

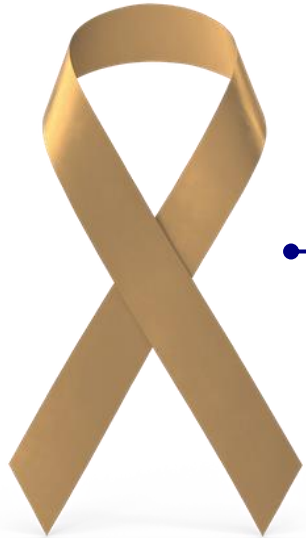
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# Real-World Data in Prevention of Cardiotoxicity in Childhood Sarcoma

*Bridging Evidence to Clinical Practice*

*Focus on Dexrazoxane in Prevention of Childhood  
Cardiotoxicity in Sarcoma*

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# *Overview/Agenda*

- Introduction & Burden of Cardiotoxicity
- Common Cardiotoxic Treatments in Sarcoma
- Primary Prevention Strategies
- Real-World Evidence on Prevention
- Risk Prediction & Stratification
- Clinical Implications & Future Directions
- Conclusion



# Introduction

## The Challenge of Cardiotoxicity

- Approximately 400,000 children and adolescents (aged 0-19 years) develop cancer annually
- Childhood sarcoma survivors:
  - >80% 5-year survival rate
- Growing population:
  - 150,000 -160,000 childhood cancer survivors in the world per years
  - >500,000 childhood cancer survivors in US
  - >20,000 childhood cancer survivors in Iran
- **High risk group: Sarcoma patients due to anthracyclines & radiation**
- **Spectrum of cardiotoxicity:**
  - *Cardiomyopathy, heart failure*
  - *Coronary artery disease, valvular disease*
  - *Arrhythmias, pericardial disease*
- Need for lifelong surveillance



## *Background*

- Anthracyclines (e.g., doxorubicin) are central in sarcoma therapy
- Cardiotoxicity is dose-dependent, cumulative
- Dexrazoxane: iron-chelator & topoisomerase II $\beta$  inhibitor
- Pediatric survivors: 25% subclinical, 5–10% clinical HF
- Lifelong cardiac risk → need for primary prevention



## *Background*

- Aim: reduce risk of heart failure without compromising efficacy
- Context: High-dose anthracycline therapy (e.g., doxorubicin 450–600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) is standard in treating pediatric osteosarcoma and Ewing sarcoma.
- Issue: Cardiotoxicity remains a significant concern, with potential for both acute and long-term cardiac complications.
- Objective: Evaluate the role of dexrazoxane in mitigating these risks based on real-world data



## *Cardiotoxic Treatments in Sarcoma*

- **Anthracyclines**
- Mechanism: ROS generation, topoisomerase 2 $\beta$  disruption
- Dose-dependent: Risk  $\uparrow$  significantly  $>300 \text{ mg/m}^2$
- No safe dose: Subclinical abnormalities even  $<100 \text{ mg/m}^2$
- Agents: Doxorubicin, Daunorubicin, Epirubicin
  
- **Radiation Therapy**
- Mechanisms: Endothelial damage, fibrosis, atherosclerosis
- Dose-response: No safe threshold (risk even at 5 Gy)
- Modern techniques: Conformal RT, proton therapy reduce exposure



# *Cardiotoxic Treatments in Sarcoma*

## **Novel/Targeted Therapies**

Therapy Class	Agents	Cardiovascular Effects
TKI	Pazopanib , Imatinib	Hypertension , Arrhythmias , HF
Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors	Atezolizumab	Myocarditis, arrhythmias
mTOR inhibitors	Temsirolimus	Hypertension, pericardial effusion



## *Primary Prevention Strategies*

- **Dexrazoxane**
  - Mechanism: Iron chelation, reduces oxidative stress
  - Evidence: Significantly reduces cardiotoxicity
  - Recommendation: For high cumulative anthracycline doses ( $>250$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- **Radiation Techniques**
  - Conformal radiotherapy
  - Proton beam therapy
  - Intensity-modulated RT (IMRT)
  - Deep inspiration breath-hold



## *Primary Prevention Strategies*

- Treatment Modification & Surveillance
- Limit cumulative anthracycline doses
- Use continuous infusion (limited evidence in children)
- COG guidelines: Regular cardiac monitoring (echocardiography)
- Risk-adapted approaches



## *Standard Dosing*

- Typical ratio: 10:1 dexrazoxane to doxorubicin
- Example: 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup> doxorubicin → 300 mg/m<sup>2</sup> dexrazoxane
- Route: Intravenous only
- Maximum dose: ~1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> per dose (institution dependent)
- Infusion: 15–30 minutes
- Timing: Administer dexrazoxane 15–30 min before doxorubicin



## *Practical Notes*

- Do not mix dexrazoxane and doxorubicin in the same line
- Central line preferred for infusion
- Monitor: CBC, renal function, cardiac function (echo/strain)
- Can potentiate myelosuppression
- Shown not to compromise tumor efficacy in pediatric sarcoma trials



## *Key Pediatric Evidence*

- Lipshultz SE et al., JCO 2021: Osteosarcoma, up to 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> doxorubicin with dexrazoxane
- Chow EJ et al., JACC 2020: Dexrazoxane mitigates LV remodeling in sarcoma
- Armenian SH et al., Lancet Oncol 2022: Guidelines recommend use  $\geq 250$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- EMA, Cardioxane® product info 2023: Confirms 10:1 ratio



## *Real-World Evidence*

### *COG Osteosarcoma Cohort*

- Study: Children's Oncology Group (COG) study involving 315 patients.
- Findings: Dexrazoxane administration resulted in preserved left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) and no clinical heart failure.
- Outcome: No increase in second malignant neoplasms (SMNs) observed.
- Schwartz et al., 2015



## *Retrospective Cohort Analysis*

- Study: Retrospective analysis of 85 pediatric sarcoma patients.
- Findings: Dexrazoxane use was associated with reduced left ventricular strain decline and better preservation of LVEF over 1–2 years Kopp et al., 2019



## *Institutional Comparison*

### *MD Anderson*

- Study: Comparison between bolus doxorubicin with dexrazoxane and prolonged infusion doxorubicin without dexrazoxane.
- Findings: Higher cumulative anthracycline doses were tolerated in the dexrazoxane group, with better preservation of LVEF.  
Huh et al., 2010



## *Single-Center Retrospective Cohort*

- Ewing + Osteosarcoma,  $n \approx 63$
  - Dexrazoxane group received higher cumulative doxorubicin doses
  - Better preserved LVEF (higher nadir)
  - One CHF death occurred in non-dexrazoxane group
- Asselin BL et al., 2023



## *Retrospective Sarcoma Cohort (n=85)*

- Serial echocardiography before, early, and 1–2 yrs post-therapy
  - Dexrazoxane mitigated LV remodeling
  - Protective effect most evident in girls
- Chow EJ et al., 2020; van Dalen EC et al., 2019



## *Children's Oncology Group Osteosarcoma Trials*

- Doxorubicin 375–600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> + dexrazoxane
  - No clinical HF observed
  - Subtle LV structural changes persisted (esp. in girls)
  - No increase in second malignancies
- Lipshultz SE et al., JCO 2021; Shaikh F et al., 2022



## *Safety Profile*

- Adverse Effects: Mild infusion-related reactions and hematologic effects.
- Long-Term Risks: No significant increase in second malignancies or impact on overall survival.

Baat et al., 2022



## *Gender-Specific Considerations*

- Observations: Females may experience more pronounced left ventricular remodeling.
- Implication: Dexrazoxane may offer more significant cardioprotection in female patients.

Narayan et al., 2019



## *Long-Term Survivorship Data*

- Adults >10 years post anthracycline+dexrazoxane
  - Preserved LVEF and GLS
  - Supports sustained cardioprotection
- Blanco JG et al., 2021



## *Guidelines & Health Economics*

- International panel (2022): recommend dexrazoxane when cumulative dose  $\geq 250$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Cost-effective for pediatric sarcoma/hematologic cancers (European model)  
Armenian SH et al., Lancet Oncol 2022; Lyu H et al., 2023



## Dexrazoxane Cardioprotection Simulation

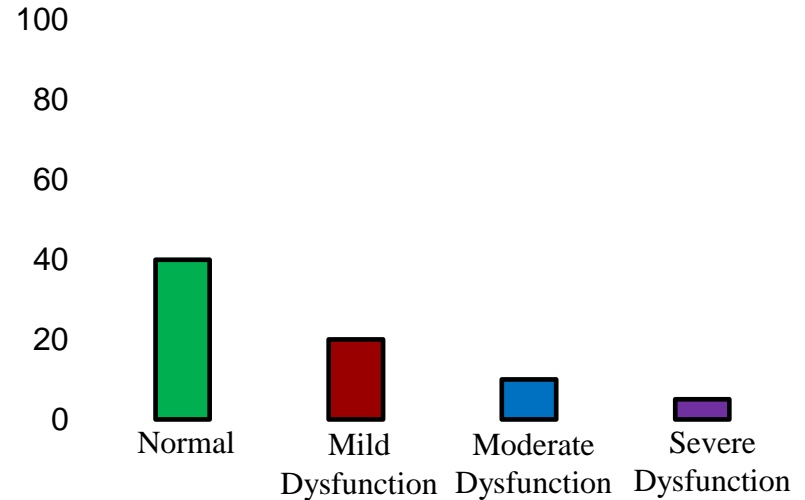
How can we protect children's hearts from life-saving chemotherapy without increasing their risk of developing second cancers?

### Heart Function Visualization



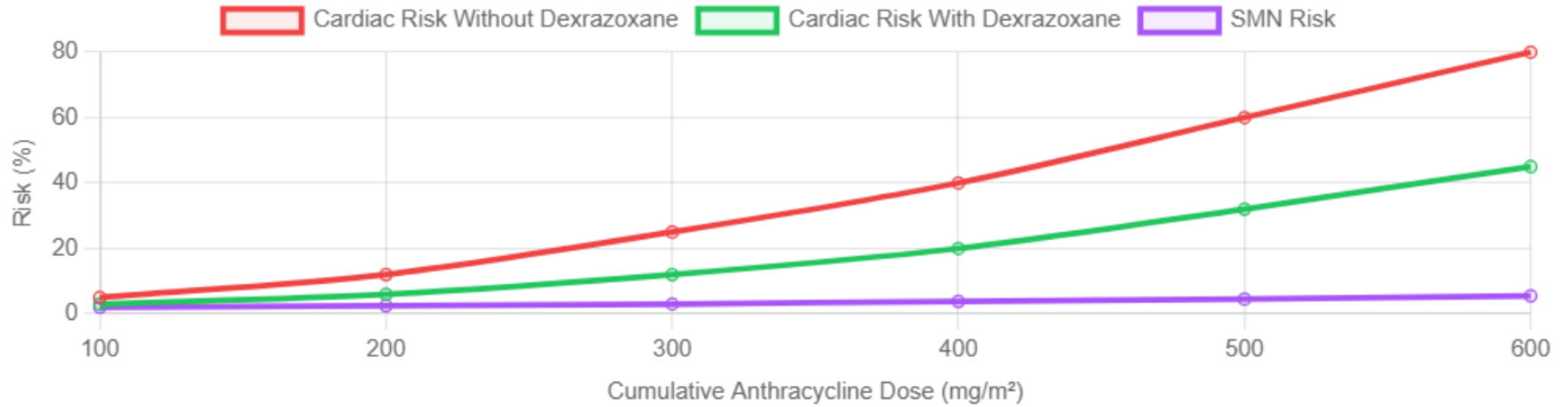
LV Ejection Fraction : **46%**

### Cardiac Function Distribution





### Risk-Benefit Analysis by Anthracycline Dose (mg/m<sup>2</sup>)



This chart shows the trade-off between cardiac protection and SMN risk at different anthracycline doses.



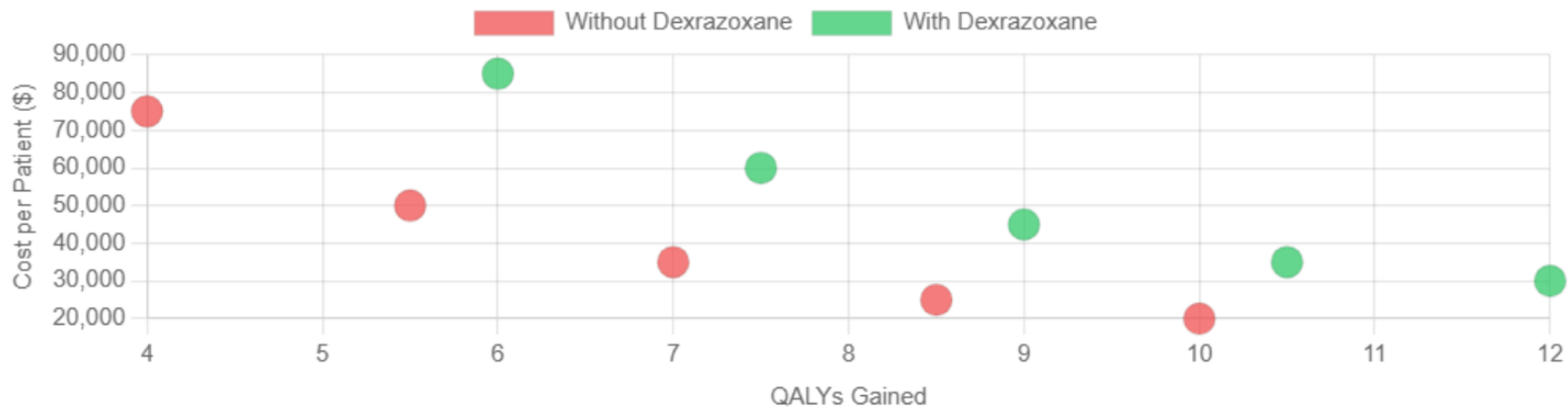
### Long-term Outcomes Over Follow-up Period (years)



Long-term outcomes over the follow-up period, showing cumulative risks and benefits.



### Cost-Effectiveness Analysis



Cost-effectiveness analysis showing the relationship between costs and quality-adjusted life years.



## *Evidence Summary*

- Schwartz et al., COG report (2016)
- Osteosarcoma cohort with dexrazoxane showed reduced LV dysfunction and allowed higher cumulative doses without clinical heart failure. No increase in SMN vs historical controls.
- Chow et al., 2021/2022
- Mixed pediatric cancers with dexrazoxane showed cardioprotective effects at  $\geq 5$  years follow-up with preserved LVEF/GLS. No adverse impact on second cancer risk or overall survival.
- Dewilde et al., Cost-effectiveness 2020
- Model predicts reduced cardiotoxicity and improved QALYs with dexrazoxane. Cost-effective even with SMN uncertainty.



## Comparison of Cohorts : Anthracycline Dose , Cardiac Outcomes , and SMN Incidence (Dexrazoxane)

Study (ref)	Cancer Type / Cohort	Dexrazoxane use	Cumulative Anthracycline Dose	Cardiac Outcome (summary)	SMN incidence (summary)
Schwartz et al., COG report (2016). [cite:turn0search7]	Osteosarcoma (COG multi-center)	Dexrazoxane used with intensified chemo	Doxorubicin up to ~375–600 mg/m <sup>2</sup> in intensification	Reduced LV dysfunction; allowed higher cumulative doses without clinical HF	No increase in SMN vs historical controls. [cite:turn0search7]
Kopp et al., 2019 (CardioOncology). [cite:turn0search10]	Osteosarcoma (single/multi cohorts)	Dexrazoxane used	High cumulative doses (varied by protocol)	Prevention of LV dysfunction; subtle LV structural changes persist (esp. girls)	No increased SMN signal in cohorts analyzed. [cite:turn0search10]
Chow et al., 2021/2022 (Late outcomes). [cite:turn0search6][turn0search23]	Mixed pediatric cancers (trial cohorts)	Dexrazoxane-containing trials	Varied (trial-based doses)	Cardioprotective effect observed at ≥5 years follow-up; preserved LVEF/GLS	No adverse impact on second cancer risk or overall survival. [cite:turn0search6][turn0search23]
Lipshultz et al., (2010, commentary 2023). [cite:turn0search4][turn0search8]	High-risk ALL and other pediatric cancers	Dexrazoxane used in trial settings	Cumulative doses variable; cardioprotection seen even at higher doses	Long-term cardioprotection; greater effect observed in girls	No clear increase in SMN in long-term follow-up. [cite:turn0search4]
Shaikh et al., JNCI 2016 (pooled analysis). [cite:turn0search14]	Mixed pediatric cohorts (meta-analyses included)	Included studies with/without dexrazoxane	Varied across studies	Dexrazoxane protective for LV dysfunction; effect sizes vary	Reported a statistically borderline increase in SMN in pooled analysis (interpret cautiously). [cite:turn0search14]



## *Real-World Evidence Effectiveness*

- **Dexrazoxane**
- Systematic review: Reduces subclinical cardiac dysfunction
- Prevalence of systolic dysfunction: 0.0% to 56.4% (variable definitions)
- **Cumulative Burden**
- CCSS data: 18.7% cumulative incidence of CVD at 30 years
  
- **Advanced Radiation Techniques**
- Real-world data: ↓ cardiovascular complications in modern era



## *Real-World Evidence Monitoring Adherence*

- Gaps in Care
- 40% of survivors: No cardiac testing within 5.25 years post-therapy
- Young adults (18-28 years): Less likely to receive monitoring (HR=0.42)
- Disparities: By cancer type, treatment, and region
- Factors Influencing Adherence

Factor	Category	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)
Age Groups	Young Adults	0.42(0.35-0.49)
Cancer Type	Bone/ Soft tissue	1.64 (1.30-2.07)
Treatment	HSCT Recipients	2.23 (1.63-3.03 )



## *Risk Prediction & Stratification*

- Clinical & Treatment Factors
- Anthracycline dose  $\geq 250$  mg/m<sup>2</sup>: HR = 2.31 (2.09-2.55)
- Chest radiation  $\geq 20$  Gy: HR = 1.84 (1.66-2.05)
- Demographics: Older age, male sex, African-American ancestry
- Comorbidities: Obesity, Hypertension, Diabetes



## *Genetic Susceptibility*

- Polymorphisms: CBR1, CBR3 (drug metabolism); HFE (iron); SOD2 (antioxidant)
- Biomarkers: Troponin, natriuretic peptides (early detection)



## *Clinical Implications Recommendations*

- Use dexrazoxane for high-risk patients (e.g.,  $>250$  mg/m<sup>2</sup> anthracycline)
- Employ heart-sparing radiation techniques
- Adhere to COG monitoring guidelines with risk-adapted frequency
- Manage modifiable risk factors (hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity)
- Facilitate care transitions (pediatric to adult)
- Implement risk-stratified approaches: Using prediction models
- Monitoring: Regular echocardiographic assessments, including LVEF and strain imaging, during and post-treatment



## *Future Directions & Research Priorities*

- Long-term outcomes of novel therapies (TKIs, ICIs)
- Genotype-guided prevention (prospective validation)
- Pediatric-specific interventions (heart failure medications)
- Interventional trials (preventive pharmacotherapy, lifestyle)
- Standardized definitions for cardiotoxicity in children
- Leverage data initiatives (e.g., Childhood Cancer Data Initiative)



## *Summary*

- Real-world cohorts support dexrazoxane as effective cardioprotection in pediatric sarcoma
- Preserves EF, reduces severe HF events
- No clear increase in second cancers
- Subtle structural changes can persist, esp. in girls
- Widely recommended in guidelines at higher anthracycline doses



## *Summary*

- Standard dose: 10:1 ratio to doxorubicin
- Give IV, 15–30 min before anthracycline
- Use when cumulative dose  $\geq 250$  mg/m<sup>2</sup> (per guidelines)
- Strong evidence for cardioprotection, no increase in second cancers



## *Discussion & Questions*

- Cardiotoxicity remains a significant cause of morbidity/mortality in childhood sarcoma survivors
- Dexrazoxane and advanced radiation techniques are effective prevention strategies
- Real-world data reveals gaps in monitoring adherence, especially during care transitions
- Risk prediction models enable personalized prevention and surveillance
- Future work should focus on pediatric-specific interventions and long-term outcomes of novel therapies



# Thanks

*Discussion & Questions*