Immunology

1. Allergy Management

Allergic Rhinitis (Hay Fever):

- o Antihistamines (e.g., Loratadine, Cetirizine).
- o Intranasal corticosteroids (e.g., Fluticasone, Budesonide).
- Decongestants (e.g., Pseudoephedrine).

Food Allergies:

• Avoidance of allergenic foods and emergency management with epinephrine auto-injectors (e.g., EpiPen).

• Skin Allergies:

- o Topical corticosteroids for eczema or dermatitis.
- o Oral antihistamines for hives or itching.

• Allergy Shots (Immunotherapy):

o Desensitization to specific allergens through regular injections.

• Sublingual Immunotherapy (SLIT):

o Allergy tablets or drops placed under the tongue.

2. Autoimmune Disease Treatments

• Rheumatoid Arthritis, Lupus, and Other Autoimmune Disorders:

- Disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs) like Methotrexate or Hydroxychloroquine.
- Biologic agents like TNF inhibitors (e.g., Adalimumab, Infliximab).
- Corticosteroids for inflammation control.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS):

- o Immune-modulating drugs like Interferon beta or Glatiramer acetate.
- o Monoclonal antibodies like Natalizumab or Ocrelizumab.

• Type 1 Diabetes:

o Insulin therapy and immunomodulatory research therapies.

3. Immunodeficiency Treatments

• Primary Immunodeficiency Disorders:

o Immunoglobulin replacement therapy (IVIG or SCIG) for conditions like common variable immunodeficiency (CVID).

o Prophylactic antibiotics to prevent infections.

• Secondary Immunodeficiency:

- Management of immune suppression caused by conditions like HIV/AIDS or cancer therapy.
- o Antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV infection.

Bone Marrow or Stem Cell Transplant:

 For severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) or other life-threatening immune conditions.

4. Vaccination and Preventive Care

• Routine Immunizations:

• Vaccines to protect against infectious diseases (e.g., flu, hepatitis, COVID-19).

• Specialized Vaccines:

 For immunocompromised patients, such as Pneumococcal or Meningococcal vaccines.

5. Hypersensitivity Reaction Management

Anaphylaxis:

- o Emergency use of epinephrine (e.g., EpiPen).
- Supportive care with oxygen, IV fluids, and antihistamines.

Serum Sickness:

 Corticosteroids or antihistamines to manage symptoms caused by immune complex reactions.

6. Chronic Inflammatory Conditions

• Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD):

 Immunosuppressive drugs like Azathioprine or biologics like Infliximab for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

• Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis:

o Biologic therapies (e.g., Etanercept, Ustekinumab) or immunomodulators.

7. Advanced Immunotherapies

Monoclonal Antibodies:

o Target-specific therapies for autoimmune diseases, cancers, or severe allergies.

• CAR-T Cell Therapy:

o Genetically engineered immune cells for certain types of cancer.

Checkpoint Inhibitors:

o Immunotherapy drugs like Nivolumab or Pembrolizumab for cancer treatment.

8. Management of Immune Overactivity

• Cytokine Storm Syndrome:

 Management with immunosuppressants like corticosteroids or IL-6 inhibitors (e.g., Tocilizumab).

• Hyper IgE Syndrome:

o Antibiotics, antifungals, and immune-modulating therapies.

9. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures

• Allergy Testing:

o Skin prick tests or blood tests to identify allergens.

• Autoantibody Testing:

o Diagnosis of autoimmune conditions (e.g., ANA, RF, or anti-dsDNA tests).

• Plasmapheresis:

o Filtering harmful antibodies from the blood in severe autoimmune diseases.

Biopsy and Imaging:

o For diagnosing immune-related organ damage.

10. Emerging Treatments

• Gene Therapy:

o Experimental approaches for genetic immunodeficiencies like SCID.

• Tolerogenic Vaccines:

o Under research for autoimmune diseases like Type 1 diabetes.

• Microbiome Modulation:

o Use of probiotics or fecal transplants to regulate immune function.