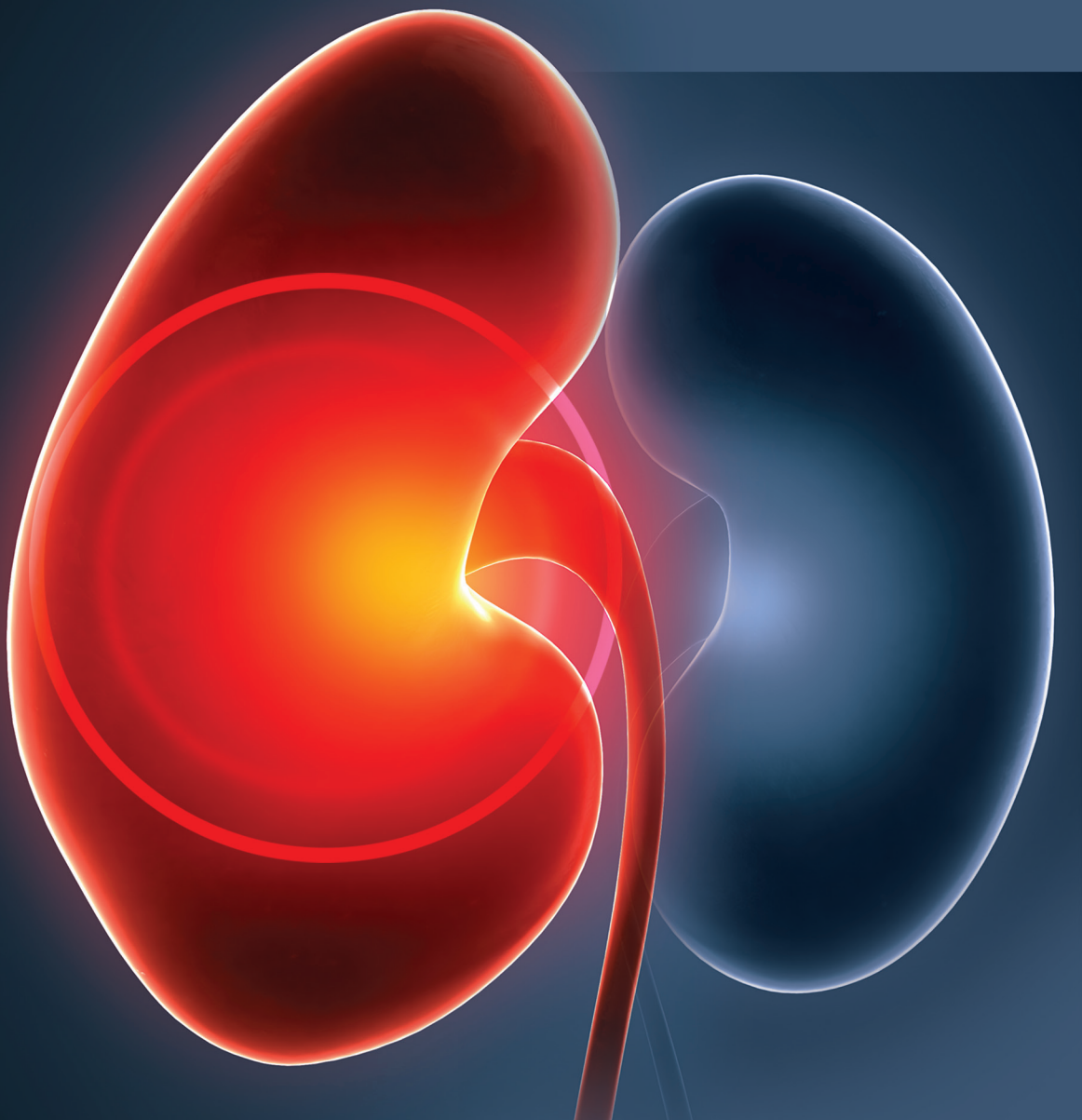


# Insights to Manage Renal Cell Carcinoma with First-line Immuno-oncology/Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Combination Therapies: WHICH OF YOUR PATIENTS CAN BENEFIT?

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Arjun V. Balar, MD  
Associate Professor Medicine  
Director, Genitourinary Medical Oncology Program  
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center  
NYU Langone Health  
New York, NY





**Insights to Manage Renal Cell Carcinoma with First-line Immuno-oncology/  
Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Combination Therapies:  
WHICH OF YOUR PATIENTS CAN BENEFIT?**

## **AGENDA**

### **I. RCC: A Brief Overview**

- a. Clinical presentation
- b. Disease pathophysiology
- c. Risk stratification
- d. Therapeutic targets

### **II. IO/TKI Combination Therapeutic Options for the Treatment of Advanced and/or mRCC in the First-line Setting**

- a. Historical perspective: TKI monotherapy
- b. NCCN recommendations for RCC
- c. Introduction to VEGF and immune checkpoint inhibition
- d. MOAs and clinical trials of IO/TKI combination therapies
  - a. KEYNOTE-426, JAVELIN 101, CHECKMATE 214, CHECKMATE 9ER, KEYNOTE 146/Study 111, and others
- e. Challenges in first-line management
- f. Future trials

### **III. Adverse Events**

- a. Recognizing the various types of AEs associated with the use of combination IO/TKI therapeutic options
- b. Management strategies for irAEs/trAEs associated with the use of combination IO/TKI therapeutic options
- c. Multidisciplinary irAE/trAE management team members and their respective roles

### **IV. Case studies**

### **V. Conclusions and Q & A**

# **Insights to Manage Renal Cell Carcinoma with First-line Immuno-oncology/Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Combination Therapies: Which of Your Patients Can Benefit?**

## **FACULTY**

### **Arjun V. Balar, MD**

Associate Professor of Medicine  
Director, Genitourinary Medical Oncology Program  
Laura and Isaac Perlmutter Cancer Center  
NYU Langone Health  
New York, NY

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

These live virtual TeleECHO® sessions will be a faculty-led didactic and case-based lecture focusing on treatment and management of patients with renal cell carcinoma.

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

This educational activity is intended for US-based community oncologists and the multidisciplinary care team involved in the management of patients with RCC.

## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

After completing the CME activity, learners should be better able to:

- Interpret evidence from clinical trials assessing first-line combination IO/TKI therapies for the treatment of patients with advanced and/or mRCC
- Differentiate patients with advanced and/or mRCC in your care that could benefit from first-line IO/TKI combination therapies
- Formulate management strategies that account for irAEs and trAEs associated with first-line combination IO/TKI therapies for the treatment of patients with advanced and/or mRCC

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CNE Accreditation Statement: Ultimate Medical Academy/Complete Conference Management (CCM) is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Purpose: This program would be beneficial for nurses involved in the care of patients with renal carcinoma cancer. Credits: 1.0 ANCC Contact Hour.

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Speaking Engagements	Genentech, Merck, and AstraZeneca/Medimmune
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Provided by Med Learning Group



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- Remember to direct all questions to the “co-host.” There is a toggle button above the typing space that allows you to specify the location of your message delivery.

## ***Insights to Manage Renal Cell Carcinoma With First-Line Immuno-Oncology/Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Combination Therapies: Which of Your Patients Can Benefit?***

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New York, NY

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Speaking Engagements	Genentech, Merck, and AstraZeneca/Medimmune
Steering Committees/Scientific Advisory Committees	Merck and Nektar
Equity and serves as a Scientific Advisory Board Member	EpiVax Oncology

- During the course of this lecture, the presenter will discuss the use of medications for both FDA-approved and non-approved indications.

**This activity is supported by an educational grant from Pfizer.**

## Learning Objectives

- Interpret evidence from clinical trials assessing first-line combination IO/TKI therapies for the treatment of patients with advanced and/or mRCC
- Differentiate patients with advanced and/or mRCC in your care that could benefit from first-line IO/TKI combination therapies
- Formulate management strategies that account for irAEs and trAEs associated with first-line combination IO/TKI therapies for the treatment of patients with advanced and/or mRCC

IO = immuno-oncology; TKI = tyrosine kinase inhibitor; irAE = immune-related adverse event; trAE = treatment-related adverse event



## RCC: Clinical Presentation and Pathology

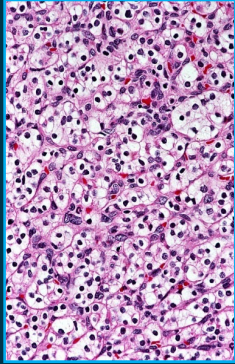
### Clinical Presentation: Signs and Symptoms, Paraneoplastic Syndromes

Classic Triad

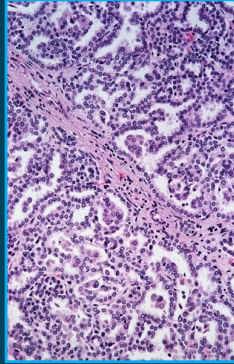
Finding	Frequency, %
Flank pain	40
Hematuria	40
Palpable mass	35
Hypertension	33
Hypercalcemia	10
Erythrocytosis	4
Gynecomastia	Rare
Sedimentation rate elevation	50
Anemia	33
Fever	18
Amyloidosis	3
Hepatic dysfunction	Uncommon

Palapattu GS, et al. *Rev Urol.* 2002;4(4):163-170.

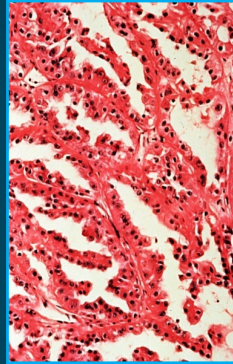
## Renal Cell Carcinoma: Pathologic Subtypes



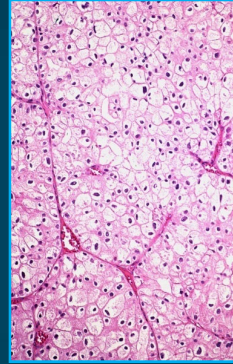
**Clear Cell**  
75%



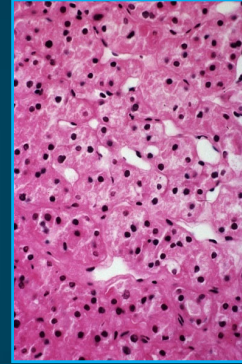
**Papillary Type 1**  
5%



**Papillary Type 2**  
10%



**Chromophobe**  
5%

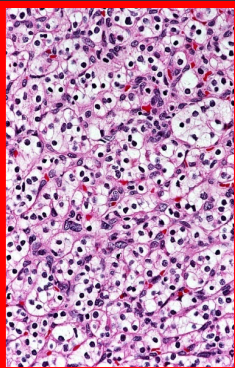


**Oncocytoma**  
5%

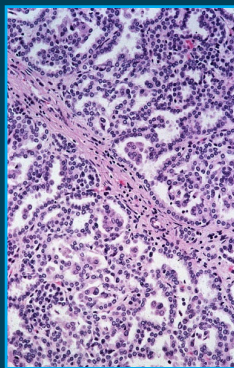
Other malignant subtypes: medullary, small cell, lymphoma, sarcomas of the kidney

Adapted from Linehan WM, et al. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2004;10:6282S-6289S.

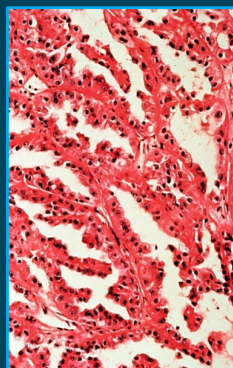
## Renal Cell Carcinoma: Pathologic Subtypes



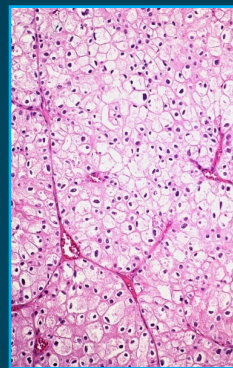
**Clear Cell**  
**75%**



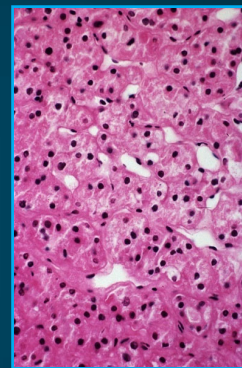
**Papillary Type 1**  
5%



**Papillary Type 2**  
10%



**Chromophobe**  
5%



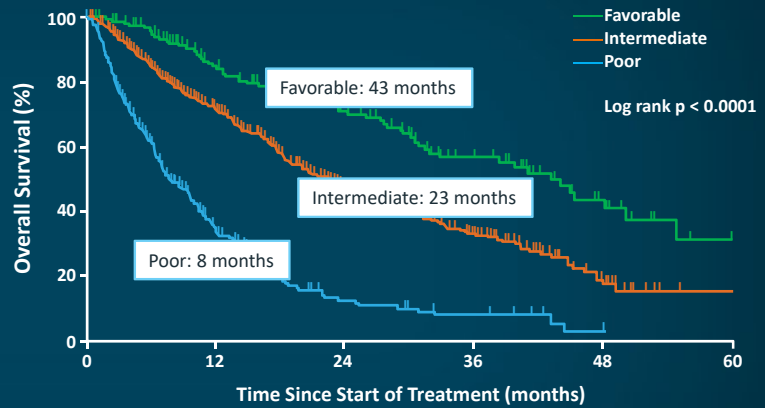
**Oncocytoma**  
5%

Other malignant subtypes: medullary, small cell, lymphoma, sarcomas of the kidney

Adapted from Linehan WM, et al. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2004;10:6282S-6289S.

## Risk Stratification for 1<sup>st</sup>-Line Therapy in mRCC: IMDC/Heng Criteria

IMDC Criteria Risk Factors	
KPS	< 80%
Time from diagnosis	< 12 months
Hemoglobin	< LLN
Neutrophil count	> ULN
Platelet count	> ULN
Corrected serum calcium	> ULN
Risk Group by Number of Risk Factors	
Favorable (n = 133)	0
Intermediate (n = 301)	1-2
Poor (n = 152)	3-6

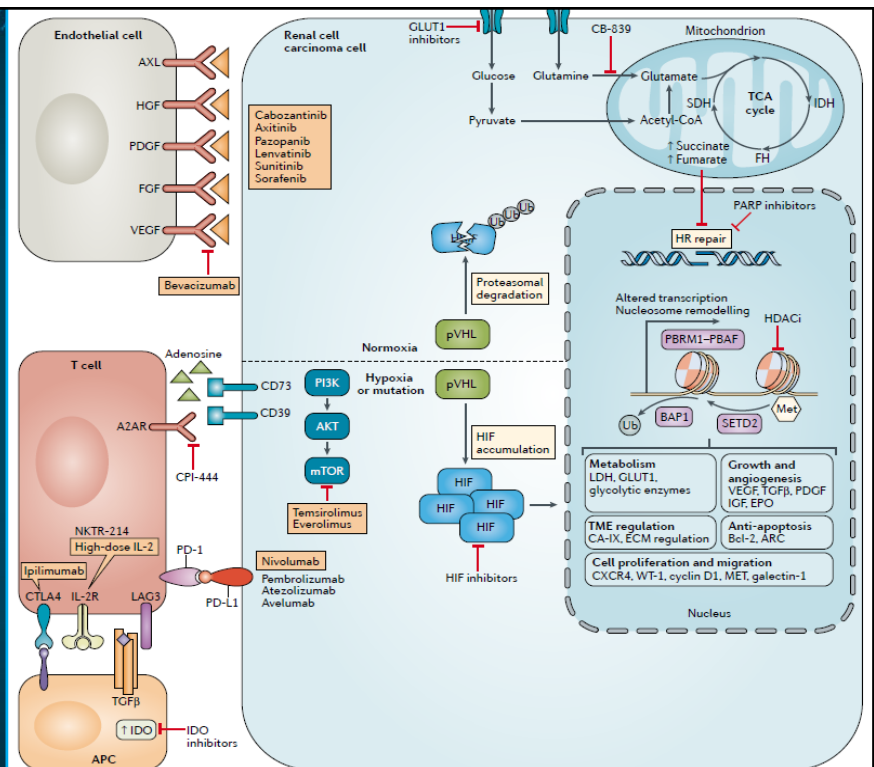


>500 patients with mRCC treated with VEGF-targeted therapy: sunitinib (61%), sorafenib (31%), bevacizumab (8%)

mRCC = metastatic renal cell carcinoma; IMDC = International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium; KPS = Karnofsky performance status; ULN = upper limit of normal; LLN = lower limit of normal; VEGF = vascular endothelial growth factor.

Heng DY, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2009;27:5794-5799. Heng DY, et al. *Lancet Oncol.* 2013;14:141-148.

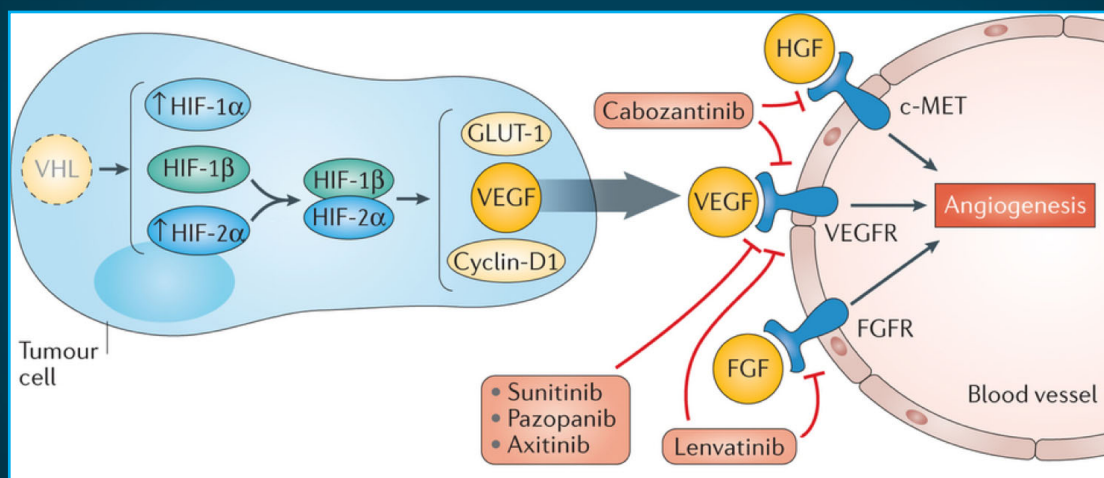
## RCC: Therapeutic Targets



Kotecha R. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol.* 2019;16:621-33.

## Systemic Therapy in the Metastatic Setting

### Historical Perspective on First-Line Therapy: Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor (TKI) Monotherapy



HIF = hypoxia inducible factor; HGF = hepatocyte growth factor; FGF = fibroblast growth factor; FGFR = fibroblast growth factor receptor; c-MET = hepatocyte growth factor receptor; VEGFR = VEGF receptor.

Lee C-H, et al. *Nat Rev Nephrol*. 2017;13(2):69-70.



## NCCN Recommendations for Stage IV Kidney Cancer (First-Line, Predominant Clear Cell Histology)

IMDC risk category	Preferred regimens	Other recommended regimens	Useful under certain circumstances
<b>Favorable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib + pembrolizumab</li> <li>Cabozantinib + nivolumab</li> <li>Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (cat 1)</li> <li>Pazopanib</li> <li>Sunitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib + avelumab</li> <li>Cabozantinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>Ipilimumab + nivolumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active surveillance</li> <li>Axitinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>High-dose IL-2</li> </ul>
<b>Intermediate/ Poor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib + pembrolizumab (cat 1)</li> <li>Cabozantinib + nivolumab</li> <li>Ipilimumab + nivolumab (cat 1)</li> <li>Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab</li> <li>Cabozantinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib + avelumab</li> <li>Pazopanib</li> <li>Sunitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>High-dose IL-2</li> <li>Temsirolimus</li> </ul>

See guidelines for additional notes and information on these recommendations.

NCCN = National Comprehensive Cancer Network.

Adapted from NCCN clinical practice guidelines in oncology for kidney cancer (Version 3.2021). ([https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/default.aspx](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/default.aspx)). Accessed 4/7/21.

## Sunitinib and Pazopanib Are Standards in First-Line RCC Registration Data

- Patients with untreated metastatic RCC
- Stratified based on performance status, LDH level, prior nephrectomy

R  
1:1  
N = 750

**Sunitinib**  
50 mg orally for 4 weeks, then  
2 weeks off for repeated 6-week  
cycles (n = 375)

**IFN- $\alpha$**   
9 MU subcutaneously 3x/week  
(n = 375)

**Primary Endpoint:** Progression-Free Survival  
Stratified based on performance status, LDH level, prior nephrectomy

### Eligibility criteria

- Locally advanced RCC or mRCC
- Predominant clear cell histology
- Measurable disease ( $\geq 1$  lesion)
- 0 to 1 prior systemic treatment (cytokine based) for locally advanced or mRCC

R  
2:1  
N = 400

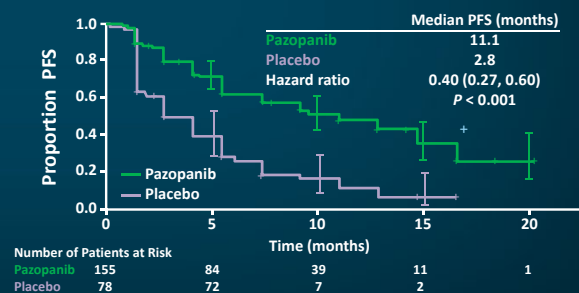
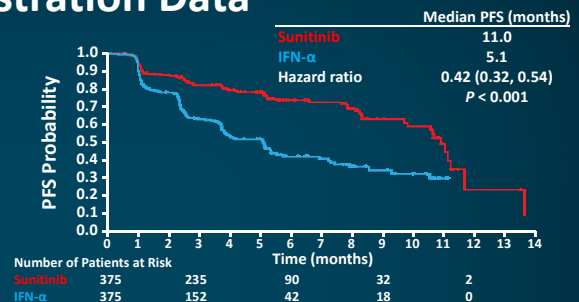
**Pazopanib**  
800 mg/day

**Placebo**

**Primary Endpoint:** Progression-Free Survival

R = randomized; IFN- $\alpha$  = interferon alpha group; PFS = progression-free survival; HR = hazard ratio; CI = confidence interval.

. Sternberg CN, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2010;28:1061-1068.



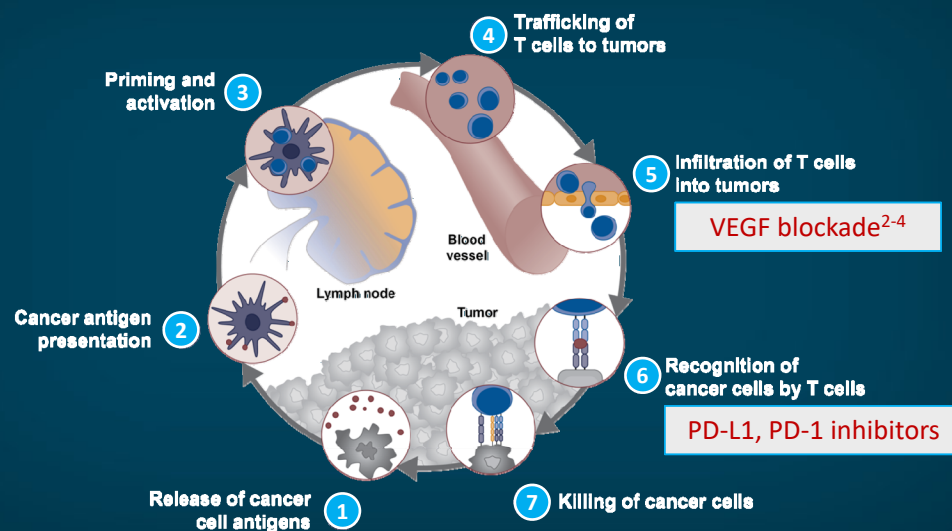
## NCCN Recommendations for Stage IV Kidney Cancer (First-Line, Predominant Clear Cell Histology)

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<b>Favorable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib + pembrolizumab</li> <li>Cabozantinib + nivolumab</li> <li>Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (cat 1)</li> <li>Pazopanib</li> <li>Sunitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Axitinib + avelumab</li> <li>Cabozantinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>Ipilimumab + nivolumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active surveillance</li> <li>Axitinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>High-dose IL-2</li> </ul>
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See guidelines for additional notes and information on these recommendations.

Adapted from NCCN clinical practice guidelines in oncology for kidney cancer (Version 3.2021). ([https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/default.aspx](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/default.aspx)). Accessed 4/7/21.

## Is VEGF Inhibition Synergistic With Anti-PD-1?<sup>1</sup>

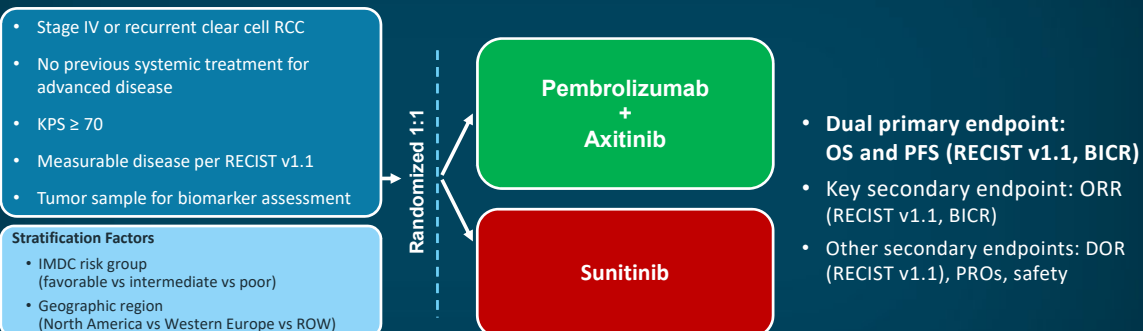


PD-L1 = programmed cell death protein ligand 1; PD-1 = programmed cell death protein 1.

1. Chen DS, Mellman I. *Immunity*. 2013;39:1-10. 2. Shrimali RK, et al. *Can Res*. 2010;70:6171-6180. 3. Manning EA, et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2007;13:3951-3959. 4. Motz GT, et al. *Nat Med*. 2014;20:607-615.

## KEYNOTE-426 Study Design

### Pembrolizumab (anti-PD-1) in Combination With Axitinib (VEGFR-TKI) in Previously Untreated RCC



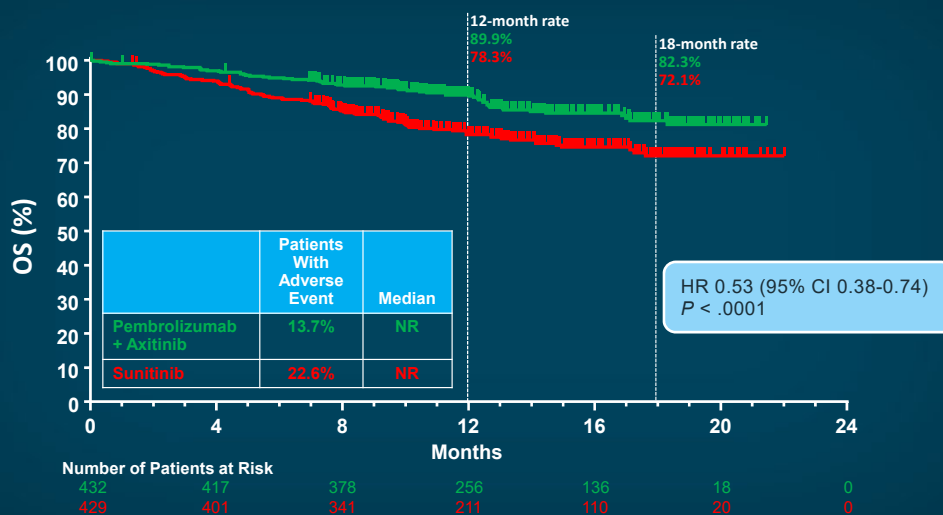
<sup>a</sup>Axitinib dose 5 mg twice daily; could be increased to 7 mg, then 10 mg twice daily if safety criteria were met; dose could be reduced to 3 mg, then 2 mg twice daily to manage toxicity.

<sup>b</sup>Sunitinib dose 50 mg daily, 4 weeks on/2 weeks off; could be decreased to 37.5 mg, then 25 mg once daily for the first 4 weeks of each 6-week cycle to manage toxicity.

BICR = blinded independent central radiologic review; DOR = duration of response; KPS = Karnofsky performance status; ORR = objective response rate; OS = overall survival; PFS = progression-free survival; PROs = patient-reported outcomes; RECIST = Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; ROW = rest of world.

NCT02853331. (<https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02853331>).

## KEYNOTE-426 Overall Survival



Data cutoff date: 8.24.2018. NR = not reached.

Powles T, et al. GU ASCO 2019; Abstract 543. Rini BI, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;380:1116-1127.

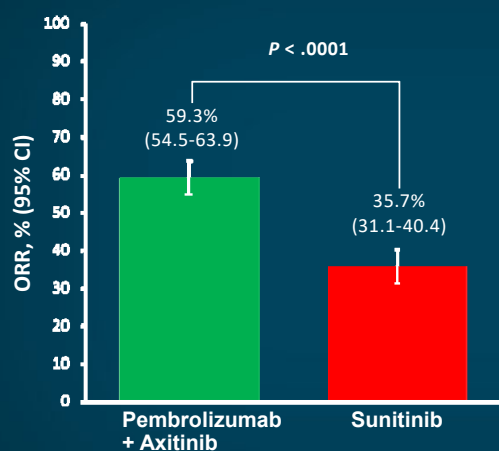
## KEYNOTE-426 Progression-Free Survival



Data cutoff date: 8.24.2018.

Powles T, et al. GU ASCO 2019; Abstract 543. Rini BI, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;380:1116-1127.

## KEYNOTE-426 Confirmed Objective Responses



	Pembrolizumab + Axitinib N = 432	Sunitinib N = 429
<b>Best Response</b>		
Complete response	25 (5.8%)	8 (1.9%)
Partial response	231 (53.5%)	145 (33.8%)
Stable disease	106 (24.5%)	169 (39.4%)
Progressive disease	47 (10.9%)	73 (17.0%)
Not evaluable <sup>a</sup>	8 (1.9%)	6 (1.4%)
Not assessed <sup>b</sup>	15 (3.5%)	28 (6.5%)
<b>Response Duration</b>	<b>N = 256</b>	<b>N = 153</b>
Median (range), month	NR (1.4+ to 18.2+)	15.2 (1.1+ to 15.4+)

<sup>a</sup>Patients who had  $\geq 1$  postbaseline imaging assessment, none of which were evaluable per RECIST v1.1 by BICR.

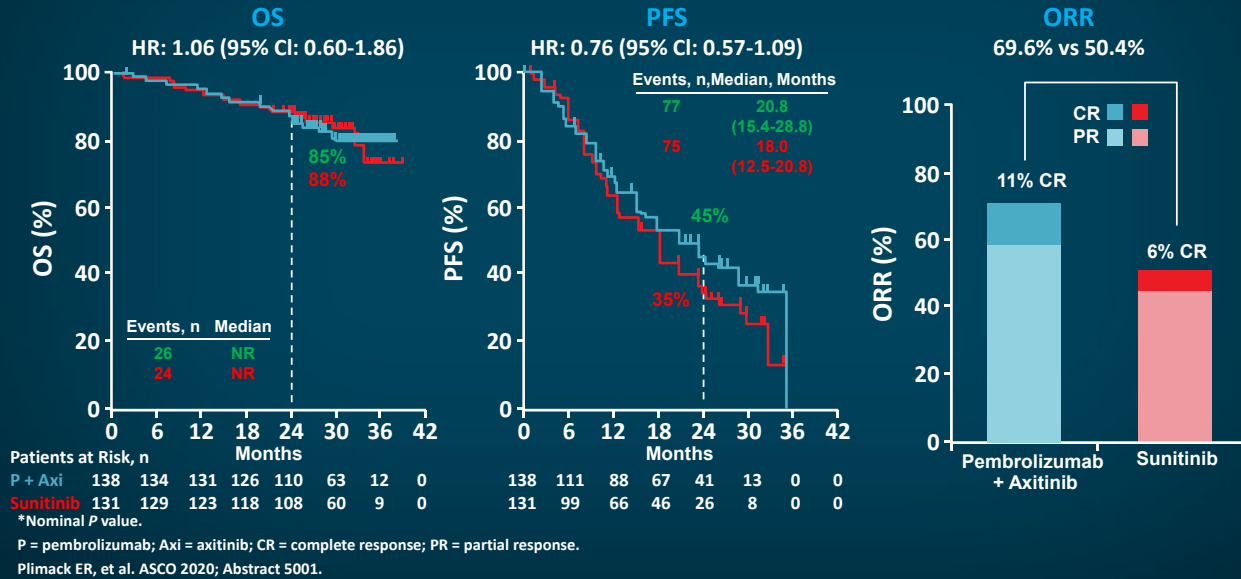
<sup>b</sup>Patients who did not have  $\geq 1$  postbaseline imaging assessment.

Data cutoff date: 8.24.2018. ORR = overall response rate.

Powles T, et al. GU ASCO 2019; Abstract 543. Rini BI, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;380:1116-1127.

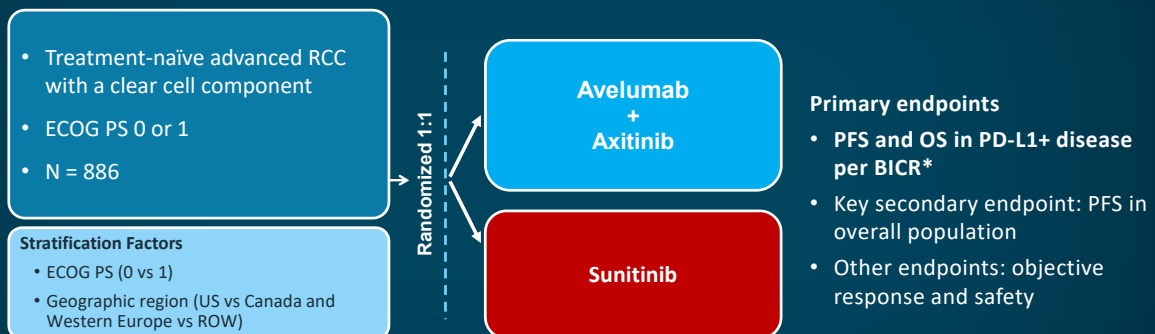


## KEYNOTE-426: OS, PFS, and ORR in IMDC Favorable-Risk Group



## JAVELIN Renal 101 Study Design

**Avelumab (anti-PD-L1) in Combination With Axitinib (VEGFR-TKI)  
in Previously Untreated RCC**

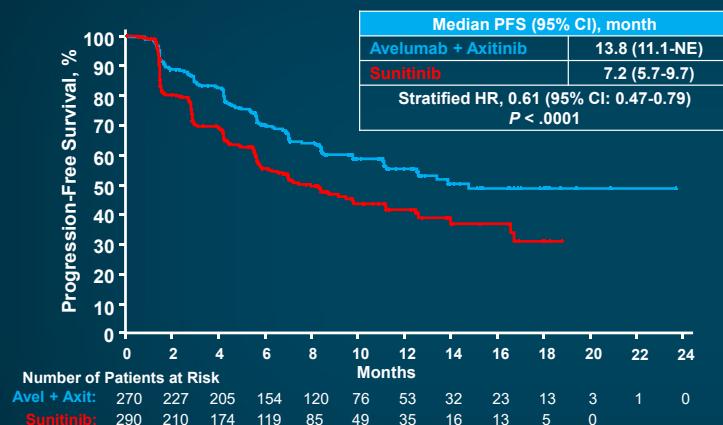


\*≥1% of immune cells staining positive within the tumor area of the tested tissue sample. PD-L1 expression was assessed at a central laboratory with the use of the Ventana PD-L1 (SP263) assay (Ventana Medical Systems).

BICR = blinded independent central review; ECOG PS = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; OS = overall survival; PD-L1 = programmed cell death protein ligand 1; PFS = progression-free survival; RCC = renal cell carcinoma; ROW = rest of world.

Motzer RJ, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;380:1103-1115.

## JAVELIN Renal 101: PFS and ORR per IRC in PD-L1+ Patients



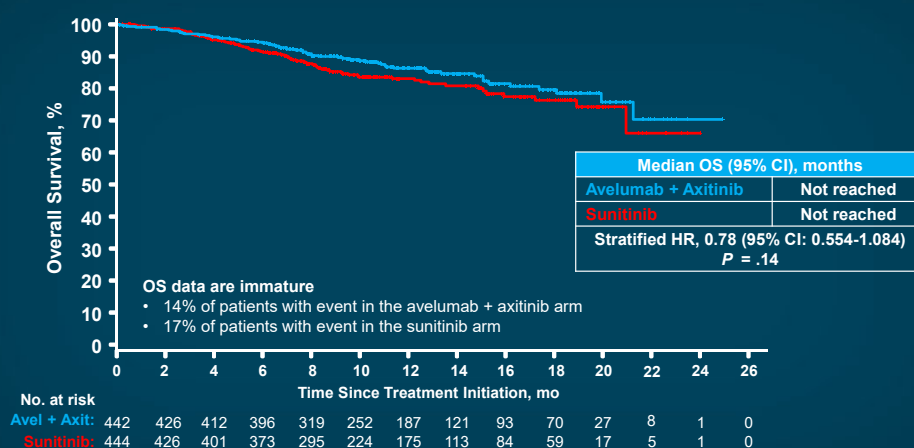
Per IRC	Avelumab + Axitinib (N = 270)	Sunitinib (N = 290)
Objective response rate (95% CI), %	55 (49.0-61.2)	26 (20.6-30.9)
Best overall response, %*		
Complete response	4	2
Partial response	51	23
Stable disease	27	43
Progressive disease	11	22
Not evaluable†	4	7
Patients with ongoing response, %‡	73	65

Minimum follow-up, 6 months. Median follow-up, 9.9 months (avelumab + axitinib) and 8.4 months (sunitinib). The PFS analysis crossed the prespecified efficacy boundary based on the alpha-spending function ( $P = .001$ ).

IRC = independent review committee; NE = not estimable; PD-L1 = programmed cell death protein ligand 1; PFS = progression-free survival.

Motzer RJ, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;380:1103-1115.

## JAVELIN Renal 101: Overall Survival



Median follow-up, 12.0 months (avelumab + axitinib) and 11.5 months (sunitinib).  
OS = overall survival.

Motzer RJ, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;380:1103-1115.

## NCCN Recommendations for Stage IV Kidney Cancer (First-Line, Predominant Clear Cell Histology)

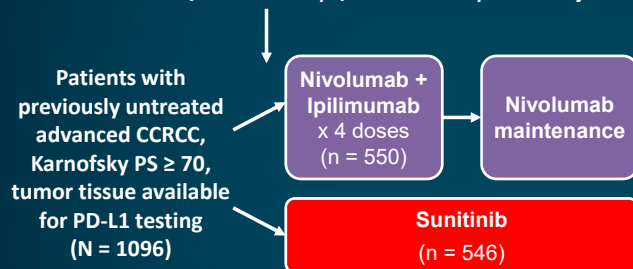
IMDC risk category	Preferred regimens	Other recommended regimens	Useful under certain circumstances
Favorable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axitinib + pembrolizumab</b></li> <li>• <b>Cabozantinib + nivolumab</b></li> <li>• <b>Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (cat 1)</b></li> <li>• Pazopanib</li> <li>• Sunitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axitinib + avelumab</b></li> <li>• Cabozantinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>• <b>Ipilimumab + nivolumab</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active surveillance</li> <li>• Axitinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>• High-dose IL-2</li> </ul>
Intermediate/ Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axitinib + pembrolizumab (cat 1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Cabozantinib + nivolumab</b></li> <li>• <b>Ipilimumab + nivolumab (cat 1)</b></li> <li>• <b>Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab</b></li> <li>• Cabozantinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Axitinib + avelumab</b></li> <li>• Pazopanib</li> <li>• Sunitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axitinib (cat 2B)</li> <li>• High-dose IL-2</li> <li>• Temsirolimus</li> </ul>

See guidelines for additional notes and information on these recommendations.

Adapted from NCCN clinical practice guidelines in oncology for kidney cancer (Version 3.2021). ([https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/default.aspx](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/default.aspx)). Accessed 4/7/21.

### CheckMate 214 Nivolumab + Ipilimumab<sup>1</sup>

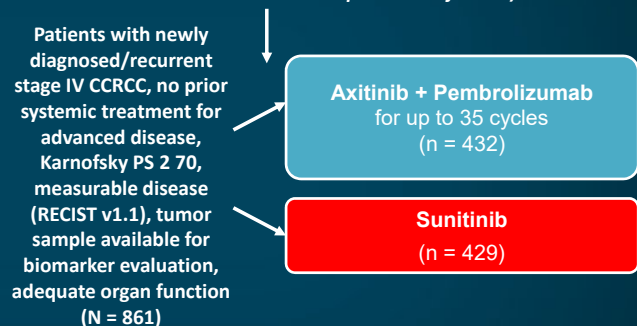
Stratified by MDC prognostic score (0 vs 1-2 vs 3-6), region (United States vs Canada/Western Europe/Northern Europe vs rest of world)



Minimum follow-up of **42 months**

### KEYNOTE-426 Axitinib + Pembrolizumab<sup>2</sup>

Stratified by IMDC risk group (0 vs 1-2 vs 3-6), region (North America vs Western Europe vs rest of world)



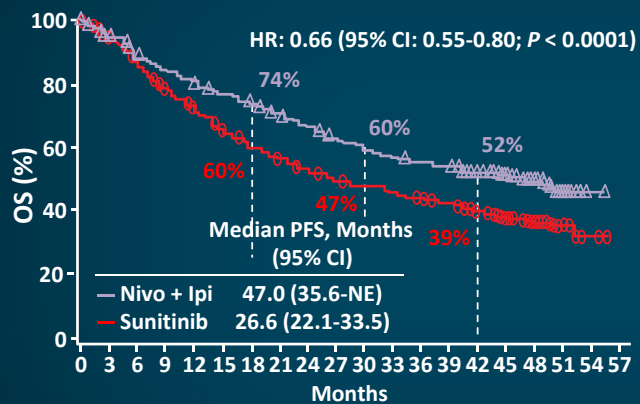
Minimum follow-up of **23 months**

CCRCC = clear cell renal cell carcinoma.

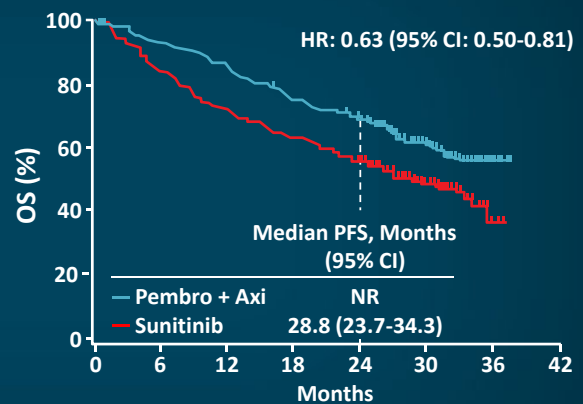
1. Tannir NM, et al. ASCO GU 2020; Abstract 609. 2. Powles T, et al. GU ASCO 2019; Abstract 543.

## OS for Intermediate-/Poor-Risk Disease

CheckMate 214: Nivo + Ipi vs Sunitinib  
Intermediate/Poor-Risk Disease (n = 847)<sup>1</sup>



KEYNOTE-426: Axi + Pembro vs Sunitinib  
Intermediate/Poor-Risk Disease (n = 592)<sup>2</sup>



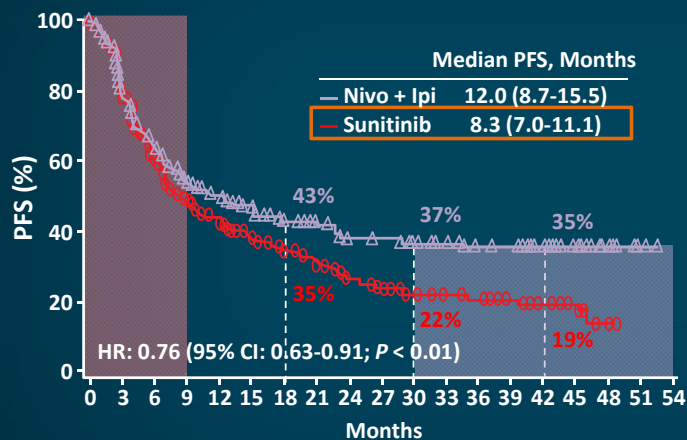
- Similar outcome on same comparator arm
- Early separation of curves for both
- Longer follow-up for CheckMate 214

\*Nivolumab + Ipilimumab 47 months median OS may be unstable due to censoring.

1. Tannir NM, et al. ASCO GU 2020; Abstract 609. 2. Plimack ER, et al. ASCO 2020; Abstract 5001.

## PFS for IMDC Intermediate-/Poor-Risk Disease

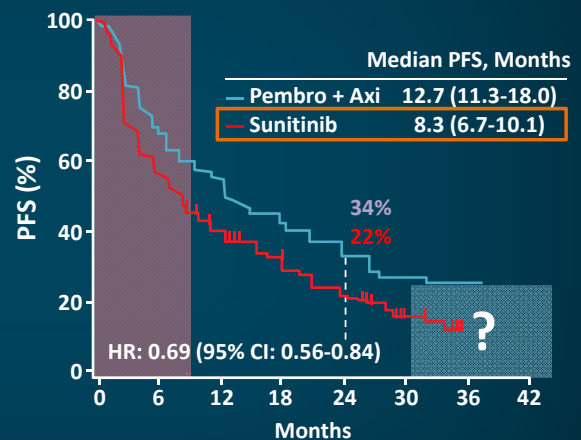
CheckMate 214: Nivo + Ipi vs Sunitinib (n = 847)<sup>1</sup>



Patients at Risk, n

Nivo + Ipi	425	302	229	182	159	144	126	113	98	95	90	82	75	70	56	34	13	2	0
Sunitinib	422	280	188	136	104	88	73	59	45	36	30	25	21	16	11	8	3	0	0

KEYNOTE-426: Axi + Pembro vs Sunitinib (n = 592)<sup>2</sup>



Patients at Risk, n

P + Axi	294	189	146	113	68	23	2	0
Sunitinib	298	149	93	66	35	11	0	0

1. Tannir NM, et al. ASCO GU 2020; Abstract 609. 2. Plimack ER, et al. ASCO 2020; Abstract 5001.

## CheckMate 9ER: Study Design

N = 651

### Key inclusion criteria<sup>1,2</sup>

- Previously untreated advanced or metastatic RCC
- Clear cell component
- Any IMDC risk group

### Stratification factors

- IMDC risk score
- Tumor PD-L1 expression<sup>a</sup>
- Geographic region

R  
1:1

**Nivolumab** 240 mg IV every 2 weeks + **Carbozantinib** 40 mg orally once daily

**Sunitinib** 50 mg orally once daily, cycle of 4 weeks on/ 2 weeks off

*Treat until RECIST v1.1–defined progression or unacceptable toxicity<sup>b</sup>*

Median study follow-up, 18.1 months (range, 10.6–30.6 months)

Primary endpoint: PFS

Secondary endpoints: OS, ORR, and safety

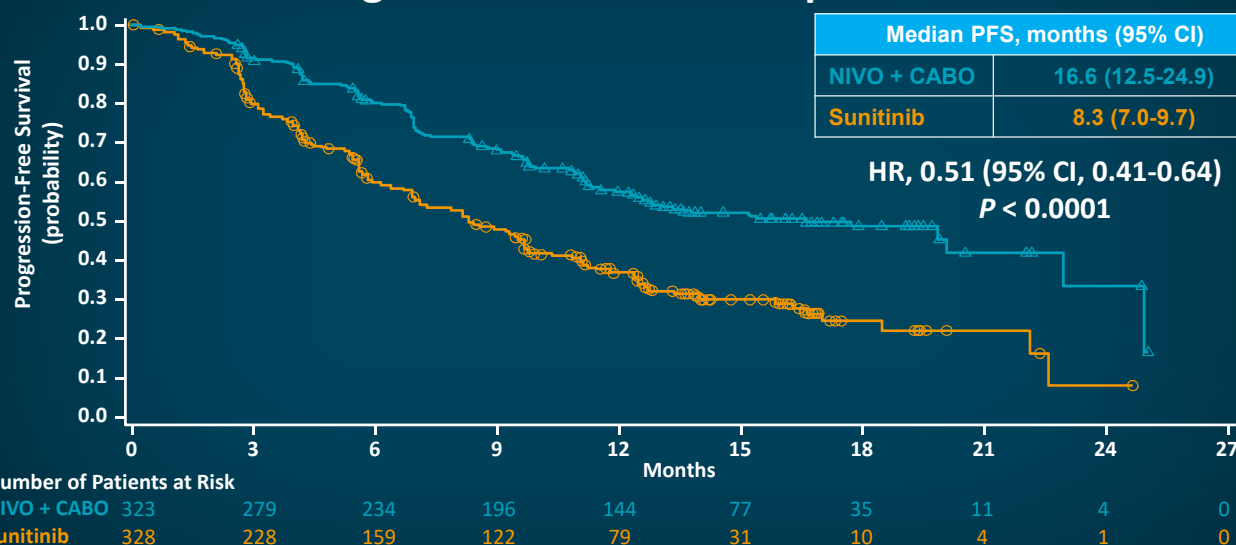
<sup>a</sup>Defined as the percent of positive tumor cell membrane staining in a minimum of 100 evaluable tumor cells per validated Dako PD-L1 immunohistochemistry 28-8 pharmDx assay.

<sup>b</sup>NIVO dosing may not exceed a total of 2 years (from cycle 1); carbozantinib and sunitinib treatment may continue beyond 2 years in the absence of progression or unacceptable toxicity. Patients may be treated beyond progression.

IMDC = International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium; IV = intravenously; ORR = objective response rate; PD-L1 = programmed death ligand 1; PFS = progression-free survival; RECIST = Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors.

Choueiri T, et al. *NEJM*. 2021;384:829-41.

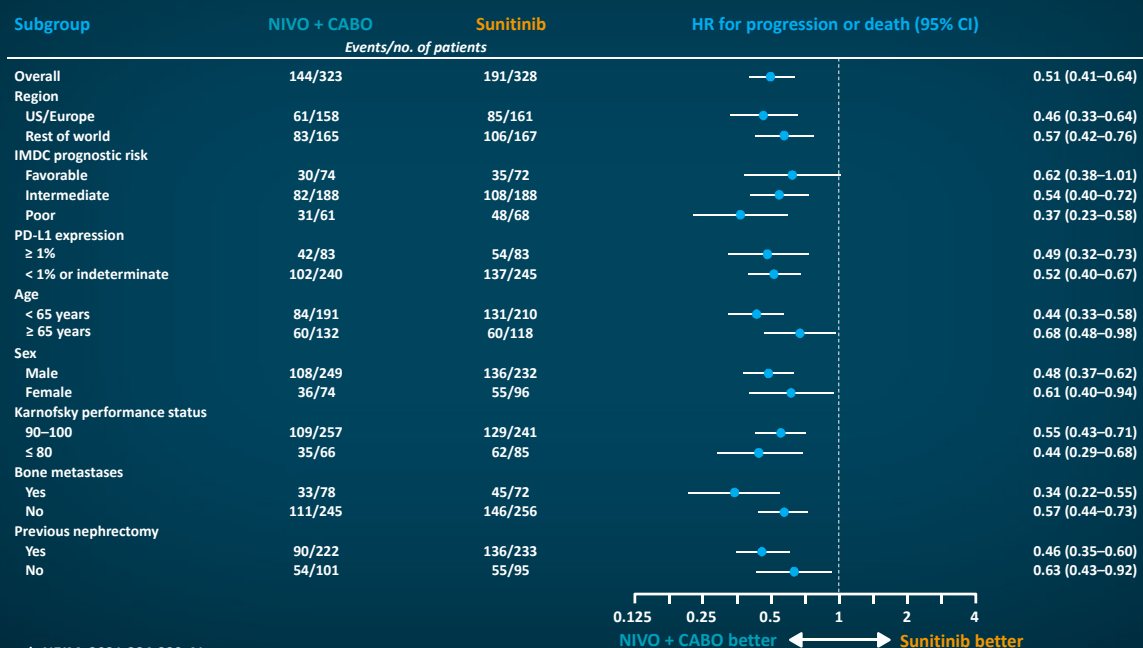
## CheckMate 9ER Progression-Free Survival per BICR



Minimum study follow-up, 10.6 months.

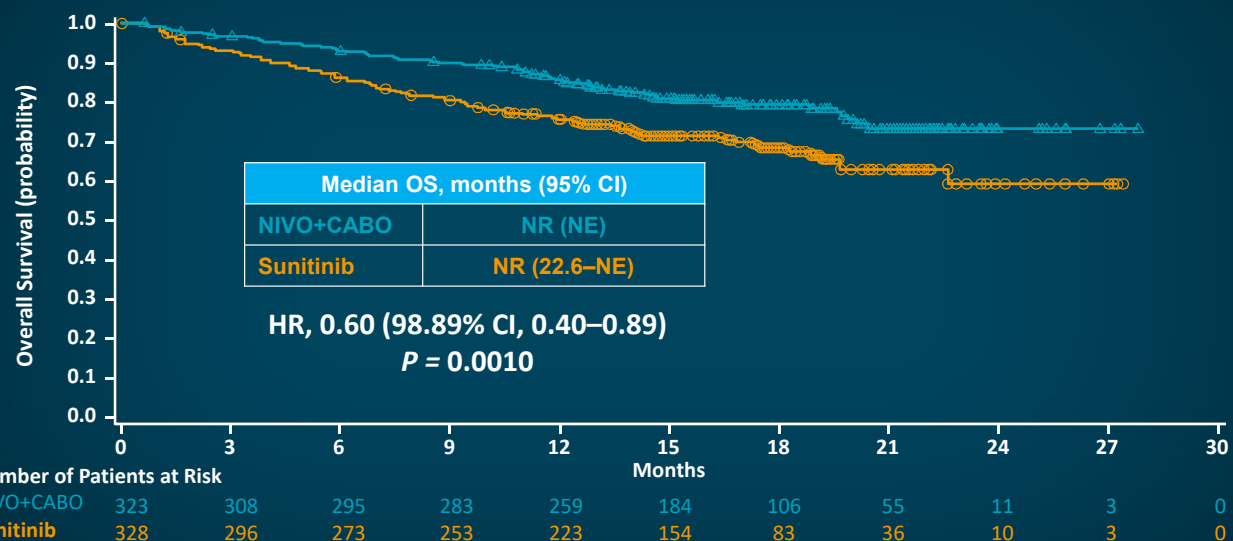
Choueiri T, et al. *NEJM*. 2021;384:829-41.

## CheckMate 9ER: Progression-Free Survival per BICR in Subgroups



Choueiri T, et al. *NEJM*. 2021;384:829–41.

## CheckMate 9ER Overall Survival



Minimum study follow-up, 10.6 months. NE = not estimable; NR = not reached.

Choueiri T, et al. *NEJM*. 2021;384:829–41.

## Challenges in First-Line Management

- **How should we choose first-line therapy in advanced RCC?**
  - Clinical trial design and endpoints
  - IMDC risk criteria
  - Disease and symptom burden
- **Planning for second-line therapy?**
  - Therapy not used in the first-line reserved for later lines?

## Putting the First-Line Overall Survival Data Into Context: KEYNOTE-426 and CheckMate 214

Trial	KEYNOTE-426 <sup>1,2</sup> (VEGF+IO)		CheckMate 214 <sup>3,4</sup> (IO+IO)	
Follow-up	7 months	23 months	30 months	42 months
Intent-to-treat OS HR	0.53	0.68	0.71	0.72
Favorable-risk OS HR	0.64	1.06	1.22	1.19

- Should we look at landmark endpoints more?
- Treatment-free survival?
- Long-term toxicities (2 drugs vs 1 drug)?

1. Rini BJ, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2019;380:1116-1127. 2. Plimack E, et al. ASCO 2020; Abstract 5001. 3. Motzer R, et al. *Lancet Oncol*. 2019;20(10):1370-1385. 4. Tannir N, et al. ASCO GU 2020. Presented by Toni Choueiri at ASCO 2020.



## Phase II KEYNOTE-146/Study 111 of Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab After Progression on Previous IO Therapy

A multicenter, open-label phase Ib/II study, RCC cohort (N = 104)

Patients metastatic CCRCC with PD after anti-PD-1/PD-L1 therapy; ≥1 previous lines of therapy (N = 104)

Lenvatinib 20 mg orally once daily  
Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV every 3 weeks

### Primary Endpoint

- ORR at 24 weeks

### Key Secondary Endpoints

- ORR, PFS, DOR
- Safety and tolerability

Baseline Characteristics	Patients (n = 104)
1/ ≥2 Prior anticancer regimens, %	39/62
Prior ICI regimen, % <sup>a</sup>	
Anti-PD-L1/anti-PD-1 in combination or as monotherapy	100
Anti-PD-L1/anti-PD-1 and anti-VEGF in combination or sequentially	65
Ipilimumab/nivolumab	37
Median duration of prior ICI therapy, months (interquartile range)	7 (3-13)

Lee C-H, et al. ASCO 2020; Abstract 5008. Not yet FDA approved for RCC.

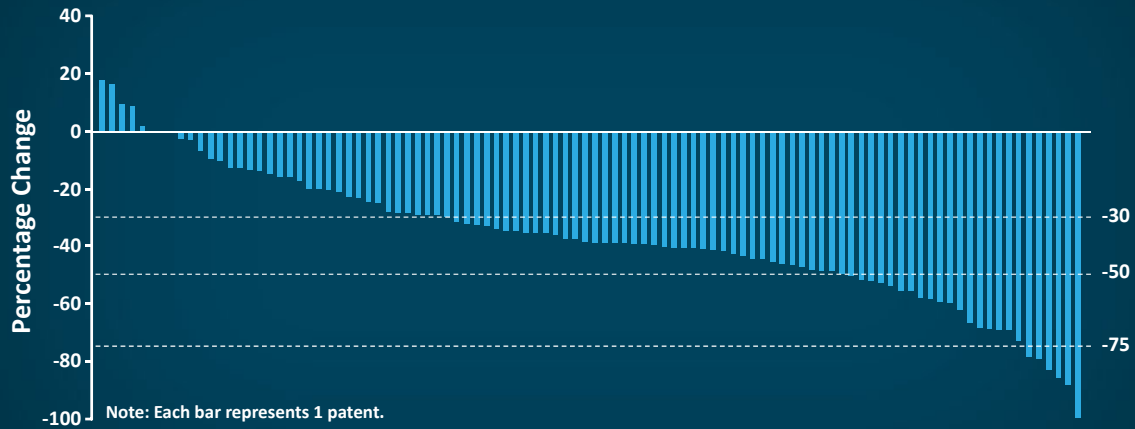
## Response to Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab: Best Response by Previous Therapy

Event	Anti-PD-1/PD-L1 (n = 104)	Anti-PD-1/PD-L1 and Anti-VEGF (n = 68)	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab (n = 38)
ORR, % (95% CI)	55 (45-65)	59 (46-71)	47 (31-64)
Best objective response, %			
Partial response	55	59	47
Stable disease	36	32	42
Progressive disease	5	6	8
Not evaluable	5	4	3
Median duration of response, months (95% CI)			

Lee C-H, et al. ASCO 2020; Abstract 5008. Not yet FDA approved for RCC.



## Response to Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab: Change in Tumor Size



- Similar responses in subgroups with prior anti-VEGF therapy or prior IO-based therapy

Lee C-H, et al. ASCO 2020; Abstract 5008. Not yet FDA approved for RCC.

## Randomized PD-1/VEGF Blockade Salvage Trial

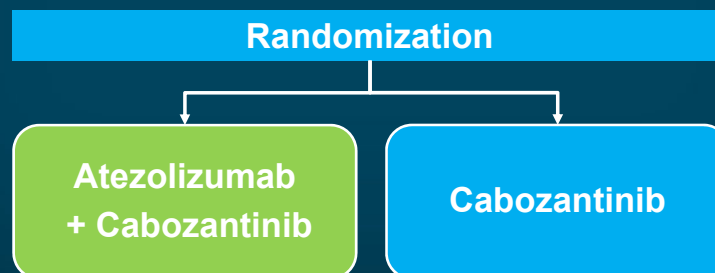
CONTACT-03 (NCT04338269)

mRCC 2/3L

VEGFR-TKI  $\pm$  PD-L1 inhibition

Phase 3 (N = 500)

Primary endpoint: PFS, OS



ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT04338269. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04338269>. Not yet FDA approved for RCC.

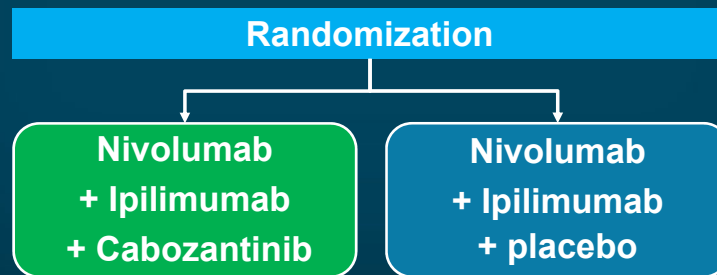
## Future Trials: Triplet Therapy

**COSMIC 313 - Cabozantinib + Nivolumab + Ipilimumab (NCT03937219)**

**PD-1 +CTLA-4 inhibition  $\pm$  VEGFR-TKI**

Phase 3 (N = 676)

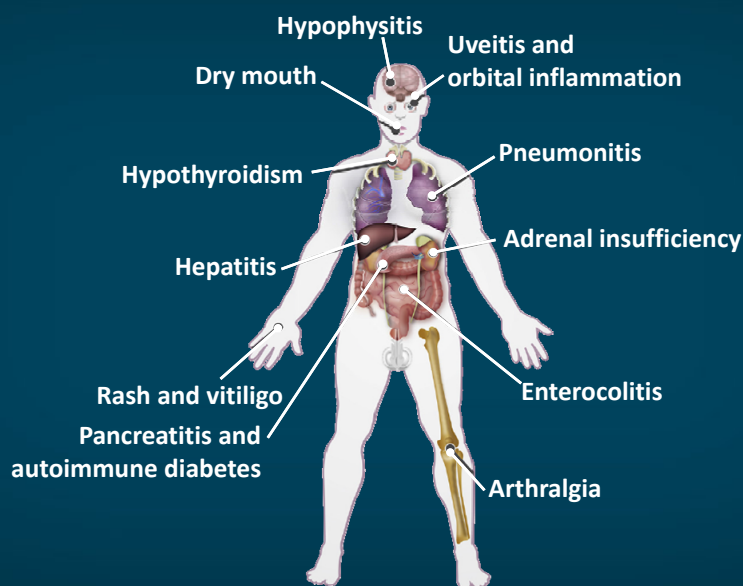
Primary endpoint: PFS (BIRC)



Presented by Toni Choueiri at ASCO 2020. Not yet FDA approved for RCC.

## Adverse Events

## Immune-Related Adverse Events: Clinical Spectrum



Michot JM, et al. *Eur J Cancer*. 2016;54:139-148.

## Management of Immune-Related Adverse Events Based on CTCAE Severity Grade

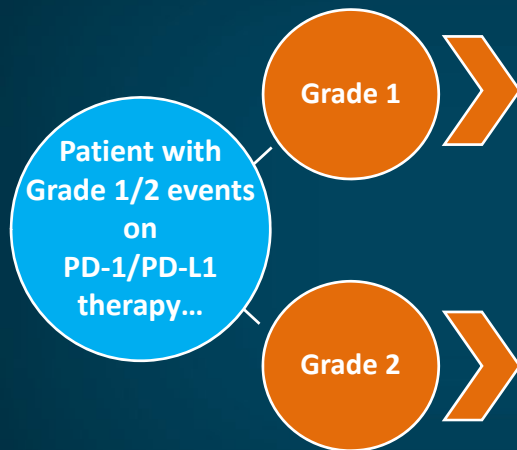
Severity CTCAE Grade	Patient Care Setting	Steroids	Other Immunosuppressive Drugs	Immunotherapy and Subsequent Approach
1	Ambulatory	Not recommended	Not recommended	Continue
2	Ambulatory	Not recommended up front Topical steroids or systemic steroids oral 0.5–1 mg/kg/d for persistent grade 2	Not recommended	Suspend* temporarily
3	Hospitalization	Systemic steroids oral or IV 1–2 mg/kg/d for ≥3 d then taper over 4–6 weeks	Consider for patients with lack of improvement after 2–3 days of steroid course Organ specialist advised	Suspend and discuss resumption based on risk/benefit ratio with patient
4	Hospitalization; consider intensive care unit	Systemic steroids IV methylprednisolone 1–2 mg/kg/d and switch to oral prednisone for ≥3 days with taper over 4–6 weeks	Consider for patients with lack of improvement after 2–3 days of steroid course Organ specialist advised	Discontinue permanently

\*Outside of skin or endocrine disorders, where immunotherapy can be maintained.

CTCAE = Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events; IV = intravenous.

Michot JM, et al. *Eur J Cancer*. 2016;54:139-148. Puzanov I, et al. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2017;5:95. Brahmer JR, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2018;36:1714-1768.

## Managing Grade 1/2 Immune-Related Adverse Events<sup>1-4</sup>

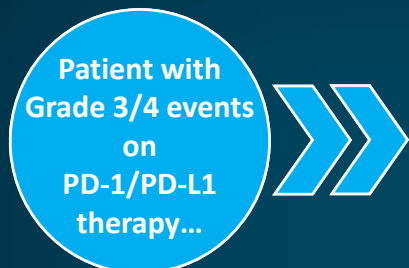


- Continue immunotherapy (or consider temporary delay)
- Symptomatic therapy

- 
- Withhold immunotherapy
  - Corticosteroids if symptoms do not resolve in 1 week (prednisone 0.5 to 1 mg/kg/d or equivalent)
  - Taper corticosteroids over  $\geq 1$  month to reduce recurrence
  - Redose if toxicity resolves to Grade  $\leq 1$

1. Postow MA. *Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book*. 2015;76-83. 2. Postow MA, et al. *UpToDate*. 2021. (<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/toxicities-associated-with-checkpoint-inhibitor-immunotherapy>). 3. Weber JS, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33:2092-2099. 4. Brahmer J, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2018;36:1714-1768.

## Managing Grade 3 Immune-Related Adverse Events



- Discontinue immunotherapy; hospitalization, multidisciplinary evaluation indicated
- High-dose corticosteroids (prednisone 1 to 2 mg/kg/day or equivalent)
- Taper high-dose corticosteroids over  $\geq 1$  month until toxicity resolves to grade  $\leq 1$  (prednisone 1 to 2 mg/kg/day or equivalent)

- If no improvement or progression, consider additional immunosuppressant treatment (eg, anti-tumor necrosis factor therapy, infliximab, vedolizumab, or mycophenolate)
- If  $> 4$  weeks of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressants needed, administer antimicrobial/antifungal prophylaxis to prevent opportunistic infections
- ASCO recommendations on managing immune-related adverse events now published

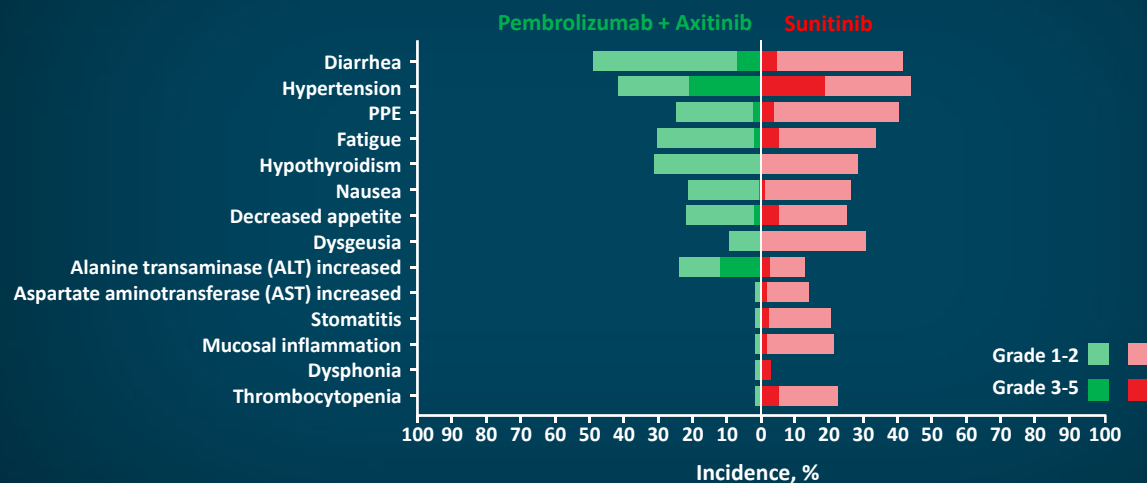
Postow MA. *Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book*. 2015;76-83. Postow MA, et al. *UpToDate*. 2021. (<http://www.uptodate.com/contents/toxicities-associated-with-checkpoint-inhibitor-immunotherapy>). Weber JS, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33:2092-2099. Brahmer J, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2018;36:1714-1768.

## Differentiating Immuno-Oncology vs VEGFR-TKI Toxicity

- Key VEGFR-TKI toxicities that can mimic/overlap with immuno-oncology
  - Cutaneous
  - Gastrointestinal/diarrhea
  - Liver
  - Cardiopulmonary
- Toxicity management
  - VEGFR-TKI: dose hold/interruption and supportive care
  - Immuno-oncology: dose hold and corticosteroids
- Complicating factors
  - Symptom presentation
  - Drug half-life (axitinib half-life: ~4 to 5 hours vs cabozantinib half-life: ~99 hours)

## KEYNOTE-426: Toxicity

### Treatment-Related Adverse Events: Incidence 220%



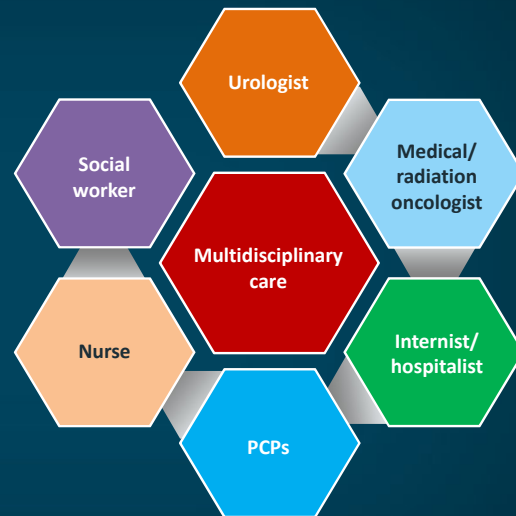
Events are shown in order of decreasing incidence in the total population.

PPE = palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia.

Rini BI, et al. NEJM. 2019;380(12):1116-27.

## Multidisciplinary Team

- Multidisciplinary consultation is recommended for optimal management
- Multidisciplinary team may include
  - Urology
  - Medical/radiation oncology
  - Internal medicine/hospital medicine
  - Primary care providers (PCPs)
  - Nursing
  - Social work



**Multidisciplinary care improves patient outcomes!**

## Conclusions

- A variety of studies have assessed first-line combination regimens for the treatment of patients with advanced and/or mRCC
- Many patients with RCC can now benefit from first-line immunotherapy/TKI combination therapies
- Management strategies need to anticipate treatment-related adverse events, particularly with multiple agents
- A multi-disciplinary approach for RCC management is critical

## Case Studies

## Case Study

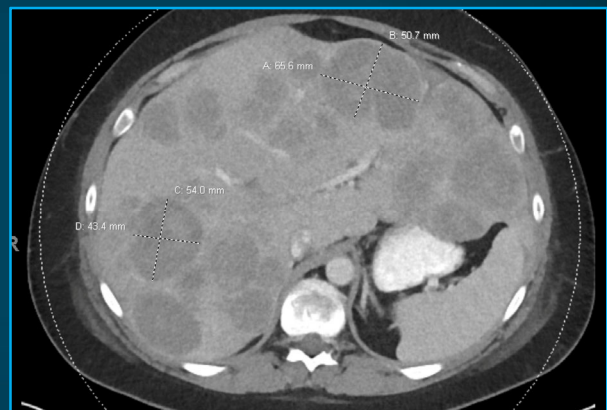
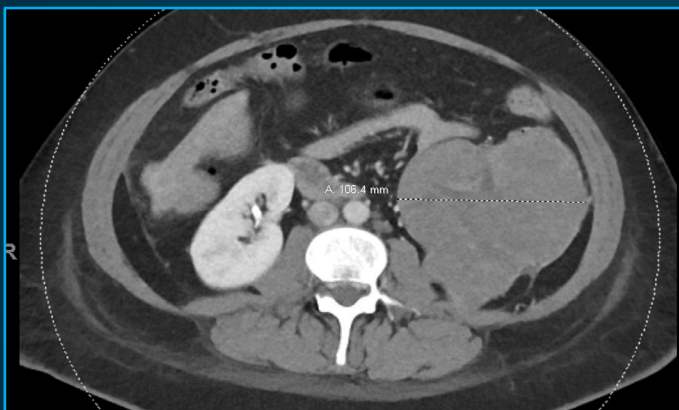
## Case Study

- 37-year-old woman, no past medical history
- January 2020 presents with upper respiratory tract infection symptoms, then progressive nausea/vomiting and abdominal pain

ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE	30 - 101 U/L	508 High
AST	9 - 40 U/L	112 High
ALT	5 - 40 U/L	105 High
BILIRUBIN TOTAL	< 1.3 mg/dL	1.4 High

- Calcium: normal, hemoglobin: **11.6** (LLN 11.9); absolute neutrophil count: **8.76**; platelets: 408
  - ECOG PS 2
- Liver biopsy: CCRCC
- IMDC risk: Poor risk

## Case Study





**What are some of the factors to consider for treatment?**

### **Approach to Treatment Decision-Making**

- Factors to guide treatment decision-making
  - IMDC risk
  - Disease extent/symptoms
  - Disease pace/kinetics
  - Time to response

## Polling Question

Which therapy would you choose at this time?

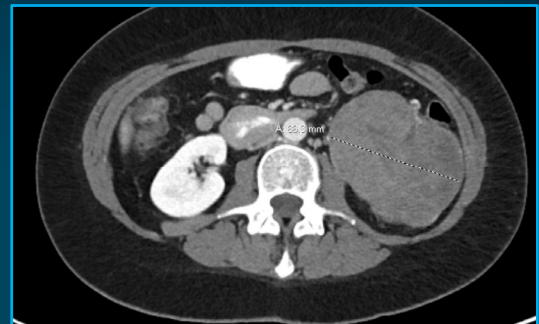
- A. Sunitinib
- B. Cabozantinib
- C. Axitinib + pembrolizumab
- D. Axitinib + avelumab
- E. Nivolumab + ipilimumab
- F. Active surveillance

## Approach to Treatment

- Treatment: axitinib plus pembrolizumab
- Imaging after 3 cycles
- Marked improvement in symptoms

### Liver function tests

Component (latest reference range and units)	4/15/2020
PROTEIN, TOTAL (6.3-8.2 g/dL)	9.5 (H)
ALBUMIN (3.5-5.0 g/dL)	4.2
AST (14-36 U/L)	168 (H)
ALKALINE PHOSPHATASE (39-117 U/L)	494 (H)
BILIRUBIN TOTAL 0.2-1.3 mg/dL	1.1
ALT < 38 U/L	129 (H)

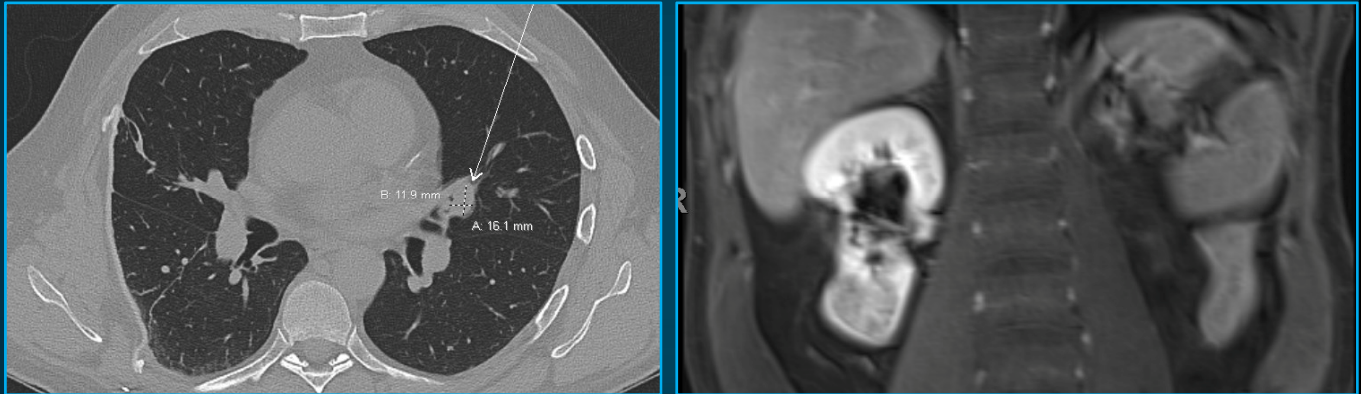


## Case Study

### Case Study: Activity in the Primary Cancer

- 60-year-old man, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, presented with gross hematuria, 2 right renal masses
- Right peripheral neuropathy 1/16/2014 (CCRCC pT1b and pT1a Grade 3)
- Right seventh rib resection 7/23/2016 (metastatic RCC)
- Apr 2019 MRI: bilateral renal masses
- Left radical nephrectomy 6/14/2019 (4 cm pT3a Grade 2 CCRCC)
- Jul 2019: enlarging lingular lung mass 1.7 cm and right renal masses (1.4 cm and 3.4 cm)

## Case Study: Imaging



**How would you characterize this patient's IMDC risk?**

## Approach to Treatment Decision-Making

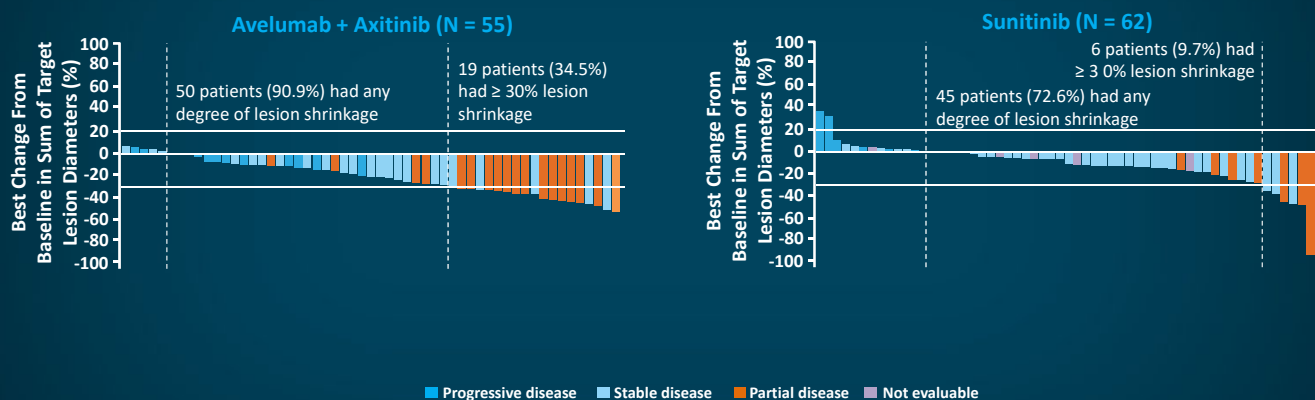
- Factors in treatment decision-making
  - IMDC risk
  - Disease extent/symptoms
  - Disease pace/kinetics
  - Time to response
  - Activity in the kidney primary
- IMDC risk: Good risk
- ECOG PS 0

## Polling Question

Which therapy would you choose at this time?

- A. Sunitinib
- B. Pazopanib
- C. Axitinib + pembrolizumab
- D. Axitinib + avelumab
- E. Nivolumab + ipilimumab
- F. Active surveillance

## Approach to Treatment



Albiges, L. European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) 2019; Abstract 4174.

## Thank You



Med Learning Group - Renal Cell Carcinoma

Complimentary  
poster for the  
office!

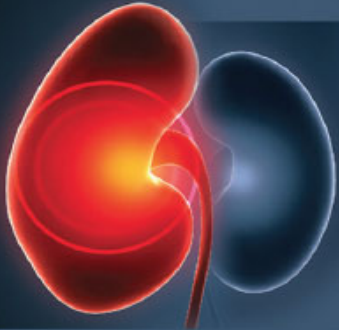
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## Insights to Manage Renal Cell Carcinoma with First-line Immuno-oncology/Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor Combination Therapies:

WHICH OF YOUR PATIENTS CAN BENEFIT?



*For more information and additional  
resources please visit*

**[RCC.POSTERPROGRAM.COM](http://RCC.POSTERPROGRAM.COM)**



## Renal Cell Carcinoma: Identification and Management

Resource	Address
Brahmer JR, et al. Management of immune-related adverse events in patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy: American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical Practice Guideline. <i>J Clin Oncol</i> . 2018;36:1714-1768.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29442540/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29442540/</a>
Cao G, et al. What is the optimum systemic treatment for advanced/metastatic renal cell carcinoma of favourable, intermediate and poor risk, respectively? A systematic review and network meta-analysis. <i>BMJ Open</i> . 2020;10:e034626.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32859659/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32859659/</a>
Chen DS, Mellman I. Oncology meets immunology: The cancer-immunity cycle. <i>Immunity</i> . 2013;39:1-10.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23890059/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23890059/</a>
Choueiri TK, et al. Nivolumab plus cabozantinib versus sunitinib for advanced renal-cell carcinoma. <i>NEJM</i> . 2021;384:829-841.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33657295/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33657295/</a>
Heng DYC, et al. External validation and comparison with other models of the International Metastatic Renal-Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium prognostic model: A population-based study. <i>Lancet Oncol</i> . 2013;14:141-148.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23312463/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23312463/</a>
Kotecha RR, Motzer RJ, Voss MH. Towards individualized therapy for metastatic renal cell carcinoma. <i>Nat Rev Clin Oncol</i> . 2019;16:621-633.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30992569/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30992569/</a>
Michot JM, et al. Immune-related adverse events with immune checkpoint blockade: A comprehensive review. <i>Eur J Cancer</i> . 2016;54:139-148.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26765102/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26765102/</a>
Osawa T, et al. Overview of current and future systemic therapy for metastatic renal cell carcinoma. <i>Jpn J Clin Oncol</i> . 2019;49:395-403.	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30722031/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30722031/</a>
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<b>Rini BI, et al. Pembrolizumab plus axitinib versus sunitinib for advanced renal-cell carcinoma. <i>N Engl J Med</i>. 2019;380:1116-1127.</b>	<a href="https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1816714">https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1816714</a>
<b>Sanchez-Gastaldo A, et al. Systemic treatment of renal cell cancer: A comprehensive review. <i>Cancer Treat Rev</i>. 2017;60:77-89.</b>	<a href="https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28898679/">https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28898679/</a>
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## Resources and Societies

Resource	Address
<b>American Association for Cancer Research (AACR). Accessed April 8, 2021.</b>	<a href="https://www.aacr.org/">https://www.aacr.org/</a>
<b>American Cancer Society (ACS). Kidney Cancer. Accessed April 8, 2021.</b>	<a href="https://www.cancer.org/cancer/kidney-cancer.html">https://www.cancer.org/cancer/kidney-cancer.html</a>
<b>American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). Accessed April 8, 2021.</b>	<a href="https://www.asco.org/">https://www.asco.org/</a>
<b>European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO). Accessed April 8, 2021.</b>	<a href="https://www.esmo.org/">https://www.esmo.org/</a>
<b>Kidney Cancer Association. Accessed April 8, 2021.</b>	<a href="https://www.kidneycancer.org/">https://www.kidneycancer.org/</a>
<b>National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN). NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. Kidney Cancer. Version 3.2021. Published March 23, 2021. Accessed April 8, 2021.</b>	<a href="https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf">https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/kidney.pdf</a>