



Associazione Italiana  
**Radioterapia Oncologica**  
Gruppo Interregionale  
Lazio/Abruzzo/Molise

# Le terapie di supporto in Radioterapia: **Verso una Guida Pratica**

Lunedì 4 Dicembre 2017  
Centro Studi Cardello  
Via del Cardello 24 – Roma

## Tossicità nei trattamenti dell'Apparato Gastroenterico

# Nausea, Vomito e Tossicità epatologica: Presidi di prevenzione e trattamento delle tossicità

## Gian Carlo Mattiucci

# Bullet points

Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting **RINV**

Radiation-induced Liver Disease **RILD**

# RINV:

## Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

**RINV: Under-treated**

**Less patients receive  
antiemetic prophylaxis**

The risk levels depend on:

- site of radiation

do not take into account :

- radiation dose,
- fractionation
- technique
- other proposed risk factors such as field size

The only identified patient-related risk factor for RINV is:

- the previous treatment with chemotherapy

# RINV:

## Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

**DEXAMETHASONE**  
(Soldesam, Decadron)

**NK1 Receptor Antagonist**  
(aprepitant, fosaprepitant,  
rolapitant)

**Dopamine  
Receptor Antagonist**  
(metoclopramide)

**5-HT<sub>3</sub> Receptor Antagonist**  
(ondansetron, granisetron,  
dolasetron)



# RINV: Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

## Emetic risk levels

**HIGH (>90%)**

**Total body irradiation**

**Moderate (60-90%)**

**Upper abdomen, craniospinal**

**Low (30 - 60%)**

**Cranium, Head and neck,  
Thorax, Pelvis region**

**Minimal (< 30 %)**

**Extremities, breast**

# RINV: Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

## antiemetic guidelines

**HIGH (>90%)**

**Prophylaxis with a 5-HT3-RA+DEX  
(II B)**

**Moderate (60-90%)**

**Prophylaxis with a 5-HT3RA  
+/-optional DEX  
(II A)**

**Low (30 - 60%)**

**Prophylaxis or rescue with 5-HT3-RA  
or DEX or dopamine RA  
(IV D))**

**Minimal (< 30 %)**

**Rescue with DEX or dopamine RA or  
5-HT3-RA  
(IV D)**

TABLE 5: Key recommendations of antiemetic guideline groups adapted from [1, 7].

Risk category	Dose	Schedule
High emetic risk		
5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist		5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist before each fraction throughout XRT, continued for at least 24 hours after completion of XRT
Granisetron*	2 mg orally; 1 mg or 0.01 mg/kg i.v.	
Ondansetron*	8 mg orally twice daily; 8 mg or 0.15 mg/kg i.v.	
Palonosetron†	0.50 mg orally; 0.25 mg i.v.	
Dolasetron	100 mg orally only	
Tropisetron	5 mg orally or i.v.	
Corticosteroid		
Dexamethasone	4 mg orally or i.v.	During fractions 1-5
Moderate emetic risk		
5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist	Any of the above listed agents are acceptable; note preferred options†	5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist before each fraction throughout XRT
Corticosteroid		
Dexamethasone	4 mg i.v. or orally	During fractions 1-5
Low emetic risk		
5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist	Any of the above listed agents are acceptable; note preferred options	5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist as either rescue or prophylaxis; if rescue is used, then prophylactic therapy should be given until the end of XRT
Minimal emetic risk		
5-HT <sub>3</sub> receptor antagonist	Any of the above listed agents are acceptable; note preferred options	Patients should be offered either class as rescue therapy; if rescue is used, then prophylactic therapy should be given until the end of XRT
Dopamine receptor antagonist		
Metoclopramide	20 mg orally	
Prochlorperazine	10 orally or i.v.	

\*Preferred agents; †no data are currently available on the appropriate dosing frequency with palonosetron in this setting. The Update Committee suggests that dosing every second or third day may be appropriate for this agent.

5-HT<sub>3</sub> = 5-hydroxytryptamine-3; i.v., = intravenously; XRT = radiation therapy.

# RINV:

## Radiotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

Emetic risk levels

RTCT

Depends on CT scheme



# CINV:

## Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting



### NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2017 Antiemesis

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Discussion](#)

#### EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL OF INTRAVENOUS ANTI-NEOPLASTIC AGENTS<sup>a</sup>

LEVEL	AGENT		
<b>High emetic risk</b> (>90% frequency of emesis) <sup>b,c</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC combination defined as any chemotherapy regimen that contains an anthracycline and cyclophosphamide</li> <li>• Carboplatin AUC ≥4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carmustine &gt;250 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Cisplatin</li> <li>• Cyclophosphamide &gt;1,500 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Dacarbazine</li> <li>• Doxorubicin ≥60 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epirubicin &gt;90 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Ifosfamide ≥2 g/m<sup>2</sup> per dose</li> <li>• Mechlorethamine</li> <li>• Streptozocin</li> </ul>
<b>Moderate emetic risk</b> (>30%–90% frequency of emesis) <sup>b,c</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aldesleukin &gt;12–15 million IU/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Amifostine &gt;300 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Arsenic trioxide</li> <li>• Azacitidine</li> <li>• Bendamustine</li> <li>• Busulfan</li> <li>• Carboplatin AUC &lt;4<sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Carmustine<sup>d</sup> ≤250 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clofarabine</li> <li>• Cyclophosphamide ≤1500 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Cytarabine &gt;200 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Dactinomycin<sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Daunorubicin<sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Dinutuximab</li> <li>• Doxorubicin<sup>d</sup> &lt;60 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Epirubicin<sup>d</sup> ≤90 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Idarubicin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ifosfamide<sup>d</sup> &lt;2 g/m<sup>2</sup> per dose</li> <li>• Interferon alfa ≥10 million IU/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Irinotecan<sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Melphalan</li> <li>• Methotrexate<sup>d</sup> ≥250 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Oxaliplatin<sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Temozolomide</li> <li>• Trabectedin<sup>d</sup></li> </ul>

Adapted with permission from:  
Hesketh PJ, et al. Proposal for classifying the acute emetogenicity of cancer chemotherapy. *J Clin Oncol* 1997;15:103-109.  
Grunberg SM, Warr D, Gralla RJ, et al. Evaluation of new antiemetic agents and definition of antineoplastic agent emetogenicity-state of the art. *Support Care Cancer* 2010;19:S43-47.

[Low Emetic Risk \(See AE-3\)](#)

[Minimal Emetic Risk \(See AE-3\)](#)

[Oral Chemotherapy \(See AE-4\)](#)

<sup>a</sup>Potential drug interactions between antineoplastic agents/antiemetic therapies and various other drugs should always be considered.

<sup>b</sup>Proportion of patients who experience emesis in the absence of effective antiemetic prophylaxis.

<sup>c</sup>Continuous infusion may make an agent less emetogenic.

<sup>d</sup>These agents may be highly emetogenic in certain patients.

**Note:** All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
**Clinical Trials:** NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

# CINV:

## Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting



### NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2017 Antiemesis

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Discussion](#)

#### EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL OF INTRAVENOUS ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS<sup>a</sup>

LEVEL	AGENT
Low emetic risk (10%–30% frequency of emesis) <sup>b</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ado-trastuzumab emtansine</li> <li>• Aldesleukin <math>\leq 12</math> million IU/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Amifostine <math>\leq 300</math> mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Atezolizumab</li> <li>• Belinostat</li> <li>• Blinatumomab</li> <li>• Brentuximab vedotin</li> <li>• Cabazitaxel</li> <li>• Carfilzomib</li> <li>• Cytarabine (low dose) 100–200 mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Docetaxel</li> <li>• Doxorubicin (liposomal)</li> <li>• Eribulin</li> <li>• Etoposide</li> <li>• 5-FU</li> <li>• Floxuridine</li> <li>• Gemcitabine</li> <li>• Interferon alfa <math>&gt;5</math> - <math>&lt;10</math> million international units/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Irinotecan (liposomal)</li> <li>• Ixabepilone</li> <li>• Methotrexate <math>&gt;50</math> mg/m<sup>2</sup> - <math>&lt;250</math> mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Mitomycin</li> <li>• Mitoxantrone</li> <li>• Necitumumab</li> <li>• Omacetaxine</li> <li>• Paclitaxel</li> <li>• Paclitaxel-albumin</li> <li>• Pemetrexed</li> <li>• Pentostatin</li> <li>• Pralatrexate</li> <li>• Romidepsin</li> <li>• Talimogene laherparepvec</li> <li>• Thiotepa</li> <li>• Topotecan</li> <li>• Ziv-aflibercept</li> </ul>
Minimal emetic risk ( $<10\%$ frequency of emesis) <sup>b</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alemtuzumab</li> <li>• Asparaginase</li> <li>• Bevacizumab</li> <li>• Bleomycin</li> <li>• Bortezomib</li> <li>• Cetuximab</li> <li>• Cladribine (2-chlorodeoxyadenosine)</li> <li>• Cytarabine <math>&lt;100</math> mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Daratumumab</li> <li>• Decitabine</li> <li>• Denileukin diftitox</li> <li>• Dexrazoxane</li> <li>• Elotuzumab</li> <li>• Fludarabine</li> <li>• Interferon alpha <math>\leq 5</math> million IU/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Ipilimumab</li> <li>• Methotrexate <math>\leq 50</math> mg/m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Nelarabine</li> <li>• Nivolumab</li> <li>• Obinutuzumab</li> <li>• Ofatumumab</li> <li>• Panitumumab</li> <li>• Pegaspargase</li> <li>• Peginterferon</li> <li>• Pembrolizumab</li> <li>• Pertuzumab</li> <li>• Ramucirumab</li> <li>• Rituximab</li> <li>• Siltuximab</li> <li>• Temsirolimus</li> <li>• Trastuzumab</li> <li>• Valrubicin</li> <li>• Vinblastine</li> <li>• Vincristine</li> <li>• Vincristine (liposomal)</li> <li>• Vinorelbine</li> </ul>

Adapted with permission from:  
Hesketh PJ, et al. Proposal for classifying the acute emetogenicity of cancer chemotherapy. *J Clin Oncol* 1997;15:103-109.  
Grunberg SM, Warr D, Gralla RJ, et al. Evaluation of new antiemetic agents and definition of antineoplastic agent emetogenicity-state of the art. *Support Care Cancer* 2010;19:543-47.

[High Emetic Risk \(See AE-2\)](#)

[Moderate Emetic Risk \(See AE-2\)](#)

[Oral Chemotherapy \(See AE-4\)](#)

<sup>a</sup>Potential drug interactions between antineoplastic agents/antiemetic therapies and various other drugs should always be considered.

<sup>b</sup>Proportion of patients who experience emesis in the absence of effective antiemetic prophylaxis.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

Version 2.2017 03/26/17 © National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2017. All rights reserved. The NCCN Guidelines® and this illustration may not be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of NCCN®.

# CINV:

## Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
Network®

### NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2017 Antiemesis

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Discussion](#)

#### EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL OF ORAL ANTINEOPLASTIC AGENTS<sup>a</sup>

LEVEL	AGENT
Moderate to high emetic risk <sup>b</sup> (≥30% frequency of emesis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Altrexamine</li> <li>• Busulfan (≥4 mg/d)</li> <li>• Ceritinib</li> <li>• Crizotinib</li> <li>• Cyclophosphamide (≥100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d)</li> <li>• Estramustine</li> <li>• Etoposide</li> <li>• Lenvatinib</li> <li>• Lomustine (single day)</li> <li>• Mitotane</li> <li>• Olaparib</li> <li>• Panobinostat</li> <li>• Procarbazine</li> <li>• Rucaparib</li> <li>• Temozolomide (&gt;75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d)</li> <li>• Trifluridine/tipiracil</li> </ul>
Minimal to low emetic risk <sup>b</sup> (<30% frequency of emesis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afatinib</li> <li>• Alectinib</li> <li>• Axitinib</li> <li>• Bexarotene</li> <li>• Bosutinib</li> <li>• Busulfan (&lt;4 mg/d)</li> <li>• Cabozantinib</li> <li>• Capecitabine</li> <li>• Crizotinib</li> <li>• Cobimetinib</li> <li>• Cyclophosphamide (&lt;100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d)</li> <li>• Dasatinib</li> <li>• Dabrafenib</li> <li>• Erlotinib</li> <li>• Everolimus</li> <li>• Fludarabine</li> <li>• Gefitinib</li> <li>• Hydroxyurea</li> <li>• Ibrutinib</li> <li>• Idelalisib</li> <li>• Imatinib</li> <li>• Ixazomib</li> <li>• Lapatinib</li> <li>• Lenalidomide</li> <li>• Melphalan</li> <li>• Mercaptopurine</li> <li>• Methotrexate</li> <li>• Nilotinib</li> <li>• Osimertinib</li> <li>• Palbociclib</li> <li>• Pazopanib</li> <li>• Pomalidomide</li> <li>• Ponatinib</li> <li>• Regorafenib</li> <li>• Ruxolitinib</li> <li>• Sonidegib</li> <li>• Sorafenib</li> <li>• Sunitinib</li> <li>• Temozolomide (≤75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d)<sup>e</sup></li> <li>• Thalidomide</li> <li>• Thioguanine</li> <li>• Topotecan</li> <li>• Trametinib</li> <li>• Tretinoin</li> <li>• Vandetanib</li> <li>• Vemurafenib</li> <li>• Venetoclax</li> <li>• Vismodegib</li> <li>• Vorinostat</li> </ul>

Adapted with permission from:  
Hesketh PJ, et al. Proposal for classifying the acute emetogenicity of cancer chemotherapy. *J Clin Oncol* 1997;15:103-109.  
Grunberg SM, Warr D, Gralla RJ, et al. Evaluation of new antiemetic agents and definition of antineoplastic agent emetogenicity-state of the art. *Support Care Cancer* 2010;19:S43-47.

[High Emetic Risk \(See AE-2\)](#)

[Moderate Emetic Risk \(See AE-2\)](#)

[Low Emetic Risk \(See AE-3\)](#)

[Minimal Emetic Risk \(See AE-3\)](#)

<sup>a</sup>Potential drug interactions between antineoplastic agents/antiemetic therapies and various other drugs should always be considered.

<sup>b</sup>Proportion of patients who experience emesis in the absence of effective antiemetic prophylaxis.

<sup>e</sup>Temozolomide ≤75 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d should be considered moderately emetogenic with concurrent radiotherapy.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

Version 2.2017 03/28/17 © National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2017. All rights reserved. The NCCN Guidelines® and this illustration may not be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of NCCN®.

# CINV:

## Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
Network®

### NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2017 Antiemesis

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Discussion](#)

#### HIGH EMETIC RISK INTRAVENOUS CHEMOTHERAPY - ACUTE AND DELAYED EMESIS PREVENTION<sup>f,g,h,i,j</sup>

**DAY 1:** Select option A, B, C, D, E, F (order does not imply preference)

**DAYS 2, 3, 4:**

All are category 1, start before chemotherapy:<sup>h</sup>

<p><b>A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aprepitant 125 mg PO once</li> <li>• 5-HT<sub>3</sub> RA (choose one):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Palonosetron 0.25 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Granisetron 10 mg SQ once<sup>k</sup>, or 2 mg PO once, or 0.01 mg/kg (max 1 mg) IV once, or 3.1 mg/24-h transdermal patch applied 24-48 h prior to first dose of chemotherapy.</li> <li>▸ Ondansetron 16-24 mg PO once, or 8-16 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Dolasetron 100 mg PO once</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dexamethasone 12 mg PO/IV once<sup>l,m</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>A:<sup>v</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aprepitant 80 mg PO daily on days 2, 3</li> <li>• Dexamethasone 8 mg<sup>l,m</sup> PO/IV daily on days 2, 3, 4</li> </ul>
<p><b>B:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fosaprepitant 150 mg IV once</li> <li>• 5-HT<sub>3</sub> RA (choose one):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Palonosetron 0.25 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Granisetron 10 mg SQ once<sup>k</sup>, or 2 mg PO once, or 0.01 mg/kg (max 1 mg) IV once, or 3.1 mg/24-h transdermal patch applied 24-48 h prior to first dose of chemotherapy.</li> <li>▸ Ondansetron 16-24 mg PO once, or 8-16 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Dolasetron 100 mg PO once</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dexamethasone 12 mg PO/IV once<sup>l,m</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>B:<sup>v</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dexamethasone 8 mg<sup>l,m</sup> PO/IV daily on day 2, then dexamethasone 8 mg<sup>l,m</sup> PO/IV twice daily on days 3, 4</li> </ul>
<p><b>C:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolapitant 180 mg PO once<sup>n,o</sup></li> <li>• 5-HT<sub>3</sub> RA (choose one):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Palonosetron 0.25 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Granisetron 10 mg SQ once<sup>k</sup>, or 2 mg PO once, or 0.01 mg/kg (max 1 mg) IV once, or 3.1 mg/24 h transdermal patch applied 24-48 h prior to first dose of chemotherapy.</li> <li>▸ Ondansetron 16-24 mg PO once, or 8-16 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Dolasetron 100 mg PO once</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dexamethasone 12 mg PO/IV once<sup>l,m</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>C:<sup>v</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dexamethasone 8 mg<sup>l,m</sup> PO/IV twice daily on days 2, 3, 4</li> </ul>
<p><b>D:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Netupitant 300 mg/palonosetron 0.5 mg PO once<sup>p,q</sup></li> <li>• Dexamethasone 12 mg PO/IV once<sup>l,m</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>D:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dexamethasone 8 mg<sup>l,m</sup> PO daily on days 2, 3, 4</li> </ul>
<p><b>E:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olanzapine 10 mg PO once<sup>r,s</sup></li> <li>• Palonosetron 0.25 mg IV once</li> <li>• Dexamethasone 20 mg IV once<sup>m</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>E:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olanzapine 10 mg PO daily on days 2, 3, 4<sup>s</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>F:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aprepitant 125 mg PO once or fosaprepitant 150 mg IV once<sup>t,u</sup></li> <li>• 5-HT<sub>3</sub> RA (choose one):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ Palonosetron 0.25 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Granisetron 10 mg SQ once<sup>k</sup>, or 2 mg PO once, or 0.01 mg/kg (max 1 mg) IV once, or 3.1 mg/24 h transdermal patch applied 24-48 h prior to first dose of chemotherapy.</li> <li>▸ Ondansetron 16-24 mg PO once, or 8-16 mg IV once</li> <li>▸ Dolasetron 100 mg PO once</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Dexamethasone 12 mg PO/IV once<sup>l,m</sup></li> <li>• Olanzapine 10 mg PO once<sup>s</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>F:<sup>v</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aprepitant 80 mg PO daily on days 2, 3 (if aprepitant on day 1)</li> <li>• Dexamethasone 8 mg<sup>l,m</sup> PO/IV daily on days 2, 3, 4</li> <li>• Olanzapine 10 mg PO daily on days 2, 3, 4<sup>s</sup></li> </ul>

[See Breakthrough Treatment \(AE-10\)](#)

**Note:** All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.  
Clinical Trials: NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

[See Footnotes \(AE-7\)](#)

# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Therapy

- No therapy has been shown to prevent or to modify the natural course of the disease

**Prophylaxis = Respect Constraints**

# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Constraints – Whole liver irradiation

*Ingold JA, et al. 1965:*

Ascites and hepatomegaly in 1 of 8 patients who received 30–35 Gy over 3–4 weeks versus 12 of 27 patients who received >35 Gy

*Emami B, et al. 1991:*

The whole liver tolerance dose expected to yield a 5% risk of liver failure 5 years after treatment (TD 5/5) for whole liver radiation was estimated to be 30 Gy in 2 Gy fractions

*Russell AH, et al. 1993:*

0/122 patients who received 27–30 Gy in twice daily 1.5 Gy fractions of whole liver RT experienced severe RILD,  
5/51 who received 33 Gy in 1.5 Gy fractions developed RILD

# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Constraints – Partial liver irradiation

mean liver dose was <31 Gy (EQD2): No RILD

numerous reports demonstrating a higher risk of toxicity among patients with worse baseline liver dysfunction.

# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Therapy

- **No therapy has been shown to prevent or to modify the natural course of the disease**
- **Treatment is mainly directed at control of symptoms (diuretics for fluid retention, paracentesis for ascites, correction of coagulopathy, and steroids to reduce hepatic congestion)**
- **Glutathione plays a protective role in preventing SOS caused by irradiation and chemotherapeutic agents**



# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Strategies to prevent or minimize radiation-induced hepatotoxicity

Various strategies are being investigated to inhibit stellate cell activation and reverse fibrosis in RILD:

➤ **Anti-TGF- $\beta$  therapy** with monoclonal antibodies against TGF- $\beta$  and several small molecular agents that inhibit the kinase activity of TGF- $\beta$  receptors are being investigated to reverse chronic liver fibrosis.

(TGF- $\beta$  showed a radiation dose dependent increase, and suppression of TGF- $\beta$  was reported to reduce hepatic fibrosis in the irradiated livers of experimental animals. Thus, anti-TGF- $\beta$  therapy is a therapeutic strategy against RILD development).

➤ **Defibrotide** is a complex mixture of single-stranded polydeoxyribonucleotides that is approved in the United States for treating hepatic VOD/SOS with renal or pulmonary dysfunction post-HSCT (hematopoietic stem cell transplantation)

# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Strategies to prevent or minimize radiation-induced hepatotoxicity

- **Stem cell-based therapy:**
  - ameliorate the unintended side effects in normal tissues exposed to radiation by promoting the regeneration of irradiated normal tissues
- The **infusion of mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) / MSC-derived bioactive components**
  - prevent radiation-induced liver injury by inhibiting both apoptosis and inflammation in experimental animals.

# RILD: Radiation-induced liver disease

## Summary

- Mean radiation dose of 30 Gy is considered as safe but radiation tolerance of liver decreases in the presence of deranged liver functions.
- Newer techniques of radiation have reduced the incidence of RILD,
- Prevention is the key as there are no specific treatment guidelines. Attempt should be made to keep the mean dose below tolerance level.
- Indicator of liver function status like Child-Pugh score is an important parameter to predict the toxicity.
  
- Role of radio-protectors is doubtful.
- More extensive research is required to structure guidelines for prevention and management.