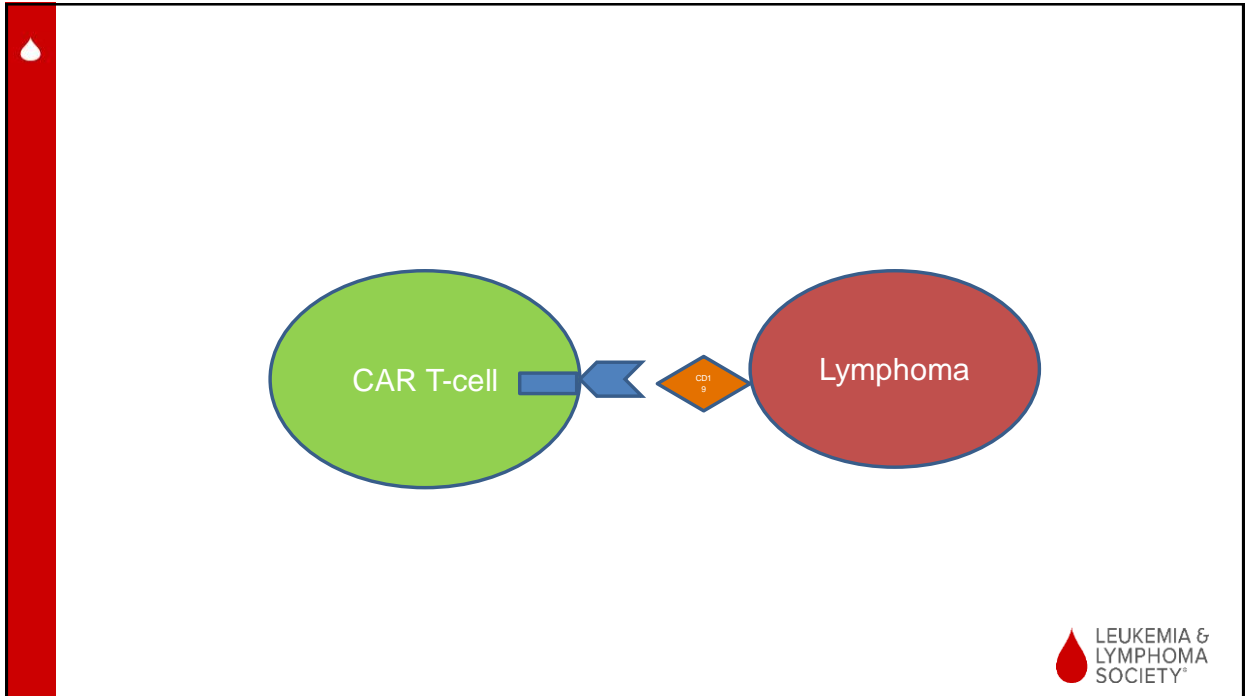


T-Cell Receptor (TCR)

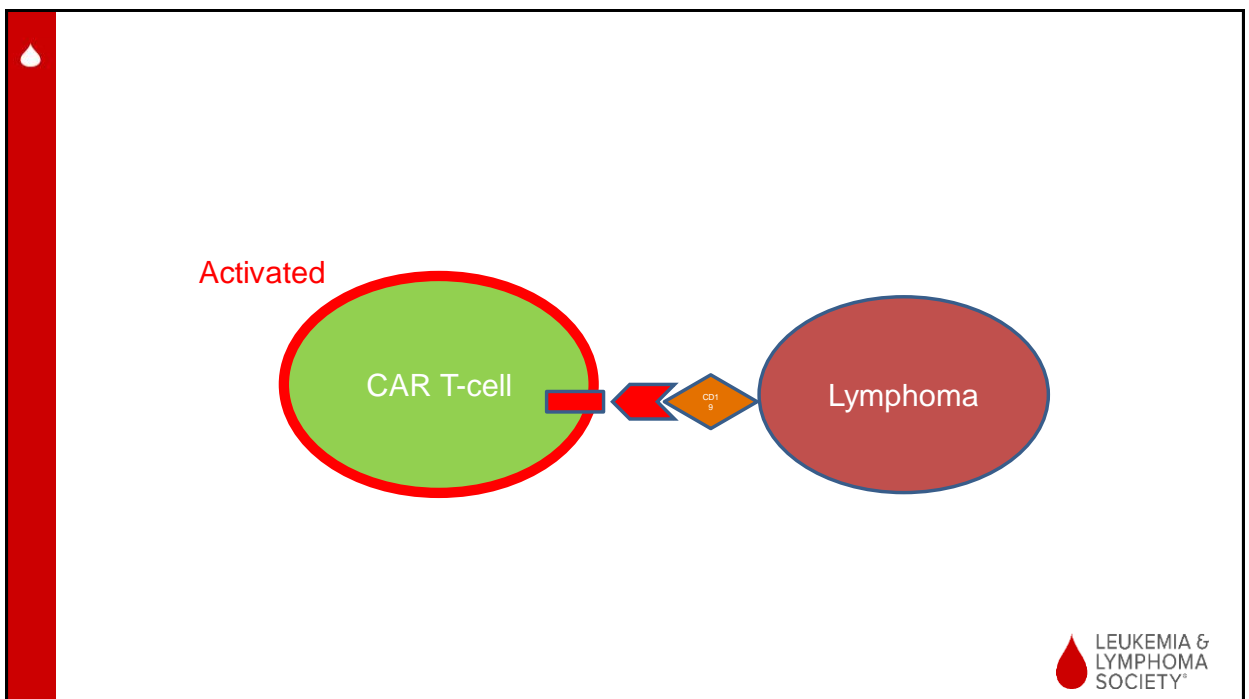
1. Fujiwara, Hiroshi. "Adoptive immunotherapy for hematological malignancies using T cells gene-modified to express tumor antigen-specific receptors." *Pharmaceuticals* 7.12 (2014): 1049-1068.



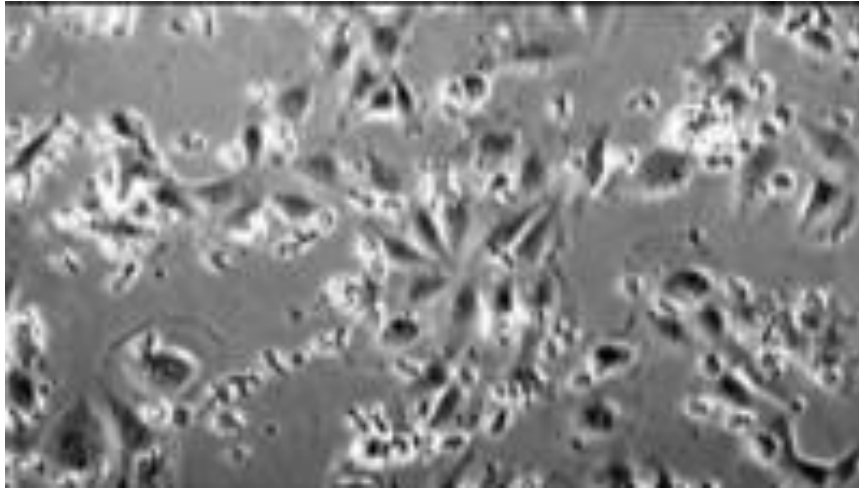
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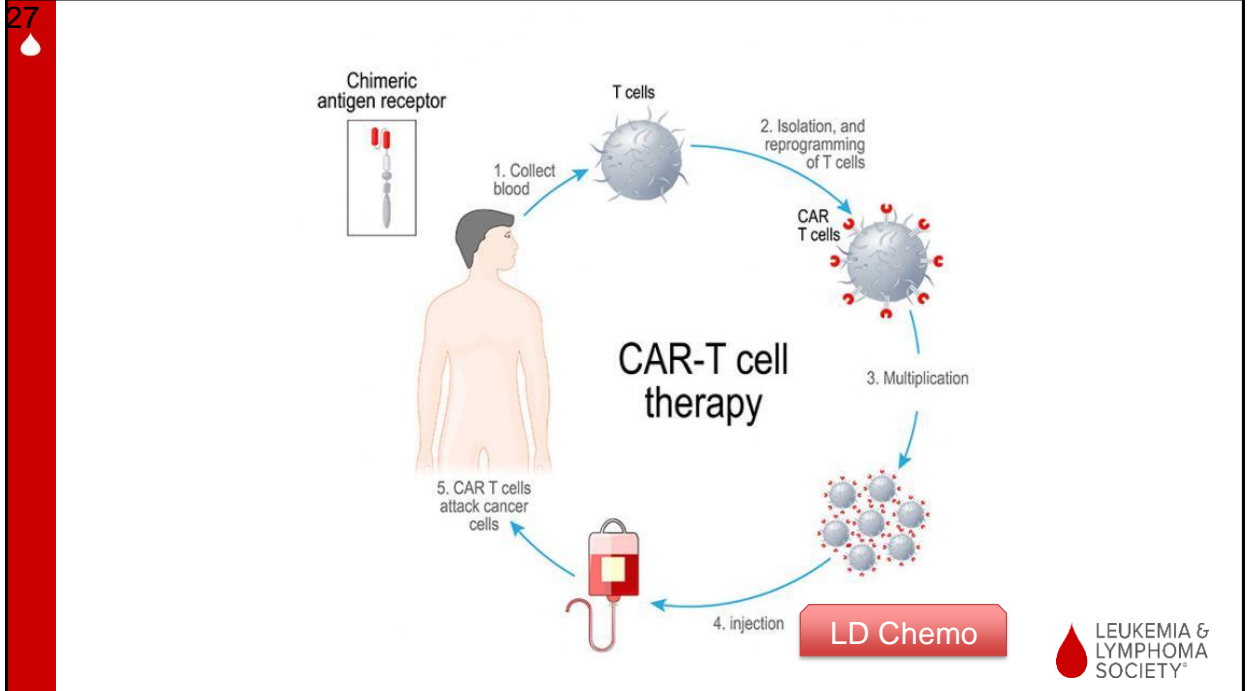
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## Indications

- **B-ALL**
- **Multiple Myeloma**
- **NHL**
  - DLBCL
  - Follicular lymphoma
  - Mantle Cell Lymphoma (MCL)
  - CLL

**ALL IN RELAPSED/REFRACTORY SETTING**



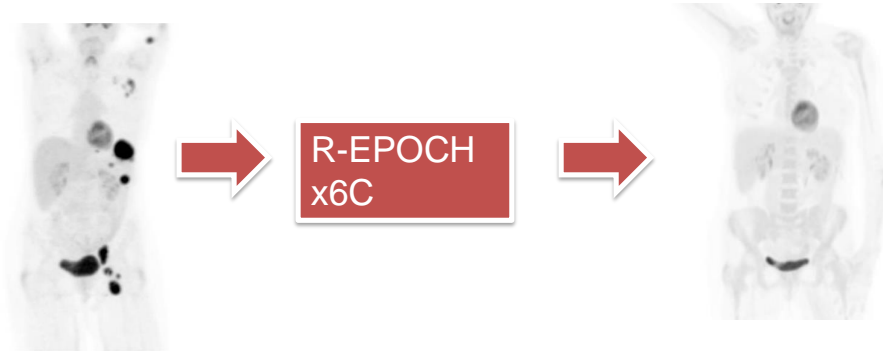
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## Case Study

54 yoM with diagnosis of DLBCL, NOS

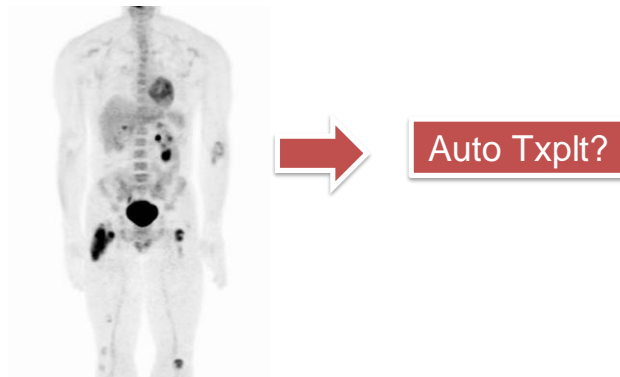


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SOCIETY

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## Case Study

2.5 years later - Relapsed

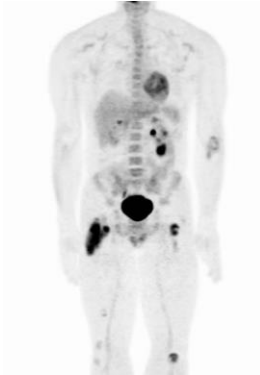


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SOCIETY

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## Case Study

2.5 years later - Relapsed



R-ICE x1



Progressive disease



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## R/R Large B-cell Lymphoma

FDA-approved in 3<sup>rd</sup> line setting

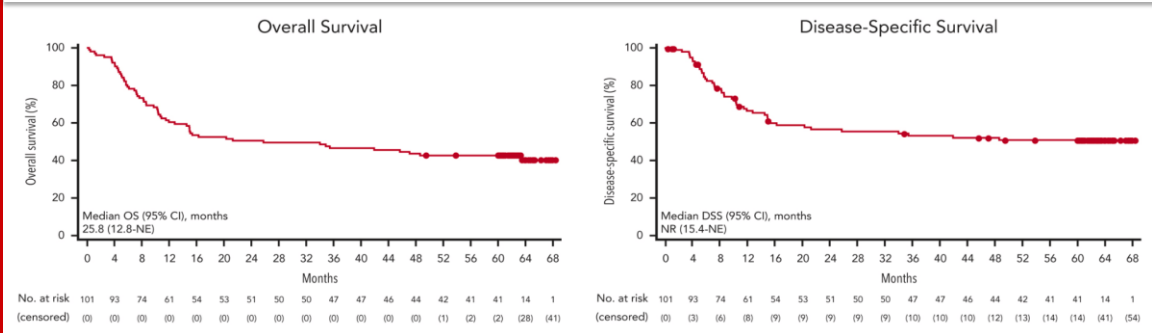
- 1) Tisagenlecleucel (Kymriah<sup>®</sup>)
- 2) Axicabtagene Ciloleucel (Yescarta<sup>®</sup>)
- 3) Lisocabtagene Autoleucel (Breyanzi<sup>®</sup>)



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# Long-Term Survival With Axi-Cel in Patients with Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphoma



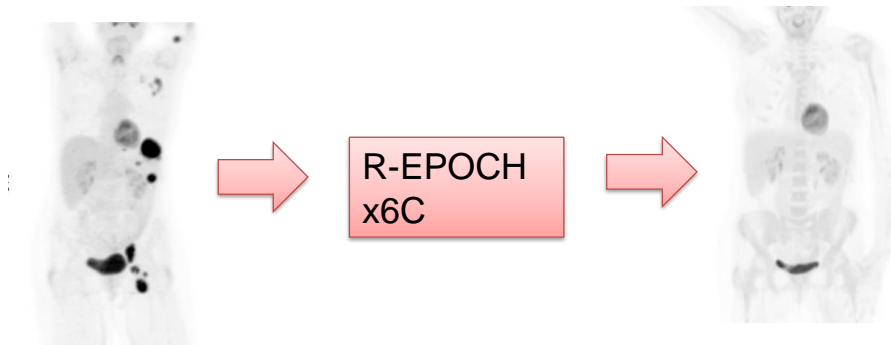
**Functionally, this is a cure!**



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## Case Study

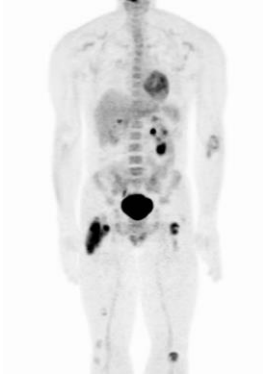
72 yoM with diagnosis of DLBCL, NOS



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## Case Study

2 years later, now 74 yo age



Auto~~T~~xplant?

## Case Study

2 years later, now 74 yo age

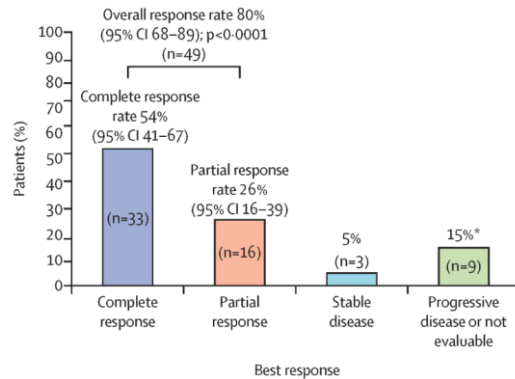


Liso-Cel

## R/R DLBCL, TNE patients

### PILOT Study: Transplant-ineligible patients

- Age >70
- Co-morbidities



Seghal et al, Lancet Oncology, 2022



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## R/R DLBCL, TNE patients

### PILOT Study: Transplant-ineligible patients

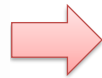
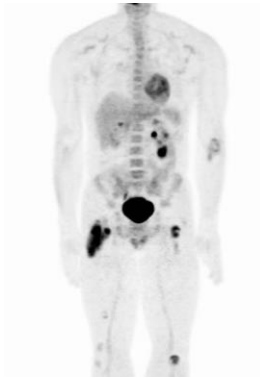
- Age >70
- Co-morbidities
- Adverse Events:
  - No Grade 4 or 5 CRS
  - No Grade 4 or 5 ICANS
  - 4 pts with grade 3 neutropenia (7%)
  - No treatment-related deaths



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## Case Study

Evaluate for Response?



Liso-Cel



PET within  
3 months



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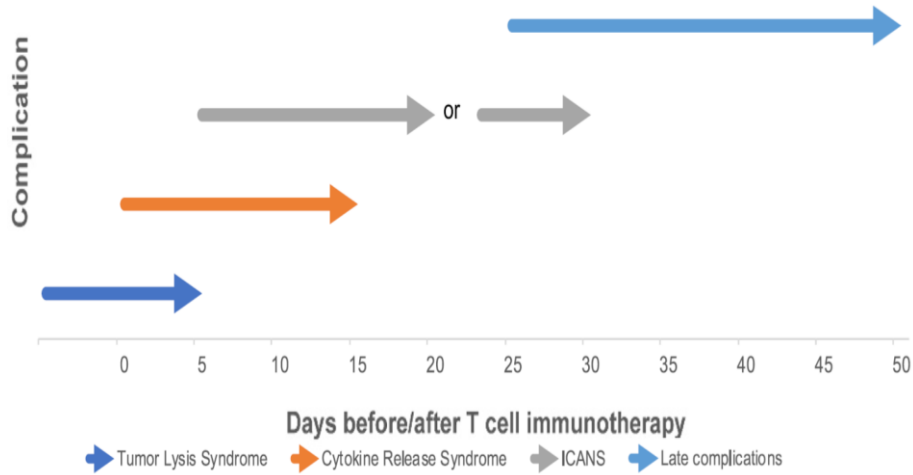
## Toxicities

- Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS)
- Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)
- Immune Effector Cell Associated Neuro-toxicity Syndrome (ICANS)
- Late complications: pancytopenia and hypogammaglobinemia



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## Timeline of Complications



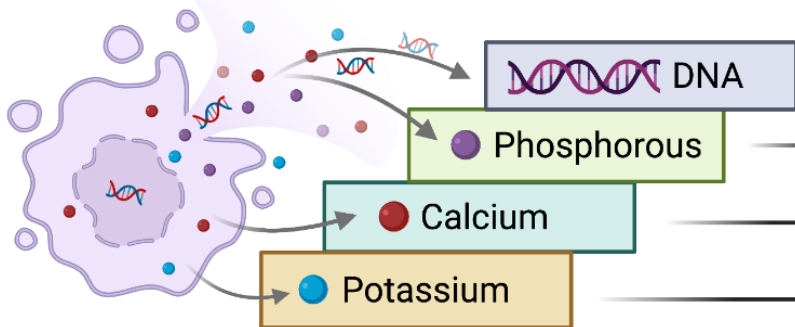
Varadarajan, I. and Lee, D.W., 2019. Management of T-Cell Engaging Immunotherapy Complications. *The Cancer Journal*, 25(3), pp.223-230.



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## Tumor Lysis Syndrome

When cancer cells die, or "lyse" they release their contents into the blood:



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## Tumor Lysis Syndrome

- Arrhythmia
- Renal Injury
- Muscle Weakness, spasm
- Seizure



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## Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS)

- Systemic inflammatory response caused by the release of inflammatory cytokines.
- Spectrum of clinical features from fevers to multiorgan failure.



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## 🔹 Polling Question



When CRS is suspected, there is no need to perform an infectious workup. True or False?

- A. True
- B. False



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## 🔹 Polling Question



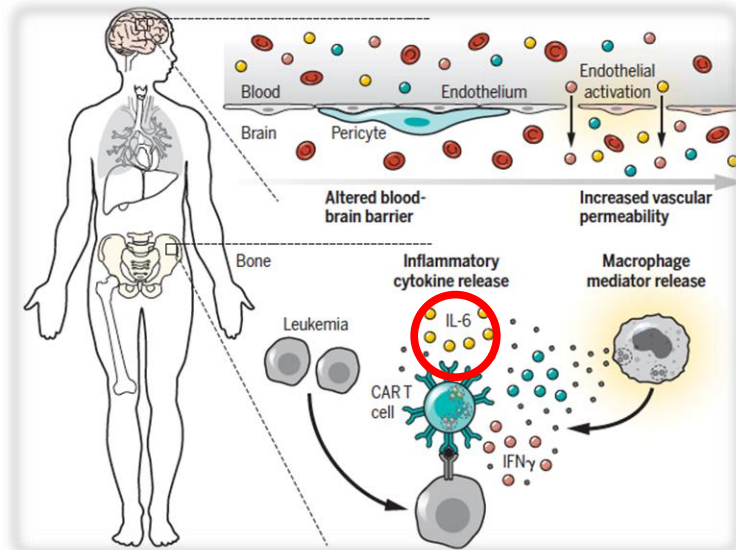
CRS is characterized by extreme inflammatory response triggered by increased IL-2, IL-6, tumor necrosis factor-alpha and other inflammatory cytokines. \_\_\_\_\_ is a required initial finding to diagnose CRS of any grade.

- A. Rash
- B. Neutropenia
- C. Fever
- D. Hypotension



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# CRS



June C. Science 2018

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## Constitutional

- Fever  $\pm$  rigors
- Malaise/fatigue
- Myalgias
- Arthralgias
- Headache

CRS symptoms

Riegler, L.L., Jones, G.P. and Lee, D.W., 2019. *Therapeutics and clinical risk management*, 15, p.323.

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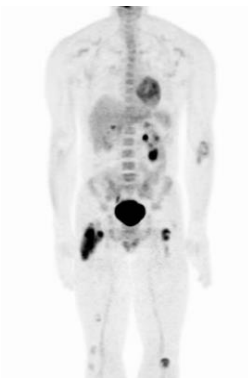
## CRS

- CRS : 70-98% of patients
- Median time to onset is ~ 5 days (range, 1-12 days)



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## Case Study



Liso-Cel



12 hours after  
infusion of  
CAR T-cells,  
noted T 101.5F



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## Evaluation of Patient

- **Vitals:** 101.5F, HR 122, BP120/80, and O2 sat 87% on RA
- **Exam:**
  - Tachycardic with regular rhythm
  - Port noted under skin to R chest with erythma. Not ttp, no obvious fluctuance.
  - Abdomen nontender/nondistended
  - Appropriate neurologically but tired appearing



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## Workup/Treatment

- **Infectious Workup**
  - BCx, imaging, urine cx, line assessment
- **Treatment**
  - Antibiotics if neutropenic/HD instability
  - Tocilizumab (anti-IL6)
  - Steroids
  - Consider ICU consult



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## Workup/Treatment

### ➤ Infectious Workup

- BCx, imaging, urine cx, line assessment

### ➤ Treatment

- Antibiotics if neutropenic/HD instability
- Tocilizumab (anti-IL6)
- Steroids
- Consider ICU consult



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## Severity of CRS

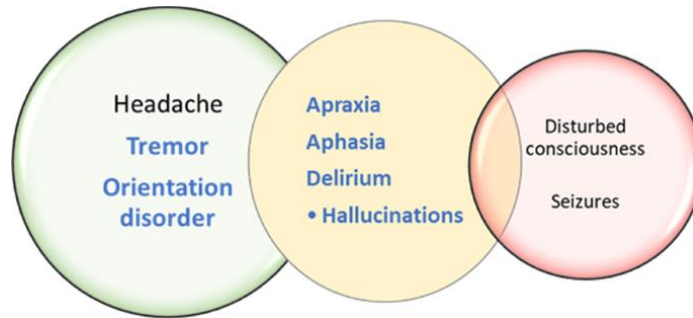
Grade 1-4

- Grade 1: fever
- Grade 2: fever + hypoxia (NC)
- Grade 3: fever + **hypoxia (HFNC) or vasopressors**
- Grade 4: intubated or on multiple pressors **(ICU)**



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## Immune Effector Cell Associated Neurotoxicity (ICANS)

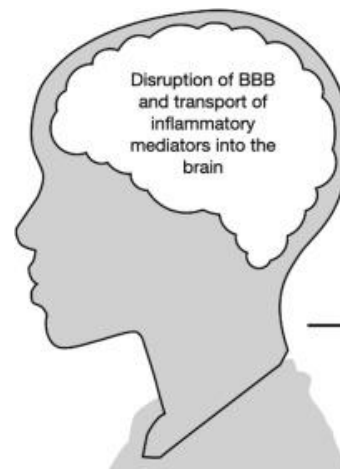


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## ICANS – Encephalopathic State

**Can range from mild tremors to seizures and loss of consciousness**

**Early signs are diminished attention, mild aphasia, and/or handwriting changes**



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## 🔴 Risk Factors

- Tumor burden
- CNS involvement
- Age
- KPS



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## 🔴 ICANS

- Occurs in 30-35% of patients
  - associated with high-grade CRS and high-disease burden
- Delayed ICANS is classified by seizure activity or episodes of confusion that occur, in roughly 10% of this population, between 14-28 days following the infusion (Schuster, 2019)



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## Case Study

Our patient is now day +14: acutely confused, agitated, became aggressive with partner and staff

Next Steps? Differential?



## Next Steps

### Consider

- ICANS
- Infection
- Medication/sedation
- Delirium

## ICE Score

### Out of 10 points

- Orientation (person, place, date mo/year)
- Name 3 objects
- Follow 2 commands
- Write a sentence
- Counting backwards by 10s



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## ICE Score

ICE	Question	Points
Orientation	Year, Month, city, hospital	4
Naming	Ability to name 3 objects	3
Following commands	Follow 2 simple commands	2
Attention	Count backwards from 100 by 10	1
Writing	Write a simple sentence	1



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## ICANS Grading

Neurotoxicity Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
<b>ICE score</b>	7-9	3-6	0-2	0 – Unable to perform ICE



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## ICANS Grading

Neurotoxicity Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
<b>ICE score</b>	7-9	3-6	0-2	0 – Unable to perform ICE
<b>Depressed level of consciousness</b>	Spontaneous awakening	Awakens to voice	Awakens only to tactile stimulus	Not arousable to tactile stimulus, Coma



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## ICANS Grading

Neurotoxicity Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
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<b>Seizure</b>	N/A	N/A	Any clinical or non convulsive seizures that resolve with Intvn	Prolonged seizure >5 mins. EEG activity –not resolving with Intvn

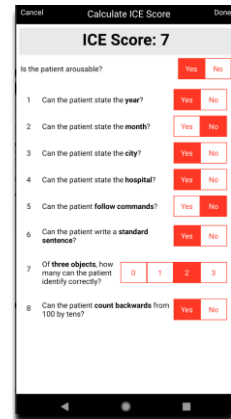
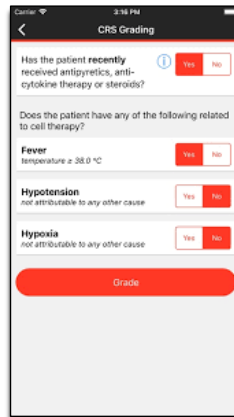
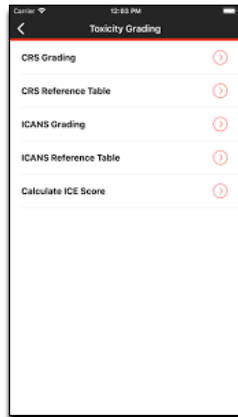
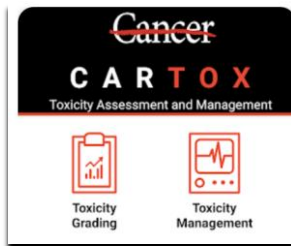
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<b>Seizure</b>	N/A	N/A	Any clinical or non convulsive seizures that resolve with Intvn	Prolonged seizure >5 mins. EEG activity –not resolving with Intvn
<b>Motor Findings</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	Hemiparesis, paraparesis
<b>Elevated ICP/Cerebral edema</b>	N/A	N/A	Focal or Local edema on Neuro-image	Diffuse cerebral edema on imaging

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## Cartox App



Developed by Sherry Adkins, RN, MSN, ANP-C  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center



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## Next steps -ICANS

- CT Head, MRI Brain as soon as possible
- Start on steroids
- Ophtho consult -> papilledema
- Neuro Onc consult

### Consider

- Infection -> cultures, imaging, abx if neutropenic
- Medication/sedation-> review, decrease polypharmacy
- Delirium -> PT/OT, reorientation



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## Common Barriers to CAR T

- Insurance
  - ~\$300,000 to \$450,000 per product
- Caregiver
- Lodging
- Disease status



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## Myeloma Case – Part 1

- 60 year-old woman with no sig PMHx, presenting with fatigue, back pain, vertebral compression fractures, anemia, hypercalcemia, monoclonal gammopathy, and bone marrow plasmacytosis



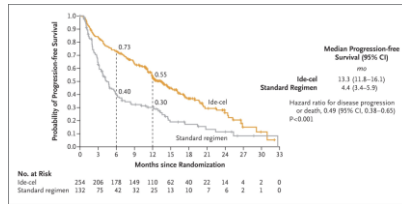
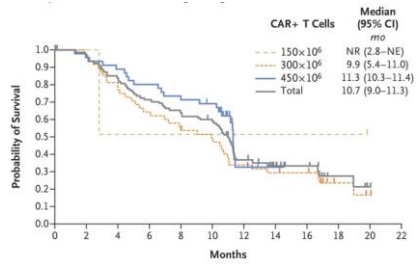
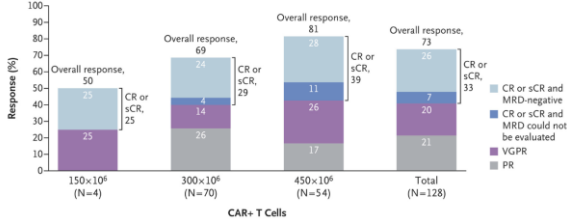
- **2017 Treatment line 1:**
  - VRd with VGPR
  - MEL ASCT with CR
  - Len maintenance x2 years
- **2019 Treatment line 2:**
  - Dara/carfilzomib/dex with PR and progression
- **2020 Treatment line 3:**
  - elotuzumab/pomalidomide/dex with PR and progression
- **2021 Treatment line 4:**
  - Cyclophosphamide/bortezomib/dex with PD
- **2021 Assessed for ide-cel**
  - T cell apheresis
  - Bridging therapy with selinexor/car/pom/dex
  - LD chemo with fludarabine/cyclophosphamide



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# Ide-cel (KarMMA studies)

A Tumor Response, Overall and According to Target Dose

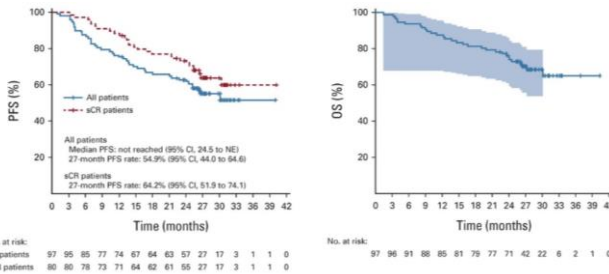
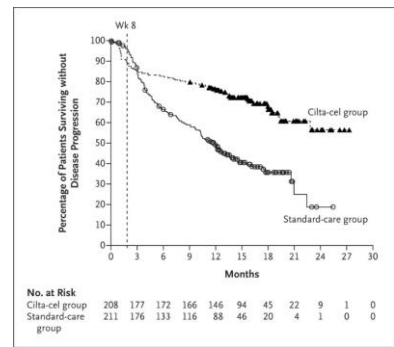
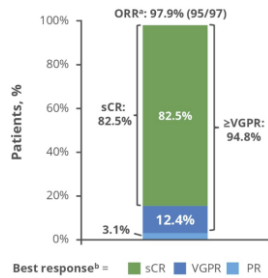


Munshi et al., N Engl J Med 2021; 384:705-716  
Rodriguez-Otero P et al. N Engl J Med 2023;388:1002-1014



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# Cilta-cel (CARTITUDE studies)



San-Miguel J et al. N Engl J Med 2023;389:335-347

Martin et al., DOI: 10.1200/JCO.22.00842 Journal of Clinical Oncology 41, no. 6 (February 20, 2023) 1265-1274.



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## Ide-cel and Cilta-cel for Myeloma

- Same inpatient toxicities as other CAR T cells
  - CRS
  - ICANS
  - Cytopenias
  - Fevers
- Same management of toxicities
  - Toci for CRS
  - Steroids for ICANS
- Differences
  - Timing of CRS
    - ide-cel: typically day 0-1
    - cilta-cel: typically day 5-10
- Late toxicities
  - Cytopenias (especially with ide-cel)
  - Neurologic toxicities (especially with cilta-cel)
    - Peripheral neuropathy
    - Nerve palsies
    - Guillain-Barre Syndrome
    - Parkinsonian Syndrome



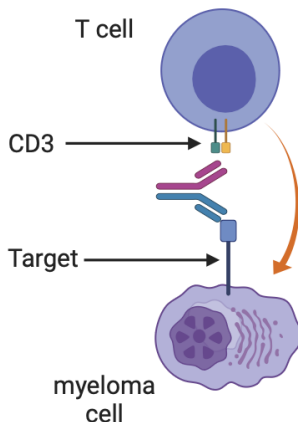
73

### Bispecific Antibody

**BCMA**  
 Teclistamab\*  
 Elranatamab\*  
 Limvoseltamab  
 Alnuctamab  
 ABBV-383

**GPRC5D**  
 Talquetamab\*  
 Forimtamig

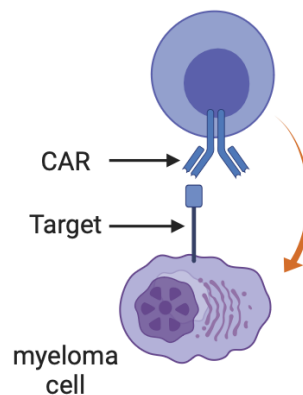
**FCRH5**  
 Cevostamab



### CAR T Cell

**BCMA**  
 Ide-cel\*  
 Cilta-cel\*  
 PHE-885  
 BMS-986354  
 GC012F  
 ALLO-715  
 CART-ddBCMA

**GPRC5D**  
 BMS-986393  
 MCARH109



\*Therapies with marketing authorization

Image created with BioRender.



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## Myeloma Case – Part 2

### ➤ 60 year-old woman with IgG lambda myeloma

- Line 1: VRd -> MEL ASCT -> Len maint
- Line 2: Dara/carfilzomib/dex
- Line 3: elotuzumab/pomalidomide/dex
- Line 4: Cyclophosphamide/bortezomib/dex

### ➤ 2021 ide-cel

- Bridging with selinexor/car/pom/dex
- Cytopenias lasting 3 months, requiring intermittent transfusions and G-CSF, then resolved
- Myeloma response: VGPR for 15 months, then progression

### ➤ 12/2022: teclistamab

- Admitted for step-up dosing
- Grade 2 CRS treated with tocilizumab
- Grade 1 ICANS treated with steroids
- Myeloma response sCR x1 year



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## Using Bispecific Antibodies in Clinical Care: Managing Toxicity

### ➤ Cytokine release syndrome / ICANS

- Step-up dosing requires expertise in identifying and managing CRS and ICANS
- Tocilizumab is an important component of the management of CRS
  - Not mentioned in the package inserts or REMS programs
  - Used in 36% of patients in the phase 2 trial of teclistamab

### ➤ Neutropenia

- 64% grade 3/4 with teclistamab
- Consider CMV reactivation
- Concomitant supportive G-CSF is effective

### ➤ Infection risk

- Profound immune paresis: Use IVIG supplementation to maintain IgG > 400 mg/dL
- Risk of shingles: Use acyclovir or valacyclovir
- Pneumocystis pneumonia: Use TMP-SMX



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## Infection Risk

CAR T cells may not confer more infection risk than other MM therapies

### Infection risk on Phase 3 CAR T studies for MM

	CAR T		Standard Care	
	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$	Any Grade	Grade $\geq 3$
<b>CARTITUDE-4</b>	62%	27%	71%	25%
<b>KARMMA-3</b>	58%	29%	54%	20%

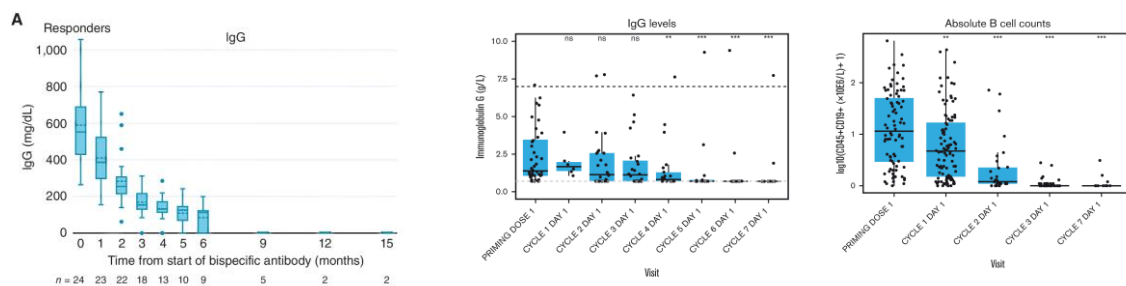
San Miguel et al., N Engl J Med 2023;389:335-34  
Rodríguez-Otero et al., N Engl J Med 2023;388:1002-1014



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## Infection Risk

- CAR T cells may not confer more infection risk than other MM therapies
- Continuously dosed anti-BCMA bispecific antibodies have significant infection risk



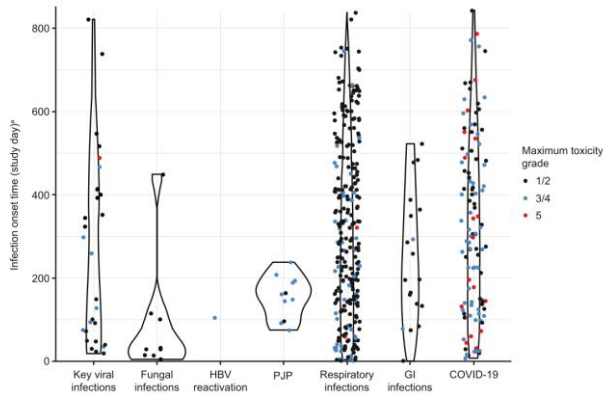
Lancman et al., Blood Cancer Discov (2023) 4 (6): 440–451.  
Frerichs et al., Blood Advances, 8(1):194  
Nooka et al., Cancer <https://doi.org/10.1002/cncr.35107> 2023



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# Infection Risk

- CAR T cells may not confer more infection risk than other MM therapies
- Continuously dosed anti-BCMA bispecific antibodies have significant infection risk



Lancman et al., Blood Cancer Discov (2023) 4 (6): 440–451.  
 Frerichs et al., Blood Advances, 8(1):194  
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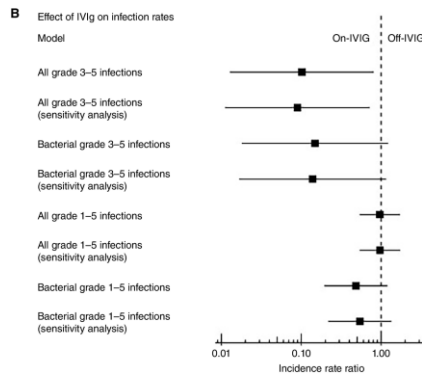
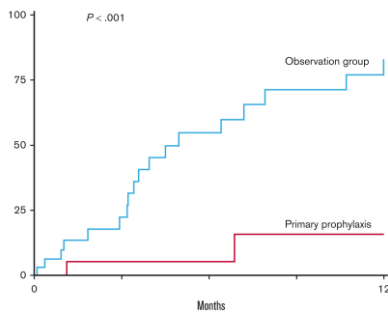


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# Infection Risk

- CAR T cells may not confer more infection risk than other MM therapies
- Continuously dosed anti-BCMA bispecific antibodies have significant infection risk

## IVIg likely significantly reduces the risk of severe infection on anti-BCMA bsAb



Lancman et al., Blood Cancer Discov (2023) 4 (6): 440–451.  
 Frerichs et al., Blood Advances, 8(1):194  
 Nooka et. Al., Cancer <https://doi.org/10.1002/ncr.35107> 2023



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## Polling Question 5



Which premedications need to be given for myeloma bispecifics during routine outpatient administration:

- A. steroids
- B. diphenhydramine
- C. acetaminophen
- D. all of the above
- E. none of the above



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## Using Bispecific Antibodies: Administration and Dosing

### ➤ Location

- Initial dosing should be given at a center with expertise in management of CRS
  - Typically inpatient dosing, but outpatient can be considered with appropriate resources
- Ongoing dosing can be continued in the community (outpatient, no premeds, no observation)

### ➤ For teclistamab: consider q2 week dosing

- Per package insert: weekly dosing
- Clinical trial permitted Q2 week dosing after 6 months in complete response
- Penn plan: change to Q2 week dosing at best response

### ➤ Consider outpatient rechallenge after dose interruption

- Per package insert: repeat inpatient step-up dosing (0.06→0.3→1.5) after delay of >28 days
- Penn plan: outpatient single dose of 0.3 mg/kg → 1.5 mg/kg weekly



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## Myeloma Case – Part 3

### ➤ 60 year-old woman with IgG lambda myeloma

- Line 1: VRd -> MEL ASCT -> Len maint
- Line 2: Dara/carfilzomib/dex
- Line 3: elotuzumab/pomalidomide/dex
- Line 4: Cyclophosphamide/bortezomib/dex
- Line 5: ide-cel

### ➤ 12/2022: teclistamab

- Myeloma response sCR x1 year
- Progressive disease with extramedullary plasmacytomas, biopsy shows no BCMA expression

### ➤ 12/2023: talquetamab

- Admitted for step-up dosing
- Grade 1 CRS, no ICANS
- Myeloma response: sCR ongoing @5 months
- Severe dysgeusia, mild palmar desquamation



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## Management of Talquetamab Toxicities

### ➤ Oral and taste toxicities

- Dysgeusia
- Dry mouth
- Dysphagia
- Weight loss

### ➤ Management

- saliva substitute sprays and rinses
- dose holds & adjustments
- dietary modifications
- good oral care

### ➤ Skin and nail toxicity

- Dry skin
- Hand or foot peeling
- Nail thinning and peeling
- Pruritis
- Diffuse macules and papules
- Injection site reactions



### ➤ Management

- Moisturizing lotions
- Ammonium lactate for peeling
- Nail hardeners and topical vitamin E
- loratadine
- topical steroids



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# Questions?



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## CAR T-CELL AND BISPECIFIC THERAPIES: CLINICAL APPLICATIONS AND NURSING MANAGEMENT

**Thank you for joining us!**

Held in conjunction with the Oncology Nursing Society's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress

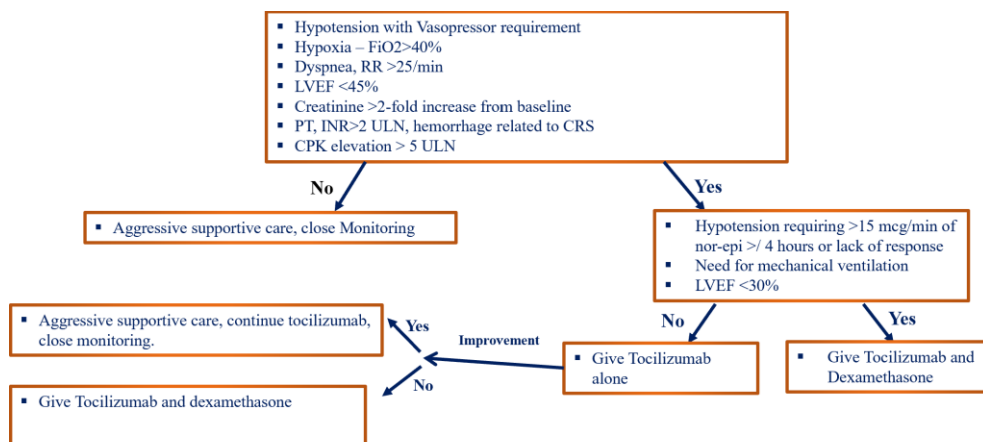


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## Slides for Reference

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## CRS Management Algorithm



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## CRS Grading

### CRS grading and management approaches

CRS grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temperature &gt;38°C</li> <li>flu-like symptoms</li> <li>nausea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>infectious workup</li> <li>broad spectrum antibiotic</li> <li>supportive measures (antipyretics)</li> </ul>
CRS grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temperature &gt;38°C</li> <li>hypotension not requiring vasopressors</li> <li>hypoxia requiring low-flow nasal cannula or blow-by</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>manage fever and symptoms as grade 1</li> <li>transfer to IMC/ICU</li> <li>low dose vasopressor</li> <li>tocilizumab 8mg/kg i.v.</li> </ul>
CRS grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temperature &gt;38°C</li> <li>hypotension requiring one vasopressor with or with vasopressin</li> <li>hypoxia requiring high-flow or facemask</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>manage fever and symptoms as grade 2</li> <li>repeat tocilizumab</li> <li>low dose corticosteroids</li> </ul>
CRS grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temperature &gt;38°C</li> <li>hypoxia requiring positive airway pressure</li> <li>hypotension requiring multiple vasopressors (excl. vasopressin)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>manage fever and symptoms as grade 2</li> <li>high dose corticosteroids</li> <li>consider further individual treatment</li> </ul>

## ICANS CONT...

### CRS grading and management approaches

ICANS grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>awakens spontaneously</li> <li>fatigue</li> <li>ICE: 7-9 points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supportive care</li> <li>IV hydration</li> <li>neurology consultation</li> <li>EEG/MRI</li> <li>consider antiepileptic drug</li> </ul>
ICANS grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>awakens to voice</li> <li>delirium/somnolent</li> <li>ICE: 3-6 points</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supportive care as grade 1</li> <li>consider ICU transfer</li> <li>consider antiepileptic drug, if not started</li> <li>low dose corticosteroids (i.e. dexamethasone 10mg)</li> </ul>
ICANS grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>awakens to tactile stimulus</li> <li>ICE: 0-2 points</li> <li>local edema on imaging</li> <li>seizure, that resolves with intervention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supportive care as grade 2 • ICU transfer</li> <li>continuous corticosteroids (i.e. dexamethasone 10mg every 6 hours) and antiepileptic drugs</li> <li>repeat MRI</li> </ul>
ICANS grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comatose</li> <li>ICE: 0</li> <li>cerebral edema</li> <li>life-threatening (&gt;5min) seizure</li> <li>motor weakness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supportive care as grade 3</li> <li>high dose corticosteroids specific neurointensive treatment (status epilepticus, brain edema)</li> <li>consider further individual treatment</li> </ul>

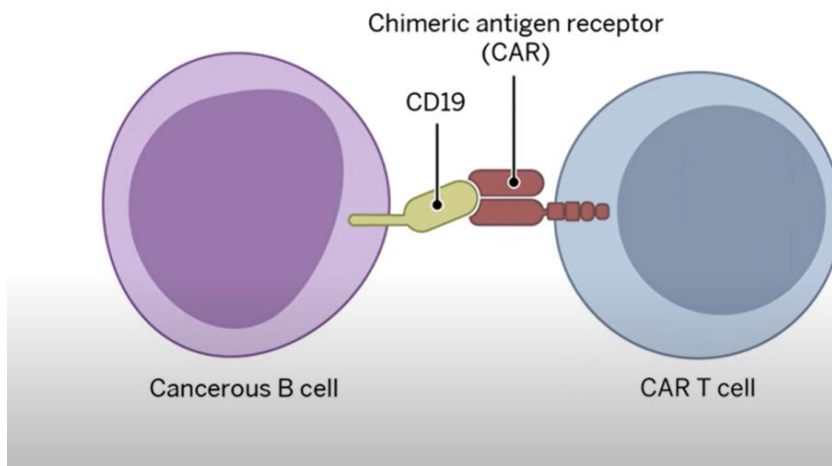
ASTCT ICANS Grade	Management
Grade 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Consider seizure prophylaxis with levetiracetam if not already started.</li> <li>-Review of medications, avoid medications that can cause CNS depression.</li> <li>-Swallowing assessment and aspiration precautions.</li> <li>-Neurocognitive assessment Q6hrs using ICE scoring system.</li> <li>-Neurology consult.</li> <li>-Consider EEG.</li> <li>-Consider lumbar puncture with opening pressure and samples for chemistry, cytology, virology, &amp; culture.</li> <li>-Brain imaging (MRI preferred if no contraindication). Spinal MRI based on neurological findings.</li> <li>-For febrile patients, infectious workup per institutional guidelines.</li> <li>-Consider tocilizumab if concurrent CRS.</li> </ul>
Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Supportive care and workup per Grade 1.</li> <li>-Consider dexamethasone 10mg IV every 6hrs or methylprednisolone equivalent.</li> <li>-Tocilizumab if concurrent CRS.</li> <li>-Consider transfer to intensive care unit.</li> </ul>
Grade 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Supportive care and workup per Grade 1.</li> <li>-Transfer to intensive care unit.</li> <li>-Dexamethasone 10–20mg IV every 6 hours or methylprednisolone equivalent.</li> <li>-High-dose methylprednisolone (1000mg/day) for focal/local edema.</li> <li>-Seizure control with benzodiazepines (for short-term control) and levetiracetam ± lacosamide.</li> <li>-If evidence of increased ICP (stage 1–2 by fundoscopy or opening pressure &gt;20 mmHg), urgent neurology consultation to guide management.</li> <li>-Repeat neuroimaging if persistent grade ≥3 ICANS.</li> </ul>
Grade 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Supportive care and workup per Grade 1.</li> <li>-Transfer to intensive care unit, may need mechanical ventilation for airway protection.</li> <li>-High-dose methylprednisolone 1000mg/day for 3 days followed by taper.</li> <li>-Seizure control per Grade 3.</li> <li>-Management of raised ICP per neurology/neurosurgery intensive care recommendations. May use hyperosmolar therapy (mannitol/hypertonic saline), hyperventilation strategy.</li> </ul>

Note: Data from references 6,8,17,18

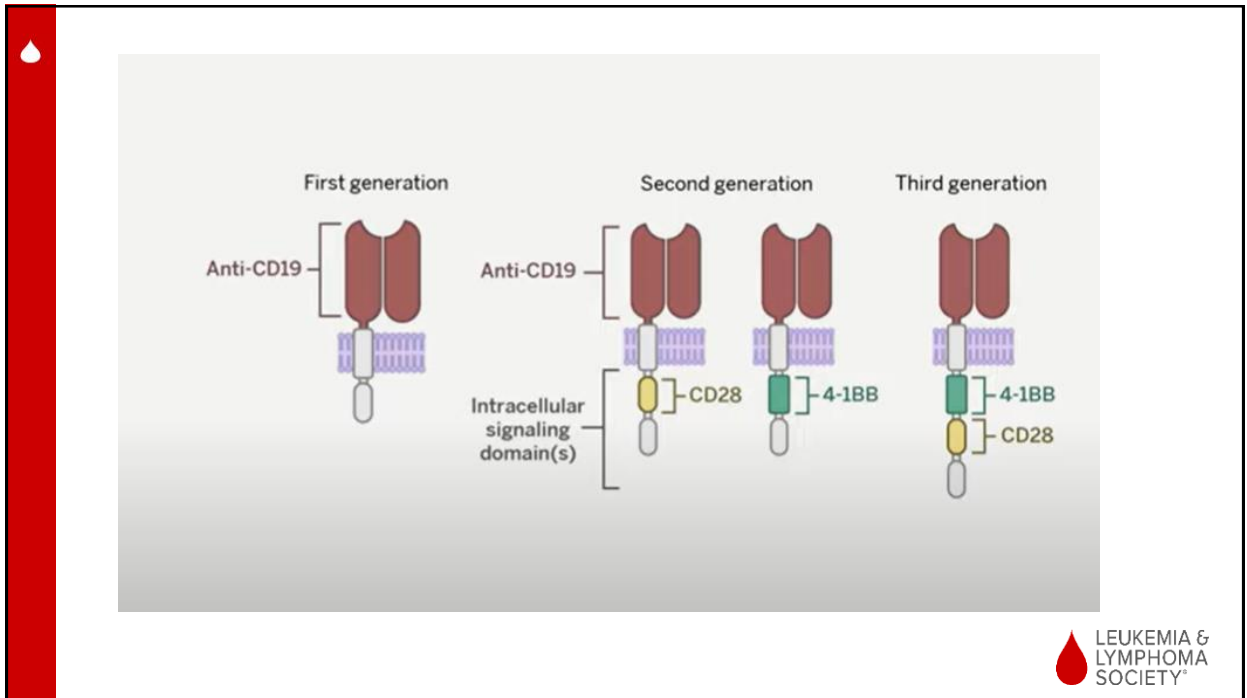
Abbreviations: ASBMT, American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy; ICANS, immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; EEG, electroencephalogram; ICE, Immune effector Cell-associated Encephalopathy; ICP, intracranial pressure; IV, intravenous.



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## ASTCT Consensus Grading

CRS Parameter	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Fever*	Temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$	Temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$	Temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$	Temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$
	With			
Hypotension	None	Not requiring vasopressors	Requiring a vasopressor with or without vasopressin	Requiring multiple vasopressors (excluding vasopressin)
	And/or†			
Hypoxia	None	Requiring low-flow nasal cannula‡ or blow-by	Requiring high-flow nasal cannula‡, facemask, nonrebreather mask, or Venturi mask	Requiring positive pressure (eg, CPAP, BiPAP, intubation and mechanical ventilation)

- \* Fever – defined as Temp  $> 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ .
- † CRS Grade is determined by the more severe event
- ‡ Low flow nasal cannula –  $\text{O}_2 < 6\text{L}/\text{min}$

Lee, D.W., et al. 2018. ASBMT consensus grading for cytokine release syndrome and neurological toxicity associated with immune effector cells. *Biology of Blood and Marrow Transplantation*.

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