

# Oncogeriatrics

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With warm thanks to my colleague, Dr Héloïse Rouvière, oncogeriatrician

# Oncogeriatrics



## A PARADOX

60 % newly diagnosed cancer occur in 65+

**BUT** older people are still underrepresented in clinical trials

⇒ Lack of evidence in cancer treatment of older people

**HETEROGENEITY** of aged (frailty and G profile)

⇒ **CHALLENGE** to determine the intensity of the treatment fitting best with the patient's profile

⇒ What are the **TIPS AND TRICKS** based on actual scientific knowledge?

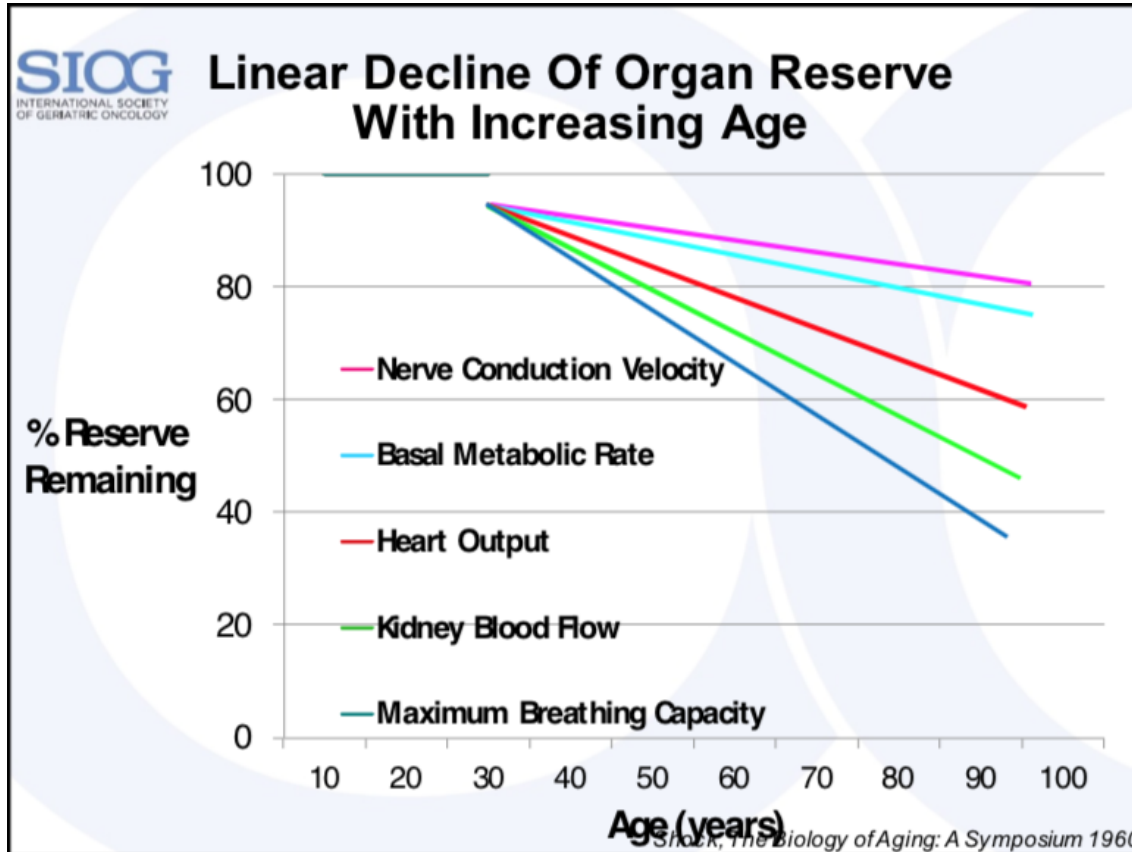


# Should this patient be treated?

Some tips and tricks...



# Frailty in oncogeriatrics



Neuropathy

PE malnutrition

Cardiac toxicity

Chemotoxicity

Dyspnea

# Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment



**All predictive of  
toxicity and mortality  
in old cancer patients  
(9 studies)**

# Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment

**SIOG**  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY

## Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment CGA

Assessment	Instrument	Administration	Prognosis
<b>Dependency, functional status</b>	PS, Activity of Daily Living (ADL), Instrumental ADL	Self administered	+
<b>Comorbidity</b>	Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI), Cumulative Illness rating Scale-Geriatric (CIRS-G)	Self- or interviewer-administered or chart-based	+
<b>Economic / social support</b>	Life conditions, relatives, care-givers	Interviewer-administered or chart-based	?
<b>Cognition</b>	Folstein Mini-mental State Examination (MMSE)	Interviewer-administered	+
<b>Depression</b>	Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)	Self administered	+
<b>Polypharmacy</b>	List	Interviewer-administered or chart-based	?
<b>Nutrition</b>	Mini Nutritional Assessment (MNA), BMI	Interviewer-administered	+
<b>Geriatric syndromes</b>	Dementia, delirium, falls	interviewer-administered or chart-based	+
<b>Mobility/falls</b>	Timed-up-and-go test, Tinetti, gait speed	Performance-tests	+

# Treatment decisions

CGA influences the oncologist decision in 21 to 49 %

The most predictive (mortality, toxicity) CGA problems are :

- Functional status (ADL, IADL, PS)
- Malnutrition
- Comorbidities

**Oncogeriatrics aims to assess potentially reversible conditions before the treatment and to identify and follow at-risk patients**

Aparicio, J Clin Oncol, 2013  
Caillet, Clin Interv in Aging, 2014  
Wildiers, JCO, 2014

# Toolbox : Prognostic scales

## ePrognosis

- Community-dwelling patients (15 months to 10 years)
- Institutionnalized patients (6 months to 1 year)
- Hospitalized patients (1 year after hospital stay, 2 years)
- Patient with advanced stages of cancer



<http://eprognosis.ucsf.edu/index.php>





# Toolbox : Prognostic scales



# Toolbox : Prognostic scales

## Aide à l'estimation de la survie : Score de Lee

Permet d'estimer le risque de mortalité à 4 ans chez des sujets âgés par un auto-questionnaire

Score	% de décès à 4 ans
0-5	< 4%
6-9	15%
10-13	42%
≥ 14	64%

1. Age	60-64 : 1 point 65-69 : 2 points 70-74 : 3 points 75-79 : 4 points 80-84 : 5 points 85 : 7 points
2. Sexe	Male : 2 points
3. IMC	< 25 : 1 point
4. Est-ce qu'un docteur vous a déjà parlé de diabète ou d'un excès de sucre ?	Diabète : 2 points
5. Est-ce qu'un médecin vous a parlé de cancer ou de tumeur maligne, excepté les petits cancers de la peau ?	Cancer : 2 points
6. Avez-vous une maladie chronique du poumon qui limite vos activités habituelles ou nécessite de l'oxygène à la maison ?	Maladie pulmonaire : 2 points
7. Est qu'un docteur vous a parlé d'insuffisance cardiaque congestive ?	Insuffisance cardiaque : 2 points
8. Avez-vous fumé des cigarette durant la dernière semaine ?	Tabac récent : 2 points
9. Du fait de problèmes de santé ou de mémoire, avez-vous des difficultés à prendre un bain ou une douche ?	Bain : 2 points
10. Du fait de problèmes de santé ou de mémoire, avez-vous des difficultés à gérer votre argent- comme payer des factures ou faire vos comptes ?	Finances : 2 points
11. Du fait de problème de santé, avez-vous des difficultés à marcher quelques centaines de mètres ?	Marche : 2 points
12. fait de problème de santé, avez-vous des difficultés à tirer ou pousser de gros objets comme un fauteuil par exemple ?	Pousser ou tirer : 1 point
	Total des points :


**Lee et al. JAMA  
2006;295:801-**



# Toolbox : specific scales

**Breast cancer** : PREDICT : prognostic score at 5 and 10 years without neoadjuvant treatment et with different types of treatments (hormonal treatment; chemotherapy; targeted therapies)

**predict**



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**PREDICT Tool Version 2.0: Breast Cancer Overall Survival; Input**

Age at diagnosis:

Mode of detection:  Screen-detected  Symptomatic  Unknown

Tumour size in mm:

Tumour Grade:  1  2  3

Number of positive nodes:   Micromet

ER status:  Positive  Negative

HER2 status:  Positive  Negative  Unknown

KI67 status:  Positive  Negative  Unknown

Gen chemo regimen:  No chemo  Second  Third

**PREDICT Tool Version 2.0: Breast Cancer Overall Survival; Results**

**Five year survival**  
 XX out of 100 women are alive at 5 years with no adjuvant therapy after surgery  
 An extra X out of 100 women treated are alive because of hormone therapy  
 An extra X out of 100 women treated are alive because of chemotherapy  
 An extra X out of 100 women treated are alive because of hormone therapy & chemotherapy  
 An extra X out of 100 women treated are alive because of hormone therapy, chemotherapy & Trastuzumab



# Treatment options

Some tips and tricks...



# Surgery

More than 50% of old surgical patients are admitted for cancer surgery

Urgent surgery induces higher rates of complications

Perioperative management is crucial for elective surgery : geriatric follow-up is recommended

Screening of risk of delirium! Preventive measures

# Radiation therapy

Assess the feasibility (don't move!), the risks and benefits

High risk of adverse effects, but interruption of treatment lowers the benefit. Fraction

Concomitant RT and chemotherapy increases the toxicity level

Radiation mucositis : consider pain killers and nutritional support

Late toxicities are common



# Chemotherapy

Same efficacy than younger patients, but higher levels of toxicity

Interruptions of treatments are common in old patients : loss of chance! Prefer *a lower dose* to interruption

Nauseas, vomitings, diarrheas are less frequent

Mucositis and hematological toxicity are more frequent

Renal toxicity (CisPt)

Cardiac toxicity (Anthracyclines)

Neurological toxicity (Thalidomid)

Fatigue +++

# Toolbox : prediction tool for chemo toxicity

## PREDICTION TOOL FOR CHEMOTHERAPY TOXICITY in Older Adults With Cancer : CARG

11 items : predicts grades 3, 4 & 5 of toxicity in solid cancers (65 – 94 years old)  
– external validation on 250 patients

Low risk

Moderate risk

High risk



Hurria, JCO, 2016





**Table 1.** Prediction Model and Scoring Algorithm for Chemotherapy Toxicity

Variable	Value/Response	Score
Age of patient	≥ 72 years	2
	< 72 years	0
Cancer type	GI or GU cancer	2
	Other cancer types	0
Planned chemotherapy dose	Standard dose	2
	Dose reduced upfront	0
Planned No. of chemotherapy drugs	Polychemotherapy	2
	Monochemotherapy	0
Hemoglobin	< 11 g/dL (male), < 10 g/dL (female)	3
	≥ 11 g/dL (male), ≥ 10 g/dL (female)	0
Creatinine clearance (Jeliffe, ideal weight)	< 34 mL/min	3
	≥ 34 mL/min	0
How is your hearing (with a hearing aid, if needed)?	Fair, poor, or totally deaf	2
	Excellent or good	0
No. of falls in the past 6 months	≥ 1	3
	None	0
Can you take your own medicine?	With some help/unable	1
	Without help	0
Does your health limit you in walking one block?	Somewhat limited/limited a lot	2
	Not limited at all	0
During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc)?	Limited some of the time, most of the time, or all of the time	1
	Limited none of the time or a little of the time	0

CARG

	Total Risk Score	% Risk
Low	0 to 3	25%
	4 to 5	32%
Mid	6 to 7	50%
	8 to 9	54%
High	10 to 11	77%
	12 to 19	89%





Meet the Researchers	U13 Meeting	CARG Studies	Grants/Job Opportunities	Educational Resources	Resources for the Older Adult	Geriatric Assessment Tools	Geriatric Oncology Events	R25 Nursing Grant
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### PREDICTION TOOL

Gender:

Patient's Age:

Patient's Height:

Patient's Weight:

Cancer Type:

Dosage:  \*

Number of chemotherapy agents:

Hemoglobin:

How is your hearing (with a hearing aid, if needed)?:

Number of falls in the past 6 months?:

Can you take your own medicines?:

Does your health limit you in walking one block?:

During the past 4 weeks, how much of the time has your physical health or emotional problems interfered with your social activities (like visiting with friends, relatives, etc.)?:

Select Serum Creatinine:

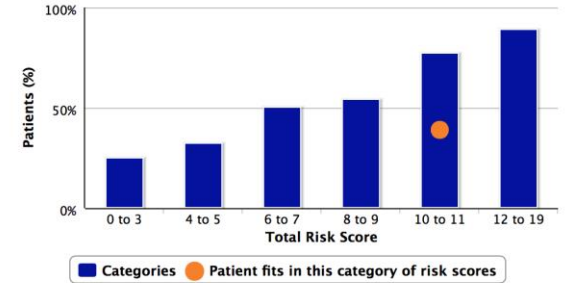
Creatinine Clearance:  \*\*

Toxicity Score:

Risk of Chemotherapy Toxicity:

[What does this mean?](#)

Grade 3-5 Toxicity



**Patient Total Risk Score: 10**

**Patient Toxicity Risk: 7**



# Toolbox : prediction tool for chemo toxicity

- Chemotherapy Risk Assessment Scale for High-Age Patients  
= **CRASH SCORE**

Predicts grades 3, 4 non hematological toxicity and grade 4 hematological toxicity in solid cancers (70-94 years old) – No external validation

Low risk

Low to moderate risk

Moderate to high risk

High risk



**CRASH (Chemotherapy Risk Age Scale for High Risk Patients) Scoring Analysis**

Chemotherapy risk (see table)		
Hematologic risk factors		
Diastolic blood pressure (greater than 72 = 1)		
IADL (less than 26 = 1)		
LDH (greater than 459 = 2)*		
Non-hematologic risk factors		
ECOG PS (1-2 = 1; 3-4 = 2)		
MMS (less than 30 = 2)		
MNA (less than 28 = 2)		
Heme score (incl. chemo risk)		
Non-heme score (incl. chemo risk)		
Combined score (count chemo risk only once)		

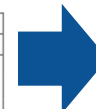
**Table 6.** Example of Toxicity of the Chemotherapy Regimen (Chemotox) Values for Various Chemotherapy Regimens<sup>a</sup>

CRASH Points <sup>b</sup>		
0	1	2
Capecitabine 2g	Capecitabine 2.5 g	5-FU/LV (Roswell-Park)
Cisplatin/pemetrexed	Carboplatin/gemcitabine AUC 4-6/1 g d1,d8	5-FU/LV (Mayo)
Dacarbazine	Carboplatin/pemetrexed	5-FU/LV and bevacizumab
Docetaxel weekly	Carboplatin/paclitaxel q3w	CAF
FOLFIRI	Cisplatin/gemcitabine d1,d8	Carboplatin/docetaxel q3w
Gemcitabine 1 g 3/4 wk	ECF	CHOP
Gemcitabine 1.25 g 3/4 wk	Fludarabine	Cisplatin/docetaxel 75/75
Paclitaxel weekly	FOLFOX 85 mg	Cisplatin/etoposide
Pemetrexed	Gemcitabine 7/8 wk then 3/4 wk	Cisplatin/gemcitabine d1,d8,d15
	Gemcitabine/irinotecan	Cisplatin/paclitaxel 135-24 h q3w
	PEG doxorubicin 50 mg q4w	CMF classic
	Topotecan weekly	Doxorubicin q3w
	XELOX	FOLFOX 100-130 mg
		Gemcitabine/pemetrexed d8
		Irinotecan q3w
		Paclitaxel q3w
		Docetaxel q3w
		Topotecan monthly

**Individual risk**

Sample	CRASH score (points / % with severe toxicity)			Risk Category
	Heme subscore	Non-Heme subscore	Combined score	
Derivation (n=347)	0-1: 7%	0-2: 33%	0-3: 50%	Low Int-Low Int-High High
	2-3: 23%	3-4: 46%	4-6: 58%	
	4-5: 54%	5-6: 67%	7-9: 77%	
	Greater than 5: 100%	Greater than 6: 93%	Greater than 9: 79%	
Validation	0-1: 12%	0-2: 42%	0-3: 61%	
	2-3: 35%	3-4: 59%	4-6: 72%	
	4-5: 45%	5-6: 66%	7-9: 77%	
	Greater than 5: 50%	Greater than 6: 100%	Greater than 9: 100%	

Ref: Extermann et al., ASCO 2010



Description	Score	Risk
Heme Score	2	Med Low
Non Heme Score	6	Med High
Combined Score	7	Med High

**Warning:** This score is for use by oncologists familiar with chemotherapy administration. It is aimed at supporting clinical decision making and should in no way supersede it. It is to be used in addition to drug-specific dose adaptations. Further individual or treatment plan characteristics might lead the oncologist to depart from these risk estimates.

**Chemotherapy risk**

Chemotherapy risk

0

**Hematologic Risk Factors**

Diastolic blood pressure

0

IADL

0

LDH

0

**Non-Hematologic Risk Factors**

ECOG PS

0

MMS

0

MNA

0

Submit

**CRASH points (Regimens not listed should be scored by analogy)**

0	1	2
Capecitabine 2g	Bendamustine +/- rituximab	5-FU/LV (Roswell-Park)
Cisplatin/pemetrexed	Capecitabine 2.5g	5-FU/LV (Mayo)
Dacarbazine	Carboplatin/gemcitabine AUC 4-6/1g d1,d8	5-FU/LV + bevacizumab
Docetaxel weekly	Carboplatin/pemetrexed	AC
FOLFIRI	Cisplatin/gemcitabine d1,8	CAF
Gemcitabine 1g 3/4 weeks	ECF	Carboplatin/docetaxel q3w Carboplatin/paclitaxel q3w
Gemcitabine 1.25g 3/4 weeks	Fludarabine	CHOP +/- rituximab
Paclitaxel weekly +/- trastuzumab	FOLFOX 85mg(e.g. FOLFOX4 or mFOLFOX6)	Cisplatin/docetaxel 75/75
Pemetrexed	Gemcitabine 7/8 weeks then 3/4	Cisplatin/etoposide
	Gemcitabine/irinotecan	Cisplatin/gemcitabine d1,8,15
	PEG doxorubicin 50mg q4w	Cisplatin/irinotecan q3w
	Topotecan weekly	Cisplatin/paclitaxel 135-24h q3w
	XELOX	CMF classic
		Docetaxel q3w
		Doxorubicin q3w
		Eribulin
		FCR
		FOLFOX 100-130 mg
		Gemcitabine/pemetrexed d8
		Irinotecan q3w
		Ixabepilone q3w



# Geriatric interventions

Some tips and tricks...



# Validated geriatric interventions

<b>Functional status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Physiotherapy @ home</li><li>Occupational therapy @ home</li><li>Home nursing care</li><li>Home security</li><li>Assessment of risk of falling</li><li>Promote physical exercise</li><li>Screening and assessment of osteoporosis</li></ul>
<b>Cognition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Involve the proxy caregivers</li><li>Reduce potentially inappropriate medications</li><li>Preventive measures of delirium</li><li>Assess the ability to understand and acknowledge the treatment</li><li>Identify the relatives / collaborative decisions</li><li>Perform neuropsychological testing</li></ul>

# Validated geriatric interventions

## **Social support/ Caregiver burden**

Transportation assistance to the hospital  
Home care  
Support groups  
Psychological support  
Spiritual assistance

## **Psychological status**

Non pharmacological care : meditation, relaxation, acupuncture  
Exercise program  
Psychological support  
Medication for anxiety, depression  
Support programs, stress management  
Spiritual assistance



# Validated geriatric interventions

## Nutrition

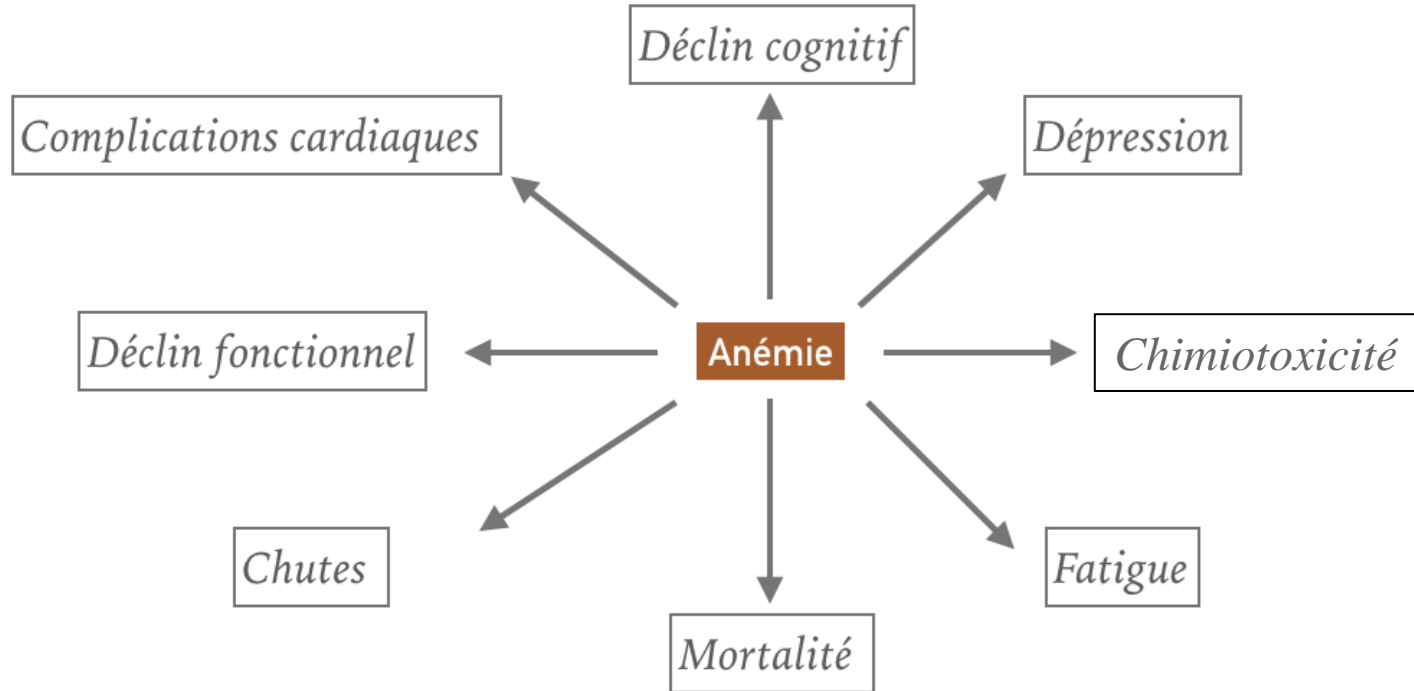
Dietician advice + follow up  
Dietetic recommendations  
Oral care  
Nutritional support (oral, enteral)  
If functional impairment : occupational therapist,  
physiotherapy, home care, meals on wheels, caregiver  
involvement, vitamin D

# Medical interventions

Some tips and tricks...



# ▶▶▶ ANEMIA



# ▶▶▶ ANEMIA - WORKUP

Etiological assessment

Transfusion according to Hb level, tolerance and comorbidities

The use of erythropoietin is controversial



# ▶▶▶ ANEMIA - WORKUP

Hb level  
≤11g/dL

Asymptomatic – no significant comorbidity



Observe



Periodical assessment

High risk patient (progressive loss of Hb and recent chemo or radiotherapy)



Transfusion

Or

Asymptomatic with comorbidities :

- cardiac
- pulmonary
- cerebrovascular

Symptomatic :

Tachycardia, tachypnea, chest pain, dyspnea, dizziness, syncope, fatigue limiting the achievement of ADLs



Transfusion

# ▶▶▶ FEBRILE NEUTROPENIA

NEUTROPENIA = PMN  $< 500 / \text{mm}^3$

or WBC  $< 1000 / \text{mm}^3$

(or waited in the next 48h)

→ Higher risk of major infection when PMN  $< 100 / \text{mm}^3$

FEBRILE = oral  $T^\circ \geq 38,3^\circ\text{C}$  or  $\geq 38^\circ\text{C}$  for  $> 1\text{h}$

▶▶ **EMERGENCY**



# ▶▶▶ FEBRILE NEUTROPENIA

**LOW RISK** : chemo for solid tumors, myeloma, lymphoma

**INTERMEDIATE** : stem cell autograft

**HIGH RISK** :

Induction and consolidation of acute leukemia

Allograft of marrow and stem cells

Myelosuppression



## Worrying signs:

Presence of infection on a "major" site :

**LUNG** Pneumonia

**PERINEAL** Cellulitis

**SKIN** Cellulitis

Or

Hemodynamic instability





# ▶▶▶ LOW RISK FEBRILE NEUTROPENIA

CHARACTERISTIC	WEIGHT
Burden of febrile neutropenia with no or mild Symptoms <sup>1</sup>	5
No hypotension (systolic BP > 90 mm Hg)	5
No chronic obstructive pulmonary disease <sup>2</sup>	4
Solid tumor or hematological malignancy with no previous fungal infection <sup>3</sup>	4
No dehydration requiring parenteral fluids	3
Burden of febrile neutropenia with moderate Symptoms <sup>4</sup>	3
Outpatient status	3
Age <60 years	2

**Score > 20 : low risk**

# ▶▶▶ LOW RISK FEBRILE NEUTROPENIA

MASCC  $\geq 21$

Hospital supervision from 2 to 24 hours

Cipro + Amoxi / clav. or Cipro + Clindamycin if allergy during 7 jours

If not better after 48h or worrying signs : hospitalization



# ▶▶▶ NAUSEAS - VOMITINGS

Impact majeur sur la qualité de vie

Impact sur l'adhérence

Déshydratation

Troubles ioniques



# ▶▶▶ NAUSEAS - VOMITINGS

! Risk of toxicity of anti-emetic drugs

Ex. 5HT<sub>3</sub> Antagonists : prolonged QT, constipation, headache

Dexamethasone : insomnia, hyperglycemia

No specific guidelines for older people

Metoclopramide well tolerated

# ▶▶▶ DIARRHEA

## SECRETORY

Perturbation of  
secretory pumps  
Of enterocytes

IRINOTECAN  
5 - FU

## OSMOTIC

Osmotic effects  
Water retention

## MOTILITY

Faster intestinal  
motility

IRINOTECAN

## IMMUNE- MEDIATED

IMMUNO--THERAPY



# ▶▶▶ DIARRHEA - WORKUP

- Stop food containing lactose
- Stop alcohol
- Stop hyperosmolar supplements (ONS)
- Rehydration treatment
- Small multiple meals
- Discuss interruption of chemotherapy
  
- Loperamide (NB : clostridium) 4mg then 2mg/4h
- Octreotide if oral treatment not effective after 24/48h

# ▶▶▶ MUCOSITIS

Higher risk with age

Oral healthcare

Oral bath care (bicarbonate + antiseptic solution)

Pain killers

Ice blocks

Antifungal treatment

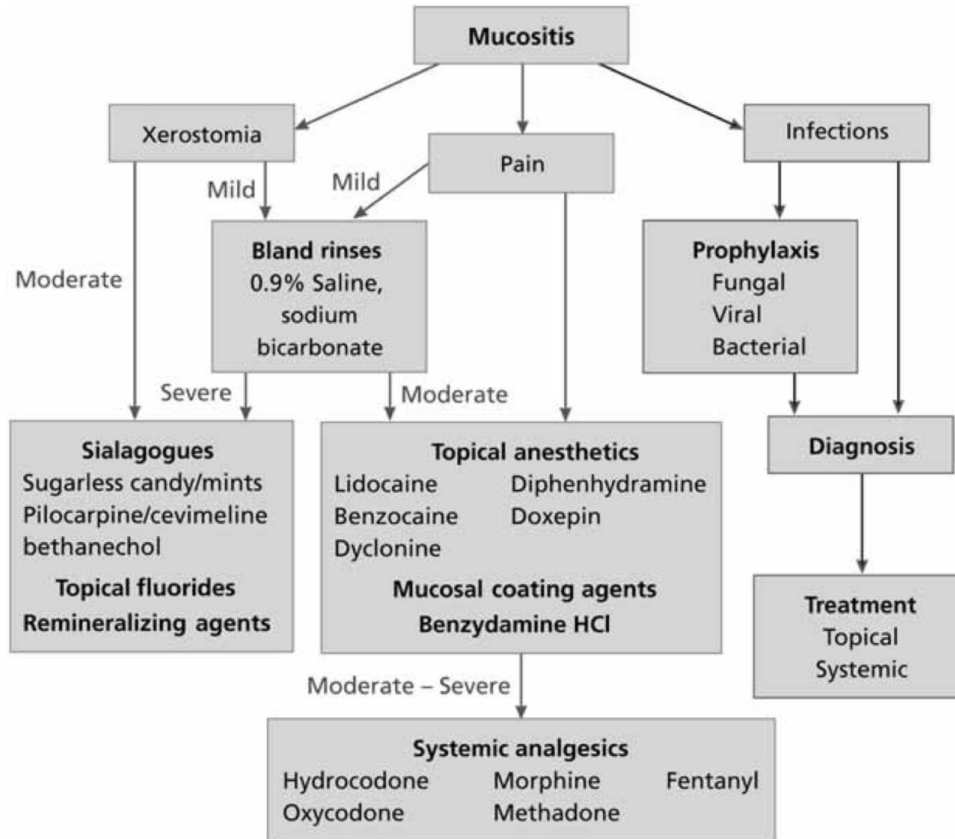
IV hydration

Follow up of nutrition

Hospitalization if mucositis associated with dysphagia or diarrhea



# ▶▶▶ MUCOSITIS





# Follow-up in oncogeriatrics

Some tips and tricks...



# How to organize the follow-up?

## ▶▶▶ A REAL CHALLENGE!

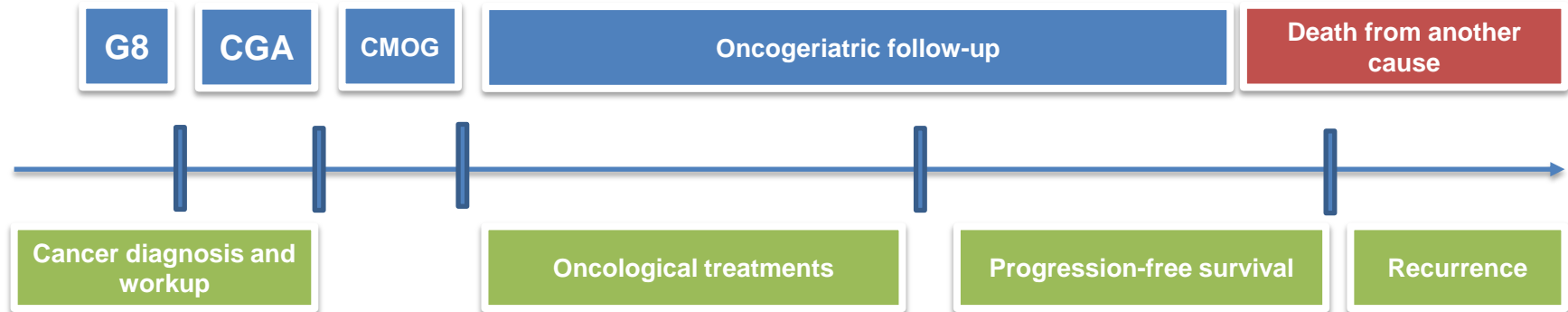
### A good level of communication between the stakeholders

**Table 2. Healthcare professionals<sup>a</sup> who should be part of an elderly oncology patient, QoL-focused, MDT, with team make-up tailored according to patient needs**

- Medical oncologist
- Geriatrician
- Palliative medicine specialist
- Oncology nurse practitioner (in countries were available; oncology nurse for other countries)
- Pain specialist
- General practitioner
- Nutritionist
- Psycho-oncologist
- Social worker [financial, family needs, disability expenses (e.g. wheelchairs etc.)]
- Physiotherapist
- Pharmacist

- Important consultants to the oncology team such as:
  - Dermatologist
  - Cardiologist (trained in cardiotoxicity of oncological treatments)
  - Neurologist
  - Pneumologist
  - Endocrinologist
  - Surgeon
  - Radio oncologist
  - Nephrologist
  - Psychiatrist
  - Ear, nose and throat specialist (ENT)
  - Rheumatologist
  - Ophthalmologist
  - Sexual health specialist
- Allied health professionals in the community and in hospitals
- Care-home staff
- Self-help and support groups, patient advocacy associations
- Clerics (or spiritual helper)
- Volunteers

# How to organize the follow-up?



# How to organize the follow-up?

## ONCOGERIATRIC FOLLOW-UP IN OUR HOSPITAL

- Combined consultation with the oncologist (1x/w)
- Multidisciplinary oncogeriatric meetings (1x/w) : treatment plan
- Involvement of all oncological coordinating nurses (G8)
- Continuing education for nurses
- Implication in Young SIOG courses and SIOG congresses :  
Very dynamic working group in Belgium : join them!



# How to organize the follow-up?

## DIFFERENT MODELS OF FOLLOW-UP

- **Consultative model** : CGA + recommendations
- **Shared model** : collaboration between geriatricians and oncologists
- **Full care model** : geriatric oncologist and oncological geriatrician



# How to organize the follow-up?

## FOLLOW-UP OF OLD CANCER PATIENTS IN THE WORLD?

- Belgium, Netherlands, France, Norway, Switzerland : good cooperation between oncologists and geriatricians
- Italy: central funding for oncologists, a dozen of geriatric oncology units, less cooperation with geriatricians
- Other countries of UE : no collaboration with geriatricians

# How to organize the follow-up?

## ONCOGERIATRIC FOLLOW-UP IN BELGIUM

Cancer plan



But ... still a great heterogeneity

No more funding for oncogeriatric nurses

