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RHEUMATOLOGY ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

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RHEUMATOLOGY ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS

Giant Cell Arteritis Roundtable

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Disclaimer

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Faculty Disclosures

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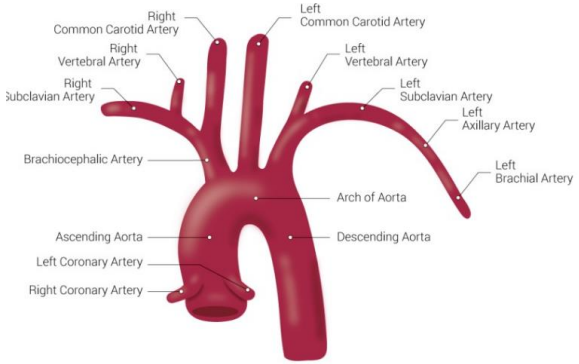
Speaker's Training: Sanofi Genzyme

Outline

- What is GCA?
- Treatment issues
- Open Discussion

What Is GCA?

- Systemic vasculitis
  - Most common
  - Most symptoms stem from inflammation of cranial branches of arteries that originate from the aortic arch
- Typically older, white patients
  - Almost never seen in < 50 years old
  - Incidence peaks in 70s



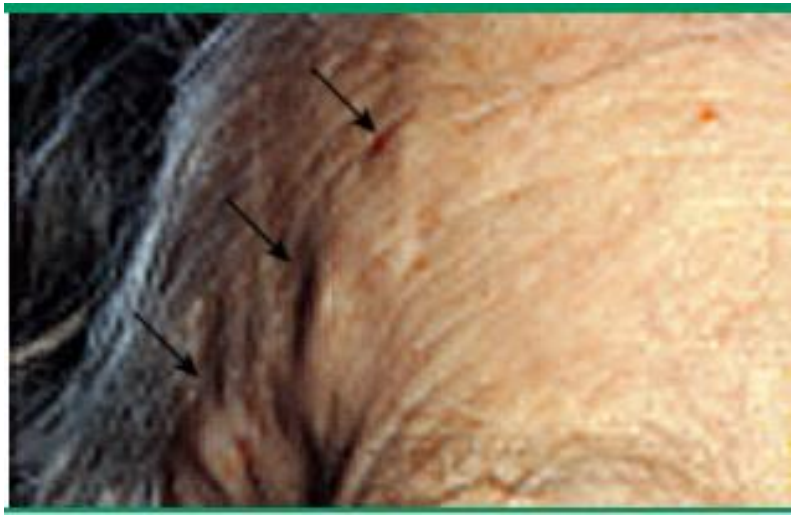
Classic Clinical Presentation

- New headaches
- Abrupt onset of visual disturbances
- Jaw claudication
- Unexplained fever, anemia, or other constitutional symptoms
- High ESR and/or high CRP
- A current or prior diagnosis of polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR).
  - 40-50% of GCA have PMR
  - 10% of PMR have GCA

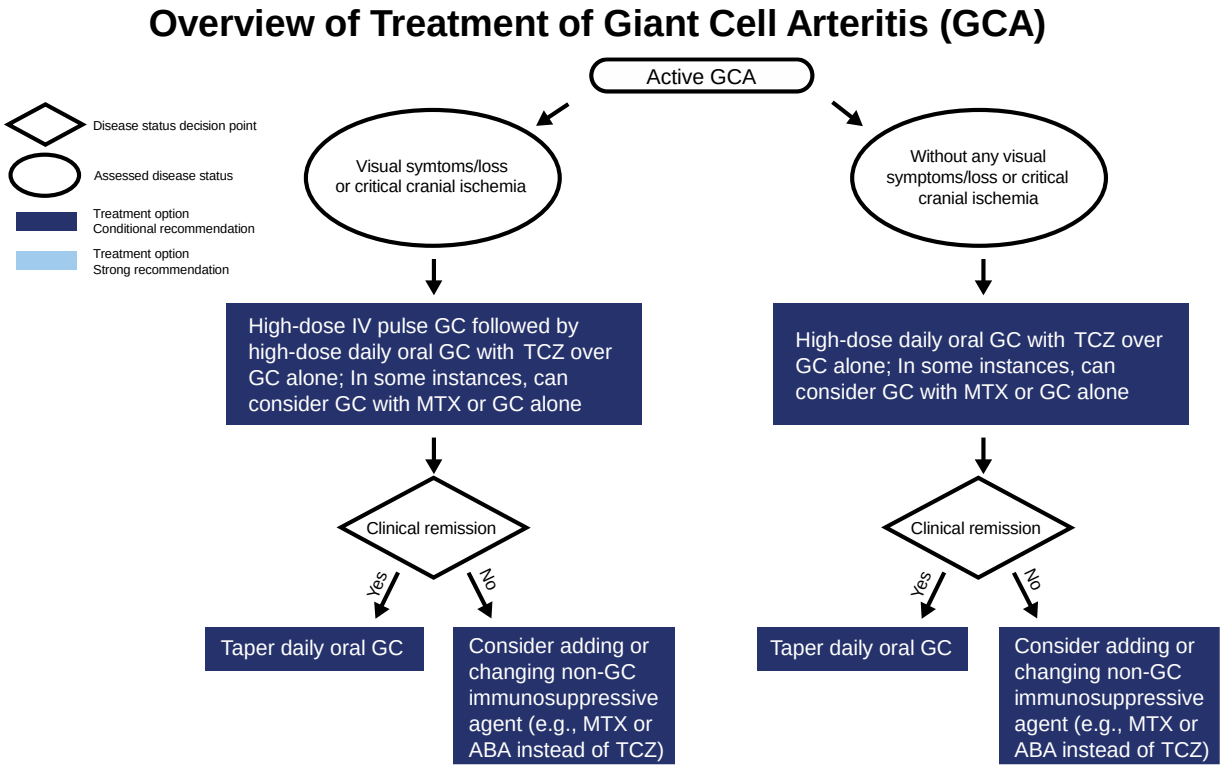
Salvarani C, Muratore F, Rosenbaum JT. *Clinical Manifestations of Giant Cell Arteritis*. 2021.

Diagnosis

- History
- Physical
- Labs
- Imaging
- Temporal artery biopsy

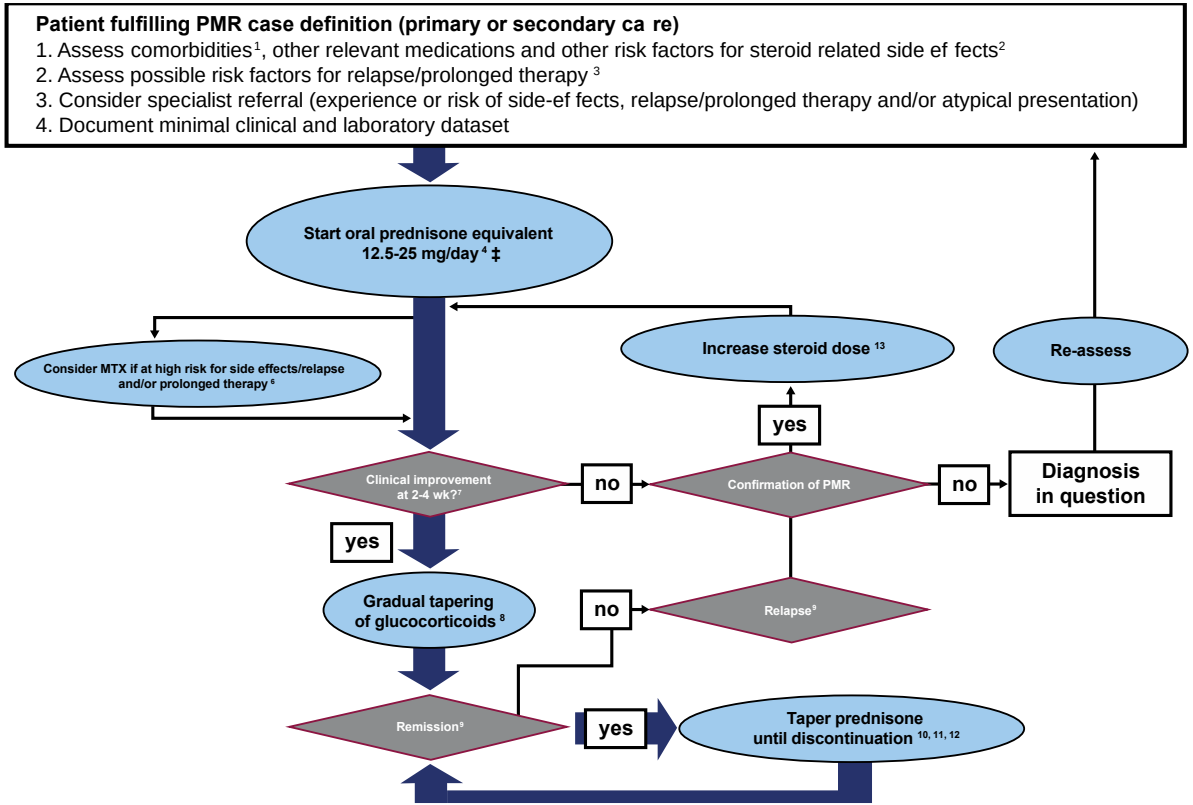


2021 ACR – GCA Treatment Guidelines



ABA = abatacept, AZA = azathioprine, GC = glucocorticoids, IV = intravenous, MTX = methotrexate, TCZ = tocilizumab.
Figure 1. Overview of treatment of giant cell arteritis.

2015 ACR – PMR Treatment Guidelines



‡Consider i.m. methylprednisolone as an alternative to oral prednisone[5]

Small Arsenal for GCA

- GCA is caused by vasculogenic T-cell and macrophages
- Corticosteroids:
  - target innate cytokines, such as IL-1β, IL-12, and IL-6, but have little effect on tissue-residing T cells.
- IL-6
  - secreted by T-cells
  - Antibody production by B cells
  - Serum concentration of IL-6 increase in active disease
  - Secondary inhibition of JAK

Unanswered Questions

- Length of therapy
- Relapse
- Laboratory monitoring
  - Patient X inflammatory markers
- Is there a role for JAKs?
- Can we use it in PMR

References

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3. Choy EH, De Benedetti F, Takeuchi T, Hashizume M, John MR, & Kishimoto T. Translating IL-6 biology into effective treatments. *Nature Reviews Rheumatology*. 2020; 16(6): 335-345.