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IN BRIEF

PROSTATE CANCER

USPSTF recommendations reduce diagnosis of new cases

In 2011, the US Preventive Service Task Force (USPSTF) recommended that serum PSA-based measurements should not be used to screen men for the presence of prostate cancer. Now, research shows that, following this recommendation, a 28% decline in incident diagnosis of prostate cancer has occurred. Despite this decrease, however, new diagnoses of non-localized prostate cancer have remained unchanged. Only time will tell if this decision has indeed prevented the overdiagnosis of prostate cancer.

Original article Barocas, D. A. *et al.* The effect of the United States Preventive Services Task Force grade D recommendation against screening for prostate cancer on incident prostate cancer diagnoses in the US. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2015.06.075

KIDNEY CANCER

Sunitinib is effective in a subset of patients with mRCC

A final analysis of results of the large sunitinib global expanded-access trial has confirmed that a subset of patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC, 16%) have an objective response to sunitinib, with a median progression-free survival of 9.4 months, and overall survival of 18.7 months. Adverse events included thrombocytopenia (10%), fatigue (9%), asthma, neutropenia and hand-foot syndrome (all 7%). These data indicate that sunitinib is effective in a subgroup of patients with mRCC.

Original article Gore, M. E. *et al.* Final results from the large sunitinib global expanded-access trial in metastatic renal cell carcinoma. *Br. J. Cancer* doi:10.1038/bjc.2015.196

PROSTATE CANCER

Radiotherapy is effective in old men with high-risk cancer

In a population-based study of 57,749 patients with prostate cancer, the effectiveness of primary radiotherapy versus conservative management was investigated by comparing patient outcomes in geographical areas with high, versus low radiotherapy use. In older patients (>65 years of age), those in high radiotherapy use areas had small, but significant improvements in 10-year overall, and cancer-specific survival, suggesting a benefit of radiotherapy in this patient subgroup.

Original article Lu-Yao, G. L. *et al.* Primary radiotherapy vs conservative management for localized prostate cancer—a population-based study. *Prostate Cancer Prostatic Dis.* doi:10.1038/pcan.2015.30

BLADDER CANCER

Metformin reduces recurrence after radical cystectomy

Results of a retrospective cohort study of diabetic patients who underwent radical cystectomy owing to bladder cancer demonstrate that metformin use correlates with improved recurrence-free, and cancer-specific, but not overall survival. Despite these findings, use of other oral hypoglycaemic agents was not associated with any changes in survival. This trend requires further validation in larger populations of patients.

Original article Nayan, M. *et al.* The effect of metformin on cancer-specific survival outcomes in diabetic patients undergoing radical cystectomy for urothelial carcinoma of the bladder. *Urol. Oncol.* doi:10.1016/j.urolonc.2015.05.024