

Neuropsychiatric events during early immune checkpoint inhibitor treatment are more frequent with extended steroid exposure.

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Introduction

- Immune check point inhibitor (ICI) have revolutionized cancer treatment, response is not tumor specific.
- Immune related adverse events (IrAe's) are treated with high dose steroids specifically glucocorticoids (hd GC) for 4-6 weeks.
- Neuropsychiatric (NPS) effects of hd GC not studied in oncological population specifically those who had ICI.
- Aim: To characterize NPS events by proxy measures i.e., new psychiatric diagnoses and new psychiatric medications in early ICI treatment.



- Patients identified by EMR.
- From 6/1/2017 to 6/1/2022.
 - Steroid cohort (prescribed ≥ 40mg/d equivalent of prednisone) and control cohort (no steroid scripts or administration).
 - Steroid cohort further divided into 1-month and > 1-month exposure based on number of number of months steroid script was given.



New psychiatric script more prevalent in the control group, but closer examination of drug class categories reveal differences in drug class script in individual groups



Model for predicting new psychiatric diagnoses





Antipsychotics

Distribution per drug class categories of

psychiatric scripts reveals steroid group has

higher use antipsychotics.

Anxiolytics

Inpt IV/IM haldol or

chlorpromazine

Results continued

Steroid group was 22.8% of the sample

For new psychiatric diagnoses

	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence interval
1-month steroid	4.63**	3.99,5.38
exposure		
>1-month steroid	7.62**	6.20,9.33
exposure		
	**=statistically significant difference	

For new psychiatric scripts

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	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence interval
1-month steroid exposure	1.29	0.97,1.69
>1-month steroid exposure	2.58**	1.78,3.64
	**=statistically significant difference	

Future Directions

Longitudinal evaluation. Look for additional predictors of NPS in this population.

Clinically

Encourage oncologist to review prior psychiatric history with patient. Ensure patient has appropriate referral while undergoing ICI treatment.

References

