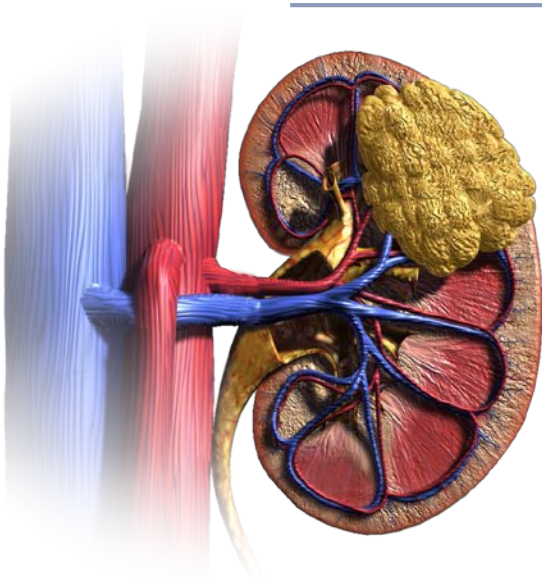


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# *Comprehensive HemOnc Review:* **Renal Cell Carcinoma**

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**Scott S. Tykodi, MD, PhD**  
**October 4, 2020**

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# Disclosures

- **Research Funding**
    - Bristol-Myers Squibb
    - Clinigen
    - Exelixis
    - Jounce Therapeutics
    - Merck
    - Nektar Therapeutics
    - Pfizer
  - **Consulting**
    - Merck
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# Learning Objectives

- RCC Epidemiology
  - Hereditary RCC cancer syndromes
  - Risk Stratification
  - Cytoreductive Nephrectomy
  - Systemic Treatments Overview
    - Local RCC - Adjuvant therapy
    - Metastatic RCC
      - 1<sup>st</sup> line
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> line
      - Clinical subsets
-

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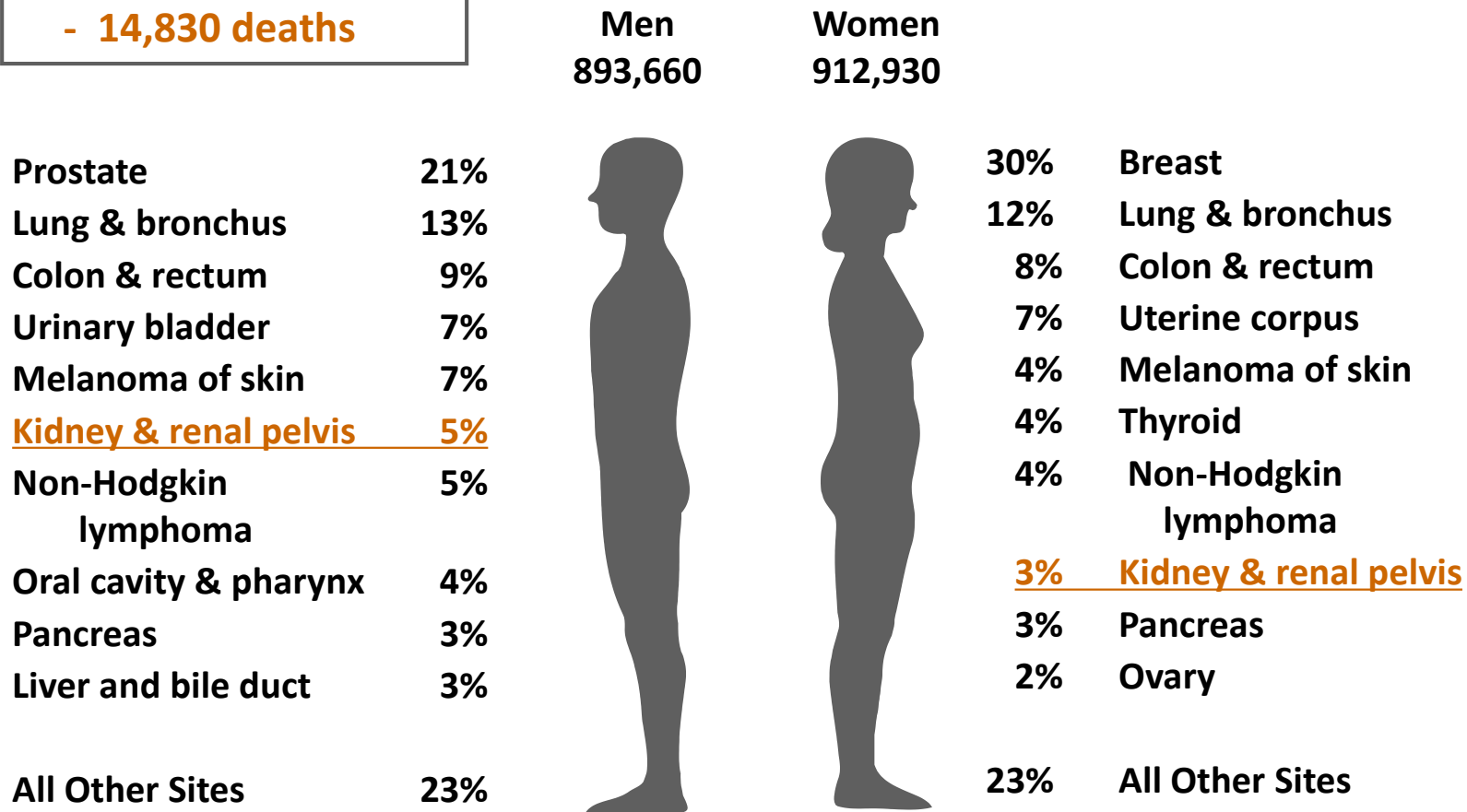
# **Epidemiology**

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# 2020 - Estimated US New Cancer Cases\*

## 2020 US Estimates:

- 73,750 new cases
- 14,830 deaths



\*Excludes basal and squamous cell skin cancers and in situ carcinomas except urinary bladder.

American Cancer Society: [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

# Why Me?

## Associations and Risk Factors for RCC

- **Male > female 2:1**
  - **Age – median 64**
  - **Genetic predisposition**
  - **Smoking**
  - **Obesity**
  - **Uncontrolled hypertension**
- 3 modifiable RF's associated with 49% of cases
- Occupational exposure to toxins - Organic solvents (Benzene, TCE), cadmium, asbestos
  - Disease associations: Long-term dialysis for acquired renal cystic disease; Chronic Hepatitis C; Sickle cell anemia (medullary carcinoma of the kidney); Solid organ transplant recipient
  - Drug associations: Phenacetin, aspirin abuse (renal pelvis tumors); Prior cytotoxic chemotherapy (translocation RCC)

# Staging system for RCC

AJCC 8<sup>th</sup> ed., 2017

## Stage I

Tumor < 7 cm in greatest dimension and limited to kidney

Ia

< 4 cm



Ib

> 4 to < 7 cm

## Stage II

Tumor > 7 cm in greatest dimension and limited to kidney

IIa

> 7 to < 10 cm



IIb

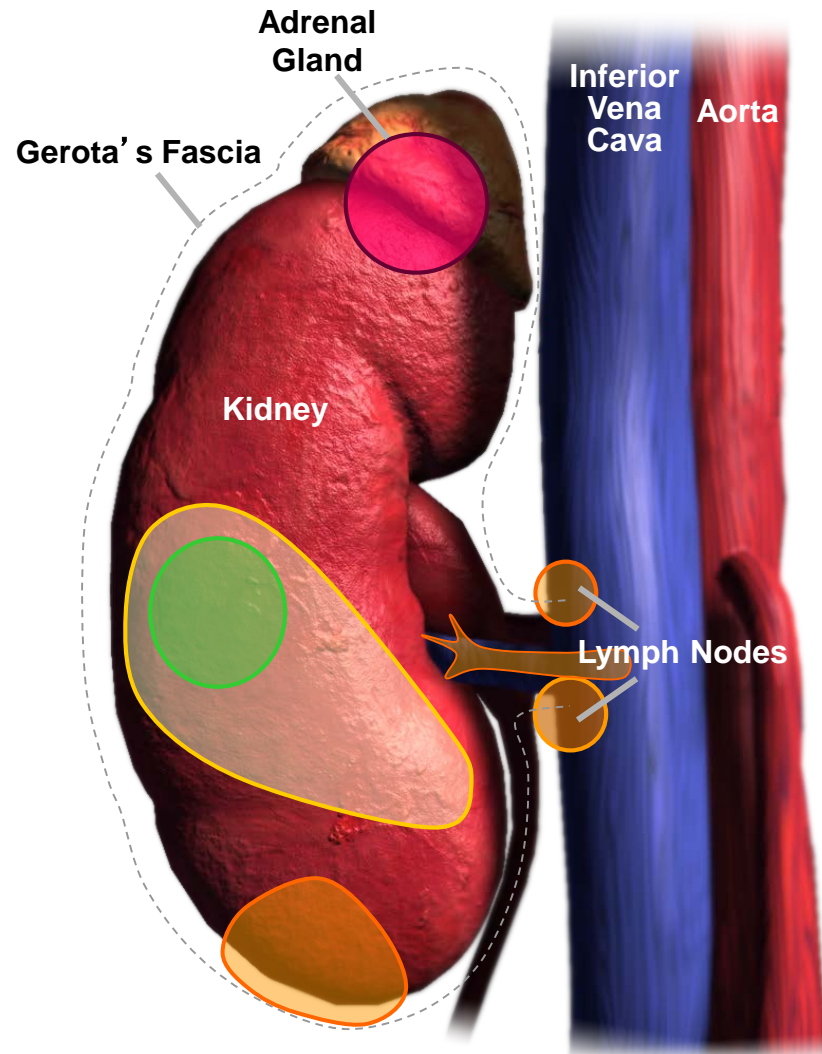
> 10 cm

## Stage III

Tumor major veins, tumor within Gerota's fascia, or regional lymph node involved

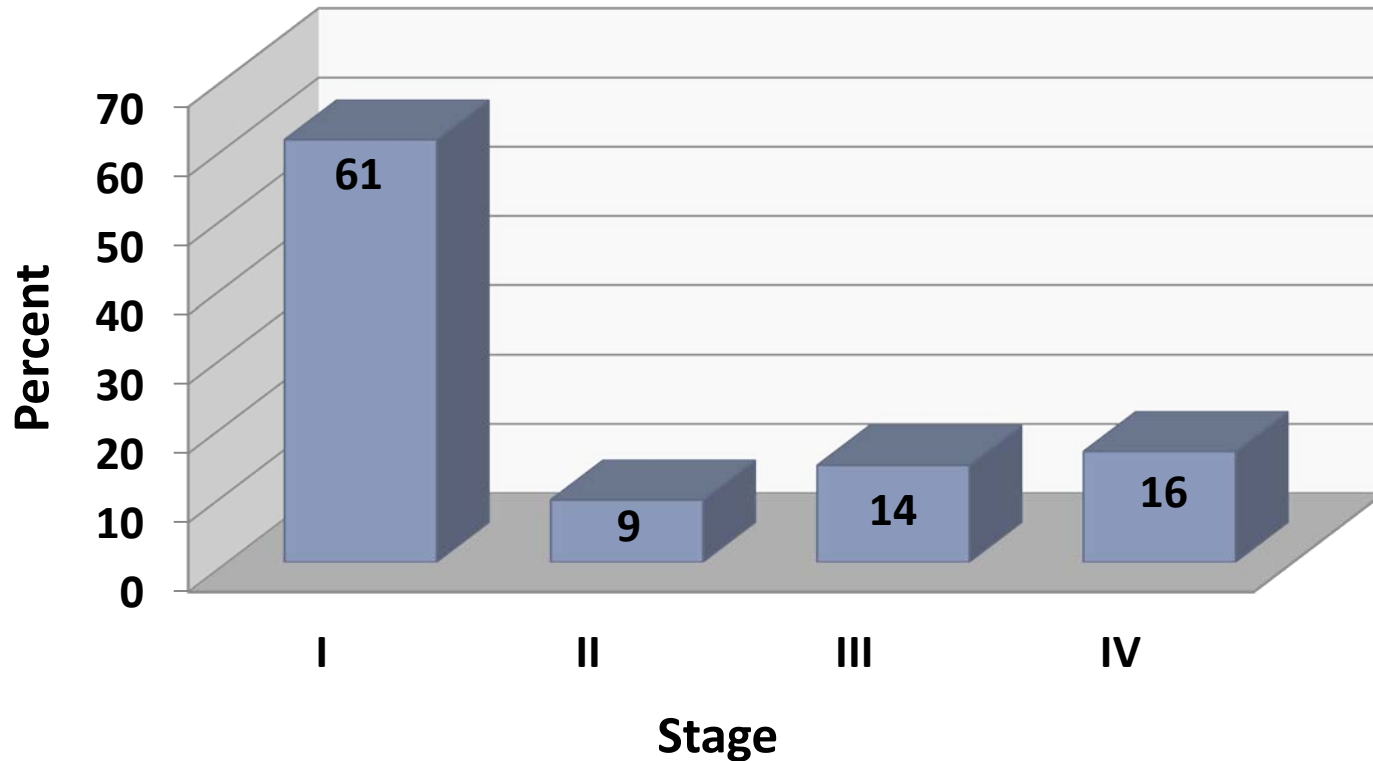
## Stage IV

Tumor invasion beyond Gerota's fascia, adrenal or distant metastases



# RCC Stage at Diagnosis, 2004-2014

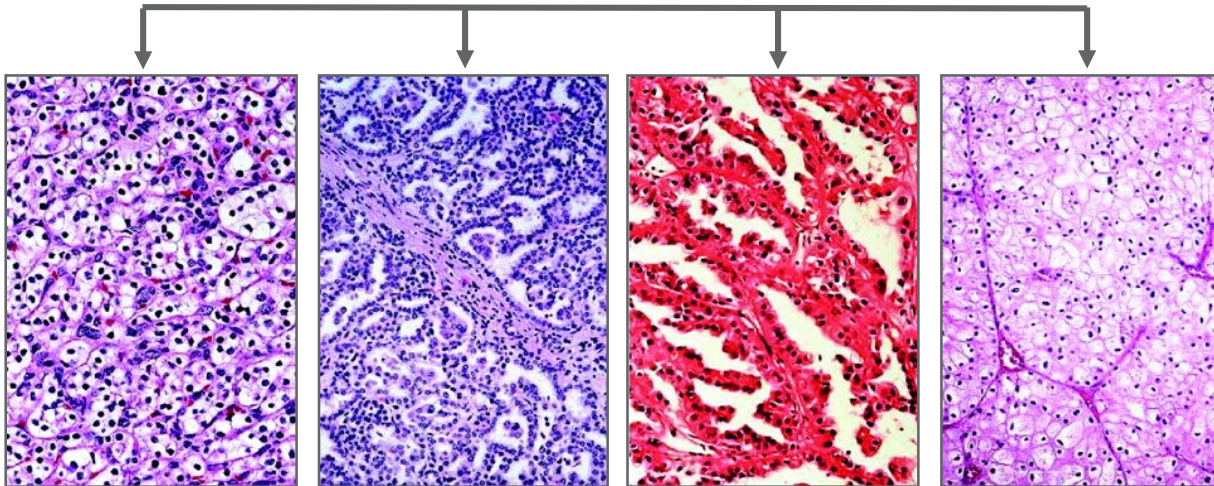
National Cancer Database (NCDB),  
1442 hospitals; N=371,851





# Common histologic subtypes of RCC

## RCC



Type	Clear cell	Papillary type 1	Papillary type 2	Chromophobe	<i>Plus</i>
Incidence	75%	5%	10%	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Translocation RCC</li> <li>▪ Medullary</li> <li>▪ Collecting Duct</li> </ul>
Associated Germline Mutations	<b>VHL</b> <b>SDH</b> <b>BAP1</b> <b>TSC1/2</b>	<b>Met</b>	<b>FH</b>	<b>FLCN</b> <b>TSC1/2</b> <b>PTEN</b>	<b>Unclassified</b>
		<p><i>VHL = von Hippel-Lindau;</i>  <i>SDH = succinate dehydrogenase;</i>  <i>FH = fumarate hydratase;</i>  <i>FLCN = folliculin;</i>  <i>TSC = tuberous sclerosis complex</i></p>			
					2-6%

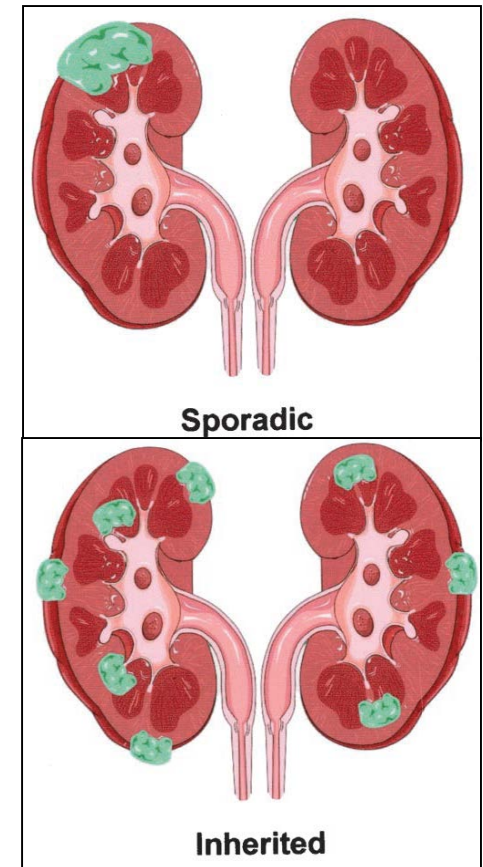
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# **Hereditary RCC**

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# Referral criteria for genetic counseling

- All common histologic subtypes of RCC can be associated with a hereditary syndrome
- Kidney cancer age of onset  $\leq 46$  years (mean 37 years)
- Bilateral/multifocal kidney tumors
- Family history of kidney cancer
- Association with other clinical features of a recognized cancer syndrome
- Germline mutation incidence in unselected RCC patients with advanced disease – 16%



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**Risk Stratification**  
*(for Newly Diagnosed  
Metastatic RCC)*

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# IMDC (Heng) Risk Model for mRCC Treated by Targeted Therapy

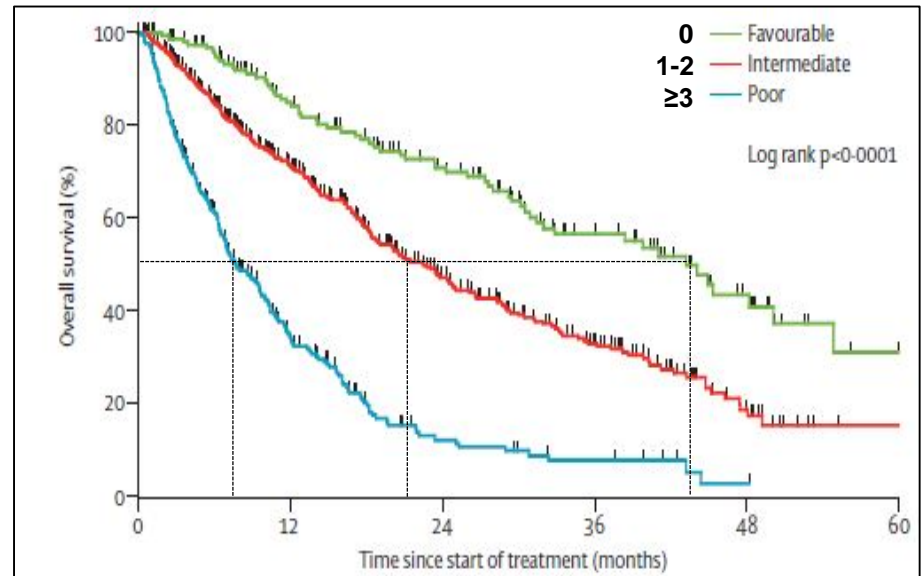
## International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium

### (IMDC) Risk Model:

**6 Baseline Risk Factors Predict Diminished Overall Survival (OS) in mRCC:**

- Diagnosis to systemic treatment < 1 year\* (DxTx<1yr)
- Diminished performance status (PS)\*
- Elevated corrected calcium\*
- Anemia\*
- Elevated neutrophils (new)
- Elevated platelets (new)

\*Same as MSKCC risk model<sup>3</sup>



Median OS by IMDC risk group:

- Favorable risk: 43 months
- Intermediate risk: 22.5 months
- Poor risk: 7.8 months

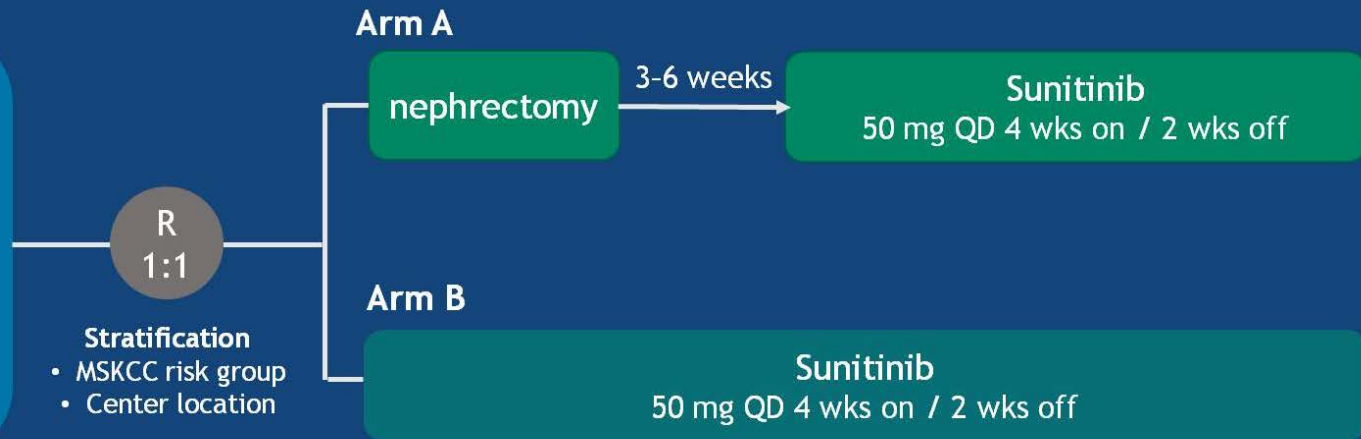
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# **Cytoreductive Nephrectomy (CN)**

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# CARMENA: Prospective, multicenter, open-label, randomized, phase 3 non-inferiority study

- Confirmed metastatic clear cell RCC / Biopsy
- ECOG-PS 0-1
- Amenable to nephrectomy
- Eligible for sunitinib
- Brain metastases absent/controlled by treatment
- No prior systemic therapy for RCC



**Primary endpoint:**  
Overall survival

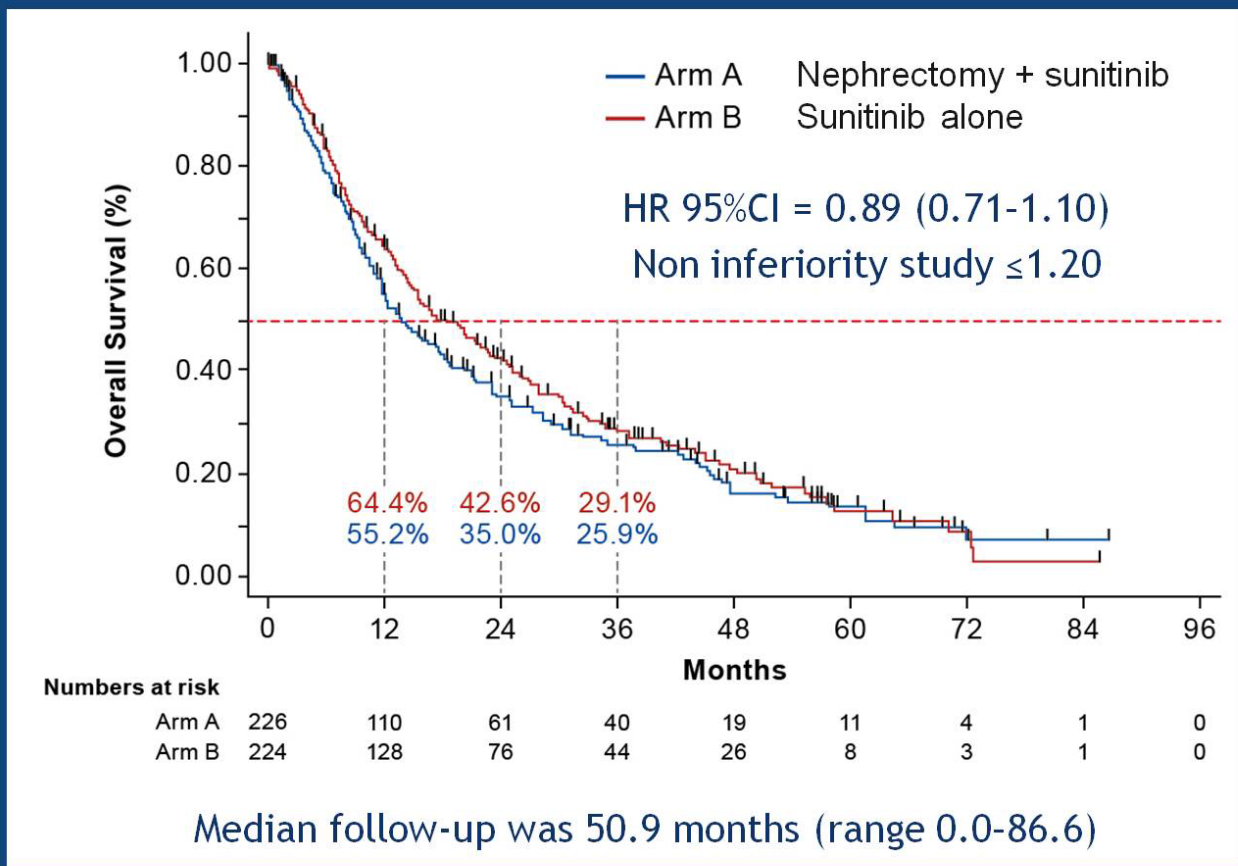
**Secondary endpoints:**  
Progression-free survival, objective response rate, clinical benefit, safety

LPI, last patient included; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; QD, once daily; R, randomization; RCC, renal cell carcinoma

# CARMENA – Primary Endpoint

## Overall survival (ITT)

Total enrollment  
= 450





# Post CARMENA Role for Initial CN with mRCC?

## NO

- Patients with similar clinical profile to CARMENA population

## YES

- Palliation
  - Hematuria
  - Flank pain
  - LUQ mass and weight loss
  - IVC thrombus
- With metastatectomy to surgical NED status

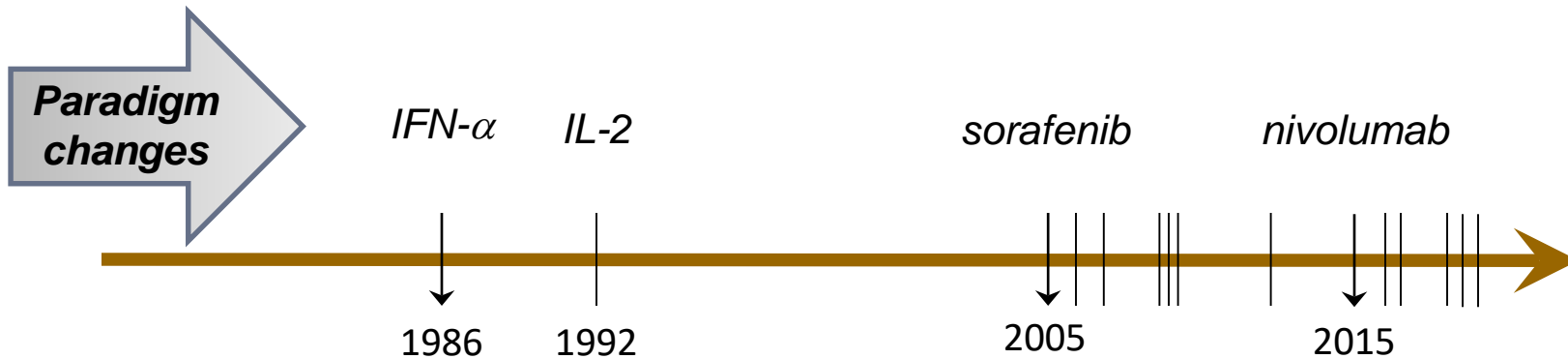
- Can we extrapolate to immune checkpoint blockade?
- ***Consider Multispecialty consultation***

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# **Systemic Therapy Overview**

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# Timeline of Systemic RCC Therapies



No Standard Therapy	Cytokine Immunotherapy	Targeted Therapy	Checkpoint Immunotherapy
<p>cytotoxics</p>	<p>Interferon alfa Interleukin-2</p>	<p><b>TKI's</b> Sorafenib (2005) Sunitinib (2006) Pazopanib (2009) Axitinib (2012) Cabozantinib (2016) Lenvatinib (2016)</p> <p><b>Bevacizumab</b></p> <p><b>mTOR-Inhibitors</b></p>	<p><b>Immune Checkpoint-Blocking Abs</b></p> <p>Nivolumab (2015) Ipilimumab (2018) Pembrolizumab (2019) Avelumab (2019)</p>

# Tools in the Tool Box:

## 15 FDA-Approved Drugs for Metastatic RCC

Immunotherapy		Targeted Therapy		
Cytokines	Immune Checkpoint Blocking Abs	VEGF-Pathway		mTOR Inhibitor
		Antibody	Tyrosine-kinase Inhibitor (TKI)	
IFN- $\alpha$ (1986)	Nivolumab (2015)	Bevacizumab* (2009)	Sorafenib (2005)	Temsirolimus (2007)
IL-2 (1992)	Ipilimumab* (2018)		Sunitinib (2006)	Everolimus (2009)
	Pembrolizumab* (2019)		Pazopanib (2009)	
	Avelumab* (2019)		Axitinib (2012)	
			Cabozantinib (2016)	
		Lenvatinib* (2016)		

\*FDA approval as part of combination therapy

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# **Adjuvant Therapy**

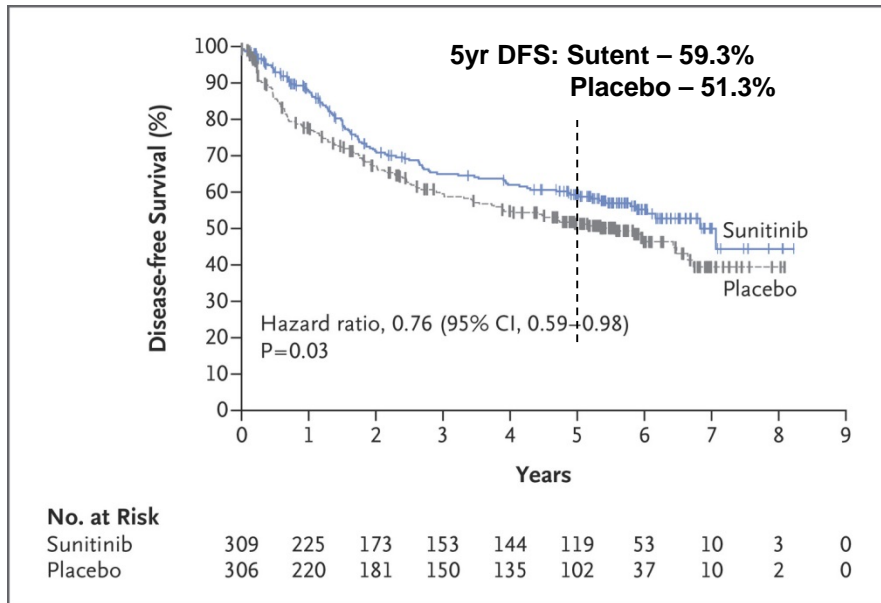
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# Key Comparisons for Reported Adjuvant Targeted Therapies

Trial	N	Drug	Patients	Histology	DFS	OS
ASSURE	1943	Sunitinib Sorafenib Placebo	pT1b,N0,Gr>2, M0 pT2-4,N0,G(any), M0 pT(any),N1,G(any), M0	80% cc	5.8 yr 6.1 yr 6.6 yr	5yr 77.9% 5yr 80.5% 5yr 80.3%
S-TRAC	720	Sunitinib Placebo	≥ Stage 3, M0	100% cc	6.8 yr 5.6 yr <i>HR 0.76, P=0.03</i>	5.4yr 79.3% 5.4yr 79.1%
PROTECT	1500	Pazopanib Placebo	pT2,N0,Gr>2, M0 pT3-T4 N0, G(any), M0 pT(any),N1,G(any), M0	100% cc	ITT <sub>600mg</sub> HR 0.862 P=0.1649	HR 0.79 P=0.16
ATLAS	722	Axitinib Placebo	≥pT2, any N, M0	100% cc	Stopped for futility	NA

# S-TRAC vs ASSURE Subset - DFS Outcomes

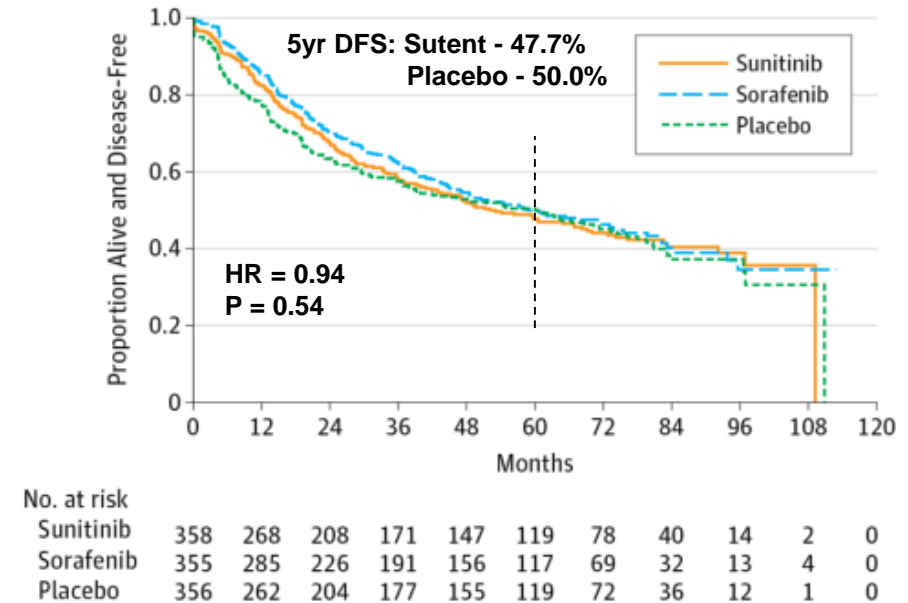
## S-TRAC



**Median DFS: Sunitinib - 6.8 yrs  
Placebo - 5.6 yrs**

## ASSURE High Risk ccRCC (≥ Stage 3)

**A** Proportion alive and disease-free survival



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# First FDA Approval of Adjuvant Treatment for RCC

- Based on S-TRAC results, FDA approved adjuvant Sunitinib November 16, 2017
  - Package Insert language - “SUTENT is indicated for the adjuvant treatment of adult patients at high risk of recurrent RCC following nephrectomy.”  
*(underlining added for emphasis – no FDA stage or histology requirement)*
-



# What are we Doing with Adjuvant Sunitinib in 2020?

- Discordant randomized trials, no OS endpoint, and no data for non-clear cell histology or stage IV NED
- NCCN Category 2B indication for stage III, clear cell RCC

Yes?	No?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Young patients</li><li>• Highest risk<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Poor prognostic variables</li></ul></li><li>• Good PS (ECOG 0)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elderly</li><li>• Unlikely to maintain dose intensity<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Renal dysfunction</li><li>– Heart disease</li><li>– GI syndromes</li><li>– Poor PS</li></ul></li><li>• ? Non-clear cell histology</li></ul>

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# **Front-Line Systemic Therapy**

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# CheckMate 214 (RCC): Pivotal Phase III Study of IPI + NIVO vs Sunitinib

## Key Eligibility Criteria

- Clear cell histology
- No prior treatment
- Tumor tissue available for PD-L1 testing
- Stratification
  - IMDC Risk
  - Geographic location

## IMDC RFs (6)

- Diagnosis to tx < 1yr
- PFS < 70%
- Elevated Ca
- Elevated neutrophil
- Anemia
- Elevated plt

## IMDC Risk Group

- Good (0 RF)
- Intermediate (1-2 RF)
- Poor ( $\geq 3$  RF)

1:1

N=550

**NIVO 3 mg/kg + IPI 1 mg/kg  
Q3W x 4 doses  
Followed by NIVO 3 mg/kg Q2W**

N=546

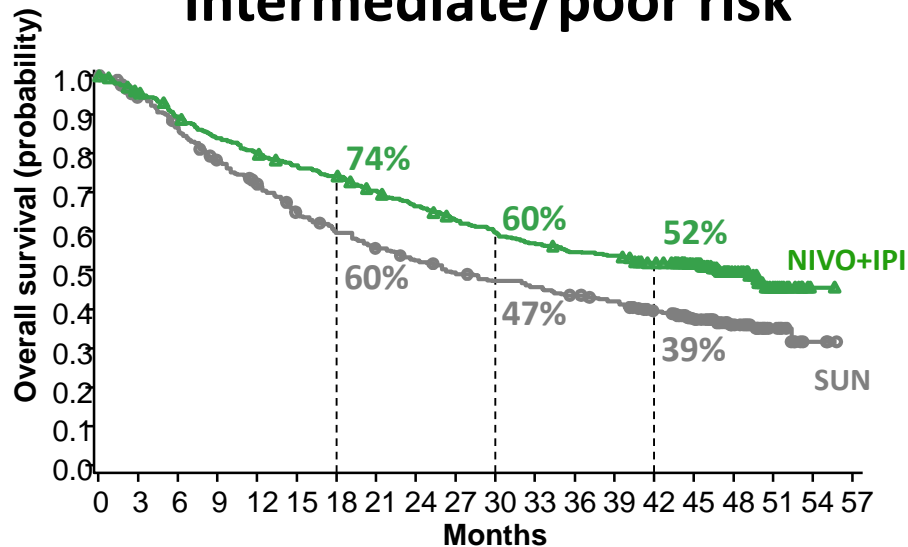
**Sunitinib  
50 mg PO daily, d1-28 Q6W**

- **Co-primary end points: OS, ORR, PFS in Intermediate and Poor Risk patients**

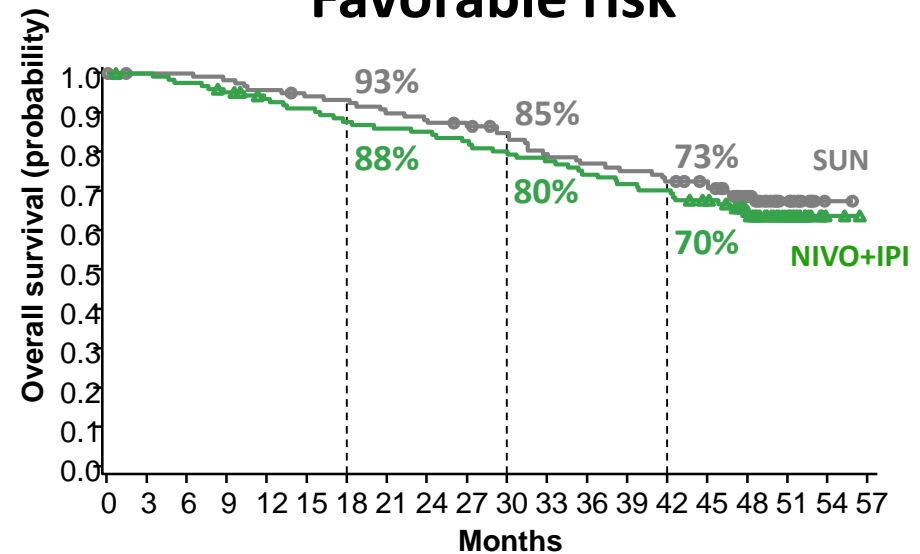
# CheckMate 214: Overall Survival by IMDC Risk

## 42-Month Follow-Up

### Intermediate/poor risk



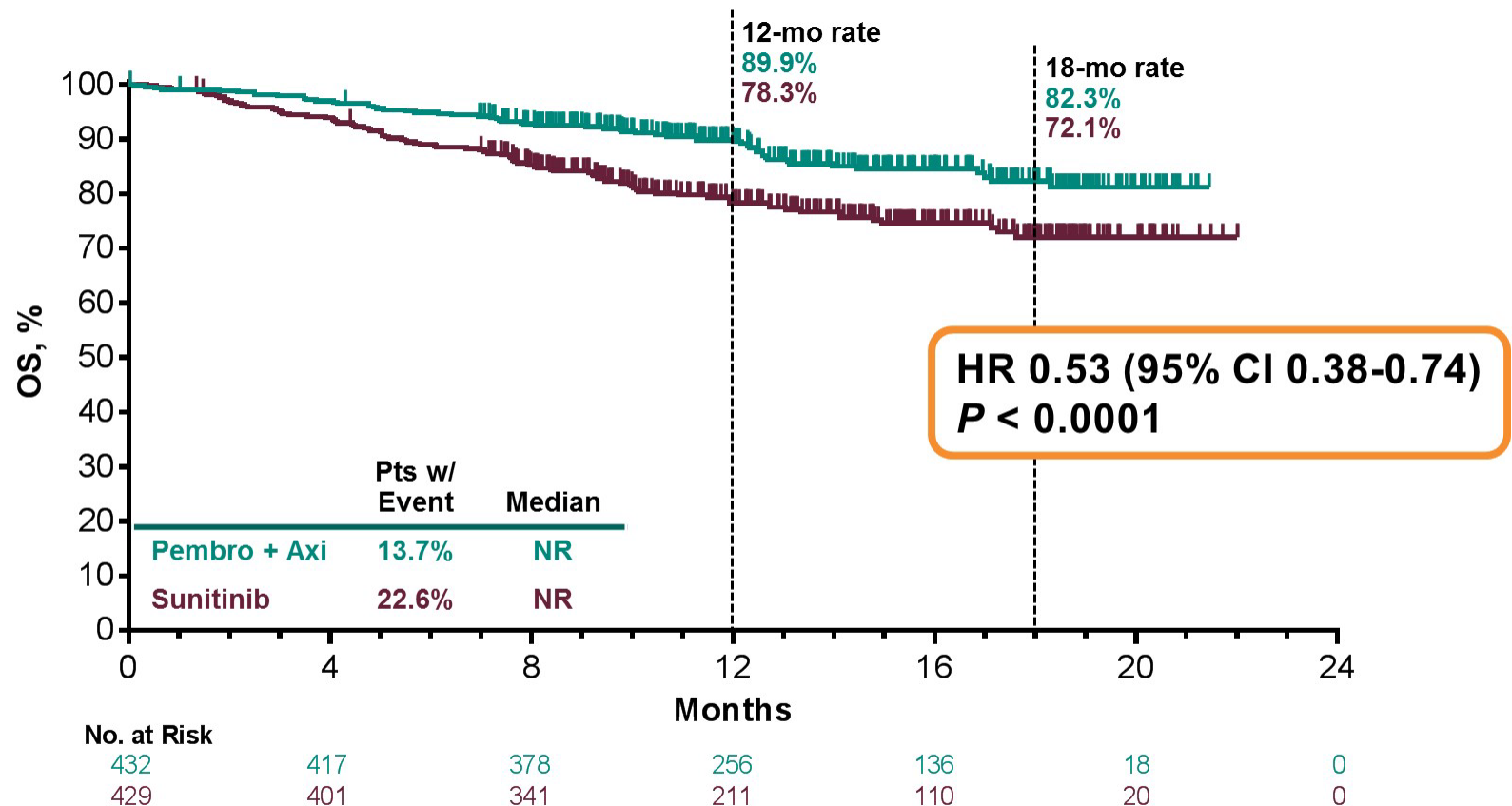
### Favorable risk



Minimum follow-up	OS	NIVO+IPI N = 425	SUN N = 422
42 mo	Median, mo (95% CI)	47.0 (35.6–NE)	26.6 (22.1–33.5)
	HR (95% CI)	0.66 (0.55–0.80) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	

Minimum follow-up	OS	NIVO+IPI N = 125	SUN N = 124
42 mo	Median, mo (95% CI)	NR (NE)	NR (NE)
	HR (95% CI)	1.19 (0.77–1.85) <i>P</i> = 0.4383	

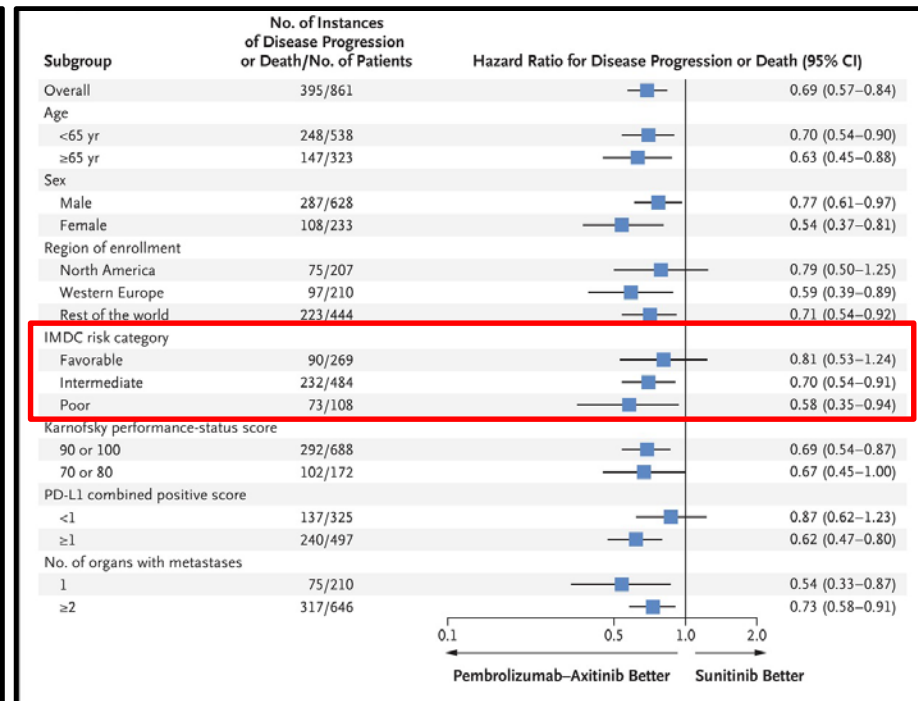
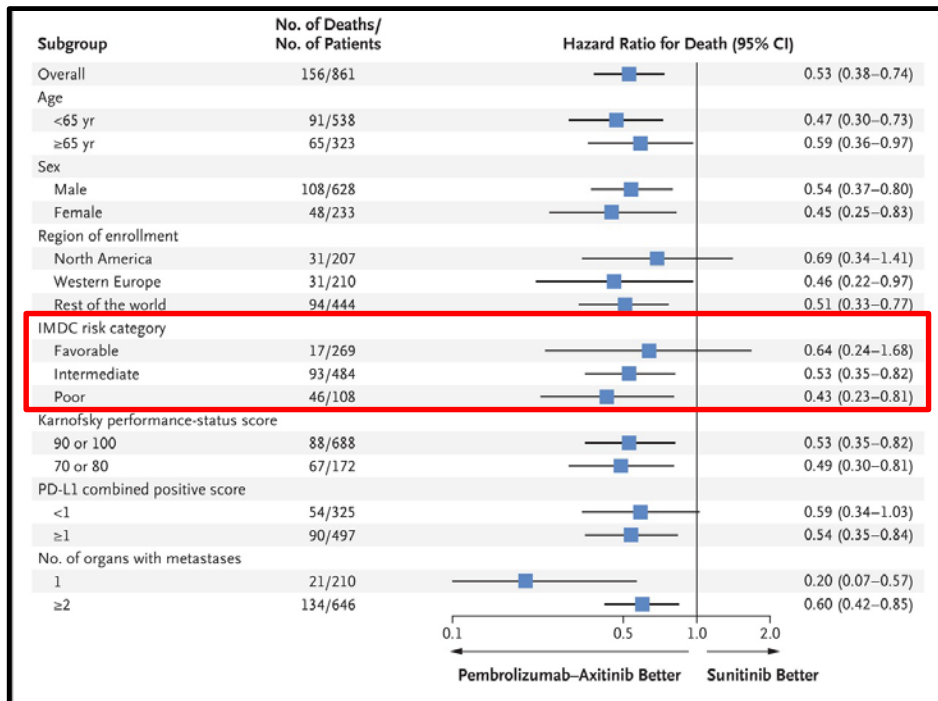
# KeyNote 426: Axitinib + Pembrolizumab Survival Outcomes



# KeyNote 426: Outcomes by Clinical Subsets

## OS

## PFS



# Summary – PD-L1 as Biomarker for Selecting Immune Checkpoint Blocking Therapy

PD-L1 Expression in Tumor	RCC
Prognostic	Unfavorable
Association with ICI treatment – OS <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Ipi+Nivo vs SUN</li><li>▪ Axi+Pembro vs SUN</li></ul>	No comparative outcome difference for OS
Companion Diagnostic	No
Clinical role for testing	No

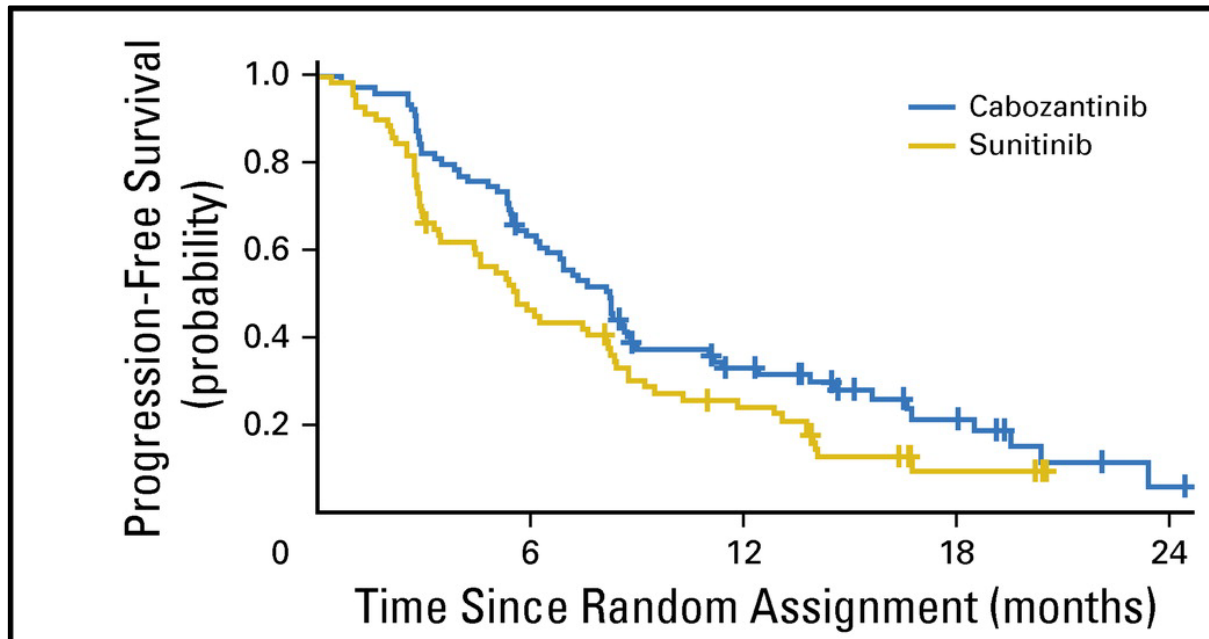
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# Selecting Between First-Line Checkpoint Containing Regimens

- **Nuances between checkpoint regimens**
    - ORR
    - Depth of response (CR)
    - Treatment free survival
    - Toxicity / discontinuation rate
    - Frequency of visits
  - **Await more mature OS data**
  - **No consensus for “best choice”**
-



# CABOSUN (Randomized, phase II) – Front-line Treatment of Intermediate and Poor Risk ccRCC



Endpoint	CABO	SUN	HR (P)
PFS	8.2 mo	5.6 mo	0.66 (P=0.012)
OS	30.3 mo	21.8 mo	0.80 (NS)
ORR	46%	18%	Not stated

# Current NCCN Guidelines for First-Line Therapy for clear cell RCC

FIRST-LINE THERAPY FOR CLEAR CELL HISTOLOGY			
Risk	Preferred regimens	Other recommended regimens	Useful in certain circumstances
Favorable <sup>a</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axitinib + pembrolizumab<sup>b</sup></li> <li>• Pazopanib</li> <li>• Sunitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ipilimumab + nivolumab<sup>b</sup></li> <li>• Axitinib + avelumab<sup>b</sup></li> <li>• Cabozantinib (category 2B)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active surveillance<sup>c</sup></li> <li>• Axitinib (category 2B)</li> <li>• High-dose IL-2<sup>d</sup></li> </ul>
Poor/intermediate <sup>a</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ipilimumab + nivolumab<sup>b</sup> (category 1)</li> <li>• Axitinib + pembrolizumab<sup>b</sup> (category 1)</li> <li>• Cabozantinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pazopanib</li> <li>• Sunitinib</li> <li>• Axitinib + avelumab<sup>b</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axitinib (category 2B)</li> <li>• High-dose IL-2<sup>d</sup></li> <li>• Temsirolimus<sup>e</sup></li> </ul>

## What's Coming to First-Line Therapy?

- Axitinib + avelumab
  - FDA approval May, 2019
  - Await OS data
- Nivolumab + cabozantinib (CheckMate 9ER)
  - Press release - study was positive for PFS, OS, ORR versus sunitinib

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# **Second-Line Systemic Therapy and Select Clinical Subsets**

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# Comparison of Current Second-Line Treatment Options for RCC

	Axitinib	Nivolumab	Cabozantinib	Lenvatinib/Eve
Patient Population	TKI refractory*	TKI refractory	TKI refractory	TKI refractory
Comparator	Sorafenib	Everolimus	Everolimus	Everolimus
ORR	9%*	22%	17%	35%
PFS, months	6.5*	4.6	7.4	12.8
OS, months	15.2*	25.0	21.4	25.5
Dose reductions	30%	n/a	60%	71%
D/C due to AE	7%	8%	9%	29%
Toxicity	G3 50%	18%	63%	57%
	G4 6%	1%	8%	14%

# Clinical Outcomes for Sarcomatoid RCC

Treatment	Chemo	Targeted Tx	Immunotherapy			
Regimen (N)	Dox+Gem <sup>1</sup> 39	Sun+Gem <sup>2</sup> 39	Ipi/Nivo <sup>3</sup> 60	Atezo/Bev <sup>4</sup> 68	Pembro/Axi <sup>5</sup> 51	Pembro <sup>6</sup> 11
ORR, %	16	26	57	49	59	64
CR, %	3	3	18	10	12	0
PR, %	13	23	38	39	47	64
Median PFS, mo	3.5	5	8.4	8.3	NR	—
Median OS, mo	8.8	10	31.2	NR	NR	—

<sup>1</sup>Haas, NB *et al.* Med Oncol (2012) 29:761-7

<sup>2</sup>Michaelson, MD *et al.* Cancer (2015) 121:3435-43

<sup>3</sup>ASCO 2019, abstr #4513

<sup>4</sup>ASCO 2019, abstr #4512

<sup>5</sup>ASCO 2019, abstr #4500

<sup>6</sup>ASCO 2019, abstr #4570

# KeyNote 427: First-Line Pembrolizumab for non-clear cell RCC

Group (N)	TOTAL 165	Papillary 118	Chromophobe 21	Unclassified 26	Sarcomatoid 38
ORR, %	25	25	10	35	45
CR, %	5	—	—	—	—
PR, %	20	—	—	—	—
12-mo PFS, %	23	—	—	—	—
12-mo OS, %	72	—	—	—	—
Median DOR	NR <sup>1</sup>	NR	NR	NR	NR

<sup>1</sup>Median follow-up 11.1 mo

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# Conclusions

- Immune checkpoint inhibitors appear to be the drug class of choice for sarcomatoid RCC tumors
  - Immune checkpoint inhibitors have clinically significant activity in most subtypes of non clear cell RCC
-

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# SEATTLE CANCER CARE ALLIANCE, UW MEDICINE and FRED HUTCH

*Thank you for  
your attention*

