Renal Cell Carcinoma Fact Sheet May 2016

Symptoms

Although these can be associated with other, less serious conditions, symptoms of RCC may include:

- Blood in urine
- A persistent pain in the side (not caused by injury)
- A mass (lump) on the side or lower back
- Zzz Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Persistent fever not caused by an infection
- Anemia (low red blood cell count)

What is Renal Cell Carcinoma?

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the most common form of kidney cancer and accounts globally for about 2–3% of all cancers in adults.3,4 The most common type of RCC is clear cell carcinoma, accounting for approximately 70% of all cases.5

Key Risk Factors

- Smoking
- Obesity
- Workplace exposure to industrial chemicals such as cadmium, trichloroethylene and some herbicides
- Having an inherited cancer syndrome, such as von Hippel-Lindau disease
- Family history of RCC, particularly among siblings
- High blood pressure
- Advanced kidney disease
- Male gender
- Low consumption of fruits and vegetables

Diagnosis and Prognosis

Diagnosing RCC during the early stages of the disease can be challenging as tumors may grow without presenting symptoms.9 Despite improved diagnostic imaging techniques, about 20–30% of patients are diagnosed with metastatic disease.10

The 5-year survival rate for localized kidney and renal pelvis cancer is approximately 90%.11 However, the 5-year overall survival for patients with distant metastatic RCC is approximately 12%.11

Incidence

Rates of RCC vary substantially worldwide, with a generally higher incidence in Eastern Asia, North America and Central/Eastern Europe.12

In 2012, approximately 304,000 new cases of RCC were diagnosed worldwide10,13

In 2012, more than 84,000 new cases of RCC were diagnosed in Europe14

Approximately 55,000 new cases of RCC were diagnosed in the U.S. in 20155

Treatment

Current treatment options for RCC may include:15

- Ablation and other local therapies
- Active surveillance
- Chemotherapy
- Immunotherapy
- Radiation therapy
- Surgery
- Targeted therapy
Need for Further Research

Despite advances in the treatment of RCC, the prognosis for patients remains poor when the disease has metastasized beyond the kidneys.10 There is a clear unmet medical need for new treatment options. To learn about clinical trials in RCC, visit www.clinicaltrials.gov and search for ‘renal cell carcinoma’ or ‘kidney cancer’.

References


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