

## The Management of Immunological Diseases in Internal Medicine Departments

Topa Ester<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Maffettone Ada<sup>3</sup>, D Ambrosio Daniele<sup>4</sup>, Gallucci Fernando<sup>5</sup>, Cavallaro Raimondo<sup>1</sup>, Ferrara Luigi<sup>1</sup> and Bova Maria<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Internal Medicine 2, Department of Medicine and Medical Specialties, A Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

<sup>2</sup>Department of translational Medical Sciences (DISMET), Federico II University, Naples, Italy

<sup>3</sup>Division of Internal Medicine, San Luca Hospital, ASL Salerno, Vallo della Lucania (SA), Italy

<sup>4</sup>Division of Internal Medicine, Piedimonte Matese Hospital, ASL Caserta, Piedimonte Matese (CE), Italy

<sup>5</sup>Division of Internal Medicine 3, Department of Medicine and Medical Specialties, A. Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy

### \*Corresponding author

Topa Ester, Division of Internal Medicine 2, Department of Medicine and Medical Specialties, A Cardarelli Hospital, Naples, Italy.

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**Background and Aims:** Internal medicine plays a pivotal role in identification and care of immunological patients. These abstract highlights the need for education and integrated care pathways to address complexity of immunological diseases in internal medicine settings.

**Materials and Methods:** We administered a 12-question survey to 108 physicians, 80% of whom were internal medicine specialists.

**Results:** In 90% of cases, serum protein electrophoresis is performed as a routine test at first patients' admission. When hypogammaglobulinemia is detected, 40% of physicians proceed with further investigations, while 30% of them decide based on hypogammaglobulinemia severity. In presence of hypogammaglobulinemia, 60% of physicians request immunology

consultation, 25% continue internal medicine management, and 15% refer to hematologists. About 40% of physicians are aware of existence of immunodeficiencies reference centers in Campania to involve in uncertain cases; only 47% of hospitals have dedicated immunology outpatient services. Administration of immunoglobulin therapy is performed by 50% of physicians only following specialist recommendation. In cases of fever of unknown origin where no infectious cause is identified, 40% of physicians request an immune-rheumatological consultation, and 35% consider autoinflammatory diseases in differential diagnosis.

**Discussion:** Immunological diseases present a cross-disciplinary challenge for internists. An integrated approach could adequately address the complexity of these conditions.

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