

METASTATIC RENAL CARCINOMA

INTRODUCTION: 2-3 % of all renal cell cancer.

Incidence 60-70 yo. 1.5:1 (male : female)

-Most RCC diagnosed by abdominal US or CT performed for other reason.

-Most common symptoms: hematuria, low back pain and palpable mass.

-Metastasis: lung 45%, Bones 30%, LNs 22%, Liver 20%.

PROGNOSTIC MODELS FOR RCC:

Stratifies patients into risk groups based on risk scores obtained from clinical and laboratory data. Assists clinicians in discussions about prognosis.

MSKCC Score:

- Favourable Risk: 0 factors.
- Intermediate Risk: 1-2 factors.
- Poor Risk: 3-5 factors.

International mRCC Database Consortium Risk Model (IMDC):

- Favourable Risk: 0 factors.
- Intermediate Risk: 1-2 factors.
- Poor Risk: 3-6 factors.

| MSKCC CRITERIA | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| FACTOR | POOR PROGNOSTIC FACTOR |
| Time from diagnosis to systemic treatment | < 12 months |
| Hemoglobin | < lower limit of normal |
| LDH | > 1.5 upper limit of normal |
| Calcium | > 10 mg/dL |
| Karnofsky Performance Status | < 80% |

| IMDC RISK MODEL | |
|---|-------------------------|
| FACTOR | POOR PROGNOSTIC FACTOR |
| Karnofsky Performance Status | < 80% |
| Time from diagnosis to systemic treatment | < 12 months |
| Hemoglobin | < lower limit of normal |
| Calcium | > upper limit of normal |
| Neutrophils | > upper limit of normal |
| Platelets | > upper limit of normal |

DISEASE MANAGEMENT:

LOCAL: 1. Cytoreductive nephrectomy (CN).

Standard-of-care before targeted therapy era. Overall Survival: Immunotherapy (IFN- α , IL-2) vs immunotherapy (IFN- α , IL-2) + CN: CN improved OS.

-Sunitinib vs CN + sunitinib (CARMENA): sunitinib alone not inferior to CN followed by sunitinib in OS (intermediate and MSKCC poor risk).

-Immediate CN + sunitinib vs sunitinib + deferred CN + sunitinib (SURTIME): OS benefit with deferred CN approach in ITT population.

Recommendations: perform immediate CN in patients with oligometastases when complete local treatment of the metastases can be achieved.

Do not perform CN in MSKCC poor-risk patients.

2. Embolisation. Patients unfit for surgery or with non-resectable disease. Symptomatic control.

3. Local therapy of metastases. Too heterogeneous data to meta-analyse. Benefit of complete metastasectomy in mRCC patients in terms of OS, CSS and delay of systemic therapy (lung, liver, pancreas) in retrospective comparative studies.

Bone metastases. Single-dose RT vs hypofractionated RT. Single-dose RT improves PFS.

Metastasectomy/curettage vs no surgery of solitary bone metastases. Higher CSS rate in the intervention group.

Brain metastases. Stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) vs SRS + whole brain radiotherapy. Similar outcomes.

SYSTEMIC THERAPY:

1. Chemotherapy (5-FU, gemcitabine, doxorubicine). No chemotherapy as first line therapy in patients with clear-cell mRCC.

2. Immunotherapy.

| IFN- α | IL-2 | BEVACIZUMAB (Monoclonal antibody against circulating VEGF) |
|--|---|--|
| Moderate efficacy. Only effective in some groups. Increases response rates and PFS combined with bevacizumab. | Has been used since 1985 with response rates 7-27%. High toxicity. | AVOREN (Bevacizumab vs bevacizumab + IFN- α in first-line): B+IL-2 increases PFS. No differences in OS. No statistically significant benefit in OS. CALGB90206 (CN* + bevacizumab vs CN* + bevacizumab + IFN- α): combined treatment with IFN- α increases PFS. No statistically significant benefit in OS. Side effects: AHT (+AEC inhibitors), proteinuria, bleeding events, wound healing delay, pulmonary embolism... |

ANTI PD-1 AND ANTI CTLA-4 MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY.

| NIVOLUMAB (anti PD-1) | IPILIMUMAB (anti CTLA-4) | PEMBROLIZUMAB (anti PD-1). |
|--|---|--|
| CHECKMATE 025 (Nivolumab vs everolimus after VEGF-targeted therapy): longer OS, better QoL and fewer adverse events with nivolumab. | CHECKMATE 214 (Nivolumab + ipilimumab vs sunitinib in first-line): N+I significant advantage in OS, better in patients with $\geq 1\%$ PD-L1 expression. | KEYNOTE-426 (Pembrolizumab + axitinib vs sunitinib in first-line): P+A increases PFS and OS vs sunitinib among patients with previously untreated advanced RCC. |

Side effects of immune checkpoint inhibitors: fatigue, endocrine disorders, diarrhea, rash, hepatitis, pneumonitis...

3. Tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

| SORAFENIB | SUNITINIB | PAZOPANIB | CABOZANTINIB | AXITINIB |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Not superior to IFN- α in untreated patients. | First-line monotherapy with sunitinib demonstrated longer PFS and OS vs IFN- α . | VEG105192 (pazopanib vs placebo): Improvement in PFS. COMPARZ (Pazopanib vs sunitinib in first-line): pazopanib not inferior PFS or OS compared to sunitinib (well tolerated, PISCES trial). | METEOR (Cabozantinib vs everolimus after VEGF-targeted therapies): cabozantinib increased PFS and OS. CABOSUN (Cabozantinib vs sunitinib in first-line in intermediate- and poor-risk patients): cabozantinib increased median PFS, but not OS. | AXIS (Axitinib vs sorafenib in second-line): PFS was greater for axitinib. KEYNOTE-426 (Pembrolizumab + axitinib vs sunitinib in first-line): P+A increases PFS and OS. |

Side effects of anti-angiogenic drugs: asthenia, diarrhea, vomiting, hypertension, bleeding events, rash, pulmonary embolism...

4. mTOR inhibitors.

-TEMSIROLIMUS.

ARCC (Temsirrolimus vs IFN- α vs temsirolimus + IFN- α in first-line): median OS was higher in temsirolimus monotherapy group. T+IFN- α was not significantly superior. IFN- α toxicity was marked.

INTORSECT (Temsirrolimus vs sorafenib in patients who had previously failed sunitinib): significant OS benefit for sorafenib.

-EVEROLIMUS.

RECORD-1 (Everolimus vs placebo in treatment of VEGF-refractory disease): everolimus increased PFS.

RECORD-3 (Sunitinib in first-line and everolimus in second-line vs everolimus in first-line and sunitinib in second-line): higher median PFS for first-line treatment in the sunitinib group.

Side effects of mTOR inhibitors: asthenia, high serum glucose, dyslipidemia/hyperlipidemia, infections, mucositis, pneumonitis...

