

# Skin Manifestation Induced by Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

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**Abstract:** In accordance with recent therapeutic progress of immune checkpoint inhibitors for certain cancers, various disorders are induced as immune-related adverse events (irAEs) affecting the skin, gut, thyroid gland, lung, and liver. Among such irAEs, mucocutaneous manifestation is the most common. Cutaneous manifestations are categorized into several groups, ie, inflammatory reactions, immunobullous reactions, alterations of epidermal keratinocytes, and alterations of epidermal melanocytes; however, there are additionally various cutaneous toxicities, unclassified into those groups. Blocking of programmed cell death 1 (PD-1)/programmed cell death ligand 1 (PDL1) can lead to the induction of autoimmune reaction, via activation of cytotoxic T cells, inhibition of regulatory T cell function, and alteration of cytokine balance. Similarly, blockade of cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 (CTLA-4) reduces the suppressive function of regulatory T cells. Due to those mechanisms, various autoimmune conditions can be induced, in addition to nonspecific drug eruptions. Dermatologists should be aware of various types of those mucocutaneous manifestations, either common or rare, as well as the management of such conditions. Herein, various mucocutaneous manifestations of irAEs and cases involving Japanese patients have been described, based on a single institute's experience.

**Keywords:** skin rash, PD-1, CTLA-4

## Introduction

Recent progress has been brought about by immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) for therapy of various advanced cancers. ICIs target cell-surface immune checkpoint proteins such as cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 (CTLA4) and programmed cell death 1 (PD-1)/programmed cell death ligand 1 (PDL1). PD-1 is an immune checkpoint receptor expressed on antigen stimulated T-cells. A fully human anti-PD-1 antibody (Ab), nivolumab, was initially approved in Japan for patients with unresectable melanoma, and thereafter, therapies with ICIs have been extended to various solid cancers as well as Hodgkin lymphoma. By contrast, CTLA-4 is an inhibitory receptor constitutively expressed on regulatory T (Treg) cells. To date, anti-PD-1 Ab (nivolumab, pembrolizumab, and cemiplimab), anti-PDL1 Ab (avelumab, atezolizumab, and durvalumab), and anti-CTLA4 Ab (ipilimumab and tremelimumab) have been made available. Tumor-specific T-cells can be expanded and stimulated to carry out anti-tumor functions by inhibition of PD-1 and/or CTLA-4 checkpoints.<sup>1</sup> In parallel with increased use of ICIs, various immune-related adverse events have occurred, among which skin rashes are most commonly observed,<sup>2</sup> and thus management of ICI-induced skin toxicity has been proposed.<sup>3</sup> Pruritus, non-specific maculopapular eruptions, as well as severe drug eruptions and various autoimmune skin diseases are widely induced, and the prevalence of cutaneous lesions has been reported to be up to around 50% of the patients.<sup>4-8</sup>

The frequency of irAEs is much higher during treatment with anti-CTLA-4 Ab compared to anti-PD-1 and PD-L1 inhibitors. Possible mechanisms of the development of cutaneous irAEs include the production of autoreactive CD4+/CD8+ T-cells, stimulation of humoral immunity and B-cells, increased release of proinflammatory cytokines that are involved in immune-related damage in specific tissues/organs, and potential exposure of host antigens from tumor cells due to cytotoxic attacks.<sup>9</sup> Blockade of PD-1 enhances exhausted T-cell effector function, reduces the suppressive ability of Tregs, and enhances

B-cell and natural killer cell activity, and similarly, blockade of CTLA-4 may result in the reduction of suppressive ability of Tregs. Moreover, PD-1 blockade shifts the immune balance toward a T helper cell (Th)1/Th17 response.

In a real-world setting, patients with any grade irAEs showed a significantly high progression-free survival and overall survival.<sup>10</sup> Although the most prevalent cutaneous irAEs under treatment with ICIs are pruritus, rash, and vitiligo mostly grade 1 and grade 2,<sup>11</sup> dermatologists should be aware of various irAEs, not only when treating melanoma patients using ICIs, but also when consulted for cutaneous adverse events by other departments that treat non-melanoma cancers. In this paper, various cutaneous irAEs of ICIs are described, which were searched by PubMed, and also Japanese cases experienced in a single institute are introduced.

## Various Mucocutaneous Disorders

### Eczematous Conditions

Xerosis is often observed in patients under treatment with anti-PD-1 antibody. Nummular eczema is often induced due to dry skin, especially in winter season. Therefore, anti-PD-1 antibody-induced asteatotic conditions may lead to nummular eczema (Figure 1A). Patients are encouraged to moist their body by emollient cream. Seborrheic dermatitis/seborrheic dermatitis-like scaly erythema is observed on the face and trunk, as well as intertriginous areas such as the axilla (Figure 1B). Topical corticosteroids, calcineurin inhibitors, anti-fungal ointment, and metronidazole gel are used in these cases.

### Maculopapular or Morbilliform Eruptions

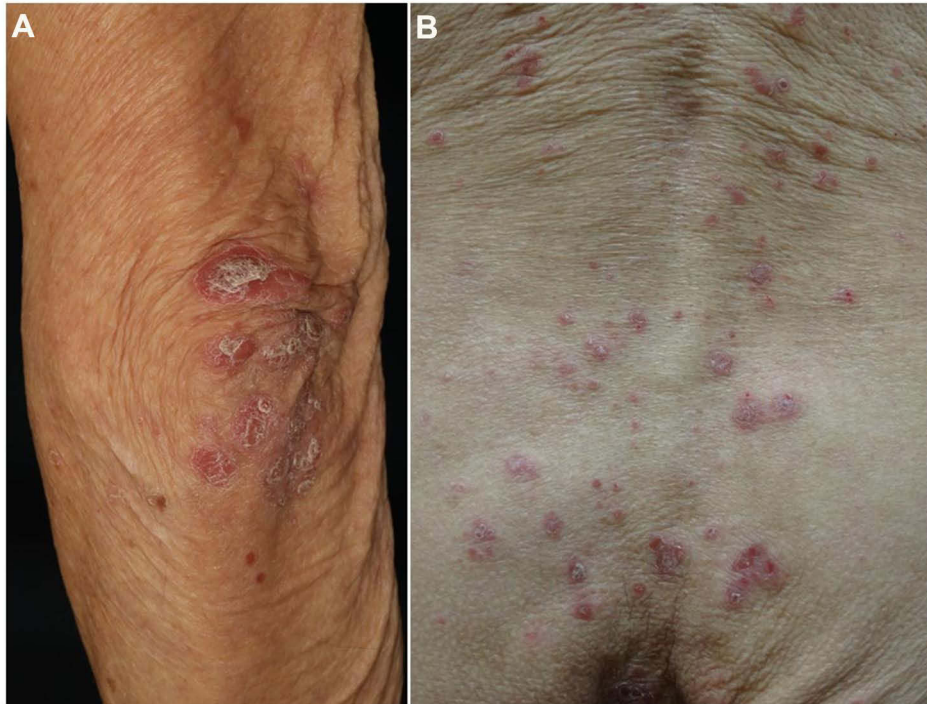
Maculopapular or morbilliform eruptions are commonly observed in around 20% of patients receiving PD-1 inhibitors and up to 55% of patients receiving both PD-1 and anti-CTLA-4 therapy.<sup>3-7</sup> Erythematous macules and papules are extensively observed in the face, trunk, and extremities. Skin rashes occur around 1 month after treatment. Maculopapular or morbilliform eruptions may progress into severe drug eruptions, as discussed later, and patients should be carefully followed for several days to a week after the occurrence of such eruptions.



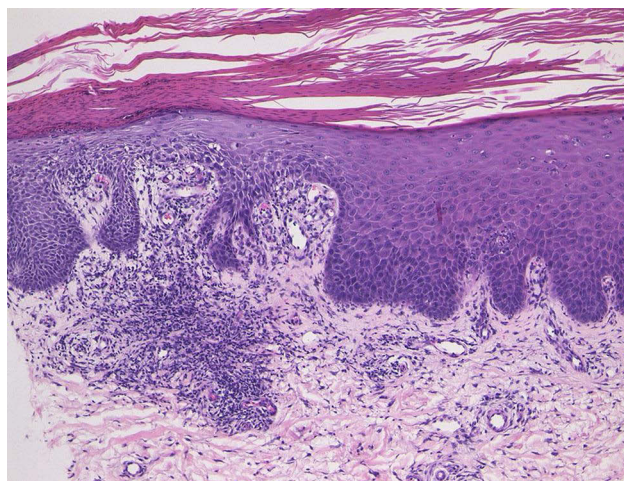
**Figure 1** (A) Nummular eczema on the back under nivolumab therapy. (B) Seborrheic dermatitis in the axilla under nivolumab therapy.

## Psoriasis/Psoriasiform Eruption

Psoriasis or psoriasiform scaly erythema is occasionally induced, affecting the trunk and extremities.<sup>12</sup> Some cases present with typical psoriatic plaques with well-circumscribed scaly erythema, while other cases present with ill-defined scaly erythemas on the trunk and extremities (Figure 2A and B). In some cases, palms/soles are affected, and small-sized lesions presenting as guttate type psoriasis.<sup>13</sup> Histopathological features show parakeratosis, irregular acanthosis of the epidermis, and infiltration of inflammatory cells in and below the epidermis. Subcorneal neutrophilic microabscesses are usually absent, but may be observed (Figure 3). Apoptotic keratinocytes are occasionally seen. In addition to de novo occurrence of psoriasis/psoriasiform eruptions, exacerbation of pre-existing psoriasis is also reported.<sup>14</sup> According to the data of the European Network for Cutaneous Adverse Event to Oncologic Drugs, among 115 patients with anti-PD-1/PD-



**Figure 2** Psoriasis plaques showing scaly keratotic erythemas on the elbow (A) and back (B) under nivolumab therapy.



**Figure 3** Histopathological features of psoriasiform eruption showing parakeratosis, partially irregular acanthosis of the epidermis, and infiltration of mononuclear cells below the epidermis.

L1-induced psoriasis, 30% had a previous history of psoriasis while 70% of the patients developed psoriasis de novo.<sup>15</sup> The patients were treated with either anti-PD-1 (86.1%) or anti-PD-L1 (13.9%). Regarding clinical types of psoriasis, plaque-type psoriasis was the most common (42.6%), followed by palmoplantar psoriasis (12.2%), pustular psoriasis (7%) and guttate psoriasis (7%). Interval between the initiation of ICIs and the onset of psoriasis/psoriasiform eruptions is a few months, which is longer than that of maculopapular eruptions.<sup>15</sup>

Psoriasis is immunologically mediated by aberrant, skin-directed T-cells. Recent progress shows that Th1/Th17 type T-cell subsets play a distinct role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. IL-23 released from dendritic cells (DC) (TNF- $\alpha$  and inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS)-producing DC; Tip-DC) leads to activation and proliferation of Th17 cells. The Th17 subsets release IL-17A and IL-22, which promote neutrophil recruitment and keratinocyte hyperproliferation, respectively. As PD-1 acts as an immune modulating receptor expressed on antigen stimulated T-cells that down-regulates T-cell activity, inhibition of the PD-1 pathway can be presumed to result in overactivation of T-cell function in response to various stimuli.<sup>16</sup> Indeed, blockade of the immune checkpoint receptors, such as PD-1 and CTLA-4, by their Abs has been demonstrated to augment Th1 and Th17 cell activities.<sup>17,18</sup> The number of reported cases of newly-onset psoriasis or exacerbation of pre-existing psoriasis during anti-PD-1 therapies is gradually increasing. A recent paper collected 21 cases of psoriasis/psoriasiform eruptions during anti-PD-1 therapies. Among them, 20 patients developed plaque psoriasis, 6 of whom also developed guttate psoriasis.<sup>19</sup> However, in these 6 patients who developed plaque/guttate psoriasis, 5 showed exacerbation of pre-existing psoriasis and only 1 developed de novo psoriasis. Inhibition of the PD-1 pathway has been suggested to result in overactivation of T-cell function including augmentation of Th1 and Th17 cell activities, which may induce psoriasis. In a study using an imiquimod-induced murine psoriasis model, either PD-1 genetic deficiency or PD-1 blockade by a monoclonal Ab exacerbated psoriasiform dermatitis.<sup>20</sup> The PD-1 axis downregulates the Th1/Th17 pathways, and thus blockade of PD-1 could promote a secondary overexpression of proinflammatory cytokines mediated by Th17 cells.

In addition to cutaneous psoriasis, psoriatic arthritis is rarely induced.<sup>21,22</sup> Inflammatory arthritis may be induced by inflammatory cytokines due to nivolumab-induced Th17 upregulation. By contrast, cases of palmoplantar pustulosis during the use of ICIs are very few.<sup>23</sup>

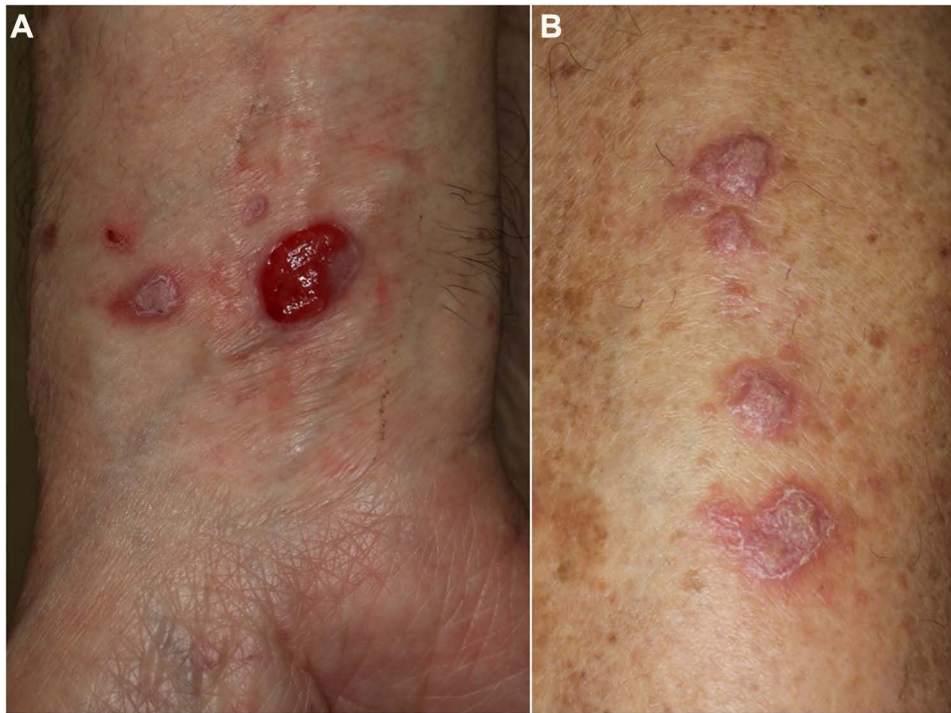
## Lichen Planus/Lichen Planus-Like Eruption

As compared with psoriasis/psoriasiform eruptions, lichen planus (LP) is not common during ICI therapy. LP or LP-like eruptions have occurred as purple-colored, slightly keratotic plaques on the trunk and extremities (Figure 4), with a mean time of 6 to 12 weeks after the therapy initiation.<sup>5</sup>

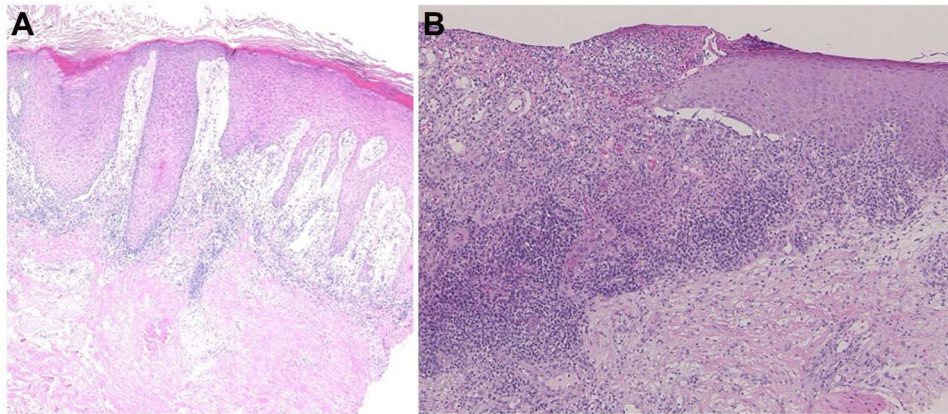
There are a number of reports on LP or lichenoid dermatitis.<sup>24–26</sup> In a single institution cohort study, lichenoid reactions were observed in 17% of 82 patients with metastatic melanoma who received anti-PD-1 therapy.<sup>24</sup> Purple-colored keratotic plaques appear on the lower legs after the initiation of nivolumab. Mucous and genital involvement was rarely reported.<sup>25</sup> Nail involvement presenting with subungual hyperkeratosis, dystrophy, and ridging has been reported. Rare phenotypes such as hyperkeratotic LP,<sup>27,28</sup> bullous LP,<sup>29–31</sup> and lichen nitidus<sup>32</sup> have been observed. Bullous LP is commonly seen on the lower extremities. Histopathologically, irregular hypertrophic acanthosis of the epidermis and lichenoid interface dermatitis, subepidermal edema, bullous formation, and rarely absence of the epidermis are observed (Figure 5). The degree of interface dermatitis and epidermal changes are variable. Bulla formation may be due to the extensive liquefaction and vacuolation of the basal layer.

It has been suggested that the pathogenesis of LP is due to epidermal damage caused by autoreactive cytotoxic CD8+ T-cells, mediated by interferon- $\gamma$  (IFN- $\gamma$ ). In murine LP models, prominent expression of PD-L1 in keratinocytes is suggested to play a protective role against cytotoxic CD8+ T-cells.<sup>33</sup> In addition, in vitro studies showed that administration of anti-PD-1 antibodies induced increased production of IFN- $\gamma$  from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of patients with oral LP.<sup>34</sup> Komori et al recently reported a case which focally developed LP in an irradiated area, suggesting Koebner phenomenon.<sup>35</sup> They speculated a close relationship between anti-PD-1 therapy plus radiotherapy and the development of LP. Another recent report showed an increased mRNA expression of granzyme B and IFN- $\gamma$  after nivolumab treatment.<sup>36</sup> Inhibition of PD-1 may induce epidermal basal layer damage with prominent edema leading to bullous LP, mediated by IFN- $\gamma$  and other molecules.





**Figure 4** Lichen planus showing well-circumscribed plaques with and without ulceration on the flexor aspect of the forearm under nivolumab therapy (**A**) and multiple polygonal slightly keratotic plaques under pembrolizumab therapy (**B**).



**Figure 5** (**A**) Histopathology of bullous lichen planus, showing bullous lesions below the elongated epidermis. (**B**) Histopathology of ulcerative lichen planus, showing the absence of the epidermis.

## Autoimmune Bullous Diseases

Bullous pemphigoid (BP) is occasionally induced during ICI therapy occurring between a few weeks and several months after the therapy initiation.<sup>4</sup> Tense blisters, bullae, and erosions with erythemas are observed on the trunk and extremities (Figure 6). Serum Abs against BP180 Nc16a IgG are detected. The occurrence of BP is associated with favorable tumor response to anti-PD-1 therapy and improved survival,<sup>37</sup> while other studies could not support the correlation.<sup>38</sup> Lopez et al<sup>39</sup> recently reported a literature review of 21 published cases of BP associated with ICIs, and Siegel et al<sup>40</sup> also reported 9 cases of bullous disorders, including 7 BP cases, that developed during ICI therapy at their institute. In both reports, melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer were the most frequent underlying malignancies. The median time between the initiation of



**Figure 6** Bullous pemphigoid showing tense blisters, erosions and erythema in a patient with lung cancer under nivolumab.

ICI therapy and the occurrence of BP was approximately 6 months, which is longer than that of most irAEs. Non-specific pruritic eruptions preceded blister formation in approximately half of the cases.<sup>39</sup>

Blockade of the PD-1/PD-L1 pathway has been shown to enhance B-cell activation, which may lead to production of autoantibodies and inflammatory cytokines. In addition, the development of BP may be due to Ab recognition of a common antigen which targets the basement membrane of the skin (cross-reactivity), and the production of autoantibodies against different epitopes, which can be induced by lichenoid reaction, may be attributed to epitope-spreading phenomena.<sup>38</sup> B cell-mediated Ab production needs longer period until the onset of associated diseases, compared with T cell-mediated responses. Occasionally, BP exhibits severe erosive erythemas mimicking toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN).<sup>41</sup> In addition, as rare variants, lichen planus pemphigoides,<sup>42–45</sup> and mucous membrane pemphigoid<sup>46</sup> have been reported.

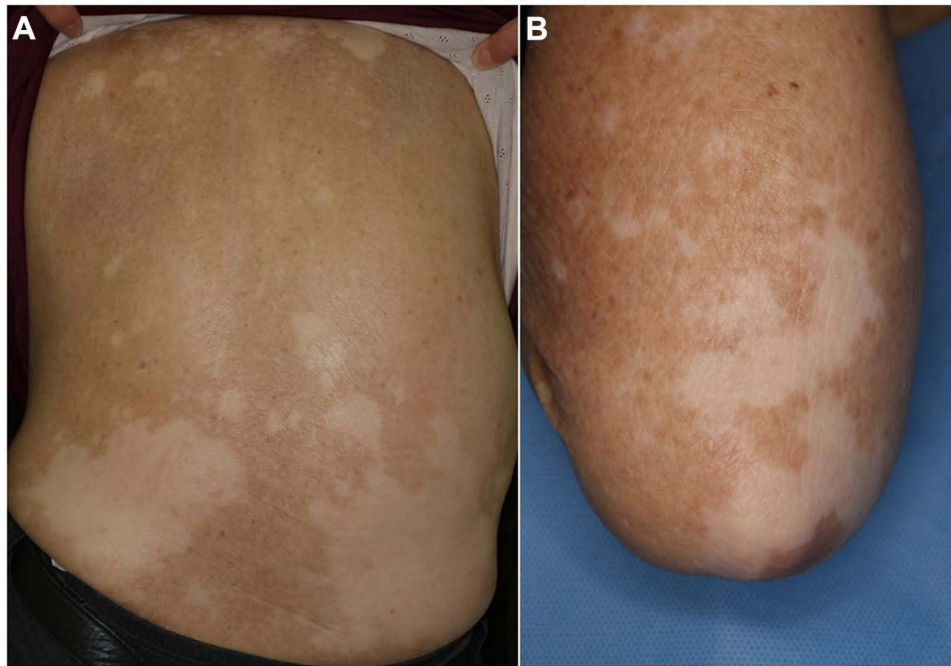
Acantholytic dermatosis (Grover's disease) or Grover disease-like lesions are rarely reported,<sup>47–49</sup> which present with pruritic papulovesicular eruptions on the erythema involving the trunk and extremities. Their histopathological characteristic is acantholysis of the epidermis, with or without dyskeratosis. Direct immunofluorescence reveals negative deposition of immunoglobulins and complements.

## Vitiligo

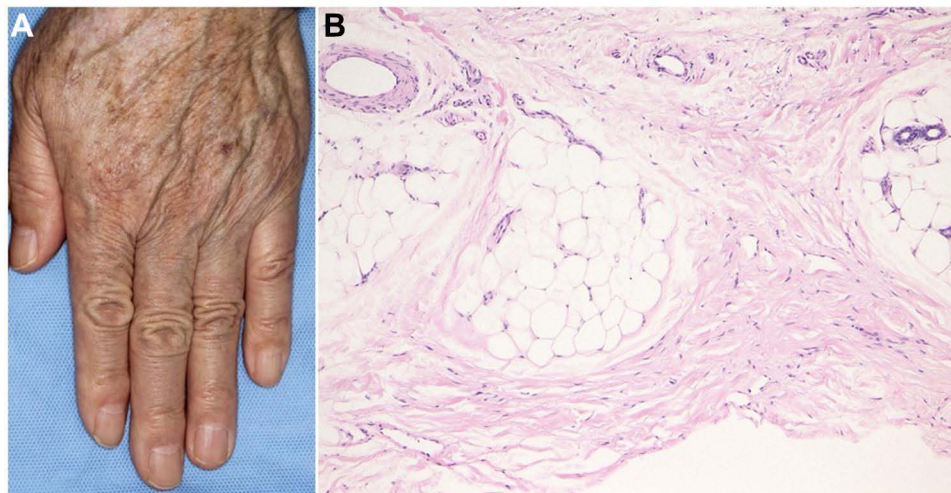
Vitiligo is frequently induced by specific autoimmunity against melanocytes during ICIs therapy, especially in patients with advanced melanoma (Figure 7A). By contrast, cases occurring in patients with cancers other than melanoma, such as lung adenocarcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma, renal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, transitional cell carcinoma, and hematologic malignancies (Figure 7B), are less commonly reported.<sup>7</sup> Occurrence of depigmentation during ICI therapy is significantly associated with a favorable prognosis such as higher survival rates.<sup>50</sup> Vitiligo is more frequently induced during anti-PD-1 therapy than during anti-CTLA-4 therapy. During ICIs therapy, CD8+ cytotoxic T-cells are activated against melanoma-associated antigens, such as MART-1, GP100, tyrosinase-related proteins 1 and 2, and tyrosinase, shared by melanocytes and melanoma cells, resulting in depigmentation.<sup>51</sup>

## Scleroderma

Scleroderma is rarely induced during the use of ICIs, especially anti-PD-1 agents (Figure 8A and B). According to a recent literature review by Terrier et al,<sup>52</sup> 6 cases of systemic sclerosis (2 limited and 4 diffuse type) and 4 cases of morphea (2 localized and 2 generalized type) were reported from 2015 to 2019. Regarding internal organ involvement, interstitial lung disease (n = 2), gastroesophageal reflux disease (n = 2), and scleroderma renal crisis (n = 1) were observed. Serum anti-nuclear antibody was negative (n = 7), positive (n = 2), and unknown (n = 1). The authors speculate that the inhibition of PD-1/PD-L1 induces profibrotic M2 type macrophages, which may promote fibroblast activation and excessive production of extracellular matrix protein. Recent studies have shown that, in addition to Th2, Th17 is also involved in systemic sclerosis.<sup>53</sup> Although



**Figure 7** Vitiligo in patients with melanoma under nivolumab therapy (A) and lung cancer under pembrolizumab therapy (B).



**Figure 8** (A) Scleroderma showing edematous fingers of an oral melanoma patient under nivolumab therapy. (B) Histopathology showing thickened collagen bundles in the lower dermis.

both in vitro and in vivo data on the role of IL-17A in fibrosis are still controversial, upregulation of Th17 cell activities provoked by ICIs may have a role on the development of fibrotic disorders. In addition to scleroderma, cases of scleroderma-like syndrome<sup>54</sup> and acral ischemia<sup>55</sup> induced by ICIs have been reported.

### Granulomatous Skin Lesions

Sarcoidosis or sarcoidosis-like lesions are induced 4.5 to 6 months, on average, after the initiation of ICIs. According to a recent review, 80 patients developed sarcoidosis/sarcoid-like reactions in association with ICI treatment. Mediastinal/hilar lymph nodes were most commonly affected (56/80), followed by the skin (40/80). By contrast, exclusive cutaneous involvement was observed only in 10% (8/80).<sup>56</sup> Clinically, subcutaneous erythematous nodules, papulonodules, plaques,



and annular erythematous lesions are presented (Figure 9A and B). Some cases such as infiltrative erythema do not fit into any type of cutaneous sarcoidosis, and are reported under the term of sarcoidosis-like, sarcoid reaction, or sarcoidal granulomatous dermatitis. Furthermore, sarcoid-like reactions can appear on tattoos.<sup>57</sup> TNF- $\alpha$  plays an important role in sarcoidosis, and recent studies suggest that IL-17 is involved in the pathogenesis of sarcoidosis, especially in the lung.<sup>58</sup> CD163+ histiocytes are abundantly detected in immunotherapy-associated reactions.

Other granulomatous diseases induced by ICIs include granuloma annulare,<sup>59</sup> and interstitial granulomatous dermatitis.<sup>60</sup> ICIs inhibit Th1 cells but activate macrophages, which may lead to granulomatous skin diseases. ICI-induced granuloma formation may be caused by the activation of the innate immune system, dysfunction of Tregs, and expansion of Th17 cells.

## Erythema Nodosum

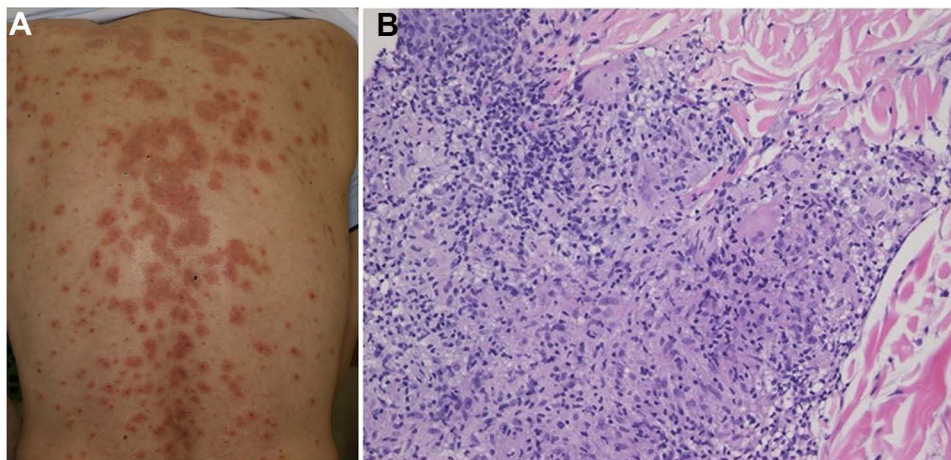
Panniculitis is rarely induced by ICIs. Erythema nodosum is a representative panniculitis which presents with reddish tender erythematous nodules mainly on the extremities, predominantly on the lower legs. It is generally considered to be a benign and self-limiting hypersensitivity reaction to various inciting factors. Erythema nodosum may be either idiopathic or triggered by infection, drugs, or other disorders including inflammatory bowel disease.<sup>61</sup> Histologically, early onset of erythema nodosum is characterized by a neutrophilic inflammatory infiltrate in the septa of the subcutaneous tissue. Sometimes, neutrophilic abscesses are observed in the subcutaneous tissues. CD8-positive T-cells infiltrate into the subcutaneous tissues. Although erythema nodosum is frequently induced during treatment with BRAF inhibitors, cases of ICI-induced erythema nodosum are rarely reported.<sup>62–64</sup>

## Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/TEN

Severe drug eruptions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and TEN due to ICIs have been reported. Such severe mucocutaneous reactions develop extensive erosions on the trunk and extremities, as well as oral mucosa (Figure 10A and B). According to previous reports, SJS/TEN occurred after a mean of 11 weeks of nivolumab use and after a mean of 3 weeks of pembrolizumab use.<sup>65</sup>

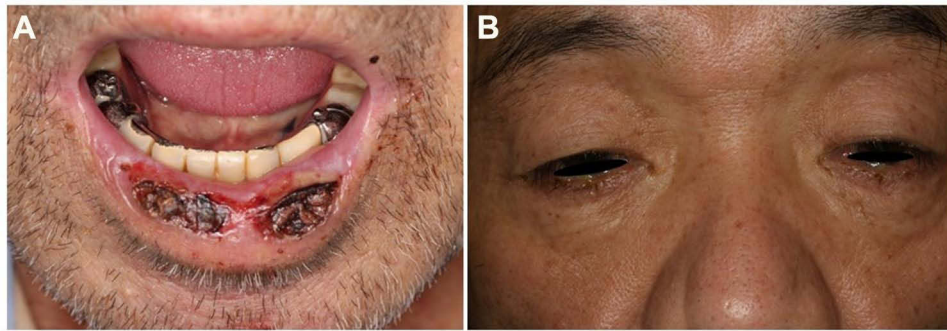
The mechanism is speculated that checkpoint inhibition interferes with maintenance of peripheral tolerance and protective function of keratinocytes from injury, which leads to a tendency for severe drug eruptions affecting mucocutaneous regions. Also, blockade of the PD-1/PD-L1 signaling pathway allows autoreactive CD8+ T-cells targeting keratinocytes to proliferate and be activated. Treatment with anti-PD-1 increases the expression of PD-L1 in epidermal keratinocytes, leading to the targeting and apoptosis of keratinocytes by activated cytotoxic CD8+ T-cells.

Patients may develop diffuse erythema multiforme-like erythemas with or without targetoid lesions on the trunk and extremities (Figure 11A and B). Biopsy reveals liquefaction degeneration of the basement membrane of the epidermis,



**Figure 9 (A)** Cutaneous sarcoidosis showing a number of annular infiltrative erythemas on the back under nivolumab therapy. **(B)** Epithelioid granuloma with giant cells and mononuclear cell infiltration.





**Figure 10** Mucosal involvement of the mucous membrane of the lip (A) and eyelid conjunctiva (B) under nivolumab therapy.

vacuolar interface alteration, and epidermal necrosis. Such cases require prompt systemic treatment in order not to develop into SJS/TEN. Thus, it should be kept in mind that severe skin toxicities can appear some weeks to months after the therapy initiation. Other types of severe drug eruptions such as acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis and drug-induced hypersensitivity syndrome (DIHS)/drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) are rarely reported.<sup>66</sup>

### Pyoderma Gangrenosum

Pyoderma gangrenosum is a disease characterized by refractory sterile deep ulcers predominantly in the extremities of middle-aged individuals. Although innate immunity plays an important role in the pathogenesis of pyoderma gangrenosum, acquired immunity of Th1/Th17 types also plays a role.<sup>67,68</sup> Pyoderma gangrenosum is rarely induced by drugs, such as iodide, bromide, isotretinoin, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor, and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor,<sup>69,70</sup> and ICIs can be included as possible candidate drugs. In addition to pyoderma gangrenosum, other neutrophilic dermatoses such as Sweet's syndrome<sup>71</sup> and hidradenitis suppurativa<sup>72</sup> have also been reported.



**Figure 11** Erythema multiforme-like slight reddish erythemas on the trunk under nivolumab therapy (A), which worsened with targetoid lesions 2 days later (B).

## Acquired Reactive Perforating Collagenosis

Prurigo-like lesions are sometimes seen on the lower extremities or buttocks. Also, the occurrence of acquired reactive perforating collagenosis (ARPC) is observed during ICIs therapy (Figure 12). Clinically, a number of umbilicated papules and nodules with central keratotic plugs develop on the trunk and extremities. ARPC is histologically characterized by necrobiotic basophilic collagen bundles which run transversely through the epidermis (transepidermal elimination of altered collagen). Pruriginous eruption may be induced by scratching due to severe pruritus. Such scratching may cause microtrauma and necrobiosis of the connective tissues. Insufficient blood supply as a result of vasculopathy may be associated as an underlying factor in ARPC. ARPC is seen in association with various systemic disorders in susceptible patients, and in particular, it is frequently associated with uncontrolled severe diabetes, as well as other disorders such as chronic renal failure, liver dysfunction, viral infection, lung fibrosis, and thyroid dysfunction. Pruritus is considered as a most common symptom induced by ICIs. Scratching is the main cause of ARPC, but other factors are also highly involved.

## Other Skin Manifestations

Non-scarring alopecia presenting with alopecia areata or diffuse alopecia,<sup>73</sup> and nail changes such as nail dystrophy, onychomadesis, onychoschizia, and paronychia have been observed.<sup>74</sup> Vasculitis (cutaneous leukocytoclastic vasculitis), rheumatic diseases (systemic and cutaneous lupus erythematosus (acute, subacute, and chronic), dermatomyositis, Sjogren's syndrome, and autoimmune fasciitis), and rare forms of skin lesions mimicking erythema annulare centrifugum or pityriasis rubra pilaris, have been reported.<sup>6,7</sup> Both benign and malignant skin tumors, such as keratoacanthoma, porokeratosis, actinic keratosis, squamous cell carcinoma, and pseudolymphoma, have been reported.<sup>6</sup> Eruptive keratoacanthoma showed spontaneous regression following nivolumab treatment.<sup>75</sup>

## Conclusions

ICIs are now approved for many advanced malignancies. In accordance with an increase in both the use of ICIs and the number of cancers for which ICI therapy was approved, the diversity of AEs associated with ICIs is growing. In general, the induction of adverse events may correlate with the antitumor immune response. Cutaneous irAE can be classified into several types, ie, i) inflammatory reactions, ii) immunobullous reactions, iii) keratinocyte alterations, and iv) melanocytic alterations (Table 1). There are variations in time interval between the initiation of ICIs and development of those mucocutaneous lesions. Of note, different types of mucocutaneous lesions can be developed in the same individuals, at a different timing depending on the type of lesions.

Many cutaneous irAEs do not always require interruption of ICIs, because the majority of the cases are classified as grade 1 and grade 2. Although rare, severe lesions such as SJS/TEN and DIES/DRESS should be carefully managed with the Grading systems.<sup>5</sup> Thus, the role of dermatologists is important to control skin rash tolerated as long as the rash does not reach grade 3. Furthermore, prompt treatment is necessary for severe cases of grade 4. Additionally, combined treatment with anti-CTLA-4 and



**Figure 12** Pruriginous nodules of acquired reactive perforating collagenosis with central umbilical keratosis under nivolumab therapy.

**Table I** Proposed Classification of Cutaneous irAEs

Cutaneous Toxicities	Representative Conditions	Intervals
Inflammatory reactions	Eczematous/dermatitis conditions Lichen planus/lichenoid dermatitis Psoriasis/psoriasiform eruptions SJS/TEN Neutrophilic dermatosis	0~4 months
Immunobullous reactions	Bullous pemphigoid Acantholytic dermatosis	3~6 months
Keratinocyte alterations	Tumors	3~12< months
Melanocytic alterations	Vitiligo	2~6 months
Others	Granulomatous conditions Sclerodermoid changes Hair, nail, and mucosal changes Prurigo/perforating collagenosis	1~12 months

anti-PD-1 therapy results in the development of more frequent cutaneous irAEs with greater severity and an earlier onset than monotherapy with ICIs.<sup>76</sup> Resumption of ICIs may induce both the same and different cutaneous lesions,<sup>77</sup> with an escalated grade. Therefore, careful and long-term monitoring, as well as management of cutaneous irAEs are required.

## Informed-Consent Statement

Written informed consent was obtained from all patients for accompanying images to be published in this paper.

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## Disclosure

The author declares no conflicts of interest related to this work.

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