

John Haanen, MD PhD

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ANTONI VAN LEEUWENHOEK

# High dose interleukin-2

- Approved in 1992 for metastatic RCC
  - Based on multiple phase II studies
  - Large unmet medical need
- Bolus infusions (15 min) of 600,000 IU/kg
- Responding patients may receive more than 1 cycle

# Results from RCT

	<u>Regimen</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>RR</u>	<u>p-value</u>	<u>Dur CR</u>
NCI SB	HD IV IL-2	156	21%	0.05	8
	vs				
	LD IV IL-2	150	13%		3
CWG	HD IV IL-2	95	23%	0.02	7
	vs				
	LD SC IL-2/IFN	91	10%		0

# Patient Selection Criteria?

- Clinical criteria:
  - MSKCC criteria (int med risk pts 18% alive at 5 years)
- Histological features
  - >50% alveolar, no papillar, no granular: RR of 25-39%
- CAIX expression:
  - >85% expression

Refined Pathology Risk Group		Non-Responder (n=39)	Responder (n=27)
Good risk path or intermediate path with high CAIX	Good*	18 (46%)	26 (96%)
Poor risk path or intermediate path with low CAIX	Poor	21 (54%)	1 (4%)

# The High-Dose Interleukin-2 “Select” Trial in Patients with Metastatic RCC

D McDermott, M Ghebremichael, S Signoretti, K Margolin,  
J Clark, J Sosman, J Dutcher, T Logan, R Figlin and M  
Atkins on behalf of the Cytokine Working Group

# Study Summary

- All patients met eligibility criteria
  - Measurable mRCC of all histologic subtypes
  - No prior systemic rx
  - Candidates for HD IL-2
- Accrual: Nov 2006 to July 2009
- Patients Registered: 123
- Withdrew Consent: 3
- Toxicities were as anticipated for this regimen
- Treatment related deaths: 2
- Tumor (98%) and blood (94%) collected on most pts

# Primary Endpoint

- Response Rate
  - To prospectively determine if the RR to HD IL-2 in mRCC pts with “good” pathologic predictive features was significantly higher than a historical, unselected population



# Patient Characteristics

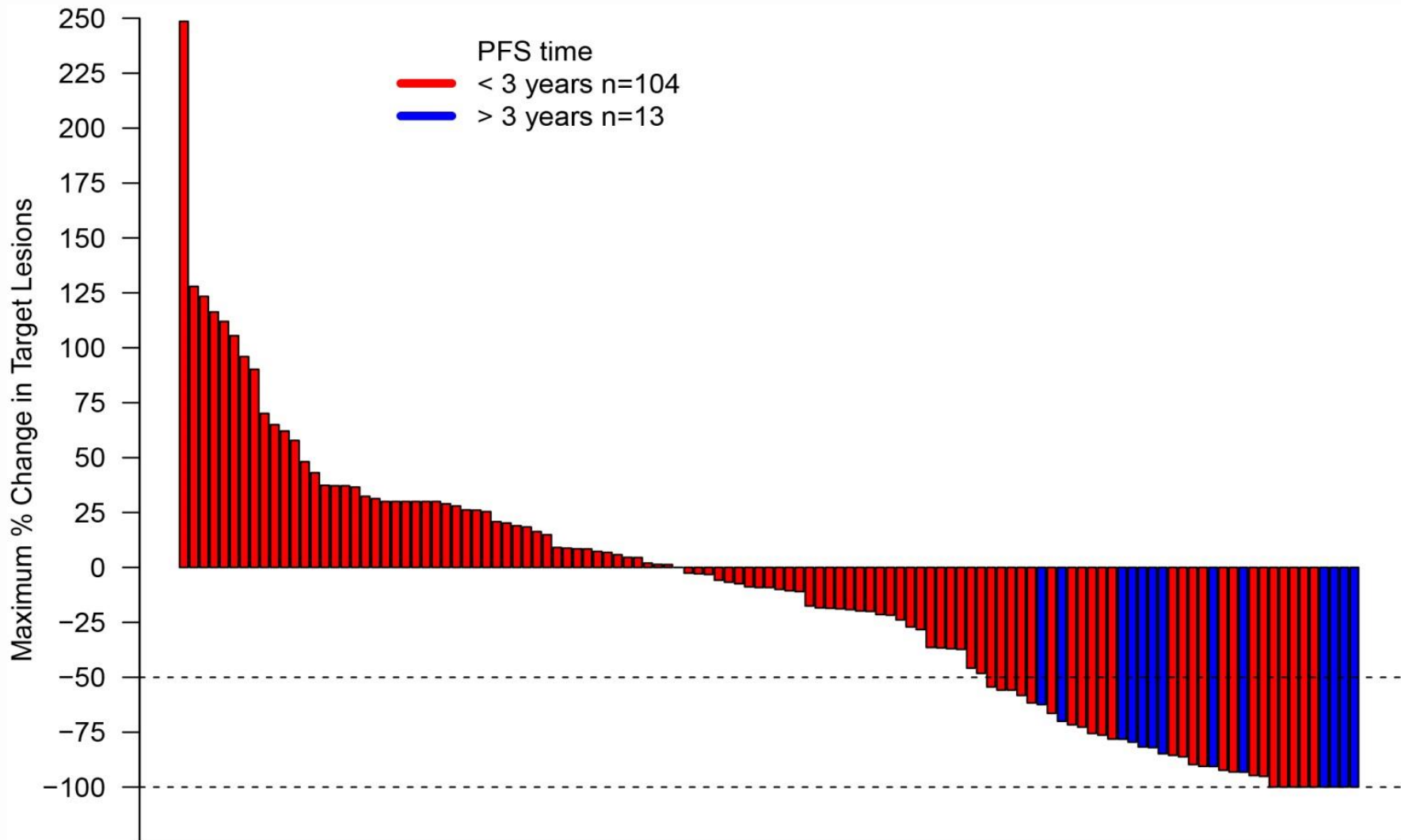
Characteristics	n=120
Median age, yrs (range)	58 (28-70)
ECOG PS 0/1 (%)	72/24
<i>Prior nephrectomy (%)</i>	<i>99</i>
MSKCC risk factors <sup>1</sup> (%)	
0 (favorable)	26
1-2 (intermediate)	69
≥3 (poor)	5
UCLA SANI Score <sup>2</sup> (%)	
Low	8
Intermediate	85
High	7

# Efficacy Results

Response*	N (%)
Patients with measurable disease at baseline (n)	120 (100)
<b>Objective response</b>	<b>34 (28)</b>
Complete response	7 (6)
Partial response	27 (22)
Stable disease (> 6 months)	15 (12)
Progressive disease/not evaluable	71 (60)
<b>Durable Responders</b>	<b>20 (17%)</b>
Range	6.1 - 34.1 mo
<b>Progression-free Survival (median)</b>	<b>4.2 mo</b>

\*Using WHO Criteria

# Maximum change in summary target lesion measurements compared with baseline (WHO criteria)



# IL-2 Select Trial:

## Response by Baseline Characteristics

	RR (95% CI)	P-value*
All Patients (n=120)	28% (20%-37%)	0.0016
Tumor type		
Clear Cell (n=115)	30% (21%-39%)	0.31
Non-clear cell (n=5)	0% (0%-52%)	
MSKCC Risk Group		
Favorable (n=31)	32% (17%-51%)	0.08
Intermediate (n=83)	24% (15%-35%)	
Poor (n=6)	67% (22%-96%)	
UCLA Risk Group		
Low (n=10)	30% (7%-65%)	0.22
Intermediate (n=101)	30% (21%-40%)	
High (n=8)	0% (0%-37%)	

# Response by Pathology Characteristics

<b>Histology risk group</b>	<b>RR (95% CI)</b>	<b>P-value*</b>
<i>Good (n=11)</i>	27% (6%-61%)	0.89
<i>Intermediate (n= 83)</i>	24% (15%-35%)	
<i>Poor (n=25)</i>	28% (12%-49%)	

<b>CAIX Score</b>		
<i>High (&gt;85% n=77)</i>	22% (13%-33%)	0.19
<i>Low (<math>\leq</math>85% n=39)</i>	33% (19%-50%)	

<b>Combined Score</b>		
<i>Good (n=74)</i>	23% (14%-34%)	0.39
<i>Poor (n=42)</i>	30% (17%-46%)	

# Conclusions

- The RR for HD IL-2 maybe significantly better than the historical experience, likely as a result of improved patient selection
- Clinical and pathologic features (e.g. SANI score and histology) may identify patients who are unlikely to respond to HD IL-2 and should not receive it
  - MSKCC criteria may not be predictive of poor response
- This prospective study does not confirm CAIX staining and histologic subtyping to be selective.

# Evaluating the Place of Interleukin-2 in the management of metastatic Renal Cell Cancer in the era of targeted therapy

Manon Evans,

Shien Chow, Victoria Galvis, Rebecca Leach,  
Elizabeth Keene, Andrea Spencer-Shaw, Alaaeldin  
Shablak, Jonathon Shanks, Fiona Thistlethwaite,  
Robert Hawkins

Medical Oncology, The University of Manchester and The Christie Hospital  
Manchester, UK



# Patient selection

- Attempts have been made to select suitable patients pre-treatment
  - MSKCC<sup>1</sup>
  - Upton<sup>2</sup>
  - Histological subtype
- At The Christie - Pathology-based selection criterion<sup>3</sup>

## Suitable patients

- **‘Favourable ‘ <10% papillary and at least one of**
  - **a) >50% clear cell or b) >50% solid / alveolar architecture**
- These are preferentially selected for treatment
- Those with ‘other’ pathology, if motivated, may also receive treatment

1. Motzer RJ, Mazumdar M, Bacik J, et al. J Clin Oncol. 1999;17:2530–2540.  
2. Upton MP, Parker RA, Youmans A, et al J Immunother. 2005;28:488–495.  
3. Shablak A, Sikand K, Shanks JH, et al J Immunother; 2011; 34: 107-112.



# Demographics

	Group A: First Line (2003 – 2013)	Group B: After VEGF targeted therapy (2007- 2013)
	Total	Total
Total patients	145	35
Median age	56	58
Nephrectomy	141 (97)	34 (97)
MSKCC		
Good / inter / poor	115 (79) / 26 (18) / 4 (3)	17 (49) / 18 (51) / 0
Pathology-based selection 'Favourable' / 'Other'	127 (88) / 19 (12)	31 (89) / 4 (11)
Prior targeted agents used	0	
1 TKI		26 (75)
2 TKI		4 (11)
1 TKI + mTORi		1 (3)
2 TKI + mTORi		4 (11)

# Response

	Group A: First Line (2003 – 2013)			Group B: After VEGF targeted therapy (2007- 2013)		
	Total (%)	ORR (%)	CR (%)	Total (%)	ORR (%)	CR (%)
<b>Whole cohort</b>	145	<b>62 (43)</b>	<b>30 (21)</b>	35	<b>13 (37)</b>	<b>6 (17)</b>

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Whole cohort	145	62 (43)	30 (21)	35	13 (37)	6 (17)
<b>Pathology-based selection</b>						
<b>‘Favourable’</b>	127 (88)	<b>59 (46)</b>	<b>29 (23)</b>	31 (89)	<b>13 (42)</b>	<b>6 (19)</b>
<b>‘Other’</b>	18 (12)	3 (17)	1 (6)	4 (11)	0	0

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<b>MSKCC</b>						
<b>Good</b>	115 (79)	<b>52 (45)</b>	<b>22 (19)</b>	17 (49)	<b>20 (41)</b>	<b>14 (29)</b>
<b>Intermediate</b>	26 (18)	<b>10 (39)</b>	<b>9 (31)</b>	18 (51)	<b>17 (33)</b>	<b>3 (6)</b>
<b>Poor</b>	4 (3)	0		0		

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'Other'	18 (12)	3 (17)	1 (6)	4 (11)	0	0
MSKCC						
Good	115 (79)	52 (45)	22 (19)	17 (49)	20 (41)	14 (29)
Intermediate	26 (18)	10 (39)	9 (31)	18 (51)	17 (33)	3 (6)
Poor	4 (3)	0		0		
CAIX						
Total	100 (69)			32 (91)		
>80	75 (75)	<b>37 (49)</b>	<b>18 (24)</b>	25 (78)	<b>11 (44)</b>	<b>5 (20)</b>
>60	87 (87)	<b>42 (48)</b>	<b>23 (27)</b>	29 (90)	<b>12 (41)</b>	<b>6 (21)</b>

# Where do these results differ from the SELECT trial?

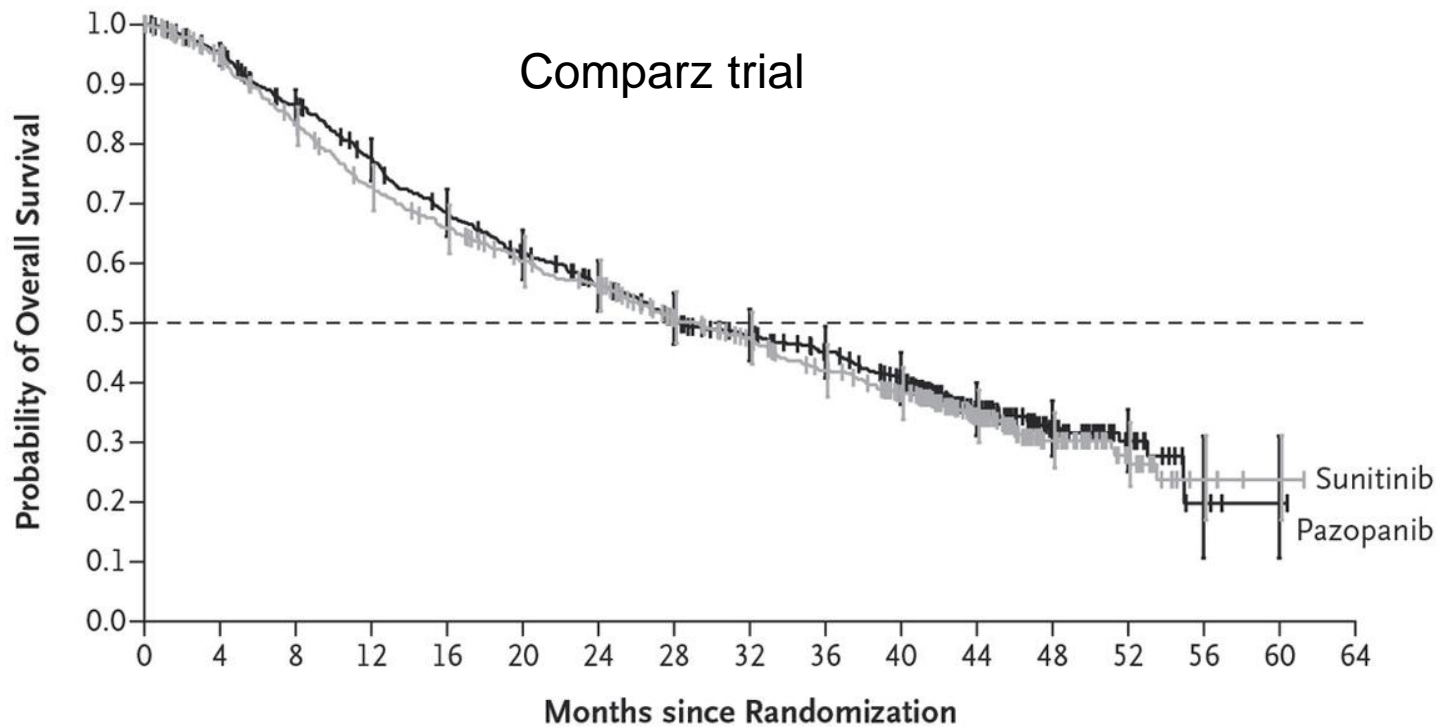
- The patient population
  - MSKCC poor risk group did NOT have a response
- CAIX expression
  - Lower expression separated pts responding better than high expression(so CAIX expression is probably not discriminating responders from non-responders)
- Pathological features
  - Similar to Select and here selected for responders
- Single institution versus multicenter study

**Both studies: RR to IL-2 was much higher than historically observed**

# Is there still room for high dose IL-2?

- This study shows a high ORR and CR rate!
- Failure to TT did not preclude response to HD IL-2 (if patients were selected well) (although data are conflicting published results)
- TT does not result in cure whereas HD IL-2 can
- Are we better in dealing with toxicity?

# Overall survival

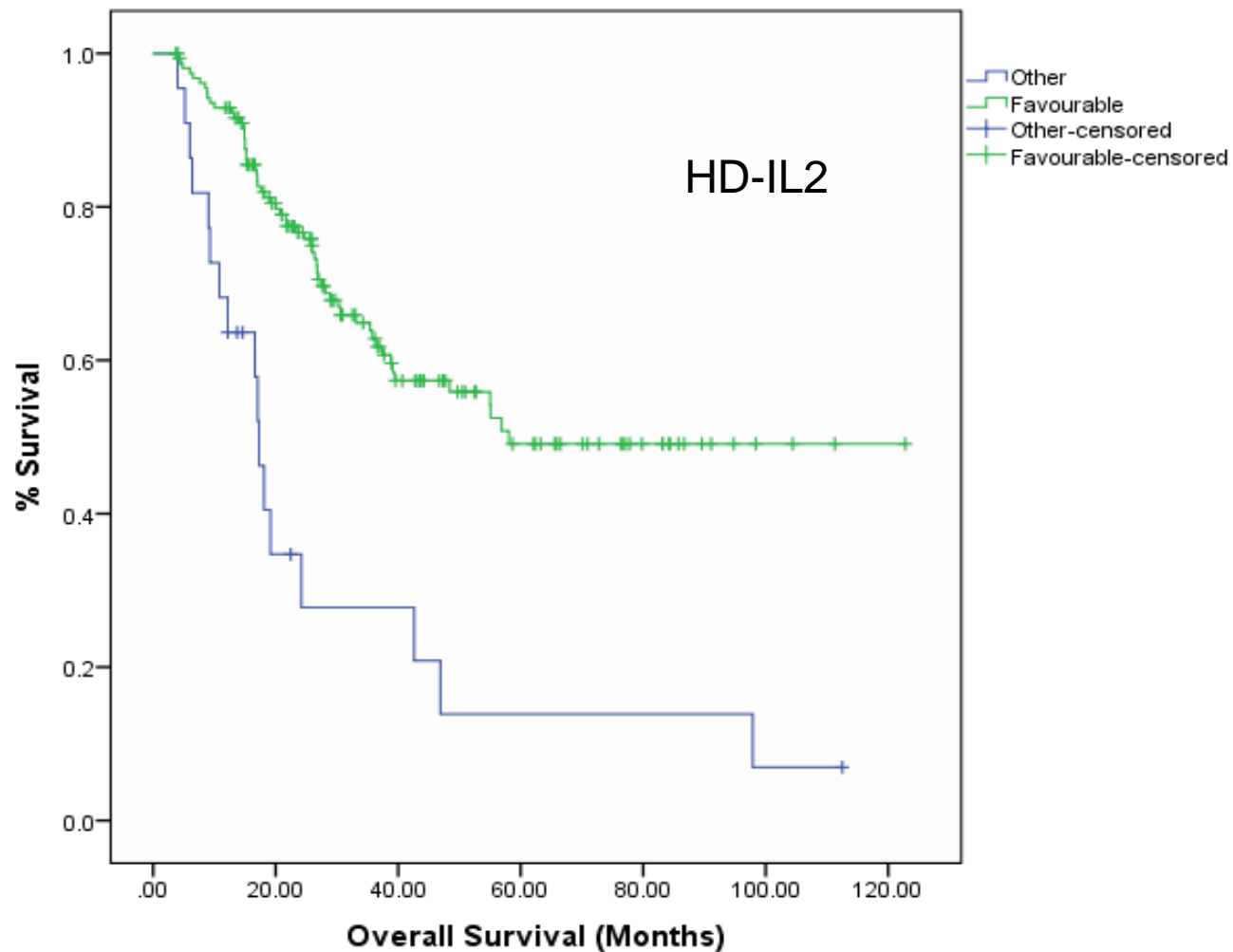


## No. at Risk

Pazopanib	557	521	462	409	360	320	284	243	221	197	169	99	51	21	4	1	0
Sunitinib	553	501	435	377	339	304	281	237	211	180	153	100	45	20	4	1	0



# Overall survival



# Can we select even better?

# Response by tumor expression of B7-H1 (PD-L1) or B7-H3

	RR	p-value*
<b>B7-H1 Tumor</b>		
Negative (n=95)	19%	0.012
Positive (n=18)	50%	
<b>B7-H3 Tumor</b>		
Negative (n=28)	10.7%	0.075
Positive (n=85)	29.4%	

IHC performed at Mayo Clinic by Kwon, Leibovich, et al.

Courtesy of David McDermott

# Conclusion

- HD IL-2 remains a treatment option for a highly selected patient population with mRCC in experienced centers
- In contrast to targeted therapy, HD IL-2 can induce durable remissions, probably cure in CR patients
- HD IL-2 should be given as 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment, although IL-2 may have similar activity after prior targeted therapy
- New immunotherapies are on their way and results may impact on the future use of HD IL-2 (and targeted agents)