

«Νέες κατευθυντήριες οδηγίες ERS/EULAR για την πνευμονική ίνωση σε ρευματικά νοσήματα»

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ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΣΧΟΛΗ

Δήλωση σύγκρουσης συμφερόντων

- Τιμητική αμοιβή από την εταιρεία
BOEHRINGER



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ERS/EULAR clinical practice guidelines for connective tissue diseases associated interstitial lung disease

- A collaborative effort
- Four disease groups:
 - Systemic sclerosis (SSc)
 - Idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIM)
 - Other CTDs, including Sjögren disease (SjD), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and mixed connective tissue disease (MCTD)
 - Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) under the umbrella term CTD in this guideline.



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Recommendations	Strength of recommendation	Level/certainty of evidence
Screening		
1) PICO 1–11 We recommend against replacing HRCT with pulmonary function tests for screening of ILD in patients with SSc, RA, IIM (S, L) and other CTDs (S, VL). We suggest not to replace HRCT with lung ultrasound for screening of ILD in patients with SSc, RA, IIM and other CTDs (C, L/VL).	S/C	L/VL
2) NQ 1–5 We recommend that all patients with SSc and MCTD and IIM patients with risk factors should be screened (S, L); and suggest that all patients with RA and SjD with risk factors, and IIM patients without risk factors (C, L) could be screened for ILD.	S/C	L
Diagnosis		
3) NQ 8–10 We suggest performing a global assessment of all risk factors of ILD progression in patients with SSc, RA and IIM to identify patients at higher risk of ILD progression and death.	C	L
4) NQ 12–13 We suggest that BAL could be used in patients with any CTD-ILD at the time of diagnosis in cases where there is suspicion of infection or to exclude alternative diagnoses. We suggest that lung biopsy should not play a role for diagnosis.	C	VL
5) NQ 14–19 We suggest using the 6MWT in patients without physical limitations and PROMs to assess severity and/or prognosis of ILD in any CTD-ILD patients.	C	L/VL
Monitoring		
6) NQ 20–27 We suggest repeating PFTs every 3–6 months during the first years, and at least every 6–12 months thereafter. We suggest regularly repeating HRCT after 1–2 years in patients with SSc-ILD, RA-ILD and other CTD-ILD, and after 3–6 months in IIM-ILD, particularly in those at higher risk of progression. We suggest repeating PFTs and HRCT in case of suspected progression in any CTD-ILD patient.	C	L/VL
Treatment		
7) PICO 12–15 We recommend using tocilizumab in a subgroup (S, M) and suggest using MMF, rituximab (C, VL), and cyclophosphamide (C, L) in patients with SSc-ILD.	S/C	M/L/VL
8) PICO 16 We recommend using immunosuppressive treatment in patients with IIM-ILD.	S	VL
9) PICO 17–18 We suggest using immunosuppressive treatment in patients with RA-, SjD-, MCTD- and SLE-ILD.	C	VL
10) PICO 19–20 We suggest using nintedanib in SSc-ILD (C, M) and in any CTD-ILD (C, VL) patient with progressive pulmonary fibrosis.	C	M/L/VL
11) PICO 21 We suggest using pirfenidone in patients with RA-ILD with a UIP pattern.	C	VL
12) PICO 23 We suggest using combination therapy with nintedanib and MMF in patients with SSc-ILD.	C	VL
13) PICO 24 We suggest using combination therapy with immunosuppressants including glucocorticoids in patients with IIM-ILD.	C	VL
14) PICO 25 We suggest treating patients with any CTD-ILD with a combination of immunosuppressants or, in the presence of progressive pulmonary fibrosis, with a combination of an immunosuppressant and nintedanib.	C	VL
15) NQ 28 We suggest using the inclusion criteria of RCTs to guide treatment decisions for CTD-ILD.	C	VL



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Screening

Recommendations		Strength of recommendation	Level/certainty of evidence
Screening			
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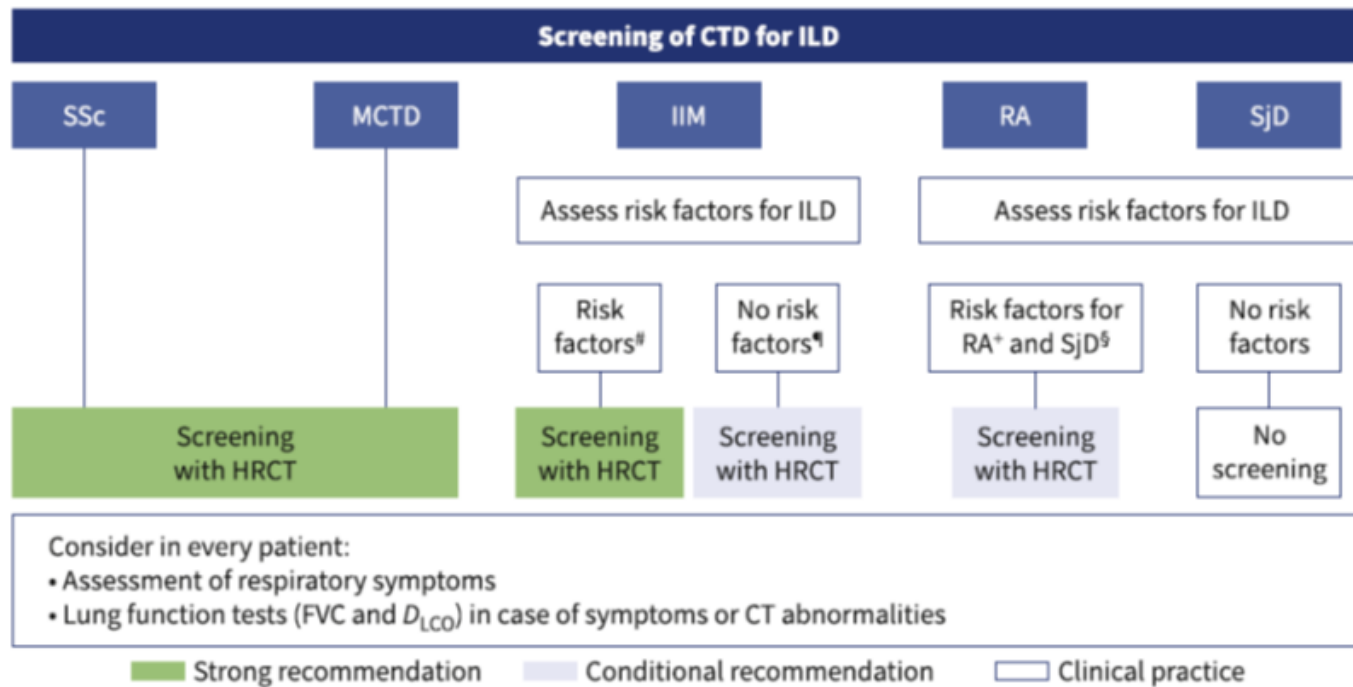
- High likelihood of missing ILD if PFTs are used as the only screening tool.
- LUS :
 - False-negative /false-positive results
 - Very low certainty of evidence



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Screening



- No recommendation on how frequently patients with CTD should be screened for ILD.



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Screening

Table 3
Risk factors in patients with connective tissue disease and rheumatoid arthritis (RA) defining an at-risk patient population that should be screened for interstitial lung disease

	SSc	RA	IIM	SjD
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer disease duration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older age • Male sex • Smoking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older age • Male sex
Circulating markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased KL-6 • Presence of ATA-I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased ESR • Presence of anti-CCP, RF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased CRP, ESR • Presence of anti-Jo1, anti-MDA-5, anti-Ro52 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased CRP • Presence of anti-Ro52
Extrapulmonary involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffuse cutaneous SSc • Higher mRSS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher articular disease activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-synthetase syndrome • Clinical amyopathic dermatomyositis • Skin involvement[#] • Arthritis/arthralgia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of extrapulmonary involvement



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Diagnosis

Recommendations

Strength of
recommendation

Level/certainty
of evidence

Diagnosis

3) NQ 8–10	We suggest performing a global assessment of all risk factors of ILD progression in patients with SSc, RA and IIM to identify patients at higher risk of ILD progression and death.	C	L
4) NQ 12–13	We suggest that BAL could be used in patients with any CTD-ILD at the time of diagnosis in cases where there is suspicion of infection or to exclude alternative diagnoses. We suggest that lung biopsy should not play a role for diagnosis.	C	VL
5) NQ 14–19	We suggest using the 6MWT in patients without physical limitations and PROMs to assess severity and/or prognosis of ILD in any CTD-ILD patients.	C	L/VL



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Diagnosis

SSc, RA, IIM, SjD, MCTD and SLE

ILD diagnosis

If alternative diagnosis or co-existing condition suspected

Consider
BAL

Other tests for
differential
diagnoses

Assess prognosis, risk of progression and risk of development of severe disease

Clinical risk
factors[#]

Lung function test
(FVC and D_{LCO})[#]

HRCT (pattern
and extent)[#]

6MWT and O_2
desaturation[#]

Patient-reported
outcome measures

BAL with microbiology and cytology may be used to rule out infection, to diagnose some types of malignancy (*i.e.* low-grade lymphoma *e.g.* MALT lymphoma), and to exclude alveolar haemorrhage. Lung biopsy has no role in the diagnosis of ILD, but may be used when atypical features are identified on HRCT and/or to exclude malignancy.

Conditional recommendation

Usual clinical practice



- **6MWT**

- Predictor of respiratory deterioration and progression in patients with SSc-ILD
- Predictor of mortality, acute respiratory deterioration and acute exacerbation in RA-ILD patients
- Associated with ILD severity and worse prognosis in patients with other CTD-ILD.
- Limited or no lower limb joint damage or active synovitis
- Without significant muscle involvement of the lower limbs



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Diagnosis

Table 4

Risk factors for poor outcome, defined as disease progression and death, in patients with connective tissue disease (CTD)-associated interstitial lung disease (ILD) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA)-associated ILD

	SSc [#]	RA [#]	IIM ^{#,§}
Demographics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older age • Male sex • African American ethnicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older age at RA onset • Male sex 	
Circulating markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated ESR, CRP • ATA-I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-CCP, RF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated ferritin • Anti-MDA-5, anti-synthetase
Pulmonary function/markers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline PFTs (FVC, D_{LCO}) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline PFTs (low FVC and/or D_{LCO}) 	
Imaging/histology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher extent of ILD on HRCT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UIP and probable UIP HRCT/histological patterns • Higher extent of ILD on HRCT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher extent of ILD on HRCT and ILD pattern on HRCT
Extrapulmonary involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent onset of SSc with rapid skin progression, more extensive skin fibrosis (mRSS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher articular disease activity 	



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6) NQ 20–27

We suggest repeating PFTs every 3–6 months during the first years, and at least every 6–12 months thereafter. We suggest regularly repeating HRCT after 1–2 years in patients with SSc-ILD, RA-ILD and other CTD-ILD, and after 3–6 months in IIM-ILD, particularly in those at higher risk of progression. We suggest repeating PFTs and HRCT in case of suspected progression in any CTD-ILD patient.

Strength of recommendation	Level/certainty of evidence
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C

L/VL



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Monitoring

SSc-ILD monitoring

Assess prognosis, risk of progression and disease severity at every visit

High risk

Low risk

Indication of progression

Disease duration

<3–5 years

>3–5 years

<3–5 years

>3–5 years

Anytime

Lung function test
(FVC and D_{LCO})

Every 3–6 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 12 months

Conduct

HRCT (pattern and extent)

Every 12 months

Every 12 months

After 2 years

Clinical indication

Conduct

6MWD and O_2
desaturation

Every 6–12 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 12 months

Every 12 months

Conduct

Patient-reported
outcome measures

Every 6–12 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 12 months

Every 12 months

Conduct

Conditional recommendation

Usual clinical practice



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Monitoring

RA-ILD monitoring

Assess prognosis, risk of progression and disease severity at every visit

High risk

Low risk

Indication of progression

Disease duration

<1–2 years

>2 years

<1–2 years

>2 years

Anytime

Lung function test
(FVC and D_{LCO})

Every 3–6 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 12 months

Conduct

HRCT (pattern and extent)

Every 12 months

Every 12 months

After 2 years

Clinical indication

Conduct

6MWD and O_2
desaturation

Every 6–12 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 12 months

Every 12 months

Conduct

Patient-reported outcome measures

Every 6–12 months

Every 6–12 months

Every 12 months

Every 12 months

Conduct

 Conditional recommendation
 Usual clinical practice

K.M. Antoniou et al. Ann Rheum Dis(2025)



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Monitoring

IIM-ILD monitoring

	Assess prognosis, risk of progression and disease severity at every visit				
	High risk		Low risk		Indication of progression
Disease duration	<2 years	>2 years	<2 years	>2 years	Anytime
Lung function test (FVC and D_{LCO})	Every 3–6 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12 months	Conduct
HRCT (pattern and extent)	At every 3–6 months and every year	Every 12 months	Every year	Clinical indication	Conduct
6MWD and O_2 desaturation	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12 months	Every 12 months	Conduct
Patient-reported outcome measures	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12 months	Every 12 months	Conduct

Conditional recommendation
 Usual clinical practice



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Monitoring

Other CTD-ILD (SjD, MCTD) monitoring

	Assess prognosis, risk of progression and disease severity at every visit				
	High risk		Low risk		Indication of progression
Disease duration	<1 year	>1 year	<1 year	>1 year	Anytime
Lung function test (FVC, FEV ₁ and D _{LCO})	Every 3–6 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12 months	Conduct
HRCT (pattern and extent)	At 1 year	Every 12 months	At 1 year	Clinical indication	Conduct
6MWD and O ₂ desaturation	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12 months	Every 12 months	Conduct
Patient-reported outcome measures	Every 6–12 months	Every 6–12 months	Every 12 months	Every 12 months	Conduct

Conditional recommendation Usual clinical practice



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Treatment

Treatment

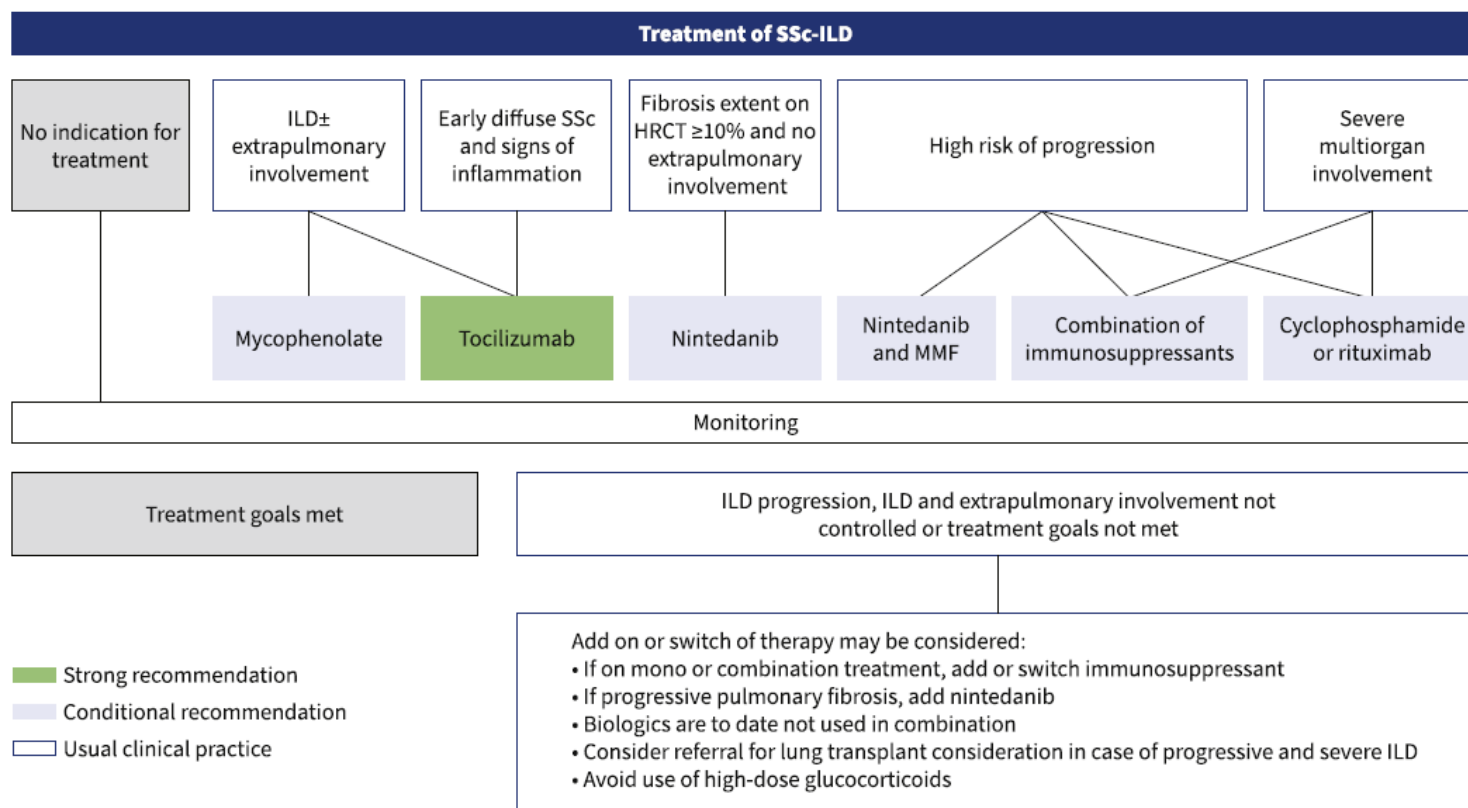
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Treatment

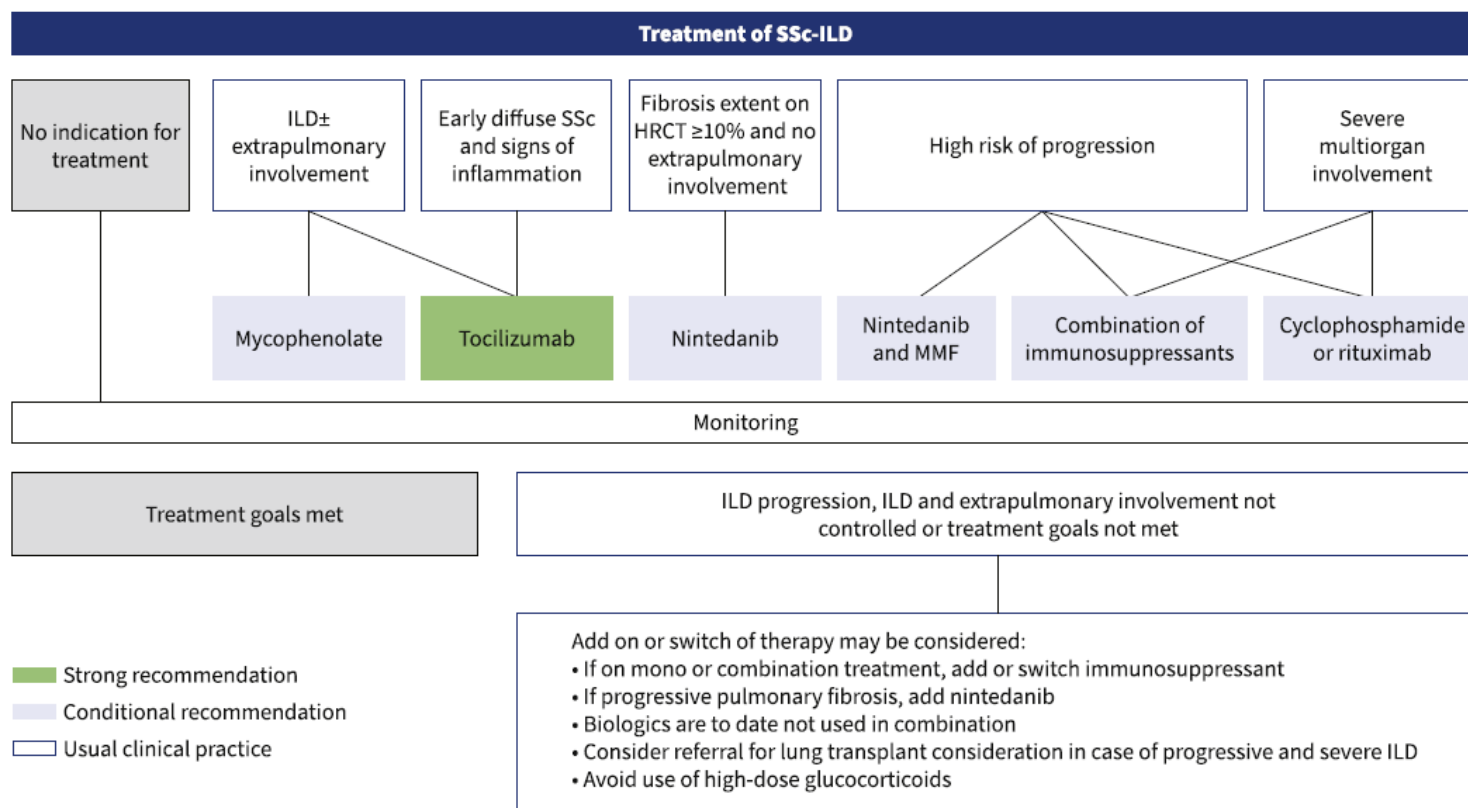




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Treatment

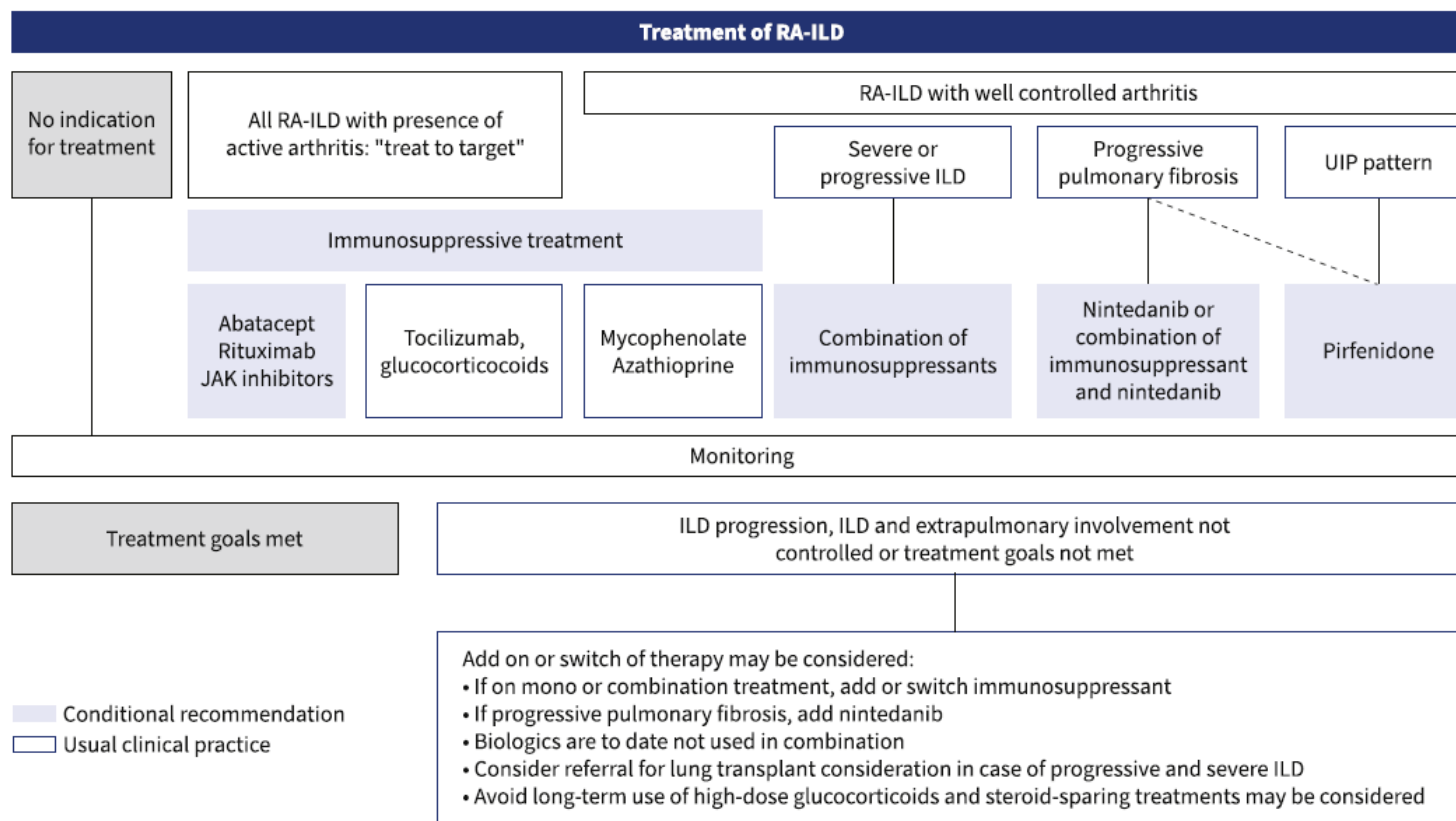




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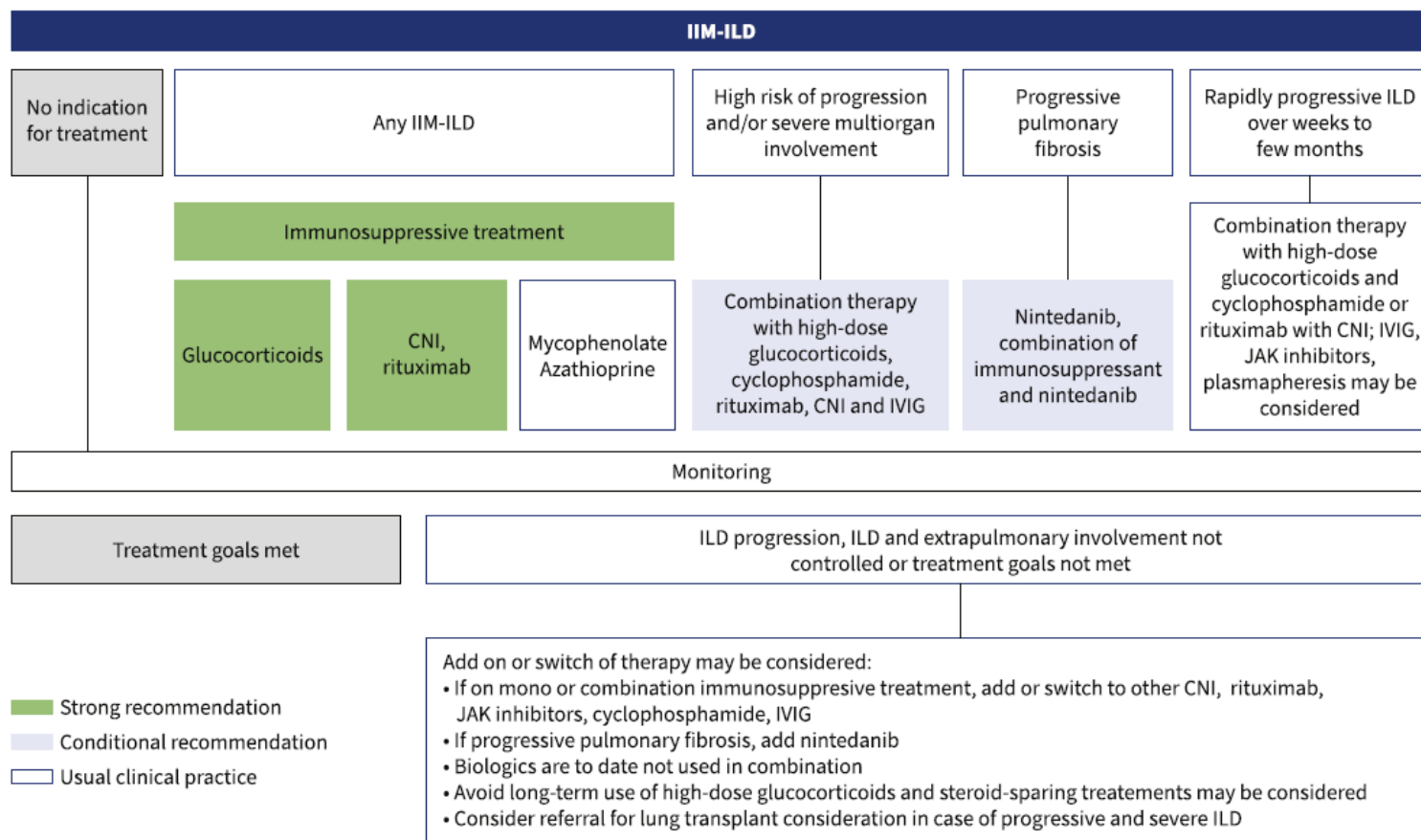




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Treatment



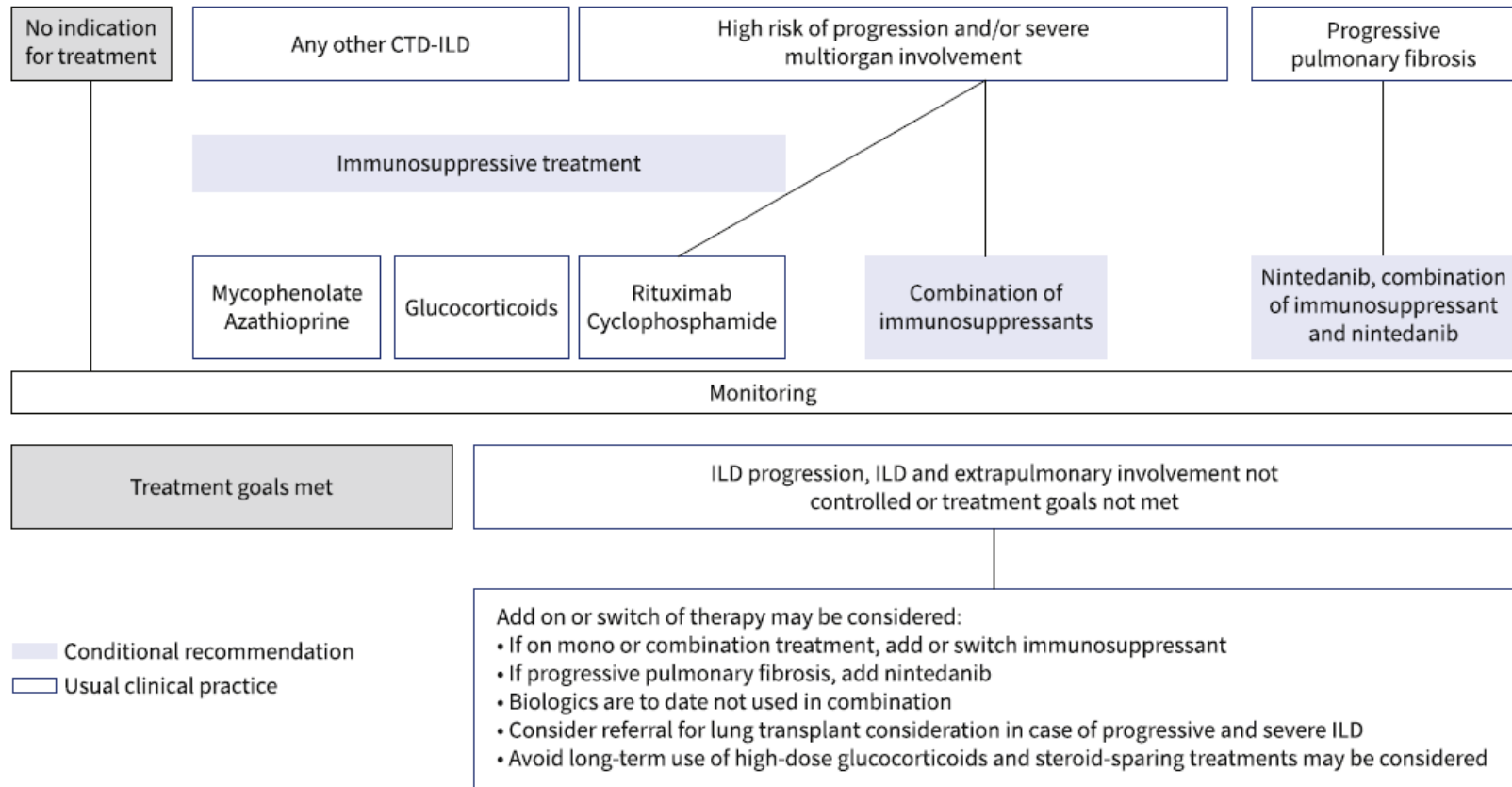


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Treatment

Treatment of other CTD-ILD





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- Low and very low certainty evidence
- Conditional recommendations
- Studies needed

