## Metastatic Renal Cell Cancer -Therapeutic Challanges 2011

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## RCC Stage at Diagnosis



25% Locally advanced disease

Linehan et al. Cancers of the genitourinary system. In: Cancer: Principles and Practice of Oncology. 6th ed; 2001.

#### Human Renal Epithelial Neoplasms



## Paradigm shift in mRCC in the last 5 years

 Six new agents approved based on increased efficacy over IFN-α or placebo:

| Comparator                 |                         |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|--|
| IFN-α                      | Placebo                 |  |  |  |
| Sunitinib <sup>1,2</sup>   | Sorafenib <sup>3</sup>  |  |  |  |
| Bevacizumab <sup>4,5</sup> | Everolimus <sup>6</sup> |  |  |  |
| Temsirolimus <sup>7</sup>  | Pazopanib <sup>8</sup>  |  |  |  |

• IFN- $\alpha$  monotherapy is no longer considered the standard of care in mRCC

Motzer RJ, et al. N Engl J Med 2007; 2. Motzer RJ, et al. J Clin Oncol 2009; 3. Escudier B, et al. N Engl J Med 2007
 4. Escudier B, et al. J Clin Oncol 2010; 5. Rini B, et al. J Clin Oncol 2010; 6. Motzer RJ, et al. Lancet 2008
 7. Hudes G, et al. N Engl J Med 2007; 8. Sternberg C et al. J Clin Oncol 2010

## What we know

- RCC is inherently VEGF-driven and responsive to targeting of the VEGF pathway
  - mTOR biology relevance less certain although clinical effects of mTOR-targeted therapy are seen
- Clear OR and PFS advantage (vs. IFN/placebo) to VEGF-targeted therapy and substantial OS (2<sup>+</sup> years)
   – Sunitinib, pazopanib and Bev/IFN are front-line SOC
- Debulking nephrectomy remains a standard of care (although being re-tested with modern drugs)
- Combination therapy has been toxic / ineffective to date



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## Summary of First-Line Phase III Data

| Drug                                | Control  | Study Design   | ORR<br>(%)            | PFS<br>(months)               | OS<br>(months)                |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bevacizumab +<br>IFN-α <sup>1</sup> | IFN-α  | Randomized 1:1, patients previously<br>untreated (AVOREN/CALGB)      | 31/26 vs<br>13        | 10.2 vs 5.4<br>(HR=0.63.      | 23 vs 21<br>(HR=0.86.         |
|                                     |  |  |                       | <i>P</i> <0.0001)             | <i>P</i> =0.1291)             |
|                                     |  | Dondomized 1.1 notionts previously                                   | 20 9*                 | 11 vs 5                       | 26 vs 22‡                     |
| Sunitinib <sup>2,3,6</sup>          | IFN-α  | untreated  | 39 vs 8*<br>47 vs 12† | (HR=0.42;<br><i>P</i> <0.001) | (HR=0.82;<br><i>P</i> =0.051) |
|                                     |  |  |                       | 9.2 vs 4.2                    | 23 vs 20.5                    |
| Pazopanib <sup>6,7</sup>            | Placebo  | Randomized 2:1, patients previously<br>untreated or 1 prior cytokine | 30 vs 3               | (HR=0.46;<br>P<0.001)         | HR=0.91 (p=.<br>224)          |
|                                     | Placebo Randomized 1:1, patients previously treated with IL-2 or IFN |  |                       | 5.5 vs 2.8                    | 19.3 vs 15.9                  |
| Sorafenib <sup>5</sup>              |  |  | 10 vs 2               | (HR=0.44;<br><i>P</i> <0.01)  | (HR=0.77;<br><i>P</i> =0.02)  |
|                                     |  | Randomized 1:1:1,  |                       |                               | 10.9 vs 7.3                   |
| Temsirolimus <sup>4</sup>           | IFN-α  | patients previously untreated who<br>have poor prognosis             | 8.6 vs 4.8            | 5.5 vs 3.1                    | (HR=0.73;<br><i>P</i> =0.008) |

\*Independent review. †Investigator. ‡Log-rank.

1. Escudier. *Lancet.* 2007;370:2103-2111. 2. Motzer. *N Engl J Med.* 2007;356:115-124. 3. Figlin. *J Clin Oncol.* 2008;26 (suppl; abstr 5024). Hudes. *N Engl J Med.* 2007;356:2271-2281. 5. Escudier. *N Engl J Med.* 2007;356:125-134.. 6. Prescribing Information Votrient (pazopanib) 2009. 7. Sternberg. ASCO. 2009 (abstr 5021).

### **Progression-Free Survival**

#### (Independent Central Review)



#### **Final Overall Survival**



# OS in patients who did not receive any post-study treatment



## PFS in Untreated RCC by Risk Group

| Agent(s)           | PFS<br>(mos) | Good | Int  | Poor | HR vs. IFN            |
|--------------------|--------------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Sunitinib          | 11           | 14.5 | 10.6 | 3.7  | 0.54                  |
| Pazopanib          | 11.1         |      |      |      | 0.40<br>(vs. placebo) |
| Bev + IFN (AVOREN) | 10.2         | 12.9 | 10.2 | 2.2  | 0.63                  |
| Bev + IFN (CALGB)  | 8.5          | 11.1 | 8.4  | 3.3  | 0.71                  |
| Sorafenib          | 5.7          | ?    | ?    | ?    | 0.88                  |
| Temsirolimus       | 3.7          | NA   | NA   | 3.7* | NR                    |

• Included 31% of pts classified as intermediate risk per MSKCC

1. Motzer RJ, et al. JCO 2009

2. Escudier, et al. JCO, 2009

3. Hudes G, et al. N Engl J Med. 2007

4. Escudier B, et al. Lancet. 2007

5. Rini BI, et al. JCO, 2008

#### Overall Survival in Untreated RCC by Risk Group

| Agent(s)           | OS<br>(mos) | Good             | Int  | Poor  | HR vs. IFN            |
|--------------------|-------------|------------------|------|-------|-----------------------|
| Sunitinib          | 26.4        | Not<br>reached** | 20.7 | 5.3   | 0.82                  |
| Pazopanib          | 21.1        |                  |      |       | 0.73<br>(vs. placebo) |
| Bev + IFN (AVOREN) | 23.3        | 35.1             | 22.6 | 6.0   | 0.86                  |
| Bev + IFN (CALGB)  | 18.3        | 32.5             | 17.7 | 6.6   | 0.86                  |
|                    |             |                  |      |       |                       |
| Temsirolimus       | 10.9        | NA               | NA   | 10.9* | 0.73                  |

\*\* Median overall survival had not been reached with either treatment in the favorable risk group. At 12 months, 91% of patients in the sunitinib group were alive compared with 92% of patients in the IFN group; and at 2 years, 72% *v* 76%, respectively, were alive.

## What we don't know

- When do we start therapy for indolent patients?
- Which is the 'best' drug for initial therapy?
- Will next-generation, more potent VEGFR TKIs (axitinib/tivozanib) be substantial advances?

## What we don't know

- What is the best way to administer these drugs chronically?
- Mechanisms/biomarkers of response/resistance to targeted therapy?
  - No clear biologic rationale for tx sequences
- Activity of VEGF-targeted therapy in the (neo)/ adjuvant setting?

#### **RCC** is an Inherently Diverse Disease



## When to Start Therapy?

- Our job as RCC doctors is to <u>optimize the **timing**</u> and type of therapy in order to delay as long as possible a patient from reaching a lethal tumor burden while maintaining maximal quality of life.
- This means that select patients may have inherent 'control' of tumor burden and thus immediate systemic treatment is not indicated. Such patients may be served best in the long run with initial surveillance.

## Active Surveillance of the Small Renal Mass: A meta-analysis

| Study          | Institution   | Ν   | Mean Lesion<br>Size (cm) | Mean Growth<br>Rate (cm/yr) | Mean F/U<br>Duration (months) |
|----------------|---|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fujimoto et al | Sendai Shakaihoken Hospital<br>Sendia, Japan        | 6   | 2.47                     | 0.47                        | 29                            |
| Bosniak et al  | NYU Medical Center<br>New York, USA                 | 40  | 1.73                     | 0.36                        | 39                            |
| Kassouf et al  | McGill University Health Center<br>Montreal, Canada | 26  | 3.27                     | 0.09                        | 32                            |
| Volpe et al    | Princess Margaret Hospital<br>Toronto, Canada       | 32  | 2.48                     | 0.1                         | 35                            |
| Wehle et al    | Mayo Clinic<br>Jacksonville, USA                    | 29  | 1.83                     | 0.12                        | 32                            |
| Kato et al     | Tohoku School of Medicine<br>Sendia, Japan          | 18  | 1.98                     | 0.42                        | 27                            |
| Sowery et al   | Kingston General Hospital<br>Kingston, Canada       | 22  | 4.08                     | 0.86                        | 26                            |
| Current Series | Fox Chase Cancer Center<br>Philadelphia, USA        | 61  | 2.97                     | 0.20                        | 36                            |
| TOTAL          |   | 234 | 2.60                     | 0.28                        | 34                            |

## Whom to observe?

- Limited modern data exists.
- Good performance status patients with 'low-volume', 'slowgrowing' and asymptomatic disease are candidates after risk/ benefit discussion with the patient.
- A prospective study is underway at The Cleveland Clinic and other centers
  - What is the natural growth rate?
  - What is the clinical outcome when treatment is started?
  - Anxiety/depression associated with observation?
  - Translational studies in untreated population . .

### How I decide on initial therapy

#### • I tell the patient:

- "I don' t know which drug is the best one for YOU"
- "It's not so much which one, but which one FIRST. Other drugs don't go away, they are just put to the side."
- I list drug names and general categories
- I make decisions one treatment at a time
- I always consider clinical trial options first
- I consider a patient's histology, tumor burden/pace, route of administration/co-pay issues, fitness to 'tolerate' a given therapy, and of course the clinical data

# Phase III non-inferiority trial of pazopanib vs sunitinib in first-line mRCC (COMPARZ)



## Randomized Phase III Trial of Temsirolimus + Bevacizumab vs IFN + Bevacizumab in Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma

Patients with metastatic RCC, treatment naïve

N=800

#### Primary Endpoint: PFS



#### More potent VEGF-R TKIs in RCC



1. Eskens FALM, et al. In: *Proceedings of the 99th Annual Meeting of the AACR*. San Diego, CA: AACR; 2008. Abstract LB-201.

Nakamura K, et al. *Cancer Res.* 2006;66(18):9134-9142.
 Chow LQM, Eckhardt SG. *J Clin Oncol.* 2007;25(7):884-896.

#### Axitinib in cytokine-refractory RCC



- Objective response rate of 44.2%
- Median response duration was 23.0 months
- Progression-free survival was 13.7 months

Rixe et al. Lancet Oncology 8 (11), 2007

# Phase III study of axitinib vs sorafenib as second-line therapy for mRCC (AGILE 1032)

Eligibility criteria:

- Histologically confirmed mRCC with clear-cell component
- Failure of <u>one</u> prior firstline regimen containing ≥1 of:
  - Sunitinib
  - Bevacizumab + IFN-α
  - Temsirolimus
  - Cytokine(s)

Stratification

- Prior regimen
- ECOG PS 0 vs 1



Primary endpoint: PFS

Secondary endpoints: OS, ORR, duration of response, safety, QoL

### Tivozanib Clinical Responses by Independent Radiology Assessment



\* Median PFS 11.8 months

Bhargava P, et al. Presented at the 2009 ASCO Annual Meeting; May 29-June 2, 2009; Orlando, FL. Abstract 5032.

# TIVO-1 Trial: Phase 3 Head-to-Head Trial of Tivozanib vs Sorafenib

#### Eligibility requirements:

- Advanced clear cell RCC
- Prior nephrectomy
- No prior VEGF treatment
- ECOG PS 0-1



- Primary endpoint: PFS
- <u>Secondary endpoints</u>: overall survival, ORR, quality of life

tivozanib extension

## ?Intermittent TKI treatment

- Retrospective series from Germany/Netherlands of pts on TKI (n=12;11 sunitinib) with CR / surgical CR in whom TKI was stopped, and pts were observed.
  - Median time off therapy was 7.5 months (range, 3-25)
  - 5 with recurrent disease at a median of 6 months (range, 3-8); 1 pt with spinal cord compression at recurrence
  - TKI re-administered with tumor burden reduction in all 5

## Holding VEGF Therapy

- 40 mRCC patients with disease control (RECIST SD or better) on VEGF-targeted therapy (median 15 months) observed off therapy
- Twenty five patients (63%) had progression of disease.
  Median PFS in these patients was 10 (1.4 to 27.2) months.
- Fifteen patients (37%) had stable disease as of ESD documented by staging studies.
  - Median PFS for patients who remained progression-free as of ESD was 8.9 (4.6 to 28.2) months.

## **CCF** Intermittent Sunitinib Study





## Progression-free Survival Grouped by Threshold Week 4 Pazopanib

Kaplan-Meier progression-free survival (PFS) curves for patients with Week 4 pazopanib Cmin > 20.6 and  $120.6 \mu$  g/mL



- Median PFS was 49.4 weeks for patients with Week 4 Cmin >20.6  $\mu$  g/mL, whereas median PFS was 20.3 weeks for patients with Cmin  $\leq 20.6 \mu$  g/mL (P = 0.0041)

## Time to Tumor Progression on Sunitinib 50mg 4/2 vs. 37.5mg continuous (EFFECT trial) –Dose matters!



Motzer et al. ASCO GU 2011

## Resistance to Targeted Therapy in RCC



Rini, Atkins Lancet Oncology

#### **Resistance Appears Mediated by "Angiogenic Escape" - ASL MRI: Rodent model**



| Agent   | Population   | Ν                 | OR / TS                   | PFS                         |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunitinib<br>(Rini et al. <i>JCO</i> , 2008)                              | Phase II: Bevacizumab-<br>refractory   | 62                | 23% / 75%                 | 7.1 months                  |
| Axitinib<br>(Rini et al. <i>JCO</i> , 2009)                               | Phase II: Sorafenib-<br>refractory   | 62                | 23% / 55%                 | 7.4 months                  |
| Sorafenib<br>(Garcia et al. <i>Cancer</i> 2010)                           | Phase II: Bevacizumab or sunitinib-refractory                                    | 49                | 0% / 30%                  | 4.4 months                  |
| Temsirolimus<br>(MacKenzie et al. Ann<br>Oncol. 2010)                     | Retrospective study  | 87                | 5% / n.s.                 | 3.9 months                  |
| Everolimus<br>(Motzer et al. <i>Lancet</i> , 2008;<br><i>Cancer</i> 2010) | Phase III: TKI-refractory<br>(vs. placebo)                                       | 410               | 2% / 60%                  | 4.9 months (vs. 1.9 months) |
| Temsirolimus<br>* Clinical activity is g                                  | Phase III: Sunitinib-<br>reatest with drugs that more poter                      | 480<br>htly inhil | pit VEGF-R                |                             |
| AxitMate modest clinic inhibition   | ap <b>effse</b> t <b>ISIS Frowithim</b> FOR inhibi<br>refractory (vs. sorafenib) | tio <b>700</b> tł | his setting, similar to w | eak VEGF-R                  |
| Everolimus +/-<br>Bevacizumab   | Phase III: TKI-refractory  | 700               |                           |                             |

# Pazopanib in refractory RCC: Progression-free survival (n=41)



Hainsworth et al. Annals Oncol 2010; 21(Suppl 8): Abstract 910P and poster

# **SWITCH:** Phase III sequential study of sorafenib and sunitinib



Discontinuation (due to progressive disease/toxicity)

- Primary endpoints: overall PFS
- Secondary endpoints: total time to progression, OS, disease control rate and cardiotoxicity

PI: Dr P Goebell www.clinicaltrials.gov (NCT00732914)

### **RECORD-3: Phase II sequential study of sunitinib and everolimus**



(due to progressive disease/toxicity)

- Primary endpoints: first PFS
- Secondary endpoints: second PFS, ORR, duration of response, patient-reported outcomes, OS

### The Search for Predictive Biomarkers



#### Dendrogram of Key Gene Groups Associated with Recurrence of Localized RCC after Nephrectomy



# Axitinib: OS in patients with or without dBP ≥ 90 mmHg



Rini BI et al. Clin Ca Res 2011 (in press)

#### Front-line Axitinib Htn / dose escalation study



## Sunitinib: Clinical Outcome by HTN Status in RCC Patients

|                                   | Max. SBP<br>≥140 mmHg<br>(n=442) | Max. SBP<br><140 mmHg<br>(n=92) | P-value |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Objective response, n (%)         | 242 (54.8%)                      | 8 (8.7%)                        | <0.0001 |
| Progression-free survival, months | 12.5                             | 2.5                             | <0.0001 |
| Overall survival, months          | 30.9                             | 7.2                             | <0.0001 |
|                                   | Max. DBP<br>≥90 mmHg<br>(n=363)  | Max. DBP<br><90 mmHg<br>(n=171) | P-value |
| Objective response, n (%)         | 208 (57.3%)                      | 42 (25.0%)                      | <0.0001 |
| Progression-free survival, months | 13.4                             | 5.3                             | <0.0001 |
| Overall survival, months          | 32.2                             | 14.9                            | <0.0001 |



Rini BI et al. JNCI 103 (9), 2011



#### **Does Management of Hypertension Matter?**



#### SNPs in *IL8, FGFR2, VEGFR3, VEGFA,* and *NR1I2* Associated with OS in Pazopanib-Treated Patients

|        | SNP       |         | Allele                     | Allele                 | Allele                 |
|--------|-----------|---------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| GENE   |           | P Value | Frequency                  | Frequency              | Frequency              |
|        | (NCBI)    |         | Caucasians, % <sup>1</sup> | Asians, % <sup>1</sup> | Blacks, % <sup>1</sup> |
| IL8    | rs1126647 | 0.003   | 39                         | 32                     | 6                      |
| IL8    | rs4073    | 0.01    | 40                         | 35                     | 83                     |
| FGFR2  | rs2981582 | 0.01    | 42                         | 25                     | 52                     |
| VEGFR3 | rs307826  | 0.04    | 7                          | 0                      | 0                      |
| VEGFA  | rs1570360 | 0.05    | 25                         | 17                     | 3                      |
| NR1I2  | rs3814055 | 0.03    | 41                         | 27                     | 27                     |

• None of the SNPs associated with OS in patients who did not receive pazopanib

• Limitation: small sample size (N = 37)

1. Frequency data: HapMap (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov).

Presented at the Genitourinary Cancers Symposium







Response (PD vs CR+PR+SD)

 VEGFR3 rs307821
 P=0.045 (Univariate)

 VEGFR3 rs307826
 P=0.028 (Univariate)

#### **Pre-surgical VEGF-Targeted Therapy in RCC**

| Approach   | Patient population   | No. of pts with<br>primary tumor<br>shrinkage | Amount of primary<br>tumor shrinakge |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunitinib</b> (CCF/ retrospective)                        | 'Unresectable' RCC<br>(n=19)   | 42%   | 24%<br>(range, 2-46%)                |
| <b>Sunitinib</b> (Netherlands/ retrospective)                | M+ pts with primary in place (n=17)  | 59%   | 12%<br>(range, 2-33%)                |
| <b>Sunitinib</b> (CCF/<br>prospective)                       | 'Unresectable' RCC<br>(n=18)   | 72%   | 19%<br>(range, 1-64%)                |
| <b>Sorafenib</b> (UNC/<br>prospective)                       | ≥T2 RCC; sorafenib<br>400 mg BID x 4–8<br>weeks prior to<br>nephrectomy (n=25) | 64%   | 11%<br>(range, 0–40%)                |
| <b>Bevacizumab</b><br>(+/- erlotinib)<br>(MDACC/prospective) | Metastatic RCC pts<br>prior to nephrectomy;<br>treatment x 8 weeks<br>(n=50)   | 52%   | ~ 10%<br>(range, 1-25%)              |



• Primary RCC baseline and after 2 cycles of sunitinib: tumor shrinkage enabled partial nephrectomy as the tumor has pulled away from the renal hilum.

• Viable RCC tumor cells were present in all post-sunitinib surgical specimens. No unexpected surgical morbidity was encountered.

#### A single arm phase II study of pazopanib in patients with localized RCC to enable partial nephrectomy



#### On-going/Planned Adjuvant RCC phase III Studies

|                                 | n    | Population/Design   | Endpoint | Study Start |
|---------------------------------|------|---|----------|-------------|
| ASSURE <sup>1</sup><br>(ECOG)   | 1923 | Placebo <i>vs.</i> sunitinib <i>vs.</i><br>sorafenib, 1 year        | DFS      | 2006        |
| SORCE <sup>2</sup><br>(MRC)     | 1656 | Placebo <i>vs.</i> sorafenib<br>1 year <i>vs.</i> sorafenib 3 years | DFS      | 2007        |
| S-TRAC <sup>3</sup><br>(Pfizer) | 500  | Placebo <i>vs.</i> sunitinib<br>1 year                              | DFS      | 2007        |
| Everest⁴<br>(SWOG)              | 1218 | Placebo <i>vs.</i> everolimus<br>1 year                             | DFS      | 2010        |
| PROTECT<br>VEG113387<br>(GSK)   | 1500 | Placebo <i>vs.</i> pazopanib<br>1 year                              | DFS      | Q4 2010     |

1. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT00326898.

- 2. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT00492258.
- 3. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT00375674.

4. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT01120249.



#### Myeloid Derived Suppressor Cells in RCC Patients Receiving Sunitinib

Sunitinib mediates reversal of myeloid-derived suppressor cell accumulation in renal cell carcinoma patients. Finke J, Rini BI, Clin Cancer Res. 2009

### Autologous Vaccine Phase 3 Trial Planned for mid-2011







Cellular immunomonitoring

## Conclusions

- Therapy targeted at VEGF and mTOR has dramatically changed the therapeutic landscape of metastatic RCC.
- There is no single drug as best choice for initial therapy pending future trials.
- I believe more potent VEGFR TKIs will be substantial clinical advances.
- Intermittent therapy or other novel administration methods warrant investigation.

## Conclusions

- Mechanisms/biomarkers that underlie response/ resistance to targeted therapy remain elusive but preliminary data exists and intense efforts are underway.
- The activity/utility of VEGF-targeted therapy in the (neo)/adjuvant setting awaits further investigation.

## RCC Treatment Algorithm: 2011

| Setting    | Patients                     | Therapy<br>(level 1)                           | Other Options<br>(≥ level 2)                          |
|------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Untreated  | Good or<br>Intermediate risk | Sunitinib<br>Bevacizumab +<br>IFN<br>Pazopanib | HD IL-2<br>Sorafenib<br>Clinical trial<br>Observation |
|            | Poor risk                    | Temsirolimus                                   | Sunitinib, Bev/IFN<br>Clinical trial                  |
|            | Non-clear cell               |  | Anything<br>Clinical Trial                            |
|            | Sarcomatoid                  |  | Sunitinib (+/- Gem)<br>Clinical trial                 |
|            | Cytokine                     | <u>e</u> Sorafenib                             | Sunitinib, Bevacizumab                                |
| Refractory | VEGF                         | Everolimus                                     | Everything  |
|            | mTOR                         | Clinical trial                                 | Clinical trial  |