

# ESMO GUIDELINES: REAL WORLD CASES WEBINAR

## RENAL CELL CARCINOMA



# TUMOUR TOPIC, PRESENTATION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, MOLECULAR PATHOLOGY FROM THE ESMO CPG

**Camillo Porta**

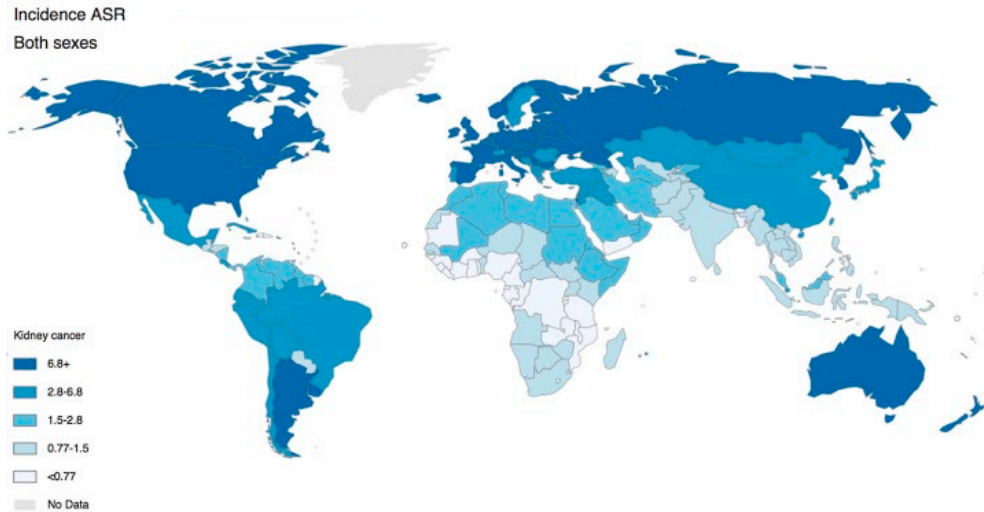
University of Bari «A. Moro» and A.O.U. Consorziiale Policlinico di Bari,  
Bari, Italy



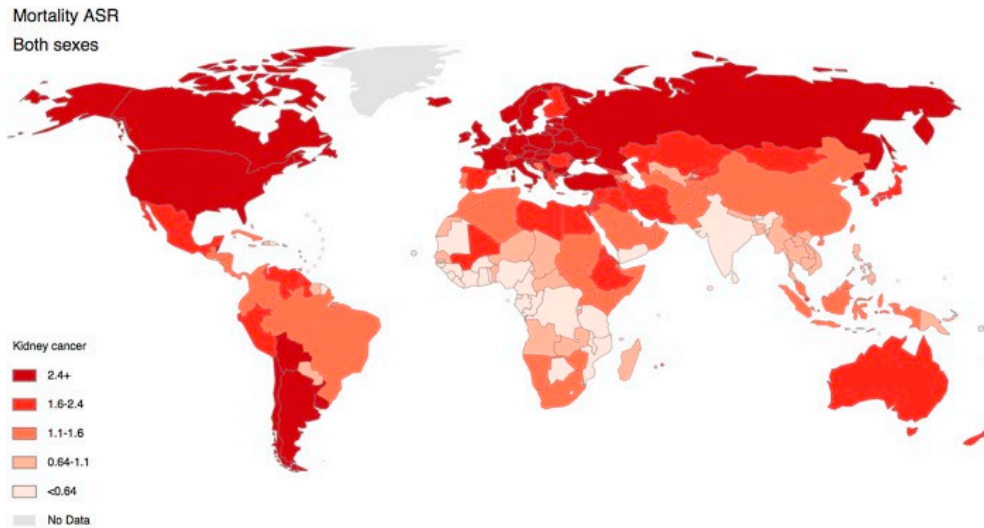
# Kidney Cancer Epidemiology (I)



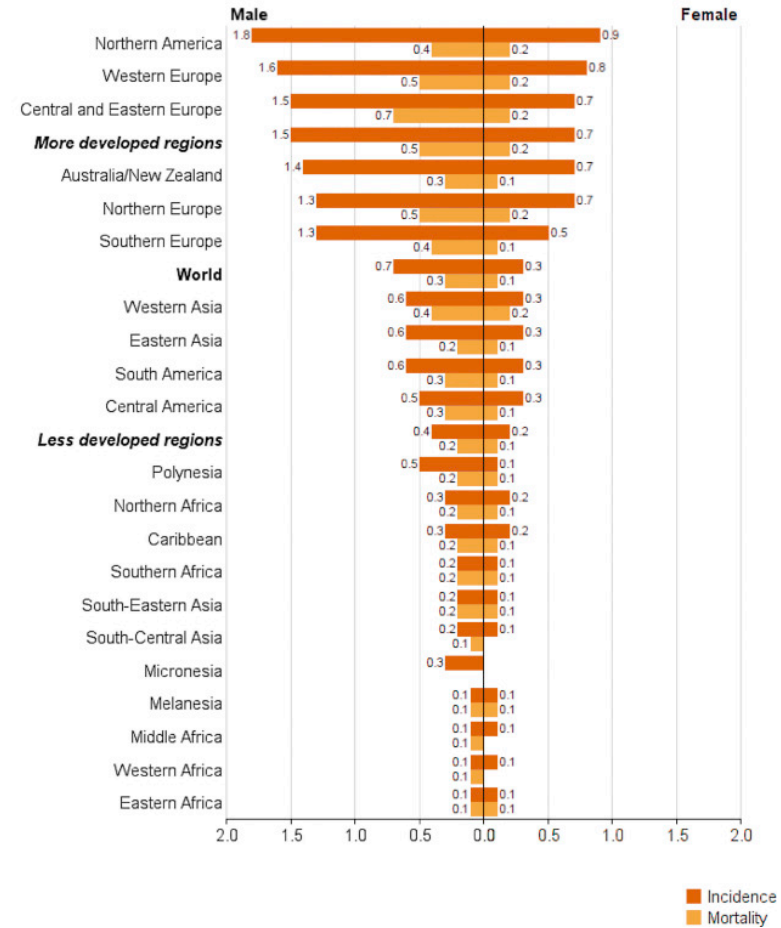
Incidence



Mortality



**Kidney cancer**  
Cumulative risk (%), age [0-74 yr]



# Kidney Cancer Epidemiology (II)

Du et al. *Biomarker Research* (2020) 8:16  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40364-020-00195-3>

Biomarker Research

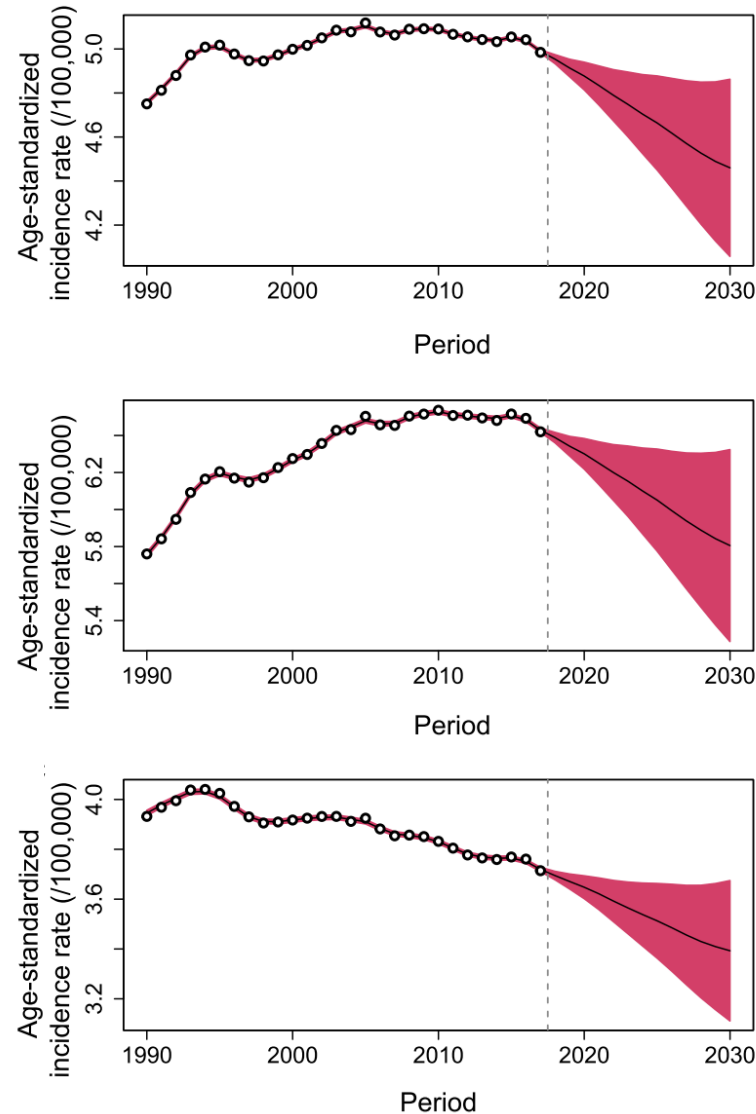
RESEARCH

Open Access



## Trends and projections of kidney cancer incidence at the global and national levels, 1990–2030: a Bayesian age-period-cohort modeling study

Zhebin Du<sup>1†</sup>, Wei Chen<sup>1†</sup>, Qier Xia<sup>2†</sup>, Oumin Shi<sup>3</sup> and Qi Chen<sup>1\*</sup>



Kidney cancer incidence is predicted to decrease in the next decade, but this predicted decrease will mainly be observed in developed, but not in undeveloped, countries

# Kidney Cancer: Risk Factors and Clinical Presentation



## LIFESTYLE FACTORS

Smoking • Obesity



## MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Hypertension • Chronic Kidney Disease • Long-term Hemodialysis



## OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE

Chemicals such as Trichloroethylene • (Asbestos)



## GENETIC FACTORS

Family History of Kidney Cancer • Hereditary Syndromes, e.g. von Hippel-Lindau (VHL), Birt-Hogg-Dube, and others



## BIOLOGICAL FACTORS

Male gender • Age 60+

Modifiable

Not modifiable

## Common Symptoms



fever



fatigue



flushing



anemia



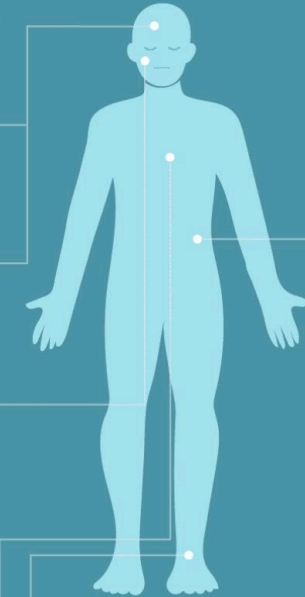
high blood pressure



swelling



blood in urine



weight loss/ cachexia



flank pain/ mass



loss of appetite

Today, the classic triad of flank pain, visible haematuria, and palpable abdominal mass is rare (<10%)

# WHO/ISUP 2022 Histopathologic Classification

## Clear cell renal tumours

- Clear cell renal cell carcinoma
- Multilocular cystic renal neoplasm of low malignant potential

## Papillary renal tumours

- Renal papillary adenoma
- Papillary renal cell carcinoma

## Oncocytic and chromophobe renal tumours

- Oncocytoma of the kidney
- Chromophobe renal cell carcinoma
- Other oncocytic tumours

## Collecting duct tumours

- Collecting duct carcinoma

## Other renal tumours

- Clear cell papillary renal cell tumour
- Mucinous tubular and spindle cell carcinoma
- Tubulo-cystic renal cell carcinoma
- Acquired cystic disease-associated renal cell carcinoma
- Eosinophilic solid and cystic renal cell carcinoma
- Renal cell carcinoma NOS

## Molecularly defined renal carcinomas

- *TEF3*-rearranged renal cell carcinoma
- *TFEB*-rearranged renal cell carcinoma
- *ELOC* (formerly *TCEB1*)-mutated renal cell carcinoma
- Fumarate hydratase-deficient renal cell carcinoma
- Succinate dehydrogenase-deficient renal cell carcinoma
- *ALK*-rearranged renal cell carcinoma
- *SMARCB1*-deficient renal medullary carcinoma



# WHO/ISUP 2022 Histopathologic Classification

## Clear cell renal tumours

- **Clear cell renal cell carcinoma (a)**
- Multilocular cystic renal neoplasm of low malignant potential

## Papillary renal tumours

- Renal papillary adenoma
- **Papillary renal cell carcinoma (b)**

## Oncocytic and chromophobe renal tumours

- **Oncocytoma of the kidney (c)**
- **Chromophobe renal cell carcinoma (d)**
- Other oncocytic tumours

## Collecting duct tumours

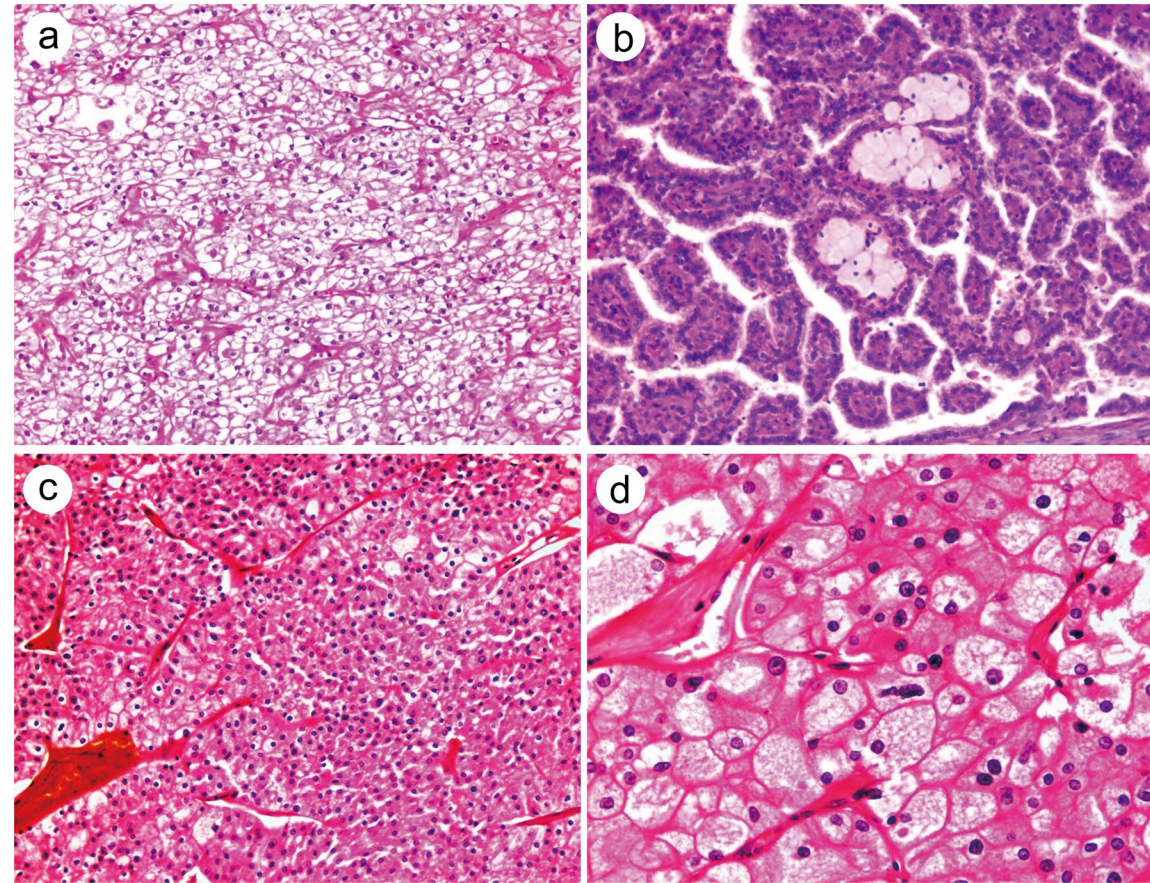
- Collecting duct carcinoma

## Other renal tumours

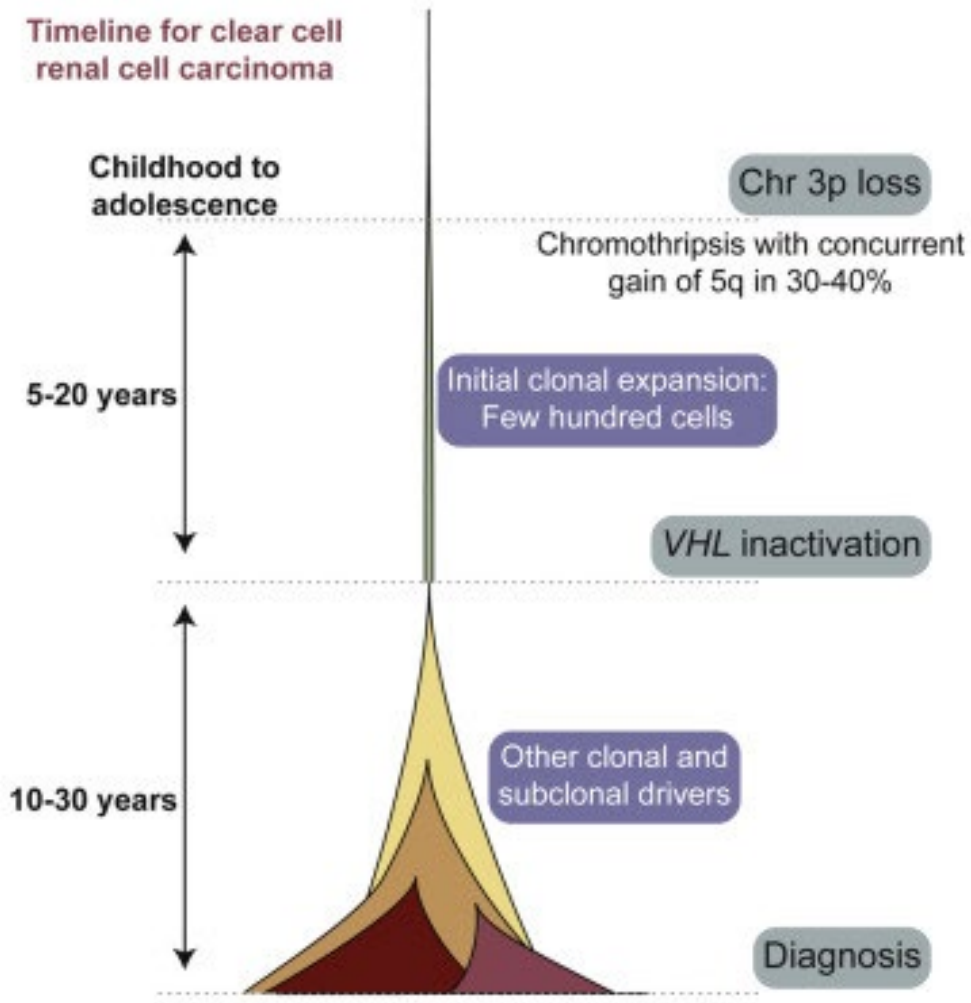
- Clear cell papillary renal cell tumour
- Mucinous tubular and spindle cell carcinoma
- Tubulo-cystic renal cell carcinoma
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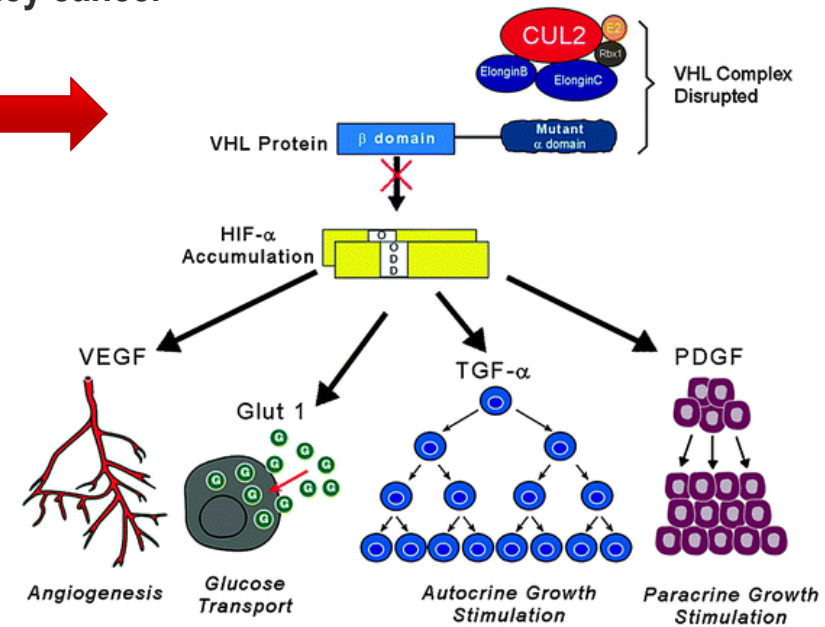


# Clonal Evolution of clear cell Renal Cell Carcinoma



Clear cell renal cell carcinoma is characterized by near-universal loss of the short arm of chromosome 3, deleting several tumor suppressor genes (mainly *VHL*, but also *PBRM1*, *BAP1* and *SETD2*); in 36% of the cases, simultaneous 5q gain is observed. These events occur in childhood or adolescence, generally as the initiating event that precedes emergence of the tumor's most recent common ancestor by years to decades

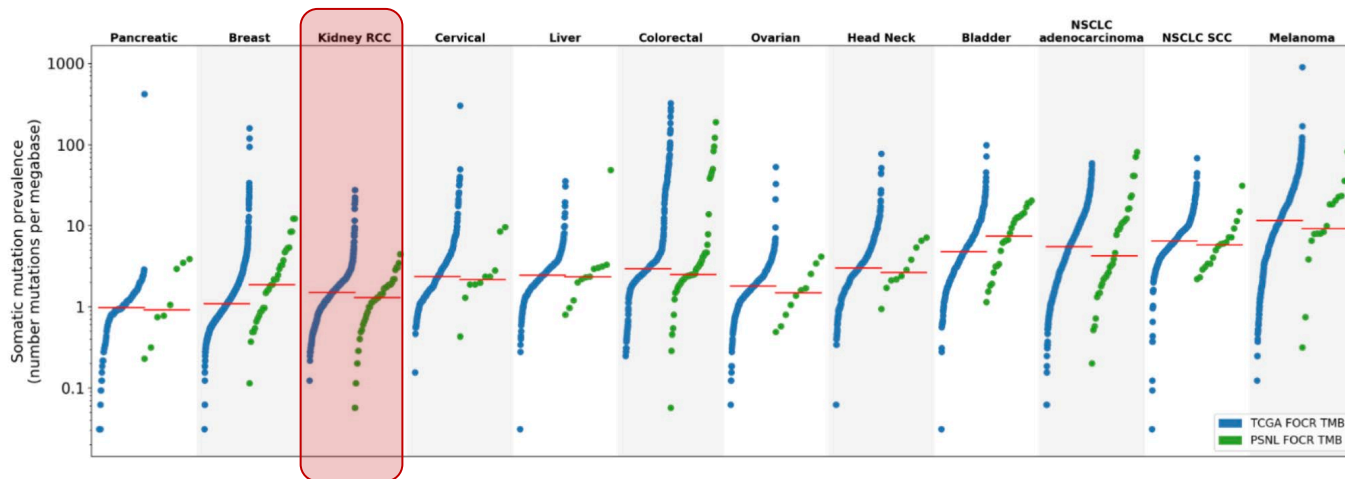
**VHL gene inactivation is the key pathogenic event in sporadic clear cell kidney cancer**





# Renal Cell Carcinoma: an Immunogenic Tumour

The presence of neoantigen-specific T cells is a hallmark of solid tumours with a high mutagenic burden, which typically have abundant tumour-specific antigen owing to non-synonymous single nucleotide variations within the genome. These tumors tend to respond better to ICIs-based immunotherapy



Each dot represents a single patient sample. The horizontal red lines indicate the median number of mutations in each respective cancer and cohort. The vertical axis (log-scaled) shows the number of mutations per megabase, segregated by the various cancer types investigated. The estimation of TMB was determined utilizing the FOCSR 'Uniform TMB Calculation Method' (Merino et al. 2020).

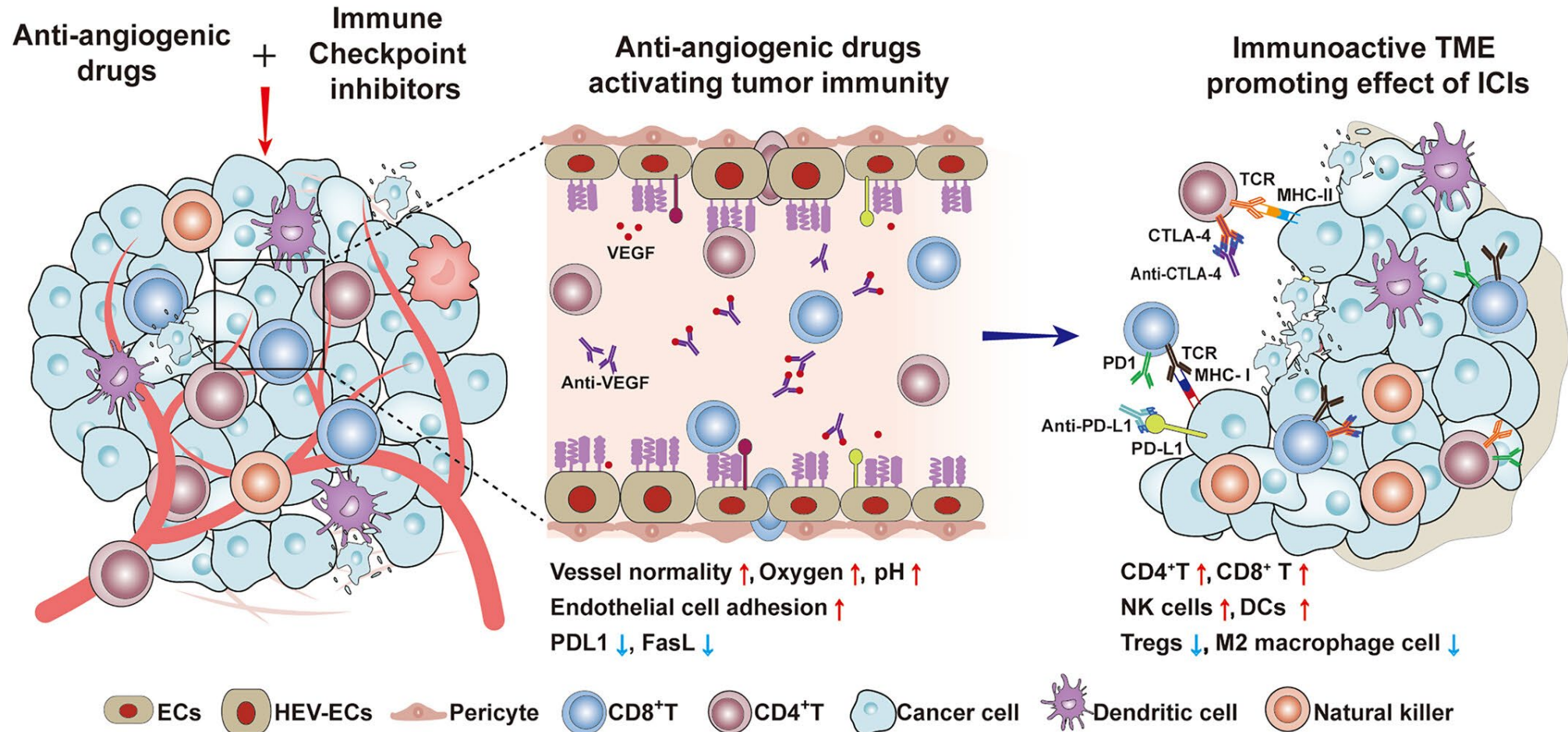
• Cohorts:

- TCGA FOCSR TMB from TCGA samples (from Merino et al. 2020)
- NeXT Exome-derived TMB using Personalis NeXT DB samples

RCC exhibits high cytotoxic T cell reactivity despite only having an intermediate non-synonymous single nucleotide variation mutational burden. Instead, RCC tumours have a high pan-cancer proportion of insertions and deletions (INDEL) frameshift mutations, and coding frameshift INDELs are associated with high immunogenicity.

Moreover, in RCC cytotoxic T cells seem to recognize tumour-specific endogenous retrovirus epitopes (often of avian origin), whose presence has been well documented, and proved to be associated with clinical responses to immune checkpoint inhibitors

# Combining Antiangiogenics and Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION !**



[camillo.porta@gmail.com](mailto:camillo.porta@gmail.com)

# ESMO GUIDELINES: REAL WORLD CASES

## CASE PRESENTATION

### Renal cell carcinoma

**Dr. Regina Barragan-Carrillo, MD**

Department of Medical Oncology and Experimental Therapeutics

City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center (United States)

**ESMO WEBINAR SERIES**

**ESMO** GOOD SCIENCE  
BETTER MEDICINE  
BEST PRACTICE



# CLINICAL CASE

## Patient presentation

### 52 YO male patient

- **PHx:** hypertension, receiving treatment with losartan BID.
- **PSHx:** appendectomy (1992).
- **FH:** Mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer in her early 60s.
- **SHx:** Born and raised in Southern California. Softball coach (very active lifestyle). Denies tobacco use. Reports consumption of 2–3 standard alcoholic drinks per week. Married with 2 children in college.

# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

**Stage III clear cell renal carcinoma**



Hepatic steatosis work-up



**Abdominal US:**  
7.5 cm lobulated solid mass in the left upper renal pole

**Staging CT CAP:**  
No sites of metastatic disease



2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

Left hand-assist radical nephrectomy (several surgical complications)



**Pathology:**  
6.8cm ccRCC with negative margins and no sarcomatoid or rhabdoid features, Grade 2 with renal sinus extension (pT3aNx).

# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

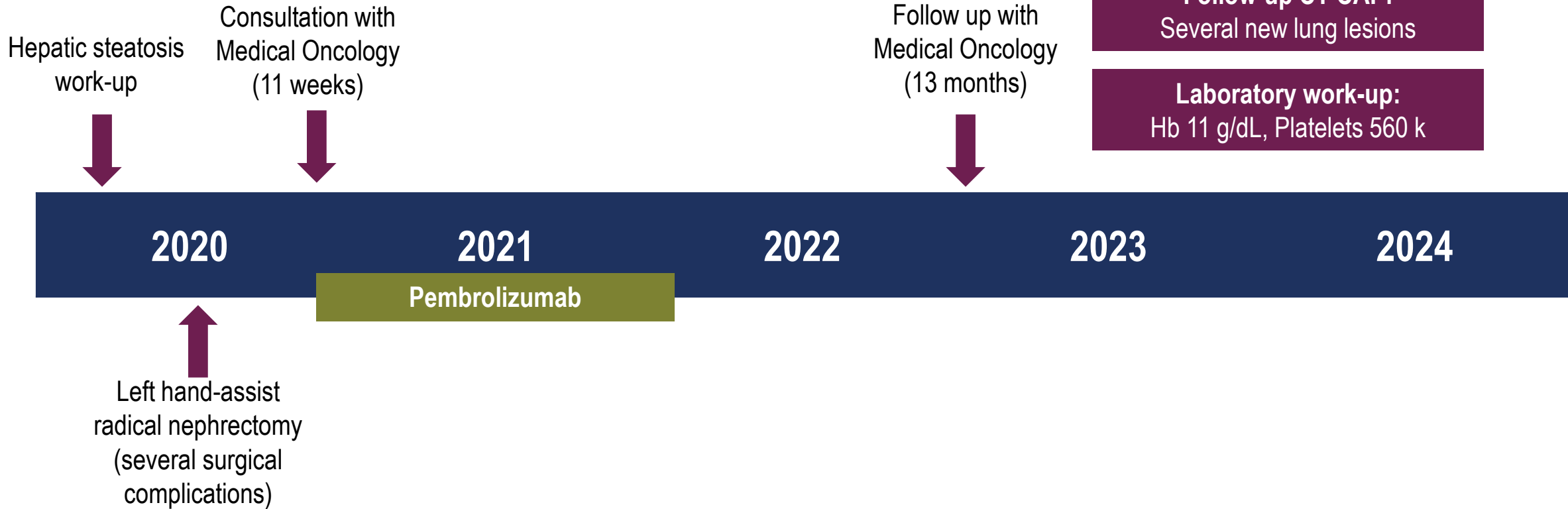
**Stage III clear cell renal carcinoma**



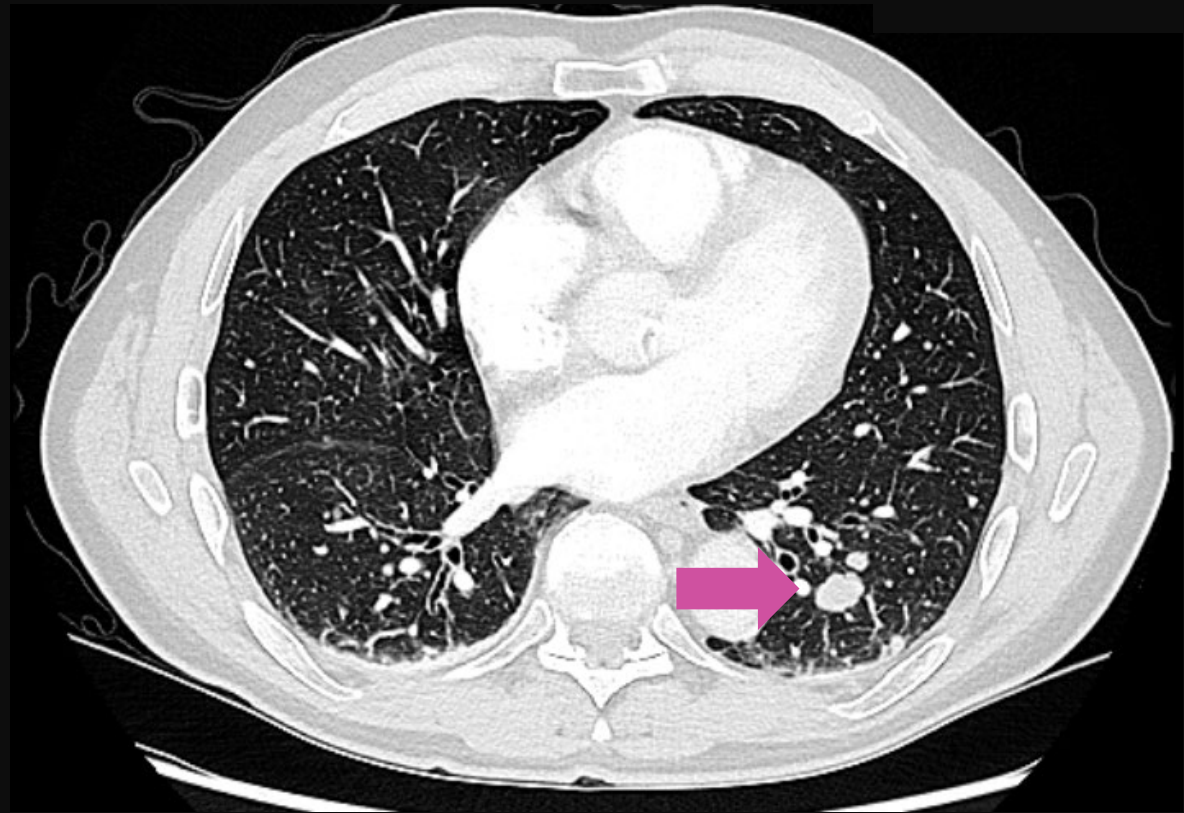
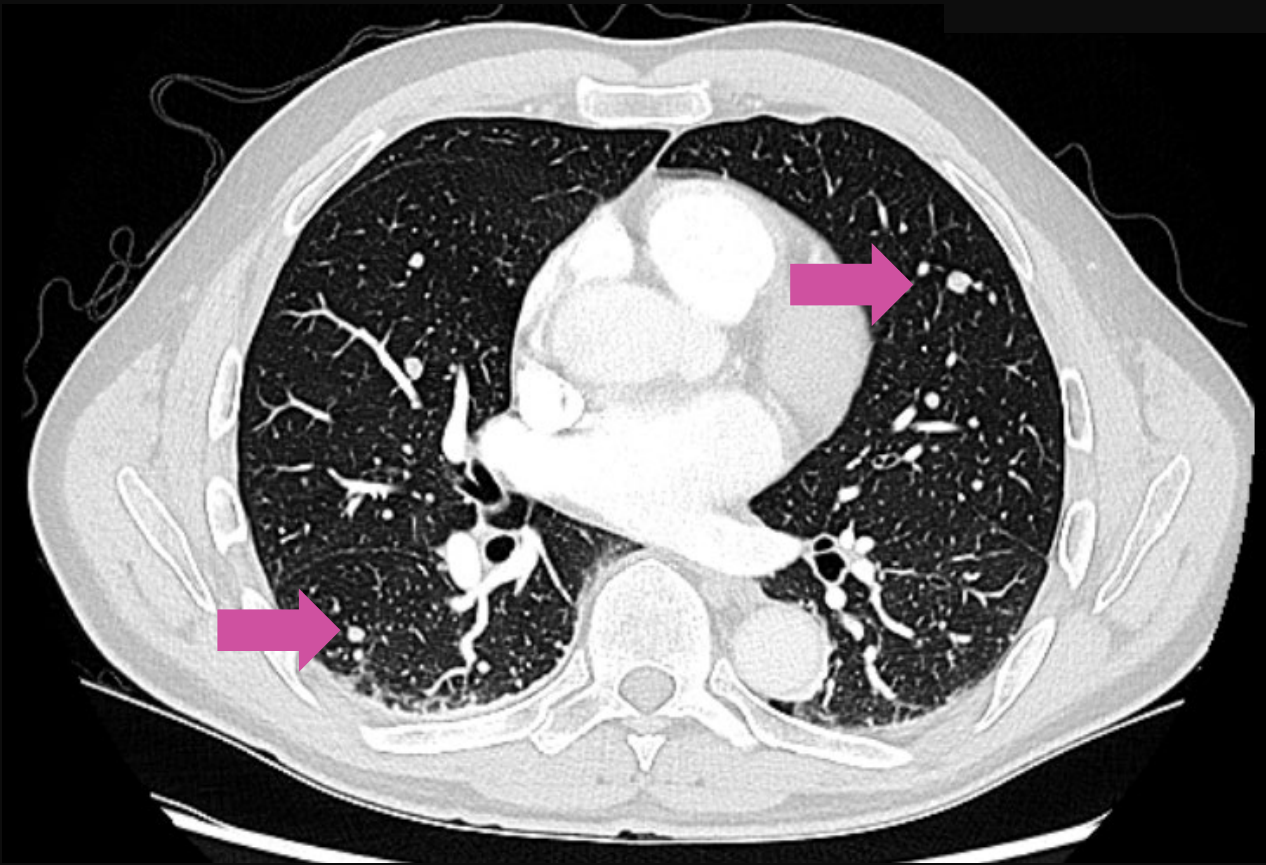
# CLINICAL CASE

## History of present illness

**Stage III clear cell renal carcinoma**



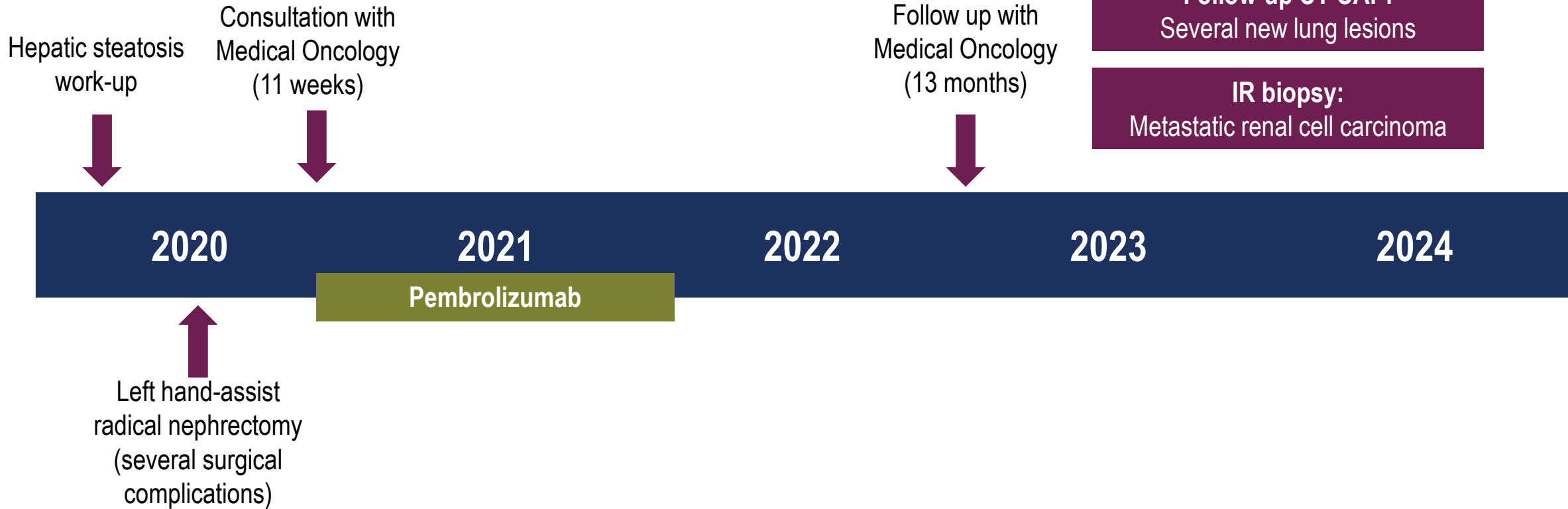




# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

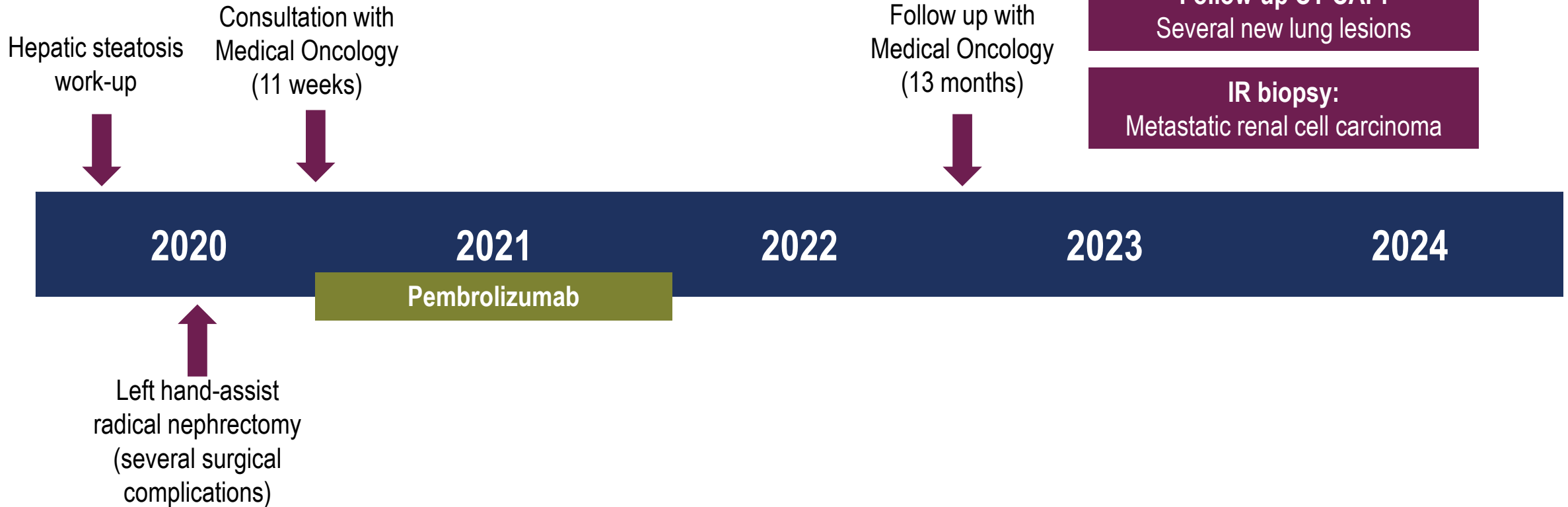
**Stage III clear cell renal carcinoma**



# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

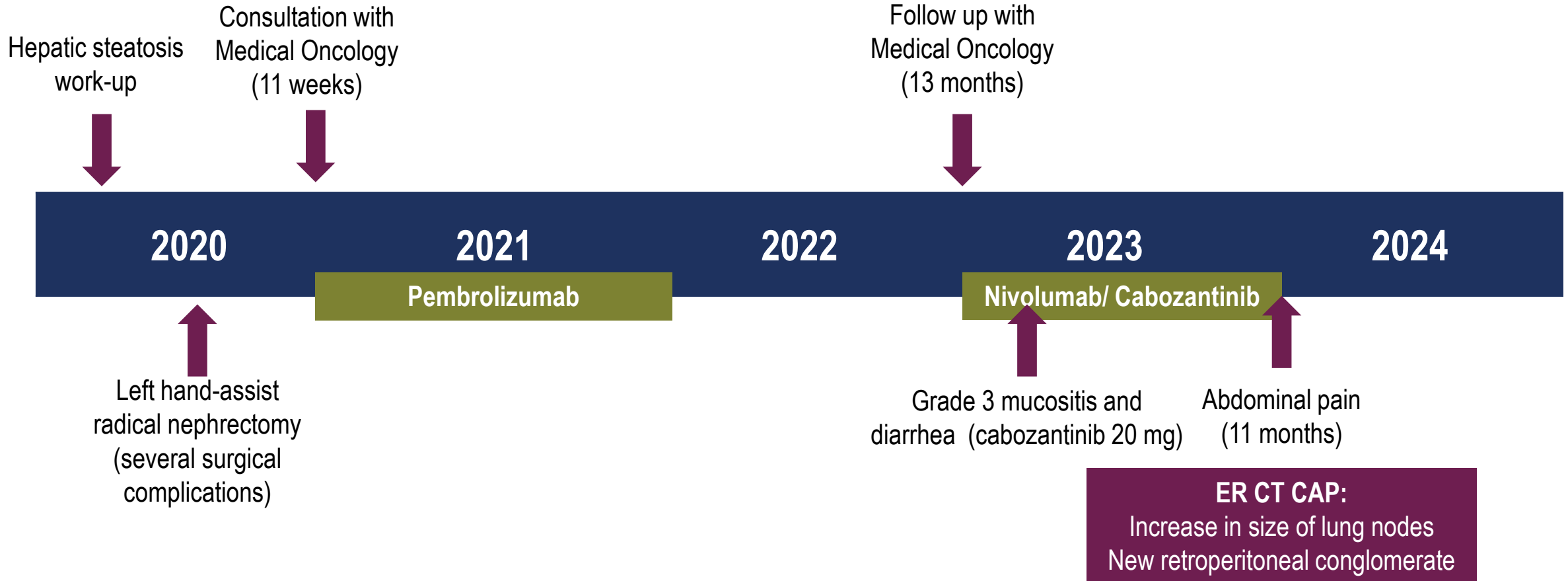
**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**



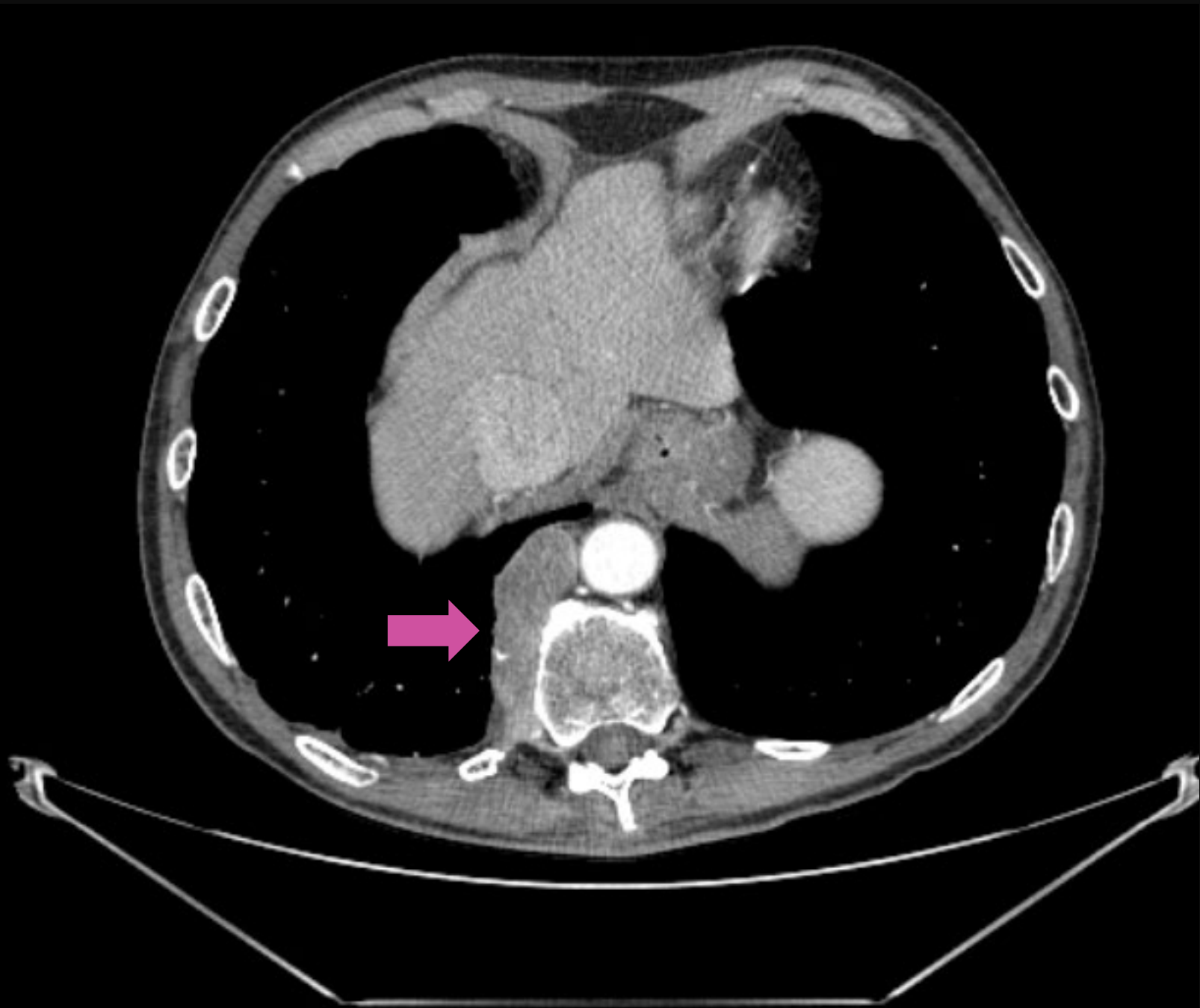
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History of present illness

**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**



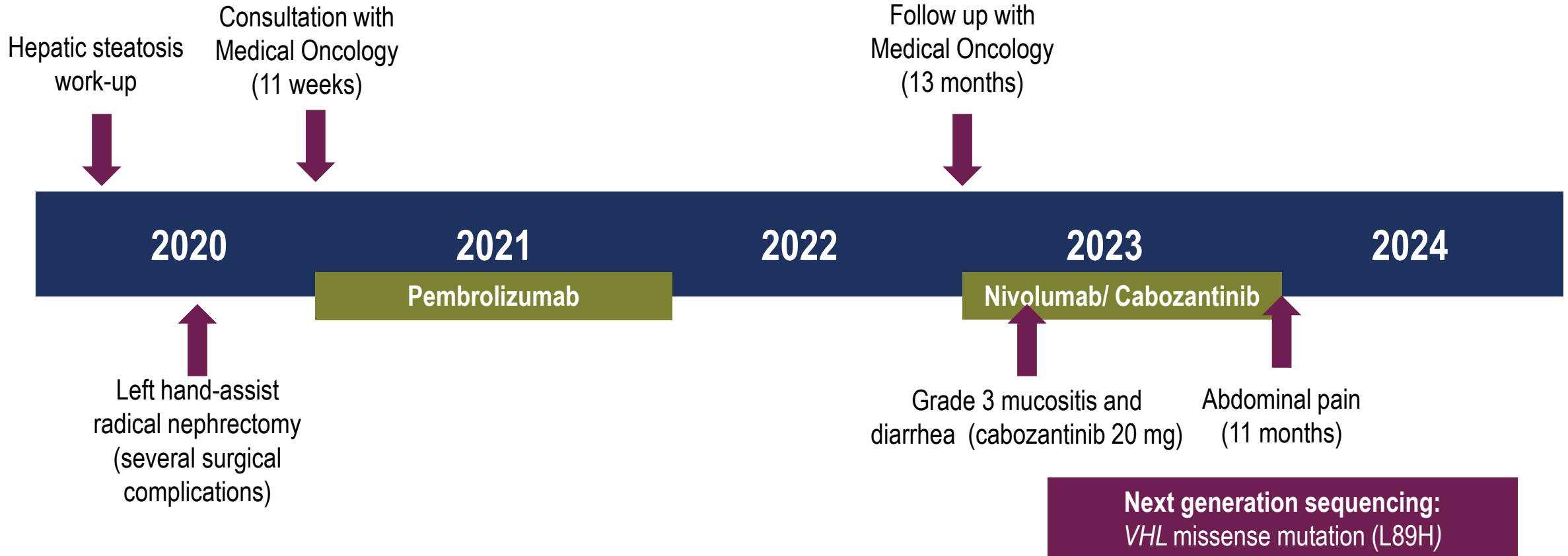




# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

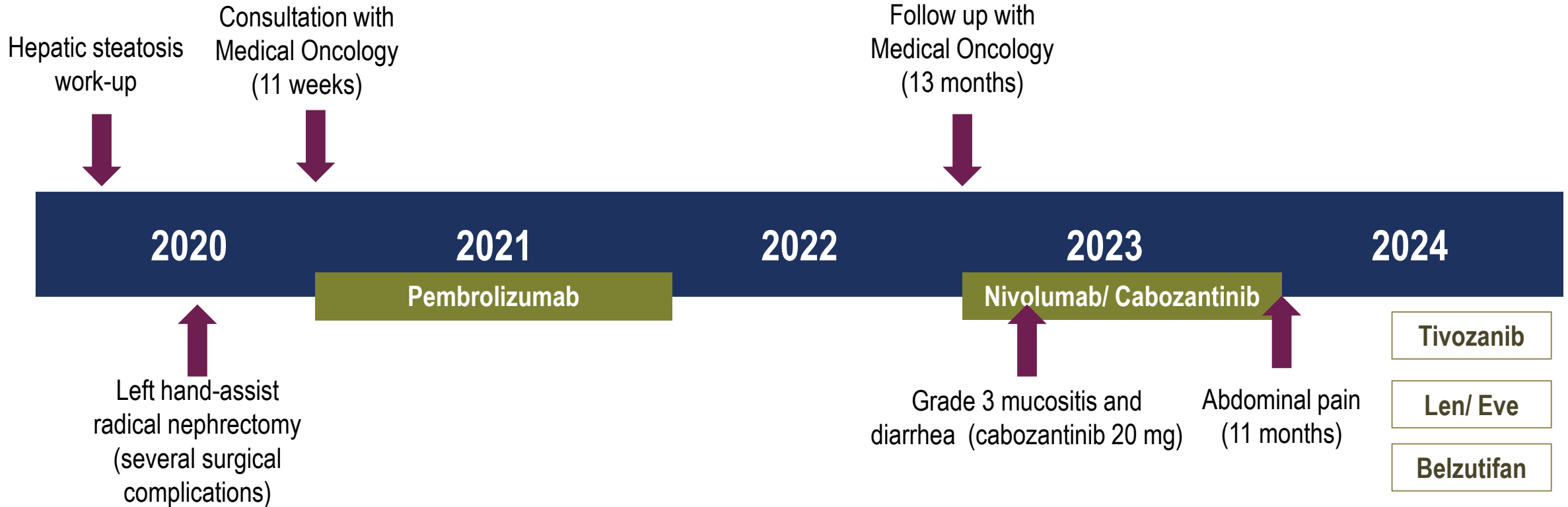
**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**



# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

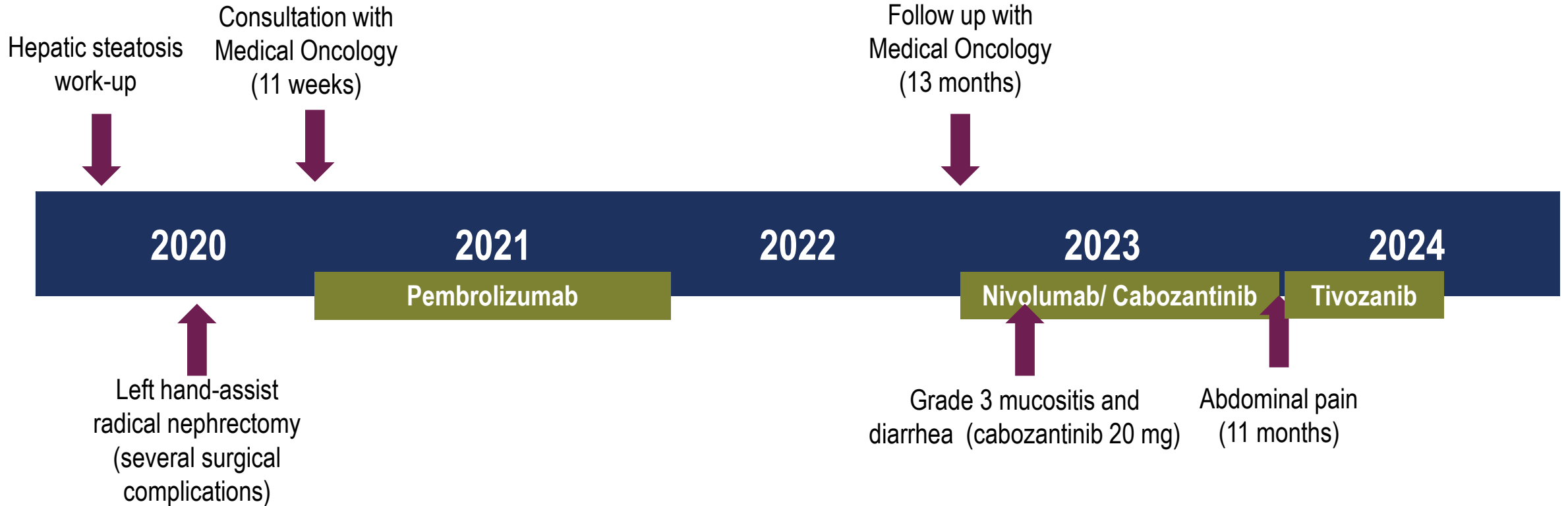
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# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**

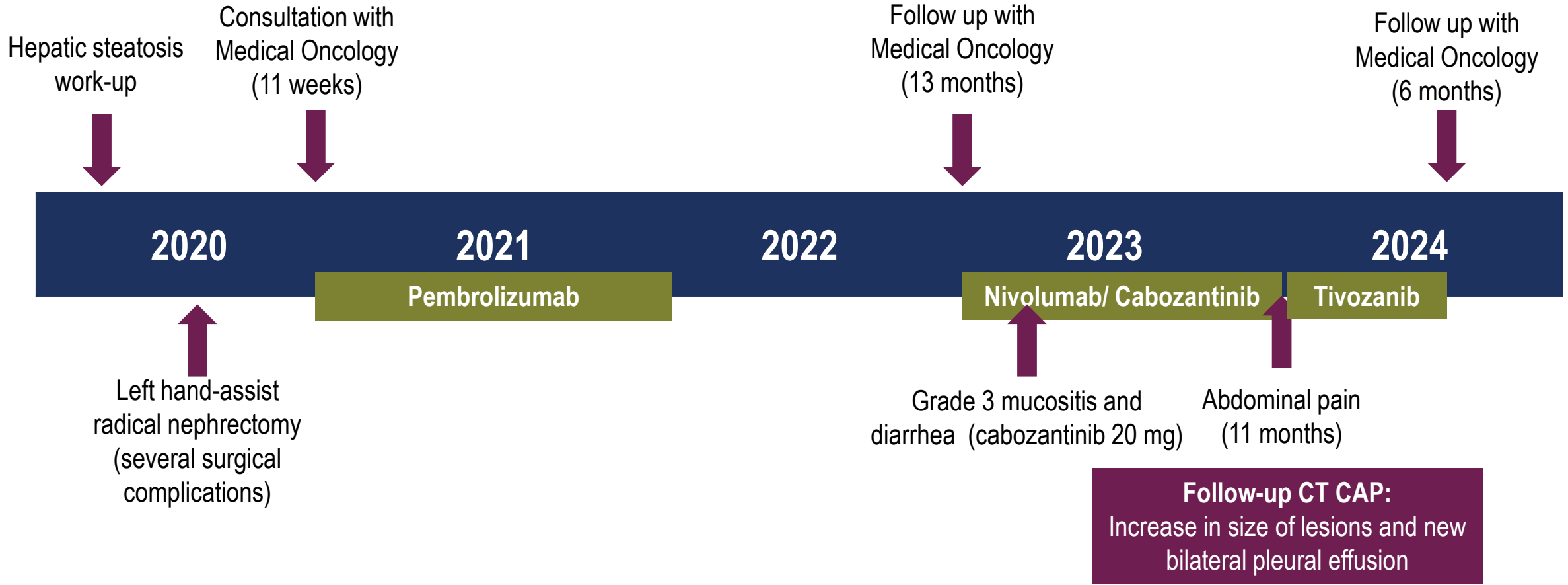




# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**

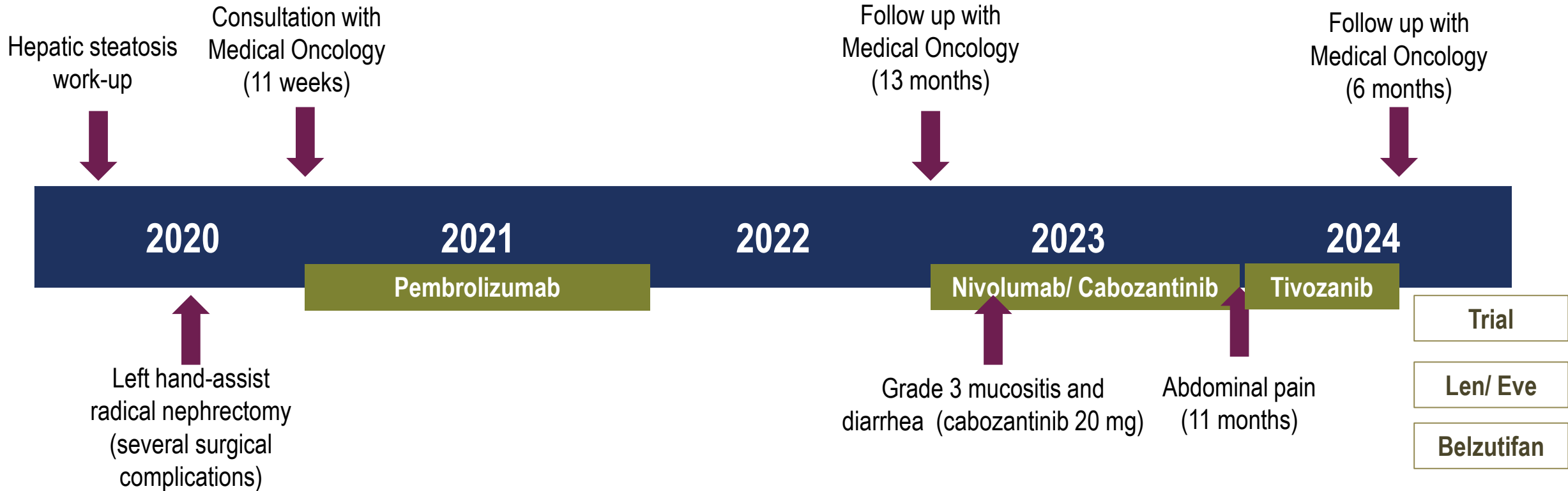




# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

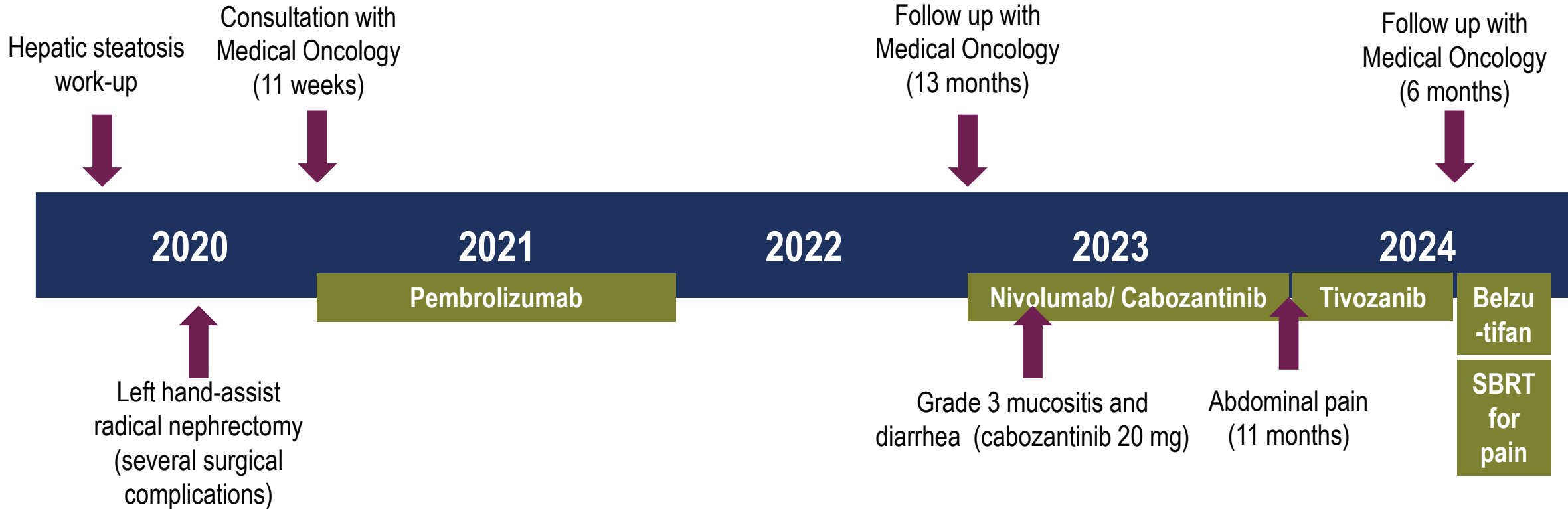
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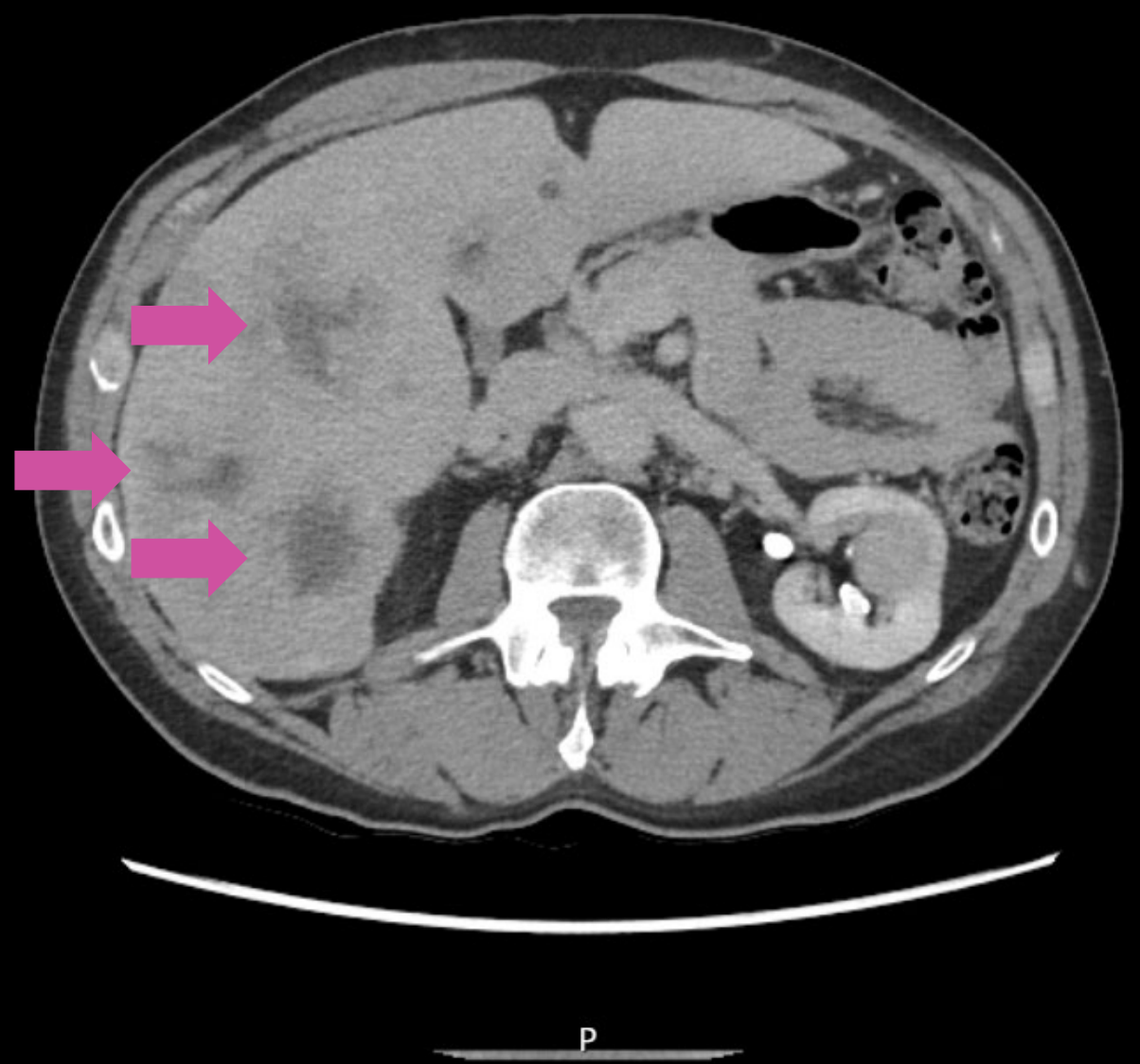
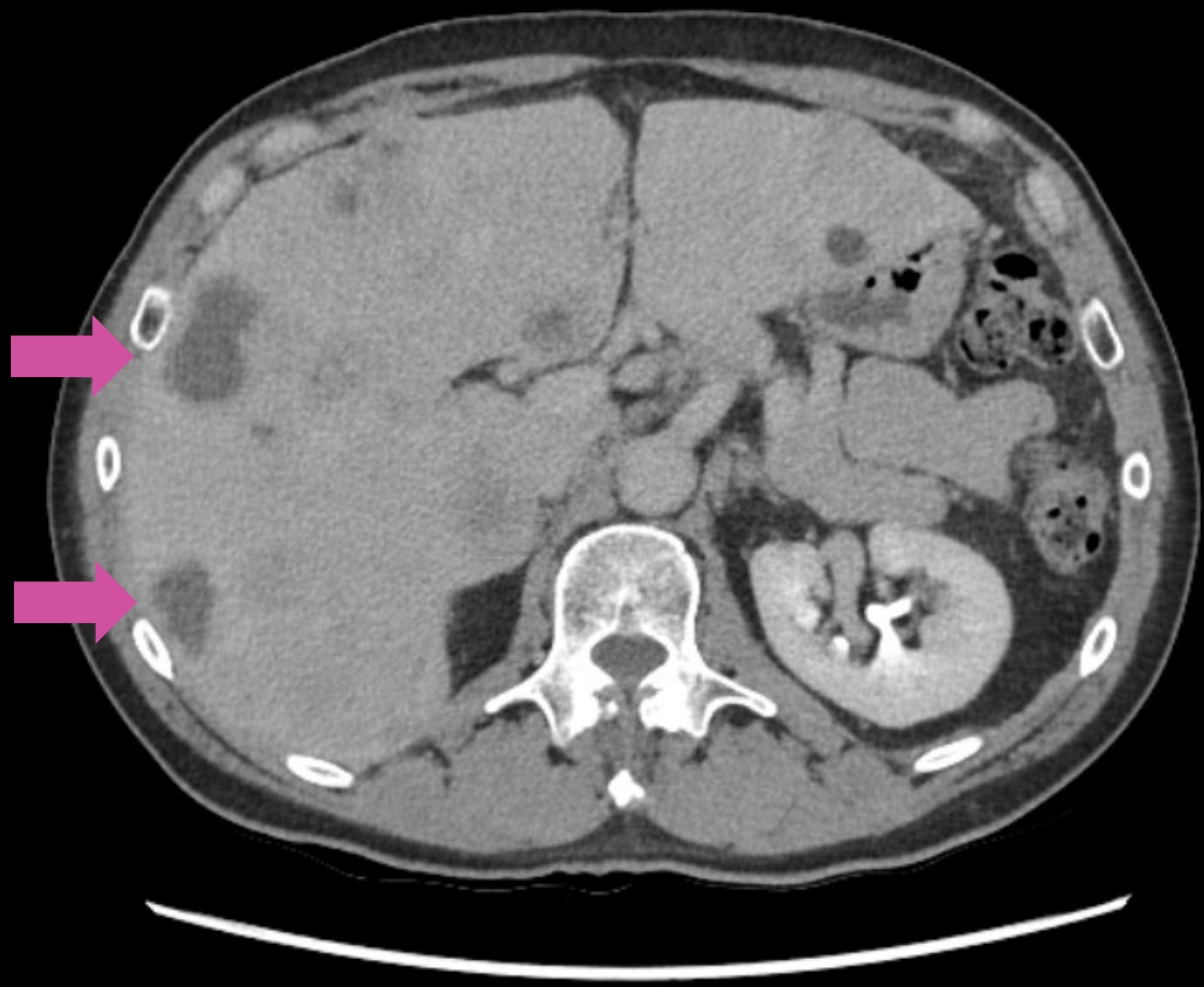


# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**



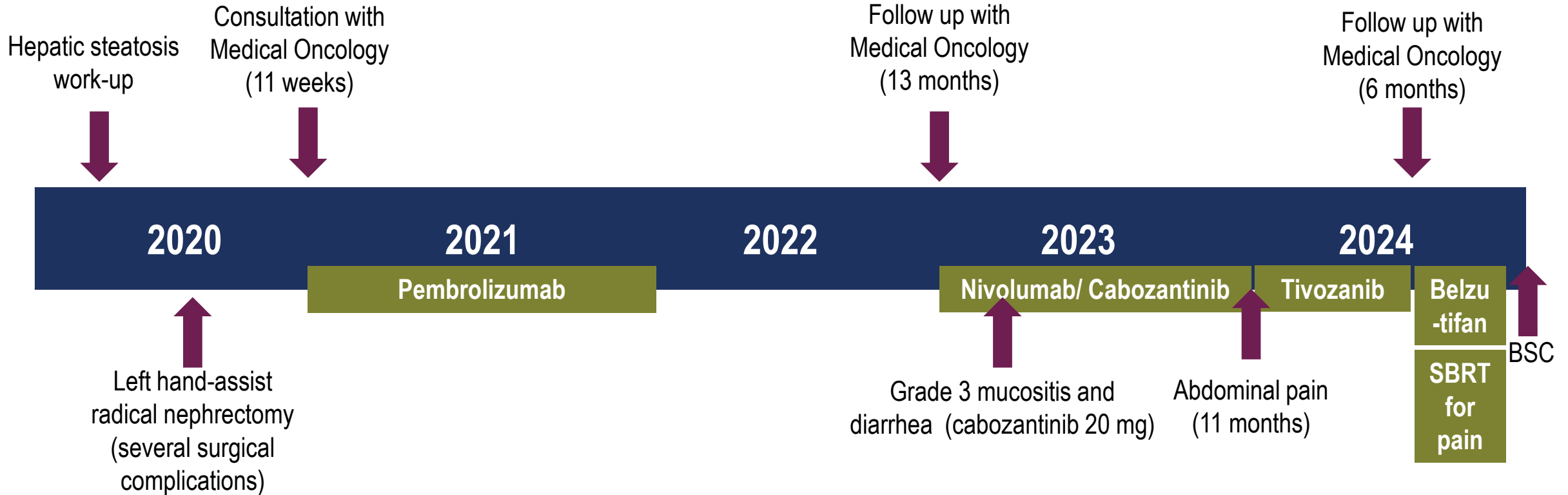




# CLINICAL CASE

History of present illness

**Intermediate risk metastatic clear cell renal carcinoma (IMDC 2 points)**



# ESMO GUIDELINES: REAL WORLD CASES

## CASE PRESENTATION

Renal cell carcinoma

Dr. Regina Barragan-Carrillo, MD

[regina.barragan.carrillo@gmail.com](mailto:regina.barragan.carrillo@gmail.com)

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**ESMO** GOOD SCIENCE  
BETTER MEDICINE  
BEST PRACTICE

# An ESMO tour of renal cancer.

**Thomas Powles**

Director of Barts Cancer Center.

Professor of Urology Cancer, Barts Cancer Institute.



# DISCLOSURES

Research funding/honoraria/travel costs:

**MSD**, **Merck-Serono**, **Pfizer**, **GSK**, **Novartis**, **Roche**,  
**AZ**, **BMS**, **Exelexis**, **Ipsen**, **Seagen**, **Astellas**,  
**Jansen**, **Eisai**, **Mashup**, **Genentech**, **Natera**, **FMI**,  
**Takeda**.

# Disclaimer

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- This session may refer to medicines that are not TGA indicated in Australia for use in renal cell carcinoma.
- Clinical guidance discussed throughout this presentation are based on Prof Powles' opinion and experience, and may not necessarily reflect Eisai view.





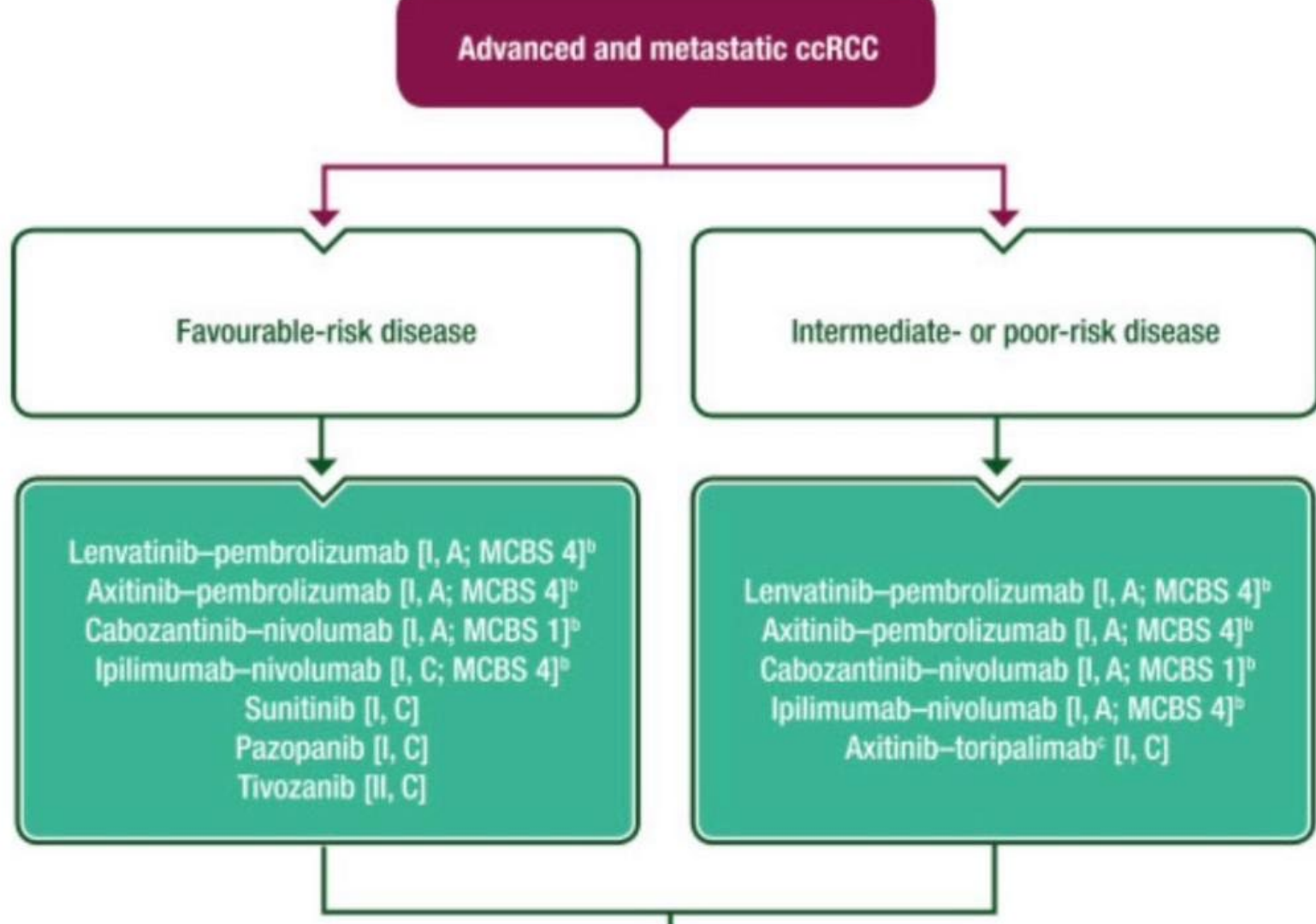
# The widespread success in advanced disease has not occurred in the adjuvant setting

Advanced disease (1 <sup>st</sup> line vs sunitinib)	ICI	P F S	O S
Ipilimumab and nivolumab	PD1	Green	Green
Axitinib and pembrolizumab	PD1	Green	Green
Axitinib and avelumab	PDL1	Green	Red
Bevacizumab and atezolizumab	PDL1	Green	Red
Cabozantinib and nivolumab	PD1	Green	Green
Lenvatinib and pembrolizumab	PD1	Green	Green
Cabozantinib/ipi/nivolumab	combo	Green	Grey
PEG-IL2 and Nivolumab*	PD1	Grey	Red

Perioperative disease	ICI	P F S	O S
pembrolizumab	PD1	Green	Green
Nivolumab (perioperative)	PD1	Red	Red
atezolizumab	PDL1	Red	Red
nivolumab	PD-1	Red	Red
Ipilimumab and nivolumab	combo	Red	Red

The adjuvant VEGF TKI story was not the same.

# ESMO guidelines



Advanced and metastatic ccRCC



Tom Powles @tompowles1 · 1d

Couple of questions for #kcrs24 Regarding treatment of IMDC good risk clear cell renal cancer. Ipi/nivo should now be considered a reasonable option and is preferable to sunitinib. @DrChoueiri @montypal @HHammersMD



158 votes · Final results

4 comments 6 retweets 11 likes 2.7K views

Favoural

·risk disease

Lenvatinib–pembrolizumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>  
 Axitinib–pembrolizumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>  
 Cabozantinib–nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 1]<sup>b</sup>  
 Ipilimumab–nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>  
 Sunitinib [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>  
 Pazopanib [I, C]  
 Tivozanib [II, C]

Axitinib–toripalimab<sup>c</sup> [I, C]



Advanced and metastatic ccRCC

Favourable-risk

poor-risk disease

Pick one  
Use it well  
Focus on the optimal delivery of the regimen rather than the choice of the regimen  
Most people have made up their minds already  
Don't focus on IMDC

- Lenvatinib–pembrolizumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>
- Axitinib–pembrolizumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>
- Cabozantinib–nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>
- Ipilimumab–nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 1]<sup>b</sup>
- Sunitinib [I, C]
- Pazopanib [I, C]
- Tivozanib [II, C]

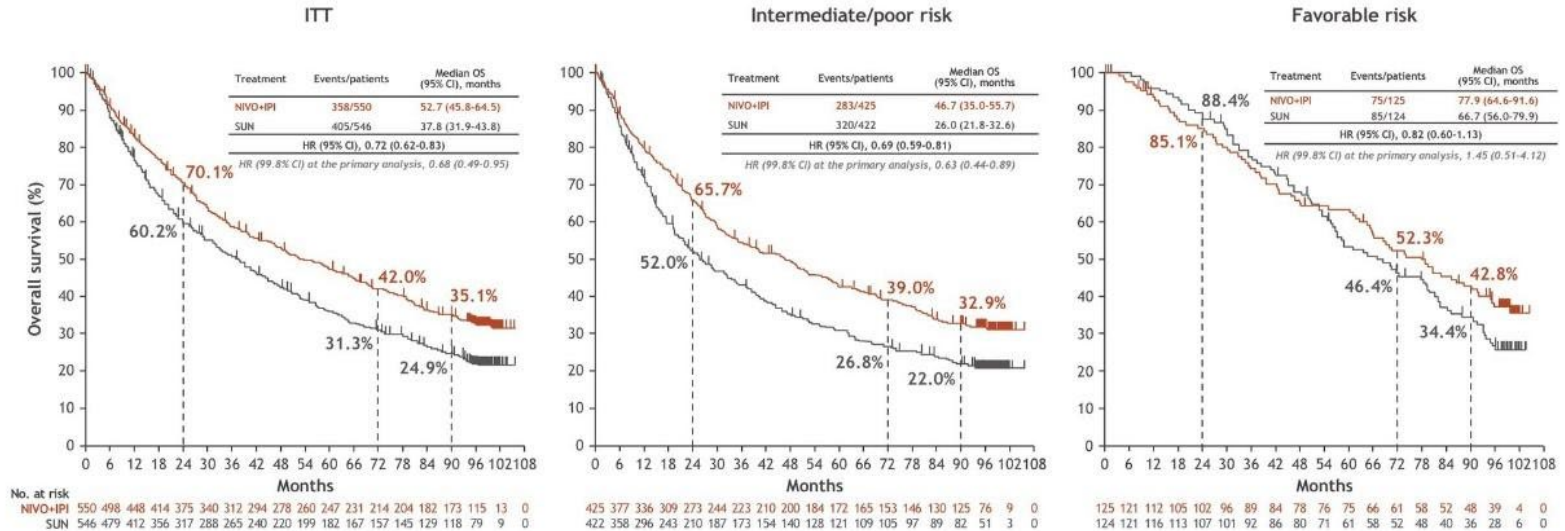
- Axitinib–nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>
- Ipilimumab–nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 1]<sup>b</sup>
- Nivolumab [I, A; MCBS 4]<sup>b</sup>
- Axitinib–toripalimab<sup>c</sup> [I, C]



# The ipilimumab/nivolumab data looks as good as an other combination across all IMDC groups

## Overall survival

- The HR for OS has been stable over 8 years of median follow-up in ITT and intermediate/poor-risk patients and has improved over time in favorable risk patients

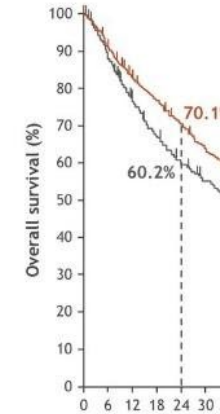


Symbols represent censored observations. Stratified Cox proportional hazards model.  
1. Motzer RJ, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;378:1277-1290.

# The ipilimumab/nivolumab data looks as good as an other combination across all groups

## Overall survival

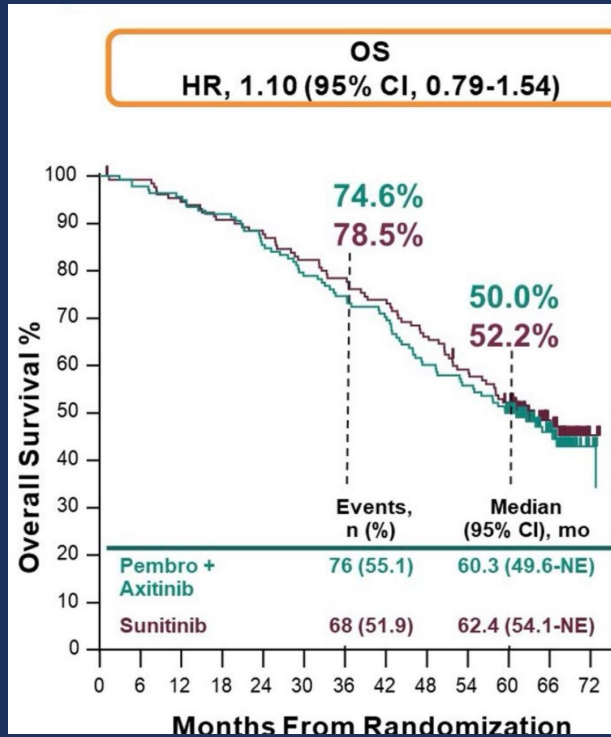
- The HR for OS has been shown to be favorable in patients with favorable risk patients and has improved over time in



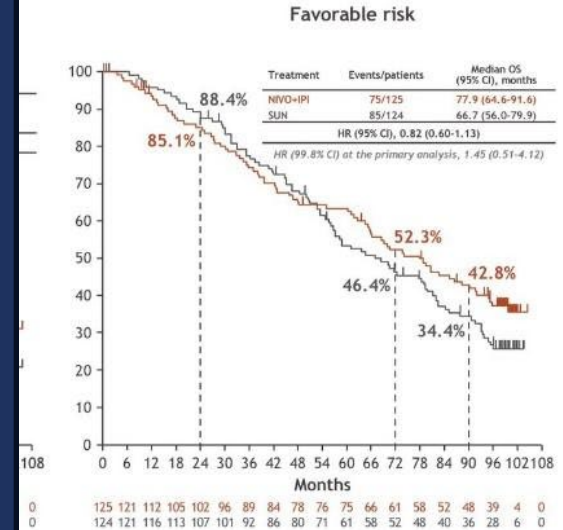
No. at risk	550	498	448	414	375	340
NIVO+IPI	550	498	448	414	375	340
SUN	546	479	412	356	317	288

Symbols represent censored  
1. Motzer RJ, et al. *N Engl J*

## Axi/pembro OS in good risk



poor-risk patients and has improved over time in

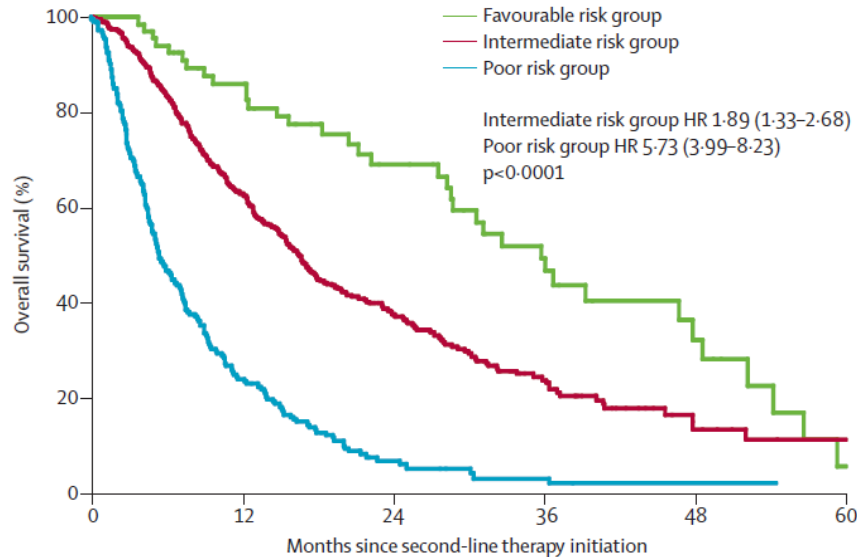


# The International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium model as a prognostic tool in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma previously treated with first-line targeted therapy: a population-based study



Jenny J Ko\*, Wanling Xie\*, Nils Kroeger, Jae-lyun Lee, Brian I Rini, Jennifer J Knox, Georg A Bjarnason, Sandy Srinivas, Sumanta K Pal, Takeshi Yuasa, Martin Smoragiewicz, Frede Donskov, Ravindran Kanesvaran, Lori Wood, D Scott Ernst, Neeraj Agarwal, Ulka N Vaishampayan, Sun-young Rha, Toni K Choueiri†, Daniel Y C Heng†

The CM214 trial led to IMDC classification being used as a predictive biomarker. VEGF for good risk and PD-1 bases therapy for the rest.



Number at risk	0	12	24	36	48	60
Favourable risk group	76	52	31	19	8	1
Intermediate risk group	529	257	97	37	9	4
Poor risk group	261	49	9	3	1	0



Tom Powles @tompowles1 · 1d

What is the role of IMDC classification for 1st line metastatic RCC . @DrChoueiri @montypal @HHammersMD

- Treatment choice 48%
- Prognosis only 48%
- Neither ☑ 4%

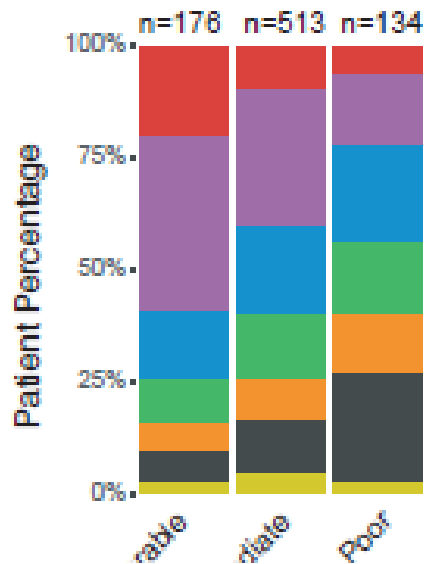
122 votes · 19 hours 33 minutes left



# Is IMDC is holding us back?

## IMDC clinical risk

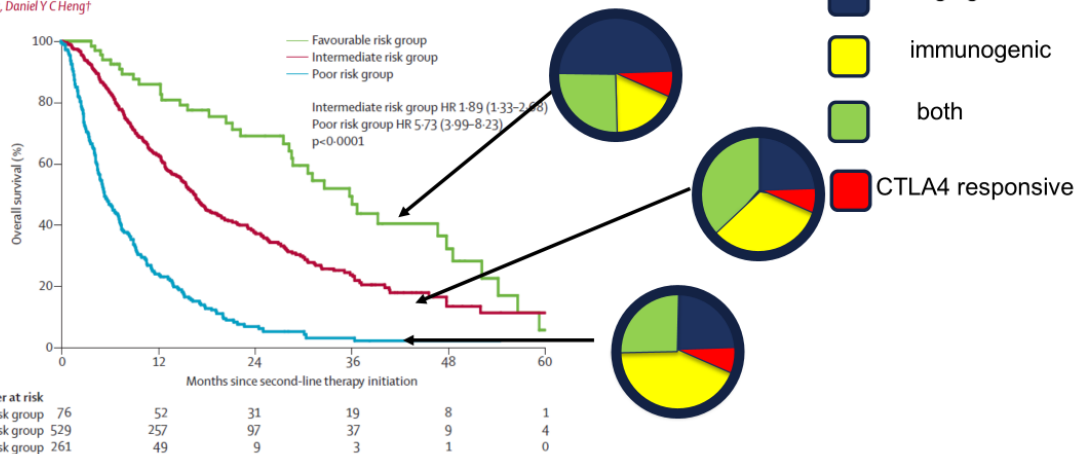
p=4.35e-08



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- 1 - Angio/Stromal
- 2 - Angiogenic
- 3 - Complement/Ω-ox.
- 4 - T-eff/Proliferative
- 5 - Proliferative
- 6 - Stromal/Proliferative
- 7 - snoRNA

# Which agent to stop and when: have we got this completely wrong?

## VEGF TKI therapy



- Chronic toxicity<sup>1</sup>
- No cures<sup>2</sup>
- Evidence intermittent therapy is OK<sup>3</sup>

## PD-1 based therapy



- Tolerated<sup>4</sup>
- Durable benefit<sup>4</sup>
- No evidence for duration of therapy<sup>5</sup>

**It makes more sense to stop the VEGF therapy than the PD-1 therapy**  
Is it possible to complete the de-escalation trials asking these questions?

PD-1, programmed cell death protein; TKI, tyrosine inhibitors; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor

1. Grimm MO, et al. *J Clin Med*. 2020;9(2):565; 2. McDermott DF, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2015;33(18):2013–20; 3. Zahoor H, et al. *Oncotarget*. 2018;9(18):14036–14037; 4. Schmidt EV. *Semi Immunopathol*. 2019;41(1):21–30; 5. Pokorny R, et al. *J Immunother Cancer*. 2021;9(1):e001781.



# Which agent to stop and when: have we got this comp



Tom Powles @tompowles1 · 1d

How long

should immune therapy + VEGF therapy be given in patients who complete 2 years of PD1/VEGF therapy having had an initial response (lung and LN disease) and ongoing stable disease but are not in CR. @DrChoueiri @montypal @HHammersMD

Continue VEGF only ✓	39%
Continue both	23%
Continue IO only	17%
Stop both	21%

114 votes · Final results



1



4



6



1.2K



4037; 4. Schmidt EV. *Semi*

## VEGF TKI therapy



It makes  
Is it pos

PD-1, programmed cell death protein; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor. 1. Grimm MO, et al. *J Clin Med*. 2020;9(2):565; 2. Nishimura H, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2015;26(12):2474–81; 3. Hammers HJ, et al. *Immunopathol*. 2019;41(1):21–30; 5. Pokorny R, et al.

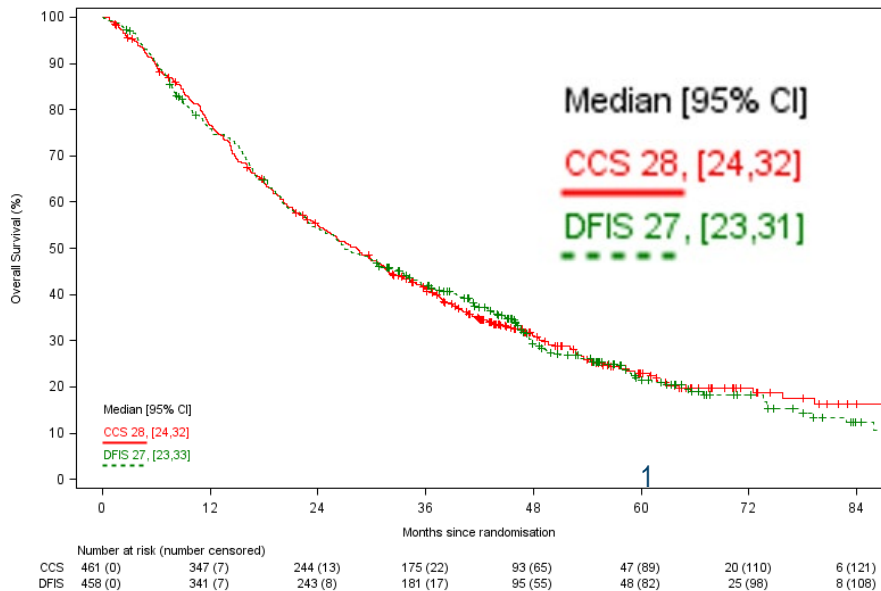
- Tolerated<sup>4</sup>
- Durable benefit<sup>4</sup>
- No evidence for duration of therapy<sup>5</sup>

1 therapy  
questions?

# VEGF treatment breaks:

ASCO 2024 ESMO congress

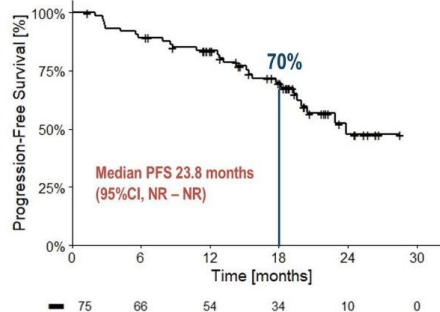
Overall Survival by Randomisation Allocation: ITT Population



## OS and PFS for the for TIDE study

### Secondary & exploratory endpoints:

PFS and OS in the overall population:



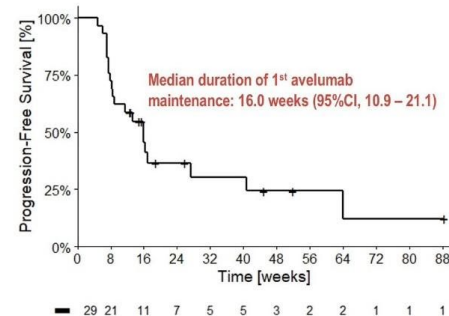
Median OS was not reached, the 18-months OS was 94%.

At cut-off date 27/75 patients progressed and 7/75 died. The median FU values were 19.3 months for PFS and 18.9 months for OS.

ASCO 2024 ESMO congress

Prof Roberto Iacovelli - @DrIacovelli

Duration of 1<sup>st</sup> avelumab maintenance

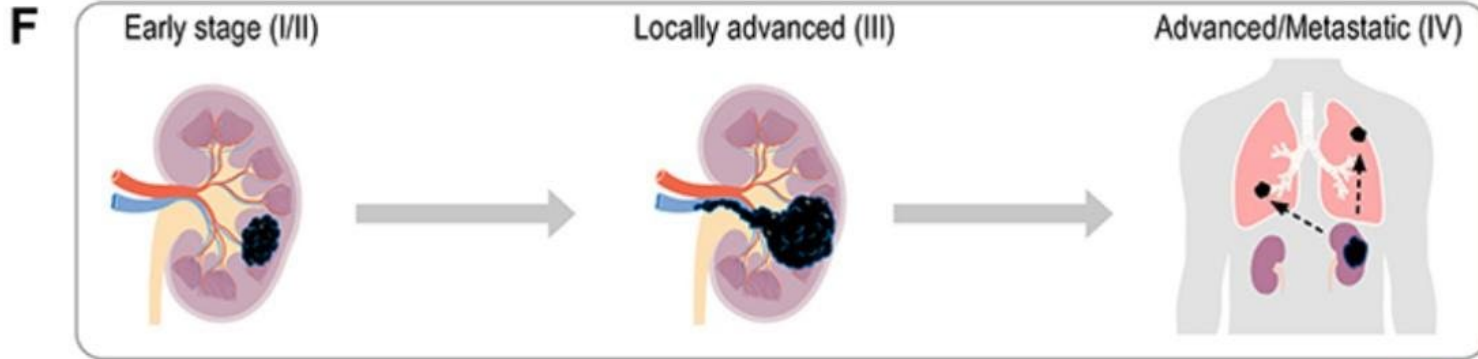


Stopping VEGF TKI in the first 6 months is associated with quite rapid PD.  
 VEGF TKI is curing patients so why go on with it beyond 2 years?

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3/11/2024 E O A Congress

# Immune checkpoint inhibition is associated with cure in advanced disease and earlier intervention is likely to be better.



T cell exhaustion

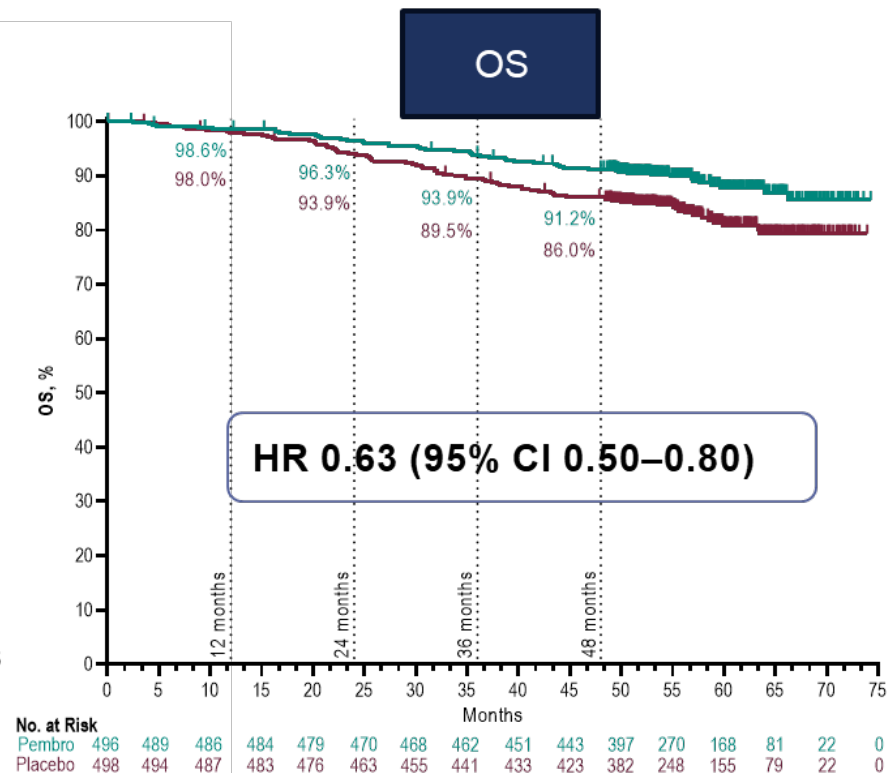
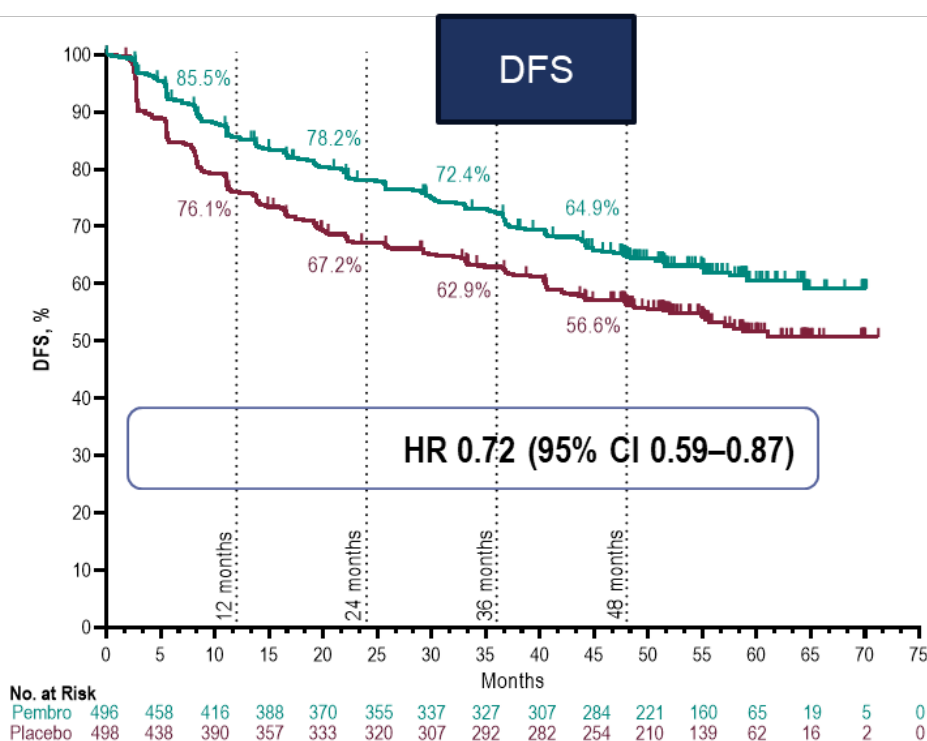
Anti-inflammatory "M2-like" macrophages

Pro-inflammatory "M1-like" macrophages

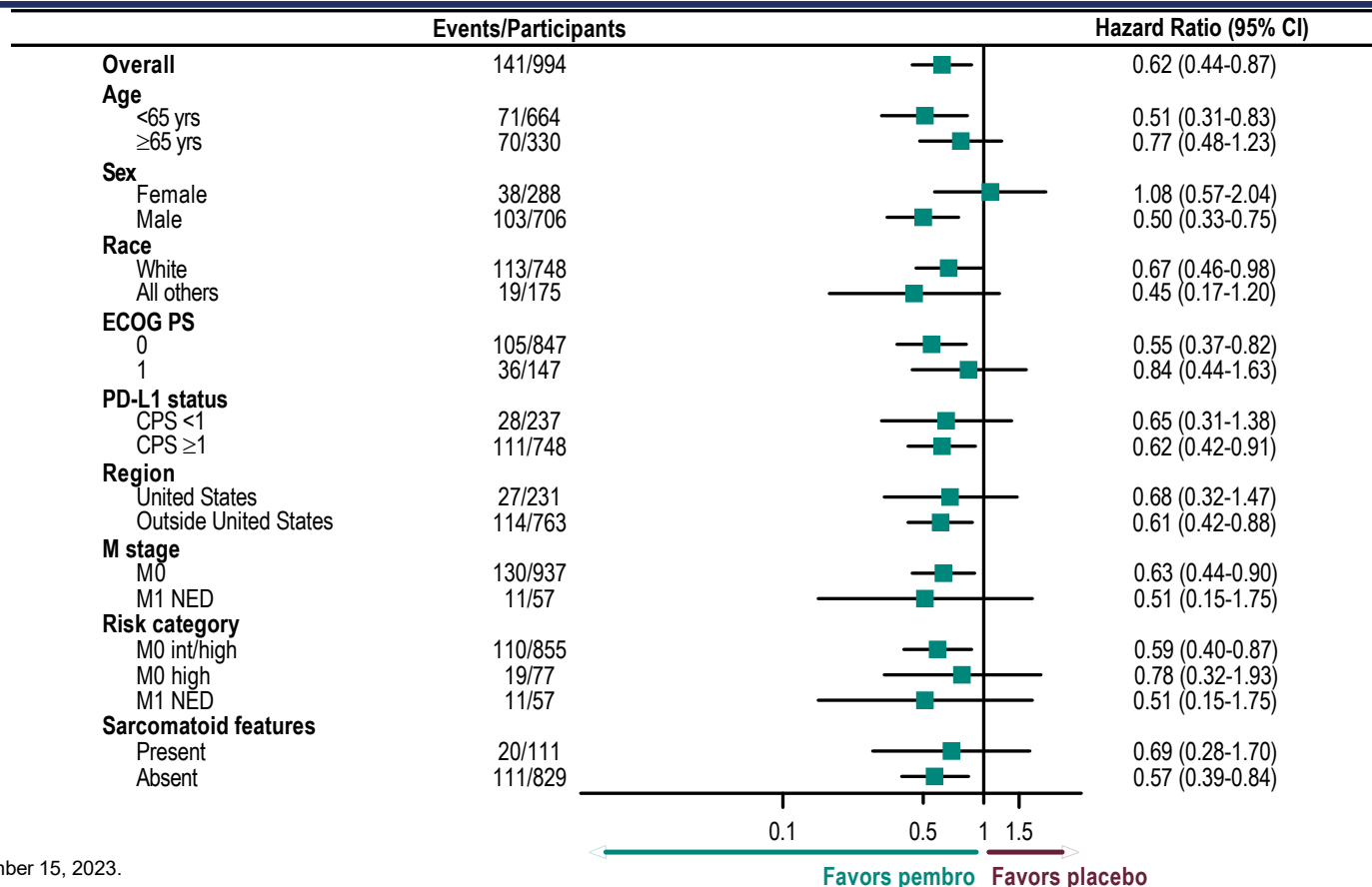


Braun  
Cancer Cell

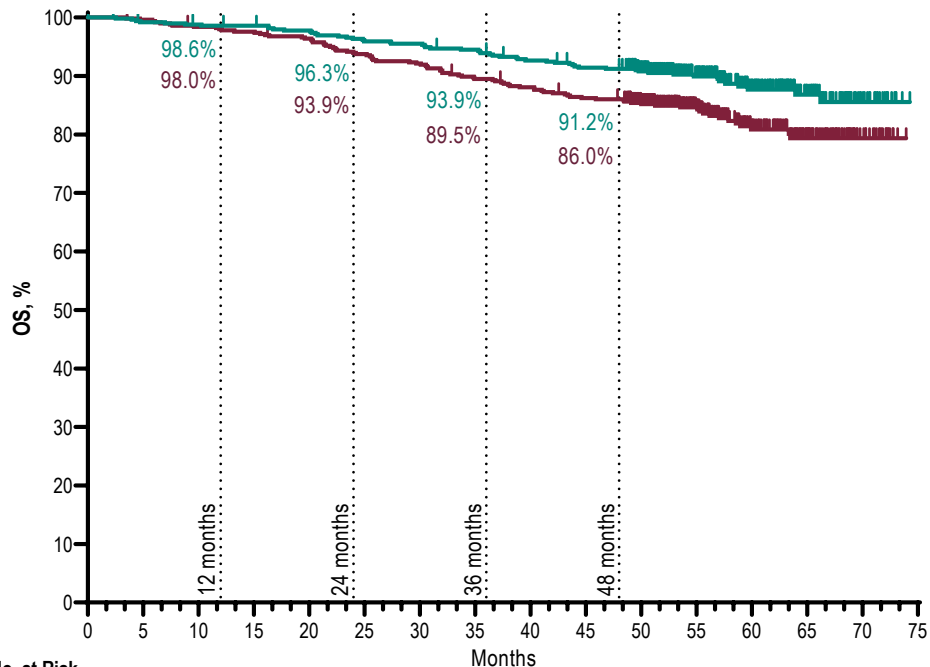
# Adjuvant pembrolizumab in intermediate and high risk clear cell RCC



# Overall Survival by Subgroups



# Adjuvant pembrolizumab reduces the risk of death. But what do we do at relapse. Rechallenge with IO doesn't work.



No. at Risk	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75
Pembro	496	489	486	484	479	470	468	462	451	443	397	270	168	81	22	0
Placebo	498	494	487	483	476	463	455	441	433	423	382	248	155	79	22	0



Tom Powles @tompowles1 · 1d

When should immune therapy rechallenge at relapse after adjuvant pembro in clear cell renal cancer occur. @DrChoueiri @montypal @HHammersMD

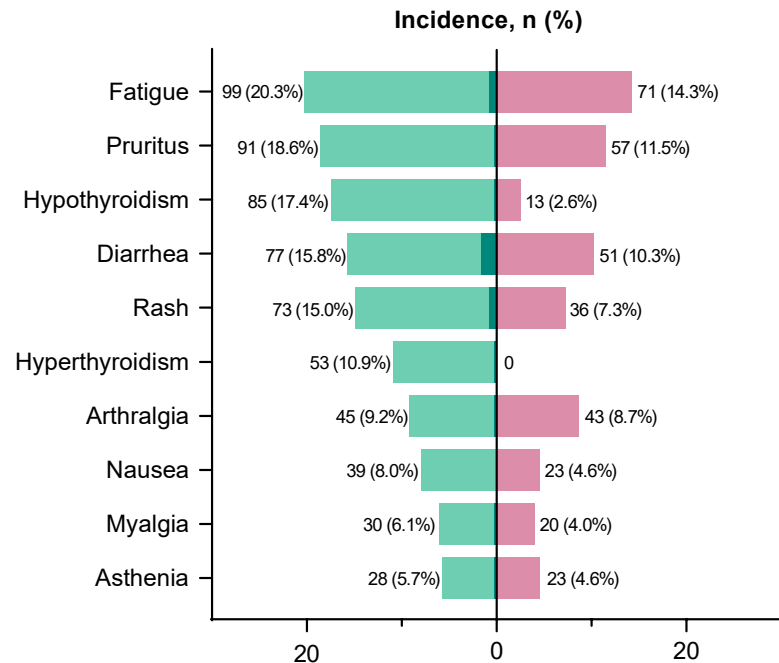
- Never rechallenge 6%
- Always rechallenge 10%
- Only if >6 mnth since IO 40%
- Only if >12 mnth since IO 44%

202 votes · Final results

4 comments 12 retweets 19 likes 3.3K views



# Treatment-Related AEs with Incidence $\geq 5\%$ for adjuvant pembrolizumab



But what about the rare but significant life changing toxicity

**Endocrine, cardiac, respiratory, neurological.**

Patients want to know about serious, life changing or long term toxicity, not a couple of days of diarrhoea or a transient grade 2 transaminitis.

# Summary of Updated Safety Findings from adjuvant pembrolizumab

	IA3 (57.2 mo follow-up) <sup>a</sup>	
	Pembrolizumab (N = 488)	Placebo (N = 496)
<b>Duration of therapy, median (range), months</b>	11.1 (0.03–14.3)	11.1 (0.03–15.4)
<b>Any-cause AEs</b>	470 (96.3%)	453 (91.3%)
Grade 3 to 5	156 (32.0%)	88 (17.7%)
Led to discontinuation	103 (21.1%)	11 (2.2%)
Led to death	2 (0.4%)	1 (0.2%)
<b>Serious AEs</b>	101 (20.7%)	57 (11.5%)
Led to treatment discontinuation	49 (10.0%)	5 (1.0%)
<b>Treatment-related AEs</b>	386 (79.1%)	263 (53.0%)
Grade 3 to 4	91 (18.6%)	6 (1.2%)
Led to discontinuation	89 (18.2%)	4 (0.8%)
Led to death	0	0
<b>Immune-mediated AEs and infusion reactions<sup>b</sup></b>		
Grade 3 to 4	178 (36.5%)	36 (7.3%)
Led to death	46 (9.4%)	3 (0.6%)
Required high-dose (≥40 mg/day) systemic corticosteroids	37 (7.6%)	3 (0.6%)

<sup>a</sup>AEs were graded per the NCI CTCAE v4.0 and reported from randomization to 90 days (90 days for serious AEs) after study therapy discontinuation. <sup>b</sup>Based on a list of preferred terms intended to capture known risks of pembrolizumab and were considered regardless of attribution to study treatment by the investigator.

Data cutoff date: September 15, 2023.

# Subsequent Therapies, Intention-to-Treat Population

	Participants with Documented Recurrence	
	Pembrolizumab (N = 161)	Placebo (N = 210)
<b>Received any subsequent therapy<sup>a,b</sup></b>	128/161 (79.5%)	171/210 (81.4%)
Received systemic anticancer drug therapy	102/128 (79.7%)	145/171 (84.8%)
Anti-PD-(L)1 therapy <sup>c</sup>	42/102 (41.2%)	101/145 (69.7%)
VEGF/VEGFR inhibitor <sup>d</sup>	94/102 (92.2%)	123/145 (84.8%)
Other <sup>e</sup>	32/102 (31.4%)	60/145 (41.4%)
Received radiation therapy	31/128 (24.2%)	33/171 (19.3%)
Received surgery	35/128 (27.3%)	50/171 (29.2%)
<b>No subsequent therapy</b>	28/161 (17.4%)	28/210 (13.3%)
<b>No subsequent therapy data available</b>	5/161 (3.1%)	11/210 (5.2%)

<sup>a</sup>An additional 4 and 1 pts respectively in the pembro and placebo arms who are not included in the figure received subsequent therapy without documented recurrence. <sup>b</sup>Pts could have multiple subsequent anticancer therapies for RCC; each pt is counted once in each applicable category. <sup>c</sup>Atezolizumab, avelumab, durvalumab, nivolumab, pembrolizumab. <sup>d</sup>Axitinib, bevacizumab, cabozantinib, lenvatinib, pazopanib, sorafenib, sunitinib, tivozanib. <sup>e</sup>Included but was not limited to belzutifan, everolimus, and ipilimumab.

Data cutoff date: September 15, 2023.

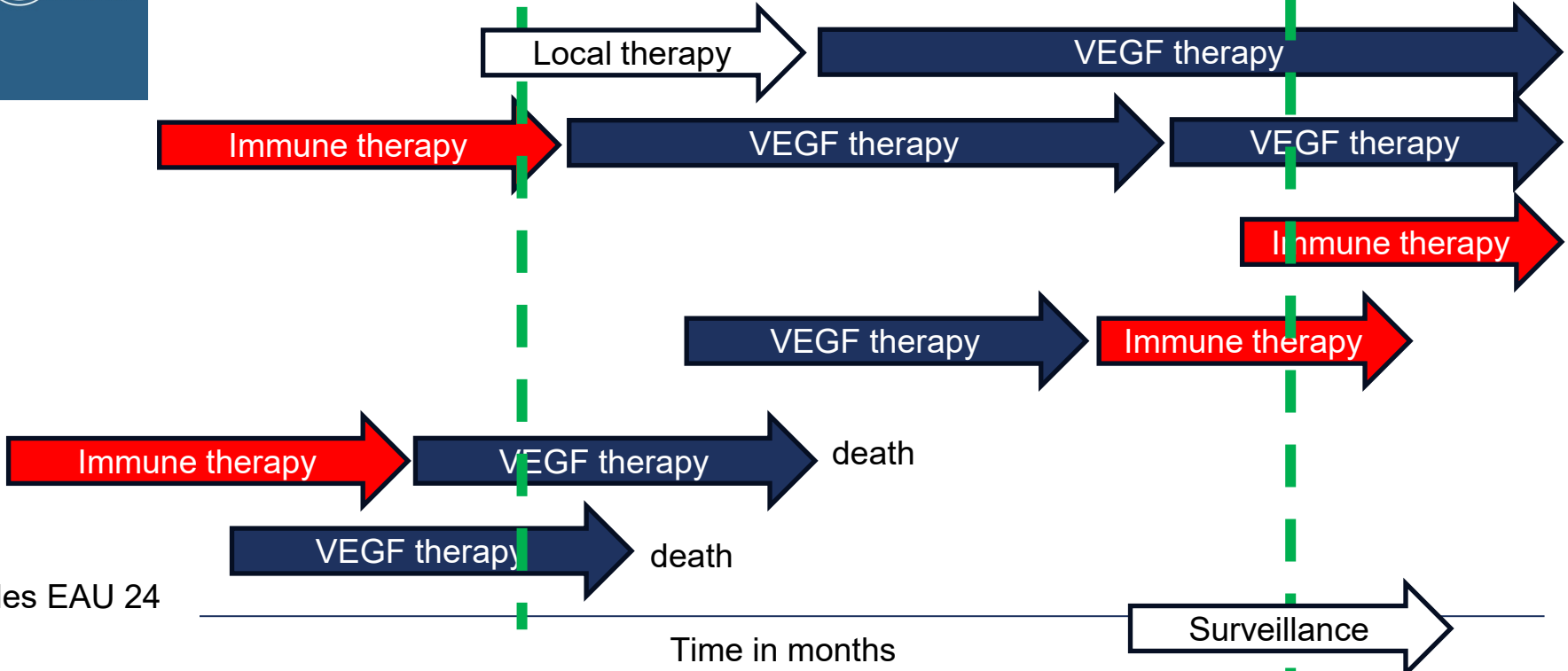
# Analysis of subsequent therapy from adjuvant trials is time dependant

## Time dependant multiple options in RCC data makes presentation is complex.



Data cut 1: 4 relapses 5 therapies  
3 received therapy  
2 immune therapy

Data cut 2: 7 relapses, 12 therapies  
6 received therapy  
4 immune therapy



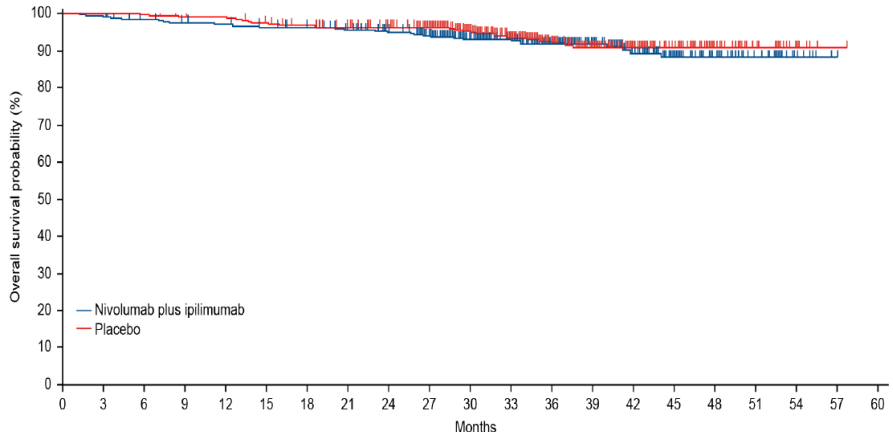
Powles EAU 24

Time in months

# Adjuvant nivolumab plus ipilimumab versus placebo for localised renal cell carcinoma after nephrectomy (CheckMate 914): a double-blind, randomised, phase 3 trial

The 8Y8 study: RR and PFS as primary endpoint

## Overall survival



Number at risk (number censored)

Time (Months)	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	405 (0)	309 (3)	391 (8)	386 (10)	383 (11)	378 (13)	374 (17)	363 (25)	348 (38)	330 (52)	278 (101)	230 (149)	184 (192)	137 (239)	96 (277)	68 (304)	40 (332)	23 (349)	8 (364)	1 (371)	0 (372)
Placebo	411 (0)	403 (8)	400 (10)	396 (12)	395 (13)	386 (15)	381 (18)	372 (25)	361 (38)	343 (53)	292 (101)	237 (151)	184 (201)	138 (245)	98 (285)	66 (317)	36 (347)	22 (381)	10 (373)	1 (382)	0 (383)



NCT 03873402

In the UK only 60% of patients receive PD-1 therapy despite universal access: so give best treatment first. VEGF/PD-1 first line for all?

## Patterns of prescribing

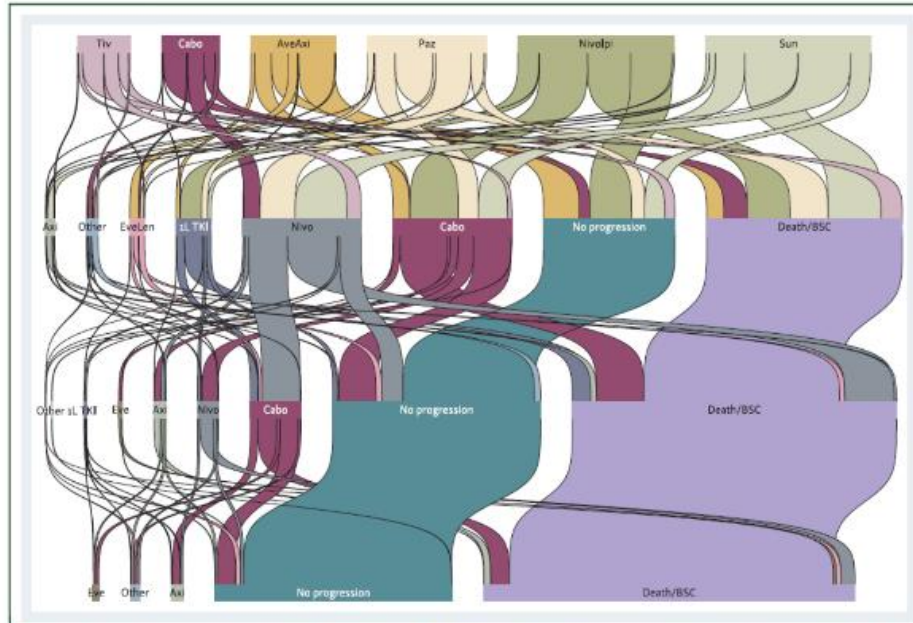


Figure 1. Sankey diagram showing the percentage of patients who received which treatment per line of therapy and how treatment in the previous line influenced the choice in the subsequent line.  
Ave/Axi, avelumab plus axitinib; Axi, axitinib; BSC, best supportive care; Cabo, cabozantinib; Eve, everolimus; Eve/En, everolimus plus lenvatinib; 1L, first line; Nivo, nivolumab; Nivo/Ip, nivolumab plus ipilimumab; Paz, pazopanib; Sun, sunitinib; Tiv, tivozanib; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor

% of patients who did not receive immune therapy at any stage

Good risk 44%  
Intermediate risk 33%  
Poor risk 40%

John McGrane Cancer Medicine 2023



## Adjuvant therapy

### Discuss it with your patients

- The risks and benefits of adjuvant therapy should be discussed
- They should know there is an OS advantage.
- Don't go beyond the inclusion criteria.
- Discuss there have been other trials with different drugs that have not been positive.

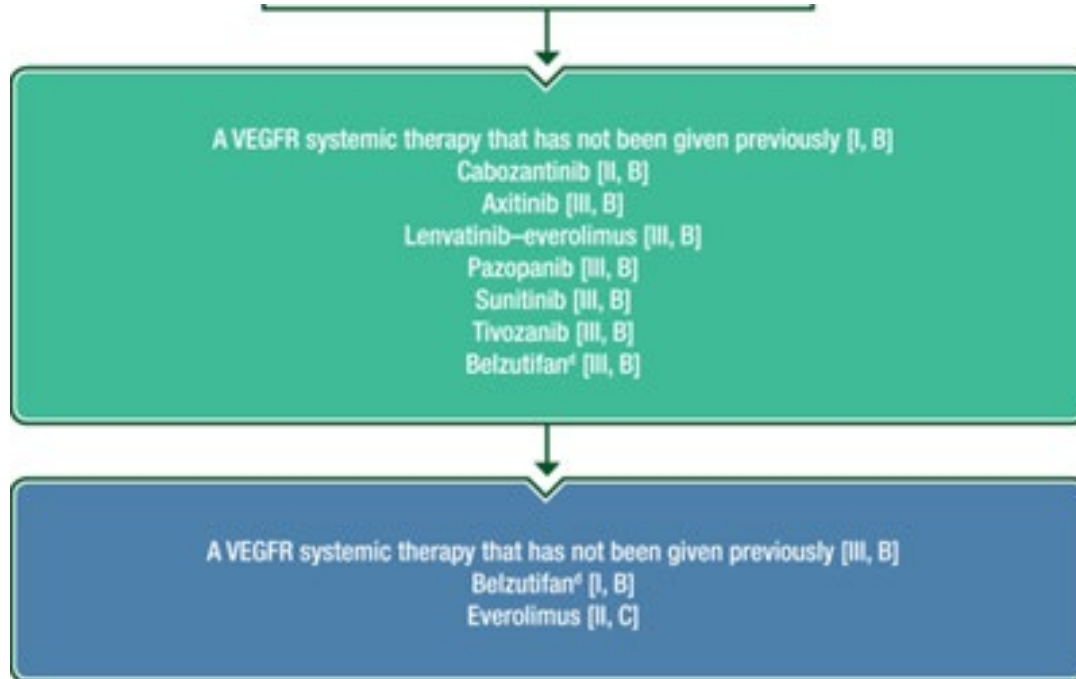
## 1<sup>st</sup> line metastatic disease

### Pick one Use it well

- Focus on delivery
- The data does not support rechallenge with immune therapy
- Encourage VEGF TKI treatment breaks if especially after 2 years
- Don't pick therapy based on IMDC

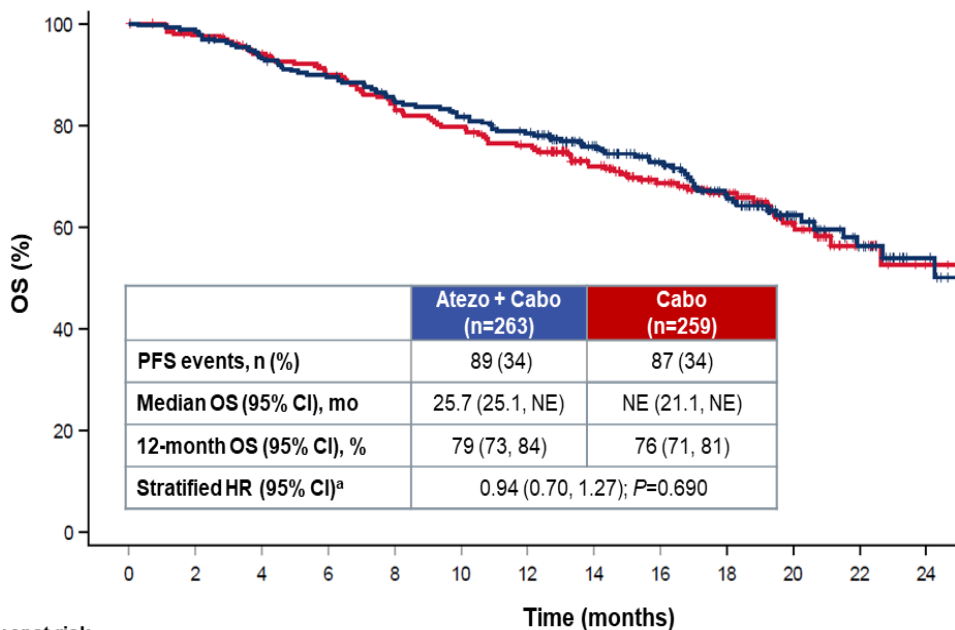
# Second and third line therapy for advanced disease.

## POST 1<sup>st</sup> line PD-1 bases therapy

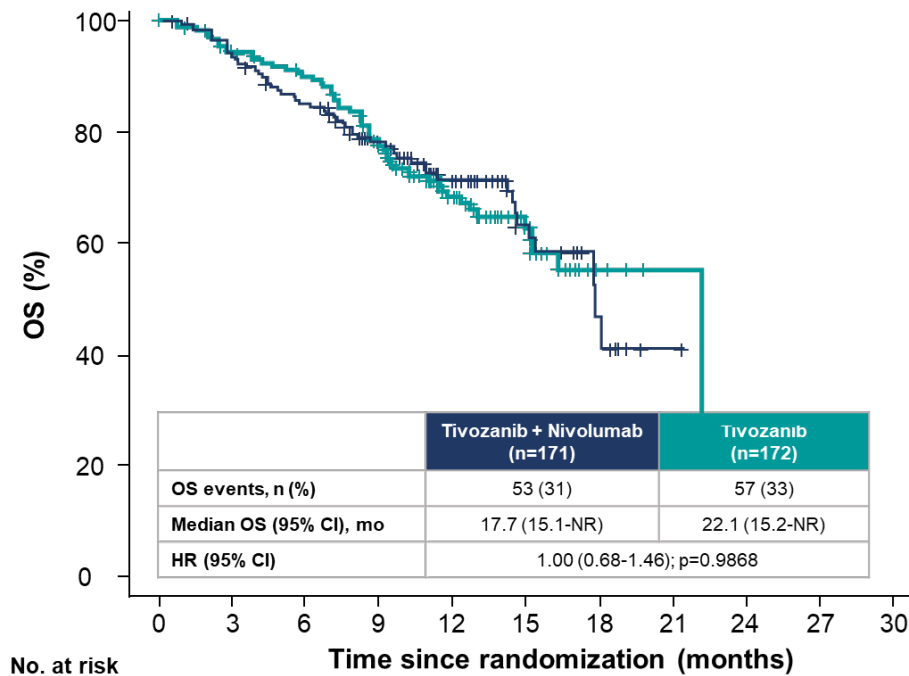


# Re-challenge with PD-(L)1 therapy does not improve efficacy.

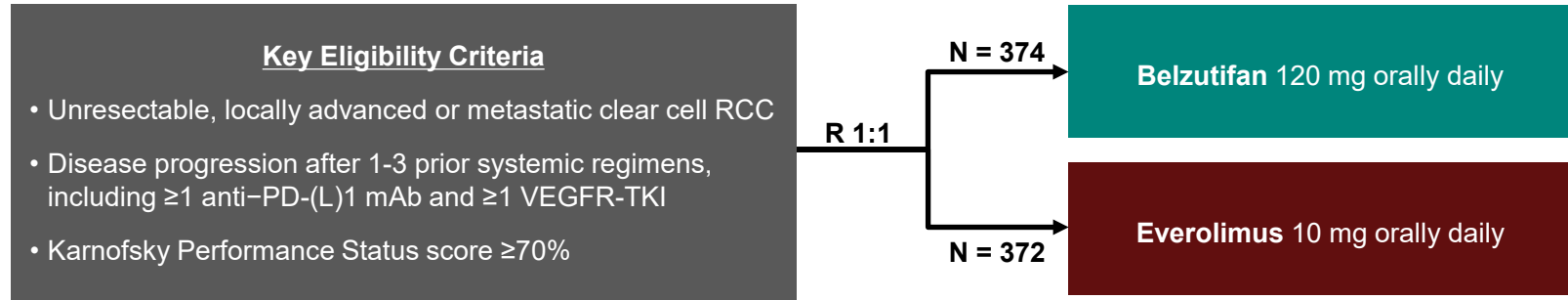
OS for Cabozantinib +/- atezolizumab



OS for tivozanib +/- nivolumab



# LITESPARK-005 Study (NCT04195750)



## Stratification Factors

- IMDC prognostic score<sup>a</sup>: 0 vs 1-2 vs 3-6
- Prior VEGFR-targeted therapies: 1 vs 2-3

## Dual Primary Endpoints:

- PFS per RECIST 1.1 by BICR
- OS
- The study was considered positive if either of the dual primary endpoints was met

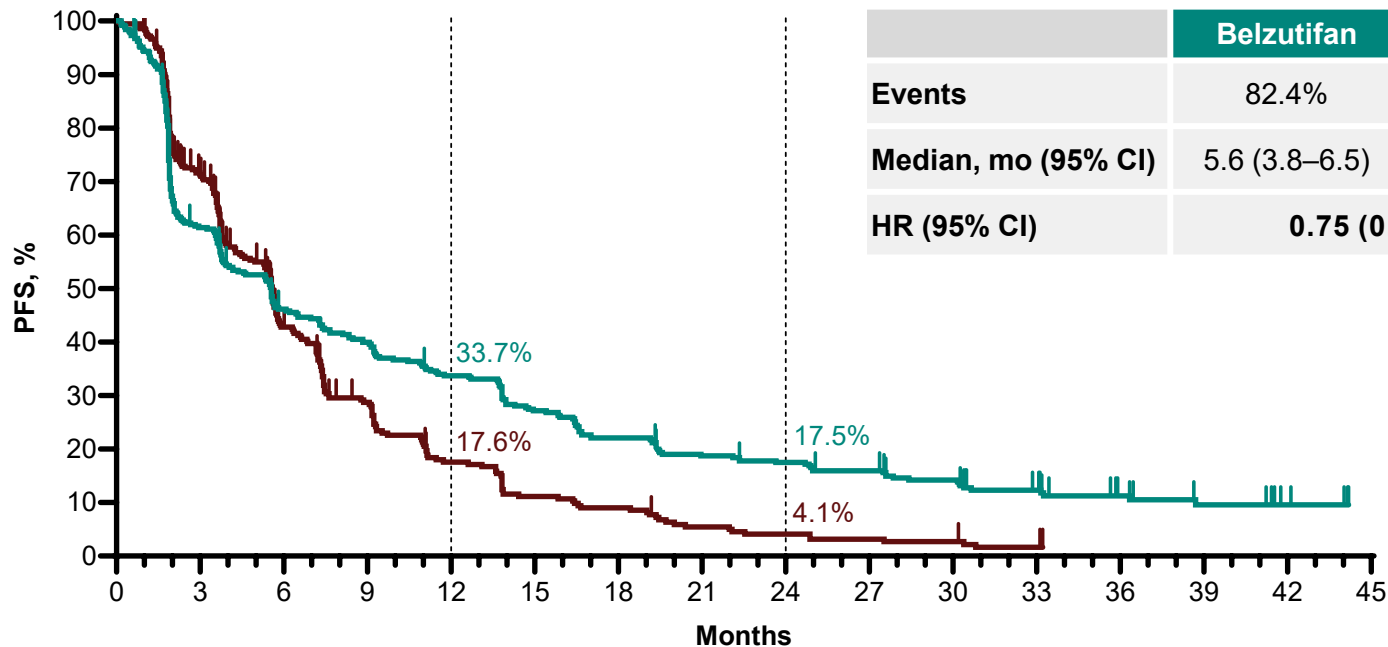
## Key Secondary Endpoint:

- ORR per RECIST 1.1 by BICR

## Other Secondary Endpoints Include:

- DOR per RECIST 1.1 by BICR
- Safety

# Primary Endpoint: PFS per RECIST 1.1 by BICR

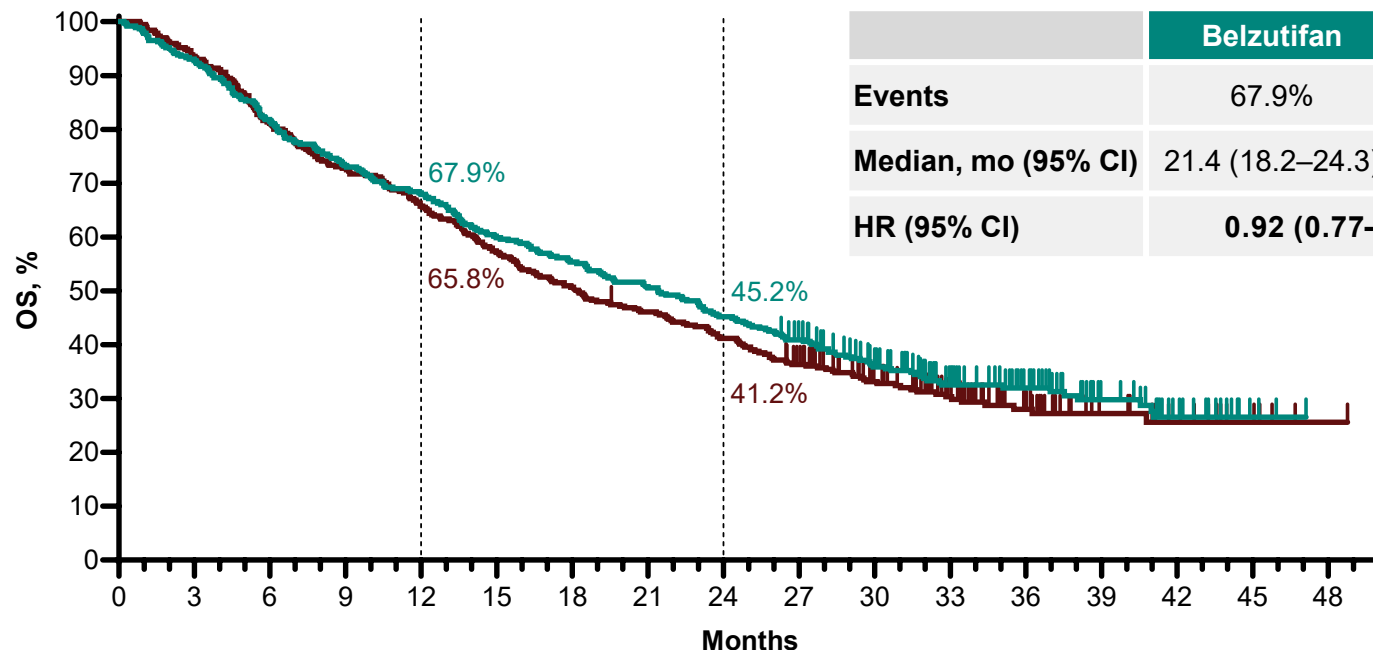


	Belzutifan	Everolimus
Events	82.4%	75.0%
Median, mo (95% CI)	5.6 (3.8–6.5)	5.6 (4.8–5.8)
HR (95% CI)	<b>0.75 (0.63–0.88)</b>	

## No. at Risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45
Belzutifan	374	218	156	135	113	91	74	61	56	50	39	27	16	10	5	0
Everolimus	372	226	113	70	41	26	21	12	9	7	6	3	0	0	0	0

# Primary Endpoint: OS



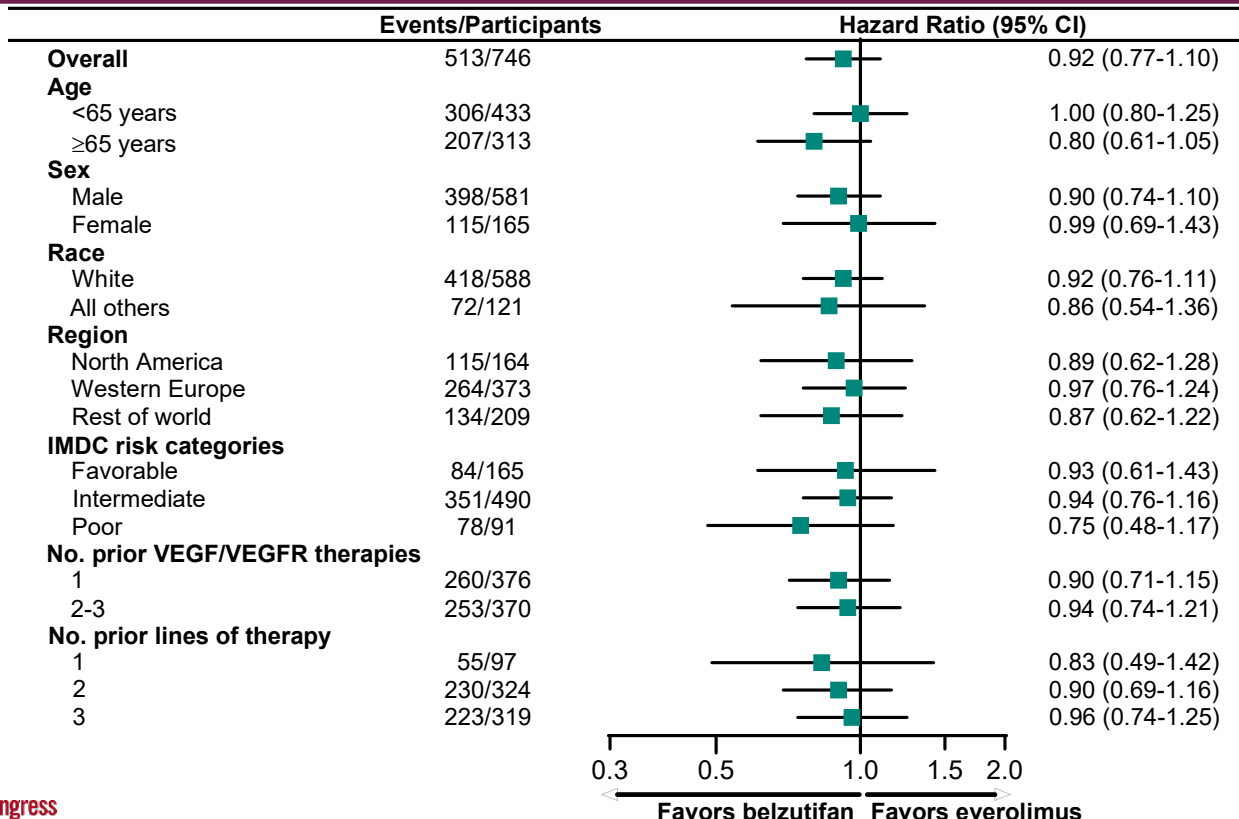
	Belzutifan	Everolimus
Events	67.9%	69.6%
Median, mo (95% CI)	21.4 (18.2–24.3)	18.2 (15.8–21.8)
HR (95% CI)	<b>0.92 (0.77–1.10); P=0.18</b>	

## No. at Risk

Belzutifan	374	347	305	274	254	224	207	189	169	148	111	75	54	31	18	4	0
Everolimus	372	347	301	270	244	212	188	170	152	128	92	64	38	20	12	5	1



# OS in Subgroups

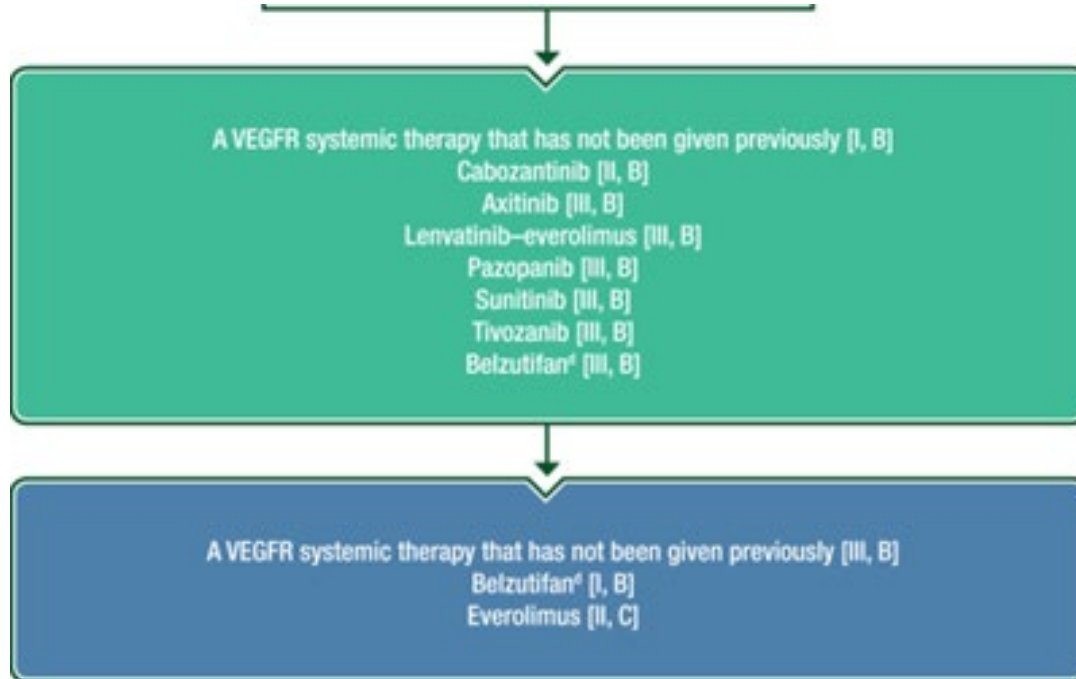


# Summary of Adverse Events<sup>a</sup>

	Belzutifan (N = 372)	Everolimus (N = 360)
<b>Median duration of therapy, mo (range)</b>	7.6 (0.1–45.9)	3.9 (0.03–41.8)
<b>All-cause AEs, n (%)</b>	369 (99.2%)	357 (99.2%)
<b>Grade ≥3</b>	234 (62.9%)	226 (62.8%)
Serious	160 (43.0%)	139 (38.6%)
Led to discontinuation	23 (6.2%)	55 (15.3%)
Led to death	14 (3.8%)	19 (5.3%)
<b>Treatment-related AEs, n (%)</b>	333 (89.5%)	322 (89.4%)
<b>Grade ≥3</b>	147 (39.5%)	144 (40.0%)
Serious	49 (13.2%)	48 (13.3%)
Led to death	1 (0.3%) <sup>b</sup>	2 (0.6%) <sup>c</sup>

# Second and third line therapy for advanced disease.

## POST 1<sup>st</sup> line PD-1 bases therapy



# ESMO GUIDELINES: REAL WORLD CASES

## RENAL CELL CANCER

### Clinical Practice Perspective

**Dr Alvin Tan, MBChB (Otago), FRACP**

Head Of Department

Medical Oncology, Waikato Hospital, New Zealand

On behalf of the **ESMO Practising Oncologists Working Group**

**ESMO WEBINAR SERIES**

**ESMO** GOOD SCIENCE  
BETTER MEDICINE  
BEST PRACTICE

# DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Honorarium (speakership, article review) – Research Review New Zealand

# CLINICAL PRACTICE PERSPECTIVE – CASE STUDY

Role for localised therapy in advanced RCC

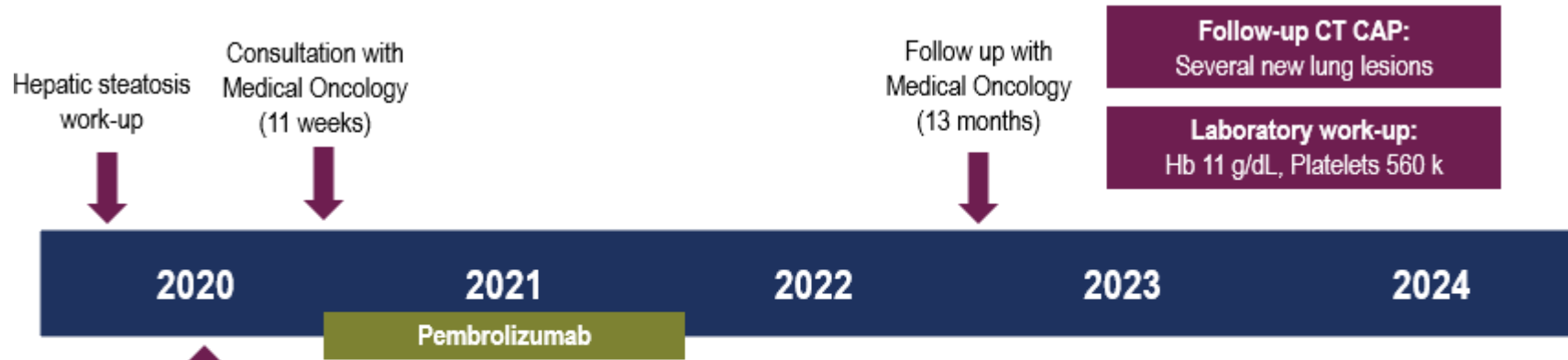
Considerations when deciding on 1<sup>st</sup> line therapy

Toxicity management of systemic therapy – ICI, TKI

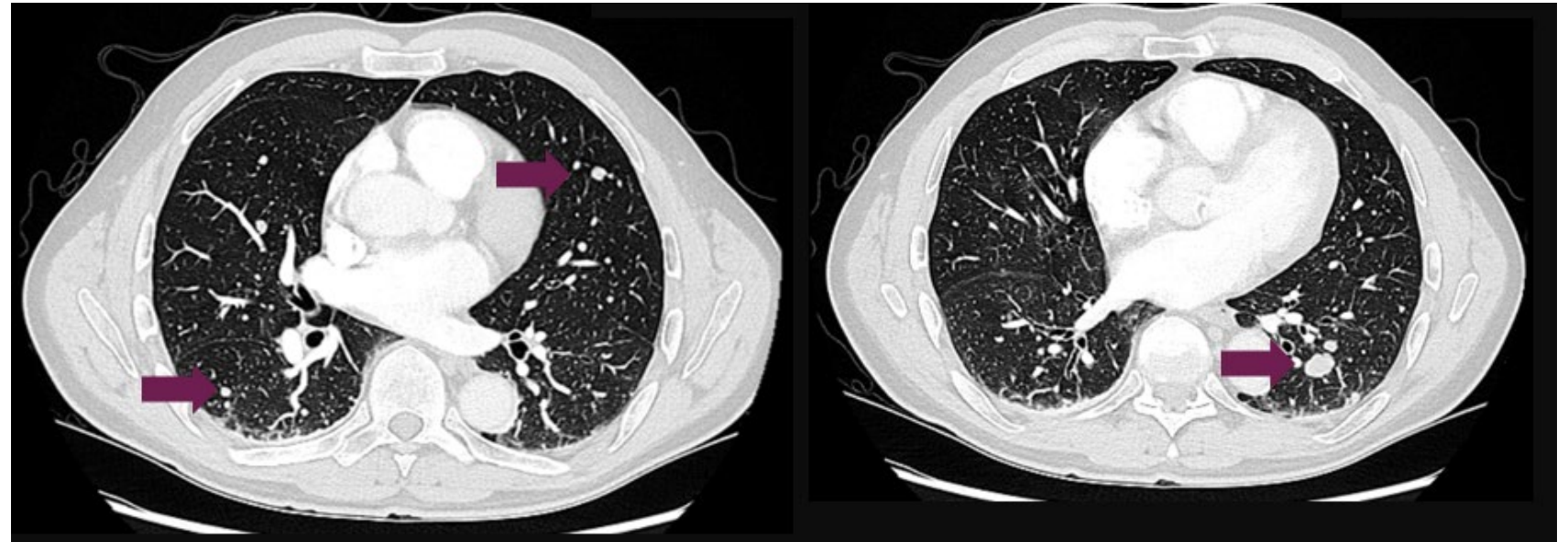


# ROLE FOR LOCALISED THERAPY IN ADVANCED RCC

From case history: Development of several pulmonary lung lesions



Left hand-assist radical nephrectomy (several surgical complications)



# ROLE FOR LOCALISED THERAPY IN ADVANCED RCC



Assuming limited number of lung lesions, consideration for resection / ablative therapy.

What is the potential benefit of this approach?

- Delay systemic treatment and associated toxicities of active therapy
- Good local control rates (lung, bones) and symptom control
- Delay switch of an otherwise successful systemic treatment
- Potential survival benefit (retrospective, institutional studies)

# ROLE FOR LOCALISED THERAPY IN ADVANCED RCC

## Practical Considerations

- Multidisciplinary Team discussion (CTSU, Radiation Oncology, Radiology)
- Comorbidities (Surgical suitability, Respiratory function)
- Location of disease
- Number of sites of disease (how are we defining oligo-metastatic disease)
- Tumour biology / natural history (months, years from diagnosis)

# ROLE FOR SBRT IN ADVANCED RCC – DE NOVO OLIGOMETASTASES

Local control rates 85-90% (>90% for intracranial disease)

Grade 3/4 toxicity <10%

Delay systemic treatment for at least 12 months in 70-90% of oligometastatic patients.

Safe/tolerable in combination with ICI and TKI therapy

- Two meta-analyses (54 studies)
- Definition of oligometastases varied, but commonly <5 lesions.

# ROLE FOR SBRT IN ADVANCED RCC – OLIGOPROGRESSION



- Phase 2 prospective trial (Cheung et al.) – stable/responsive disease after 3 months of TKI who developed <5 oligo-progressive sites (n=37).
  - 12-month local control rate of 93%
  - 12-month cumulative incidence of changing systemic therapy of 47%
  - Median time to change systemic therapy 12.6 months
  
- Prospective trial (Hannan et al.) demonstrated that patients (ICI, TKI or combination, n=20), with previous stable/responsive disease who developed up to 3 sites of oligo-progression.
  - 12-month local control rate of 100%
  - Median time to change in systemic treatment of 11.1 months (4.5-19 months).

# WHAT TO CONSIDER FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> LINE THERAPY

Practical considerations in this case study

Clear cell histology

Comorbidities – HTN (on losartan)

Post adjuvant pembrolizumab

Low volume lung metastases

Intermediate risk group



# REAL WORLD: WHICH COMBINATION (IO/IO VS IO/TKI)

(1) Retrospective analysis (US Oncology Network's iKnowMed database. April 2018-March 2020)

N=193, metastatic ccRCC

1L Nivolumab+Ipilimumab

IMDC Intermediate (56%) / High (44%) risk group

PS 0-1 (60%). PS  $\geq$  2 (40%)

Median PFS 17.1 months, 12 month PFS rate 58%, 12 month OS 75%, ORR 43%

## **Comparatively**

CM 214 (Nivo/ipi)

12 month OS rate 83%

ORR 42%

TRAEs 47% (fatigue 13%, rash 10%, diarrhoea 7%, nausea 6%, colitis 4%, pruritus 4%)

Treatment-related hospitalisation 5.5%, emergency department review 3%

# REAL WORLD: WHICH COMBINATION (IO/IO VS IO/TKI)



(2) Retrospective database review (Fox Chase CC, Philadelphia. 2018-2022).

N=1506

1L Axitinib/Pembrolizumab (n=547) or Nivolumab/Ipilimumab (n=959)

Primary end-point were OS, real-world PFS, adjusted using propensity score weighting (age, gender, insurance, race, IMDC, practice type and nephrectomy).

Axi/Pembro vs Nivo/Ipi

Median age 67 yrs vs 65 years

Intermediate/poor 77% vs 85%

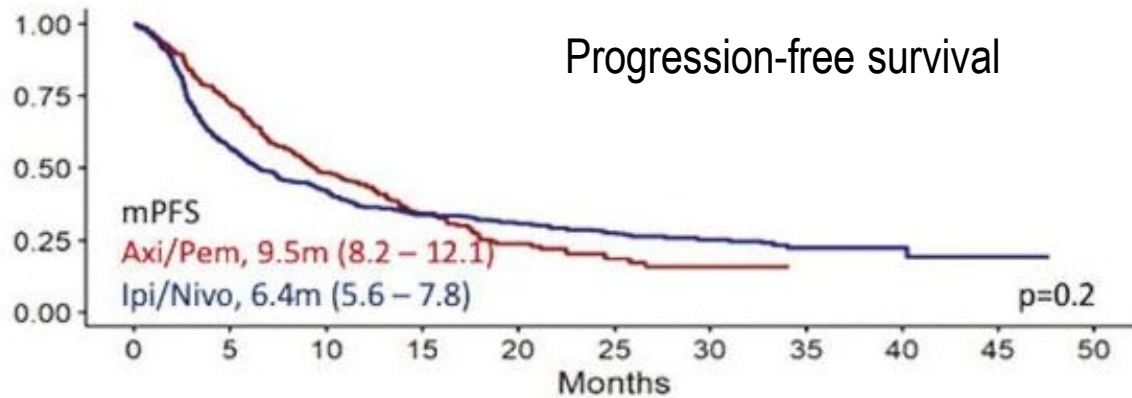
Median FU 20 months.

# REAL WORLD: WHICH COMBINATION (IO/IO VS IO/TKI)



IMDC Intermediate/Poor Risk

Regimen — Axi/Pem — Ipi/Nivo

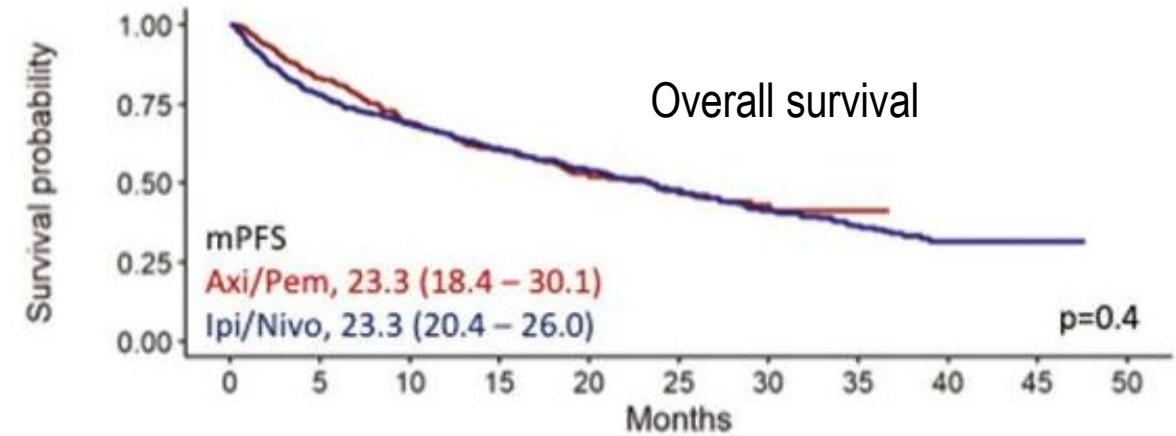


Weighted number at risk

Regimen	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Axi/Pem	1169	548	279	177	102	48	8	0	0	0	0
Ipi/Nivo	1154	444	267	176	138	100	71	32	12	3	0

IMDC Intermediate/Poor Risk

Regimen — Axi/Pem — Ipi/Nivo



weighted number at risk

Regimen	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
Axi/Pem	1238	872	582	405	298	194	73	9	0	0	0
Ipi/Nivo	1238	830	642	468	360	266	179	107	46	5	0

# REAL WORLD: WHICH COMBINATION (IO/IO VS IO/TKI)

Real-world and historical survival data with cross-trial comparisons.

IMDC risk category	Ipilimumab + nivolumab			Axitinib + pembrolizumab		
	Real-world dataset	CheckMate-214	CheckMate-214 (extended 60 months)	Real-world dataset	KEYNOTE-426	KEYNOTE-426 (extended 30 months)
ITT/full cohort						
PFS	6.9m	12.4m	12.0m	10.6m	15.1m	15.4m
OS	24.3m	NR	56.0m	28.9m	NR	NR
Favorable risk						
PFS	6.9m	15.3m	12.0m	25.5m	20.8m	—
OS	NR	NR	74.0m	NR	NR	—
Intermediate/poor risk						
PFS	6.4m	11.6m	12.0m	9.5m	12.6m	—
OS	23.3m	NR	47.0m	23.3m	NR	—
ITT/full cohort						
24-month landmark survival	50.2%	78%	—	53.8%	82.3%	74.4%

# WHICH COMBINATION (IO/IO VS IO/TKI)

Things to consider:

## IO+ IO (e.g. Nivolumab/Ipilimumab)

- Depth / Durability of response
- Higher iRAE toxicity / need for steroids
- Patients with underlying autoimmune conditions (severity of limitations)
- Opportunity for treatment-free remission

## IO + TKI

- Highly symptomatic
- High disease burden (liver, bones), need for rapid treatment response (ORR 57-71%; nivo/cabo – lenva/pembro)

May need to be guided by expected toxicities, histology (eg sarcomatoid – IO/IO), cost/access

# TOXICITY MANAGEMENT

Consider IO vs TKI as cause

- Timing of onset of symptoms (early vs late), overlapping symptoms

Which combinations have highest rates of AEs?

Grade 3/4 AEs	Nivolumab/Ipilimumab (CM-214)	Pembrolizumab/Axitinib (KN-426)	Pembrolizumab/Lenvatinib (CLEAR)	Nivolumab/Cabozantinib (CM-9ER)
Any	46%	67%	82%	65%
Diarrhoea	4%	10%	10%	7%
Hypertension	<1	22%	28%	13%
HFS	-	5%	4%	8%
Proteinuria	-	3%	8%	4%



# COMMON TOXICITY MANAGEMENT

## Hypertension Management

- Identify and treat pre-existing HTN
- Monitor BP on initiation, Q2-4 weekly, titrate dose accordingly
- Ideal goal <140/90 mmHg – lower if existing diabetes or CKD
- Choice of agent
  - Avoid verapamil/diltiazem if using sorafenib/sunitinib (CYP450 inhibition)
  - ARB, ACE-I maybe preferable
- Association between HTN and improved outcomes

# COMMON TOXICITY MANAGEMENT

## HFS Management

- More common with sorafenib, Axitinib, lenvatinib > sunitinib or pazopanib
- Prevention/management
  - Treatment break followed by dose reduction
  - Emollients upfront
  - Oral/topical Analgesia
- Association between skin toxicity and improved outcomes

# COMMON TOXICITY MANAGEMENT

## Diarrhoea Management

- Loperamide for Grade 1/2
- Avoidance of foods and supplements (e.g. fibre) that increase GI motility
- Treatment interruption for Grade 3/4 diarrhoea, dose reduction
- Fluid rehydration

# COMMON TOXICITY MANAGEMENT

## Renal function/toxicity

- Proteinuria
  - Asymptomatic – monitor
  - Temporary cessation if protein excretion >2g / 24 hours
- Nephrotic syndrome (>3g/24 hours, oedema, albumin <25)
  - ?Discontinuation – but what if still clinically responding ?Consider use of an ACE-I/ARB.
- Dose adjustments: ICI no dose modifications, TKI data variable

EGFR (ml/min)	Pazopanib	Sunitinib	Lenvatinib	Cabozantinib	Axitinib
15-30	No dose modifications	Use with caution	Suggest 10 mg daily	Use with caution	No dose modifications
<15	No dose modifications	Use with caution	Suggest 10 mg daily	No data	Use with caution
ESRF	No dose modifications	No data	No data	No data	No data

<https://www.eviq.org.au>

# COMMON TOXICITY MANAGEMENT

Immune-related adverse events – early recognition of symptoms, initiation of steroids as indicated, MDT involvement. Raising awareness/education of primary care clinicians who may initially be treating patients on ICI.

(**Ref:** Management of toxicities from Immunotherapy: ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up)

Dose adjustment / individualization important to maintain overall dose intensity with VEGF TKIs with associated improved survival outcomes

Management of toxicities from immunotherapy: ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up. Haanen, J. et al. Annals of Oncology, Volume 33, Issue 12, 1217 - 1238

# TAKE-AWAY MESSAGES

## Role for localized therapy in advanced RCC

- Delay systemic therapy if oligo-metastases
- Delay switch of an otherwise effective systemic treatment in presence of oligo-progression
- Palliation of symptoms.

## Choice of first line treatment

- No clear survival difference between combination IO/IO vs IO/TKI in 1L intermediate/poor risk disease
- Important factors such as burden of disease, underlying comorbidities and expected toxicity, cost/access

## Toxicity management

- Management of underlying risk factors, comorbidities
- Early recognition and treatment of symptoms, dose adjustments
- Importance of maintaining dose intensity

The ESMO POWG serves to identify the practice needs of oncologists who are hospital and office-based by developing educational services, practice tools and quality indicators that will facilitate the implementation of best practice at the point of care.

The POWG members are relevant stakeholders to the ESMO Guidelines Webinars as experts who are consulting and implementing the guidelines in their daily practices

For more information about the ESMO POWG visit [esmo.org](http://esmo.org)

ESMO > About ESMO > Organisational Structure > Educational Committee

## ESMO PRACTISING ONCOLOGISTS WORKING GROUP

Don't miss:

- The «ESMO Checklists» on OncologyPRO





# ESMO GUIDELINES: REAL WORLD CASES

## Clinical Practice Perspective

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