Beyond Maximum Grade: Modernizing the Assessment and Reporting of Adverse Events

The Lancet Haematology Commission

NCI Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee (CTAC) Meeting
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DISCLOSURE

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None

Off Label Usage
None
Objectives

• Discuss why traditional approaches to reporting and analyzing adverse events (AEs) are inadequate in the era of modern therapeutics for hematologic malignancies

• Briefly introduce a complementary approaches to adverse event analysis that captures AE time frame and chronic, low grade events

• Define priority areas and tangible solutions for improving AE assessment across the hematologic malignancies as identified by an international commission and recently published in The Lancet Haematology
Evolution of therapy of hematologic malignancies

Lymphoma as an exemplar of changing treatment paradigms in hematologic malignancies

Thanarajasingam G, Lancet Haematol, 2018
Current AE reporting for hematology therapies is incomplete

- Does not account for **time profile** of AEs
  - When will they arise?
  - How long will they last?
  - When will they be the worst?

- Does not capture the impact of chronic, low grade toxicity on the ability to continue treatment

- Does not incorporate patient-reported outcomes (PRO)

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Panel 1: Definitions of toxicity relative to drug exposure, by drug category

**Acute effects**
Develop within a short and defined timeframe; can be transient or reversible or persistent.

**Chronic effects**
Develop over time to be a persistent and unremitting, or intermittent and recurring, series of events, extending past a defined interval such as the first cycle of therapy.

**Cumulative effects**
Develop and increase with repeated exposures to drug (progressive over time).

**Late effects**
Result in subclinical or asymptomatic physiological changes that do not result in immediate, intermittent, or short-term adverse clinical events, but rather are manifest over an extended timeframe.

Thanarajasingam G. J Natl Cancer Inst 2015. 107(10)
Thanarajasingam G, Lancet Haematol, 2018
Safety, tolerability and the patient experience of AEs in the current landscape of hematology therapies

Slide courtesy of Lori Minasian, MD
Shortcomings of traditional “maximum grade” reporting: chronic low grade AEs

Table 4. Adverse Events Deemed Related to Panobinostat (≥ 10% any grade) As of June 11, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse Event</th>
<th>Any Grade</th>
<th>Grade 3 to 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. %</td>
<td>No. %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thrombocytopenia</td>
<td>110 85</td>
<td>102 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>85 60</td>
<td>4 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>77 60</td>
<td>1 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anemia</td>
<td>49 38</td>
<td>27 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>49 38</td>
<td>12 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Adverse Events during Treatment.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event or Abnormality</th>
<th>Any</th>
<th>Grade 3 or 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. (%)</td>
<td>No. (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>54 (43)</td>
<td>16 (13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>37 (30)</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatigue</td>
<td>37 (30)</td>
<td>2 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough</td>
<td>36 (29)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

National Cancer Institute. CTCAE v.5.0. Bethesda, MD: US. Department of Health and Human Services; 2009
Shortcomings of traditional “maximum grade” reporting: lack of time profile of AEs

Two grade 3+ AEs with similar incidence (maximum grade reporting)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 3 or higher</th>
<th>Carfilzomib + dex (n=463)</th>
<th>Bortezomib + dex (n=456)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dyspnea</td>
<td>25 (5%)</td>
<td>10 (2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peripheral neuropathy</td>
<td>6 (1%)</td>
<td>24 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conceptual patient AE experience: which is more burdensome?

Grandin et al. J Cardiac Fail 2015;21:138-144
Shortcomings of traditional “maximum grade” reporting: lack of time profile of AEs

Two oral agents that produce a similar AE

- Hand-foot syndrome (capecitabine)
- Hand-foot skin reaction (regorafenib)

Clinical experience of time of AE occurrence: ramifications on AE intervention?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (days)</th>
<th>Severity of Cutaneous Toxicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>capecitabine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>regorafenib</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grothey et al. J Clin Oncol 31, 2013 (suppl; abstr 3637)
Grothey et al. Oncologist 2014;19(6)669-80
Grothey et al. Oncologist 2014;19(6)669-80
Grothey et al. Oncologist 2014;19(6)669-80

Improving AE analysis: longitudinal analysis
Toxicity over Time (ToxT) approach

Thanarajasingam G. Lancet Oncol. 2016; 17:663-70
Application in hematology: neutropenia over time on lenalidomide (in CALGB/Alliance 50401)

The NCI Web Reporting Tool

- Displays grade and frequency of one AE in patients from five clinical trials of the combination of two novel agents
- Time-dependent graphical representation
- Aggregate analyses (multiple trials)
- Also represents number at risk (captures patient attrition)

Thanarajasingam G, Lancet Haematol 2018
Adapted from work of S. Percy Ivy, MD and Richard F. Little, MD
Improving AE analysis is only the tip of the iceberg
Commission on Improving AE Assessment in Haematology

• International collaboration of 40 clinicians, clinical investigators, patient advocates, regulators and biostatisticians to address multi-faceted challenges to AE assessment in haematologic malignancies

• Includes authors from Europe, North America, Asia and Australia

• Individuals representing NCI, US cooperative groups, EORTC, global regulatory agencies (EMA, FDA, PMDA, TGA) involved, among others

• Produced a “call to action” paper with tangible targets and timelines for improvement

• Most issues applicable to all tumor types (not just hematology)
Beyond maximum grade: modernising the assessment and reporting of adverse events in haematological malignancies


• Published June 12, 2018

• Launched with oral presentation sessions at the European Hematology Association Meeting 2018 and at the Karolinska Institute

• Four NCI authors: Lori Minasian MD, Richard F. Little MD, S. Percy Ivy MD, Lindsay M. Morton PhD
Commission Sections

• Current processes in adverse event assessment: strengths & shortcomings
• Incorporation of PROs in the assessment of adverse events
• Special issues of toxicity from hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT)
• Survivorship and long-term toxicity in hematologic malignancies
• Adverse events in haematologic malignancies and regulatory approval
• Toxicity reporting in hematologic malignancies in the real world setting
Priority issues

Chronic, delayed and cumulative AEs are not well captured, leading to incomplete and potentially inaccurate toxicity assessment.

- PROs are not a standard part of toxicity assessment and therefore tolerability from the patient perspective is not assessed.
- Cumbersome reporting of the myriad of expected adverse events in the HSCT setting is a barrier to performing clinical trials.
- The description and management of cumulative and late toxicities in survivors of haematologic malignancy is inconsistent, inadequate or absent.
- Meaningful adverse events are often underreported to regulatory agencies, while reporting of uninformative AEs might obscure true safety signals.
- Toxicities affecting patients in routine clinical practice are difficult to capture and analyze on a large scale.

Priorities for improving AE assessment in haematologic malignancies.
Challenges in AE analysis: proposed solutions

**Priority issue**
Chronic, delayed and cumulative adverse events are not well described

**Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)**
- Phase 1 trials with longer dose-limiting toxicity (DLT) evaluation periods
- Adaptive designs that span phase I/II
- Development of longitudinal methods for analysis of adverse events
Inclusion of PROs: proposed solutions

**Priority issue**

PROs are not a standard part of toxicity assessment

**Immediate-action solutions**

- Hypothesis-driven PROs in more trials
- Increasing use of PRO-CTCAE and other tools for capturing symptomatic AEs from patients
- Electronic capture of PROs
AEs in HSCT: proposed solutions

**Priority issue**
Cumbersome reporting of “expected” AEs in HSCT trials

**Immediate-action solutions**

- Achieve consensus on “expected” AEs from registry data
- Develop targeted approaches that focus on unique, potentially relevant, or unexpected AEs including drug interactions and neurocognitive effects
Toxicity assessment in survivors: proposed solutions

Priority issue

Description of cumulative and late toxicities in survivors is inconsistent, inadequate or absent

Immediate-action solutions

- Develop infrastructure to collect data for adult survivors (ex. longitudinal patient cohorts)
- Standardize the use and content of survivorship care plans
Regulatory challenges: proposed solutions

Priority issue

Meaningful AEs are underreported, while reporting of uninformative AEs obscures safety signals

Immediate-action solutions

• Electronic submission of simplified adverse event reports
• Better systems for collection and analysis of data obtained from the trial, post-marketing or non-trial setting
Real world toxicity evaluation: proposed solutions

**Priority issue**

Toxicities affecting patients in routine clinical practice are difficult to evaluate on a large scale

**Immediate-action solutions**

- Optimize systematic, objective collection of toxicity data in databases
- Explore real world toxicities using large database systems and real-time analyses from tools such (ex. CancerLinQ)
A start to addressing challenges of toxicity assessment

- Will require ongoing global collaboration amongst all stakeholders to drive meaningful change
  - Patient, clinician, clinical investigator, NCI, regulatory agency, cooperative group, and industry input (among others) invaluable
- Ties in well with ongoing NCI activities
- NCI has led the development and use of CTCAE, and is an important stakeholder in going beyond maximum grade
Conclusions

• The conventional “maximum grade” approach to reporting and analyzing adverse events (AEs) is insufficient in the modern treatment landscape of most cancers.

• Novel longitudinal approaches may be able to portray additional complementary information on AE time frame and chronic, low grade events that are relevant to tolerability.

• As part of a global initiative, we have defined priority areas for improving AE assessment and proposed future directions for improvement across the spectrum of malignancies.
Acknowledgements

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Patient advocates, patients & their families
Supplementary slides

• The following slides summarize the priority issues, immediate action solutions and longer term solutions from The Lancet Haematology Commission “Beyond Maximum Grade: Modernising the assessment and reporting of adverse events in haematological malignancies”

• This information is detailed further in the Commission publication (Thanarajasingam G, Lancet Haematol 2018) in Table 6 (page 36)
The problem in AE analysis and proposed solutions

**Priority issue**
Chronic, delayed and cumulative adverse events are not well described, leading to incomplete and potentially inaccurate toxicity assessment

**Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)**
- Design phase 1 trials with longer dose-limiting toxicity evaluation periods and increase use of adaptive designs that span phase I/II
- Continue to develop, disseminate, validate and apply longitudinal methods for analysis of adverse events

**Long-term solutions (5+ years)**
- Establish consensus on the best metrics and representations of time-dependent AE data
- Standardize and require use of these metrics and displays in publications and drug labels
Including PROs and proposed solutions

**Priority issue**
PROs are not a standard part of toxicity assessment and therefore tolerability of therapies for hematological malignancies from the perspective of the patient is not addressed.

**Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)**
- Include hypothesis-driven PROs in more hematology trials
- Increase use of PRO-CTCAE and other tools for capturing symptomatic AEs to better inform tolerability assessment of novel drugs
- Facilitate electronic capture of PROs

**Long-term solutions (5+ years)**
- Identify consensus analytic approaches to convey longitudinal PRO adverse event data
- Complement clinician-graded CTCAE with patient-reported symptomatic AE data
- Standardize these approaches to the analysis of PROs across cancer trials internationally
Priorities in improving AE evaluation in HSCT

**Priority issue**
Cumbersome reporting of the myriad of expected adverse events in the HSCT setting is a barrier to performing clinical trials

**Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)**
- Develop consensus on “expected” AEs after HSCT based on registry data
- Define streamlined approaches to capture and analysis of these AEs, with hematologist and transplant input
- Include regulators and industry partners engaged in the conduct of BMT trials in evaluating this system

**Long-term solutions (5+ years)**
- Develop automated approaches that can recognize data routine captured in medical record as expected toxicity data after HSCT, and also highlight provider attention to unexpected, unique, and potentially relevant AEs
Priorities in toxicity evaluation in survivors

**Priority issue**

The description and management of cumulative and late toxicities in survivors of haematological malignancies is inconsistent, inadequate or absent.

**Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)**

- Develop and support infrastructure to collect data for adult survivors (ex. longitudinal patient cohorts)
- Standardize the use and content of survivorship care plans

**Long-term solutions (5+ years)**

- Link PRO, delayed, or long term complications of hematological malignancies and a patient’s baseline treatment in electronic medical records
- Increase availability of survivorship clinics
Regulatory challenges and proposed solutions

**Priority issue**
Meaningful AEs are often underreported to regulatory agencies, while reporting of uninformative AEs might obscure true safety signals

**Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)**
- Simplify and make electronic the submission of all adverse event reports
- Develop better systems for collection and analysis of data obtained from the trial, post-marketing or non-trial setting

**Long-term solutions (5+ years)**
- Attain international regulatory consensus on reduction of uninformative adverse event reports to prioritize relevant toxicity data
- Incorporate patient experience from trial and non-trial data, including real-world evidence, to inform both the pre-marking and post-marketing safety evaluation
Priorities in toxicity evaluation in real world patients

Priority issue
Toxicities affecting patients with hematological malignancies in routine clinical practice are difficult to capture and analyze on a large scale.

Immediate-action solutions (1-5 years)
- Optimize systematic, objective collection of toxicity data in real world databases
- Explore real world toxicities in large groups of patients using large database systems and real-time analyses from tools such as CancerLinQ

Long-term solutions (5+ years)
- Develop electronic health record systems that reliably capture relevant AE (both provider- and PRO) in off study patients with haematologic malignancies
- Leverage these systems to guide AE management and symptom control