| Toxicity | Putative Mechanisms | Diagnostic Evaluation | Therapy after stopping ICI | Expected Outcome | Retreatment strategy | Recurrence after Consider restartinging ICI*** |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Anemia | Autoantibodies? Cytotoxic T lymphocytes? | CBC, blood smear, reticulocyte count, Coombs testing, cold agglutinins, LDH, indirect bilirubin, haptoglobin; bone marrow aspirate and biopsy when pure red cell aplasia is suspected | Hgb decrease of 2 gm/dL: 1. Corticosteroids -/+ rituximab 2. High-dose IVIG 3. Calcineurin inhibitor 4. Mycophenolic acid | About two-thirds recover within 1 month | Consider restarting ICI when hemolysis parameters stabilize, including during active or tapering immunosuppression | 50% |
| Thrombocytopenia | Autoantibodies? Cytotoxic T lymphocytes? | CBC, blood smear, consider bone marrow aspirate and biopsy*, | Platelets < 30,000/µL: 1. Corticosteroids 2. Thrombopoietic agent 3. Rituximab 4. Calcineurin inhibitor | About two-thirds recover within 1 month | Consider restarting ICI when platelet recovery stabilizes, including during active or tapering immunosuppression | 33% |
| Neutropenia | Autoantibodies? Cytotoxic T lymphocytes? NK cells? | CBC, blood smear, bone marrow aspirate and biopsy*, consider vitamin and mineral measurements | Absolute neutrophil count (ANC) < 1,000/μL: 1. Leukocyte growth factor and corticosteroids 2. IVIG 3. Rituximab 4. Calcineurin inhibitor | About two-thirds recover within 1 month | Consider restarting ICI when ANC stabilizes > 1,000/µL, including during active or tapering immunosuppression | 66% |
| Bone marrow failure | Cytotoxic T lymphocytes? NK cells? | CBC, blood smear, reticulocyte count, bone marrow aspirate and biopsy*, consider vitamin and mineral measurements | Cellularity < 25%, ANC < 500/μL, platelets < 20,000/μL, and reticulocytes < 20,000/μL 1. Corticosteroids, transfusions, leukocyte growth factor 2. Antithymocyte globulin + cyclosporine +/- eltrombopag 3. High-dose IVIG | About one-half recover within 2 months | Consider restarting ICI when ANC stabilizes > 1,000/μL, Hgb > 7 gm/dL and platelets > 30,000/μL, including during active or tapering immunosuppression | Unknown |
| Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis | Macrophage secretion of IL-6? | CBC, reticulocyte count, blood smear, ferritin, fibrinogen, soluble CD25 , triglycerides, bone marrow aspirate and biopsy** | Corticosteroids -/+ tocilizumab Etoposide | About three-quarters recover within unknown time-frames | Consider restarting ICI when clinical and laboratory parameters stabilize, including during active or tapering immunosuppression | 0 |
| Venous thromboembolism | Macrophage secretion of IL-8? | Ultrasound Doppler and/or CT angiogram | Therapeutic anticoagulation | ~ 9% recurrences and ~ 5% major bleeding over median of 8.5 months**** | ICI should not be discontinued | ICI should not be discontinued |

TABLE 2: CLINICAL APPROACH TO IMMUNE CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR-ASSOCIATED HEMATOLOGICAL TOXICITIES

- * Include cytogenetics, flow cytometry, T cell receptor rearrangements and related molecular profiling by next generation sequencing
- ** Direct identification of hemophagocytosis
- *** Based on small case series¹⁸⁻²¹
- **** Major bleeding based on International Society of Thrombosis and Haemostasis criteria²³