



THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS
IN ONCOLOGY



L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES MÉDECINS OMNIPRATICIENS
EN ONCOLOGIE

RENAL CELL CANCER CASE

Case #1

Renal Cell Cancer Case

A 55-year-old woman presents with new onset lower back pain 3 years after a left nephrectomy for renal cell carcinoma. At that time, it was limited to the kidney (T2, N0, M0) and metastatic work up was negative. She is otherwise well and has no other medical problems. Physical exam is unremarkable.

1. What is entailed in a radical nephrectomy? When is a regional lymph node dissection indicated? Is there a role for partial nephrectomy?
2. Was her initial treatment (surgery only) appropriate? Was there a role for adjuvant immunotherapy or chemotherapy? What is the recommended follow up?
3. What staging investigations does she require at this time?

Unfortunately, she has a bone scan that shows several areas of abnormal uptake in the lumbar spine and ribs. Plain films of these areas confirm a metastatic lesion at L2 and in several ribs. A chest x-ray also shows multiple small pulmonary nodules. CT chest, abdomen and pelvis confirm pulmonary metastases bilaterally, a few small liver metastases and intraabdominal lymphadenopathy (all less than 2cm). ECOG is 1.

The patient and her family have been searching the Internet and have questions regarding the role of cytokines, targeted therapies, and immunotherapy.

4. What stage of disease does she have now?
5. What additional information would you need to determine whether she has favourable, intermediate, or poor risk disease using the International Metastatic Renal Cell Database Consortium Prognostic Stratification?
6. What treatment options are available to her? How would you determine what order to prescribe systemic therapy? Does the risk score factor into the treatment decision?
7. Is there a role for metastatectomy in metastatic renal cell carcinoma? If so, what would be the scenario where it should be considered?
8. How would your treatment recommendations be altered if her ECOG status is 3?
9. If a patient presents with metastatic renal cell carcinoma, is there a role for palliative nephrectomy in the context of effective systemic therapy?

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