

# **Sequence or Combination and If Yes, Which ?**

**INTORACT, INTORSECT and RECORD-2**  
**abstracts LBA21\_R, 7830 and LBA22\_PR**

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# Disclosures:

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- Member of Global and/or Canadian Advisory Boards for Pfizer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline, for Renal Cell Carcinoma
- Meeting and travel support by Pfizer, Novartis, GlaxoSmithKline
- Was an investigator on the INTORSECT study

# Abstracts to Discuss

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- LBA21\_PR: Randomized phase IIIb trial of temsirolimus and bevacizumab versus interferon and bevacizumab in metastatic renal cell carcinoma: Results from INTORACT
- 783O: Randomized phase II study of first-line everolimus (EVE) + bevacizumab (BEV) versus interferon alfa-2a (IFN)+BEV in patients (pts) with metastatic renal cell carcinoma (mRCC): RECORD-2
- LBA22\_PR: Temsirolimus vs sorafenib as second line therapy in metastatic renal cell carcinoma: Results from the INTORSECT trial.

# RCC Treatment Algorithm: 2012

Treatment Status	Patient Status	Therapy (Level 1 evidence)	Other Options (≥ Level 2)
First Line	Good or intermediate risk	Sunitinib Bevacizumab + IFN Pazopanib	High-dose IL-2 (Sorafenib) Observation Clinical Trial
	Poor risk	Temsirolimus	Sunitinib Pazopanib Clinical trial
Second Line	Failed cytokines	Sorafenib Pazopanib Axitinib	Sunitinib Bevacizumab Clinical Trial
	Failed VEGFR inhibitor	Everolimus Axitinib	TKI's Temsirolimus Clinical Trial
	Failed mTOR inhibitor	?	

# Treatment of Metastatic RCC

## Open Questions

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- What is the best sequence of agents
  - TKI-mTOR-?
  - TKI-TKI-mTOR ?.....
- What is the best second line therapy
- Are combinations superior to sequential therapy
- Can we identify clinically relevant biomarkers
- .....

# First-line Treatment of good/intermediate mRCC

Study	ORR, %	Median PFS, mo*	Median OS, mo*
Sunitinib vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>1</sup>	47 vs. 12	11 vs. 5 $P < 0.001$	26.4 vs 21.8 $P = 0.051$
Bevacizumab + IFN- $\alpha$ vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>2</sup>	31 vs. 13	10.2 vs. 5.4 $P = 0.0001$	23.3 vs. 21.3 $P = 0.91$
Bevacizumab + IFN- $\alpha$ vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>3</sup>	25.5 vs. 13.1	8.5 vs. 5.2 $P = 0.0001$	18.3 vs. 17.4 $P = 0.097$
Pazopanib vs placebo <sup>6</sup>	32 vs. 4	9.2 vs. 4.2 $P = 0.0001$	22.9 vs. 20.5 $P = 0.224$
Tivozanib vs sorafenib <sup>5</sup>	33 vs 23	11.9 vs. 9.1 $P < 0.042$	Not Reported

\*Intent to treat analysis



**Can combination regimens exceed these results ?**

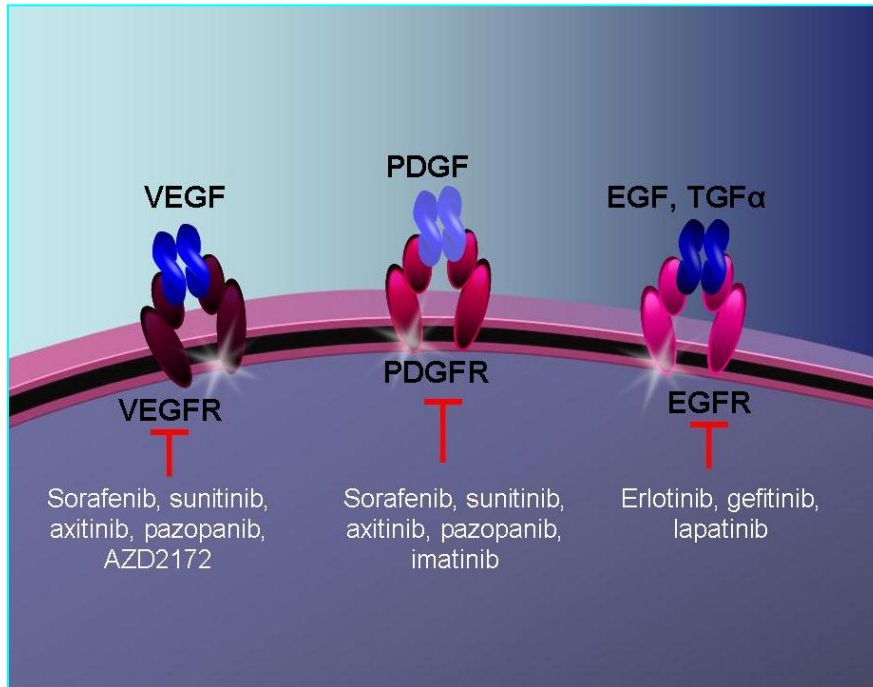
# Combinations of Targeted Agents

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- Rationale:
  - Combination of 2 active agents may lead to increased activity
  - Potential for additive or synergistic effect
  - Delay or avoid development of resistance
- What are we looking for
  - Substantial increase in CR rate (prerequisite for cure)
  - Significantly better PFS (must be better than the sequence)
  - Longer overall survival
  - Tolerable toxicity profile
  - .....

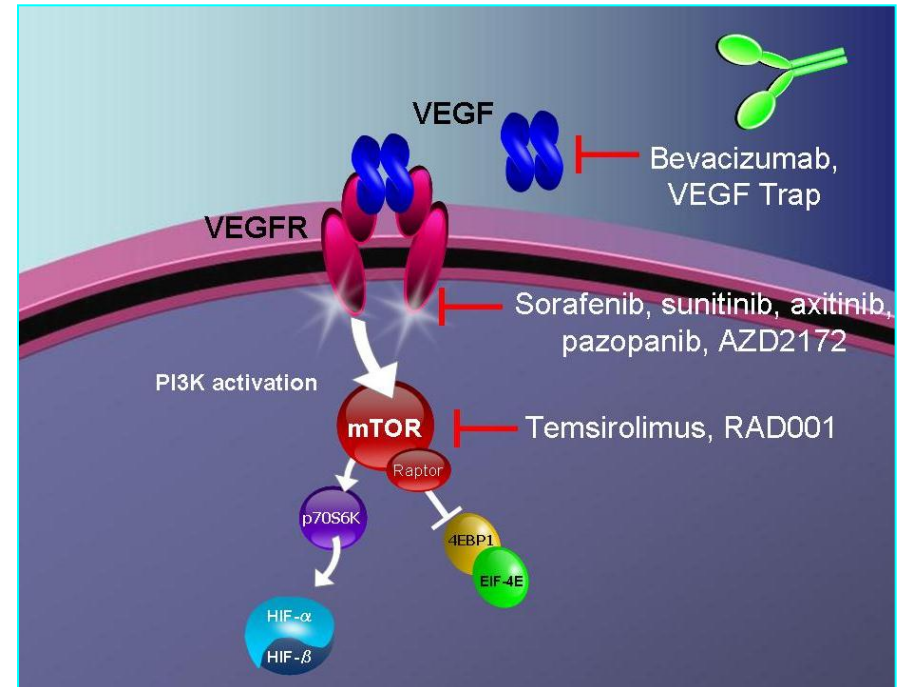
# Combination of targeted Agents: Horizontal versus Vertical Blockade

## Horizontal Blockade



Multiple different signaling pathways  
are targeted

## Vertical Blockade



A single signaling pathway e.g. VEGF  
is targeted in  $\geq$  levels



# Rational Combinations of Targeted Therapies

## ➤ TKI + bevacizumab:

➤ Su **Too Toxic** ab

➤ Sorafenib + bevacizumab

## ➤ TKI + mTOR

➤ Te **Too Toxic** hib

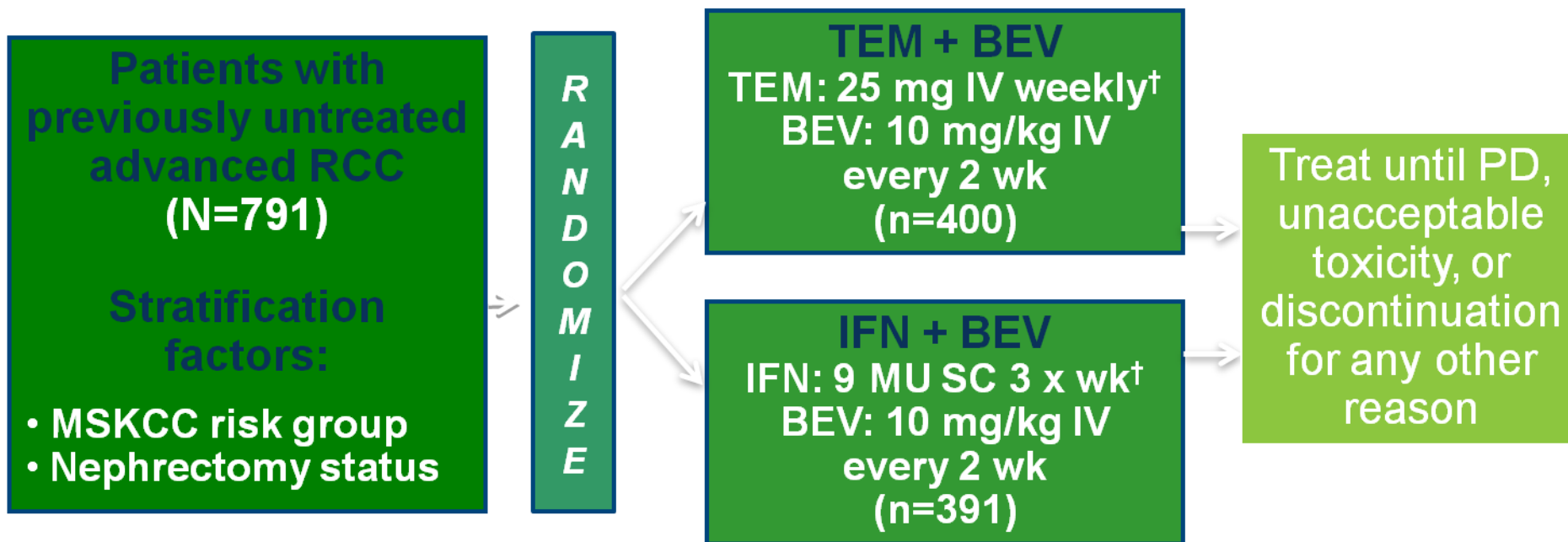
➤ Everolimus + sorafenib

## ➤ mTOR + bevacizumab

**Feasible, confirmed in the current  
larger studies**

Feldman *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2008; Cooney *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2008; Sosman *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2008; Fischer P *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2008; Rosenberg *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2008; Whorf RC *et al. J Clin Oncol* 2008; Merchan *et al J Clin Oncol* 2011.

# INTORACT (LBA21\_PR) Study Design



## Key eligibility criteria:

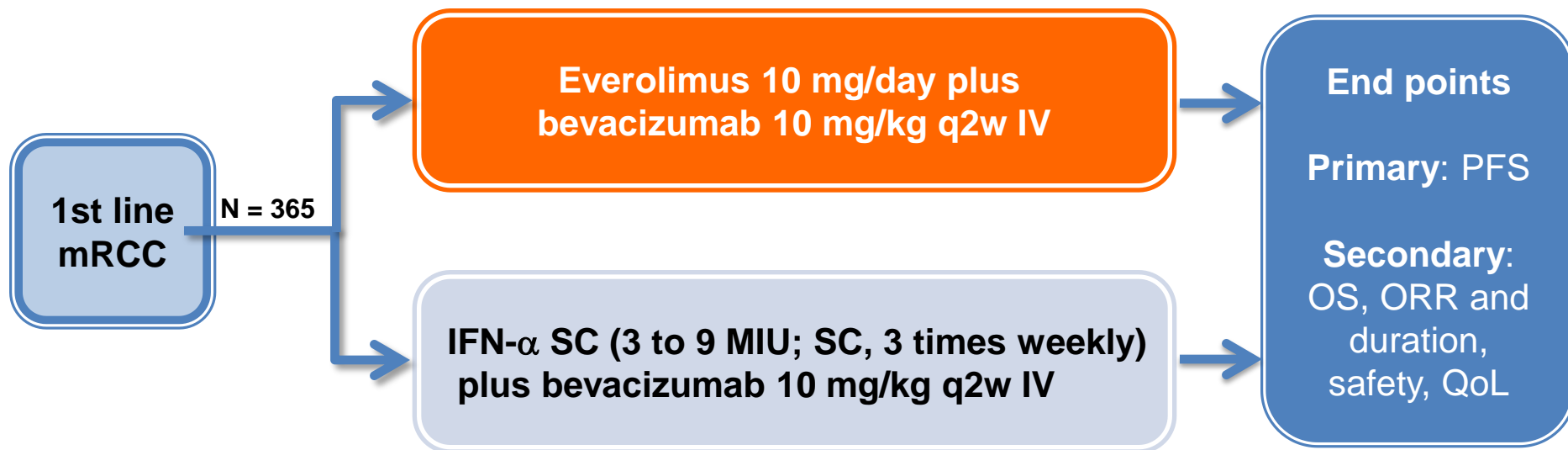
- Age ≥ 18 years with confirmation of advanced clear-cell RCC
- ≥ 1 measurable lesion per RECIST criteria
- No prior systemic treatment for RCC
- KPS ≥ 70%

## Key exclusion criteria:

- Prior systemic treatment for mRCC, including prior therapy with VEGF or mTOR inhibitor

# RECORD-2 (abstr. 783O): Study Design

Randomized, open-label, phase II study



## Key eligibility criteria:

- Age ≥ 18 years with confirmation of advanced metastatic clear-cell RCC
- ≥ 1 measurable lesion per RECIST criteria
- Prior nephrectomy
- KPS ≥ 70%

## Key exclusion criteria:

- Prior systemic treatment for mRCC, including prior therapy with VEGF or mTOR inhibitor

# INTORACT and RECORD-2

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- Design
  - Well designed and conducted randomized phase III and II, respectively
- Choice of comparator
  - Bevacizumab / Interferon is an accepted first-line option albeit not as frequently used in clinical practice as sunitinib or pazopanib
- Objective –Were the trials looking for too big of a difference ?
  - Both trials were looking for an approximately 30% improvement in PFS
  - At least what we would expect from combining 2 active agents
- Both studies accrued rapidly

# First-line Treatment of good/intermediate mRCC

Study	ORR, %	Median PFS, mo	Median OS, mo
Sunitinib vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>1</sup>	47 vs. 12	11 vs. 5 <i>P</i> < 0.001	26.4 vs 21.8 <i>P</i> = 0.051
Bevacizumab + IFN- $\alpha$ vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>2</sup>	31 vs. 13	10.2 vs. 5.4 <i>P</i> = 0.0001	23.3 vs. 21.3 <i>P</i> = 0.91
Bevacizumab + IFN- $\alpha$ vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>3</sup>	25.5 vs. 13.1	8.5 vs. 5.2 <i>P</i> < 0.0001	18.3 vs. 17.4 <i>P</i> = 0.097
Pazopanib vs placebo <sup>4</sup>	32 vs. 4	9.2 vs. 4.2 <i>P</i> < 0.0001	22.9 vs. 20.5 <i>P</i> = 0.224
BEV/TEM vs BEV/IFN <sup>5</sup>	28 vs. 28	9.1 vs. 9.3 <i>p</i> =0.759	25.8 vs. 25.5 <i>p</i> =0.638
BEV/EVER vs BEV/IFN <sup>6</sup>	27 vs. 28	9.2 vs. 10 <i>p</i> =0.485	NA vs. 26



**No difference to existing first line options**

# Patient Characteristics of Current First-line Trials

Study	MSKCC G / I	PS	Clear cell	Prior nephrectomy
Sunitinib vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>1</sup>	> 90 %	0-1	✓	91 % vs. 89 %
Bevacizumab + IFN- $\alpha$ vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>2</sup>	> 90 %	KPS $\geq$ 70 %	✓	✓
Bevacizumab + IFN- $\alpha$ vs IFN- $\alpha$ <sup>3</sup>	> 90 %	KPS $\geq$ 70 %	✓	85 % vs. 85 %
Pazopanib vs placebo <sup>4</sup>	> 90 %	0-1	✓	89 % vs. 88 %
BEV/TEM vs BEV/IFN <sup>5</sup>	> 90 %	KPS $\geq$ 70 %	✓	85 % vs. 86 %
BEV/EVER vs BEV/IFN <sup>6</sup>	> 90 %	KPS $\geq$ 70 %	✓	✓



**No difference to existing first line options**

# Rationale for Bevacizumab / Temsirolimus combination

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- Phase I study: N = 12, all ECOG 0–1
- Prior therapy: n = 7, cytokines in 6/7
- RR: NO CR PR=7 (60 %) SD = 3 (25 %)
- PFS: n/a



**Combination feasible with both agents given at full dose**

**High response rate → further testing recommended**

# **Rationale for Everolimus/Bevacizumab combination**

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Phase II study: N = 30 untreated patients in preliminary report  
N = 50 untreated patients in final report

Median PFS: 12 months in ASCO 2008 presentation  
(9 months in abstract)  
9.1 months in the final report (JCO 2010)

RR: NO CR PR=23 % SD = 53 %



**Combination feasible with both agents given at full dose**

**Very active (“12 months PFS”) → further testing recommended**



# Rationale for RECORD-2 and INTORACT

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**BUT**

- Small trials
- No CR
- PR rate comparable to historical data e.g. sunitinib
- PFS not available/comparable to historical data e.g. sunitinib
- I am not aware of any preclinical additive/synergistic effect



Rationale strong enough for further development ?



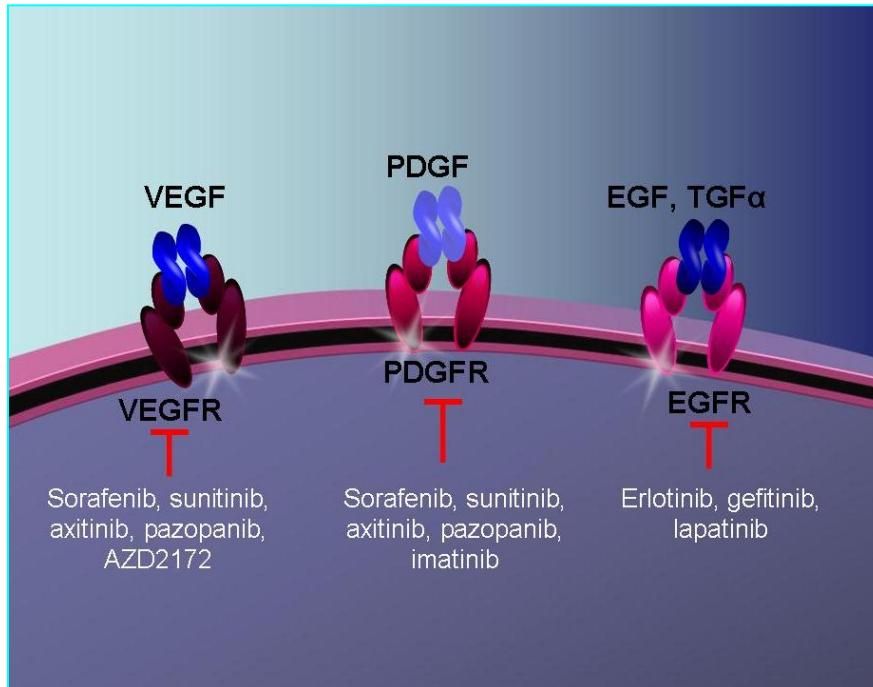
**Temsirolimus / Bevacizumab**  
Randomized phase III trial



**Everolimus / Bevacizumab**  
Randomized phase II trial

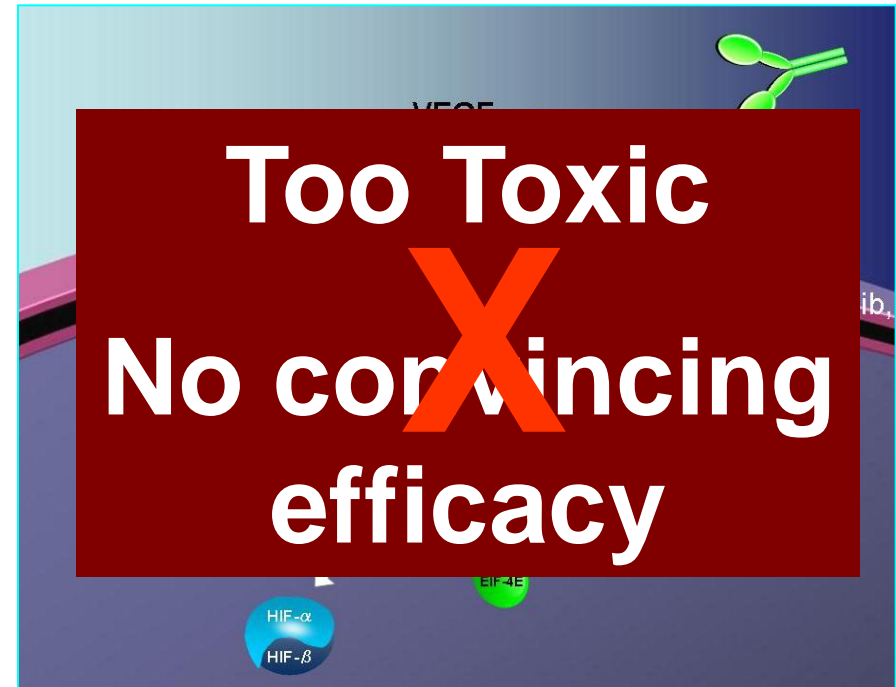
# Combination of targeted Agents: Horizontal versus Vertical Blockade

## Horizontal Blockade



Multiple signaling pathways  
downstream of HIF- $\alpha$  are targeted

## Vertical Blockade



A single signaling pathway e.g. VEGF  
is targeted in  $\geq$  levels

# Future Combinations of Targeted Agents

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- Sound pre-clinical rationale (synergy/additive)
- Convincing efficacy in phase II
- Acceptable toxicity profile
- Phase III trial design should include a sequence as comparator
- Combine agents with different mechanism of action
  - e.g TKI plus antibody against other target
  - e.g. Immunotherapy with TKI

# RCC Treatment Algorithm: 2012

Treatment Status	Patient Status	Therapy (Level 1 evidence)	Other Options (≥ Level 2)
First Line	Good or intermediate risk	Sunitinib Bevacizumab + IFN Pazopanib	High-dose IL-2 (Sorafenib) Observation Clinical Trial
	Poor risk	Temsirolimus	Sunitinib Pazopanib Clinical trial
Second Line	Failed cytokines	Sorafenib Pazopanib Axitinib	Sunitinib Bevacizumab Clinical Trial
	Failed VEGFR inhibitor	Everolimus Axitinib	TKI's Temsirolimus Clinical Trial
	Failed mTOR inhibitor	?	

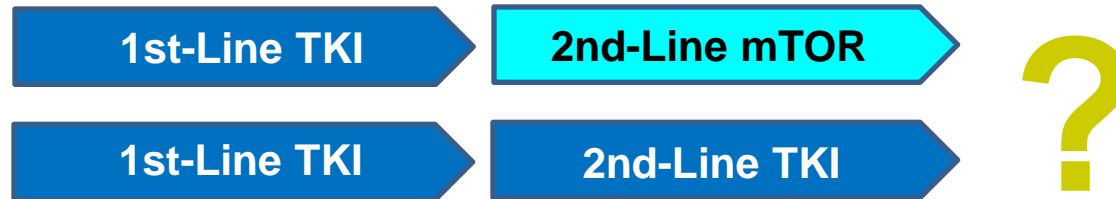
# Choice of Second-Line Therapy

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- Individual physician knowledge of data
- Distinct safety profiles of different agents
- Experience with drugs
- Availability of and access to various drugs
- Patient-specific issues such as co-morbidities, toxicities experienced on first-line therapy

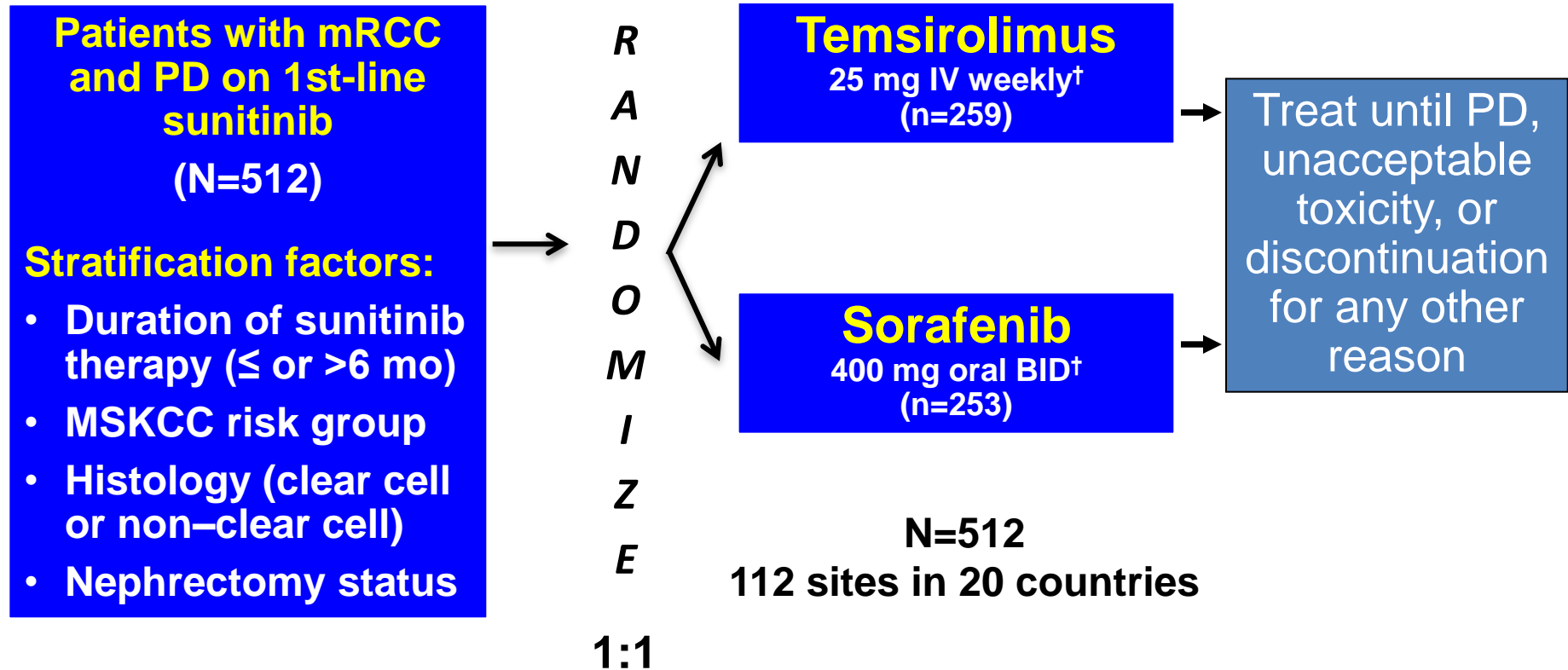
# Does Sequence Matter?

(in the Absence of Predictive Markers)



Sequences of Targeted Therapies	mPFS 1st drug, mo (95% CI)	mPFS 2nd drug, mo (95% CI)
Any VEGF to any mTOR (n = 277)	7.8 (6.5–9.1)	3.4 (2.9–4.5)
Sunitinib to temsirolimus (n = 115)	7.2 (5.7–9.3)	3.2 (2.6–5.0)
Sunitinib to everolimus (n = 130)	8.6 (6.6–10.7)	3.7 (2.8–5.3)
Any VEGF to any VEGF (n = 541)	7.5 (6.9–8.0)	4.0 (3.7–4.6)
Sunitinib to sorafenib (n = 257)	7.6 (6.5–8.2)	3.6 (2.9–4.1)
Sorafenib to sunitinib (n = 152)	7.3 (6.2–8.5)	5.2 (4.2–6.8)

# INTORSECT (LBA22\_PR) Study Design



First patient randomized: September 25, 2007; last patient randomized: January 31, 2012.

Data cutoff: May 4, 2012. At present, 2 patients are on study.

# INTORSECT

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- Design
  - Well designed and conducted randomized phase III study
  - “cleanest” study thus far with regards to prior therapy, included sunitinib pretreated patients only
- Choice of comparator
  - Sorafenib was an acceptable second-line option at the time of study development
- Objective –Was the trial looking for too big of a difference ?
  - Trial was looking for a 33% improvement in PFS
- Study accrued rapidly



# Results of Current second-line Trials

Study	ORR, %	Median PFS, mo
Temsirolimus vs. sorafenib <sup>1</sup>	8 % vs. 8 %	4.3 vs. 3.9 p> 0.05
Everolimus vs placebo <sup>2</sup>	1.8 % vs. 0 %	4.6 vs. 1.8* p< 0.05
Axitinib vs. sorafenib <sup>3</sup>	19 % vs. 9 %	4.8 vs. 3.4 p< 0.05

\*Sunitinib pretreated patients only



**No statistically significant nor clinically meaningful benefit for temsirolimus over sorafenib**

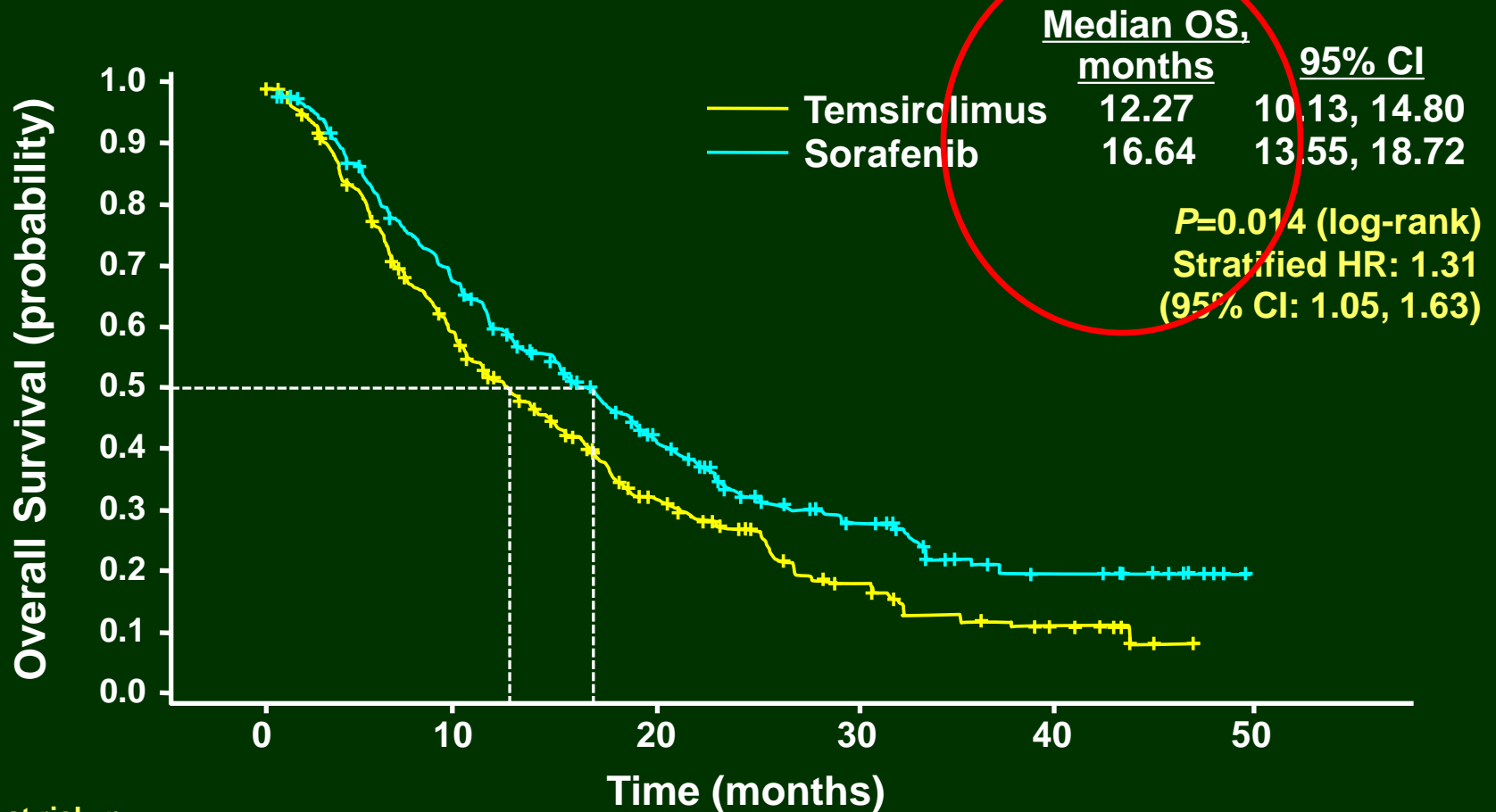
# Patient Characteristics of Current second-line Trials

Study	MSKCC G / I	PS	Clear cell	Prior anti VEGF
Everolimus vs placebo <sup>1</sup>	> 85 %	KPS $\geq$ 70 %	✓	Sunitinib and/or sorafenib
Axitinib vs. sorafenib <sup>2</sup>	65% vs. 64%	ECOG 0-1	✓	sunitinib
Temsirolimus vs. sorafenib <sup>6</sup>	> 85 %	ECOG 0-1	83 % vs. 82 %	sunitinib



**No substantial difference to existing second-line options**

# INTORSECT: Overall Survival



Patients at risk, n

Sorafenib	253	158	74	34	13	0
Temsirolimus	259	132	54	22	8	0

# Results of Current second-line Trials

Study	ORR, %	Median PFS, mo	Median OS, mo
Temsirolimus vs. sorafenib <sup>1</sup>	8 % vs. 8 %	4.3 vs. 3.9	12.3 vs. 16.6
Everolimus vs placebo <sup>2</sup>	1.8 % vs. 0 %	4.6 vs. 1.8*	14.8 vs. 14.4
Axitinib vs. sorafenib <sup>3</sup>	19 % vs. 9 %	4.8 vs. 3.4	15.2 vs. 16.5

\*Sunitinib pretreated patients only



**Numerically longest OS rates have been reported with second line TKI in particular sorafenib**

# INTORSECT: Overall Survival

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- True effect ?
  - False positive ? (secondary endpoint)
  - Difference in tumor biology and behavior ?
    - More rapid progression/tumor growth in one group ?
    - RCC is a molecularly very heterogenous tumor and patients with similar clinical presentation can have very different molecular profiles
- Stewart G et al Nat Rev Urol 2011
- Dose delivery ?
    - Discontinuation due to AEs TEM 17% vs. SOR 14%

# INTORSECT: Overall Survival

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- Subsequent therapies ?
  - few patients had third line therapy and vast majority crossed over to the other drug
- Is previous VEGF therapy altering the biology of the disease
  - protein expression in mRCC is heterogenous and expression of key proteins appear to vary with sunitinib therapy

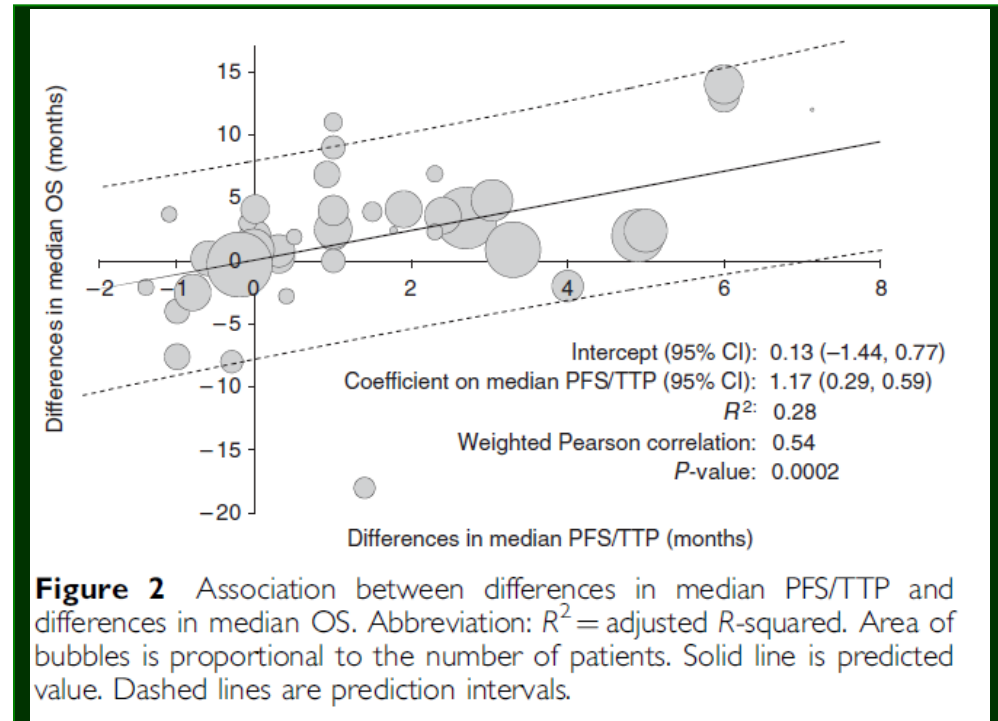


Stewart G. et al GU ASCO 2012

**The significant survival difference remains to be conclusively explained**

# PFS as a Surrogate for OS in Metastatic RCC

- Several retrospective studies have demonstrated a correlation between PFS and OS
- The vast majority of patients included into these studies were first-line patients
- PFS has become an acceptable standard endpoint for first-line studies



# Is PFS a good surrogate for OS in metastatic RCC ?

Trial / Agent	PFS	OS
Temsirolimus vs. Sorafenib	4.28 months vs 3.91 months	12.27 months vs 16.64 months
Axitinib* vs. Sorafenib	4.8 months vs 3.4 months	15.2 months vs 16.5 months

\*sunitinib pretreated pts only



**Concept of PFS as surrogate for OS is challenged in second line therapy**

**Needs to be examined**



# Conclusions (1)

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- Combinations of targeted agents in metastatic RCC remain investigational
- “Vertical blockade” with combinations of currently available agents is either too toxic or lacks additive / synergistic effects
- “Horizontal blockade” may become feasible with the large number of agents in development
- Combinations with immunotherapy (e.g. PD-1 inhibitors) are under investigation

# Conclusions (2)

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- Sequential therapy remains the standard of care
- Current second line options include everolimus and axitinib
- Optimal sequence remains to be defined
- There appears to be an uncoupling of the relationship between PFS and OS in the second line setting
  - Implications for trial design in the future
- Biomarkers are urgently needed to allow a more rational selection of therapy and allow for patient enrichment in clinical trials

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