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Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced diarrhea/colitis: Endoscopic and pathologic findings

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Abstract

The indications of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICPIs) for cancer treatment have rapidly expanded, and their use is increasing in clinical settings worldwide. Despite the considerable clinical benefits of ICPIs, frequent immune-related adverse events (irAEs) have become nonnegligible concerns. Among irAEs, ICPI-induced colitis/diarrhea is frequent and recognized not only by oncologists but also by gastroenterologists or endoscopists. The endoscopic findings show similarity to those of inflammatory bowel disease to a certain extent, particularly ulcerative colitis, but do not seem to be identical. The pathological findings of ICPI-induced colitis may vary among drug classes. They show acute or chronic inflammation, but it may depend on the time of colitis suggested by colonoscopy, including biopsy or treatment intervention. In the case of chronic inflammation determined by biopsy, the endoscopy findings may overlap with those of inflammatory bowel disease. Here, we provide a comprehensive review of ICPI-induced colitis based on clinical, endoscopic and pathologic findings.

Key words: Immune checkpoint inhibitor; Colitis; Diarrhea; Endoscopic; Pathologic

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Core tip: Immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICPI)-induced colitis/diarrhea is frequent and recognized not only by oncologists but also by gastroenterologists or endoscopists. The endoscopic findings resemble those of inflammatory bowel disease to a certain extent, particularly ulcerative colitis, but are not identical. The pathological findings of ICPI-induced colitis may vary among drug classes. The findings show acute or chronic phases

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but may depend on the diagnostic timing or treatment intervention. Colonoscopy with biopsy is necessary to confirm ICPI-induced colitis, and early evaluation may avoid exacerbating or prolonging colitis due to treatment resistance.

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INTRODUCTION

In 1992, Ishida *et al*^[1] identified a protein on activated T lymphocytes called programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1), a key player in tumor immunology. In 1996, Leach *et al*^[2] identified a protein called cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen-4 (CTLA-4), another major blocking pathway for the human immune system that was similar to PD-1. Since then, their discoveries have led to the development of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICPIs) as anticancer drugs and have brought about a major revolution in cancer treatment strategy. Both CTLA-4 and PD-1 deliver negative signals to T-cell-mediated excessive immune activation, known as checkpoints, and ICPIs disrupt the signals mediated by CTLA-4 and PD-1 to prevent T cells from blocking pathways. By inhibiting immune checkpoints, activation of T cells is maintained, thereby helping cancer cells to induce cytotoxic T cell-mediated death. In 2018, Professor Honjo and Professor Allison won the Nobel prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work.

Presently, there are six ICPIs available and approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for different cancers. Despite the significant clinical benefits of ICPIs, frequent immune-related adverse events (irAEs) in the skin, endocrine organs, gastrointestinal (GI) tract, liver, and lungs and in the musculoskeletal, renal, nervous, hematologic, cardiovascular, and ocular systems have become nonnegligible concerns. Most irAEs have a delayed onset and prolonged duration compared with those from chemotherapy^[3]. The incidence of irAEs appears to be similar across tumor types^[4]. Among irAEs, ICPI-induced colitis/diarrhea is frequent and recognized not only by oncologists but also by gastroenterologists or endoscopists. In this review, we provide a comprehensive review of ICPI-induced colitis based on clinical, endoscopic and pathologic findings.

ONSET TIMING OF ICPI-INDUCED DIARRHEA/COLITIS

ICPI-induced diarrhea occurs after an average of three infusions^[5], although it can occur immediately after the first infusion. Recent reports suggest that the onset timing of ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis may differ by ICPI type. ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis induced by ipilimumab (anti-CTLA-4) usually occurs 6 to 7 wk after the initiation of ipilimumab^[6]. The median time from last the ipilimumab treatment to diarrhea onset is 11-14 d (range 0-59 d)^[7,8]. On the other hand, Wang *et al*^[9] reported that 3.2% of patients (30/973) receiving anti-PD-1 developed ICPI-induced colitis at a median of 25.4 wk (range 0.6-120 wk). ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis induced by anti-PD-1 seems to occur later than that induced by anti-CTLA-4. After the combined use of ipilimumab and nivolumab or pembrolizumab, 24.4% of patients (79/324) developed ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis significantly earlier, at a median of 7.2 wk (range 0.7-51 wk)^[9]. Because the ranges of its onset timing are widely distributed, it is difficult to predict the development of ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis. In addition, it may be influenced by other drugs, including NSAIDs, antibiotics, or previous anticancer drugs. Moreover, it seems difficult to predict the development of colitis before patients have symptoms^[10]. We should keep in mind that ICPI-related colitis can occur at any point, even after discontinuation of ICPIs.

LOCATION

Geukes Foppen *et al*^[11] reported total colonoscopy in 62 of 92 patients (67%) suspected of ICPI-induced colitis. Of these patients, 68% showed pancolitis (> 3 affected

segments), and the ascending colon had more severe colitis than the descending colon. In cases where a total colonoscopy was not performed, patients with colitis in the ascending colon can be underestimated by sigmoidoscopy alone. Abdominal computed tomography (CT) findings may be useful not only to evaluate perforation, obstruction, and toxic megacolon but also to evaluate inflamed lesions due to ICPIs. The common CT findings of 16 patients treated with ipilimumab showed that 75% of patients had diffuse colitis patterns, and 25% had segmental colitis^[12]. CT was not sufficient to diagnose colitis when using endoscopic evaluation as the gold standard because it has a high false-negative rate and low sensitivity^[13]. In contrast, Garcia-Neuer *et al*^[14] reported that CT was useful for predicting ICPI-induced colitis with a positive predictive value of 96% and a negative likelihood ratio of 0.2 in 34 diarrhea patients who underwent both CT and colonoscopy with biopsy. Early sigmoidoscopy without bowel preparation has merit to assess ICPI-induced colitis because it can be performed more easily and earlier than total colonoscopy. Therefore, the combined use of sigmoidoscopy and CT may be useful to evaluate ICPI-induced colitis at an earlier stage.

ENDOSCOPIC EVALUATION AND FINDINGS

There are several reports about the endoscopic findings of ICPI-induced colitis. Wang *et al*^[13] observed that endoscopic inflammatory findings were found in more than 80% of patients with ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis. Common endoscopic inflammation findings are reported as exudates, loss of vascular pattern, granular or edematous mucosa, patch or diffuse erythema, aphtha and ulcerations (Figure 1)^[15,16]. Most of the inflammatory changes, including pathological changes, are dominantly more diffuse than patchy^[10], but patchy distribution was endoscopically observed in half of the patients with diarrhea^[17]. These endoscopic findings resemble those of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) to a certain extent, particularly with ulcerative colitis (UC)^[16,18], but sometimes look different from a UC-like pattern (Table 1).

Wang *et al*^[13] reported in 53 patients with diarrhea, clinical symptoms did not always correlate with other endoscopic findings except for the presence of ulceration, which had a strong relationship with higher colitis. Similarly, another retrospective study showed that there was no significant correlation between diarrhea/colitis symptoms and endoscopic findings in 92 patients who developed diarrhea.

They also reported that pancolitis and the presence of ulceration are indicators for steroid-refractory colitis^[11]. Geukes Foppen *et al*^[11] reported that the Mayo score was associated with the presence of ulceration. Abu-Sbeih *et al*^[19] categorized endoscopic findings as low-risk and high-risk for steroid-responsiveness. High-risk findings included either ulcers deeper than 2 mm and/or larger than 1 cm in surface area or endoscopically extensive colitis from the proximal colon to the splenic flexure. These patients require frequent use of infliximab or vedolizumab and more frequent and longer hospital stays than non-high-risk patients^[19]. They also reported that timely early colonoscopy decreased the duration of steroid treatment^[19]. If the colonoscopy shows normal mucosal findings, we are not always able to exclude the presence of ICPI-induced colitis, as cases of isolated ileitis^[20] or enteritis without colitis^[21] can also occur. We can also rule out microscopic colitis or other infectious diseases such as *Clostridioides difficile* or cytomegalovirus^[7]. Therefore, early colonoscopy with mucosal biopsy from colorectal and ileum-end mucosa is necessary not only to evaluate the severity and distribution of colitis^[11] but also to ensure shorter and less intense treatment^[19].

PATHOLOGY

The histologic features of ICPI-associated colitis may vary among drug classes, *i.e.*, CTLA-4 inhibitors and PD-1/PDL1 inhibitors. Although they are nonspecific, some findings can be helpful clues to diagnose and speculate about the class of inhibitors. On the other hand, there is significant overlap between ICPI-associated colitis and other types of colitis, making the differential diagnosis difficult.

The histologic findings of CTLA-4-associated colitis are relatively consistent across most studies. The previously reported histologic features of CTLA-4 associated colitis are similar to those of autoimmune colitis^[22]. They include lamina propria expansion due to dense lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate, increased intraepithelial lymphocytosis, and apoptosis in the crypts. Neutrophilic cryptitis and crypt abscess are also found. At times, there is prominent eosinophilia in the lamina propria. Although dense lymphoplasmacytic lamina propria expansion is reminiscent of other mimics, the lack

Table 1 Summary of endoscopic and pathological findings of immune-related diarrhea and colitis

Endoscopic and pathological findings of immune-related diarrhea and colitis	
Endoscopic findings	
Endoscopic features	(1) Exudates; (2) loss of vascular pattern; (3) granular or edematous mucosa; (4) patch or diffuse erythema; (5) aphtha; (6) ulceration
Inflammatory distribution	(1) Diffuse; (2) patchy (dominantly more diffuse than patchy)
Risk factors for steroid-refractory colitis	(1) Extensively inflamed area (<i>e.g.</i> , pancolitis); (2) deeper ulceration
Pathological findings	
Anti-CTLA-4 associated colitis	Like autoimmune colitis: (1) lamina propria expansion due to dense lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate; (2) increased intraepithelial lymphocytosis; (3) apoptosis in the crypts; (4) neutrophilic cryptitis and crypt abscess; (5) occasional prominent eosinophilia in the lamina propria; (6) the lack of findings of basal plasmacytosis, crypt distortion, or granulomas
Anti-PD1/anti-PDL1-associated colitis	(1) Expansion of lamina propria by lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate; (2) the increase in intraepithelial neutrophils and neutrophilic crypt abscess; (3) crypt distortion; (4) increased crypt cell apoptosis

CTLA-4: Cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen-4; PD1: Programmed cell death protein 1; PDL1: Programmed cell death receptor ligand 1.

of findings of basal plasmacytosis, crypt distortion, or granulomas can help the differentiation.

The most common findings of anti-PD1/anti-PDL1-associated colitis are the expansion of the lamina propria by lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate and features of active colitis^[23-27]. The latter are characterized by an increase in intraepithelial neutrophils and neutrophilic crypt abscess (Figure 2A). Other findings include crypt distortion, increased crypt cell apoptosis, features of ischemic colitis, and collagenous colitis (Figure 2B). Although, in the study by Gonzalez *et al*^[26], there were no cases with increased intraepithelial lymphocytosis commonly observed in CTLA-4-associated colitis, Chen *et al*^[23] and Bavi *et al*^[27] described features of lymphocytic colitis in a minority of their cases with anti-PD1/anti-PDL1. In the latter studies, a PD-1 inhibitor and CTLA-4 inhibitor were prescribed for their patient population either in combination or sequentially. Therefore, it is unlikely that this finding is related to PD-1 inhibition alone.

As mentioned, the histologic features of ICPI-associated colitis are nonspecific and can mimic other type of colitis, including infectious colitis, IBD, graft versus host disease (GVHD), and other drug-induced colitis. Although infectious colitis typically shows features of active colitis, increased apoptosis and crypt atrophy/dropout are not typical features^[28]. ICPI-associated colitis lacks the features of chronicity that characterize IBD^[29]. The lamina propria expansion by lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate can discriminate from GVHD although increased crypt apoptosis is the *sine qua none* of the diagnosis of GVHD^[30]. Despite the histopathological differential diagnostic points, clinical correlation and medical history are indispensable for discrimination between ICPI-associated colitis and mimics (Table 1).

MORBIDITY ASSOCIATED WITH ICPI-INDUCED DIARRHEA/COLITIS AND TREATMENT

IrAEs involving the GI tract range from mild to severe events^[31] and are well reported for anti-CTLA4 but less well reported for anti-PD-1 and anti-PD-L1 and for combined anti-CTLA4 plus anti-PD-1. Most clinical trials distinguish diarrhea from colitis even though they overlap in most practical cases. Diarrhea is evaluated based on an increase in stool per day or ostomy output. Colitis is evaluated based on clinical symptoms (abdominal pain, mucus or blood in stool) or diagnostic observations based on radiographic and/or colonoscopy findings. The severity is usually classified based on the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events^[32] (Table 2).

Moderate to severe ICPI-related colitis may lead to severe deterioration in organ function and quality of life and life-threatening events. Diarrhea and colitis occurred in 8% to 22% of patients treated with anti-CTLA4^[15]. A recent systemic review reported that 613 fatal ICPI toxic events were found from 2009 through January 2018 searched by Vigilyze, which included 135 anti-CTLA-4 deaths and 32 combination anti-CTLA-4 plus anti-PD-1 deaths from colitis (27%)^[33]. Colonic perforation was reported to occur in 1-5% of melanoma patients treated with ipilimumab (anti-CTLA-4)^[7,15,34], and 0.6% of patients treated with ipilimumab died due to ICPI-induced

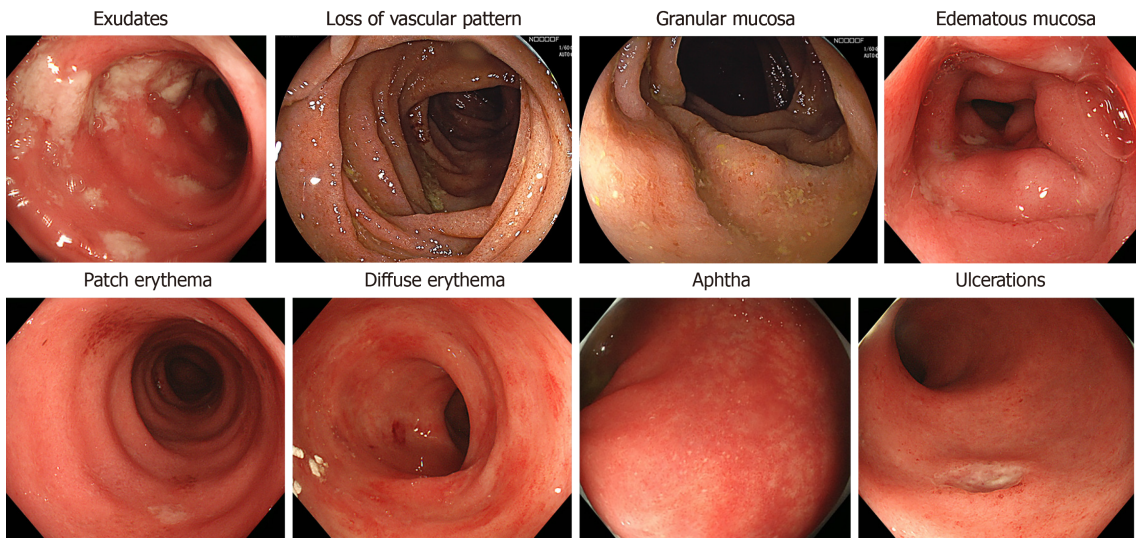


Figure 1 Endoscopic findings caused by an immune checkpoint inhibitor.

colitis^[35].

Anti-CTLA4-related colitis is reportedly associated with mouth ulcers, anal lesions and extraintestinal irAEs^[17]. A recent meta-analysis of 34 studies that included 8863 patients in clinical trials revealed that, for anti-CTLA4 alone (ipilimumab), all grades of colitis occurred in 9.1% (95% confidence interval (CI), 6.6%-12.5%) of participants, grade 3/4 colitis occurred in 6.8% (95% CI: 5.3%-8.6%) of participants, and grade 3/4 diarrhea occurred in 7.9% (95% CI: 5.5%-11.4%) of participants. Similarly, for anti-PD-1 alone (nivolumab or pembrolizumab), the rates were 1.4% (95% CI: 1.1%-1.8%), 0.9% (95% CI: 0.7%-1.3%), and 1.3% (95% CI: 1.0%-1.7%), respectively. For anti-PD-L1 alone (atezolizumab), the rates were 1.0% (95% CI: 0.4%-2.2%), 0.6% (95% CI: 0.2%-1.6%), and 0.3% (95% CI: 0.1%-1.1%), respectively^[36]. For anti-CTLA4 (Ipilimumab) plus anti-PD-1 (nivolumab), the rates were 13.6% (95% CI: 7.7%-22.9%), 9.4% (95% CI: 4.8%-117.4%), and 9.2% (95% CI: 6.8%-12.3%), respectively. ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis induced by anti-CTLA-4 can develop more often and more severely than ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis induced by anti-PD-1. Combined anti-CTLA4 plus anti-PD-1 treatment is also more strongly associated with diarrhea/colitis than single-drug treatment^[36]. Ipilimumab is commonly used at either 10 mg/kg or 3 mg/kg. There were similar rates of severe colitis at these doses, but severe diarrhea was more frequent at a dose of 10 mg/kg than at 3 mg/kg^[36]. Recently, Marthey *et al*^[17] showed that the use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) was associated with an increased risk of ICPI-induced colitis induced by CTLA-4 (2/38, 5% *vs* 11/35, 31%, $P = 0.003$). Therefore, the use of NSAIDs may affect the incidence of ICPI-induced diarrhea/colitis. Table 3 shows a summary of the incidence of immune-related diarrhea or colitis based on representative clinical trials.

In the case of grade 1 diarrhea/colitis, antidiarrheal drugs and/or oral hydration with electrolyte substitution can be initiated. In cases of persistent or grade 2 or higher diarrhea or rectal bleeding, it is necessary to confirm colitis or to rule out GI infection by testing for stool leukocytes, stool cultures, IBD, or tumor-related GI symptoms. In particular, *Clostridioides difficile* toxin and/or antigen test, cytomegalovirus DNA polymerase chain reaction, and tests for stool ova and parasites should be carried out in every patient with diarrhea treated with ICPIs. Sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy combined with mucosal biopsy needs to be performed to evaluate the presence of colitis and to rule out GI metastasis because it is not uncommon in lung cancer or melanoma. If ICPI-induced colitis is diagnosed, an oral steroid is recommended. In the case of grade 3/4 diarrhea/colitis or persistent symptoms after oral steroids for several days, changing the treatment to intravenous steroids should be considered, and an infusion solution with electrolytes should be given. If patients respond to intravenous steroids within several days, they should be switched to oral steroids and tapered. However, if they fail to respond to steroid infusion, treatment with anti-TNF- α should be considered^[15,37]. Recently, a case series reported that vedolizumab was a safer and more theoretic alternative than anti-TNF in patients with steroid-dependent or partially refractory ICPI-induced enterocolitis^[38]. In the near future, vedolizumab may be effective and safe because it inhibits the migration of mucosal-associated T lymphocytes without inducing immune suppression and does not show an increased risk of serious infections in patients with UC or Crohn's disease^[39,40].

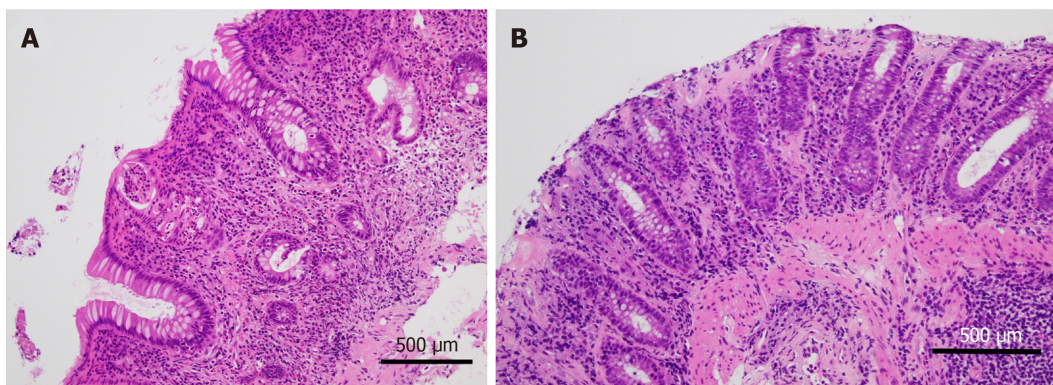


Figure 2 Programmed cell death protein 1 inhibitor-associated colitis. A: This colon biopsy reveals lamina propria expansion by lymphoplasmacytic infiltrate. Crypt distortion, crypt abscess, and cryptitis are prominent in the mucosa. In the stroma, a significantly increased eosinophilic infiltrate is observed; B: In another case of immune checkpoint inhibitors-related colitic mucosa, a subluminal collagen band thickening is prominent as observed in collagenous colitis. (Hematoxylin and eosin original magnification $\times 20$, a scale bar represents 500 μm).

CONCLUSION

The combination of endoscopic and pathological findings may help diagnose ICPI-induced colitis as well as exclude infectious colitis, including *Clostridioides difficile* or cytomegalovirus, ischemic colitis, other drug-induced colitis, or segmental diverticular colitis. However, there are no specific findings because the endoscopic and pathological findings can depend on the time of colitis proven by biopsy or treatment intervention. In cases of persistent or grade 2 or higher diarrhea or rectal bleeding, colonoscopy evaluation is necessary to confirm ICPI-induced colitis and to rule out other diseases. Early evaluation and intervention may avoid exacerbating or prolonging colitis.

Table 2 Definition of diarrhea and colitis based on Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v5.0^[32]

CTCAE Term	Definition	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	CTCAE v5.0 Change
Diarrhea	A disorder characterized by an increase in frequency and/or loose or watery bowel movements	Increase of < 4 stools per day over baseline; mild increase in ostomy output compared to baseline	Increase of 4-6 stools per day over baseline; moderate increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; limiting instrumental ADL	Increase of ≥ 7 stools per day over baseline; hospitalization indicated; severe increase in ostomy output compared to baseline; limiting self-care ADL	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated	Death	Clarification: Grade 2, 3, Definition
Colitis	A disorder characterized by inflammation of the colon	Asymptomatic; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated	Abdominal pain; mucus or blood in stool	Severe abdominal pain; peritoneal signs	Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated	Death	Addition: Navigational note; Clarification: Grade 3

ADL: Activities of daily living; CTCAE: Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events.

Table 3 Summary of incidence of immune-related diarrhea and colitis

ICPI	Target	Author	Year	Plus other drugs	n	Cancer type	Any graded diarrhea/colitis, n (%)	Grade 3-5 diarrhea/colitis, n (%)
Nivolumab	PD-1	Topalian <i>et al</i> ^[41]	2012	None	296	Solid cancer	33 (11)/ND	3 (1)/ND
		Weber <i>et al</i> ^[42]	2013	None	34	Melanoma	13 (38.2)/0 (0)	Not observed ¹
				Ipilimumab-naïve	56		11 (19.6)/0 (0)	
		Weber <i>et al</i> ^[43]	2015	None	268	Melanoma ²	30 (11.2)/ND	1 (0.4)/ND
		Larkin <i>et al</i> ^[44]	2015	None	315	Melanoma	60 (19.2)/4 (1.3)	7 (2.2)/2 (0.6)
		Ferris <i>et al</i> ^[45]	2016	None	236	SCCHN	16 (6.8)/0 (0)	0 (0)/0 (0)
		Kang <i>et al</i> ^[46]	2017	None	330	GC/GEJC	23 (7)/2 (1)	2 (1)/1 (< 1)
		Hamid <i>et al</i> ^[47]	2013	None	135	Melanoma	27 (20)	1 (1)
		Garon <i>et al</i> ^[48]	2015	None	495	NSCLC	40 (8.1)/ND	3 (0.6)/ND
		Ribas <i>et al</i> ^[49]	2015	None	361	Melanoma ²	32 (8.9)/5 (1.4)	2 (0.6)/2 (0.6)
Pembrolizumab	PD-1	Herbst <i>et al</i> ^[50]	2016	None	690	NSCLC	46 (6.7)/6 (0.9)	2 (0.3)/4 (0.6)
		Ribas <i>et al</i> ^[51]	2016	None	655	Melanoma	115 (18)/11 (2)	6 (1)/7 (1.1)
		Mok <i>et al</i> ^[52]	2019	None	636	NSCLC	34 (5)/7 (1)	5 (< 1)/4 (< 1)
		Weber <i>et al</i> ^[53]	2008	None	88	Melanoma	ND	5 (5.6)/4 (4.5)
		Weber <i>et al</i> ^[54]	2009	None	57	Melanoma	20 (35)/ND	10 (18)/ND
				budesonide	58		19 (33)/ND	8 (14)/ND
		Wolchok <i>et al</i> ^[55]	2010	None	214	Melanoma	58 (27)/ND	11 (5.1)/ND
		Hodi <i>et al</i> ^[56]	2010	None	131	Melanoma	43 (32.8)/10 (7.6)	7 (5.3)/7 (5.3)
				gp100	380		146 (38.4)/20 (5.3) ³	17 (4.5)/12 (3.2) ³
		Robert <i>et al</i> ^[57]	2011	Dacarbazine	247	Melanoma	81 (32.8)/11 (4.5)	10 (4.0)/5 (2.0)
Ipilimumab	CTLA-4	Margolin <i>et al</i> ^[58]	2012	None	72	Melanoma	30 (42)/ND	6 (8.3)/ND
		Kwon <i>et al</i> ^[59]	2014	None	399	Prostate cancer	199 (51)/27 (7)	64 (16)/18 (5)
		Larkin <i>et al</i> ^[44]	2015	None	311	Melanoma	103 (33.1)/36 (11.6)	19 (6.1)/27 (8.7)
		Eggermont <i>et al</i> ^[35]	2016	None	471	Melanoma	194 (41.2)/73 (15.5)	46 (9.8)/39 (8.2)

Ipilimumab plus nivolumab	CTLA4 and PD1	Wolchok <i>et al</i> ^[60]	2013	None	53	Melanoma	18 (34.0)/5 (9)	3 (6)/2 (4)
		Larkin <i>et al</i> ^[44]	2015	None	315	Melanoma	138 (44.1)/37 (11.8)	29 (9.3)/24 (7.7)
		Schadendorf <i>et al</i> ^[61]	2017	None	407	Melanoma	30 (7.4)/40 (9.8)	25 (6.1)/32 (7.9)
		Wolchok <i>et al</i> ^[62]	2017	None	313	Melanoma	142 (45)/40 (13)	29 (9)/26 (8)
		Hellmann <i>et al</i> ^[63]	2017	None	77	NSCLC	16 (21)/4 (5.2)	1 (1.3)/3 (3.9)
		Motzer <i>et al</i> ^[64]	2018	None	547	Renal cell carcinoma	145 (27)/ND	21 (4)/ND
Durvalumab	PD-L1	Antonia <i>et al</i> ^[65]	2017	None	473	NSCLC	87 (18.3)/ND	3 (0.6)/ND
		Motzer <i>et al</i> ^[66]	2018	None	475	NSCLC	88 (18.5)/ND	3 (0.6)/ND
		Loibl <i>et al</i> ^[67]	2019	None	92	Breast cancer	26 (28.3)/ND	3 (3.3)/ND
Atezolizumab	PD-L1	Herbst <i>et al</i> ^[68]	2014	None	277	Solid tumors or hematological malignancies	29 (10.5)/ND	0 (0)/ND
		Rosenberg <i>et al</i> ^[69]	2016	None	311	Urothelial carcinoma	24 (8)/3 (1)	1 (0.3)/2 (1)
		Fehrenbacher <i>et al</i> ^[70]	2016	None	142	NSCLC	ND	ND/2 (1)
Avelumab	PD-L1	Socinski <i>et al</i> ^[71]	2018	ABCP	393	NSCLC	70 (17.8)	11 (2.8)
		Chung <i>et al</i> ^[72]	2019	None	150	GC/GEJC	ND/2 (1.3)	ND/1 (0.7) ⁴
		Barlesi <i>et al</i> ^[73]	2019	None	396	NSCLC	24 (6)/ND	0 (0)/ND

¹Dose-limiting colitis was not observed in this trial;

²Progressed after ipilimumab;

³Immune-related event;

⁴No atezolizumab-related grade 4 but adverse events were reported, but only one patient showed Grade 5 cardiac failure. SCCHN: Squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck; NSCLC: Non-small-cell lung cancer; ABCP: Atezolizumab plus bevacizumab plus carboplatin plus paclitaxel; GC/GEJC: Gastric/gastroesophageal cancer; ND: Not described.

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