

mSMART

Mayo Stratification for Myeloma And Risk-adapted Therapy

Management of Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) and Immune Cell Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome (ICANS)

- Idecabtagene vicleucel (ABECMA) and Ciltacabtagene autoleucel (CARVYKTI) are approved by FDA for relapsed, refractory myeloma
 - After 4 prior lines of therapy AND
 - Exposure to proteasome inhibitor, IMiDs, and anti-CD38 antibody
- Package insert and REMS (Risk Evaluation and Mitigation System) provides guidelines for product specific management of CRS and ICANS
- This consensus opinion specifically addresses general principles of management of acute and subacute adverse events
- Early communication and referral to CAR-T treatment center is recommended to facilitate efficient coordination to get patient to treatment



Management of CAR-T associated CRS

CRS Grade¹ **Grade 1** (fever only, **Tocilizumab** without hypotension or hypoxia) **Dexamethasone** If grade 1, and no improvement in 4 hours, consider **10 mg PO/IV** q24h If grade 1, and no improvement in 8 hours Or progression to Grade 2 or higher Can add **Dexamethasone** 10-20 **Tocilizumab** Grade 2-4 mg PO/IV g6h Repeat IV q8h If no improvement, (up to 3 doses total) escalate to Medrol below For progressive symptoms after the second dose of Methylprednisolone Tocilizumab consider 1000-2000 mg IV daily x 3 alternative cytokine blockade. Anakinra has been most days and taper over 2-3 commonly-used after days as tolerated. tocilizumab.

Management Considerations

Grade 1

- For treatment centers with capability for outpatient monitoring and rapid escalation of inpatient care when needed, initial monitoring can be done outpatient.
- Assess for infections

Grade 2 - 4

- Inpatient monitoring
- Monitor cytokine panel and consider alternative cytokine blockade
- Monitor cardiac, renal, hepatic functions, coagulopathy. If dysfunction not attributed to other causes, manage as refractory CRS.
- Vigilant monitoring for infections
- Consider disease debulking during CAR-T manufacturing whenever possible to reduce CRS risk.
- Proactive intervention should be given early in the onset of CRS to reduce the likelihood of progression to higher grade.
- Prophylactic cytokine blockade is being studied and not standard of care at this time.



Options for Management of severe CRS & IEC-HS*

Additional medications have been used to manage CAR-T associated severe CRS, IEC-HS (Immune effector cell associated hyperinflammatory syndrome). Use may be off label usage and not covered by insurance.

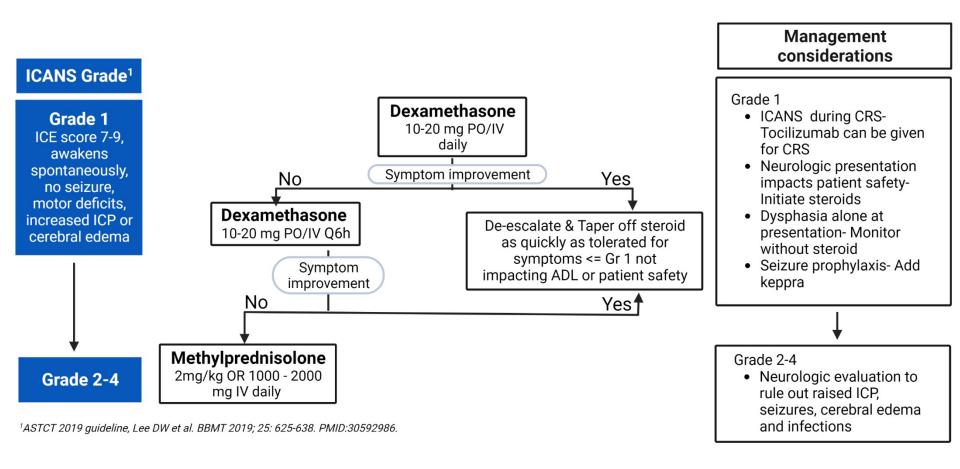
Medication	Starting Dose	Comment(s)
Anakinra	100 mg subQ BID	 IV doses can be given if concerns for subQ absorption. Dose up to 48 mg/kg/day and 3500 mg/day IV for 3 days have been tolerated in infection and COVID-19.
Siltuximab	11 // 11/ 1 1	Max dose: 100 mg bolus, 2mg/kg/hr IV. Max dose: 100 mg bolus, 2mg/kg/hr IV.
	11mg/kg IV over 1-hour x 1	If cytokine blockade in IL-6 strongly consider.
Basiliximab	20 mg IV x1	 If cytokine blockade in IL-2 strongly consider Assess response after 6 to 8 hours; for robust responses additional doses can be given 4 days after the first.
Etoposide	150 mg/m^2 IV twice a week	Not exceeding a cumulative dose of 2 grams.
Ruxolitinib	5mg po BID with a max of 20 mg po BID	
Etanercept	25 mg subQ 2 times a week	
Cyclosporine	trough of 200 to 250	
Emapalumab	1 mg/kg IV 2 times a week	Non-formulary treatment and may increase administration time.
		If cytokine blockade in IFN-γ strongly consider.
		Max Dose: 10 mg/kg IV 2 times a week.
Cyclophosphamide**	1 g/m^2 IV	
ATG (rabbit)**	2 mg/kg/day IV	

^{**} For refractory, potentially fatal severe CRS or IEC-HS where high expansion of CAR-T is detected, lymphotoxic agents such as high dose cyclophosphamide or ATG may be considered.

*Hines M; Knight T; McNerney K, et al TCT 2023.



Management of ICANS associated with CAR-T



Cerebral edema should be co-managed with Neurology ICU specialists. Consider adding mannitol and lymphotoxic agents.



Management of Late Onset Neurotoxicity

- Typical onset 1-3 months post CAR-T infusion.
- Clinical course can be prolonged. Spontaneous improvement can be seen, but can take months to > 1 year.
- Understanding of optimal management continue to evolve. Management in discussion with CAR-T treatment center is recommended.

Cranial nerve palsies

- Typically bilateral in presentation
- MRI finding of cranial nerve inflammation can be seen
- Steroid for severe manifestation

Parkinsonism

- Mitigation strategy with disease debulking prior to CAR-T and early intervention for CRS has reduced incidence in clinical trials
- Supportive care
- Sinemet and aggressive treatment such as systemic and or intrathecal lymphotoxic drugs have not been associated with improvement, and should be considered weighing severity of symptoms and side-effects of treatments



Management of Post CAR-T Cytopenia

Evaluations

Management

Month 1

Grade 3 or higher cytopenia can be common depending on cytopenia prior to CAR-T and CRS severity

Month 3

Anticipate cytopenia improvement to grade 2 or less

Rule out persistent or recurrent inflammation:

- CRP, ferritin, bone marrow biopsy Rule out nutritional deficiencies:
- Iron studies, pernicious anemia eval, copper, zinc

Rule out infection:

 PCR for CMV, EBV, parvovirus B19, HHV6

Rule out nutritional deficiencies and infections as above if not tested earlier

Rule out persistent or recurrent inflammation:

CRP, ferritin

Rule out MDS, T-MN

Bone marrow biopsy with cytogenetic testing

- If IEC-HS identified, consider anakinra, add steroid if refractory. Escalate immunosuppressive agents if refractory.
- If nutritional deficiencies or infections identified, treat as appropriate
- Continue blood count monitoring and transfusion support
- Variable success with growth factor and thrombopoietin mimetics
- If MDS and T-MN is ruled out, consider stem cell boost in patients with grade 3 or higher cytopenia and who have stem cells available

- Antibacterial prophylaxis should be given during prolonged neutropenia
- Antifungal prophylaxis should be given in month 1 post CAR-T and continued if patient is receiving chronic immunosuppressive medications
- Antiviral prophylaxis and PJP prophylaxis should be continued until CD4 T cells count is persistent >200. (This can take 1 year or longer.)
- Prophylactic IVIG, 400 mg/kg IV, should be given monthly for IgG<400 mg/dL, or for patients with IgG<600 mg/dL and have frequent infections.