Nature Reviews Urology **12**, 360 (2015); published online 9 June 2015;
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IN BRIEF

KIDNEY CANCER

Effect of sorafenib and sunitinib on cardiac function

Sunitinib and sorafenib are associated with an increased risk of cardiac dysfunction in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma, but a new paper reports that the risk is low in patients without metastases. Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) was measured at standard intervals in 1,599 patients who received these agents or placebo for up to 12 months. Overall, 21 patients (1.3%) experienced a decline in LVEF of >15% within 6 months, with no significant difference in incidence in treatment groups compared with the placebo group. The authors say that the findings might be the result of close cardiovascular monitoring or because of fewer cardiovascular comorbidities in the nonmetastatic population.

Original article Haas, N. *et al.* Effects of adjuvant sorafenib and sunitinib on cardiac function in renal cell carcinoma patients without overt metastases: results from ASSURE, ECOG2805. *Clin. Cancer Res.* doi:10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-15-0215

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Aminomethyl spectinomycins: potential in bacterial infection

N-benzyl aminomethyl spectinomycins might be useful in treating drug-resistant sexually transmitted and respiratory tract bacterial infections, say researchers. Bruhn *et al.* found that this compound showed increased potency (versus spectinomycin) against common sexually transmitted bacteria and respiratory tract pathogens. They also report no mammalian cytotoxicity in rats and *in vitro* activity against various clinical isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* that were resistant to penicillin, macrolides and cephalosporin.

Original article Bruhn, D. F. *et al.* Aminomethyl spectinomycins as therapeutics for drug-resistant respiratory tract and sexually transmitted bacterial infections. *Sci. Transl. Med.* doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3010572

KIDNEY CANCER

16-gene assay for predicting recurrence in ccRCC

A new paper reports on use of a multigene signature to improve prediction of the risk of recurrence after nephrectomy in patients with clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC). Rini *et al.* investigated the association between expression of 732 genes and clinical outcome in 942 patients and used the data to develop a 16-gene recurrence score algorithm. They validated their scoring system in 626 patients and found that the score was significantly associated with recurrence-free interval on univariate analysis and with risk of tumour recurrence on multivariate analysis.

Original article Rini, B. *et al.* A 16-gene assay to predict recurrence after surgery in localised renal cell carcinoma: development and validation studies. *Lancet Oncol.* doi:10.1016/S1470-2045(15)70167-1

PHARMACOLOGY

Acetaminophen might decrease testosterone in fetal testes

Extended use of acetaminophen might reduce fetal testosterone production, say researchers. The study in mice with human fetal testes xenografts found that 7 days of acetaminophen reduced plasma testosterone and seminal vesicle weight (a biomarker of androgen exposure), whereas acetaminophen for 1 day had no effect.

Original article van den Driesche, S. *et al.* Prolonged exposure to acetaminophen reduces testosterone production by the human fetal testis in a xenograft model. *Sci. Transl. Med.* doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.aaa4097