# Chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting

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### CINV – why does it matter to the patient?

- major concern by patients going into chemotherapy
- nausea and vomiting is a distressing symptom





### Why does it matter to the caregiver?



Liutkauskiene et al. BMC Cancer (2018) 18:453

dose reduction of anthracycline of 15% in adjuvant therapy: 5 year survival 57.2% vs. 86.4%

Pattern or Characteristic	Measure
Mean monthly ED* visits per 1,000 patient-months† (95% CI)	226.7 (226.5 to 226.9)
Primary presenting complaint	
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/dehydration	8.0
Fever/chills	5.6
Pain (excluding chest pain), headache	28.3
Extremity swelling/edema	4.1
Medication refill	2.2
Rash	0.8
Shortness of breath/cough	8.5
Chest pain	2.9

TABLE 2. Patterns and Characteristics of ED Visits Made by Adults With Newly Diagnosed Cancer at a Safety-Net Health System (N = 11.282)

Hong et al, J Oncol. Pract 2019



### Cancer induced nausea and vomiting then and now:

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1981

### **Drug Stops Chemotherapy Ills**

mental drug called metoclopromide can was mild in all but one patient. eliminate the nausea and vomiting that accompany one of the most widely used cording to a team of researchers.

BOSTON, Oct. 14 (UPI) - An experi- 176 percent of the patients. The sedation

Other side effects were diarrhea, occasional headaches, chills or other and powerful treatments for cancer, ac- minor problems, the study said, but none of these effects necessitated stop-

The drug holds hope for other cancer ping the treatment. patients suffering drug-induced nausea and vomiting. These symptoms are "the clopromide treatment took too long to be most frequent and debilitating acute side effects of chemotherapy for advanced cancer," the researchers wrote in the latest issue of The New England N.A.A.C.P. in South Carolina Journal of Medicine.

used on outpatients, the study said.

The major drawback was that meto-

Introduction of the most emetogenic cancer drug: 1978

Introduction of the most effective antiemetic: 2003!





# Cancer induced nausea and vomiting then and now:

- Before introduction of Antiemetics:
  - 83% of patients nause and vomiting
- now: 13-35% depending on substances

<b>Table</b> 5	Ten most distressing side-effects of chemotherapy	
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Rank	1983	1995
1	Being sick (vomiting)	Feeling sick (nausea)
2	Feeling sick (nausea)	Loss of hair
3	Loss of hair	Being sick (vomiting)
4	Thought of coming for treatment	Constantly tired
5	Length of time treatment takes at the clinic (24)	Having to have an injection
6	Having to have an injection	Constipation (-)
7	Shortness of breath (15)	Thought of coming for treatment
8	Constantly tired	Affects family or partner
9	Difficulty sleeping (21)	Feeling low, miserable (depression) (14)
10	Affects family or partner	Feeling anxious or tense (13)

Numbers in parentheses indicate the ranking number in the opposite column.

de Boer-Dennert et al, Br.. J. Cancer 1997

### TABLE 4 Relative Severity of Side Effects for the Entire Group

Symptom	Rank
Affects my family or partner	1
Loss of hair	2
Constantly tired	3
Affects my work, home duties	4
Affects my social activities	5
Loss of sexual feeling	6
Giddiness on standing up	7
Diarrhea	8
Weight gain	9
Shortness of breath	10
Emesis	11
Feeling low (depression)	12
Irritability, bad temper	13
Numbness in fingers or toes	14
Loss of appetite	15

Carelle et al, Cancer 2002



### Why does it happen?



Classification	Definition
Acute	Occuring with the first 24 hours after initiation, peaking after 5-6 hours
Delayed	Occurring from 24 hours to 2-5 days after chemotherapy



### Who is affected?

Emetogenic potential	IV ch	emotherapy	Oral chemotherapy
High (>90%)	Anthracycline/cyclophosphamide combination Dacarbazine	Cisplatin Cyclophosphamide ≥1500 mg/m2	Procarbazine
Moderate (>30 to 90%)	Alemtuzumab Azacitidine Bendamustine Carboplatin Cyclophosphamide <1500 mg/m2 Cytarabine >1000 mg/m2	Daunorubicin, Doxorubicin, Epirubicin, Idarubicin Ifosfamide Irinotecan Oxaliplatin Trabectedin	Crizotinib Cyclophosphamide Imatinib Temozolomide Vinorelbine
Low (10-30%)	Aflibercept Bortezomib Brentuximab Cabazitaxel Cetuximab Cytarabine ≤1000 mg/m2 Docetaxel Eribulin Etoposide	5-Fluorouracil Gemcitabine Ipilimumab Methotrexate Nab-paclitaxel Paclitaxel Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin Pertuzumab Trastuzumab-emtansine	Afatinib Axatinib Capecitabine Everolimus Lapatinib Olaparib Sunitinib Thalidomide
Minimal (0 to <10%)	Bevacizumab Nivolumab Pembrolizumab	Trastuzumab Vinblastine, Vincristine, Vinorelbine	Melphalan Methotrexate Pomalidomide

adapted from ESMO + MASCC Guidelines



### 2016 MASCC and ESMO guideline update for the prevention of chemotherapy- and radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting and of nausea and vomiting in advanced cancer patients

F. Roila<sup>1</sup>, A. Molassiotis<sup>2</sup>, J. Herrstedt<sup>3</sup>, M. Aapro<sup>4</sup>, R. J. Gralla<sup>5</sup>, E. Bruera<sup>6</sup>, R. A. Clark-Snow<sup>7</sup>, L. L. Dupuis<sup>8</sup>, L. H. Einhorn<sup>9</sup>, P. Feyer<sup>10</sup>, P. J. Hesketh<sup>11</sup>, K. Jordan<sup>12</sup>, I. Olver<sup>13</sup>, B. L. Rapoport<sup>14</sup>, J. Roscoe<sup>15</sup>, C. H. Ruhlmann<sup>3</sup>, D. Walsh<sup>16</sup>, D. Warr<sup>17</sup> & M. van der Wetering<sup>18</sup> on behalf of the participants of the MASCC/ESMO Consensus Conference Copenhagen 2015<sup>\*</sup>

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	Serotonin-Blockers	Substance P-Blockers	Cortisone
Substances	<b>Ondansetron</b> , Granisetron, Tropisetron, Dolasetron, Palonosetron	<b>Aprepitant</b> , Fosaprepitant, Rolapitant, Netupitant	Dexamethasone
Type of CINV	Acute + Delayed	Acute + Delayed	Acute + Delayed
Side effects	constipation	constipation, fatigue, hick- up	hyperglycemia, <b>sleeplessness</b> , psychiatiric side effects
Use	all types	Highly emetogenic chemotherapy	All types, enhances efficacy of subtances P-Blockers





NK<sub>1</sub>-receptor antagonists

Substance P

### MASCC-ESMO guidelines

Emetogenic risk level	Acute phase	Example	Delayed phase	Example
High	NK1-RA + 5-HT3-RA + dexamethasone +	Day 1: Aprepitant 125 mg once + Ondansetrone 8 mg twice daily + 12 mg dexamethsone once	NK1-RA + dexamethasone	Day 2+ 3: Aprepitant 80 mg + dexamthasone 8 mg p.o.
Moderate	5-HT3-RA + dexamethasone	Ondansetrone 8 mg + 8 mg dexamethasone	dexamethasone	
Low	5-HT3-RA or dexamethasone or dopamine receptor antagonist	Ondansetrone 8 mg or 8 mg dexamethasone or 10 mg metoclopramide	-	
Minimal	No fixed medication			





ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting (CINV) and adherence to antiemetic guidelines: results of a survey of oncology nurses

( CrossMark

Rebecca Clark-Snow<sup>1</sup> · Mary Lou Affronti<sup>2</sup> · Cynthia N. Rittenberg<sup>3</sup>



🔳 5-HT<sub>3</sub> RA 🔳 DEX 📃 NK<sub>1</sub> RA\* 📕 Phenothiazine 🔳 Benzodiazepine 📕 Antipsychotic 🔳 Other

#### Guideline-recommended Agents

\*During Day 2 and beyond, an oral NK, RA (aprepitant) would be considered guideline-recommended if it had been administered on Day 1



🛢 5-HT<sub>3</sub> RA 🛢 DEX 📄 NK<sub>1</sub> RA 📕 Phenothiazine 🔳 Benzodiazepine 📕 Antipsychotic 🔳 Other

**Guideline-recommended Agents** 



underuse of correct

medication for delayed nauses

### Olanzapine

- antipsychotic drug used in treatment for schizophrenia
- blocks various receptors (dopamine, serotonin, histamine)
- additional treatment in patients not controlled under standard regimens
- delayed and breakthrough vomiting
- educate patients!





### Dopamine receptor antagonists

- **metoclopramide** one of the first antiemetic drugs used in cancer
- blocks dopamine receptors causing enhanced motility and accelerated gastric emptying
- in higher doses also blocks serotonin receptors in chemoreceptor trigger zone of the CNS - dose limitations due to neurological side effects: 3x10 mg i v. or p.o.
- no major role in treatment of acute and delayed CINV
- role in breakthrough CINV

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The drug holds hope for other cancer patients suffering drug-induced nausea and vomiting. These symptoms are "the most frequent and debilitating acute side effects of chemotherapy for advanced cancer," the researchers wrote in the latest issue of The New England N.A.A.C.P. in South Carolina Journal of Medicine.

Other side effects were diarrhea, occasional headaches, chills or other minor problems, the study said, but none of these effects necessitated stopping the treatment.

The major drawback was that metoclopromide treatment took too long to be used on outpatients, the study said.



### Cannabinoids (dronabinole, nabilone)

- stimulate cannabinoid CB2 receptor in the brain stem
- side effects include sedation, euphoria, dysphoria and hallucinations
- no clear picture in available data (low patient numbers, poor quality of trials)
- no recommendation from ESMO or ASCO

	Cannabi	noid	Othe	er -		Odds Ratio		Odds	Ratio	
Study or Subgroup	Events	Total	Events	Total	Weight	M-H, Random, 95% CI		M-H, Rando	m, 95% Cl	
Chang et al 1979	6	15	2	15	18.5%	4.33 [0.71, 26.53]			-	
Chang et al 1981	0	8	0	8		Not estimable				
Frytak et al 1979	16	38	24	78	45.1%	1.64 [0.73, 3.66]		-	-	
Meiri et al 2007	40	50	5	13	28.3%	6.40 [1.72, 23.83]				
Sallan et al 1975	5	15	0	14	8.1%	15.19 [0.75, 305.73]				• •
Total (95% CI)		126		128	100.0%	3.45 [1.39, 8.58]			-	
Total events	67		31							
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> =	0.31; Chi	<sup>2</sup> = 4.70,	df = 3 (P	= 0.20	); I <sup>z</sup> = 369	6	0.05	- d-		
Test for overall effect:	Z= 2.67 (	P = 0.00	)8)				0.05	Favours Other	Favours Cannal	pinoid



Chow et al, Supp. Cancer Care 2020



### Alternative options?





### Anticipatory nausea and vomiting

• Nausea around 10%, vomiting around 3%

Table 1 Risk factors for ANV

Age less than 50

Nausea/vomiting after last chemotherapy session

Expectations of post-treatment nausea

Anxiety (both state and trait)

Susceptibility to motion sickness

Sweating or feeling warm all over after last chemotherapy session



Treatment	
Behavioural techniques	e.g. progressive relaxation training, hypnosis
Drug intervention: Benzodiazapines	For example the day of the chemotherapy: Alprazolam 0.5-2 mg/d, Lorazepam 2 mg, diazepam



### Some final thoughts

- Educate your patients!
- Ask them how they did!
- Escalate antiemetic drugs!
- Consider anticipatory CINV!



### The best prevention is the optimal treatment of CINV!



## Thank you for your attention!



