

# Presentation & Management of Rheumatology Patients in the Acute Medical Unit

*What did Rheumatology/Lifestyle Medicine Do for Us?*

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# Declaration for Professor Fraser Birrell

I have the following financial interest or relationship/s to disclose with regard to the subject matter of this presentation:

- Research funding from:
  - NIHR Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre
  - MRC- Versus Arthritis Centre for Integrated Research into Musculoskeletal Ageing
  - NIHR HTA for PROP OA trial
  - Sir Jules Thorn Trust & NIHR CRN for Nation Group Consultation Evaluation
  - Northern Accelerator Future Founders Programme
- Editor-in-Chief of Lifestyle Medicine (Wiley gold open access journal)
  - Official journal of the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine, Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine, European Lifestyle Medicine Council, Korean College of Lifestyle Medicine & Sri Lankan Society of Lifestyle Medicine
- I have no financial interests or relationships to disclose with regard to the subject matter of this presentation: no stock, advisory boards or consulting fees

# Agenda/Learning Outcomes

*By the end of this session, attendees will:*

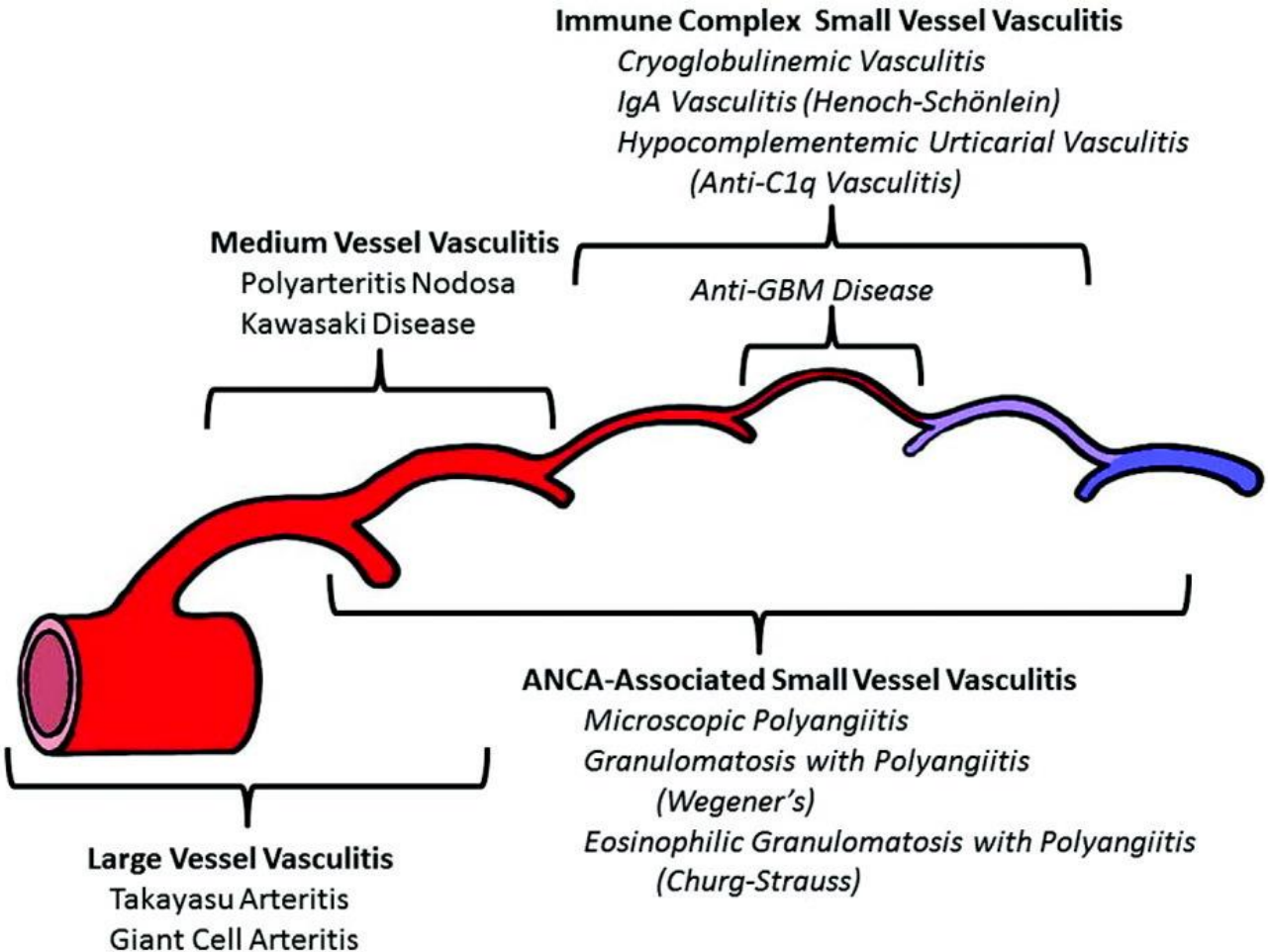
- Know core Rheumatology conditions presenting to AMU
  - Acute vasculitis (including Giant Cell Arteritis)
  - Septic Arthritis
  - Gout
  - Osteoarthritis & other inflammatory arthritides
  - Atlantoaxial subluxation
- Understand the key management options for these and wider implications:
  - Gastrointestinal bleed: risk & reporting
  - Disease Modifying Drugs and their toxicities
  - Biologic Therapies
  - Lifestyle Medicine
- Appreciate future opportunities to both deliver & manage emergency care

# Which Clinical Features Suggest Vasculitis?

- Sudden visual loss
- Nephritic syndrome
- Photosensitive rash
- Raised ESR with normal CRP
- Mononeuritis multiplex
- All of the above

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# 2012 Revised International Chapel Hill Consensus Conference Nomenclature of Vasculitides



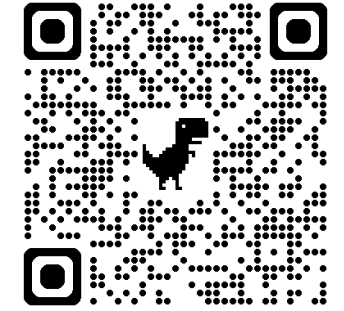
# Giant Cell Arteritis- Phone Rheumatology

## **American College of Rheumatology Criteria (3 out of 5 criteria)**

- Age >50
- New onset localised headache
- Temporal artery tenderness
- ESR >50 (commensurate CRP)
- Positive histology

Dasgupta (RCP), 2010  
Hellmich et al (EULAR), 2020

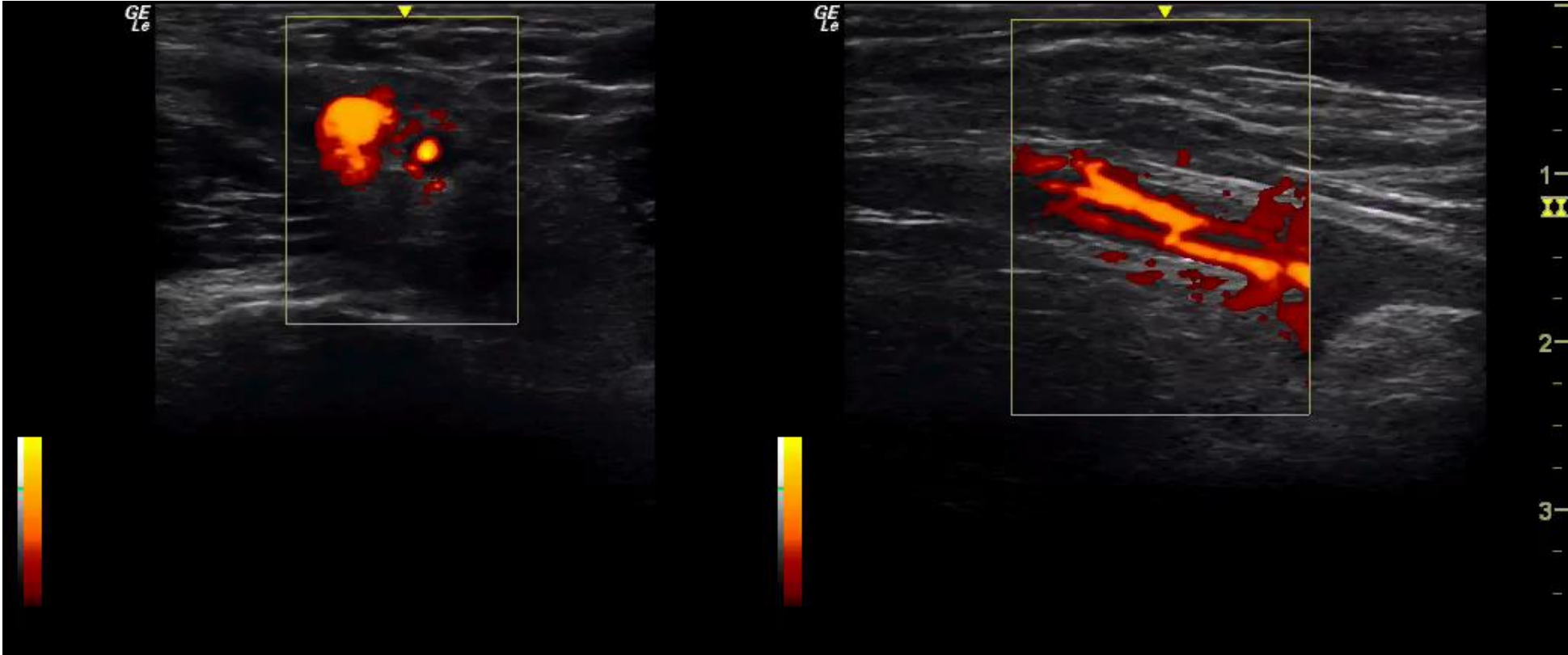
# Laskou Criteria (Southend Score)



	0	1	2	3
• <b>Age</b>	<50	50-60	61-65	>65
• <b>Sex</b>		Male	Female	
• <b>Duration</b>	>24/52	12-24/52	6-12/52	<6/52
• <b>CRP/mg/L</b>	0-5	6-10	11-25	>25
• <b>Symptoms</b> systemic		Headache	Polymyalgia	Jaw claudn/combo
• <b>Signs</b>		TA tender	TA thickened	Pulse loss
• <b>Alternative diagnosis:</b>	infection, cancer, head & neck pathology <b>score-3</b>			
• <b>&gt;9 HIGH RISK-</b>	likely to need MSUS +/- biopsy: start Prednisolone 40mg if cannot reach on call Rheumatologist of the Day (e.g. out of hours)			

Laskou et al, 2019

# Temporal Artery Ultrasound





# AMU Case 1

53-year-old lollipop lady

4/52 D & V

Sweats and rigors

2/52 Pain left leg

Radiation to abdomen

Antalgic gait 50m

2/7 Left shoulder pain + weakness

# Past Medical History

- No PMH joint disease
- Gallstones: cholecystectomy 1995
- Carpal tunnel decompression 1997
- Hypertension 2001-
- DH
  - Bendroflumethiazide
  - Dihydrocodeine
  - Diclofenac
- SH lives with husband; non-smoker; Etoh 12 units
- Unable to work since February

# On Examination

- Sweaty and tremulous
- Obese (Class I) BMI 32.7 *+21.2kg over ideal weight*
- 152/70 HR=132 SATS=92% 37.9° C
- Left hip
  - Tender joint margin
  - No straight leg raise
  - 60° passive flexion 30° passive abduction
  - Internal rotation limited by pain
- Left shoulder
  - Warm + swollen
  - Capsular pattern of ↓ROM
- ↓ Plantar reflex

# Admission X-ray



# What is the Most Likely Diagnosis?

- Gout
- Reactive arthritis
- Septic arthritis
- Pseudogout
- Tuberculosis

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# Initial management

- Glenohumeral aspiration
  - 1ml blood-stained aspirate
  - Culture and sensitivity
- USS hip
  - Effusion
  - Refused aspiration

# Micro-organism

- Gram +ve cocci
  - Iv flucloxacillin
  - Iv ciprofloxacin
- Alpha haemolytic streptococcus
  - Iv amoxicillin
- Total 6 weeks antibiotics

# AMU Case 2

57-year-old HGV driver: car transporter

3/7 Right knee- red, hot, swollen, painful

EMS++ 3h

Weight-bearing difficult

6 years Episodes of pain & swelling

Left or right 1<sup>st</sup> MTP

Lasts 2-5 days

Improved by ibuprofen

No FH Gout/Psoriasis

PMH IDDM 2022- CVA post circulation stroke Sept 2023

On Examination

T37.8C P100 BP 150/78

Overweight BMI 26.2 +3.9kg over ideal weight

Red, hot, swollen, tender knee- held in fixed flexion, exquisitely painful

No other synovitis



# What is the single most important investigation?

- X-ray of affected joint
- Bloods for urate FBC U&E LFT CRP ESR
- Joint aspiration
- Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
- Dual energy CT

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# What is the single most important investigation?

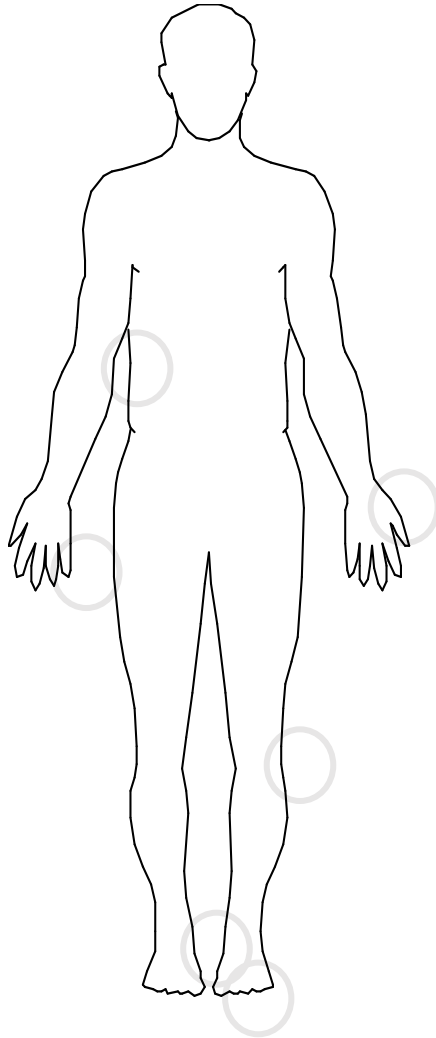
- X-ray of affected joint
  - Not sensitive, but useful if possible sepsis, as if CXR & MSU
- Bloods for urate FBC U&E LFT CRP ESR
  - Remember urate goes down acute attack: may be normal not high
- **Joint aspiration:**
  - **Sent for polarised light microscopy, gram stain & culture**
- Musculoskeletal Ultrasound
  - Characteristic findings- double contour sign, but not necessary
- Dual energy CT
  - Evolving evidence base- more widely used in USA

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# Gout Clinical Features

- ♂ > ♀
- Acute attacks
  - Exquisitely painful
  - 1<sup>st</sup> MTP 'podagra'
  - Other peripheral joints *Why?*
  - Tophi *Why?*
- If untreated:
  - Erosive arthritis
  - Renal impairment

# Common sites of acute attacks



- ***Common order of progression in untreated primary gout:***
  - Metatarso-phalangeal joint of the first toe (~50% of initial attacks; known as podagra)
  - Midfoot, ankle, knee
  - Wrist
  - Finger joints (in the elderly and people who have had primary gout for a long period of time)
  - Olecranon bursae (elbow)
- ***Usually monoarticular (~90% of first attacks) but can be polyarticular in higher-risk patients (e.g., alcoholics, postmenopausal women) and as disease progresses***

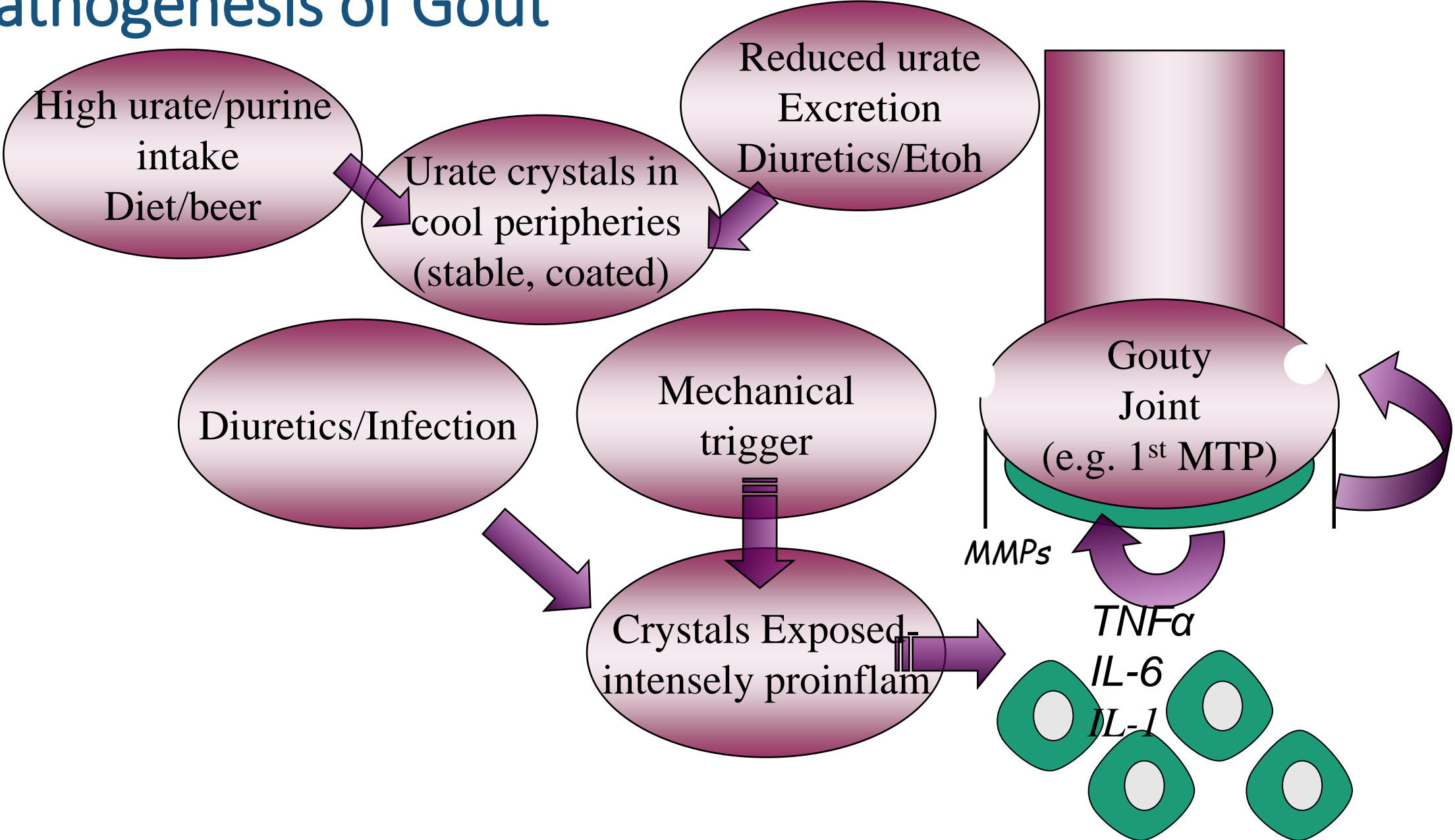
# Tophi- On Cool Peripheries



# Gouty Erosions- Classically Juxta-articular



# Pathogenesis of Gout



# Management of gout

## Managing gout flares

### Offer an NSAID, colchicine or short course of oral corticosteroid

- Take into account comorbidities, co-prescriptions and preferences
- Consider adding a PPI with NSAID



### If NSAIDs or colchicine unsuitable or ineffective

- Consider intra-articular or intramuscular corticosteroid injection

**Do not offer an IL-1 inhibitor** unless NSAIDs, colchicine and corticosteroids are unsuitable or ineffective.

- Refer to rheumatology before prescribing

Advise that applying ice packs to the affected joint (cold therapy) in addition to taking prescribed medicine may help alleviate pain

### Consider a follow-up appointment after a gout flare has settled to:

- measure serum urate level
- provide information
- assess lifestyle and comorbidities
- review medications and discuss risks and benefits of long-term ULT

## Information and support

**Provide tailored information** at diagnosis and during follow-up appointments

### Explain:

- causes, and symptoms and signs, of gout
- that the disease progresses without intervention because high levels of urate in the blood will lead to the formation of new urate crystals
- any risk factors for gout they have, including genetics, excess body weight or obesity, medicines they are taking, and comorbidities such as CKD or hypertension
- how to manage gout flares and the treatment options available
- that gout is a lifelong condition that will benefit from long-term ULT to eliminate urate crystals and prevent flares, shrink tophi and prevent long-term joint damage
- where to find other sources of information and support such as local support groups, online forums and national charities

## Diet and lifestyle

**Explain** that there is not enough evidence to show that any specific diet prevents flares or lowers serum urate levels

### Advise people with gout:

- to follow a healthy, balanced diet
- that excess body weight or obesity, or excessive alcohol consumption, may exacerbate gout flares and symptoms

See the [visual summary on long-term management of gout with ULTs](#)

This is a summary of the advice on management of gout in [NICE's guideline on gout: diagnosis and management](#).

CKD, chronic kidney disease; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; IL-1, interleukin-1; NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; PPI, proton pump inhibitor; ULT, urate-lowering therapy



In June 2022, this was an off-label use of NSAIDs and corticosteroids. See [NICE's information on prescribing medicines](#).



# Acute Treatment

- Acute attack: colchicine 500mcg bd/tds/full dose NSAIDs+PPI
- Rest, ice, compression, elevation
- Colchicine, NSAIDs
- Corticosteroid injection
- iv Uricase
  - Not available UK
- Anti IL-1 $\beta$  mab-
  - *Anakinra & canakinumab; off label*

# Lifestyle changes Recommended in gout

- **Diet**
  - Reduce purine intake (reduce red meat, avoid liver, kidneys, shellfish and pulses)
  - Reduce fructose-containing drinks
  - Include skimmed milk, low fat yoghurt, vegetable protein and cherries every day
- **Decrease alcohol consumption (especially beer)**
- **Weight loss**
  - 1 kg/month (avoid crash diets)
  - Avoid high protein diets
- **Patients with urolithiasis should be encouraged to drink >2 litres of water/day**
- **Moderate exercise**

*Lifestyle changes have only modest effects on sUA (e.g., 10-15% reduction with a low-purine diet), hence drug therapy is usually required*

# Long-term management of gout with ULTs

## Explain that:

- disease progresses without intervention because high levels of urate in the blood form new urate crystals
- gout is a lifelong condition that will benefit from long-term ULT

## Ensure people understand that ULT is:

- usually continued after the target serum urate level is reached
- typically a lifelong treatment

## Consider rheumatology referral if:

- diagnosis of gout is uncertain
- treatment is contraindicated, not tolerated or ineffective
- they have CKD stages 3b to 5 (GFR categories G3b to G5)
- they have had an organ transplant

## Offer ULT, using a treat-to-target strategy, to people with gout who have:

- multiple or troublesome flares
- CKD stages 3 to 5 (GFR categories G3 to G5)
- diuretic therapy
- tophi
- chronic gouty arthritis

Discuss the option of ULT with people who have had a first or subsequent gout flare who are not within the groups listed above

## First-line treatment

Offer either allopurinol or febuxostat

- Offer allopurinol to people with gout who have major cardiovascular disease

## Second-line treatment

Consider switching to allopurinol or febuxostat

## Treat-to-target strategy:

Start with low-dose ULT and use monthly serum urate levels to guide dose increases, as tolerated, until target serum urate level reached

**Start ULT** at least 2 to 4 weeks after a gout flare has settled. If flares are more frequent, ULT can be started during a flare

## Target serum urate level:

- Aim for below 360 micromol/litre (6 mg/dl)
- Consider below 300 micromol/litre (5 mg/dl) for:
  - tophi or chronic gouty arthritis
  - ongoing frequent flares despite serum urate level below 360 micromol/litre (6 mg/dl)

Consider annual monitoring of serum urate level in people with gout who are continuing ULT after reaching their target serum urate level

## Discuss the benefits and risks of taking medicines to prevent gout flares when starting or titrating ULT

For people who choose to have treatment, offer colchicine while target serum urate level is being reached

If colchicine is contraindicated or not suitable, consider a low-dose NSAID or low-dose oral corticosteroid

- Consider adding a PPI, taking into account individual risk factors for adverse events



**Do not offer an IL-1 inhibitor** unless NSAIDs, colchicine and corticosteroids are unsuitable or ineffective

- Refer to rheumatology before prescribing

This is a summary of the advice on long-term management of gout in [NICE's guideline on gout: diagnosis and management](#).

CKD, chronic kidney disease; GFR, glomerular filtration rate; IL-1, interleukin-1; NSAID, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug; PPI, proton pump inhibitor; ULT, urate-lowering therapy



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# Prophylactic Treatment

- >1 attack/erosion (!tophi/urate nephropathy)
- Correct underlying causes:
  - High turnover states- psoriasis, tumours
  - Stop diuretics
  - Etoh
- Reduce production
  - Xanthine oxidase inhibitors:  
**allopurinol** (usually 100mg od initially)/febuxostat 80-120mg od
  - Monthly escalation  $\uparrow$  100mg allopurinol; colchicine cover
- Increase excretion
  - Sulfinpyrazone/Benzbromarone/(Probenecid)
- ***Target- serum urate <300 $\mu$ M***

# Guidelines

- **EULAR guidelines advocate maintaining serum urate <360  $\mu\text{mol/l}$  (<6 mg/dl<sup>1 2</sup>)**
  - “The therapeutic goal of urate lowering therapy is to promote crystal dissolution and prevent crystal formation. This is achieved by maintaining the serum uric acid below the saturation point for monosodium urate ( $\leq 6$  mg/dl or  $\leq 0.36$  mmol/l)”
- **BSR (UK) guidelines advocate maintaining serum urate <300  $\mu\text{mol/l}$  (<5 mg/dl<sup>3</sup>)**

1. Richette P et al. 2018 updated EULAR evidence-based recommendations for the diagnosis of gout. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2020;79:31–8
2. Richette P et al. 2016 updated EULAR evidence-based recommendations for the management of gout. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2017;76:29–42
3. Hui M et al.; BSR SAG Working Group. BSR and BHPR guideline for the management of gout. *Rheumatology* 2017;56:1056–9

# Rheumatological diseases (currently) treated with DMARDs

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Psoriatic arthritis
- Ankylosing spondylitis
- Enteropathic arthritis (Crohns/UC-related)
- Juvenile Inflammatory Arthritis (JIA)
- Connective tissue diseases (SLE, 1° Sjogrens etc)
- Refractory Polymyalgia Rheumatica/GCA
- Others (seronegative arthritis etc)
- PROMOTE study: Methotrexate effective in OA (*in press*)

# Concerns with Rheumatology Patients Admitted to AMU

- Immunosuppression from disease +/- drugs
- Atlanto-axial subluxation if chronic Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Hospital-prescribed subcutaneous drugs
- Pneumonitis if methotrexate/leflunomide
- Suspending methotrexate if risk of renal impairment
- All of the above

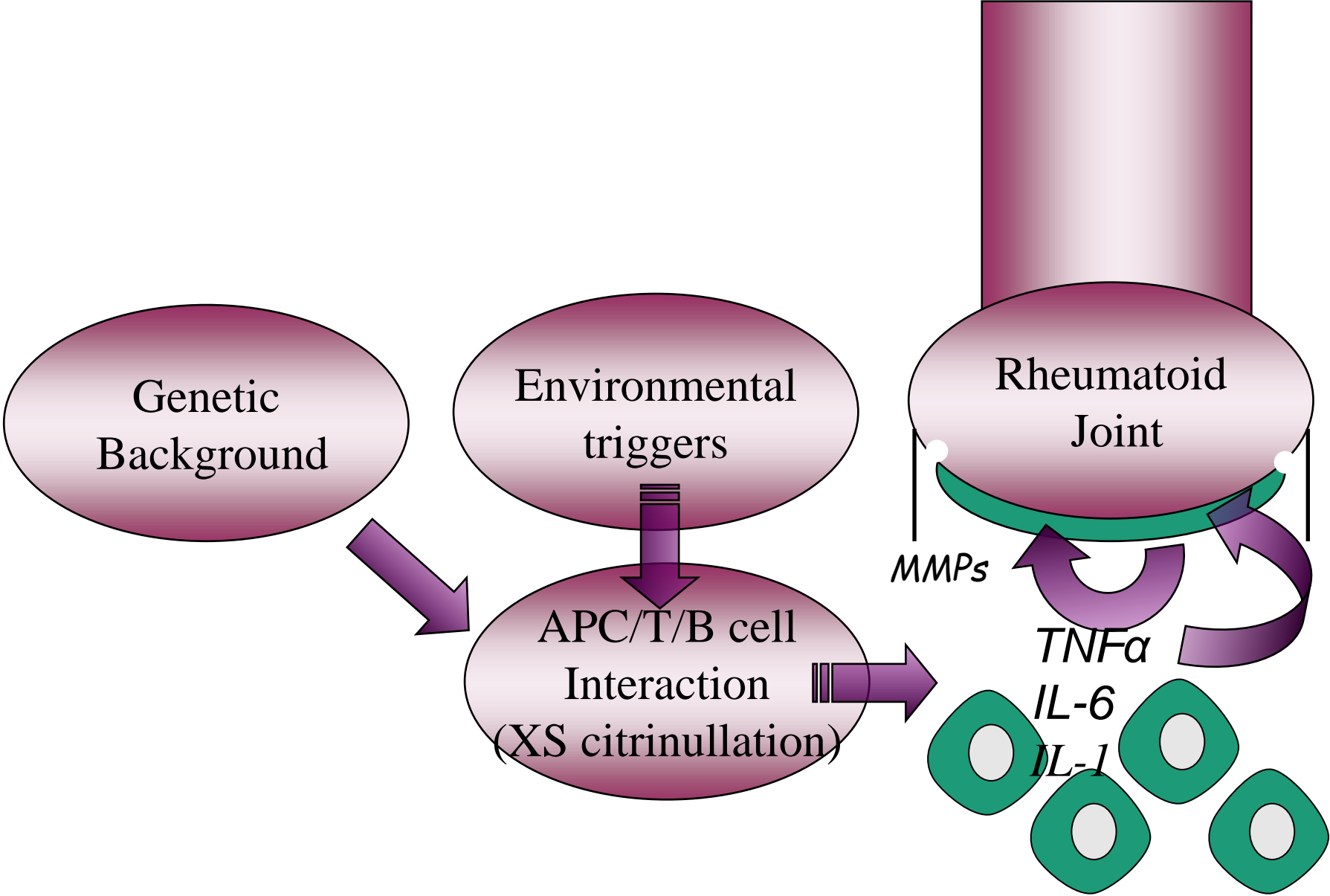
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# Concerns with Rheumatology Patients Admitted to AMU

- Immunosuppression from disease +/- drugs
- Atlanto-axial subluxation if chronic Rheumatoid Arthritis  
(**Flexion/extension C-spine** pre-GA)
- Hospital-prescribed subcutaneous drugs
- Pneumonitis if methotrexate/leflunomide
- Suspending methotrexate if risk of renal impairment
- **All of the above**
- **Slido Answer Slide**

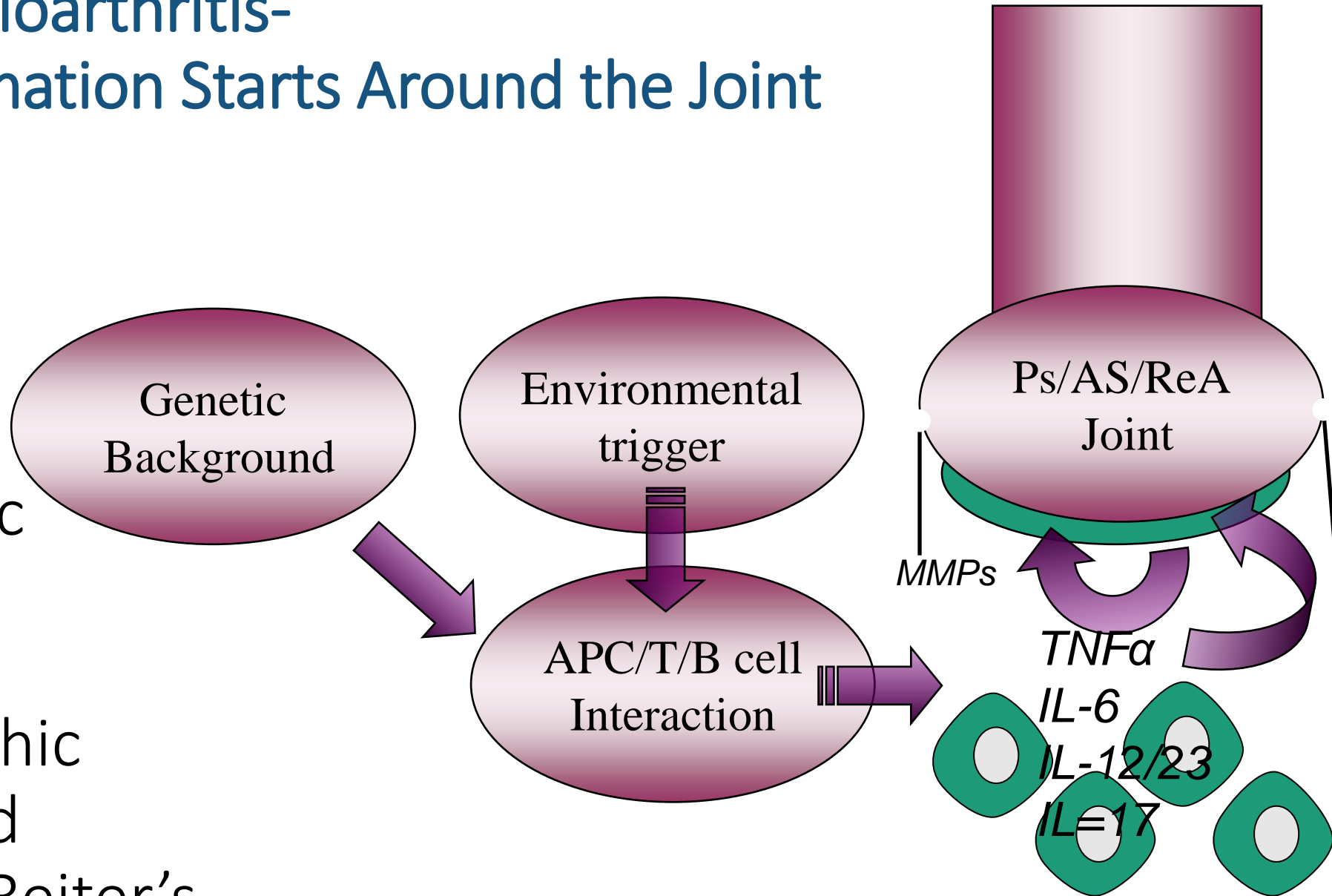


# Pathogenesis of Rheumatoid Arthritis



# Pathogenesis of Seronegative Spondyloarthritis- Inflammation Starts Around the Joint

Mnemonic  
PEAR  
Psoriatic  
Enteropathic  
Ank Spond  
Reactive/Reiter's



# Key Considerations

# Implication

- ***Main immune suppression is from the diseases, not the drugs (with a few prominent exceptions)***
- ***Sc Methotrexate & biologics hospital prescribed & poorly documented*** in Great North Care Record
- ***Methotrexate should be suspended*** if:
  - Suspected/confirmed infection
  - Renal impairment/AKI
  - Suspected pneumonitis  
(need chest opinion to confirm: if not confirmed, usually restart on discharge)
  - Aplasia/severe neutropenia/severe transaminitis
  - Severe rash/erythroderma
- **Leflunomide**
  - Similar concerns: but enterohepatic circulation

**Higher index of suspicion for infection**

***Ask all patients about alert cards injections: look up & contact team***

**Usually suspended on admission**

**Usually restarted on discharge**

**Must be cleared colestyramine 8g tds for 11 days**

# Core Rheumatology Biologics/Oral Equivalents

Generic Name	Route	Target	Indication	ORIGINATOR/ Biosimilars
Infliximab	iv/sc	TNF $\alpha$	RA/ PsA/ AS/ Cr/ UC	REMICADE/ Remsima/ Inflectra/ Flixabi
Etanercept	sc		RA/ PsA /AS/ nrAx	ENBREL/ Benepali / Erelzi
Adalimumab			RA/ PsA/ AS/ nrAx/ Cr/ UC/ HS/ Uv	HUMIRA/ Amgevita, Imraldi, Cytlezo, Hyrimoz, Hulio
Golimumab			RA/ PsA/ AS/nrAx/ UC	SIMPONI
Certolizumab			RA/ PsA/AS/ nrAx	CIMZIA
Rituximab	iv	CD20	RA/ GPA	MABTHERA/ Rixathon, Truxima
Tocilizumab	iv/ sc	IL-6	RA/ GCA	RO-ACTEMRA
Sarilumab	sc		RA	KEVZARA
Abatacept	iv/sc	CTLA4	RA	ORENCIA
Baricitinib	po	JAK1/2	RA	OLUMIANT
Tofacitinib	po	JAK1/3	RA/ PsA/ UC	XELJANZ
Upadacitinib	po	JAK 1	RA	RINVOQ
Filgotinib	po	JAK 1	RA	JYSELECA

# Selected Other Current Biologics

Generic name	route	Target	Indications	Brand
Ustekinumab	sc	IL-12/23	PsA, Crohns	STELARA
Secukinumab	sc	IL-17	AS, PsA	COSENTYX
Ixekizumab	sc		PsA	TALTZ
Bimekizumab	sc		Pso/PsA	BIMZELX
Brodalumab	sc		Pso	KYNTHEUM
Guselkumab	sc		IL-23	Pso
Risankizumab	sc	Pso		SKYRIZI
Tildrakizumab	sc	Pso		ILUMETRI
Vedolizumab	sc	$\alpha_4\beta_7$ integrin	UC/ Crohns	ENTYVIO
Denosumab	sc	nf $\kappa$ B	Osteoporosis	PROLIA
Romosozumab	sc	Sclerostin	Osteoporosis	EVENITY

# Management of osteoarthritis

## Explain that:

- osteoarthritis is diagnosed clinically and usually does not need imaging to confirm diagnosis
- management is guided by symptoms and physical function
- the core treatments are therapeutic exercise and weight management, alongside information and support.

## Exercise

- For all people with osteoarthritis, offer therapeutic exercise tailored to their needs (for example, local muscle strengthening, general aerobic fitness).
- Consider supervised therapeutic exercise sessions.
- Advise people it may initially cause pain or discomfort but long-term adherence to an exercise plan will benefit the joints, reduce pain and improve function.
- Consider combining therapeutic exercise with an education programme or behaviour change approaches in a structured treatment package.

## Weight management

### For people who are living with overweight or obesity:

- advise them that weight loss will improve quality of life and physical function, and reduce pain
- support them to choose a weight loss goal
- explain that any weight loss is likely to be beneficial, but losing 10% is likely to be better than 5%.

For guidance and information on weight management, including interventions for weight loss, see [NICE's topic page on obesity](#).

## Information and support

- Tailor information to the person's individual needs and ensure it is in an accessible format.
- Advise where people can find further information on:
  - the condition and information that challenges common misconceptions
  - specific types of exercise
  - managing their symptoms
  - how to access additional information and support
  - benefits and limitations of treatment.

## Manual therapy

Only consider for hip and knee osteoarthritis and alongside therapeutic exercise.

## Devices

Consider walking aids for lower limb osteoarthritis.

## Do not offer:

- acupuncture or dry needling
- electrotherapy treatments
- insoles, braces, tape, splints or supports routinely.

## Pharmacological management

### If needed, use:

- alongside non-pharmacological treatments and to support therapeutic exercise
- the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible time.

Review with the person whether to continue treatment. Base frequency of reviews on clinical need.

- Offer a topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) for knee osteoarthritis.
- Consider a topical NSAID for other osteoarthritis-affected joints.

Consider an oral NSAID if topical medicines are ineffective or unsuitable and offer a gastroprotective treatment alongside.

### Do not offer:

- paracetamol or weak opioids routinely, unless:
  - used infrequently for short-term pain relief
  - all other treatments are ineffective or unsuitable
- glucosamine
- strong opioids
- intra-articular hyaluronan injections.

Consider intra-articular corticosteroid injections for short-term relief when other pharmacological treatments are ineffective or unsuitable or to support therapeutic exercise.

## Referral for joint replacement

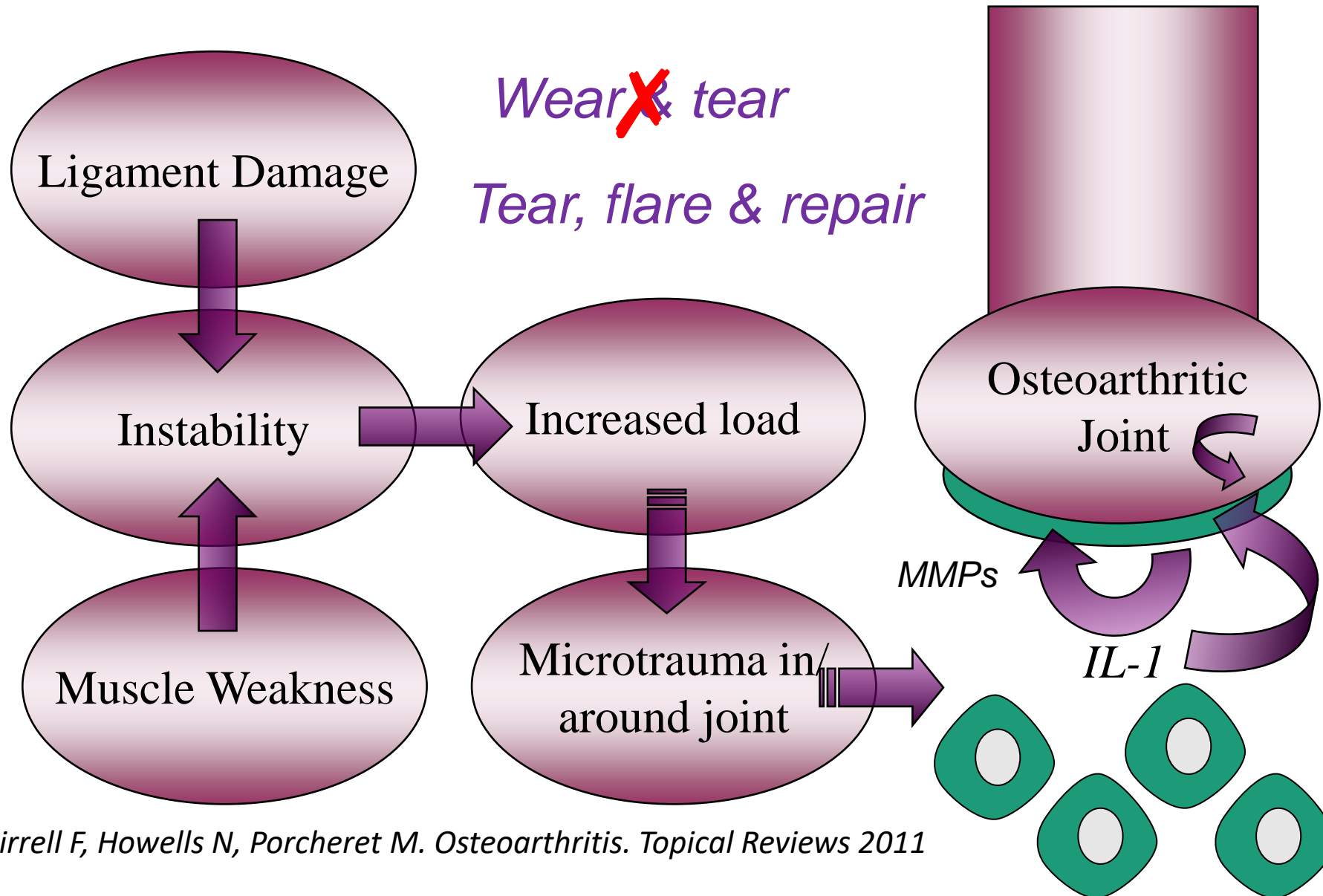
Consider referring people with hip, knee or shoulder osteoarthritis for joint replacement if:

- joint symptoms are substantially impacting their quality of life **and**
- non-surgical management is ineffective or unsuitable.

Do not exclude people from referral for joint replacement because of age, sex or gender, smoking, comorbidities, or overweight or obesity.

This is a summary of the recommendations on managing osteoarthritis in [NICE's guideline on osteoarthritis in over 16s: diagnosis and management](#)

# Model of Osteoarthritis Pathogenesis



# The Two Problems with Paracetamol

- Not an analgesic: a weak non-steroidal anti-inflammatory
- Problems
  - 1) No clinically important analgesic effect in Osteoarthritis
    - Effect size 0.14 (95% CI 0.05-0.22)
    - High quality trials 0.10 (-0.0-0.23)
  - 2) Significant toxicity
    - Mortality
    - GI (HR hospitalization 1.20, 95%CI 1.03-1.40)
    - Cardiovascular
    - Renal

*Zhang et al, 2010; Roberts et al, 2015*



# Evidenced by Multiple Meta-analyses

- *“Paracetamol is ineffective in the treatment of low back pain and provides minimal short term benefit for people with osteoarthritis. These results support the reconsideration of recommendations to use paracetamol”*

*Machado et al, 2015*

- *“All treatments except acetaminophen showed clinically significant improvement from baseline pain*

*Bannuru et al, 2015*

- *“We see no role for single-agent paracetamol for the treatment of patients with OA irrespective of dose.”*

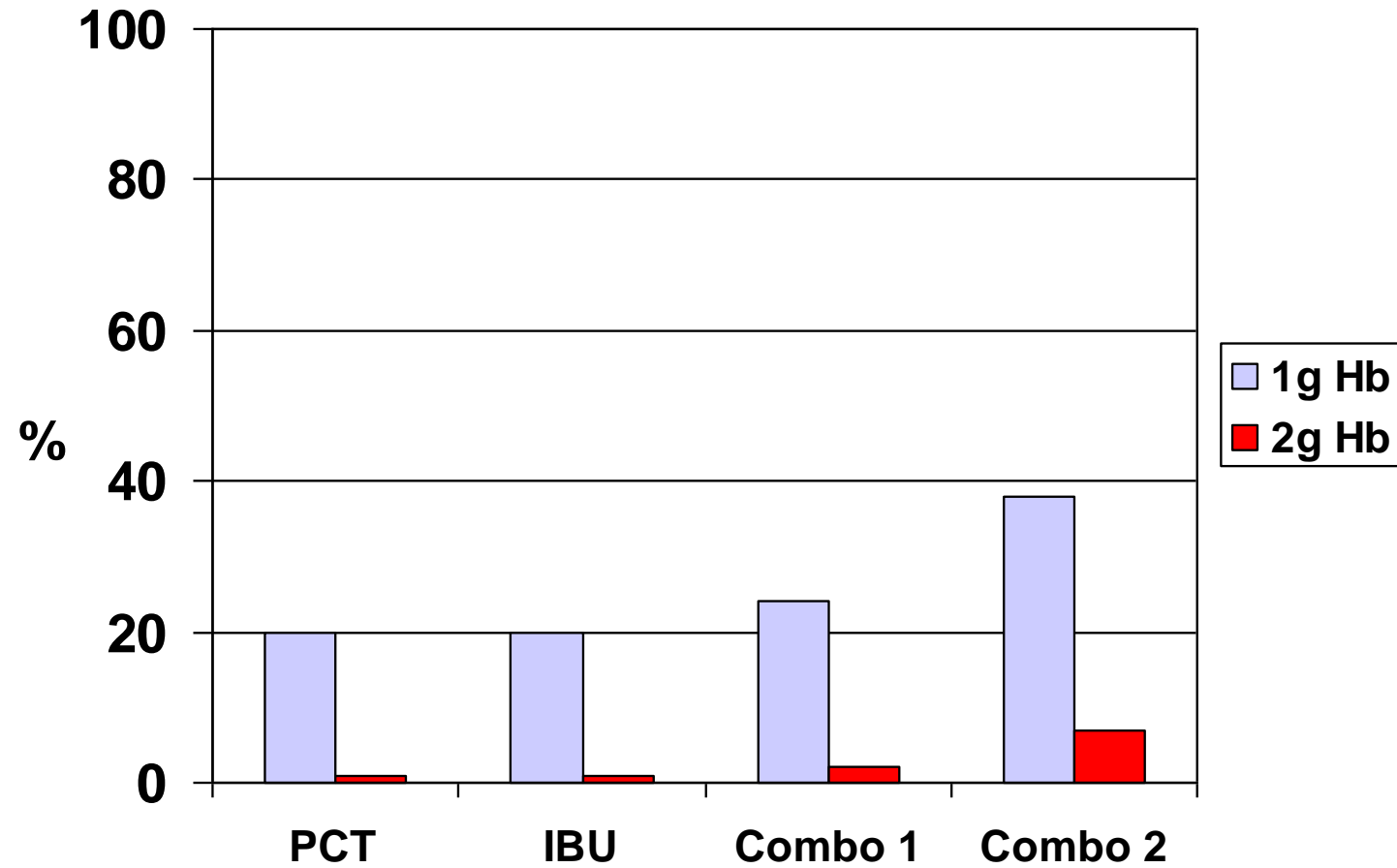
*Da Costa et al, 2017*

# Not Explained by Channeling Bias: Compelling RCT Evidence

- Randomised controlled trial n=892 *Doherty et al, 2011*
    - Paracetamol (PCT) 1g tds
    - Ibuprofen (IBU) 400mg tds
    - Combo 1 PCT 500mg/Ibuprofen 200mg 3x/day
    - Combo 2 PCT 1g/Ibuprofen 400mg 3x/day
  - 13-week study
  - Pain & Function- no important benefit PCT
  - Safety:

	PCT	IBU	PCT/IBU	PCT/IBU
• 1g Hb/L loss	20%	20%	24%	38%
• 2g Hb/dL loss	1%	1%	2%	7%
- Doherty et al, 2012*

# Blood Loss



# Main Implications

- Never coprescribe/recommend paracetamol to be used with other NSAIDs
- Think carefully before prescribing paracetamol at all for chronic pain
- Never forget NSAID toxicities as well as overdose makes this a tablet which would never be licensed now
- Do **Yellow Card** if life-threatening bleed on monotherapy/combination with another NSAID

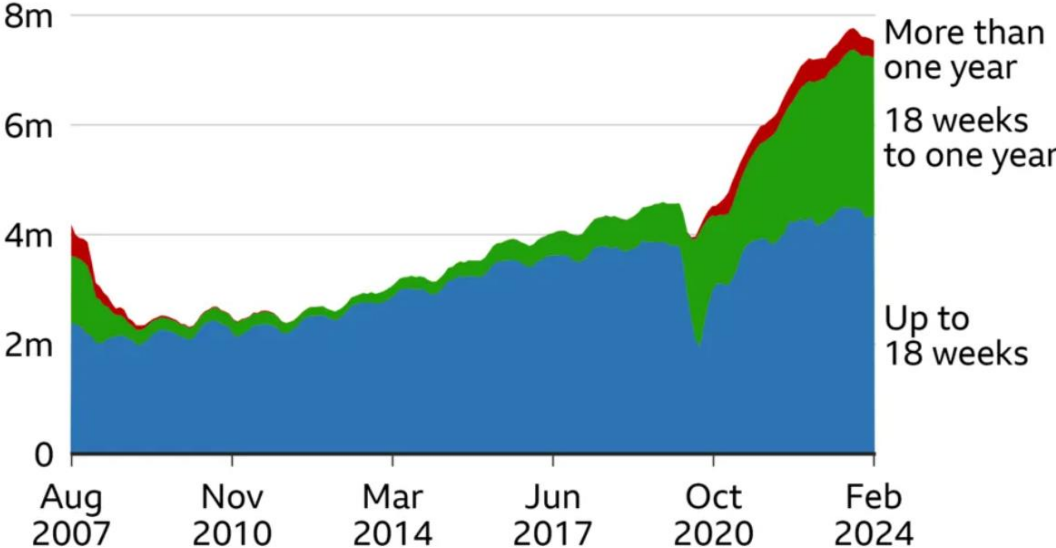
# Health Inequality & Epidemic of Lifestyle-Related Disease

## UK healthcare system crisis

*Doubling of deaths while awaiting treatment:  
 ~120,000 vs 60,000 pre-pandemic  
 235,000 pandemic excess deaths*

### Many people still waiting for treatment

Number of waits for hospital treatment in England (millions)

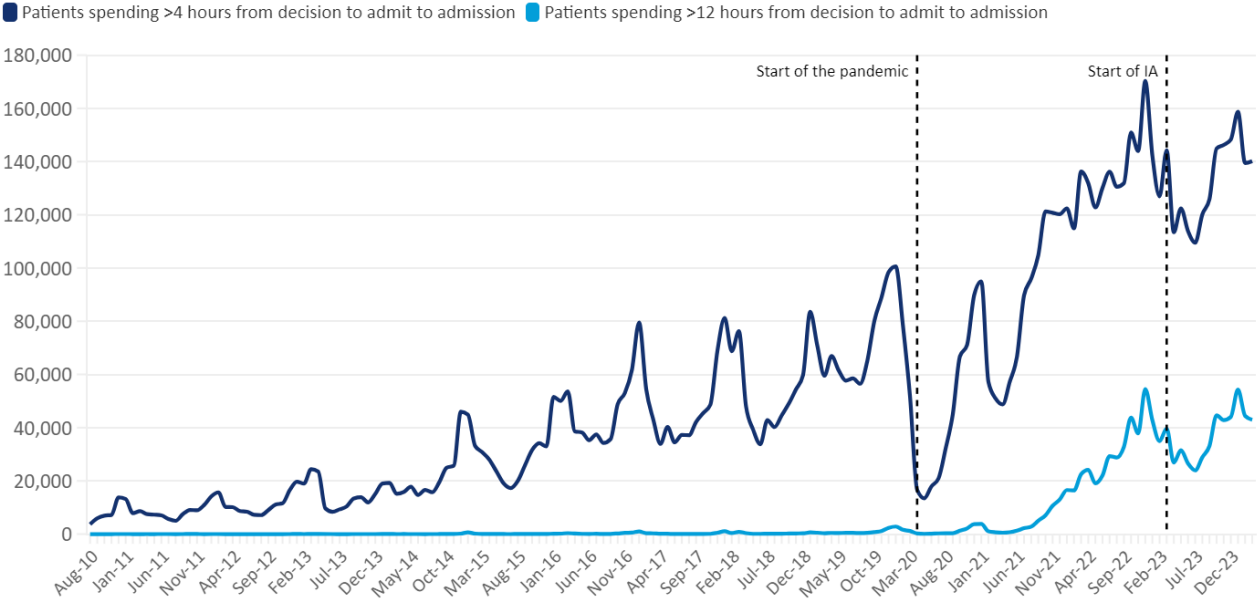


Source: NHS England, data to Feb 2024



### Patients are waiting longer for emergency admissions

August 2010 to March 2024



Source: NHS England Monthly A&E Time Series • Figures from Nov 2010 to May 2015 have been estimated from published weekly data by apportioning weeks into calendar months. Activity data from May 2019 includes data for all providers including field testing sites.



# Pandemic & RECOVERY Trial Findings: Highlighting Rheumatology, Inflammation and Lifestyle

- Dexamethasone

- Dexamethasone 6mg once a day for 10 days
- ↓severe COVID-19 mortality by: 18% (O<sub>2</sub> NNT 8), 36% (V NNT 25)  
for 8 patients treated with tocilizumab, one additional life would be saved

- Tocilizumab

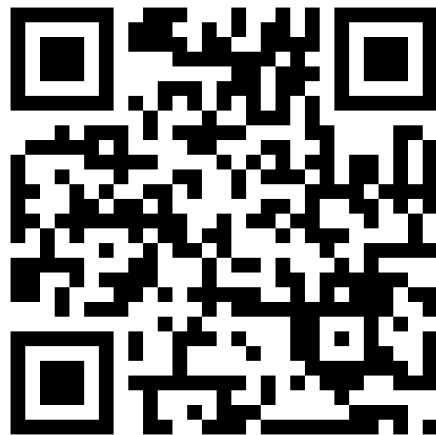
- 596 (29%) of the patients in the tocilizumab group died within 28 days
- Compared with 694 (33%) patients in the usual care group
- Rate ratio 0.86; 95%CI 0.77-0.96; p=0.007, an absolute difference of 4%.
- NNT 253

- Baricitinib

- 513 (12%) of the patients in the baricitinib group died within 28 days
- Compared with 546 (14%) patients in the usual care group
- Reduction of 13% (rate ratio 0.87, 95%CI 0.77-0.98; p= 0.026, NNT 20)

*Recovery, 20223*

# Why Lifestyle Matters: Inflammation & Outcomes Inextricably Linked



This calculator is only valid if you do not already have a diagnosis of coronary heart disease (including angina or heart attack) or stroke/transient ischaemic attack.

- Reset
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**About you**

Age (25-84):

Sex:  Male  Female

Ethnicity:

UK postcode: leave blank if unknown

Postcode:

**Clinical information**

Smoking status:

Diabetes status:

Angina or heart attack in a 1st degree relative < 60?

Chronic kidney disease (stage 3, 4 or 5)?

Atrial fibrillation?

On blood pressure treatment?

Do you have migraines?

Rheumatoid arthritis?

Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)?

Severe mental illness?   
(this includes schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and moderate/severe depression)

On atypical antipsychotic medication?

Are you on regular steroid tablets?

A diagnosis of or treatment for erectile dysfunction?

Leave blank if unknown

Cholesterol/HDL ratio:

Systolic blood pressure (mmHg):

Standard deviation of at least two most recent systolic blood pressure readings (mmHg):

Body mass index

Height (cm):

Weight (kg):

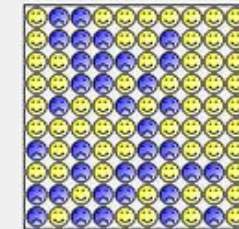
Calculate risk

**Your results**

Your risk of having a heart attack or stroke within the next 10 years is:

**35.6%**

In other words, in a crowd of 100 people with the same risk factors as you, 36 are likely to have a heart attack or stroke within the next 10 years.



Risk of a heart attack or stroke

Your score has been calculated using estimated data, as some information was left blank.

Your body mass index was calculated as 22.47 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

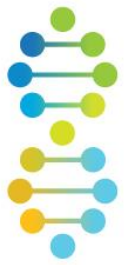
**How does your 10-year score compare?**

<b>Your score</b>	
Your 10-year QRISK <sup>®</sup> 3 score	35.6%
The score of a healthy person with the same age, sex, and ethnicity*	11.2%
Relative risk**	3.2
Your QRISK <sup>®</sup> 3 Healthy Heart Age***	83

\* This is the score of a healthy person of your age, sex and ethnic group, i.e. with no adverse clinical indicators and a cholesterol ratio of 4.0, a stable systolic blood pressure of 125, and BMI of 25.

\*\* Your relative risk is your risk divided by the healthy person's risk.

\*\*\* Your QRISK<sup>®</sup>3 Healthy Heart Age is the age at which a healthy person of your sex and ethnicity has your 10-year QRISK<sup>®</sup>3 score.



# British Society of lifestyle medicine

British Society of Lifestyle Medicine  
annual conference  
Manchester Central  
Sept 21st - Sept 23rd  
2023



Manchester

2023

- ✓ First hybrid event EICC
- ✓ Learning Academy launched
- ✓ Collaboration with universities & organisations delivering LM
- ✓ Increased Member benefits unlocked
- ✓ Free monthly webinar series launched

2022



2021



2020



- ✓ Record numbers hybrid event, +1,200
- ✓ First Learning Academy short courses
- ✓ Presidential & fellowship roles introduced
- ✓ LM inclusion in NICE guidelines
- ✓ Over 800 UK Diplomates

- ✓ First virtual conference
- ✓ Membership exceeded 1,000
- ✓ Special Interest Groups launched
- ✓ Group Consultations webinars reach over 1,500 registrants
- ✓ Lifestyle Medicine Journal launched

- ✓ Regional Reps appointed
- ✓ Over 20 LM courses accredited
- ✓ #1Change launched

## #1CHANGE

2019

2018



- ✓ IBLM Dip launched in UK
- ✓ Group Consultations Support Launched
- ✓ Student focus initiated



2017

2016

- ✓ First BSLM Conference (Bristol)
- ✓ Growth of membership





# 3 Principles, 6 Pillars of Lifestyle Medicine & Group Consultations- In-person & Virtual

- Acknowledge need for action on social determinants of health
- Proven techniques to support people to sustain lifestyle change
- Knowledge of the 6 pillars



Healthy Eating



Physical Activity



Minimising Harmful Substances



Sleep



Mental Wellbeing



Healthy Relationships

Pregnancy



Ages 0-2



Ages 2-18



Adults



Elderly



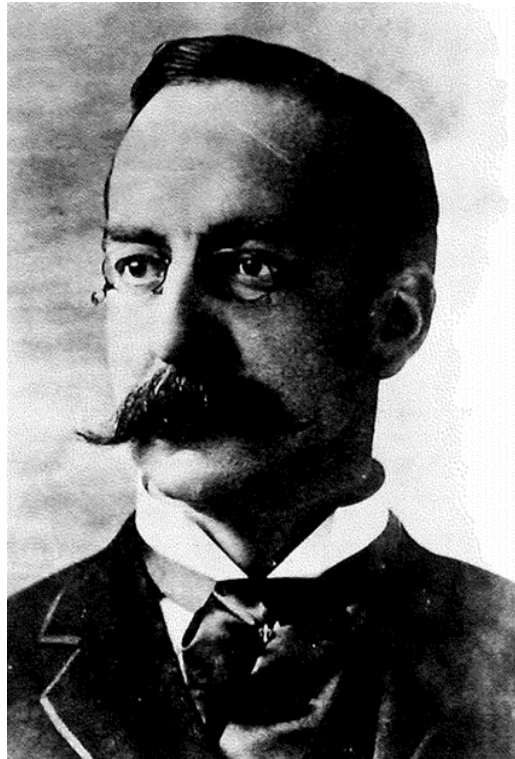
# Inspiration from a Pioneer: Joseph Pratt's 'Class Method': Forged as a Tool to Address Inequality

The undisputed pioneer of  
group consultation models

Pioneered group visits out of  
necessity at Massachusetts  
General Hospital in 1905

Spread to chronic disease  
management, scaled &  
sustained for decades: leading  
to continuous group  
psychotherapy practice

New England Journal of Medicine, 1955, 253:  
203-204; Pratt, JAMA 1907



*Acknowledgement Beth Frates, MD*



*Devedas & Birrell,  
CIMA Art 2022*

# Healthcare's Quintuple Aim- How Does Great Care Look?



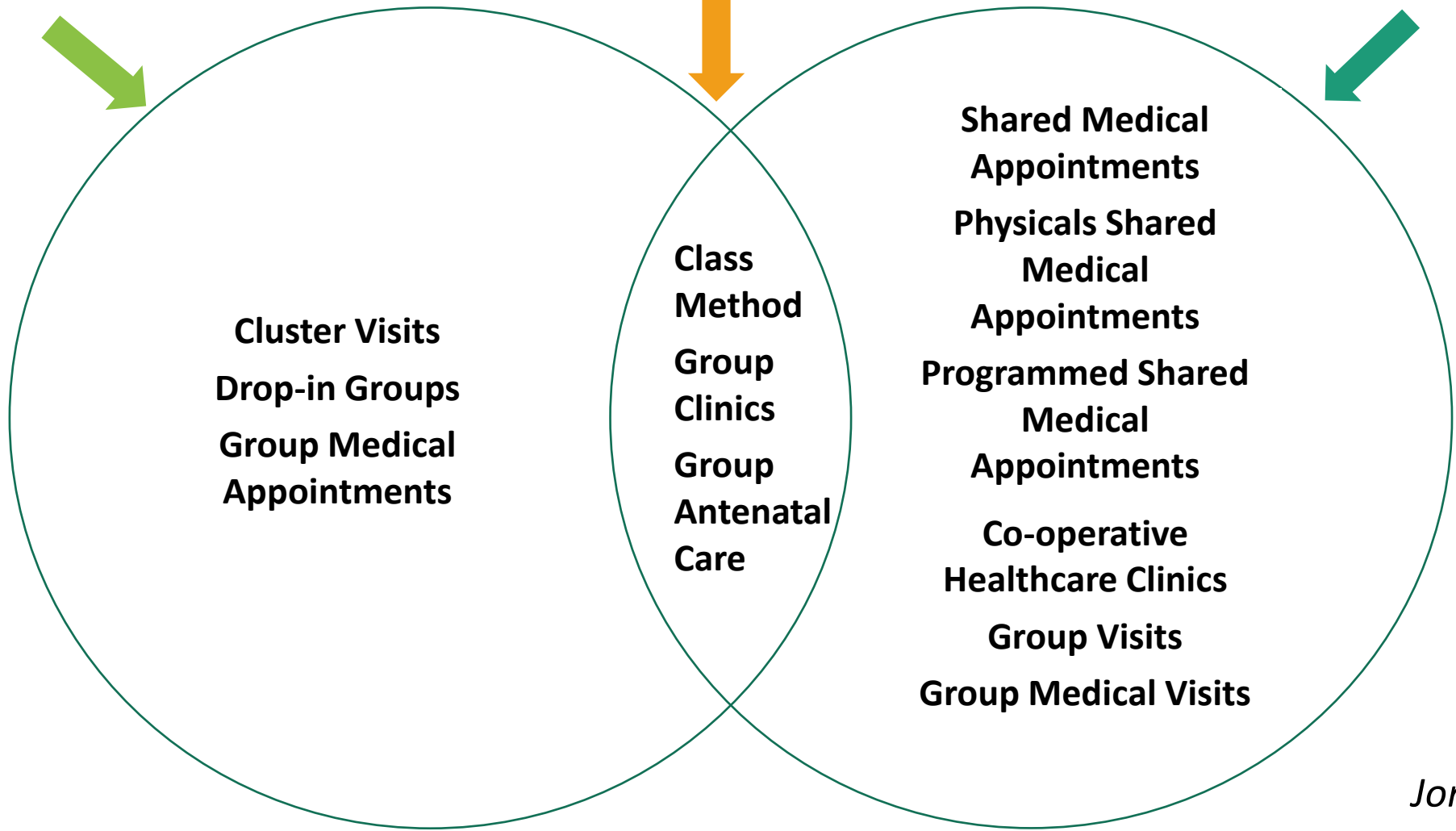
Birrell et al, 2021

# Virtual, In-person & Hybrid Group Consultation Models

**Type A: Access**

**Type B: Access & Chronic Care**

**Type C: Chronic Care**



# Evidence Across Life

## Pregnancy



### Group Antenatal Care

- ↓ Low birth weight
- ↓ Preterm births
- ↓ Maternal depression
- ↓ Maternal obesity
- ↑ Knowledge
- ↑ Satisfaction
- ↓ Cost

## Ages 0-2



### Developmental Reviews

- ↑ Clinical efficiency
- ↑ Uptake of 2-year review
- Embedded for 85%

## Ages 2-18



### Kids Bowel & Bladder

- ↑ 3 month waiting list eliminated in first quarter
- ↑ 900-1800% clinical efficiency
- ↑ High satisfaction
- ↑ Embedded as pathway default
- ↑ MDT follow up groups

## Adults



### Diabetes

- ↑ Knowledge/confidence self-manage
- ↓ Hypertension & HbA1c
- ↑ Clinical efficiency – >300%
- ↓ Hospital admissions

### Hypertension

- ↓ BP
- ↑ drug & lifestyle compliance

### Renal

- ↑ 95-100% patient/carer satisfaction
- ↑ 350% efficiency = est ↓£400k/yr

## Elderly



### Elderly with multimorbidity

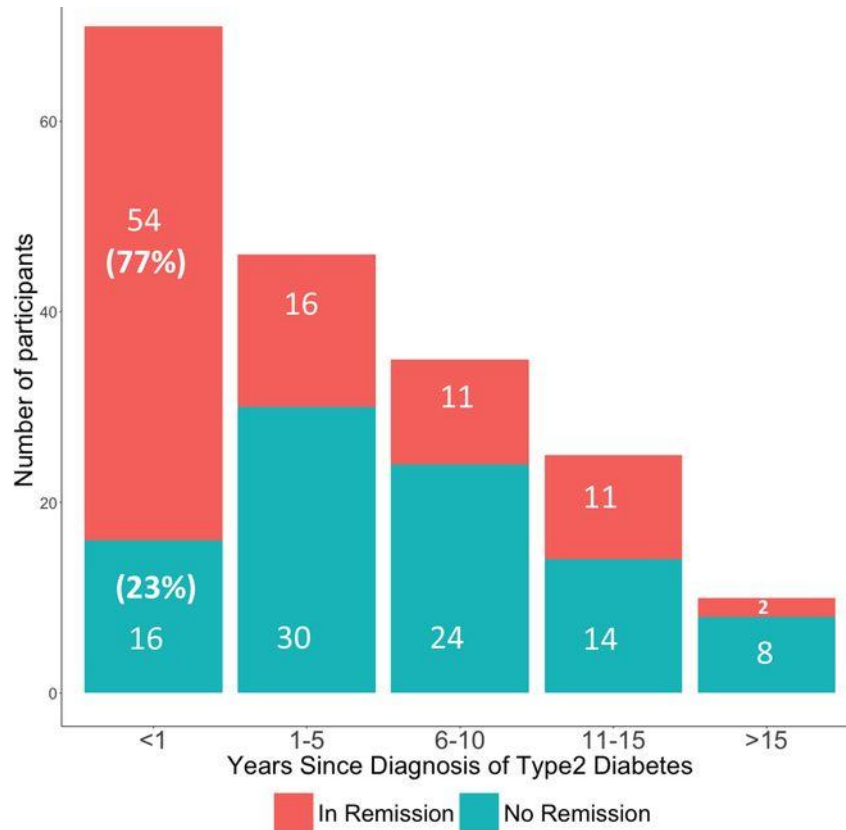
- ↓ Admissions
- ↓ Costs
- ↓ Medicines
- ↓ Incontinence
- ↑ Satisfaction
- ↑ Self-efficacy
- ↑ Quality of life

# Numerous Systematic Reviews on Group Care

- Health Service Performance vs Triple Aim
  - Thirty-one studies met the inclusion criteria:
    - Pregnancy (n = 9)
    - Diabetes (n = 15)
    - Other chronic health conditions (n = 7)
  - Potential to improve: patient experience, outcomes & costs
  - No adverse effects
  - Conclusion- more widespread use justified

*Cunningham et al, 2021*

A cohort of 186 patients with T2D on a low-carbohydrate diet for an average of 33 months stratified according to years since diagnosis, comparing baseline data for time since diagnosis of T2D between the remission group (n=94) and non-remission group (n=92).



1. Remission group  
Median (IQR)

2.0 (0.0, 68)  
months since  
diagnosis

2. Non remission  
group Median (IQR)

72 (28, 127)  
months since  
diagnosis

$p < 0.0001$

Those who achieve  
remission have had their  
T2D for a shorter time

David Unwin et al. BMJNPH 2023;6:46-55

BMJ Nutrition,  
Prevention & Health



# Consistent Patient Perspective

## What patients have told us about their Group Consultations experience



Website



App

Patients reported feeling more listened to & satisfied

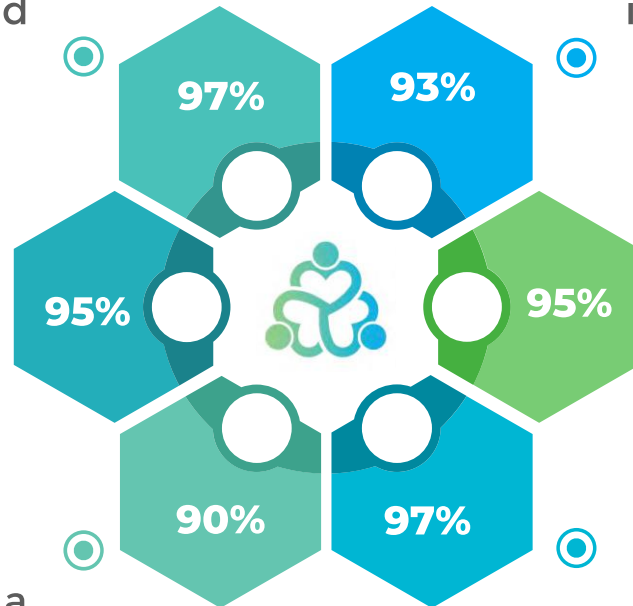
Patients said they felt more involved in decision making

Patients report having improved access & spending more time with their clinician

Patients felt more able to cope with their condition & keep themselves healthy

Patients report having a better understanding of their condition

Patients would recommend Group Consultations to friends & family



# Practicing Lifestyle Medicine

- Knowledge
  - What high quality care looks like: quintuple aim
  - Evidence underpinning all 6 pillars
  - Group consultations to create time and space for this
  - Virtual group consultations to address pandemic issues: both for care & learning
- Skills
  - Holistic approach to risks, lifestyle investigations & interventions
  - Coaching
  - Deprescribing
- Attitudes
  - Patient-centred approach
  - Willing to challenge orthodoxy/dogma and address structural health inequalities

LETS MEET AT  
THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
FOR LIFESTYLE MEDICINE

19TH - 21ST  
SEPTEMBER



MORE INFO HERE!



The Glasshouse  
International  
Centre for Music

NEWCASTLE

# Lifestyle Medicine

Open Access

Official Journal of the British Society of Lifestyle Medicine, Australasian Society of Lifestyle Medicine, the European Lifestyle Medicine Council, the Korean College of Lifestyle Medicine and the Sri Lankan Society of Lifestyle Medicine



Editor-in-Chief  
Fraser Birrell

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## Creating Compassionate Communities and Promoting Health: Above and Beyond Social Prescribing

First published: 27 July 2023 | Last updated: 17 October 2023

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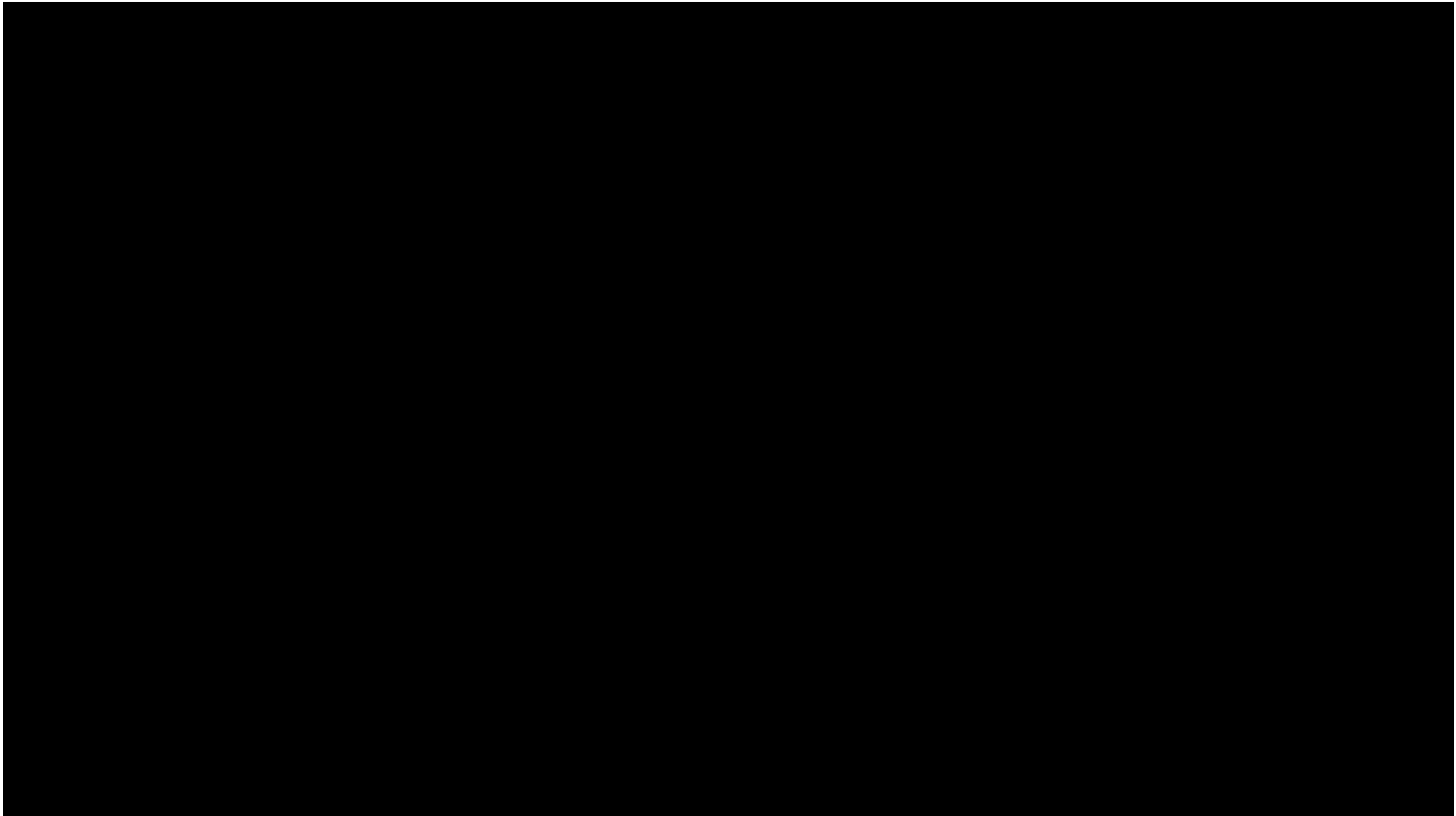
[Compassionate communities as the foundation of the next healthcare revolution](#)

Julian Abel, Thomas R. Wood

Lifestyle Medicine | First Published: 07 September 2023

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# Agenda/Learning Outcomes

*By the end of this session, attendees will:*

- Know core Rheumatology conditions presenting to AMU
  - Acute vasculitis (including Giant Cell Arteritis)
  - Septic Arthritis
  - Gout
  - Osteoarthritis & other inflammatory arthritides
  - Atlantoaxial subluxation
- Understand the key management options for these and wider implications:
  - Gastrointestinal bleed: risk & reporting
  - Disease Modifying Drugs and their toxicities
  - Biologic Therapies
  - Lifestyle Medicine
- Appreciate future opportunities to both deliver & manage emergency care

# Take Home Messages

- Giant Cell Arteritis- ring Rheumatology/Pred 40mg Out of Hours
- Septic Arthritis- aspirate or ring acute hot joint service
- Gout- colchicine/NSAIDs, prophylaxis once improving; treat to target  $<300\mu\text{M}$
- Atlantoaxial subluxation- think flex/ext C-spine before GA
- Gastrointestinal bleed: remember paracetamol/Yellow card
- Disease Modifying Drugs: omit MTX/extract Leflunomide
- Biologic Therapies: ask for alert card, consider infection & take advice
- The Future:
  - Group consultations
  - Lifestyle Medicine
  - Personalised medicine
  - Patient-centred care



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Questions?