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IN BRIEF

KIDNEY CANCER

Nivolumab in metastatic renal cell carcinoma

Nivolumab has antitumour activity in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC), according to a phase II trial. Motzer and co-workers randomly assigned 168 patients with clear cell mRCC to one of three doses of nivolumab (0.3 mg/kg, 2 mg/kg and 10 mg/kg) given intravenously once every 3 weeks. Median progression-free survival ranged from 2.7 months to 4.2 months and no dose–response relationship was found. The investigators reported the safety profile to be manageable, with most treatment-related adverse events being of low severity.

Original article Motzer, R. J. *et al.* Nivolumab for metastatic renal cell carcinoma: results of a randomized phase II trial. *J. Clin. Oncol.* doi:10.1200/JCO.2014.59.0703

INFECTION

Predicting treatment failure in urinary tract infections

The *Escherichia coli* O25b/sequence type 131 (ST131) clone can be used to predict treatment failure in patients with urinary tract infections, say researchers. Can *et al.* studied 294 patients who had acute urinary cystitis with isolation of *E. coli* in their urine cultures. They followed patients for clinical cure after 10 days of treatment and found that detection of the *E. coli* O25:ST131 clone by PCR was a significant risk factor for treatment failure.

Original article Can, F. *et al.* Emerging *Escherichia coli* O25b/ST131 clone predicts treatment failure in urinary tract infections. *Clin. Infect. Dis.* doi:10.1093/cid/ciu864

PENILE CANCER

Downregulation of *SLC8A1* associated with penile cancer

Results of a new study suggest that the miR-223–NCX1–calcium signalling axis is a potential target in the treatment of penile cancer. The researchers used quantitative PCR to compare transcript levels of the *SLC8A1* gene and miR-223 in samples from men with penile cancer and those with normal glans tissues. *SLC8A1* was underexpressed in penile cancer samples and was associated with reduced calcium distribution, which can lead to suppression of apoptosis and increased proliferation of tumour cells. Overexpression of miR-223 was inversely correlated with expression of *SLC8A1*, its believed repressor.

Original article Muñoz, J. J. *et al.* Down-regulation of *SLC8A1* as a putative apoptosis-evasion mechanism by modulation of calcium levels in penile carcinoma. *J. Urol.* doi:10.1016/j.juro.2014.11.097

PROSTATE CANCER

NCCN guidelines for prostate cancer updated

The 20th annual edition of the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) clinical practice guidelines for prostate cancer has been published. The new guidelines include major changes on use of imaging, including the use of multiparametric MRI for the risk stratification of men on active surveillance and use of PET for bone scans. New guidance on molecular testing and the systemic treatment of castration-resistant prostate cancer are also included.

Original article National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Changing the course of prostate cancer treatment: life expectancy estimation, active surveillance, and drug development. *National Comprehensive Cancer Network* [online], <http://www.nccn.org/about/news/newsinfo.aspx?NewsID=474> (2014)