

RAMP

Rush Algorithms for Cardiovascular Management of Patients on Cancer Therapies

Introduction

Background

Advances in cancer therapeutics have paved the way for the development of several novel anti-cancer treatments. Many of these agents carry a risk of potentially life-threatening cardiotoxicities.

Due to the exclusion of patients with cancer from cardiology studies; it is often difficult to generalize cardiology guidelines to patients with cancer. Therefore, it is important to provide guidelines on the cardiovascular management of patients on cancer therapies.

Objective

The goal of this document is to provide guidance to clinicians practicing at Rush across various disciplines, both in the outpatient and inpatient setting, on the cardiovascular management of patients on cancer therapies. We conducted a literature search and created 23 algorithms focusing on the monitoring, evaluation, and management of cardiac toxicities of cancer treatments.

Principal Authors/Editors

Taha Alrifai, MD. *Hematology/Oncology Fellow*

Tochukwu M. Okwuosa, DO. *Associate Professor, Director; Cardio-Oncology Program*

Contributors¹

Taha Alrifai, MD. *Hematology/Oncology Fellow*

Sally Arif, PharmD, BCPS, BCCP. *Associate Professor; Midwestern University/Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Cardiology*

Marta Batus, MD. *Associate Professor; Associate Director, Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program*

Mary Jo Fidler, MD. *Associate Professor; Chief, Section of Medical Oncology*

Niree Kalfayan, PharmD, BCOP; *Oncology Pharmacist, Cedar-Sinai Medical Center*

Timothy Kuzel, MD, FACP. *Professor; Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology and Cell Therapy*

Melissa L. Larson, MD. *Professor; Director, Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program; Director; Leukemia Program*

Danielle Murphy, PharmD. *Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplant*

Becca Myers, PharmD, BCOP. *Clinical Pharmacy Specialist Hematology/Oncology/Stem Cell Transplant*

Sunita Nathan, MD. *Associate Professor, Division of Hematology, Oncology and Cell Therapy, Section of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*

Tochukwu M. Okwuosa, DO. *Associate Professor, Director; Cardio-Oncology Program*

Jamile M. Shammo, MD, FASCP, FACP. *Professor; Division of Hematology/Oncology and Cell Therapy*

Celalettin Ustun, MD. *Professor; Section Chief, Bone marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy*

Parameswaran Venugopal, MD. *Professor; The Elodia Kehm Chair of Hematology; Director, Section of Hematology*

¹ By alphabetical order

List of Possible Cardiotoxicities of Cancer Therapies²

Cancer Therapies associated with Left Ventricular Dysfunction

1. Anthracyclines (Dose-dependent)

- Doxorubicin (1-20%)
- Epirubicin (0.9-3.3%)
- Idarubicin
- Daunorubicin
- Mitoxantrone
- Other anthracycline formulations:
 - Liposomal doxorubicin
 - Liposomal daunorubicin and cytarabine (Vyxeos)

2. Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors (TKIs)

Small molecule

- Dabrafenib (when combined with trametinib)
- Dasatinib
- Lapatinib
- Pazopanib
- Ponatinib
- Sorafenib
- Sunitinib (11-16%)
- Trametinib
- Imatinib
- Osimertinib (3%)

MAb-based

- Ado-Trastuzumab emtansine
- Pertuzumab
- Trastuzumab
- Neratinib
- Alemtuzumab

Angiogenesis inhibitors

- Bevacizumab (1% ; 4% with anthracycline use)
- Ramucirumab

3. Proteasome Inhibitors

- Bortezomib ($\leq 1\%$)
- Carfilzomib

4. Cyclophosphamide (Mainly with higher doses $>1.55\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ (and as low as $100\text{ mg}/\text{kg}$))

5. OTHERS

Alkylating Agents

- Ifosfamide (Ifex)
- Cisplatin

² Frequencies listed in parenthesis after each agent where available in Lexicomp®.

Antimetabolites

- Decitabine (Hypomethylating agent) (5%)
- Cytarabine (more common when combined with cyclophosphamide)

Antimicrotubule agents

- Docetaxel
- Paclitaxel

Miscellaneous

- ATRA (6%)
- Mitomycin
- Interferon- α
- Pentostatin (<3%)

Cancer therapies associated with Hypertension

1. TKIs

Small molecule TKIs

- Acalabrutinib (3%)
- Axitinib (40%)
- Cabozantinib (30-61%)
- Ibrutinib (14-19%; cumulative over time)Nilotinib (10-11%)
- Pazopanib (40-42%)
- Ponatinib (31-53%; severe hypertension: 3% - 13%)
- Ramucirumab (16-25%)
- Regorafenib (30-59%; hypertensive crisis: <1%)
- Sorafenib (9-41%)
- Sunitinib (15-39%)
- Trametinib (15%)
- Vandetanib (\leq 33%)
- Zanubrutinib (12%)
- Ziv-aflibercept (41%)
- Brigatinib (21-32%)
- Lenvatinib (45-73%)

MAB-based

- Ado-Trastuzumab emtansine (5-6%)

Angiogenesis Inhibitors

- Bevacizumab (24-42%)
- Ramucirumab (16-25%)

2. OTHERS

Antimetabolites

- Decitabine (Hypomethylating agent) (6%)

Alkylating agents

- Cisplatin

Monoclonal antibodies

- Alemtuzumab
- Ibritumomab-Tiuxetan(7%)
- Ofatumumab (5%)
- Rituximab (6-12%)

mTOR Inhibitors

- Everolimus (17-30%)
- Temsirolimus (7%)

Proteasome Inhibitors

- Bortezomib
- Carfilzomib (15-42%)

Antiandrogen Therapy

- Abiraterone (9-37%)

Cancer therapies associated with Venous Thromboembolism (VTE)

1. Immunomodulatory imide drugs

- Lenalidomide (2-4%)
- Thalidomide (13%)
- Pomalidomide

2. Alkylating agents

- Cisplatin

3. Histone deacetylase inhibitor

- Vorinostat (5%; Pulmonary embolism)
- Belinostat
- Panobinostat

4. Monoclonal Antibody-based TKI

Angiogenesis inhibitors

- Bevacizumab (5-11%; grade 3-4)
- Ramucirumab

5. Antimicrotubule Agents

- Paclitaxel ($\leq 1\%$)

6. mTOR inhibitors

- Everolimus

7. Small molecule TKIs

- Axitinib (1%)
- Cabozantinib (6-7%)
- Dabrafenib (Mostly when combined with trametinib)
- Erlotinib (4% - in combination with gemcitabine: 11%)
- Nilotinib
- Pazopanib (1-5%)
- Ponatinib (2%)
- Sorafenib ($< 1\%$)
- Sunitinib (4%)
- Trametinib
- Ziv-aflibercept (9%)

8. Endocrine Therapy

- Tamoxifen ($\leq 2\%$)

- Raloxifene (1-2%)
- Anastrozole (2%)
- Letrozole ($\leq 3\%$)
- Exemestane ($< 1\%$)

Cancer therapies associated with Bradycardia

1. **Angiogenesis Inhibitors**
 - Thalidomide ($\geq 3\%$)
2. **Antimicrotubule agents**
 - Paclitaxel (AV block) (3%)
3. **Antimetabolites**
 - Cytarabine
4. **Small molecule TKIs**
 - Ceritinib (1-4%)
 - Crizotinib (5-14%)
 - Pazopanib (2-19%)
 - Trametanib
 - Alectinib (8-18%)
 - Brigatinib (8-12%)

Cancer therapies associated with Arrhythmias

1. **BTK Inhibitors**
 - Ibrutinib (Atrial fibrillation $\leq 8\%$ – VT/VFib $\leq 1\%$)
 - Zanubrutinib (Atrial fibrillation 2%)
 - Acalabrutinib (Atrial fibrillation $\leq 5\%$)
2. **Antimetabolites**
 - Capecitabine (Atrial fibrillation $< 5\%$; Premature ventricular complexes $< 5\%$)
 - 5FU
3. **Interleukins**
 - IL-2 (10%)
4. **OTHERS**
 - Anthracyclines*
 - Epirubicin
 - Idarubicin
 - Daunorubicin
 - Mitoxantrone (3-18%)
 - Doxorubicin
 - Antimicrotubule agents*
 - Paclitaxel (PVCs – VT) ($\leq 1\%$)
 - Proteasome inhibitors*
 - Carfilzomib

Alkylating Agents

- Ifosfamide (Ifex)

Monoclonal Antibodies

- Rituximab

Small molecule TKIs

- Osimertinib (SVT)

Cancer therapies associated with Myocarditis

1. Immune checkpoint inhibitors (with/without Pericarditis)³

PD-1 inhibitors

- Pembrolizumab ($\leq 1\%$)
- Nivolumab
- Cemiplimab
- Dostarlimab

PD-L1 inhibitors

- Atezolizumab
- Avelumab
- Durvalumab

CTLA-4 inhibitors

- Ipilimumab

2. Cyclophosphamide

3. OTHERS

Anthracyclines (with/without Pericarditis)

- Epirubicin
- Idarubicin
- Daunorubicin
- Mitoxantrone
- Doxorubicin

Alkylating Agents (with/without Pericarditis)

- Cyclophosphamide [Mainly with higher doses $>1.55\text{g}/\text{m}^2$ (and as low as $100\text{ mg}/\text{kg}$)]

Cancer therapies associated with QT Prolongation

1. Arsenic Trioxide (ATO) (40%; $>500\text{ msec}$)

2. TKIs

ALK Inhibitors

- Ceritinib (4-12%)

BRAF Inhibitors

- Dabrafenib
- Vemurafenib ($\leq 55\%$)

MEK Inhibitors

- Trametanib

³ Up to 1.3% with combination IO/IO; particularly combination ipilimumab/nivolumab
Created: May 2021

EGFR Inhibitors

- Osimertinib (≤10%)

ROS1 Inhibitors

- Crizotinib (5-6%)

CDK4/6 Inhibitors

- Ribociclib (1-6%)

IDH Inhibitors

- Ivosidenib (10-26%)
- Enasidenib

FLT3 Inhibitors

- Midostaurin (11%)
- Gilteritinib (1-10%)

Multikinase Inhibitors

- Vandetanib (14%)
- Pazopanib (2%)
- Dasatinib (≤1%)
- Lapatinib
- Nilotinib (>60 msec from baseline: 4%; >500 msec: <1%)
- Sunitinib

3. OTHERS

Histone deacetylase inhibitors

- Belinostat (11%; grades 3/4: 4%)
- Vorinostat
- Romidepsin

Monoclonal Antibodies

- Gemtuzumab-ozogamicin

Cancer therapies associated with MI/Ischemia

1. Angiogenesis inhibitors

- Lenalidomide
- Pomalidomide

2. Antimetabolites

- Capecitabine
- Fluorouracil

3. TKI

Small molecule

- Nilotinib (5-9%)
- Ponatinib (2%)
- Erlotinib (2%)
- Sorafenib (2-3%)

Monoclonal antibody – based TKI

Angiogenesis Inhibitors

- Bevacizumab
- Ramucirumab

4. OTHERS

Alkylating agents

- Cisplatin
- Carboplatin
- Oxaliplatin

Antimicrotubule agents

- Paclitaxel

Proteasome inhibitors

- Carfilzomib

Vinca alkaloids

Interferon- α

Cancer therapies associated with Hypotension

- Etoposide (1-10%; due to rapid infusion)
- Paclitaxel (4-12%)
- Alemtuzumab
- Cetuximab
- Rituximab (10%)
- IL-2 (71%, grade 4: 3%)
- Denileukin
- Interferon- α
- All-trans retinoic acid (14%)
- Omacetaxine mepesuccinate

Cancer therapies associated with Pericardial Disease

Immune checkpoint inhibitors → pericarditis

Cytarabine/Ara-C → pericarditis (rare, hemorrhagic pericarditis)

ATRA → pericardial effusion (3%)

Imatinib → pericardial effusion

Miscellaneous

Busulfan → Endomyocardial fibrosis + Tamponade

Fluorouracil → Cardiogenic shock

Abbreviation List:

- 2D: Two-Dimensional
- 5FU : 5-Fluorouracil
- ABI: Ankle-Brachial Index
- AC: Anticoagulation
- ACEi: Angiotensin Converting Enzyme Inhibitor
- ACLS: Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support
- Ara-C: Arabinosylcytosine
- ARB: Angiotensin-II Receptor Blocker
- ASCVD: Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease
- ATO: Arsenic Trioxide
- ATRA: All-Transretinoic Acid
- AV: Atrio-ventricular
- BB: Beta Blocker
- BCR/ABL: Breakpoint Cluster Region/Abelson protooncogene
- BNP: B-Natriuretic Peptide
- CABG: Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
- CAD: Coronary Artery Disease
- CCB: Calcium Channel Blocker
- CV: Cardiovascular
- DDI: Drug-Drug Interaction
- DM: Diabetes Mellitus
- DP-CCB : Dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blocker
- ECG: Electrocardiogram
- EPO: Epogen (or erythrocyte stimulating agents in general)
- FP : Fluoropyrimidine
- GDMT: Goal-Directed Medical Therapy
- GFR: Glomerular Filtration Rate
- GLS: Global Longitudinal Strain
- Gy: Grays
- HBPM: Home Blood Pressure Monitoring
- HDACi: Histone Deacetylase inhibitor
- HER2: Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor-2
- HF: Heart Failure
- HR: Heart Rate
- HTN: hypertension
- ICIs: Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors
- IL-2: Interleukin-2
- IMiDs: Immunomodulatory Imide Drugs
- irAEs : Immune-related Adverse Events
- LHC: Left Heart Catheterization
- LV: Left Ventricle
- LVEF: Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction
- MAb: Monoclonal Antibody
- MI: Myocardial Infarction
- NDP-CCB: Non-dihydropyridine Calcium Channel Blocker
- PAD: Peripheral Artery Disease
- PCI: Percutaneous Coronary Intervention
- PI: Proteasome Inhibitor
- PNA: Pneumonia
- PVC: Premature Ventricular Complex
- SVT : Supraventricular Tachycardia
- TKI: Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor
- TLS: Tumor Lysis Syndrome
- TOR: Target of Rapamycin
- TSH: Thyroid Stimulating Hormone
- TTE: Transthoracic Echocardiogram
- VEGF: Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor
- VFib: Ventricular Fibrillation
- VT: Ventricular Tachycardia
- VTE: Venous Thromboembolism

Patients at Baseline Increased Risk for Cardiovascular Toxicity, particularly LV dysfunction

1. High-dose anthracycline (e.g., doxorubicin ≥ 250 mg/m², epirubicin ≥ 600 mg/m²).
 2. High-dose radiotherapy (≥ 30 Gy) where the heart is in the treatment field.
 3. Lower-dose anthracycline (e.g., doxorubicin < 250 mg/m², epirubicin < 600 mg/m², daunorubicin < 900 mg/m², idarubicin < 225 mg/m², mitoxantrone < 200 mg/m²⁴) or *HER2* inhibitors, *VEGF* inhibitors, Proteasome inhibitors, *BCR/ABL* inhibitor **PLUS** of any of the following factors:
 - a. Age ≥ 65 years
 - b. Lower-dose radiotherapy (< 30 Gy) where the heart is in the treatment field
 - c. ≥ 2 Risk factors, including hypertension, diabetes mellitus, smoking, dyslipidemia, chronic kidney disease, and obesity.
 4. History of cardiovascular disease
 5. Elevated cardiac biomarkers (NT-proBNP/BNP and/or Troponin), before the initiation of anti-cancer treatment
- **Specific risk factors are included in the following algorithms*

Pre-treatment Work-up for Patients at Baseline Increased Risk

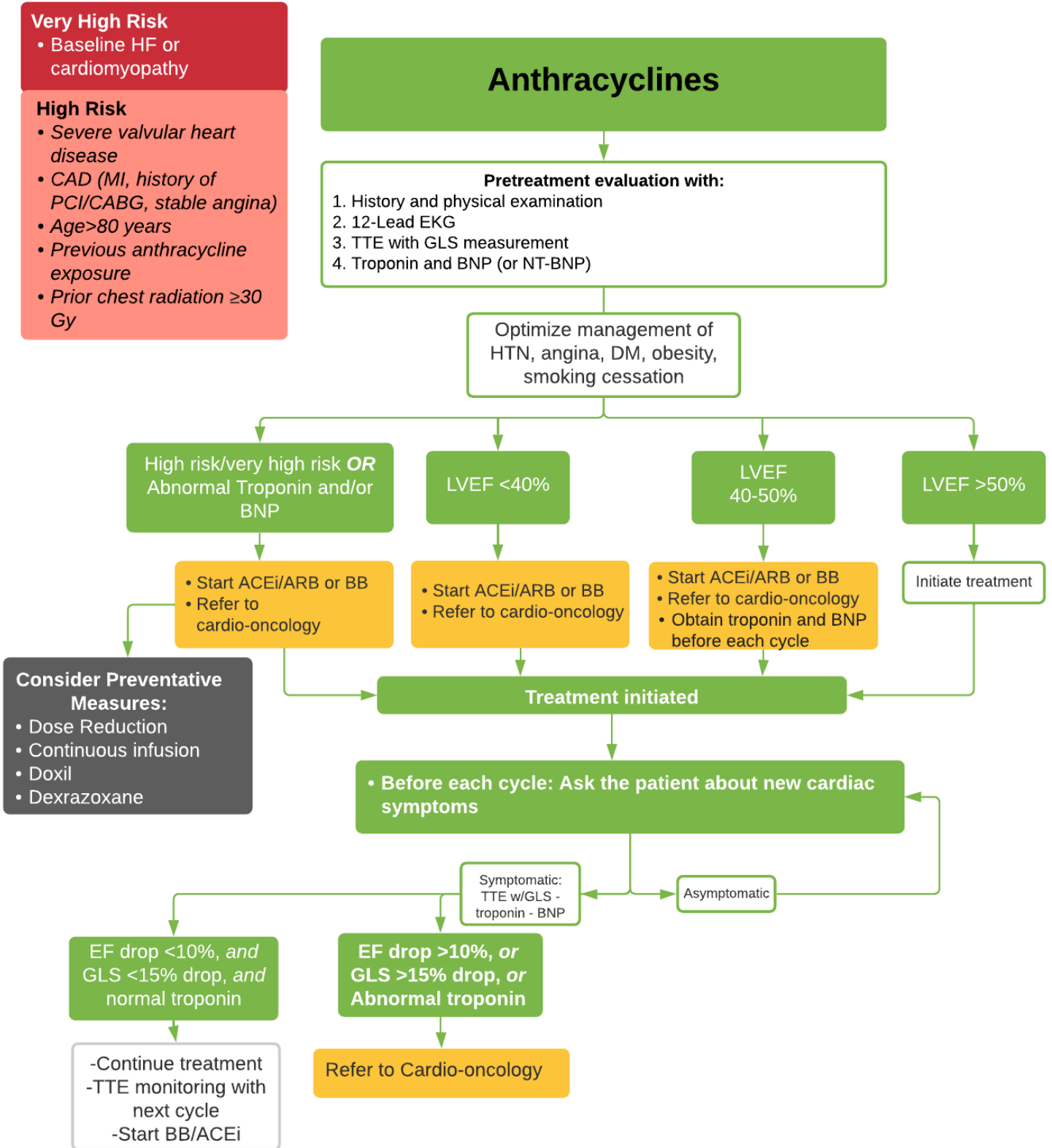
1. History and physical examination (including blood pressure measurement)
2. 12-Lead ECG
3. Blood glucose – calculated GFR – TSH; consider troponin, BNP (or NT-proBNP) based on risk profile
4. Transthoracic echocardiography (TTE)
5. To include left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) measurement and Global Longitudinal Strain (GLS) measurement.
 - Low threshold to utilize LV contrast agents for the 2D echocardiography
 - i. [Can include the text in “5” under the “comments” section on the TTE order]
 - 3-dimensional preferred over 2-dimensional LVEF, if 2D; at least 2D Simpson biplane method
6. Optimize electrolytes; e.g, potassium > 4 mmol/L, magnesium > 2 mg/dL, calcium > 8 mg/dL, phosphorus > 2 mg/dL (refer to institutional outpatient/inpatient replacement guidelines).
7. Counsel the patient on the importance of exercising on a regular basis and healthy dietary habits.

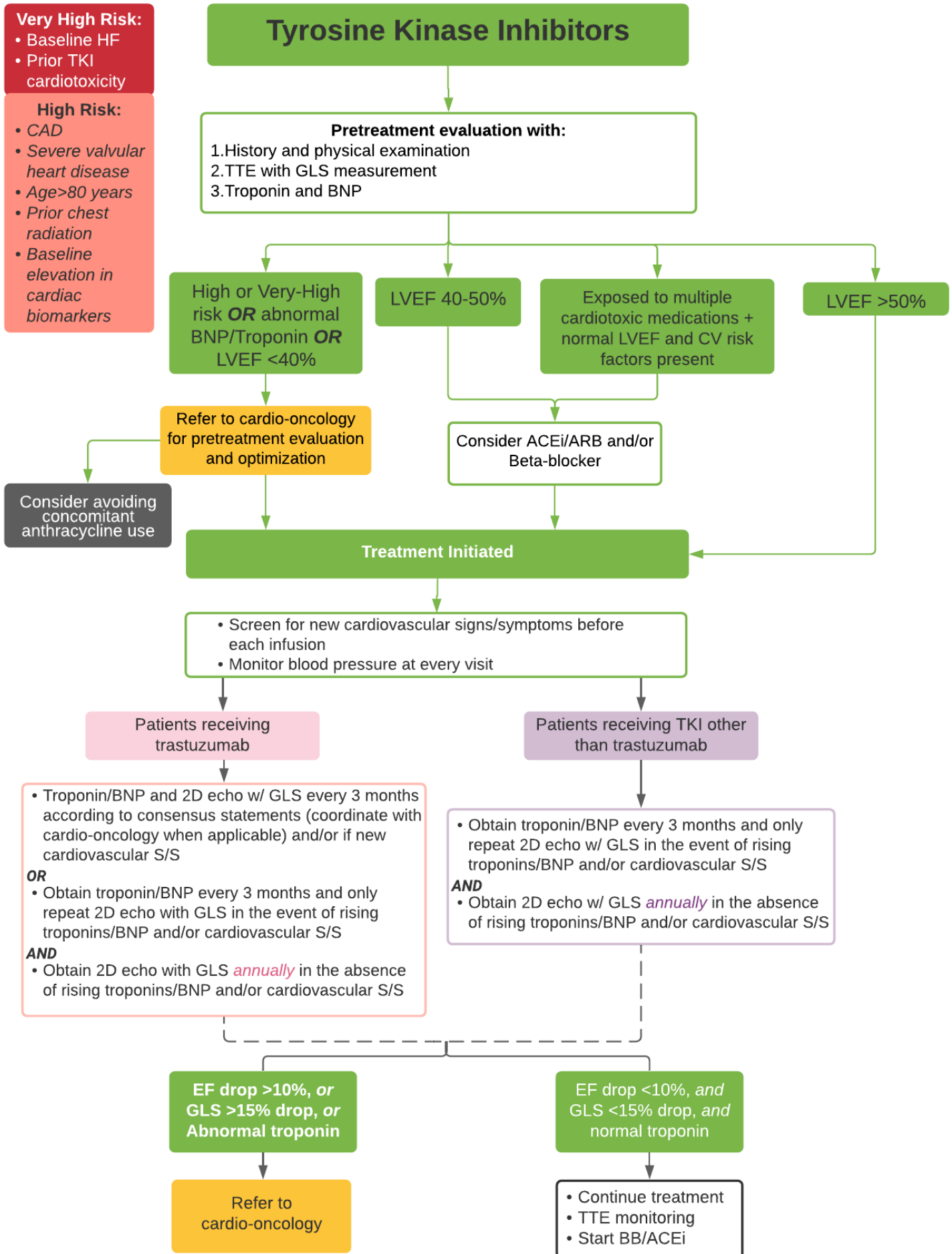
Other Pre-treatment considerations; by oncology, cardio-oncology/cardiology

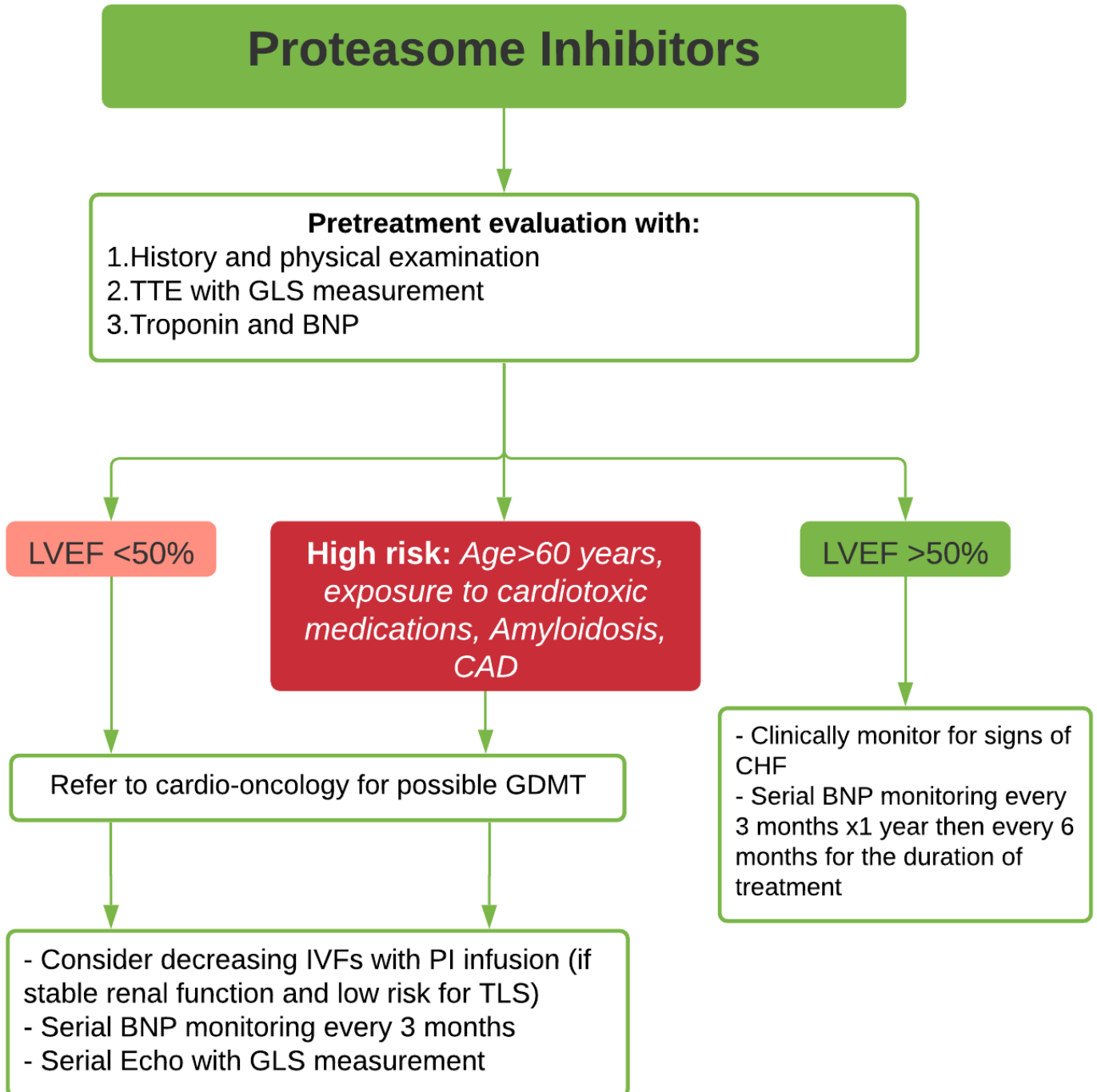
1. Troponin, BNP (or NT-proBNP), Lipid panel, HbA1c, TSH
2. [Calculation of the 10-year ASCVD risk score](#)
3. For TTE: In the absence of GLS quantification of LV longitudinal function, assess diastolic function
4. Cardiac magnetic resonance imaging is recommended if the quality of the TTE is suboptimal
 - It is recommended to use the same imaging modality for monitoring of cardiac function after the initiation of treatment
5. Manage modifiable cardiovascular risk factors and diseases (obesity, smoking, hypertension, dyslipidemia, coronary artery disease (CAD), peripheral arterial disease (PAD), arrhythmias).

⁴ See [Appendix-1](#) for anthracycline toxicity equivalence ratios

Cardiomyopathy







See next algorithm for management of proteasome-inhibitor related cardiotoxicity

Proteasome Inhibitor-Related Cardiotoxicity

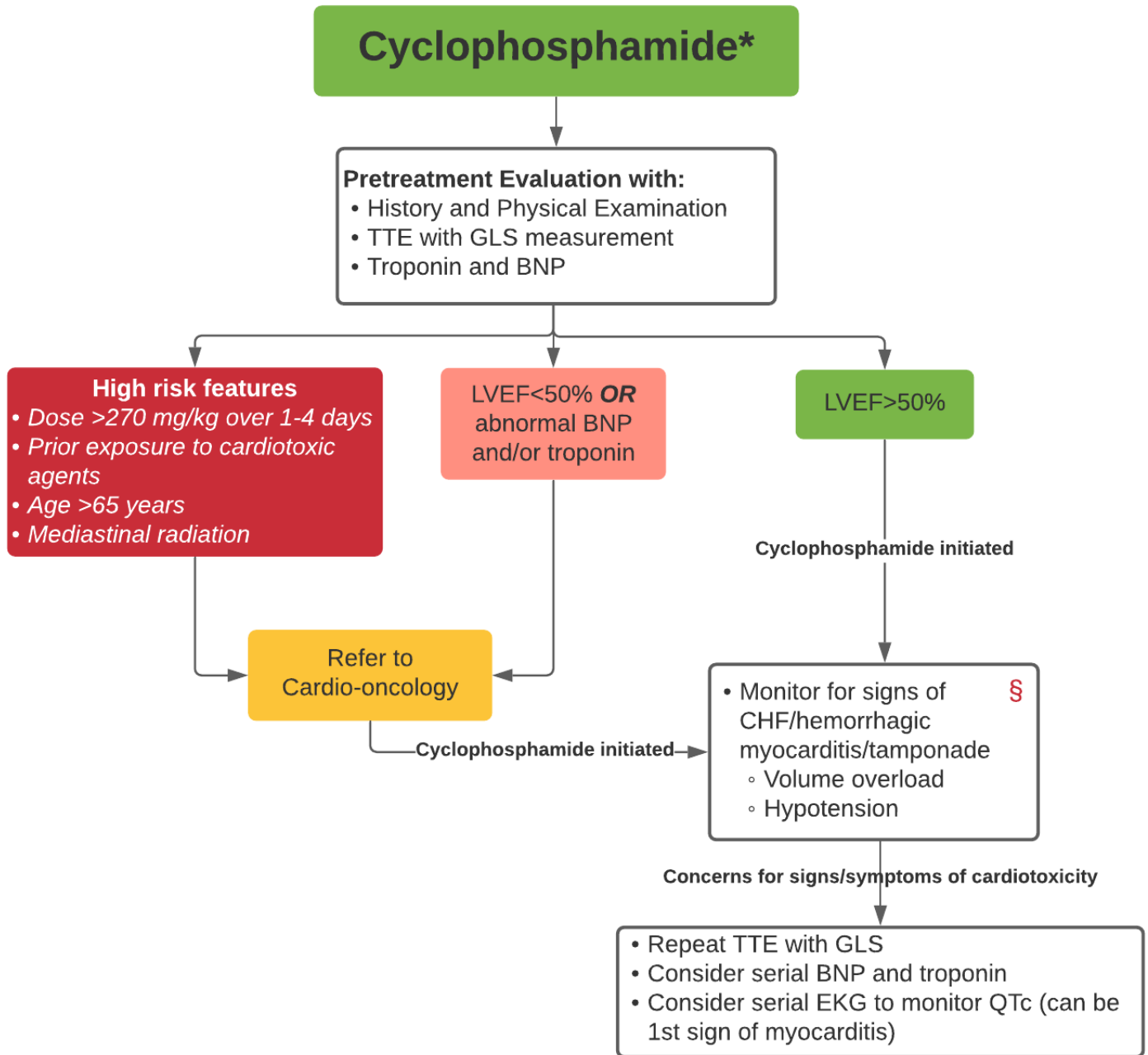
Rule out alternative causes
(PE, PNA, Anemia, etc)

Hold until toxicity CTCAE
grade <2*

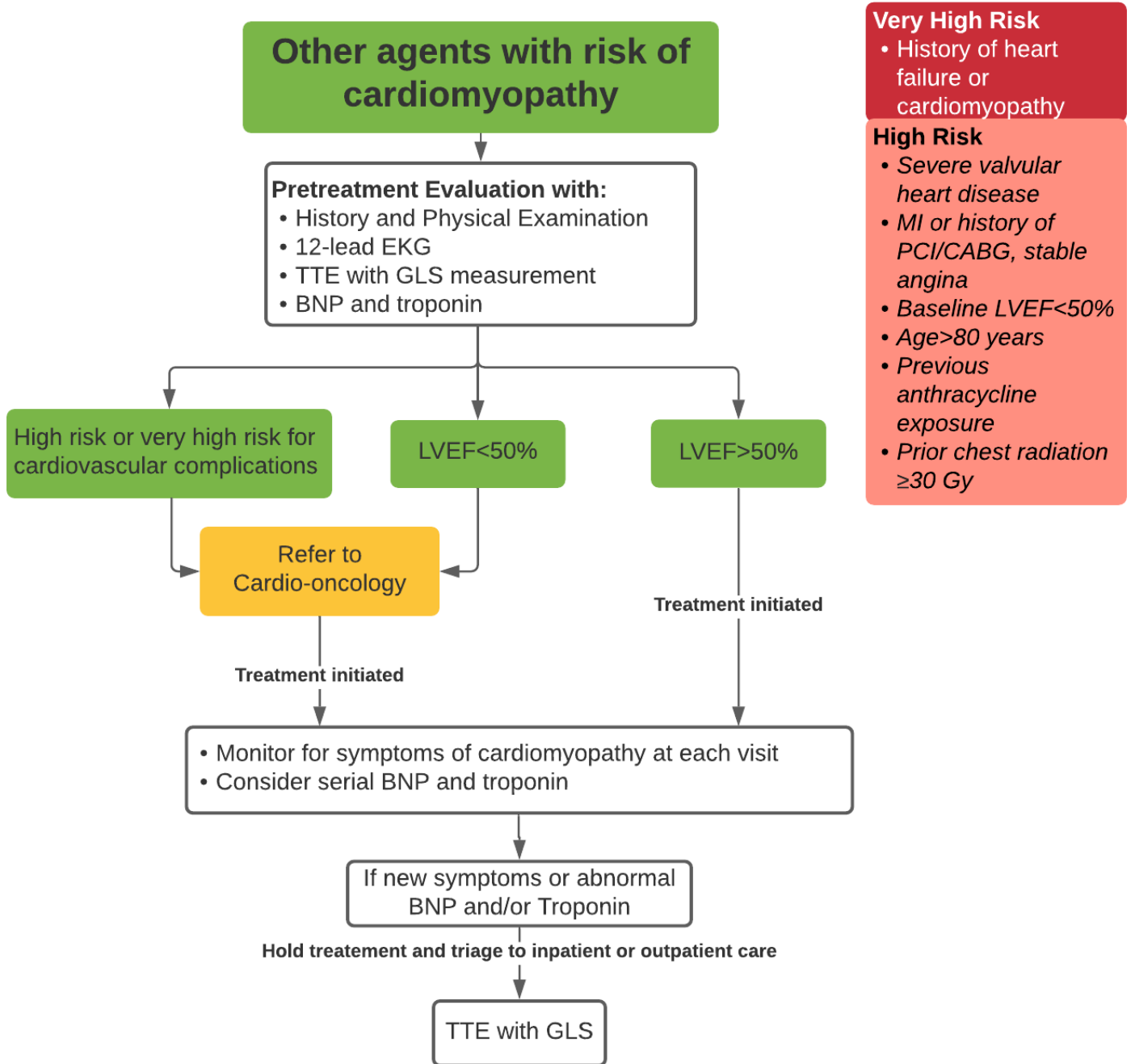
Rechallenge planned

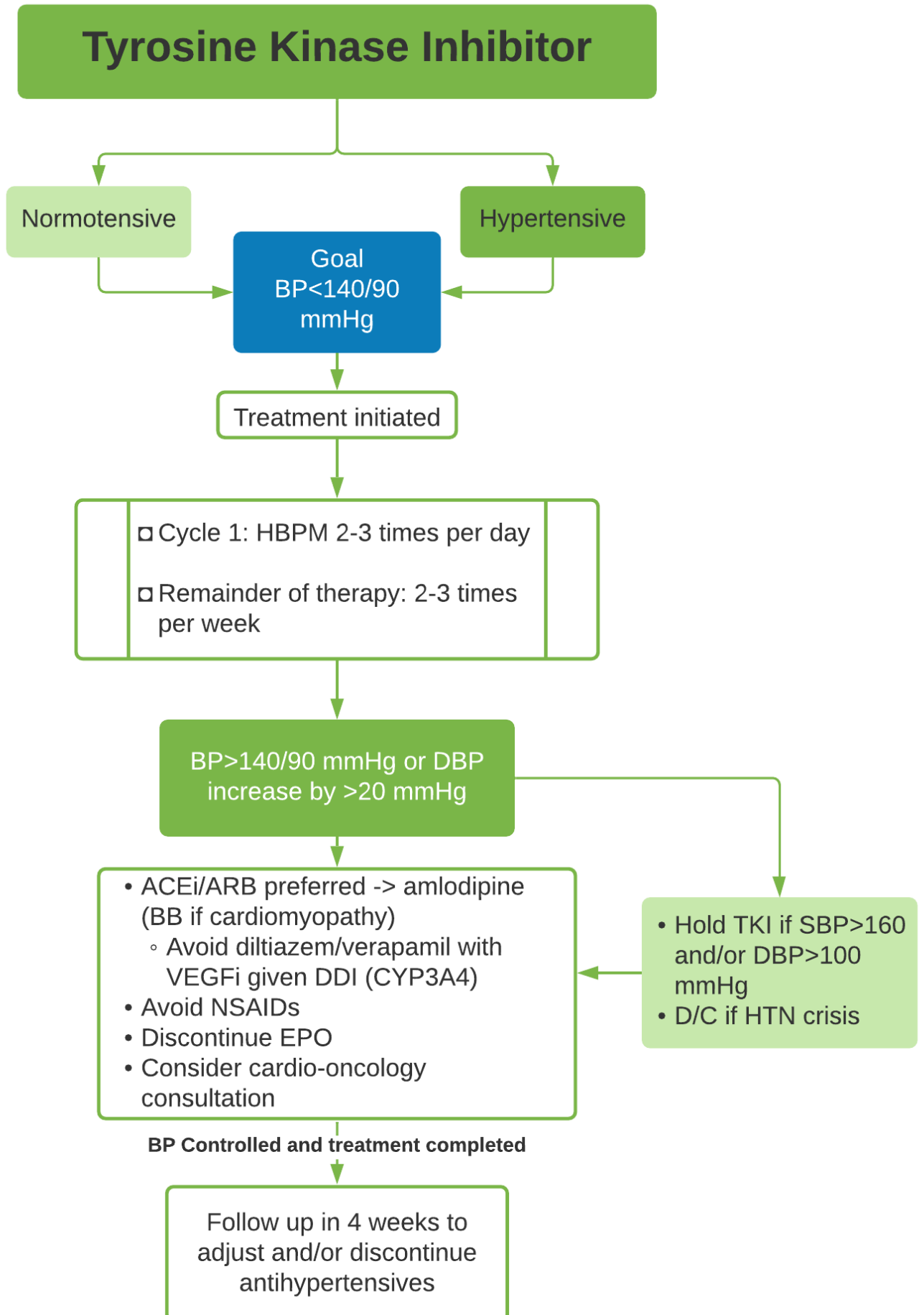
- Implement all screening recommendations under "pretreatment evaluation"
- Consider dose-reduction
- Consider decreasing hydration (stable renal function and low risk of TLS)
- Consider minimizing steroid use

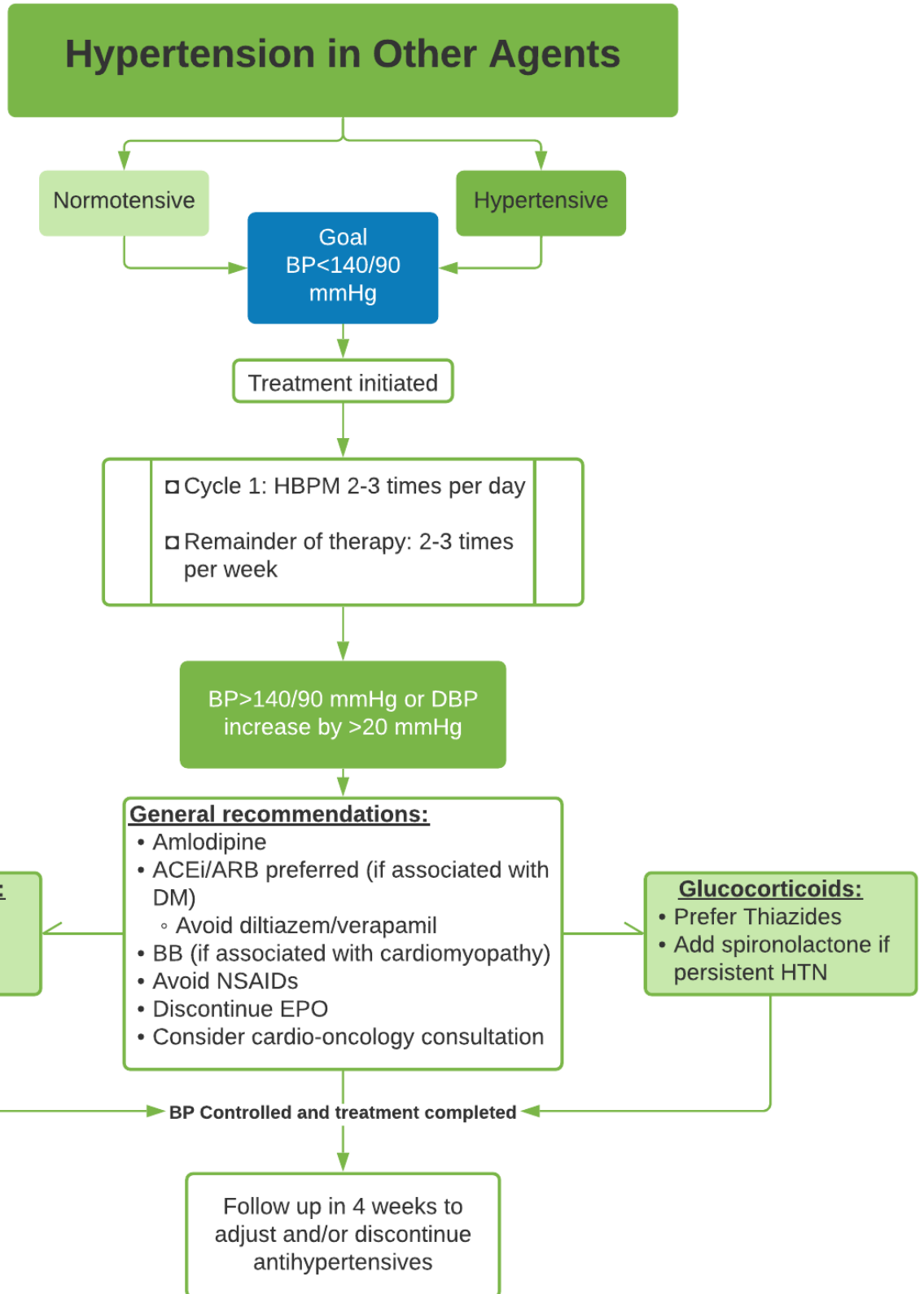
***Grade 2:** symptoms with mild exertion

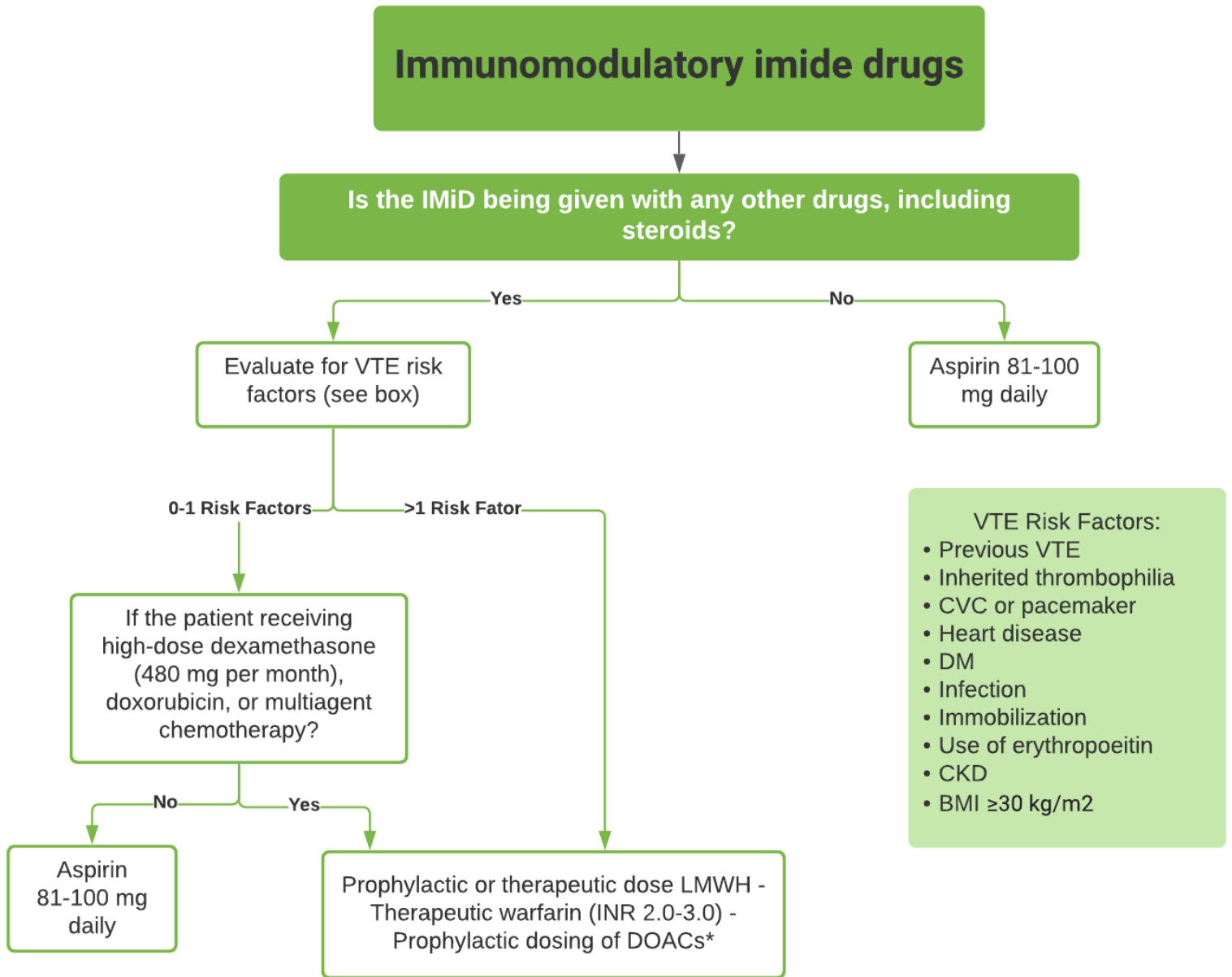


*Risk for cardiotoxicity mainly with higher doses > 1.55g/m² (and as low as 100 mg/kg) per dose
 § Maintain a low threshold to repeat TTE if any new symptoms or changes in markers





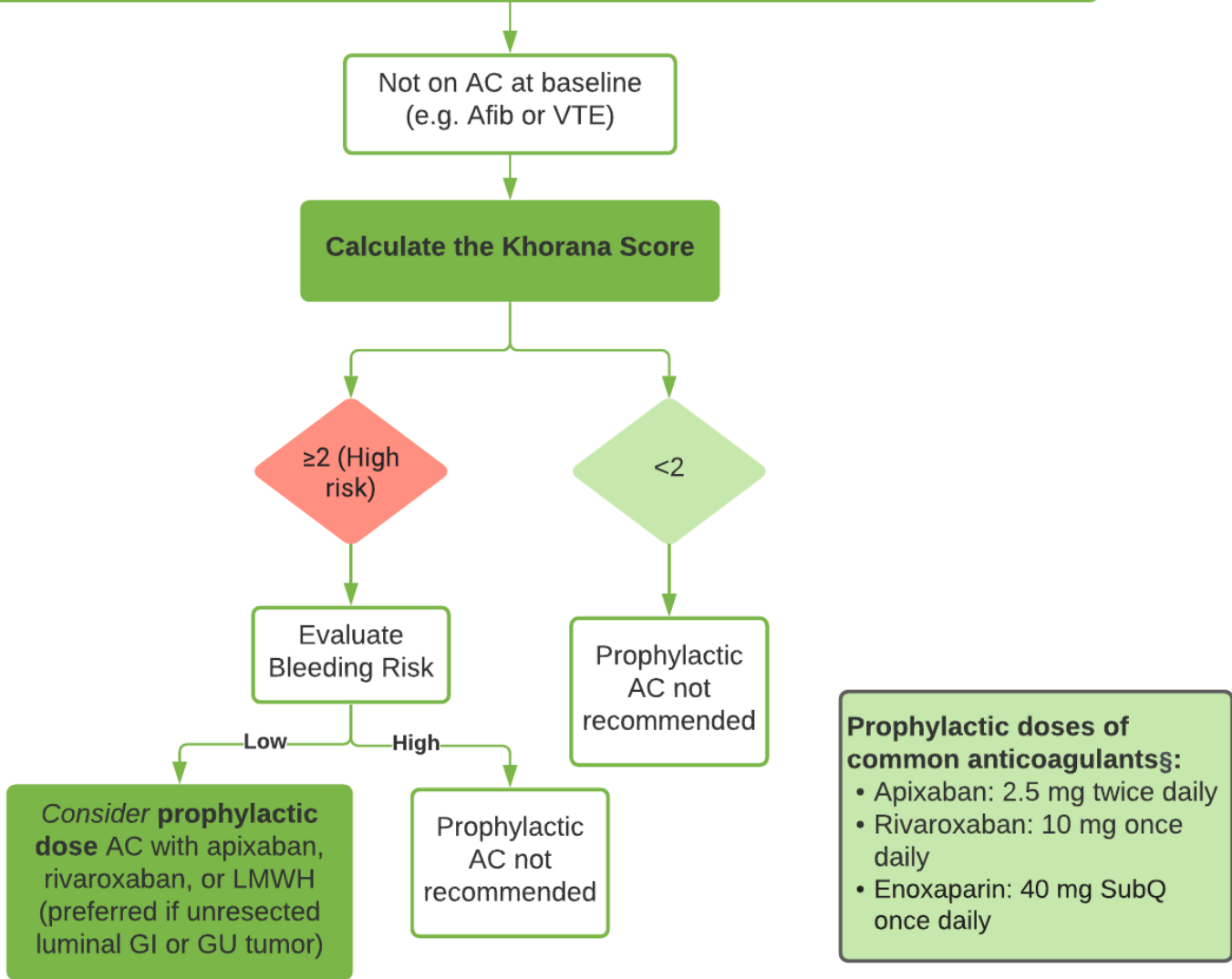




*Limited data for DOAC use

Algorithm adapted from UpToDate®

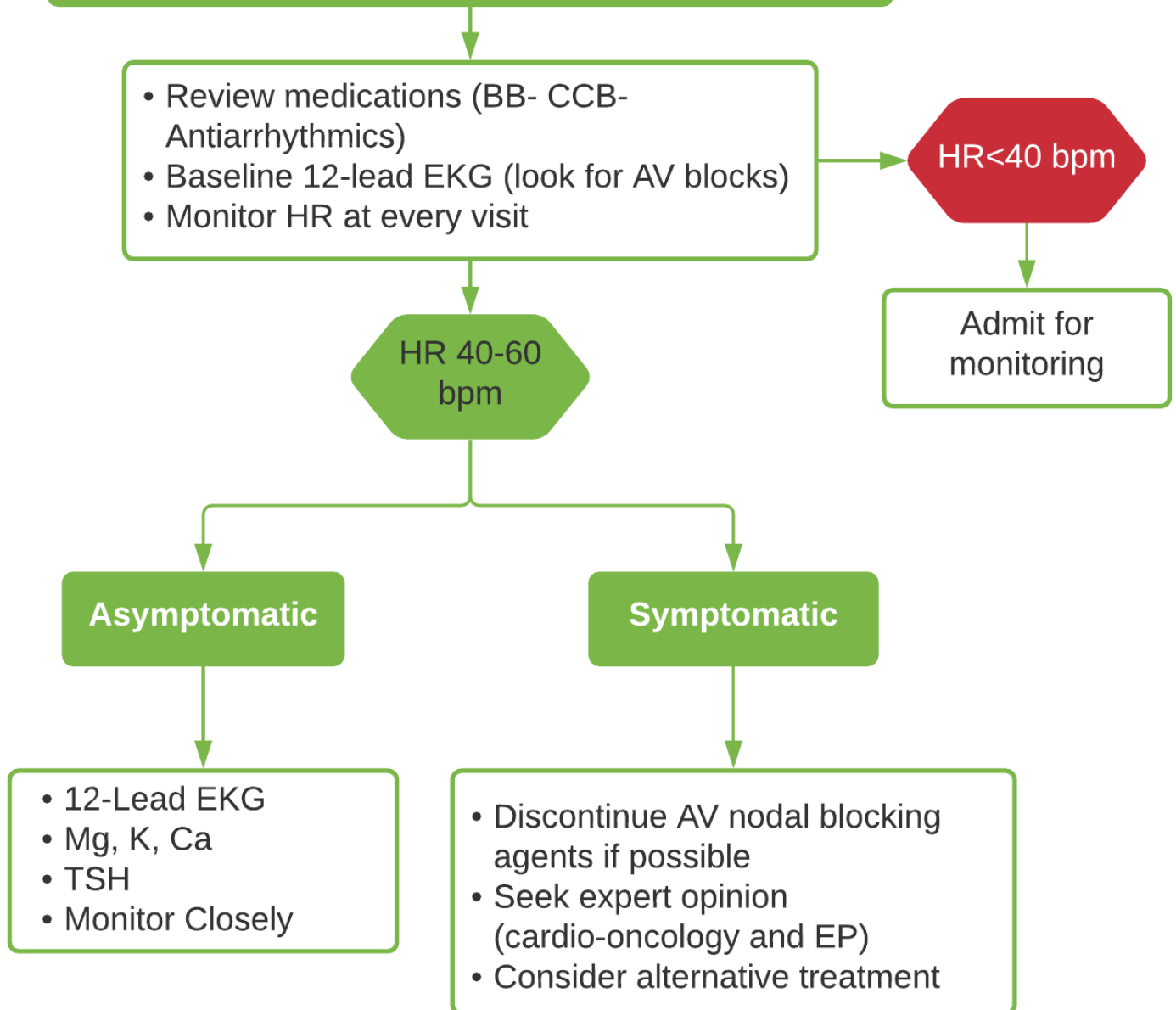
Ambulatory solid malignancy* patient on Cisplatin, Vorinostat, Bevacizumab, Paclitaxel, Everolimus, small molecule TKI



*Generally solid cancer and lymphoma, does not apply to patients with CNS cancer, acute leukemia or multiple myeloma

§ Dose adjustment may be necessary in patients with renal or hepatic dysfunction

Cancer Therapies associated with Bradycardia (HR \leq 60 bpm)



Ibrutinib - Acalabrutinib - Zanubrutinib

History of A-Fib

Monitor for new cardiac symptoms at every visit

New symptoms

- Obtain 12-Lead EKG
- Consider ambulatory cardiac monitoring

Ibrutinib Associated Atrial Fibrillation

Refer to Cardio-oncology

Hemodynamically unstable

Call a rapid response and follow ACLS algorithm

Hemodynamically stable

- 12-Lead EKG
- CMP (to evaluate renal function and K, Ca)
- Mg

- Keep K>4, Mg>2, Ca>8 (see electrolyte replacement guidelines)

Anticoagulation

Rate control preferred over rhythm control (Afib is likely to recur with continued use of ibrutinib)

- Calculate CHA2DS2VASc and HAS-BLED score (benefit and risk assessment)
- Apixaban, rivaroxaban, and edoxaban preferred options (start lower dose for 7-10d and increase if tolerated). **Avoid dabigatran**
- Avoid warfarin

- Avoid the NDP-CCB diltiazem and verapamil (CYP3A4; increase ibrutinib level)
- Avoid digoxin (P-gp substrate, ibrutinib will increase the level of digoxin)

Start beta blocker (metoprolol tartrate)

Rate controlled with beta blockers

Cont. ibrutinib and beta blocker

Uncontrolled

Options for Rate control

Ibrutinib Management options

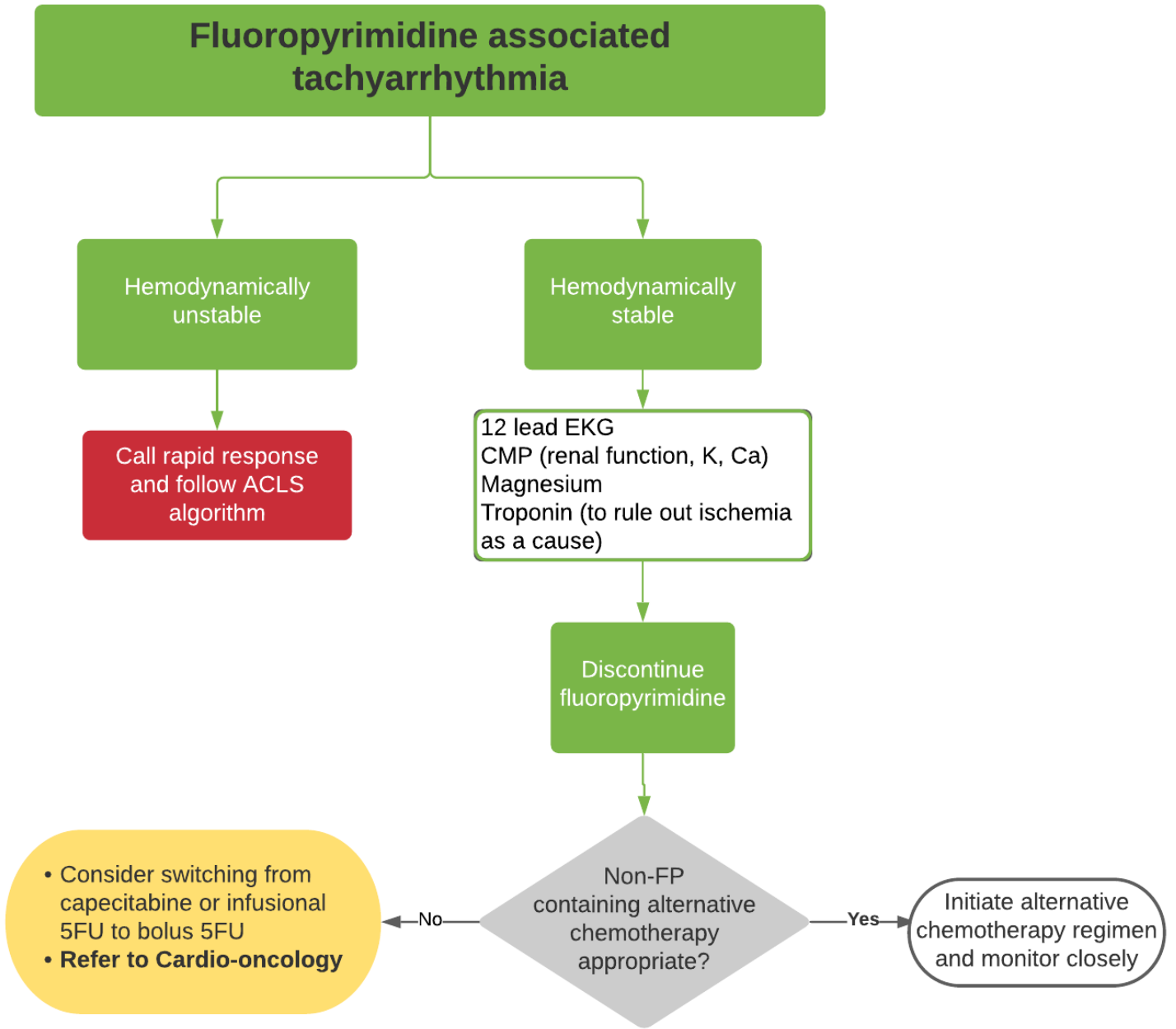
- Seek expert opinion
- Add CCB with dose reduction of ibrutinib or holding temporarily
- Add digoxin (dose 6 hour before or after ibrutinib), closely monitor digoxin levels

- Consider dose reduction
- Consider discontinuation of ibrutinib
- Consider switching to acalabrutinib

Pretreatment Evaluation with: *

- History and Physical Examination
- TTE with GLS measurement
- BNP and Troponin

**Repeat every 3 months for the first 1 year and every 6 months thereafter (Including home BP monitoring)*



IL-2 associated Tachyarrhythmia

- 12-Lead EKG
- CMP (renal function, K, Ca) and Mg
- Troponin
- 2D Echo
- Hold IL-2 temporarily

SVT/Afib

- Refer to cardio-oncology
- If resolved can likely re-challenge

Ventricular tachycardia

Call rapid response and follow ACLS algorithm

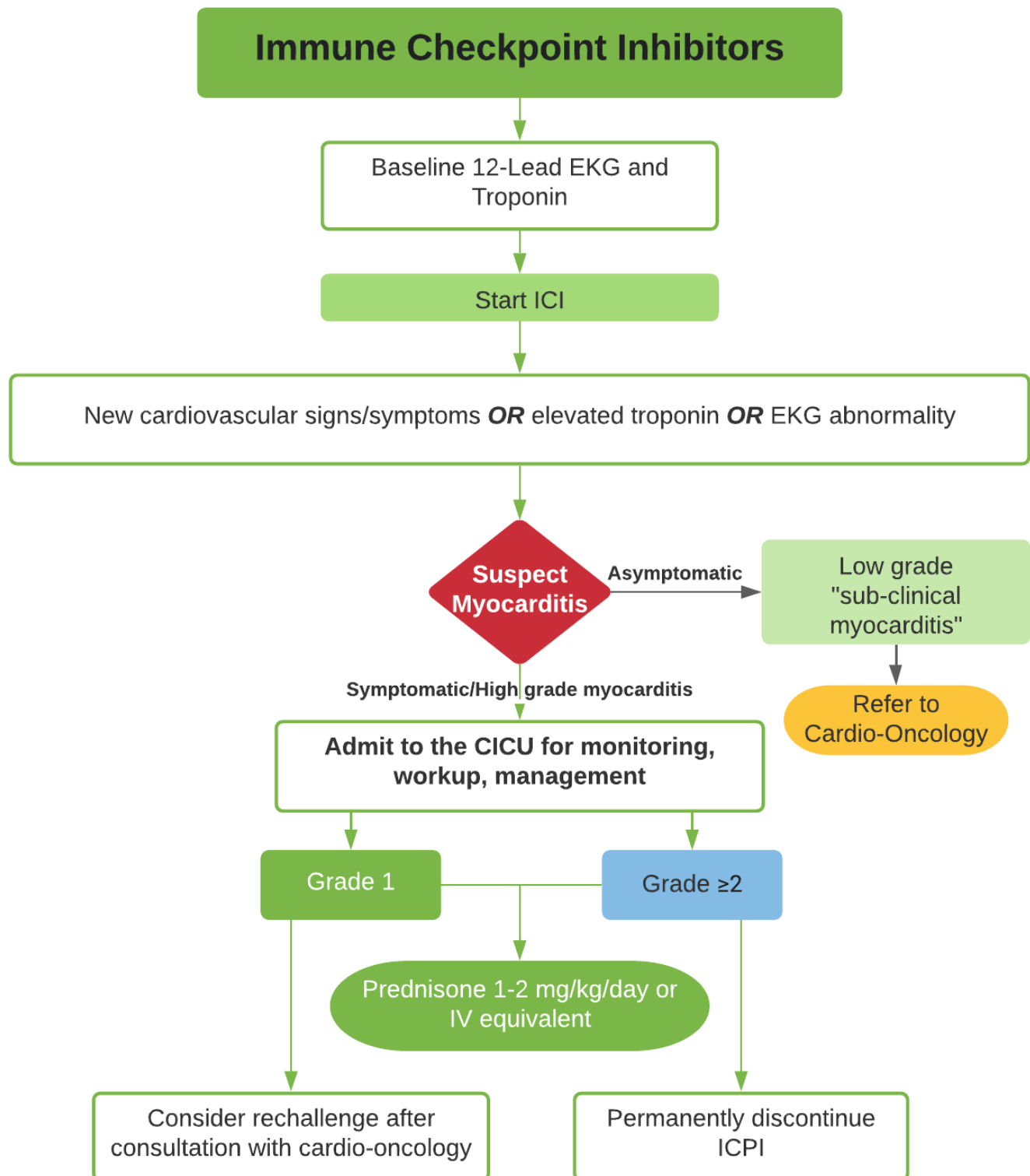
- Refer to cardio-oncology
- permanently discontinue IL-2 therapy

If hemodynamically unstable, call rapid response and follow ACLS algorithm

Other chemotherapy associated Tachyarrhythmias

- Hold chemotherapy
- 12-Lead EKG
- CMP (renal function, K, Ca), and magnesium
- Troponin
- TTE with GLS

- Refer to cardio-oncology
- Consider alternative anti-cancer treatments
- If treatment continued, monitor electrolytes closely and keep $K > 4$, $Mg > 2$, $Ca > 8$
- If treatment continued, telemonitoring must be instituted during infusion

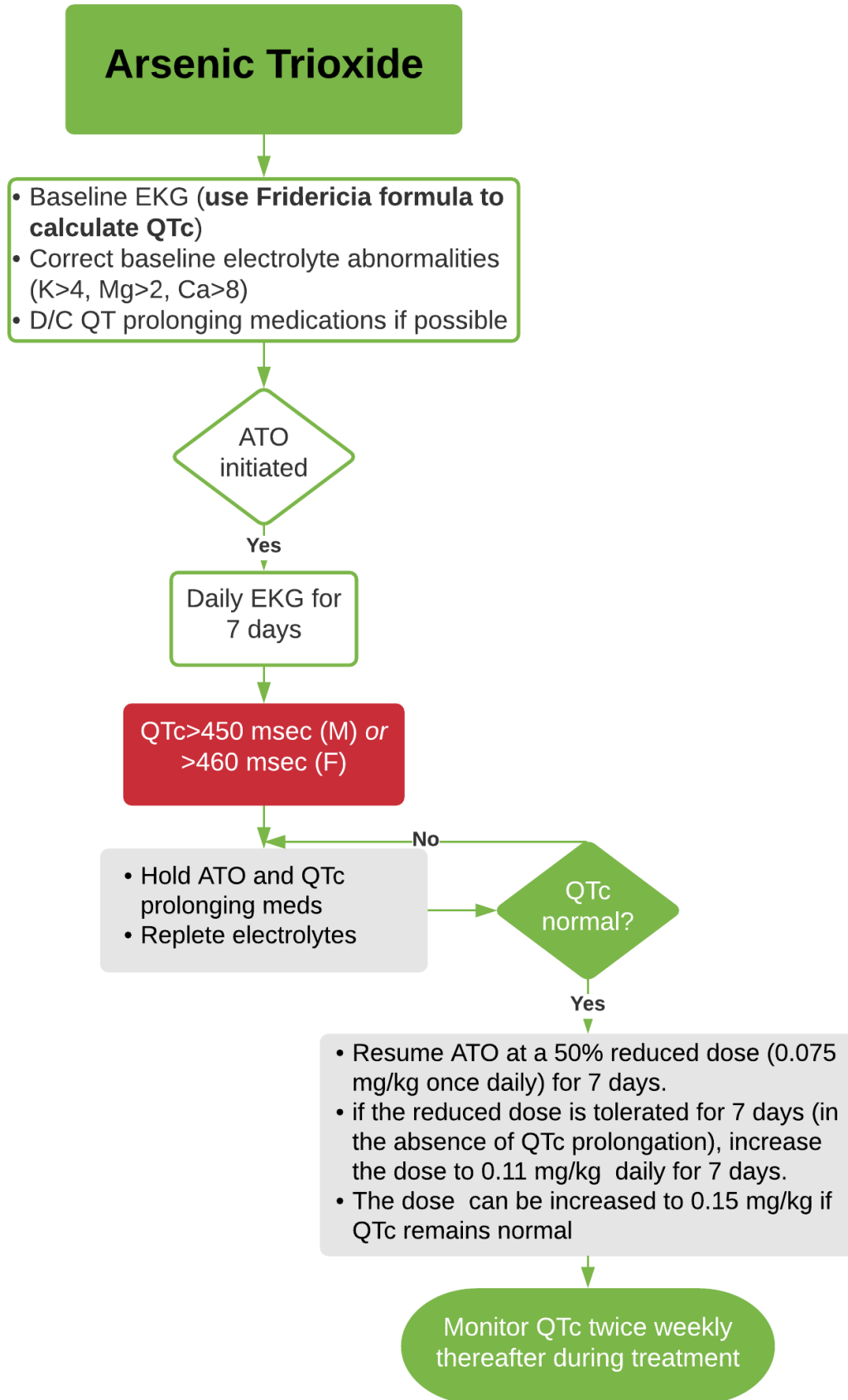


An alternative approach may include checking EKG and troponin before initiation of therapy followed by repeating EKG and troponin within 48 hours before each subsequent cycle **AND/OR in the event of any other irAEs*

Other chemotherapy associated Myocarditis

- Hold chemotherapy
- 12-Lead EKG
- CMP (renal function, K, Ca), and magnesium
- Troponin
- TTE with GLS

- Admit to the CICU
- Refer to cardio-oncology
- Consider alternative anti-cancer treatments
- If treatment continued monitor electrolytes closely and keep $K > 4$, $Mg > 2$, $Ca > 8$
- If treatment continued telemonitoring must be instituted during infusion



Histone Deacetylase inhibitor

- Baseline EKG (use **Fridericia formula to calculate QTc**)
- Correct baseline electrolyte abnormalities (K>4, Mg>2, Ca>8)
- D/C QT prolonging medications if possible

HDACi initiated

Yes

Repeat EKG after every cycle

QTc>480 msec or increase of 60 msec

- Hold HDACi and QTc prolonging meds x1 week
- Replete electrolytes

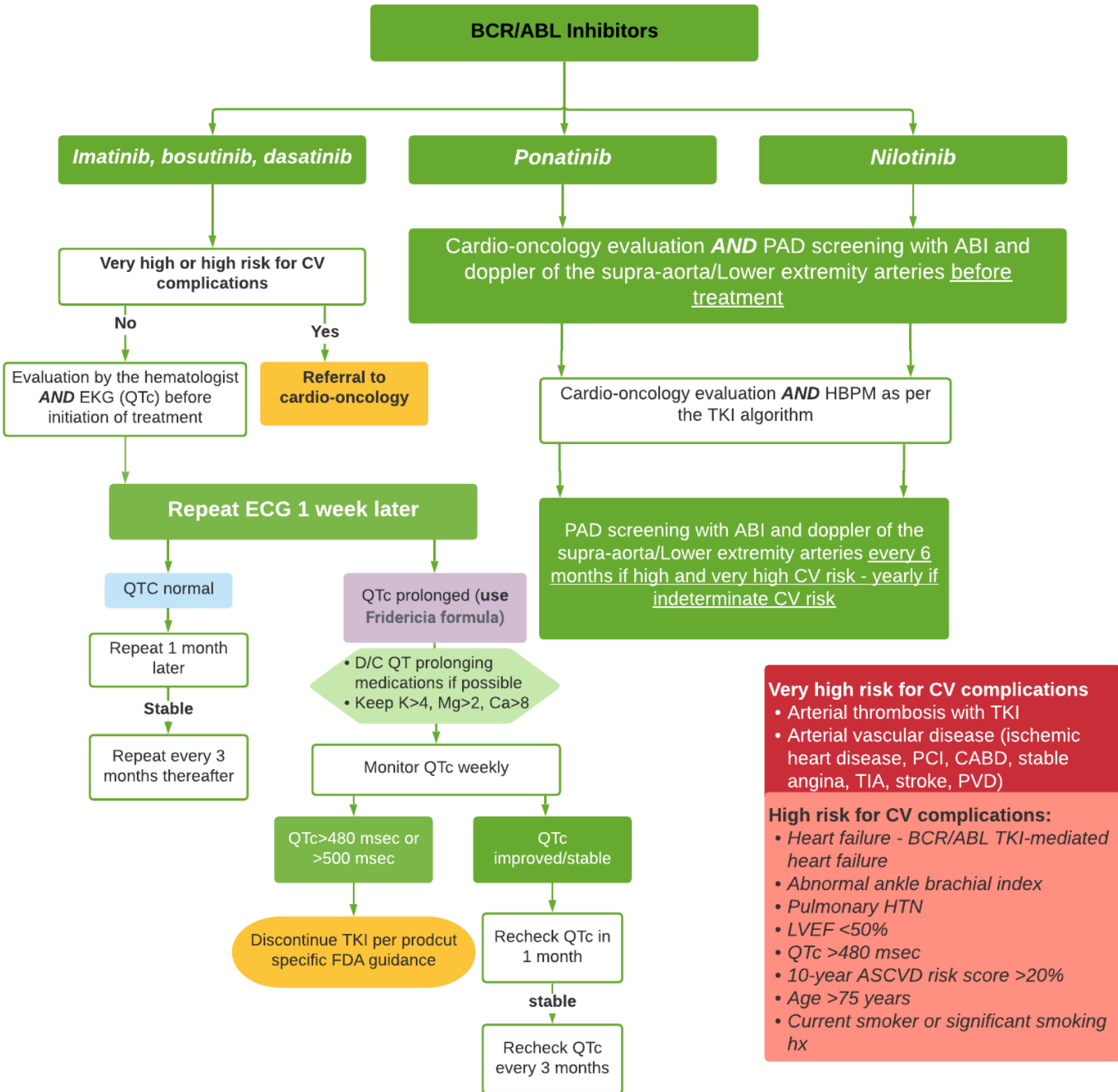
QTc normal?

No

Discontinue treatment

Yes

Restart treatment



Very high risk for CV complications

- Arterial thrombosis with TKI
- Arterial vascular disease (ischemic heart disease, PCI, CABD, stable angina, TIA, stroke, PVD)

High risk for CV complications:

- Heart failure - BCR/ABL TKI-mediated heart failure
- Abnormal ankle brachial index
- Pulmonary HTN
- LVEF <50%
- QTc >480 msec
- 10-year ASCVD risk score >20%
- Age >75 years
- Current smoker or significant smoking hx

Angiogenesis Inhibitors

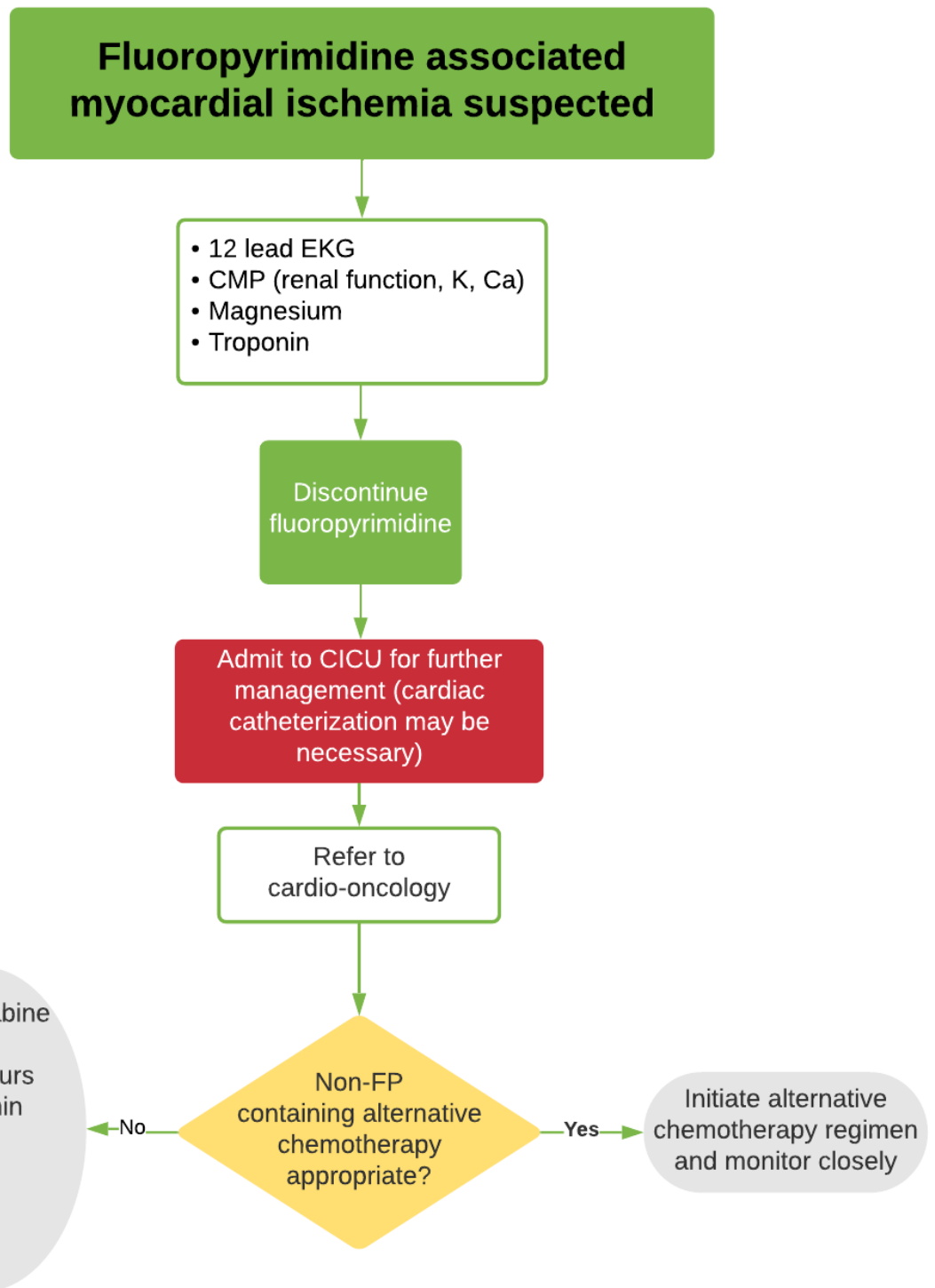
Chest pain, dyspnea, palpitations, edema, leading to suspicion of MI

- Troponin and BNP
- 12-lead EKG
- K, Mg, Ca

Admit to the CICU for further evaluation (TTE, LHC +/- PCI)

- Refer to cardio-oncology
- Continue cardio-protective medications as appropriate (e.g. **Aspirin, Statin**)
- Consider alternative therapies if appropriate

Consider re-challenge with anti-angiogenic agent (Data from case reports)



*See algorithm in Clasen et al. article (References)

Anti-neoplastic therapy associated myocardial ischemia suspected

- 12 lead EKG
- CMP (renal function, K, Ca)
- Magnesium
- Troponin

Discontinue Antineoplastic therapy

Admit to CICU for further management (cardiac catheterization may be necessary)

Refer to cardio-oncology

Alternative treatment appropriate?

• Rechallenge after consultation with cardio-oncology

No

Yes

Initiate alternative regimen and monitor closely

Appendix-1**Children's Oncology Group Anthracycline Toxicity Equivalence Ratios**

<u>Anthracycline</u>	<u>Conversion Factor</u>
Doxorubicin	1
Daunorubicin	1
Idarubicin	5
Epirubicin	0.67
Mitoxantrone	4

5

-
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