Adjudicating Cardiovascular Events in Immuno-oncology Trials

Marc P. Bonaca M.D. M.P.H
Vascular Section, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
General Process of Adjudication

Trigger for Potential Event

Data Collection / Dossier Assembly

Redaction of PHI
Blinding
Baseline data

Adjudication by Reviewer #1
Independently and without Communication

Adjudication by Reviewer #2

Match & Meeting if Disagreement

Third party if no agreement

Final Adjudication

Uniform definitions increase specificity and may allow for comparisons across trials
What is the primary goal of adjudication?

**Efficacy**
- Trials well powered
- Site initiated reporting
- Events generally familiar to investigators
- Often dedicated event pages
- Prospective collection

**Safety**
- Often underpowered / rare events
- May be triggered from safety data
- Off target effects may be unfamiliar to investigators
- May be initiated mid trial with mix of retrospective and prospective collection
### Scope of Adjudication

Narrow – only event of interest?  
Broad – other related events?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Drug Effect</th>
<th>Side effects of Background Therapies &amp; Procedures</th>
<th>Common Events Related to Disease State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Myocardial injury / Myocarditis</td>
<td>Hypertension &amp; Hypertensive Crisis</td>
<td>Venous Thromboembolism</td>
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**Potential indicators:**
- Elevation of Cardiac Biomarkers
- Cardiac dysfunction
- Dyspnea / Chest pain

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Scope

Primary Concern Cardiac Toxicity (Narrow)

Myocardial Injury

- Myocarditis
- ACS
- Demand ischemia
- Arrhythmia
- Heart failure
- Hypertensive Emergency
- Stroke
- Acute limb ischemia
- Venous thromboembolism

Vascular Toxicity

Thrombotic Toxicity / Disease State

Comprehensive Cardiac and Vascular Scope
Triggering of Events

**Site Triggered**

- Sites need to be trained on which events to report
- Everything entered is adjudicated
- Dedicated forms allow for structured data collection
- Usually done for efficacy and sometimes known safety events

**Centrally Triggered**

- Reviewer triggered – what sensitivity /specificity?
- Only events meeting specific criteria adjudicated
- No dedicated forms, based on event terms and narratives
- Usually safety especially if identified after trial initiation
Triggering of Events

Site / Investigator Triggering
- Cast a broad net (example periprocedural MI)
- Don’t have to agree with diagnosis
- Unbiased
- Create traps to capture missed events (biomarkers, SAE review, etc.)

Central triggering
- Potential for under ascertainment – unlikely to bias but may lower event rates (and power to determine difference)
- Difficult due to “noise” and lack of specificity in safety data

Blinding Important!
Charter Definitions

Death
• CV (cause specific) vs. non-CV
Cardiac Events
• ACS
• Non-ischemic injury
  • Myocarditis
  • Non-specific (biomarker)
Pulmonary Edema / Heart Failure
Heart Rhythm Events
Hypertensive Complications
Cerebrovascular Events
Peripheral Artery Events
• Thrombotic/ischemic
• Vasospasm
• Dissection
Venous thromboembolism
Adjudication Definitions

*Balance need for definitive diagnostic information against what may be practically obtainable in multinational trials*

What can sites be reasonably asked to provide as part of standard of care?

- Biopsy / Pathology
- Cardiac MRI
- ECHO
- ECG
- Clinical Syndrome
- Biomarkers

Specificity / Definitive Evidence

Practically Obtainable
Myocarditis – A Proposed Definition

Hierarchical definition (similar to stent thrombosis) accounting for different levels of evidence

- **Pathology**
- **Imaging**
- **ECG**
- **Syndrome**
- **Biomarkers**

*For all – other diagnosis / explanations (e.g. ACS) must be excluded*

**Definite Myocarditis:**
- Pathology
- Diagnostic CMR + syndrome + (biomarker or ECG)
- ECHO WMA + syndrome + biomarker + ECG + negative angiography

**Probable Myocarditis:**
- Diagnostic CMR (no syndrome, ECG, biomarker)
- Suggestive CMR with either syndrome, ECG, or biomarker
- ECHO WMA and syndrome with either biomarker or ECG
- Syndrome with PET scan evidence and no alternative diagnosis

**Possible Myocarditis:**
- Suggestive CMR with no syndrome, ECG or biomarker
- ECHO WMA with syndrome or ECG only
- Elevated biomarker with syndrome or ECG and no alternative diagnosis
Trigger Review (AEs, Deaths, Labs, etc.)

Potential Cardiac / Pulmonary Event (e.g. diagnosis, clinical symptoms, imaging, ECG, biomarker elevation)

Cardiac Ischemic Event
Potential Non-Coronary Vascular Event (e.g. diagnosis, clinical symptoms, imaging findings)
Potential Cerebrovascular Event (e.g. diagnosis, clinical symptoms, imaging findings)
Potential HTN Event (e.g. diagnosis, clinical symptoms, med changes)
Potential VTE Event (e.g. diagnosis, clinical symptoms, imaging)

Adjudication

Death
Cardiac Ischemic Event
Pulmonary Edema/HF
Rhythm Disturbance
Cerebrovascular Event
Vascular Event
Hypertension Event
VTE Event

Additional Triggered Events

If other evidence of another CV event, additional adjudications to be triggered as appropriate
Summary

• A broad approach to CV event ascertainment and adjudication allows for comprehensive assessment in setting risks from disease state, background therapies, and randomized therapy

• Adjudication allows for event characterization with a high degree of specificity and may be most important for complex uncommon diagnoses (e.g. myocarditis)

• Event ascertainment through site training with dedicated reporting pages at beginning of trial is ideal

• Routine ascertainment and adjudication of CV events using uniform definitions across trials would enable pooling of data and enable more robust understanding of risks and potential risk factors