

Therapeutics for Multiple Immune- Mediated Disorders in IBD

Dr. Jennifer Jones, MD, MSc

Associate Professor

Dalhousie University

Dr. Christopher Ma, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor

University of Calgary



Disclosures (Jones)

- **Consultant:** AbbVie, Janssen, Merck, Shire, Pfizer, Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- **Speakers' Bureau:** AbbVie, Janssen, Shire, Ferring, Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- **Advisory Board:** AbbVie, Ferring, Janssen, Merck, Shire, UCB, Pfizer, Takeda Pharmaceuticals
- **Research/Educational Support:** AbbVie, Janssen, Takeda Pharmaceuticals



Disclosures (Ma)

- ***Consultant:*** Robarts Clinical Trials, Inc.
- ***Speakers' Bureau:*** Janssen, AbbVie, Takeda, Pfizer
- ***Advisory Board:*** Janssen, AbbVie, Takeda, Pfizer
- ***Research/Educational Support:*** None

Objectives

- To gain knowledge of the existing literature relating to the use of combination biologic therapies for the management of multiple immune-mediated conditions
- To understand when it is appropriate to consider combined biologic therapies for the management of multiple immune-mediated disorders
- To learn how to prevent and monitor for relevant adverse clinical safety outcomes

Case Presentation 1

- 29 year-old female you have been following with medically refractory colonic CD previous failure of vedolizumab
- Steroid dependent disease
- Failure of AZA, MTX
- Currently on adalimumab mono therapy X 6 months.
- Although luminal disease well controlled now (HBI =0) has severe psoriasis on her scalp (pic) non-responsive to topical therapies

Case presentation 1

- What would you do next?
- Any other investigations?



Case Presentation 1



Near normalization of CRP
FC= 200



Colonoscopy reveals mild disease
activity (SES-CD = 6)



What would you do now?



Combination Biologic Therapy Overview: An IBD Perspective

- Biologic therapy has revolutionized the care of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).
- Despite multiple options, clinical remission rates at one year are approximately 40% for any single biologic agent.
- In addition, questions surround the efficacy of newer agents in controlling extra-intestinal manifestations (EIMs).
- This has raised interest in whether combination biologic therapies with different mechanisms of action (MOA) can be used safely to increase overall efficacy and to control EIMs.

The challenge in IMiD management

How can we identify the right **strategy** for the right **patient** at the right **time**?

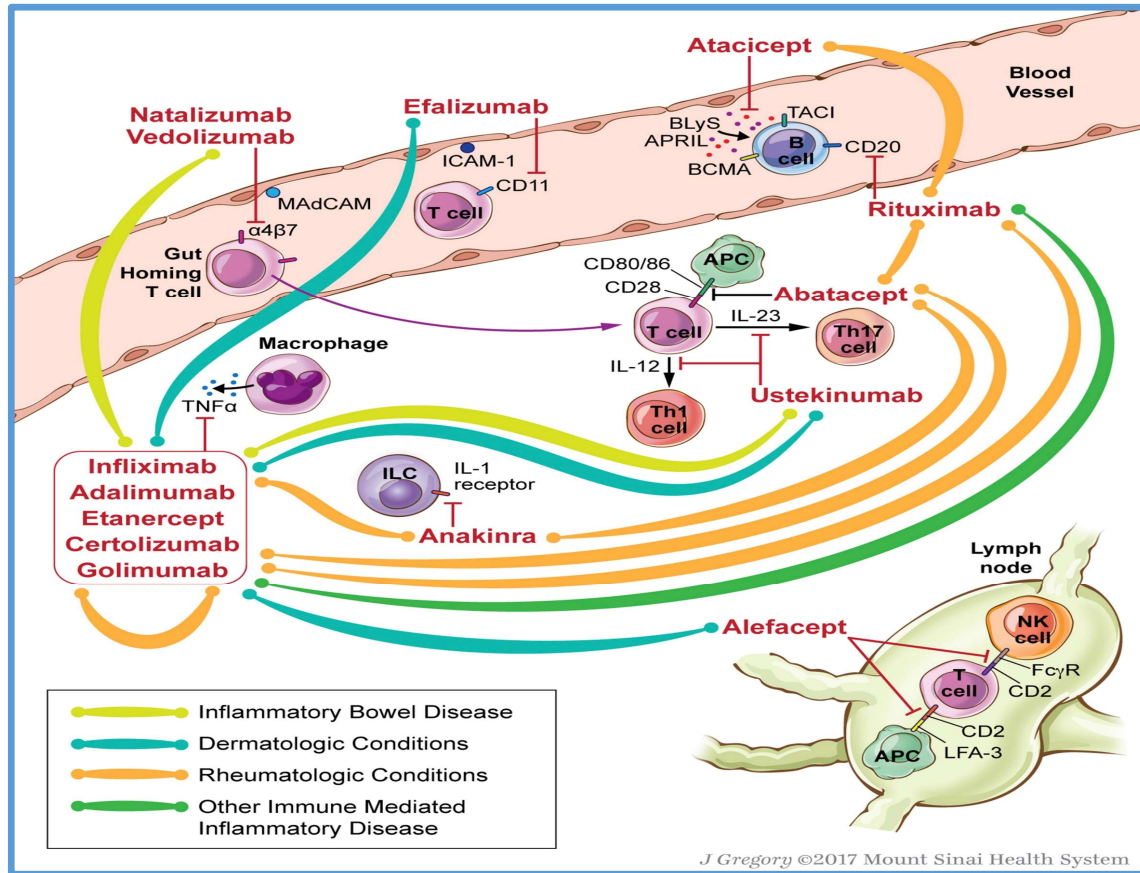




Consider the following

- IBD phenotype & EIMIBD
- Concomitant IM disease characteristics
- Probable inflammatory mechanism
 - Response to past medications
 - Pattern of non or loss of response to medications
- RFs for medication-related adverse events
- Patient preference
- Risk profile

What treatment options are available for dermatologic and gastrointestinal disorders?



Reports of combination therapy in Dermatologic Conditions

Table 2. Publications on the Use of Combined Biologic Agents in the Treatment of Dermatologic Conditions

| Reference | Year | Study type | Disease | Number of subjects | Medications (n) | Efficacy | Adverse events | Follow-up period |
|---------------------------------|------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Cuchacovich et al ¹⁰ | 2012 | Case report | Psoriasis + PSA | 1 | Etanercept + UST | Composite psoriatic disease activity index, significant improvement | None | 11 mo |
| Babalola et al ¹¹ | 2015 | Case report | Psoriasis + PSA | 1 | Etanercept + UST | Resolved joint and skin manifestations | Unstable angina/cardiac stent | 6 mo |
| Heinecke et al ¹² | 2013 | Case report | Psoriasis + PSA | 1 | UST + etanercept → adalimumab | Skin improved but joint symptoms continued | Furuncles + autoimmune hemolytic anemia | — |
| Gniadecki et al ¹³ | 2016 | Case series | Psoriasis + PSA | 4 | UST + etanercept (2) or adalimumab → golimumab (1) or adalimumab → certolizumab (1) | Improved skin and joint symptoms | Herpes zoster, retrotonsillar abscess, erysipelas, bacterial pneumonia, cellulitis | 7–62 mo 10.2 patient-years of exposure |
| Adisen et al ¹⁵ | 2008 | Case report | Psoriasis + PSA | 1 | Efalizumab + etanercept | Improved skin and joint symptoms | None | 1.5 mo |
| Kitamura et al ¹⁶ | 2009 | Case report | Psoriasis + PSA | 1 | Efalizumab + etanercept | Improved skin and joint symptoms | Pulmonary tuberculosis | ~18 mo |
| Hamilton ¹⁷ | 2008 | Case series | Psoriasis + PSA | 20 | Efalizumab + etanercept or etanercept → infliximab | Improved skin and joint symptoms | URI, LRI, SCC, BCC, dysplastic nevus, actinic keratoses | 16 mo (range, 8–46 mo) |
| Krell ¹⁹ | 2006 | Case series | Psoriasis + PSA | 3 | Alefacept + etanercept | Improved skin and joint symptoms | None | — |

BCC, basal cell carcinoma; LRI, lower respiratory tract infection; PSA, psoriatic arthritis; SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; URI, upper respiratory tract infection; UST, ustekinumab.

| Biologic agent | UC | CD | AS | PsA | PsO | Uveitis | HS | nr-Ax SpA |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|---------|----|-----------|
| Adalimumab | ✓ | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓** | ✓ | No |
| Certolizumab pegol | No | No | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No | No |
| Etanercept | No | No | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Golimumab | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No | ✓ |
| Infliximab | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Secukinumab | No | No | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Ustekinumab | No | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Vedolizumab | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No | No | No | No |

What treatment options are available for dermatologic and gastrointestinal disorders?



What safety events should I be concerned about?

- Infections (cell mediated immunity)
 - HSV
 - Pneumonia
 - Derm: furuncles, cellulitis
 - Shingles
- Reactivation TB
- PJP (depending on the level of IS patient is on)
- Vaccine preventable illness

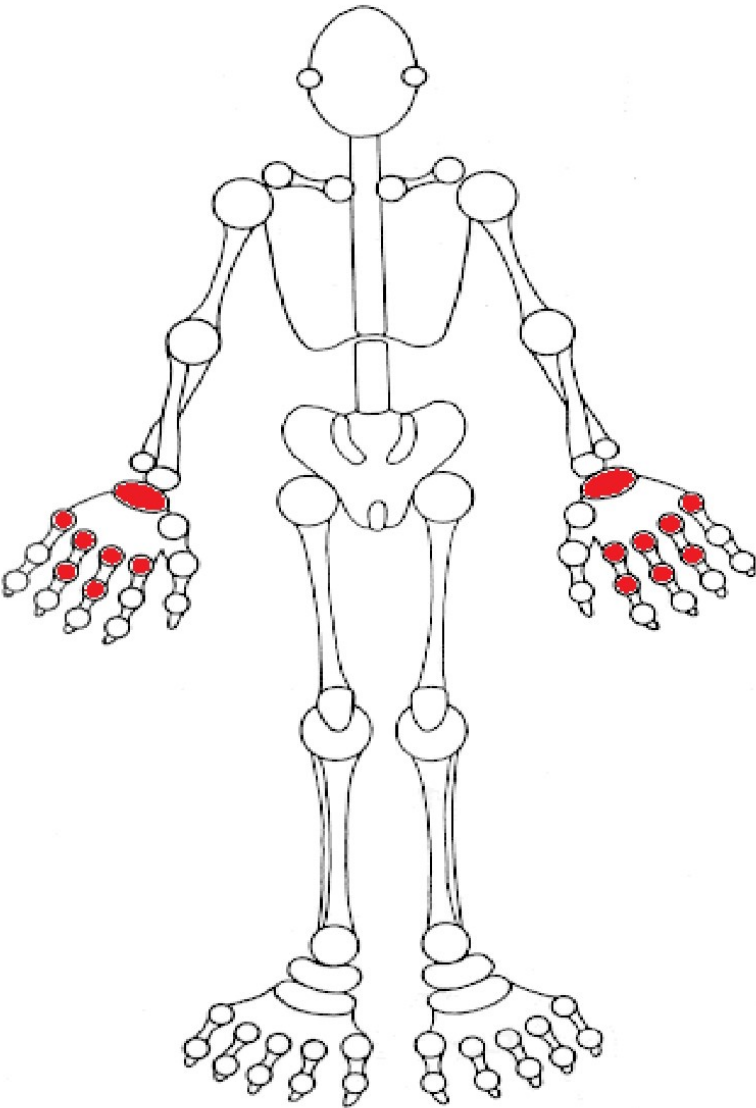
Case Presentation 1

- After a lengthy discussion regarding risk vs. benefit a decision is made to initiate ustekinumab in combination with adalimumab
- 4 months later patient has near resolution of the scalp psoriasis and remains in clinical remission.
- She has been able to successfully wean off the prednisone
- A repeat FC = 100
- To date this patient has not developed adverse events on dual biologic therapy

Case Presentation 2

- 67 year-old man diagnosed with ulcerative pancolitis x 25 years
 - Previously maintained in long-term remission on Asacol 2.4g PO daily
 - Last colonoscopy 2018: pseudopolyps in the left colon and scarring but no active inflammatory disease
 - Incomplete compliance with 5ASA therapy
- Past Medical History
 - Rheumatoid arthritis: currently on Methotrexate 15mg SC weekly
 - HTN
 - Dyslipidemia

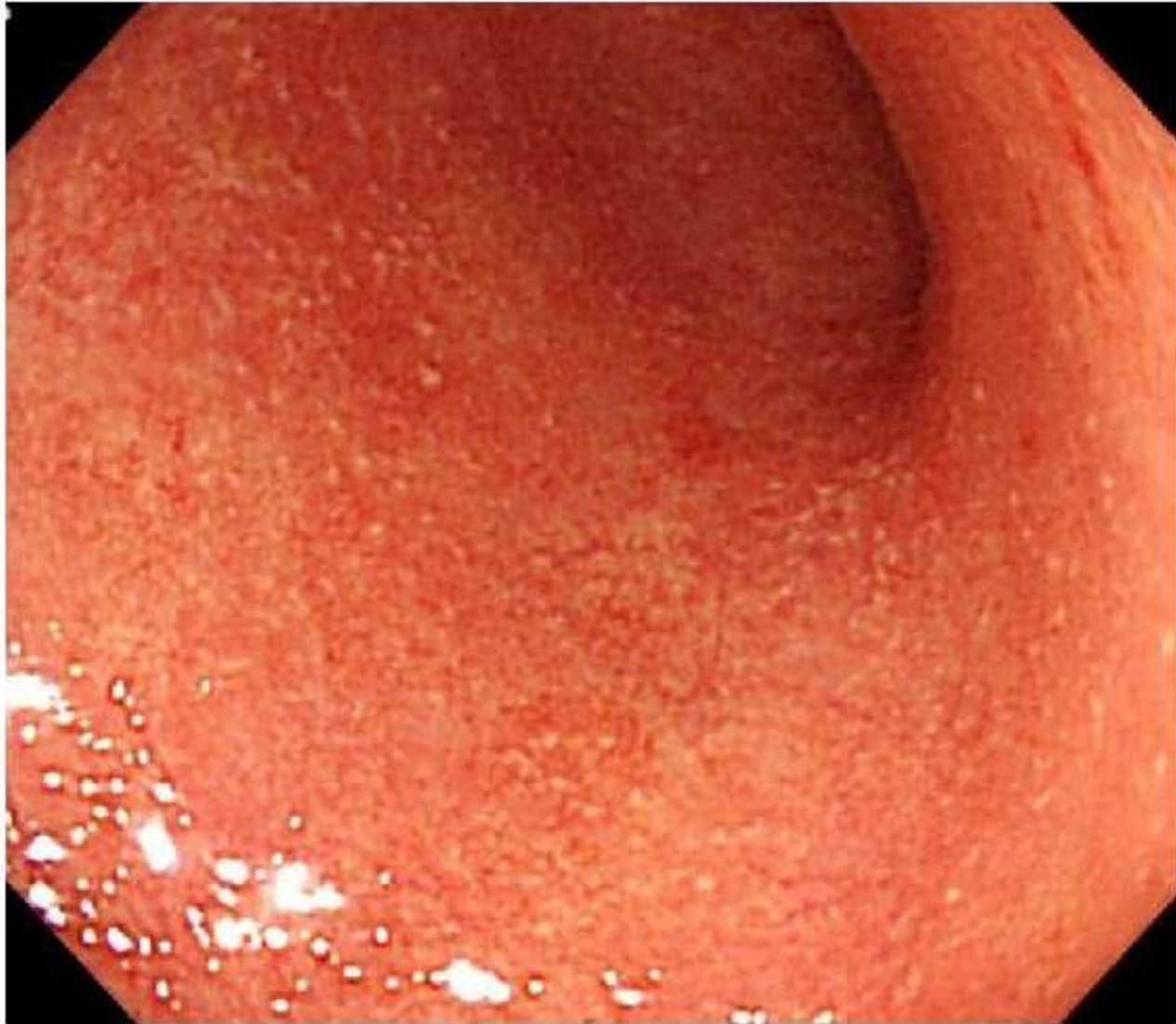
Case Presentation 2



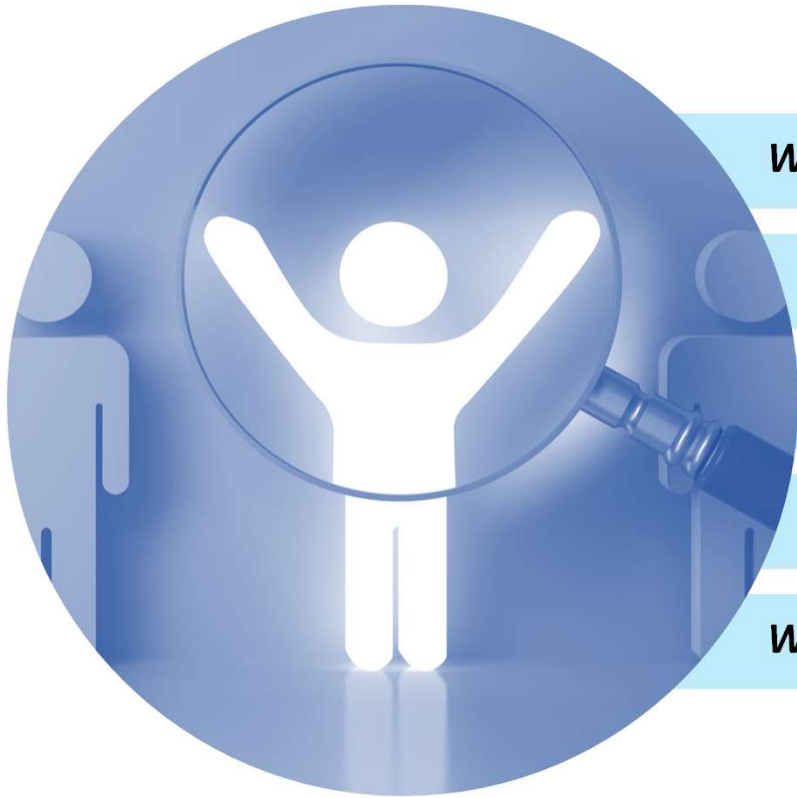
- Over last 3 months, flaring symptoms:
 - **5-10 bowel movements per day with urgency and tenesmus, 50% with rectal bleeding**
 - Tried 2-week course of Salofalk 1g suppository without significant improvement
 - Tried 8 weeks of Asacol 4.8g PO daily without significant improvement
 - Increasing hour-long morning stiffness, swelling, and pain in hands/wrists
- **What would you do next?**

Case Presentation 2

- Infectious workup negative
- Pre-biologic workup:
 - TST negative, CXR negative
 - HBsAg negative, anti-HBc total negative, anti-HBs (+)
- Flexible sigmoidoscopy:
- **What would you do next?**



What factors do you consider in treating patients with multiple immune mediated diseases?



Who is this patient?

What are the features of their disease?

What is their risk of disease?

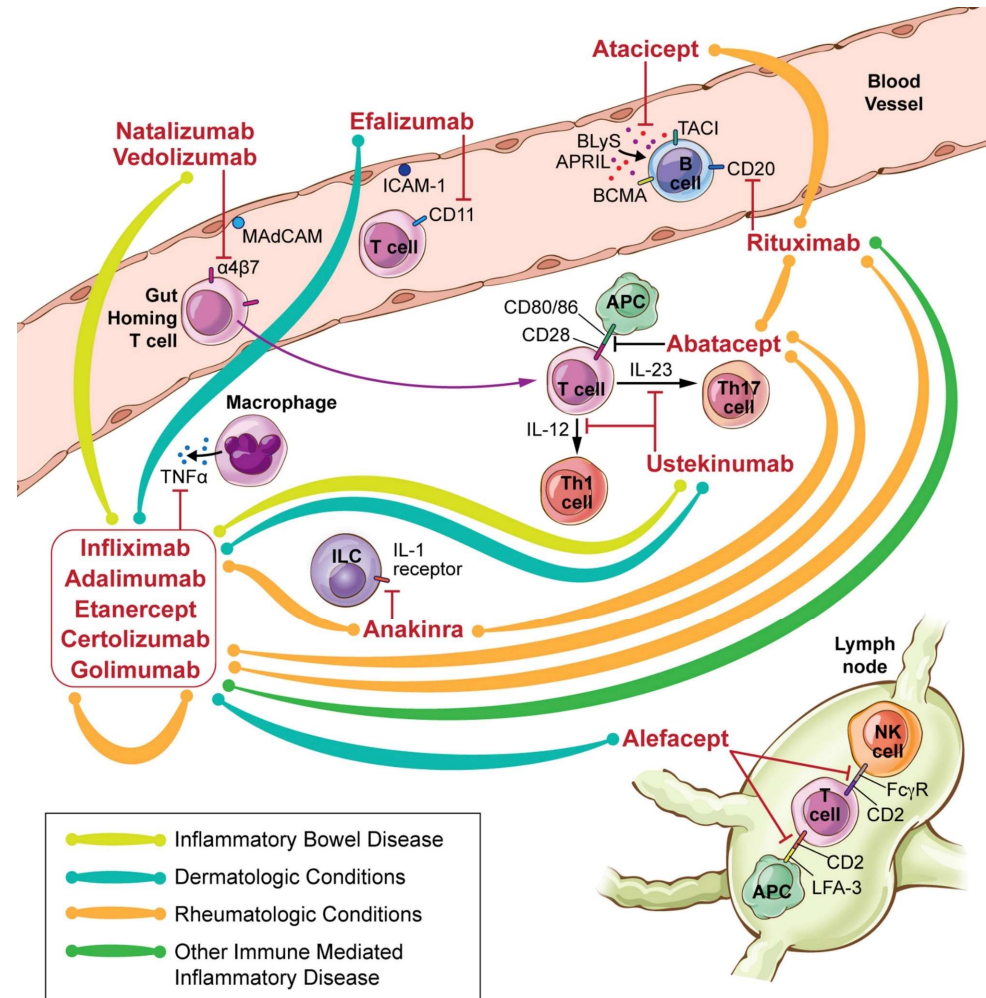
What is their likelihood of responding to therapy?

What is the likelihood of AEs from therapy?

Management of IMiDs

- Make the diagnosis quickly and accurately
- Assess disease severity and determine prognosis
- Select and initiate therapy to induce and maintain remission
- Adjust therapies to achieve a target
- Modify long-term outcomes of the disease
- Monitor for relapse
- Monitor for drug-related and disease-related complications

What treatment options are available for rheumatologic and gastrointestinal disorders?



| Biologic agent | UC | CD | AS | PsA | PsO | Uveitis | HS | nr-Ax SpA |
|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|---------|----|-----------|
| Adalimumab | ✓ | ✓* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓** | ✓ | No |
| Certolizumab pegol | No | No | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No | No |
| Etanercept | No | No | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Golimumab | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No | ✓ |
| Infliximab | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Secukinumab | No | No | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Ustekinumab | No | ✓ | No | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No |
| Vedolizumab | ✓ | ✓ | No | No | No | No | No | No |

What treatment options are available for rheumatologic and gastrointestinal disorders?

Case Presentation 2

- Patient started on **adalimumab** (standard induction, q2 week maintenance therapy) in combination with methotrexate
- Joint symptoms enter into remission: no swelling, pain after 2 months
- Bowel symptoms: incomplete response
 - Still 3-5 bowel movements per day, occasional bleeding
 - CRP persistently elevated 8-12 mg/L
 - Fecal calprotectin elevated 350 µg/mg
- Escalated to adalimumab weekly, maximized methotrexate to 25mg/week but still no response. Adalimumab level measured 12 µg/mL, no detectable anti-adalimumab antibodies.

Case Presentation 2

- **What would you do next?**
 - Switch to infliximab?
 - Switch/add vedolizumab?
 - Switch/add tofacitinib?
 - Switch/add ustekinumab?
 - Colectomy?
 - Other options?

Case Presentation 2

- Decided to add vedolizumab
 - Excellent response: clinical and endoscopic remission
- Adalimumab discontinued a year later due to development of anti-TNF related psoriasis but joints re-flare approximately 3 months after adalimumab discontinuation
- **Now what to do?**

Table 3. Publications on the Use of Combined Biologic Agents in the Treatment of Rheumatologic Conditions

| Reference | Year | Study type | Disease | Number of subjects | Medications (n) | Efficacy | Adverse events (n) | Follow-up |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Sheehy et al ²¹ | 2006 | Case report | HLA-B27-associated arthropathy | 1 | IFX + etanercept | Improved joint inflammation and pain | None | >6 mo |
| Weinblatt et al ²⁴ | 2007 | RCT + LTE | RA | 121 | Etanercept + abacacept or placebo | No differences at 6 and 12 mo | Combination: higher AEs, SAEs, related SAEs, discontinuation because of AEs at 1 year; trend continued in LTE | RCT- 12 mo LTE- 24 mo |
| Genovese et al ²⁶ | 2004 | RCT | RA | 242 | Anakinra + etanercept vs etanercept | No difference | Combination: higher SAEs (14.8% vs 2.5%), discontinuation because of AEs (7.4% vs 0%), injection reactions (70.4% vs 40%), 1 death | 24 wk |
| Morgan et al ²⁸ | 2008 | Observational study | RA | 8 | CD4 monoclonal antibody + bivalent TNF antagonist | Improved joint swelling and pain | Maculopapular rash (5), infusion reactions | 17–49 mo |
| Koumakis et al ³² | 2009 | Case series | RA | 2 | RTX + etanercept | Resulted in remission | None | 4 y; 18 mo |
| Feuchtenberger et al ³³ | 2009 | Case series | RA | 2 | RTX + etanercept | Significantly improved disease activity | Pneumonia, acute bronchitis in 1 patient | 6 y |
| Blank et al ³⁴ | 2009 | Retrospective cohort | RA | 6 | RTX → etanercept + RTX if no response | Significant improvement with combination | Oral herpes simplex | 18.5 mo of mean exposure |
| Rigby et al ³⁶ | 2013 | Open label study | RA | 176 | RTX + background biologic | Physical function improved at 24 and 48 wk | 24.3 SAEs/100 patient-years, cellulitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, septic shock, 3 deaths | 48 wk |
| Greenwald et al ³⁷ | 2011 | RCT | RA | 51 | RTX or placebo + adalimumab or etanercept | — | Placebo vs rituximab: AEs (83% vs 94%), SAEs (0% vs 6%); similar infectious rates | 24 wk |
| Van Vollenhoven et al ³⁸ | 2015 | RCT | RA | 27 | RTX + placebo or atacicept | No difference in clinical response | Combination vs placebo, treatment period: AEs (94.4% vs 100%), discontinuation because of AEs (22.2% vs 11.1%), infections (44.4% vs 66.7%) | 25-wk treatment period 32-wk follow-up |
| Weinblatt et al ³⁹ | 2006 | RCT | RA | 169 | Abatacept or placebo + background biologic | Lack of clinical benefit with combination | Follow-up: 12 SAEs Combination vs placebo: AEs (95.1% vs 89.1%), discontinuation because of AEs (8.7% vs 3.1%), infection (5.8% vs 1.6%); malignancy (7% vs 2%) | 1 y |
| Record et al ⁴⁰ | 2011 | Case series | Juvenile idiopathic arthritis | 4 | Abatacept + anakinra | Improved disease control in all subjects | None | 8–17 mo |

AE, adverse event; IFX, infliximab; LTE, long-term extension; RA, rheumatoid arthritis; RCT, randomized controlled trial; RTX, rituximab; SAE, serious adverse event; TNF, tumor necrosis factor.

Today

Non-targeted oral small molecules²

corticosteroids
mesalazine
IMM/DMARDs
antibiotics

Targeted biologics

anti-TNF- α
anti-integrin
anti-IL-12-23
Anti-IL-6

Tomorrow?

New targeted biologics

anti- β 7
anti-IL-23A
Anti-IL17

Targeted oral small molecules

JAK inhibitors
S1P₁ regulators
PDE4 inhibitors

Cell therapy³

adipocyte-derived
stem cells

Case Presentation 2

- Decided to add tofacitinib to treatment regimen in combination with vedolizumab
- Discontinued methotrexate given degree of immunosuppression
- **What are the considerations for starting combination biologic therapy with an oral small molecule/JAK inhibitor?**

Upadacitinib
(ABT-494)

More potently inhibits **JAK1** over JAK2 and JAK3

Baricitinib

More potently inhibits **JAK1 and JAK 2** over JAK3

Filgotinib

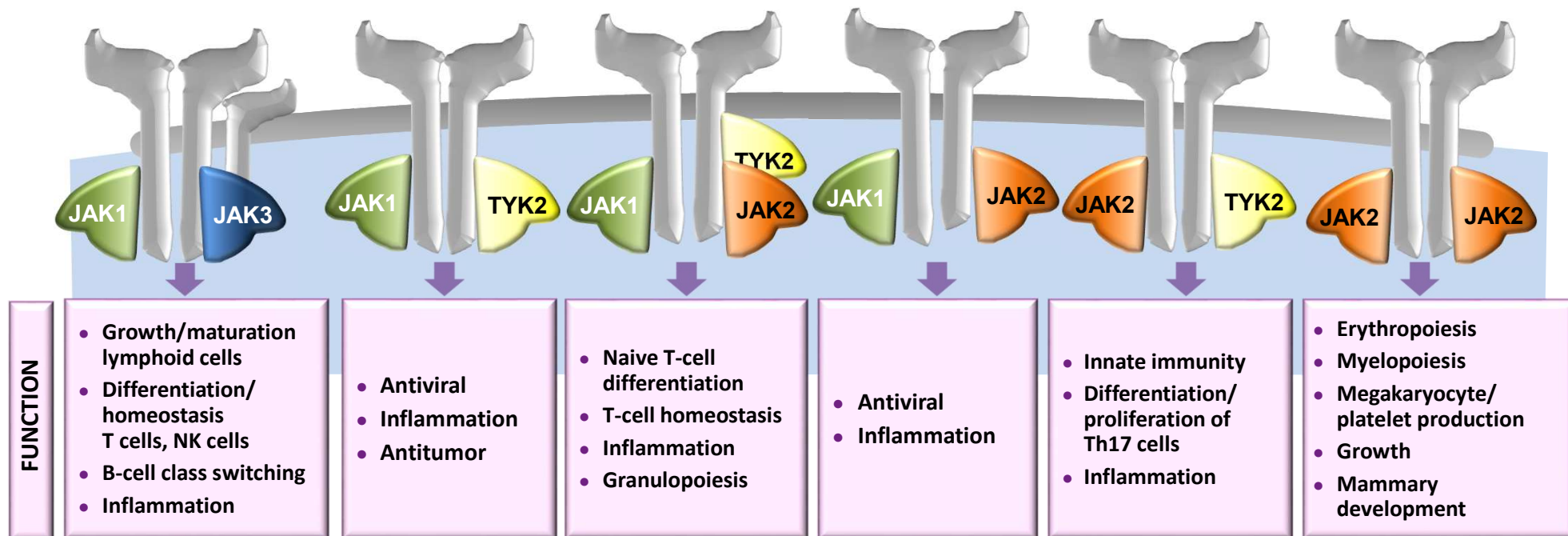
More potently inhibits **JAK1** over JAK2 and JAK3

Peficitinib

More potently inhibits **JAK3** over JAK 1 and JAK 2

Tofacitinib

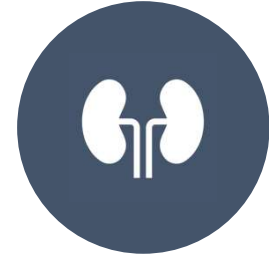
Non-selective (inhibits **JAK1, JAK2 and JAK3**)



Case Presentation 2



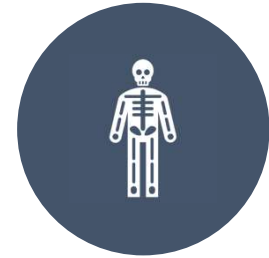
RISK OF HERPES
ZOSTER?



RISK OF VENOUS
THROMBOEMBOLISM?



RISK OF ELEVATED CK
AND DYSLIPIDEMIA?



TOFACITINIB DOSING
CONSIDERATIONS?

THE USE OF COMBINATION BIOLOGIC THERAPY IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE: THE CALGARY EXPERIENCE: METHODS

- A retrospective single center cohort study was performed at the University of Calgary of adult (≥ 18 years) IBD patients receiving combination biologic therapy between May 2015 and September 2018.
- All patients received “add on” biologic therapy either to control medically refractory disease or to control extra-intestinal manifestations not controlled by a single agent.
- The primary outcome of interest was to assess the safety of the combination biologic therapy. Secondary outcomes included proportion of patients who demonstrated clinical improvement, defined by physician global assessment, and evaluation of endoscopic response, defined as absence of deep ulceration or a Mayo score of one or less.

THE USE OF COMBINATION BIOLOGIC THERAPY IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE: THE CALGARY EXPERIENCE: RESULTS

- 10 patients (9 Crohn's disease (CD), 1 ulcerative colitis (UC)) were treated with combination biologic therapy.
- Primary indication to add a second biologic was
 - medically refractory disease in 6 and
 - control of EIMs in 4: 2 type II peripheral arthritis, 2 ankylosing spondylitis.
- Mean follow-up was 64.8 weeks (range 10-118 weeks). All patients were treated for at least three months.
- Clinical and endoscopic response was 50% in medically refractory patients and 100% to control EIMs
- One patient developed a community acquired pneumonia

A first look at the Calgary Experience

| Primary indication to control medically refractory disease (n=6) | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Pt. | Age (Yrs.) | Gender | Disease Type | Previous Biologics | Combination Biologic Experience | PGA response | Endoscopic response |
| 1 | 54* | M | CD | IFX, ADA, USTE, Vedo, Goli | Vedo+Goli | Y | Y |
| 2 | 28 | M | CD | IFX, ADA, Vedo, USTE | USTE+ IFX | Y | Y |
| 3 | 24+ | F | UC | ADA, IFX, Goli, Vedo | Vedo+IFX | N | N |
| 4 | 28 | M | CD | IFX, ADA, USTE, Vedo | Vedo+IFX | N | N |
| 5 | 28 | F | CD | ADA, IFX, USTE, Vedo | Vedo+USTE | Y | Y |
| 6 | 45++ | F | CD | IFX, ADA, Goli, USTE, Vedo | Vedo+Cert | N | N |
| Primary indication to control extra-intestinal manifestations** (n=4) | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 33 | F | CD | ADA, IFX, Goli, USTE, Vedo | Vedo+IFX | Y | |
| 8 | 47 | M | CD | IFX, ADA, Goli, Vedo | Vedo+Goli | Y | |
| 9 | 31 | M | CD | IFX, ADA, USTE, Vedo | Vedo+ADA | Y | |
| 10 | 34 | F | CD | IFX, ADA, Goli, USTE, Vedo | Vedo+ADA | Y | |

*patient developed community acquired pneumonia while on dual biologics and corticosteroids

** 2 type II arthropathy, 2 ankylosing spondylitis

PGA=Physician global assessment

IFX=infliximab, ADA=adalimumab, goli=golimumab, USTE=ustekinumab, Vedo=vedolizumab

+patient required proctocolectomy 22 weeks after combination biologics started

++patient required ileal resection and diverting stoma 28 weeks after starting combination biologics



How can we do this more effectively?

- Understanding **therapy risk in the context of disease risk**
- Embracing a **360 degree assessment of the IBD patient** including psychosocial needs
- Embracing **proven therapies earlier** in the disease course
- Utilizing **validated objective endpoints** of disease control
- **Adjusting therapies serially** until endpoints are achieved (treating to a target)

Consider each patient's unique situation when choosing combination (dual) therapy



Clinical Scenarios

Bio-naïve

Co-existing IBD and RA

Co-existing IBD and SpA

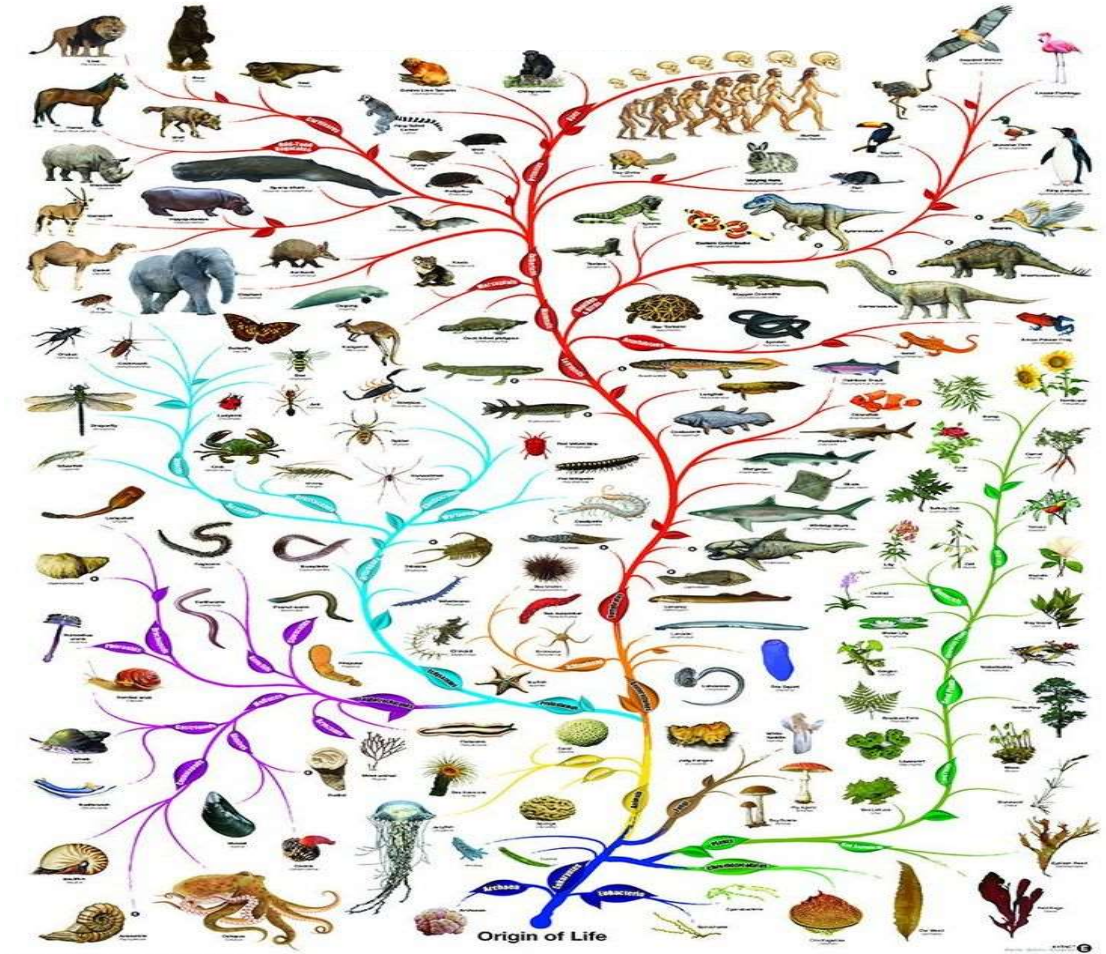
Co-existing IBD and PsA

Bio-exposed

What combinations should we consider?

Summary : Combination Therapy in Evolution

- Combination biologic therapy has multiple advantages and may be where we are evolving to.
- It has disadvantages which are not inconsequential (cost, safety)
- Multiple options and the challenge will continue to be how to find the ideal combination for individual high risk patients.



Practical approaches for treatment of patients with IMIDs

Right patient



- Not everyone needs early aggressive therapy
- Prognostic factors are mainly clinical
 - Disease location, duration, severity
 - Comorbidities and complications
 - Other factors predicting risk for progression

Right therapy



- When choosing therapy, consider:
 - Risk:benefit ratio
 - Cost:benefit ratio
 - Predictive factors of response to therapy
 - Patient preference

Right time



- Intervene before it is too late
- Monitoring is essential
 - Preemptive optimisation of the dose and therapy

Early use of effective therapies, risk stratification, individualised treatment selection and frequent assessment of disease activity and treatment outcomes are key steps in achieving the full potential of biologic therapy in ulcerative colitis