

# Follow-up in testicular cancer

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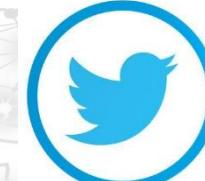
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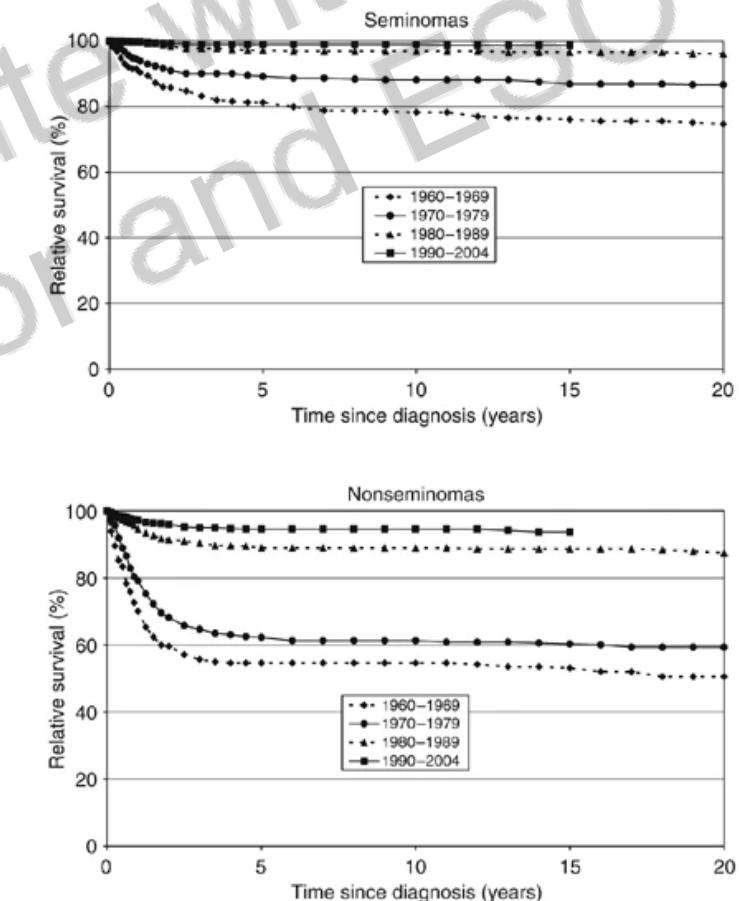
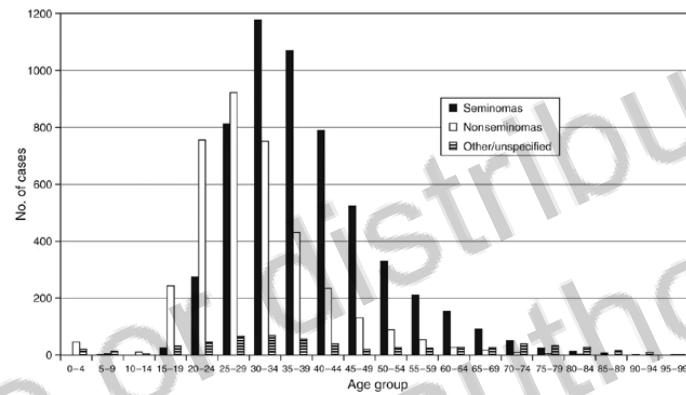
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# Testicular cancer: facts and figures

- The most common malignancy in **young males**, between **16 and 34 years** (increasing incidence)
- About **50% seminomas**
- **80-85% stage I** disease
- The paradigm of a **curable neoplasm**
- Almost all patients become **long-term survivors**
- **Relapses** and **long-term effects** of treatments are of upmost importance for the **follow-up**



# Outline

- Relapse risk
- Treatment-related long-term effects
- Surveillance and follow-up recommendations
- Management of treatment-related effects

# Risk of relapse in early stage disease

Stage and histology	Risk factor (RF)	Risk of relapse	Cure rate	References
<b>Stage I Seminoma</b>	<b>Tumor size (?)</b> <b>Rete testis invasion (?)</b>	<p>After #1 Carbo AUC7: 4-5%</p> <p>Surveillance: 15-20%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- without RFs: 4-6%</li> <li>- 1-2 RFs: 15.9-31%</li> </ul> <p>Usually within 3 years</p>	<b>≥ 99%</b>	Warde et al J Clin Oncol 2002 Mortensen et al Eur Urol 2014 Tandstad et al Ann Oncol 2016 Zengerling et al Urol Oncol 2018 Boormans et al Eur Urol 2018
<b>Stage I Non-seminoma</b>	<b>Vascular invasion (VI)</b> <b>Embryonal carcinoma</b>	<p>After #1 BEP (or RPLND): &lt;5%</p> <p>Surveillance: ≈ 30%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VI (-): 15%</li> <li>- VI (+): 50%</li> </ul>	<b>≈ 99%</b>	Albers et al J Clin Oncol 2003 Nicolai N et al Eur Urol 2010 Cohn-Cedermark et al Andrology 2014
<b>Stage II A/B Seminoma</b>	<b>LN size (2 cm) and no.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RT or #3 BEP: 5%</li> </ul>	<b>&gt;97-98%</b>	Giannatempo et al Ann Oncol 2015
<b>Stage II A/B Non-seminoma</b>	<b>Serum markers (m)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RPLND/#2BEP or #3-4 BEP: 7-11%</li> <li>- If m-, Surveillance (or RPLND): 10%</li> <li>- If m+: #3-4 BEP: 11%</li> </ul>	<b>≈ 97-98%</b>	Weissbach et al Eur Urol 2000

# Prognosis has improved in stage IIC/III

Analysis on 12,135 pts, 9,677 Non-Se and 2,458 Se, treated with platinum-based CT between 1990-2013

Good Prognosis		Intermediate Prognosis	Poor Prognosis
<b>Seminoma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any primary site</li> <li>No non-pulmonary visceral metastases</li> <li>Normal AFP, any hCG, any LDH</li> </ul> <p>90% of seminomas 5-year PFS 82% 5-year OS 86%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any primary site</li> <li><b>Non-pulmonary visceral metastases</b></li> <li>Normal AFP, any hCG, any LDH</li> </ul> <p>10% of seminomas 5-year PFS 67% 5-year OS 72%</p>	No patients classified as poor prognosis
<b>Non-seminoma</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testis/<b>retroperitoneal primary</b></li> <li>No non-pulmonary visceral metastases</li> <li>Good markers all of: AFP &lt; 1.000 ng/ml hCG &lt; 5.000 IU/L LDH &lt; 1,5 x upper limit of normal</li> </ul> <p>56% of non-seminomas 5-year PFS 89% 5-year OS 92%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testis/<b>retroperitoneal primary</b></li> <li>No non-pulmonary visceral metastases</li> <li>Intermediate markers any of: <b>AFP ≥ 1.000</b> and ≤ 10.000 ng/ml or <b>hCG ≥ 5.000</b> and ≤ 50.000 IU/L or <b>LDH ≥ 1,5 x N</b> and ≤ 10 x N</li> </ul> <p>28% of non-seminomas 5-year PFS 75% 5-year OS 80%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Mediastinal primary</b></li> <li><b>Non-pulmonary visceral metastases</b></li> <li><b>Poor markers</b> any of: AFP &gt; 10.000 ng/ml or hCG &gt; 50.000 IU/L or LDH &gt; 10 x upper limit of normal</li> </ul> <p>14% of all GCTs 16% of non-seminomas 5-year PFS 41% 5-year OS 48%</p>

Analysis on 5202 non-Se and 660 Se pts treated with platinum-based CT between 1975-1990  
IGCCCG, JCO 1997

## Risk factors:

- **Histology (non-seminoma)**
- **Primary site (extragonadal/mediastinal)**
- **Visceral non-pulmonary metastases**
- **Serum tumour markers (STMs) levels**

Gillessen et al J Clin Oncol 2021

IGCCCG	5-year PFS 1997	5-year PFS Update	5-year OS 1997	5-year OS Update
Good	89% (87 - 91%)	90% (89 - 91%)	91% (89 - 93%)	96% (95 - 96%)
Interm.	75% (71 - 79%)	77% (75 - 79%)	79% (75 - 83%)	88% (87 - 90%)
Poor	41% (35 - 47%)	54% (52 - 56%)	48% (42 - 54%)	67% (65 - 69%)

Parameter	Estimate	SE	DF	P-value
Age (years) by 1 y	0.020	0.004	1	<.0001
Lung mets	0.465	0.090	1	<.0001
LDH >2.5xUNL	0.564	0.108	1	<.0001

Online IGCCCG calculator available at: <https://www.eortc.org/IGCCCG-Update>

9,531 pts to update IGCCCG estimates on contemporary data  
4,903 pts to build and validated new prognostic model

# Prognosis in relapsed/refractory disease

*The International Prognostic Study Group (IPSG) score on analysis on 1,984 patients with GCT who progressed after at least 3 cisplatin-based cycles and were treated with cisplatin-based conventional-dose or carboplatin-based high-dose salvage chemotherapy*

**Table 4.** Prognostic Score for Patients With Nonseminoma and Seminoma

Parameter	Score Points				Score
	0	1	2	3	
Primary site	Gonadal	Extragonadal	—	Mediastinal nonseminoma	
Prior response	CR/PRm–	PRm+/SD	PD	—	
PFI, months	> 3	≤ 3	—	—	
AFP salvage	Normal	≤ 1,000	> 1,000	—	
HCG salvage	≤ 1,000	> 1,000	—	—	
LBB	No	Yes	—	—	

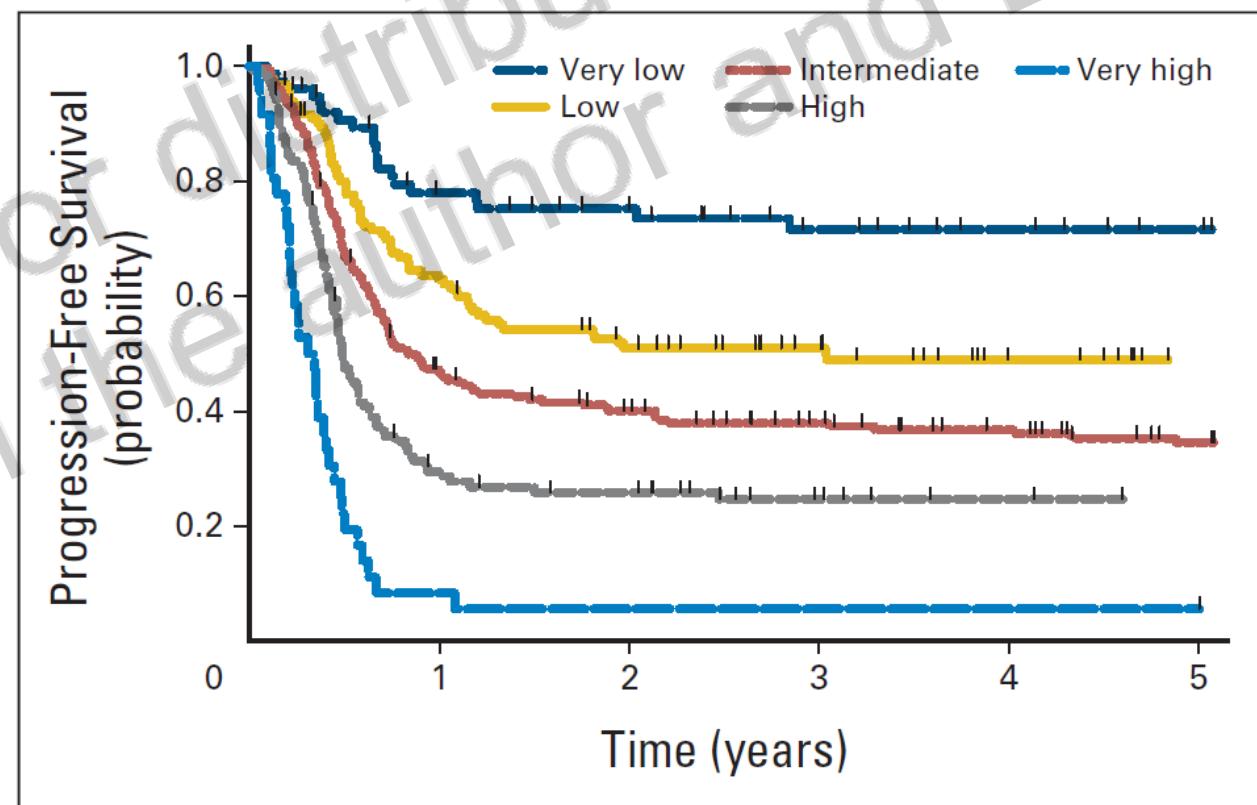
Score sum (values from 0 to 10)

Regroup score sum into categories: (0) = 0; (1 or 2) = 1; (3 or 4) = 2; (5 or more) = 3

Add histology score points: pure seminoma = –1; nonseminoma or mixed tumors = 0

Final prognostic score (–1 = very low risk; 0 = low risk; 1 = intermediate risk; 2 = high risk; 3 = very high risk)

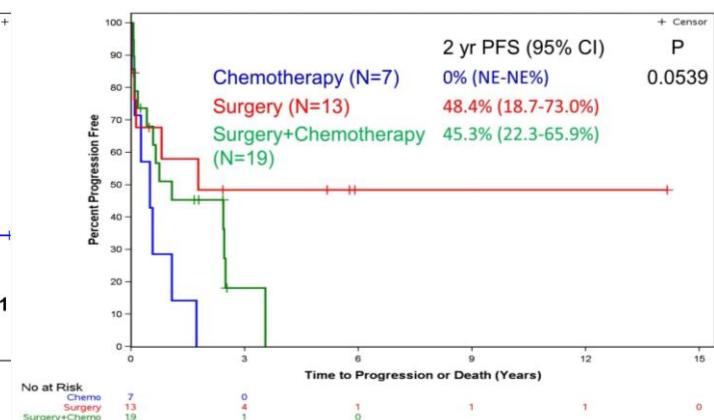
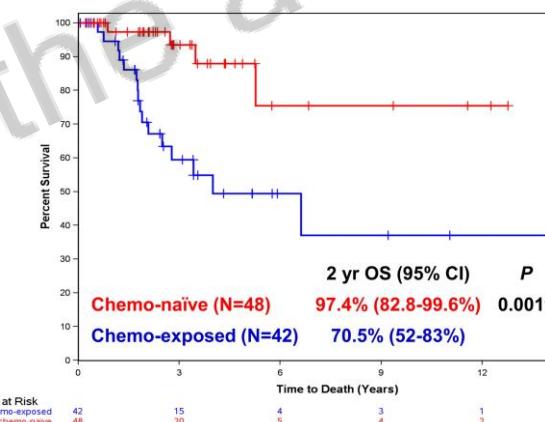
Abbreviations: CR, complete remission; PRm–, partial remission, negative markers; PRm+, partial remission, positive markers; SD, stable disease; PD, progressive disease; PFI, progression-free interval; AFP, alpha fetoprotein; HCG, human chorionic gonadotrophin; LBB, liver, bone, brain metastases.



# Late relapses – Indiana University series

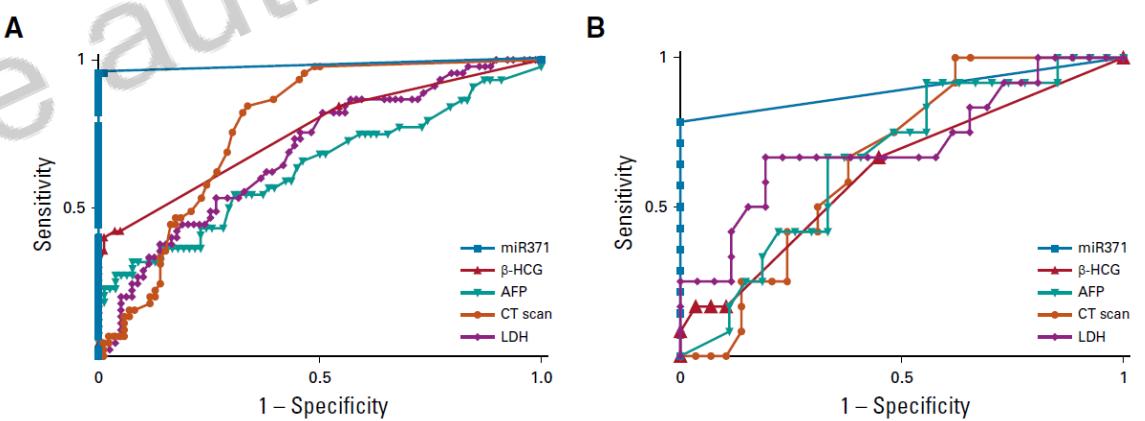
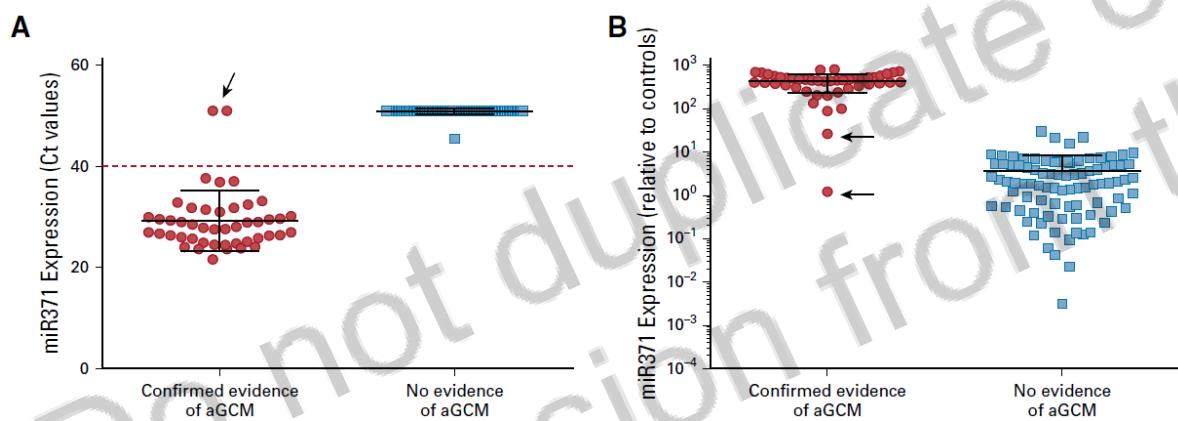
- 90 patients (1993-2000)
- **~ 1.5-3% late relapses, up to 72% diagnosis with symptoms, up to 40% markers or imaging**
- Median FU: 3.02 years (from relapse)
- 20/83 chemo-naïve
- **43/49 CR with surgery**
- **6/32 CR with chemotherapy (4 chemo-naïve)**
- late relapses should be managed **primarily with surgery** (if feasible), **salvage chemotherapy is generally ineffective**
- **follow-up over 5 years** or patient education on signs / symptoms?

	Chemo-naïve Seminoma N=26	Chemo-exposed Seminoma N=3	Chemo-naïve NSGCT N=22	Chemo-exposed NSGCT N=39
2-5 years	22 (84.6%)	3 (100%)	18 (81.8%)	18 (46.1%)
>5 years	4 (15.4%)	0	4 (18.1%)	21 (53.8%)



# Early identification of relapse: novel biomarkers

- **miRNA-371** is expressed in plasma of patients with clear evidence of active germ cell malignancy (aGCM)
- **ROC curves** show the high specificity and positive predictive value of miRNA 371 and confirm it **overperforms** compared to **CT imaging** and **serum tumour markers**



# Long-term effects of treatments

Type	Causes	Effects	References
<b>Secondary malignancies</b>	Radiotherapy (field [subdiaphragmatic] and dose-dependent) Chemotherapy (etoposide and cisplatin dose-dependent)	Leukemia and solid tumours: RR=1.8-2.21 Leukemias: 2% cumulative risk if etoposide >2000mg/mq (>4 BEP) Gastrointestinal cancer risk by 53% with each additional 100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> of cisplatin-based Cht Risk remains after 20-30 years No added risks by CT scans	Travis et al <i>J Natl Cancer Inst</i> 1997 & 2000 Kollmannsberger et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 1998 Travis et al <i>J Natl Cancer Inst</i> 2005 van den Belt-Dusebout et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2007 De Gonzalez et al <i>Lancet Oncol</i> 2011 Van Walraven et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2011 Fung et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2013 Vidal et al <i>Ann Oncol</i> 2014 Hauptman et al <i>Br J Cancer</i> 2015 & 2016 Kier et al <i>JAMA Oncol</i> 2016 Groot et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2018 Baciarello G et al <i>ASCO Proc</i> 2017
<b>Cardiovascular (hypertension, ischemic heart disease)</b>	Chemotherapy Radiotherapy Tumour volume (VTEs)	Age-adj OR of hypertension: 1.29 for RT, 1.63 for cisplatin at $\leq 850$ and 2.32 $>850$ mg 6% IHD event after cisplatin	Sagstuen et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2005 van den Belt-Dusebout et al. <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2007 Fossa et al <i>J Natl Cancer Inst</i> 2007 Srikanthan et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2015 Fung et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2015 Groot et al <i>Cancer</i> 2020
<b>Metabolic syndrome</b>	Chemotherapy Tumour (hypogonadism?)	Dose-dependent for cisplatin, bleomycin, etoposide	Haugnes HS et al <i>Ann Oncol</i> 2007

# Long-term effects of treatments

Type	Causes	Effects	References
<b>Infertility</b> <b>Hypogonadism</b> <b>Sexual dysfunction</b> <b>Aging</b>	Chemotherapy (ifosfamide) Surgery Tumour (contralateral risk)	30% reduction in paternity Premature hormonal and physiologic aging Accelerated cellular senescence, reduced telomere length, epigenetic modifications, somatic mutations, and mitochondrial DNA infidelity	Fossa et al <i>J Natl Cancer Inst</i> 2007 Fossa et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2009 Sprauten et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2014 Ness et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2018
<b>Renal and pulmonary</b>	Chemotherapy (cisplatin and bleomycin)	Stable after acute phase Pulmonary limited but at risk lung surgery, embolism, smoking and IGCCCG poor	Lauritsen et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2016 Chovanec et al <i>Ann Oncol</i> 2017
<b>Neurologic</b>	Chemotherapy (cisplatin and/or taxanes)	6% overall: ototoxicity (22%), parhestesias (29%), Raynaud's (39%)	Fossa et al <i>J Natl Cancer Inst</i> 2010 Fung et al <i>J Natl Compr Canc Netw</i> 2019
<b>Anxiety and depression</b>	Chemotherapy ? Disease	Anxiety 20% TC survivors vs. 12.5% general population 7.9%-9.7% depression (? general population)	Smith et al <i>Psychooncology</i> 2018 Dahl et al. <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2005 Vehling S et al <i>Gen Hosp Psychiatry</i> 2016 Hellestens et al <i>J Clin Oncol</i> 2021

# Non-testicular cancer (TC) mortality

- **23-40% excess non-TC mortality** vs general population (1975 onward) related to cisplatin-based Cht (PBCT) and **RT  $\geq$  20 Gy**, not after surgery
- **Younger survivors < 20 years**, 2.27-fold significantly increased risk
- **Cumulative mortality of 9.6% 25 years after treatment**

## Causes of non-TC mortality:

- **Secondary malignancies**: most important (43% excess after PBCT, 59% after RT), likely not significant after Carboplatin
- **Cardiovascular disease: within the first year** (60% excess mortality, 2.1-fold risk of IHD mortality after PBCT)
- **Suicide risk 20% increase** 1.65-fold excess after PBCT
- **Others: infections/surgery, genitourinary diseases/PBCT, digestive diseases/RT**

# Long-term effects of treatments: genetic susceptibility

- Germline mutations associated with cisplatin-related:
  - **Pulmonary toxicity (BLMH)**
  - **Neuropathy (GSTP1 and RPRD1B)**
  - **Ototoxicity (megalin, COMT, TPMT, and ACYP2)**
  - **Hearing loss (WFS1)**
  - **Tinnitus (OTOS)**

**Table 1. Genetic susceptibility to the late complications of treatment in testicular cancer survivors (TCSs): an overview\***

First author, year (ref.)	Population	Study design	Treatment regimen(s)	Endpoint	Genetic marker (gene)†	Major findings
Oldenburg, 2007 (139)	Norwegian TCS treated 1980–1994 (n = 238)	Retrospective cross-sectional; long-term toxicities assessed via Scale for Chemotherapy-Induced Neurotoxicity, 1998–2002	BEP, 44%; CVB, 44%; 100% exposed to cisplatin-based therapy (median cum. dose = 397 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ); 95% exposed to bleomycin (median cum. dose = 145 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Neurotoxicity	Glutathione S-transferase (GSTP1)	<i>GSTP1</i> genotype G-G vs A-G or A-A: finger paresthesias (OR = 0.46, 95% CI = 0.22 to 0.96), toe paresthesias (OR = 0.42, 95% CI = 0.20 to 0.88), and for tinnitus (OR = 0.33, 95% CI = 0.14 to 0.74)
Oldenburg, 2007 (140)	Norwegian TCS treated 1980–1994 (n = 173)	Retrospective cross-sectional; hearing impairment assessed with audiometric testing, 1998–2001	BEP, 44%; CVB, 44%; 100% given cisplatin-based therapy (median cum. dose = 397 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ); 95% given bleomycin (median cum. dose = 145 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Ototoxicity	Glutathione S-transferase (GSTP1)	<i>GSTP1</i> genotype A-A vs G-G: hearing impairment (OR = 3.82, 95% CI = 1.12 to 13.98). <i>GSTP1</i> genotype A-A vs A-G: hearing impairment (OR = 4.25, 95% CI = 1.26 to 14.38)
Nuver, 2005 (136)	Consecutive nonseminomatous TC patients treated at University Hospital Groningen, the Netherlands, 1977–2003 (n = 340)	Retrospective cohort; data on bleomycin-induced pulmonary toxicity derived from medical records	All patients received bleomycin-containing regimen (median cum. dose = 270 mg)	Pulmonary toxicity	Bleomycin hydrolase (BLMH)	<i>BLMH</i> genotype not associated with either development of BIP or changes in pulmonary function tests
de Haas, 2008 (141)	See Nuver, 2005 (136) (subset, n = 304)	Retrospective cohort; data on vital status, last follow-up date, and cause of death derived from medical records and general practitioner files	All patients received a bleomycin- and platinum-containing regimen (median bleomycin cum. dose by genotype: 270 mg [A/A], 270 mg [A/G], and 360 mg [G/G]; median cisplatin cum. dose by genotype: 400 mg/m <sup>2</sup> [A/A], 400 mg/m <sup>2</sup> [A/G], and 400 mg/m <sup>2</sup> [G/G])	Overall survival	Bleomycin hydrolase (BLMH)	<i>BLMH</i> SNP A1450G had a statistically significant effect on TC-related survival (for G-G vs A-A, HR = 4.97, 95% CI = 2.17 to 11.39) and on early relapse (16% with a genotype of G-G relapsed at <2 y vs 9% with A-A who relapsed at <2 y; P = .19)

Travis et al *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2010  
 Fung et al *J Natl Compr Canc Netw* 2019

# Long-term effects of treatments: genetic susceptibility

- **However:**
  - Data still not validated for clinical use
  - **Expensive tests and need of specialised labs**
  - Often not eventually helpful due to the **necessity of treatments** to guarantee the cure rate

Table 1 (continued).

First author, year (ref.)	Population	Study design	Treatment regimen(s)	Endpoint	Genetic marker (gene)†	Major findings
Peters, 2000 (142)	German patients with testicular germ cell tumor, osteosarcoma, neuroblastoma, and brain tumor; diagnosed 1991–1996 (n = 20 with ototoxicity, n = 19 without hearing loss)	Nested case-control; hearing impairment assessed via audiogram	100% given cisplatin-based therapy; (median cum. dose = 429 mg/m <sup>2</sup> in group with ototoxicity; 422 mg/m <sup>2</sup> in group without hearing loss)	Ototoxicity	Glutathione S-transferase (GSTM3)	GSTM3*B allele was protective for ototoxicity; allele frequency (0.025 in ototoxicity group vs 0.18 in group with normal hearing) ( $\chi^2 = 5.37$ ; $P = .02$ )
Peters, 2003 (143)	See Peters, 2000 (142)	See Peters, 2000 (142)	See Peters, 2000 (142)	Ototoxicity	Mitochondrial DNA sequence variations	Haplotype J (defined by a <i>N</i> lalII site gain at position 4216 and by site losses at positions 13704 <i>Bst</i> NI and 16065 <i>Hinf</i> I) frequency in ototoxicity group was 0.25 vs 0.05 in group with normal hearing ( $\chi^2 = 2.9$ ; $P = .08$ ) rs4668123 was not associated with genotype and ototoxicity; rs2075252 had an A-allele frequency in the ototoxicity group of 0.32 vs an A-allele frequency in group with normal hearing of 0.14 ( $\chi^2 = 5.83$ ; $P < .02$ ; OR = 3.45, 95% CI = 1.11 to 11.2)
Riedemann, 2008 (144)	See Peters, 2000 (142); 50 additional patients (25 with ototoxicity, 25 without hearing loss)	See Peters, 2000 (142)	100% given cisplatin-based therapy (mean cum. dose = 425 mg/m <sup>2</sup> in group with ototoxicity and 434 mg/m <sup>2</sup> in group without hearing loss)	Ototoxicity	Megalin (LRP2)	

\* BEP, bleomycin, etoposide, and cisplatin; BIP, bleomycin-induced pneumonitis; CI = confidence interval; cum. = cumulative; CVB, cisplatin, vinblastine, and bleomycin; HR = hazard ratio; OR = odds ratio; ref. = reference; SNP = single-nucleotide polymorphism; TC, testicular cancer.

† Entrez Gene identification is in parenthesis.

# Surveillance and Follow-up: definition

- **No standard definition**, often considered as interchangeable, but some Authors suggest:
- **Surveillance** is intended to reach an **early diagnosis of relapse**, with the term **active** indicating an alternative option to treatment.
- **Follow-up** aims at detecting **medium- and long-term consequences** of treatment
- So far, there is **no strong evidence** supporting the **modalities** and **timing** of **examinations** useful for these two clinical aspects but some **practical guidelines**, besides specific active surveillance protocols for stage I, have been reported over the latest decades (other than NCCN, EAU and ESMO guidelines) considering different **risk factors**, **radiological examination type** and **timing**, **follow-up intensity and duration**

Beyer et al Ann Oncol 2013

Banna et al Cr Rev Oncol Haematol 2019

Chovanec et al Nat Rev Urol 2016

# UK guidelines for the follow-up: seminoma

- Seven scenarios by stages and treatments
- Seminoma stage I active surveillance:
  - n.5 CT scans: every 6m for 2ys, then yearly for 5ys

## Note:

- CT scans of **abdomen only** (unless pelvis at high risk)
- CXR instead of CT
- After 5y: yearly until **10 years**, clinical and markers
- Late effects** assessed at 2, 5 and 10 years

(*) Late effects
Clinical examination including blood pressure measurement, height and weight
Urea + electrolytes, fasting cholesterol (HDL and LDL), triglycerides, fasting glucose
Hormone profile (FSH, LH and testosterone)

van As et al Br J Cancer 2008

Seminoma: Stage 1. Surveillance												
Markers: AFP, $\beta$ HCG and LDH												
CT scans of abdomen only unless pelvis at high risk												
Late effects should be assessed at 2, 5 and 10 years (see Late effects box)*												
Year 1												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Year 2												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Late effects(*)												
Year 3												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical			x					x			x	
Markers			x					x			x	
CXR								x			x	
CT								x			x	
Year 4												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical					x				x		x	
Markers				x				x			x	
CXR					x				x		x	
CT					x				x		x	
Year 5												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical					x				x		x	
Markers				x				x			x	
CXR					x				x		x	
CT					x				x		x	
Late effects(*)												
Annual follow-up until 10 years, clinical and markers												

- Advise not smoking and paying attention to their body weight
- Especially after 5 years of follow-up investigate suspicions of heart and/or kidney disease
- Advise all nationwide developed screening programs

Seminoma: Stage 1. Para-aortic RT												
Markers: AFP, $\beta$ HCG and LDH												
CT of pelvis only unless clinical reason to scan abdomen												
Late effects should be assessed at 2 and 5 years (see Late effects box)*												
Year 1												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinic			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Year 2												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinic			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Late effects(*)												
Year 3												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinic			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Year 4												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinic			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Year 5												
Month	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinic			x		x			x			x	
Markers		x			x			x			x	
CXR			x		x			x			x	
CT			x		x			x			x	
Late effects(*)												
Discharge after 5 years												

# UK guidelines for the follow-up: seminoma

- **Seminoma stage I single-agent carboplatin:**
- n.3 CT scans: years 1, 2 and 5
- **Seminoma stage IIa/b carboplatin/radiotherapy:**
- n.4 CT scans: 2 year 1, 1 year 2, 1 year 5
- For both:
- **CT scan of abdomen only** (unless pelvis at high risk)
- **CXR instead of CT**
- After 5y: yearly until **10 years**, clinical and markers
- **Late effects** assessed at 2, 5 and **10 years**

**Seminoma: Stage 1. Single-agent carboplatin**

Markers: AFP,  $\beta$ HCG and LDH

CT of abdomen only unless pelvis at high risk

Late effects should be assessed at 2, 5 and 10 years (see Late effects box)\*

Month	Year 1												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical	x		x		x		x	x		x		x	
Markers	x		x		x		x	x		x		x	
CXR					x							x	
CT					x							x	

Month	Year 2												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical			x				x		x		x		x
Markers			x				x		x		x		x
CXR												x	
CT											x		x

Month	Year 3												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical				x							x		
Markers			x								x		
CXR				x							x		
CT											x		x

Month	Year 4												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical					x						x		
Markers				x							x		
CXR					x						x		
CT											x		x

Month	Year 5												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical					x						x		
Markers				x							x		
CXR					x						x		x
CT											x		x

Annual follow-up until 10 years, clinical and markers

**Seminoma: Stages IIa/b. Carboplatin and radiotherapy**

Markers: AFP,  $\beta$ HCG and LDH

CT scans should be abdomen only unless pelvis at high risk

Late effects should be assessed at 2, 5 and 10 years (see Late effects box)\*

Month	Year 1												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical			x			x		x		x		x	
Markers			x			x		x		x		x	
CXR				x							x		x
CT					x						x		x

Month	Year 2												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical			x			x		x		x		x	
Markers			x			x		x		x		x	
CXR				x							x		x
CT					x						x		x

Month	Year 3												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical			x			x		x		x		x	
Markers			x			x		x		x		x	
CXR				x							x		x
CT					x						x		x

Month	Year 4												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical			x			x		x		x		x	
Markers			x			x		x		x		x	
CXR				x							x		x
CT					x						x		x

Month	Year 5												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical			x			x		x		x		x	
Markers			x			x		x		x		x	
CXR				x							x		x
CT					x						x		x

Annual follow-up until 10 years, clinical and markers

# UK guidelines for the follow-up: non-seminoma

- **Non-seminoma stage I surveillance:**
  - n.3 CT scans: 2 year 1, 1 year 2
- **Non-seminoma stage I adjuvant chemotherapy: carboplatin/radiotherapy:**
  - n.1 CT scan: 1 year 1
- For both:
  - **CT scan of abdomen only** (unless pelvis at high risk)
  - **CXR instead of CT**
  - **Late effects** assessed at **2 and 5 years**
  - **Complete at 5ys**

**Table 1** Time course of relapse in surveillance of stage I nonseminoma

Reference	Patients	Relapses	Cumulative relapses		
			Year 1 (%)	Year 2 (%)	Year 3 (%)
MRC, Read <i>et al</i> (1992)	373	100 (27%)	80	92	100
Atsu <i>et al</i> (2003)	132	32 (24%)	87	100	100
Daugaard <i>et al</i> (2003)	301	86 (29%)	80	89	95
Divrik <i>et al</i> (2006)	211	66 (31%)	79	95	—
Drury A Royal Marsden, unpublished)	478	115 (24%)	80	90	97

## Nonseminoma germ cell tumour: Stage 1. Surveillance

### Markers: AFP, $\beta$ HCG and LDH

CT scans should be of abdomen only unless pelvis at high risk  
Late effects should be assessed at 2 and 5 years (See Late effects box)\*

Markers		X		X		X		X		X		
CXR		X		X		X		X		X		
CT abdo		X		X		X		X		X		
Year 3												
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical			X				X					X
Markers			X				X					X
CXR							X					X
..							..					..

Month	Year 5										Late effects (*)	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Clinical						X						X
Markers						X						X
CXR												
CT						X						X

## Nonseminoma germ cell tumour: Stage 1. Adjuvant chemotherapy

### Markers: AFP, $\beta$ HCG and LDH

CT scan should be of abdomen only unless pelvis at high risk  
Late effects should be assessed at 2 and 5 years (See Late effects box)\*

Month	Year 2												Late effects(%)		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			
Clinica				x				x				x			
Marker				x				x				x			
CXR												x			

# UK guidelines for the follow-up: non-seminoma

- **Non-seminoma & seminoma stage IIc-III post-ChT:**
- n.1 CT scan (after CR): year 5
- Note:
  - **CT scan of abdomen only** (unless pelvis at high risk)
  - CXR instead of CT
  - **Seminoma complete at 5ys**
  - **Non-seminoma** continue up to **10ys** with yearly CXR, then biannually without CXR
  - **Late effects** assessed at **2, 5 and 10 years**

## NSGCT and seminoma: Stages IIc–IV. Post chemotherapy

Markers: AFP,  $\beta$ HCG and LDH

CT until CR with or without surgery, frequency determined by MDT  
Late effects should be assessed at 2,5 and 10 years (See Late effects box)\*

Month	Year 1												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical				x		x		x		x		x	
Markers	x			x		x		x		x		x	
CXR			x		x		x		x		x		
CT			x		x		x		x		x		

Month	Year 2												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical				x				x		x		x	
Markers	x			x			x		x		x		
CXR			x			x		x		x		x	
CT			x			x		x		x		x	

Month	Year 3												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical					x				x		x		
Markers					x				x		x		
CXR				x				x		x		x	
CT				x			x		x		x		

Month	Year 4												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical						x				x		x	
Markers						x				x		x	
CXR					x				x		x		
CT					x			x		x		x	

Month	Year 5												Late effects(*)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Clinical						x				x		x	
Markers						x				x		x	
CXR					x				x		x		
CT					x			x		x		x	

Discharge seminoma patients at 5 years

For NSGCT patients, follow up annually until 10 years and then biannually. Stop performing CXRs at 10 years

# Active surveillance for clinical stage I disease: several strategies

Table 1 | Comparison of active surveillance strategies

Strategy	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	After year 5
<i>Indiana University</i>						
Abdominal CT scan with or without pelvic CT scan	Every 4 months	Every 6 months	Annually	Annually	Annually	None
History, clinical examination, AFP, and hCG	Every 4 months	Every 4 months	Every 4 months	Every 4 months	Every 4 months	Annually
ESMO						
No specific modality recommended	Recommendations for the follow-up schedule need to be adapted according to national and institutional requirements					
<i>EAU</i>						
Abdominopelvic CT scan	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	At 36 and 60 months	At 36 and 60 months	At 36 and 60 months	None
Clinical examination, tumour markers	Every 4 months	Every 4 months	Annually	Annually	Annually	NA
Chest radiography	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	None	None	None	None
<i>NCCN</i>						
Abdominal CT scan with or without pelvic CT scan	At 3, 6 and 12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12–24 months	Every 12–24 months	NA
Chest radiography	As clinically indicated, consider chest CT scan in symptomatic patients					
History and clinical examination, serum markers optional	Every 3–6 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Annually	Annually	Annually

Table 1 | Comparison of active surveillance strategies

Strategy	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	After year 5
<i>MD Anderson Cancer Center</i>						
Abdominal CT scan	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	Annually up to 10 years	Annually up to 10 years	Annually up to 10 years
Chest radiography	At alternate visits	At alternate visits	At alternate visits	At alternate visits	At alternate visits	At alternate visits
History, clinical examination, AFP, hCG and LDH	Every 3 months	Every 3 months	Every 4 months	Every 6 months in years 4–7, then annually up to 10 years	Every 6 months in years 4–7, then annually up to 10 years	Every 6 months in years 4–7, then annually up to 10 years
<i>Switzerland and Germany 2010 consensus</i>						
Abdominal CT scan	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	None	None	None	None
Chest radiography	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	Annually	Annually	Annually	None
Abdominal ultrasonography	At months 3 and 9	At months 3 and 9	Every 6 months	Annually	Annually	None
Ultrasonography of contralateral testis	Annually up to 10 years	Annually up to 10 years	Annually up to 10 years			
History, clinical examination, AFP, hCG and LDH	Every 3 months	Every 3 months	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	Every 6 months	Annually

AFP,  $\alpha$ -fetoprotein; EAU, European Association of Urology; ESMO, European Society for Medical Oncology; hCG, human chorionic gonadotropin; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network

# Active surveillance for clinical stage I non-seminoma: Danish guidelines

- **n.4 CT scans but frequent serum tumour markers**
- 30.6% relapse at 5 years: **50% if VI+ vs 12% without**
- Most of **early relapses** (80% with 1st year) detected by **increased markers**, late relapses by CT scan
- **94.4% relapses IGCCCG good prognosis**
- **Late relapses** after 5 years: **0.5%**

Program Element	Month																				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	15	18	21	24	30	36	42	48	54
CT scan				x			x				x						x			x	
Tumor markers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Physical examination	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Free and total testosterone, LH, FSH	x									x		x		x		x		x		x	x

Abbreviations: CT, computed tomography; FSH, follicle-stimulating hormone; LH, luteinizing hormone; NSGCC, nonseminoma germ cell cancer.

# Active surveillance for clinical stage I disease: Canadian guidelines

- **n.6 CT scans for non-seminoma and n.7 for seminoma, but less frequent serum tumour markers**
- Relapse: 19% non-seminoma, 13% seminoma
- Most relapse within 2/3 years (90% non-seminoma and 92% seminoma)
- Mostly detected by CT scan vs STM in seminoma (87/3%), but similarly or better by STM depending on VI in non-seminoma: 48/38% in VI(-) and 41/61% in VI(+)
- **90% non-seminoma and 99% seminoma relapses**  
**IGCCCG good prognosis**

**Table 4.** Authors' Recommendations for Surveillance Schedules Based on the Observed Patterns of Relapse and the Authors' Expert Opinion

Year	Physical Examination	Frequency (months)		
		Tumor Marker*	Chest X-Ray	CT/MRI Abdomen
<b>CSI-NONSEM</b>				
Year 1	2	2	4, 8, 12	4, 8, 12
Year 2	3	3	18, 24	18, 24
Year 3	6	6	—	36‡
Year 4	6	6	—	—
Year 5	6	6	—	60‡
<b>CSI-SEM</b>				
Year 1	3	3	6, 12	6, 12
Year 2	6	6	18, 24	18, 24
Year 3	6	6	—	30, 36
Year 4	6	6	—	—
Year 5	6	6	—	60‡

Abbreviations: CSI-NONSEM, clinical stage I nonseminoma; CSI-SEM, clinical stage I seminoma; CT, computed tomography, MRI, magnetic resonance imaging.

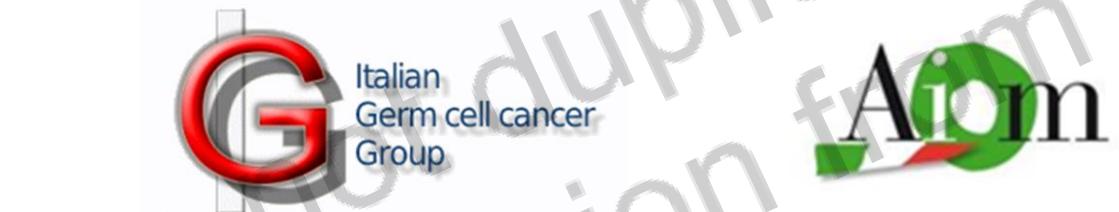
\*Alpha fetoprotein/human chorionic gonadotropin (lactate dehydrogenase is of questionable benefit in stage I).<sup>22</sup>

†MRI only in experienced centers.

‡Proposed by several authors.

# Follow-up and surveillance: recommendations from Italian consensus

- Promoted by AIOM and IGG:
- 42 experts
- 14 scientific societies
- 3 survivors



Recommendations for surveillance and follow-up of men with testicular germ cell tumors: a multidisciplinary consensus conference by the Italian Germ cell cancer Group and the Associazione Italiana di Oncologia Medica\*

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<sup>j</sup>AITT - Associazione Italiana Tumore Testicolo, Italy

<sup>o</sup>ARRO - Associazione Italiana di Radioterapia Oncologica, Italy

<sup>b</sup>SIA - Società Italiana di Andrologia, Italy

<sup>h</sup>SIUO - Società Italiana di Urologia Oncologica, Italy

<sup>i</sup>FAVO - Federazione Italiana delle Associazioni di Volontariato in Oncologia, Italy

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<sup>o</sup>SIPo - Società Italiana di Psico-Oncologia, Italy

# Stage I Seminoma – 5-year surveillance and follow-up

## Note:

- **Risk-adapted:**
- **H - High-risk** patients (15-30% risk of relapse): tumor size ( $\geq 4$  cm) and / or invasion of the rete testis, no adjuvant therapy
- **L - Low-risk** (5%): no risk factors, or any adjuvant therapy
- Use of **abdomen-pelvis MRI without contrast** (instead of abdomen-pelvis CT with contrast), **US** only when CT or MRI not foreseen
- **2 abdomen imaging alone in low risk x 5 years**
- **Metabolism** including andrology every 2-3 years
- **Psychological counseling:** at least once at the beginning and in case of signs of psychosocial distress and / or a reduction in the perceived quality of life during the follow-up

**Table 1**  
5-year surveillance and follow-up for the stage I Seminoma.

Month	6th	12th
<b>1 st year</b>		
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	all
Abdominal imaging (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup>	only H	all
Testicular ultrasound	–	all
<b>2nd Year</b>		
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	all
Abdominal imaging (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup>	only H	all
Testicular ultrasound	–	all
FSH, LH, testosterone	–	all
<b>3rd year</b>		
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	all
Abdominal imaging (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup>	–	only H
Testicular ultrasound	–	all
<b>4th year</b>		
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	all
Abdominal imaging (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup>	–	only H
Testicular ultrasound	–	all
<b>5th year</b>		
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	all
Abdominal imaging (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup>	–	only H
Testicular ultrasound	–	all
FSH, LH, testosterone	–	all
<b>Other:</b>		
Psychological <sup>b</sup>	–	–
Metabolism <sup>c</sup>	–	–
Visits <sup>d</sup>	–	–

<sup>a</sup> Ultrasound only when a CT or MRI is not foreseen.

<sup>b</sup> In all cases, at least once at the beginning of follow-up and in cases presenting symptoms of psychosocial distress and/or reduction of perceived quality of life during the follow-up.

<sup>c</sup> Including blood lipids, glucose, creatinine, vitamin D, FSH, LH, testosterone, BMI and blood pressure: every 2-3 years in the first 5-10 years, after 10 years on the basis of personal anamnesis.

<sup>d</sup> Including andrology, internal medicine, cardiology, nephrology, ORL (+/- audiometric tests), pneumological (+/- respiratory tests) consulting: if symptoms, clinical or laboratory abnormalities, risk factors including PEB for 3-4 cycles and/or radiotherapy, desire of paternity (andrology and semen analysis).

# Stage I Non-seminoma: 5-year surveillance and follow-up

## Note:

- **Risk-adapted:**
- **H - High-risk patients (50% risk of relapse):** presence of VI, no adjuvant therapy;
- **I - Intermediate risk (15%):** absence of VI invasion, no adjuvant therapy;
- **L - Low-risk (<5%):** after treatment with #1 PEB (or RPLND).
- Use of **abdomen-pelvis MRI without contrast** (instead of abdomen-pelvis CT with contrast), better **CXR** of chest CT, US only when CT or MRI not foreseen
- **Max 8 CT / MRI abdomen-pelvis** with contrast in high-risk x 5 years
- **Psychological counseling:** at least once at the beginning of the follow-up and in case of signs of psychosocial distress and / or a reduction in the perceived quality of life during the follow-up.

**Table 2**  
5-year surveillance and follow-up for the stage I Nonseminoma.

Month	4th	6th	8th	12th
<b>1st Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	–	all	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray better than CT) imaging	only H	only I-L	only H	all
Testicular ultrasound	–	–	–	all
<b>2nd Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	all	–	all	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray better than CT) imaging	–	all	–	only H-I
Testicular ultrasound	–	–	–	all
FSH, LH, testosterone	–	–	–	all
<b>3rd Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	–	all	–	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray better than CT) imaging	–	only H	–	only H-I
Testicular ultrasound	–	–	–	all
<b>4th Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	–	all	–	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray better than CT) imaging	–	–	–	only H
Testicular ultrasound	–	–	–	all
<b>5th Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	–	all	–	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray better than CT) imaging	–	–	–	only H
Testicular ultrasound	–	–	–	all
FSH, LH, testosterone	–	–	–	all
Other:				
Psychological <sup>b</sup>	–	–	–	–
Metabolism <sup>c</sup>	–	–	–	–
Visits <sup>d</sup>	–	–	–	–

Abbreviations: CT, computed tomography; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; PEB, cisplatin, etoposide, bleomycin.

<sup>a</sup> Ultrasound only when a CT or MRI is not foreseen.

<sup>b</sup> At least once at the beginning of follow-up and in cases presenting symptoms of psychosocial distress and/or reduction of perceived quality of life during the follow-up.

<sup>c</sup> Including blood lipids, glucose, creatinine, vitamin D, FSH, LH, testosterone, BMI and blood pressure: every 2-3 years in the first 5-10 years, after 10 years on the basis of personal anamnesis.

<sup>d</sup> Including andrology, internal medicine, cardiology, nephrology, ORL (+/- audiotometric tests), pneumological (+/- respiratory tests) consulting: if symptoms, clinical or laboratory abnormalities, risk factors including PEB for 3-4 cycles and/or radiotherapy, desire of paternity (andrology and semen analysis).

# Advanced disease in remission after treatment: 5-year surveillance and follow-up

Note:

- **Risk adapted:**
- **H - High-risk patients** (> 45% risk of relapse/progression): "poor-risk" according to the IGCCCG classification at the first line of treatment or relapsed / refractory not "very low risk" according to IPFSG (95% of patients)
- **I - Intermediate risk** (25-30%): "intermediate-risk" according to the IGCCCG classification at the first line of treatment or relapsed / refractory "very low risk" according to IPFSG;
- **L - Low-risk patients** (<15%): "good-risk" according to the IGCCCG classification at the first line of treatment.
- **Use of abdomen-pelvis MRI without contrast** instead of abdomen-pelvis CT with contrast and better **chest x-ray or low-dose CT** or contrast CT

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Table 3

5-year surveillance and follow-up for the advanced disease in remission after treatment.

Month	4th	6th	8th	12th
<b>1st Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	only H	all	only H	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray or low-dose CT or CT with contrast) <sup>b</sup> and other imaging examinations based on the sites of advanced disease	only H	only I-L	only H	all
Testicular ultrasound	-	-	-	all
<b>2nd Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	only H	all	only H	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray or low-dose CT or CT with contrast) <sup>b</sup> and other imaging examinations based on the sites of advanced disease	only H	only I-L	only H	all
Testicular ultrasound	-	-	-	all
FSH, LH, testosterone	-	-	-	all
<b>3rd Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	-	all	-	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray or low-dose CT or CT with contrast) <sup>b</sup> and other imaging examinations based on the sites of advanced disease	-	only H-I	-	all
Testicular ultrasound	-	-	-	all
<b>4th Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	-	all	-	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray or low-dose CT or CT with contrast) <sup>b</sup> and other imaging examinations based on the sites of advanced disease	-	only H-I	-	all
Testicular ultrasound	-	-	-	all
<b>5th Year</b>				
Physical examination and markers (AFP, bHCG e LDH)	-	all	-	all
Abdominal (CT with contrast or MRI without contrast) <sup>a</sup> and thoracic (X-ray or low-dose CT or CT with contrast) <sup>b</sup> and other imaging examinations based on the sites of advanced disease	-	only H-I	-	all
Testicular ultrasound	-	-	-	all
FSH, LH, testosterone	-	-	-	all
<b>Other:</b>				
Psychological <sup>c</sup>	-	-	-	-
Metabolism <sup>d</sup>	-	-	-	-
Visits <sup>e</sup>	-	-	-	-

<sup>a</sup> Ultrasound only when a CT or MRI is not foreseen.

<sup>b</sup> If a risk of thoracic relapse is estimated (i.e. > 5%).

<sup>c</sup> In all cases, at least once at the beginning of follow-up and in cases presenting symptoms of psychosocial distress and/or reduction of perceived quality of life during the follow-up.

<sup>d</sup> Including blood lipids, glucose, creatinine, vitamin D, FSH, LH, testosterone, BMI and blood pressure: every 2-3 years in the first 5-10 years, after 10 years on the basis of personal anamnesis.

<sup>e</sup> Including andrology, internal medicine, cardiology, nephrology, ORL (+/- audiotometric tests), pneumological (+/- respiratory tests) consulting: if symptoms, clinical or laboratory abnormalities, risk factors including PEB for 3-4 cycles and/or radiotherapy, desire of paternity (andrology and semen analysis).

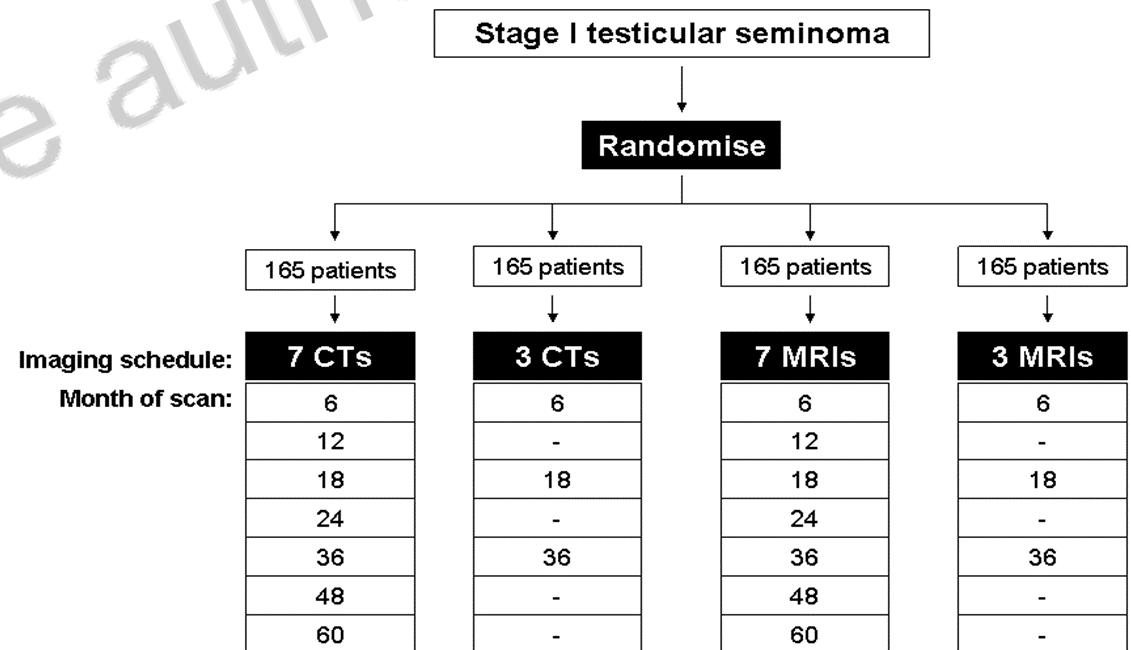
# Radiological imaging

- Ph-3-R **TRISST** study in **stage I seminoma**: non-inferiority for both comparisons i.e. **imaging frequency** (7 vs 3) and modality (MRI vs. CT). **MRI should be recommended**
- **Abdominopelvic US** might be preferred **after 3 years of FU**
- Use of **low-dose CT**: device type and imaging protocols to be periodically updated
- Low-dose **model-based iterative reconstruction**: 67% reduction in Rx dose
- **Contralateral testis US**: 3-4% risk at 15 years

Joffe et al ASCO GU 2021  
 Baciarello et al ASCO GU 2017  
 Salminen E et al Anticancer Res  
 Murphy KP et al Eur J Radiol Open 2016  
 Wanderaas et al Eur J Cancer 1997

## TRISST

Trial of Imaging and Schedule in Seminoma Testis



# Management of treatment-related complications

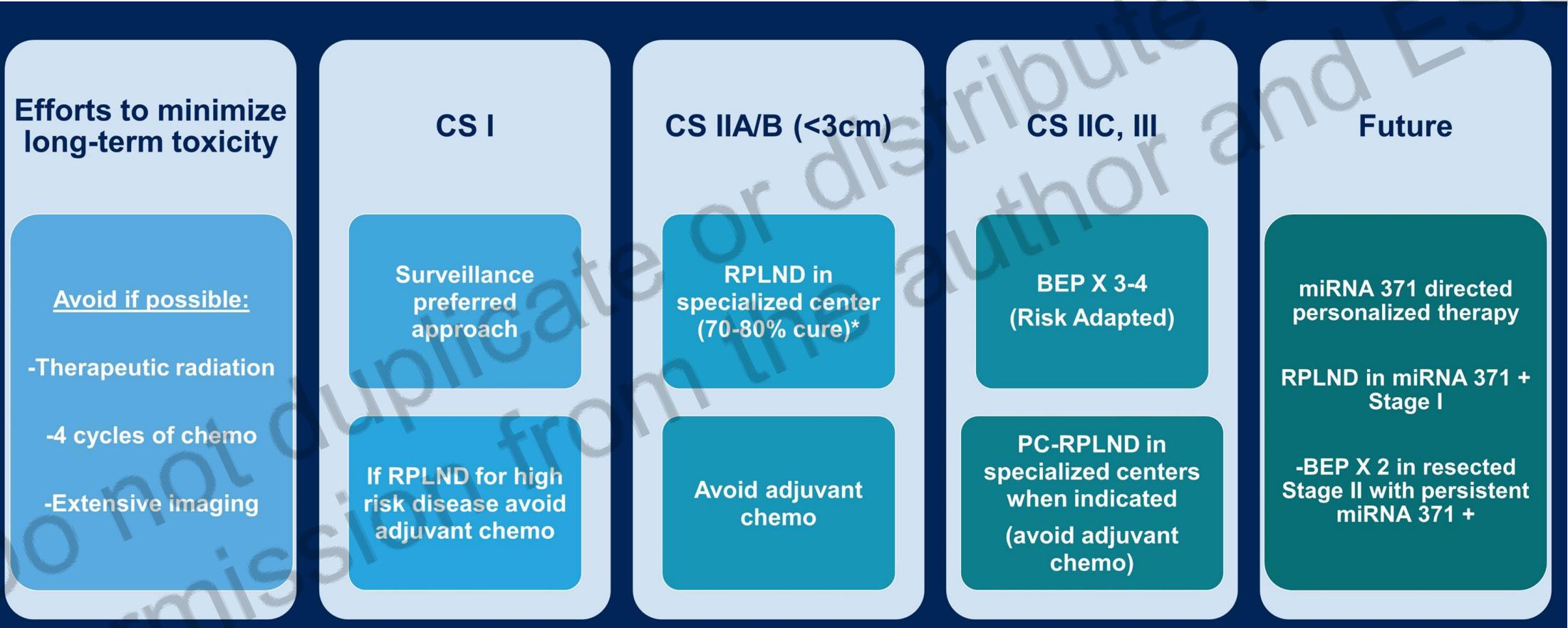
- Aim to **reduce treatment burden**
- Administer **intense hydration** with **cisplatin**
- Assess/monitor **pulmonary function** (bleomycin)
- Discuss **sperm cryopreservation**
- Implement effective **coping strategies**
- Monitor **hormonal status** (replace testosterone)
- Advise to adhere to **national screening guidelines**
- Counsel about **CVD risk-factor modification**
- Avoid **smoking, sympathomimetic, ototoxic drugs**
- Prescribe **duloxetine** for pain management

**eTable 1. Recommended Management Options for Treatment-Related Complications**

Treatment-Related Complications	Recommended Management
Second malignant neoplasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare providers should advise TCS to adhere to national cancer screening guidelines applicable to the general population<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• Every effort should be made to reduce the amount of cytotoxic exposure needed to successfully treat the cancer</li> </ul>
CVD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No established evidence-based CVD screening recommendations exist specifically for TCS</li> <li>• Healthcare providers should counsel TCS about CVD risk-factor modification, advising adherence to guidelines<sup>7</sup> for the general population</li> </ul>
Raynaud phenomenon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raynaud phenomenon-associated symptoms can be prevented by avoidance of cold and other aggravating factors, including smoking, sympathomimetic drugs, and selected treatments for either attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or migraine headaches<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>
Ototoxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although there are no effective pharmacotherapies to prevent or treat cisplatin-related ototoxicity, TCS should minimize noise exposure and avoid other ototoxic agents.</li> </ul>
Neurotoxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ASCO clinical practice guidelines for CIPN<sup>9</sup> recommend duloxetine for management of pain, because there are no effective agents available to prevent or treat CIPN</li> </ul>
Nephrotoxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During cisplatin-based chemotherapy, healthcare providers should avoid nephrotoxic drugs<sup>10</sup> and administer intense hydration<sup>11</sup> to minimize the degree of renal damage</li> </ul>
Pulmonary toxicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before initiation of any bleomycin-containing chemotherapy regimen, healthcare providers should perform a detailed patient history, including consideration of age, smoking status, and preexisting lung disease, and consider baseline pulmonary function</li> <li>• Healthcare providers should also withhold bleomycin at the earliest clinical signs or symptoms of bleomycin-induced pulmonary toxicities during chemotherapy</li> </ul>
Hypogonadism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthcare providers should routinely evaluate TCS for hypogonadism symptoms and assess hormonal status accordingly</li> <li>• Decisions to administer testosterone replacement therapy should be based on clinical symptoms of hypogonadism, and referrals to endocrinologists should be considered for challenging cases<sup>10</sup></li> </ul>
Infertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ASCO clinical practice guideline for fertility preservation<sup>12</sup> recommends referral of patients with cancer to appropriate reproductive specialists if clinically indicated; sperm cryopreservation remains a standard fertility preservation practice before treatment initiation for interested patients with TC</li> </ul>
Cognitive impairment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Because subjective cognitive complaints may reflect the effects of underlying anxiety and depression that are prevalent in TCS,<sup>13</sup> implementation of effective coping strategies should be considered</li> </ul>
Chronic CRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exercise and psychologic interventions should be considered</li> </ul>

Abbreviations: CIPN, chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy; CRT, cancer-related fatigue; CVD, cardiovascular disease; TC, testicular cancer; TCS, testicular cancer survivors.

# Possible improvements in the general management of patients with testicular cancer



# Lesson from the SARS-CoV2 pandemic

## ESMO recommendations<sup>1</sup>:

- given the high cure rate with oncological treatments, even in advanced disease, and being GCTs prevalent in the young population, the indication for curative oncological treatment should be guaranteed and priority unless relevant comorbidities

## Survey of 3 cooperative groups (Italian, European and Canadian) during the pandemic<sup>2</sup>:

- **preference for surveillance in stages I;**
- **bleomycin should not be omitted** (i.e., 3 PEB cycles better than 4 EP cycles);
- surgery or radiotherapy (where indicated) must not be delayed (also for residue);
- G-CSF recommended as primary PEB prophylaxis during the pandemic

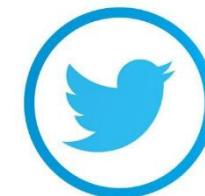
<sup>1</sup>ESMO guidelines during COVID-19 pandemic. Available at <https://www.esmo.org/guidelines/cancer-patient-management-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>2</sup>Nappi e al The Oncologist 2020

## Take-home messages

- Follow-up and surveillance for testicular cancer start with **careful assessment, appropriate treatment and counselling**
- **Evidence** on modalities and timing of examinations is **limited** but following **clinical recommendations** would result in **optimising risk-benefit ratios** for **individual patients**, while **ensuring economic use of resources**
- **Open issues: length of follow-up and surveillance, examinations** (clinical, instrumental and lab), **professionals** to be involved
- **Precision-medicine approaches** with **novel biomarkers** (like miRNA-371) and **genetic variants** (i.e. germline mutations) will likely help to **reduce treatment burden, develop risk-based, targeted prevention and intervention** through the identification of testicular cancer (risk) and acute or long-term adverse events
- A **longitudinal cohort study following survivors** for life to examine **morbidity and latency trends** of late adverse outcomes according to treatment types is needed

Thanks!



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