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Real-World Treatment Trends for patients with advanced prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma and their cost - A Survey in Japan

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Running Head:

Pharmacotherapy for Urologic Cancers in Japan¹

¹ADT: androgen deprivation therapy; ARSI: androgen receptor signaling inhibitor; TKI: Tyrosine kinase

1 **Abstract:**

2 **Background:** Advanced (Stage IV) prostate and renal cancer have poor prognosis,
3 and several therapies have been developed, but many are very costly. This study
4 investigated drug regimens used in patients with untreated Stage IV prostate cancer
5 and renal cell carcinoma (RCC) and calculated the monthly cost of each. **Methods:**
6 We surveyed first-line drugs administered to patients with untreated Stage IV
7 prostate cancer and renal cancer at Japan Clinical Oncology Group affiliated centers
8 from April 2022–March 2023. Drug costs were calculated according to drug prices as
9 of September 2023. Individual drug costs were calculated or converted to 28-day
10 costs. **Results:** A total of 700 patients with untreated Stage IV prostate cancer were
11 surveyed. Androgen deprivation therapy + androgen receptor signaling inhibitor
12 (ARSI) was the most common regimen (56%). The cost of ADT + ARSI was 10.6–
13 30.8-fold compared to conventional treatments. A total of 137 patients with Stage IV
14 renal cancer were surveyed. Among them, 91% of patients received IO-based
15 regimen. All patients received treatments with a monthly cost of $\geq 500,000$ JPY, and
16 80.4% of patients received treatments with a monthly cost of ≥ 1 million JPY, of
17 combination treatments. The cost of IO-based regimen was 1.2–3.1-fold that of TKI
18 alone. **Conclusion:** To the best of our knowledge, this is the first report of a survey of
19 first-line drug therapy in untreated Stage IV prostate cancer and RCC stratified by
20 age and treatment costs. Our results show that most Japanese patients received
21 state-of-the-art, effective treatments with high financial burden.

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inhibitor; IO: immune-oncology drug; JPY: Japanese yen; mCSPC: metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer

1 **Mini-abstract:** The first report of a survey of first-line drug therapy in untreated Stage
2 IV prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma stratified by age and treatment costs in
3 Japan.

4

5 **Key words:**

6 Renal cell carcinoma, prostate cancer, immune-combination therapy, treatment cost

1 **Introduction**

2 Japan is facing an unprecedented super-aging society(1). Prostate cancer and renal
3 cell carcinoma are the most common urologic cancers among older adults. In Japan,
4 the incidence of prostate cancer is approximately 15 per 10,000 population, and it was
5 the leading cancer in men in 2019(2). The average age of patients with prostate cancer
6 is 71.3 years, and the 10-year cancer-specific survival proportion for stages I-III and IV
7 (14.6% of all patients) are approximately 90% (good prognosis) and 36.9% (poor
8 prognosis), respectively. In contrast, the average age of patients with renal cell
9 carcinoma is 65.5 years. Similar to prostate cancer, the 10-year cancer-specific
10 survival proportion for stages I-II and IV (16.2% of all patients) are approximately 80%
11 (good prognosis) and 7.3% (poor prognosis), respectively(3). Both prostate cancer and
12 renal cell carcinoma have extremely poor prognoses when diagnosed at Stage IV,
13 when metastasis has occurred.

14 The standard treatment for Stage IV prostate cancer was androgen deprivation
15 therapy (ADT)(4). However, metastatic prostate cancer that initially responded to ADT
16 became resistant to ADT and progressed to metastatic castration-resistant prostate
17 cancer within 2–3 years(5). Subsequently, new therapies were developed, and
18 docetaxel, abiraterone, enzalutamide, and apalutamide, in combination with ADT,
19 impaired disease progression and improved overall survival (OS) in randomized
20 clinical trials(6-15). This is now the current standard of care.

21 The standard of care for Stage IV renal cell carcinoma has reached a turning point:
22 inhibitors of the programmed cell death receptor pathway (immune-oncology drug: IO)
23 in combination with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) (IO-TKI combination) or in
24 combination with other IO agents (IO-IO combination) were compared with the TKI
25 sunitinib alone. IO-TKI and IO-IO combination therapy showed improved response

1 rates, progression-free survival, and OS compared with TKI sunitinib alone(16-26).
2 Thus, with the development of new therapeutic approaches, improvement in prognosis
3 has been achieved, but both TKIs and IOs are expensive treatments.

4 Although the development of new therapies has improved prognosis, the cost of new
5 drug therapies for cancer treatment has skyrocketed in recent years, which has
6 become a problem worldwide (27-29). For example, high drug costs threaten
7 healthcare budgets and limit funding for other areas such as public investment. In
8 countries that, unlike Japan, do not have universal health insurance, the high cost of
9 prescription drugs can lead to high out-of-pocket costs for individual patients, making
10 drugs unaffordable for those who need them. Recently, higher drug costs have been
11 widely reported across new therapies, particularly for patients with prostate cancer and
12 renal cell carcinoma (30, 31). In this study, we surveyed patients with untreated Stage
13 IV prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma in Japan to determine the currently used
14 drugs. We also calculated the proportion of new treatments in the total drug treatment
15 and the monthly cost per month for each treatment. This study was carried out under
16 the leadership of the Japan Clinical Oncology Group (JCOG) Health Economic
17 Committee.

18 19 **Patients and methods**

20 A survey was conducted among physicians at JCOG-affiliated centers regarding the
21 initial drug therapy given to patients with untreated Stage IV prostate cancer and renal
22 cell carcinoma. The patients were first diagnosed with advanced cancer at JCOG
23 institutions between April 2022 and March 2023. The number of patients in different
24 age categories (<75 and ≥75 years) were collected separately. A Google Form
25 questionnaire was used, and no personal patient information was collected; the survey

1 investigated the initial treatment given.

2 The prostate cancer drug regimens included ADT alone (goserelin, leuporelin, or
3 degarelix), ADT + antiandrogen (bicalutamide or flutamide), ADT + docetaxel, and ADT
4 + androgen receptor signaling inhibitor (ARSI; abiraterone, apalutamide, or
5 enzalutamide). For renal cell carcinoma drug therapy, the study included patients who
6 received TKI (sunitinib, pazopanib, cabozantinib, or sorafenib), IO-IO (nivolumab +
7 ipilimumab), and IO-TKI (pembrolizumab + axitinib, avelumab + axitinib, nivolumab +
8 cabozantinib, or pembrolizumab + lenvatinib) regimens.

9 Drug costs were calculated according to drug prices as of September 2023. For
10 docetaxel, avelumab, and ipilimumab doses, a body weight of 59 kg and a body surface
11 area of 1.68 m² were used as the standard for Japanese patients. For nivolumab +
12 ipilimumab, the monthly cost was calculated after the 12-month drug cost was
13 calculated because the cost of treatment in the first three months and beyond varies.
14 We defined high-cost and very high-cost treatments as those that cost ≥500,000 and
15 ≥1,000,000 Japanese yen (JPY) per month, respectively, as per the definition
16 prescribed by the JCOG Health Economics Committee.

18 **Results**

19 Among 44 JCOG participating centers, 38 and 36 centers provided information about
20 the drugs they used to treat prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma, respectively
21 (Supplementary Table 1). A total of 700 patients with untreated Stage IV prostate
22 cancer and 137 patients with Stage IV renal cell carcinoma were surveyed.

23 The main treatments that were introduced for metastatic hormone sensitive prostate
24 cancer (mCSPC) stratified by age and cost per month are shown in Figure 1 and Table
25 1. ADT + ARSI was the most common (56%) regimen, and ADT + docetaxel was the

1 least common (4.0%). Patients who were ≥ 75 years old were more likely to be treated
2 with ADT alone than patients < 75 years old (18.5% vs. 9.6%). Furthermore, patients
3 ≥ 75 years old were less likely to be treated with ADT + apalutamide than those < 75
4 years old (9.8% vs. 18.4%). Of note, ADT + ARSI was administered to 56% of all
5 treated patients, with drug costs ranging from 272874–424746 JPY (Table 1). The cost
6 of ADT + ARSI was 10.6–30.8-fold compared to ADT alone and ADT + antiandrogen,
7 which are conventional treatments. Therefore, although no patients received high-cost
8 treatments according to the definition used by this study, treatment costs for mCSPC
9 have greatly increased. Details of drug costs for prostate cancer are described in
10 Supplementary Table 2.

11 Table 2 lists the results of clinical trials on primary drug therapy for mCSPC. It
12 summarizes the drug dose, OS, recurrence-free survival, older adult sample size, and
13 treatment duration of each clinical trial. The control treatment was ADT alone in all
14 clinical trials except the ENZAMET trial. The LATITUDE trial included patients with
15 high-risk mCSPC, while the other trials included all mCSPC patients. In each trial,
16 $> 45\%$ of patients were > 70 years old and 20–30% were > 75 years old. The previously
17 reported median duration of treatment for ADT alone, ADT + antiandrogen, ADT +
18 docetaxel, ADT + abiraterone, ADT + apalutamide, and ADT + enzalutamide was 13.8-
19 20.2, 13.8-20.2, 33, 25.8, 39.3, and 40.2 months, respectively (Table 2). ADT +
20 enzalutamide had the longest median treatment duration, and the overall total
21 treatment cost was 11,094,034 JPY. Since no head-to-head trials have compared these
22 three ARSIs, clinicians are faced with the challenging task of choosing the most
23 appropriate treatment for patients with mCSPC.

24 Figure 2 and Table 3 show the treatments that were used for metastatic renal cancer
25 stratified by age and cost per month: TKI alone, nivolumab + ipilimumab,

pembrolizumab + axitinib, avelumab + axitinib, nivolumab + cabozantinib, pembrolizumab + lenvatinib were administered to 8.8%, 19.3%, 10.8%, 9.3%, 17.5%, and 34.3% of patients. A higher proportion of patients >75 years of age were treated with TKIs alone than patients <75 years of age (13.5% vs. 6.9%). Moreover, patients ≥75 years of age were also more likely to receive avelumab + axitinib than those <75 (6.9% vs. 15.3%). Drug costs ranged from 623,243–1,616,042 JPY, all of which were high-cost treatments (>500,000 JPY). Four combination therapies were very expensive, costing >1,000,000 JPY/month, and the fifth did not strictly meet the definition of a very high-cost treatment, but was expensive, costing close to 1,000,000 JPY/month. According to the definition of this study, all patients received high-cost treatments as primary therapy for metastatic renal cancer. Furthermore, 80.4% of patients with metastatic renal cancer received very high-cost treatments, with breakdown of 81.3% of <75 years of age and 78.4% of ≥75 years of age. The details of drug costs for renal cell carcinoma are described in Supplementary Table 3.

Table 4 lists the results of clinical trials of metastatic renal cell carcinoma treatments. In all trials, the control was sunitinib alone. Four trials included approximately 40% of patients aged 65 years or older. In the nivolumab + ipilimumab trial, only 8.2% of the patients were aged 75 years or older. The duration of TKI alone, nivolumab + ipilimumab, pembrolizumab + axitinib, avelumab + axitinib, and nivolumab + cabozantinib, and pembrolizumab + lenvatinib treatments were reported as 7.3–11, 7.9, 10.4, 8.6–9.0, 14.3, and 17 months of treatment, respectively (Table 4). The pembrolizumab + lenvatinib regimen had the longest median treatment duration, and the overall total treatment cost was calculated to be 18,784,677 JPY. The lack of head-to-head trials has made it difficult for clinicians to select first-line treatment for patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

Discussion

Until 2015, ADT alone was the common treatment for mCSPC. However, in recent years, novel hormone therapy and chemotherapy drugs have been developed based on ADT, and clinical trials have shown their efficacy and safety. The 2023 Japan Urological Association guidelines also weakly recommend the use of ADT + ARSI as a primary hormone therapy for mCSPC (32).

In the current survey, ADT + ARSI was introduced in 56% of patients in Japan. Three ADT + ARSI regimens are available, but the number of patients treated with ADT + apalutamide, which has been on the insurance list for only a short time, was less than that of the other two regimens. The low percentage of older patients administered ADT + apalutamide may be due to inexperience with administration of this combination therapy. In contrast, 34% of patients receive ADT + ARSI in the United States and Europe(33, 34). This indicates that the use of ARSI is more widespread in Japan than in the West possibly due to Japan's universal health insurance system which makes the drugs available to many patients, even if they are expensive. Although there was no treatment among the initial drug therapies for mCSPC in which the monthly cost exceeded 500,000JPY, the total cost of ADT + ARSI is likely to be notably higher than other options because of the long treatment period involved.

Patients ≥ 75 years used ADT + antiandrogen more frequently than patients < 75 (47.4% vs. 32.8%), whereas ADT + ARSI was used less frequently (49.8% vs. 62.2%). This suggests that clinicians balance efficacy and safety when choosing systemic treatment for mCSPC, considering the patient's age and medical condition. Of note, prospective data are limited due to the lack of enrollment of patients aged 75 years and older in pivotal clinical trials. However, retrospective real-world data indicates that

1 caution is needed regarding adverse events specific to older adults, such as falls, but
2 appropriately adjusted doses are well-tolerated and provide oncologic benefits similar
3 to those observed in younger adults (35-37). Among the three ARSIs, ADT +
4 Abiraterone is approximately 1.5-fold compared to the other two ARSIs. However, no
5 cost-effectiveness analysis has been performed to evaluate the relative merits of these
6 three ARSIs.

7 The treatment of metastatic renal cancer has reached a turning point with the
8 development of novel therapies combining immune checkpoint inhibitors and TKIs,
9 resulting in increased therapeutic response rates and survival. The Society for
10 Immunotherapy of Cancer guidelines state that all patients without contraindications to
11 immunotherapy should receive a first-line IO-based regimen (38). Due to the lack of a
12 cost-effectiveness analysis, clinicians need to choose the best IO-based regimen
13 based on evidence from clinical trial data, pathological findings, patient compliance,
14 personal belief, and regulatory approval.

15 In this survey, TKI (only), IO-IO, and IO-TKI regimens were administered to 9%, 19%,
16 and 72% of the patients, respectively. In contrast, a report based on a U.S. database
17 showed that between 2019 and 2022, TKI monotherapy decreased from 33.8% to 8.4%,
18 while IO-IO increased from 52.8% to 57.7%, and IO-TKI also increased from 13.3% to
19 33.9(39, 40). This indicates that the use of immune-combination therapy is more
20 widespread in Japan than in the West due to drug availability, even for renal cell
21 carcinoma drug therapy.

22 Notably, avelumab + axitinib therapy has the highest cost, >1.5 million JPY per
23 month, while the costs of the other four immune-combination therapies are
24 approximately 1 million JPY per month. All of the immune-combination therapies are
25 expensive, but there are differences in cost among them; the relative differences

1 between the therapies are small, but the absolute differences are appreciable. The
2 most expensive drug among the TKI monotherapy options was sunitinib, but the
3 monthly drug costs for both TKI monotherapy options exceeded 500,000 JPY. Because
4 conventional TKI therapy is also expensive, the cost ratio of the new therapy compared
5 to conventional therapy for renal cell carcinoma is not as obvious as that of prostate
6 cancer, but the overall cost is larger (41).

7 While avelumab + axitinib was prescribed the least frequently, it was prescribed the
8 most frequently to the elderly among first-line combined immunotherapies. This may
9 be partly due to the drug characteristics (avelumab is a PDL1 antibody) and safety
10 profile. This combination has the lowest incidence of immune-related adverse events,
11 hence, the increased probability of prescribing it to older adults (20). The most
12 frequently prescribed combined immunotherapy was pembrolizumab + lenvatinib, but
13 the frequency of prescriptions for older adults was low. This is due to the higher
14 incidence of adverse events in prospective studies compared to other immunocomplex
15 therapies (42), resulting in physicians being cautious about administering the therapy.

16 There are clinical trials that have focused on reducing the cost of expensive drugs.
17 One of them is the low-dose abiraterone trial, in which the dose of abiraterone can be
18 reduced by taking it after a meal with non-inferior effect to the standard dose (43, 44).
19 Although no phase III trials have been conducted, the NCCN guidelines suggest taking
20 a quarter of the usual dose of abiraterone with a low-fat diet as an alternative when
21 circumstances preclude taking the typical dose (45, 46). The other clinical trial is
22 related to IO-based treatment. Considering the long-lasting effect of IO-based
23 treatment, discontinuation of IO-based therapy may help reduce side effects and the
24 financial burden of taking these drugs. There are two ongoing prospective trials that
25 aim to confirm the non-inferiority of discontinuation versus continuation of IO-based

1 treatment (47, 48).

2 This study had limitations. First, the survey was conducted over a short period of
3 one year at limited JCOG participating centers and did not capture the actual treatment
4 duration. Second, the cost of each treatment was calculated based on one year of
5 treatment at the usual dose, and thus, does not consider cases in which the dose was
6 reduced or discontinued in actual practice. However, to the best of our knowledge, this
7 is the first report of a survey of first-line drug regimens for patients with untreated Stage
8 IV prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma patients in Japan stratified by age and
9 treatment costs. The survey results can be used to plan future health economic studies
10 that examine cost-effectiveness and promote the efficient use of limited resources to
11 ensure better patient outcomes.

12 13 **Conclusion**

14 This study reports on prescription preferences and respective drug costs in Japan
15 based on a questionnaire survey of first-line drug therapy for untreated Stage IV
16 prostate cancer and renal cell carcinoma. Most Japanese patients with urologic
17 cancers receive state-of-the-art, effective treatments, but the costs of these treatments
18 are very high and rapidly increasing.

19
20 **Conflict of Interest Statement:** Takahiro Osawa has received honoraria from Ono,
21 MSD, and Takeda. Hiroshi Kitamura has received honoraria from Astellas,
22 AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen, MSD, and Sanofi, and has received
23 research expenses from AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and MSD. Hiroyuki
24 Nishiyama received honoraria from Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb,
25 Ono, MSD, and Merck, and has received donations for education and research from

Bayer, and has received consultant fees from Janssen, MSD, One, and AstraZeneca.
The other authors have no conflicts of interest.

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Tables

Table 1. Number of patients by type of treatment, breakdown of patients by age, and monthly drug costs.

Table 2. Results of pivotal trials investigating hormone therapies for metastatic prostate cancer.

Table 3. Number of patients by type of treatment, breakdown of patients by age, and monthly drug costs.

Table 4. Results of pivotal trials investigating combination therapies for metastatic renal cell carcinoma

Supplementary table 1. List of Facilities Responding to Questionnaire on Treatment of Prostate Cancer (n = 38)

Supplementary table 2. Details of drug costs for prostate cancer.

Supplementary table 3. The details of drug costs for renal cell carcinoma.

Figure Legends

Figure 1. A. Treatment selection for patients with untreated Stage IV prostate cancer. B. Treatment selection (stratified by age) for patients with untreated Stage IV prostate cancer. C. Number of patients stratified by age for each of the three ADT + ARSI

1 treatments. D. Treatment costs of different regimens. (ADT: androgen deprivation
2 therapy; ARSI: androgen receptor signaling inhibitor.)

3 Figure 2. A. Treatment selection for patients with untreated Stage IV renal cell
4 carcinoma. B. Treatment selection stratified by age for patients with untreated Stage
5 IV renal cell carcinoma. (TKI: Tyrosine kinase inhibitor; IO: immune-oncology drug;
6 JPY: Japanese yen)

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Table 1. Number of patients by type of treatment, breakdown of patients by age, and monthly drug costs.

Treatment	Age, <75 yr	Age, ≥75 yr	Total		Cost per month, JPY
ADT alone	36 (9.6%)	60 (18.5%)	96 (13.7%)		16383
ADT+ antiandrogen	87 (23.2%)	94 (28.9%)	181 (25.9%)		21319
ADT+ docetaxel	19 (5.1%)	9 (2.8%)	28 (4.0%)		54693
ADT+ abiraterone	76 (20.3%)	71 (21.8%)	147 (21.0%)	} ADT + ARSI (56.4%)	424746
ADT+ apalutamide	69 (18.4%)	32 (9.8%)	101 (14.4%)		272874
ADT+ enzalutamide	88 (23.5%)	59 (18.2%)	147 (21.0%)		275971
Total	375 (100%)	325 (100%)	700 (100%)		

ADT: androgen deprivation therapy

Table 2. Results of pivotal trials investigating hormone therapies for metastatic prostate cancer.

	LATITUDE	CHARRTED	ENZAMET	ARCHES	TITAN
Author	Fizazi (2017, 2019)	Sweeney (2015) Kyriakopoulos (2018)	Davis (2019) Sweeney (2023)	Armstrong (2019) Armstrong (2022)	Chi (2019, 2021)
New treatment	Abiraterone + ADT	Docetaxel + ADT	Enzalutamide + ADT	Enzalutamide + ADT	Apalutamide + ADT
Dosage	1000mg	75mg/m ²	160mg	160mg	240mg
Control	Placebo + ADT	ADT	NSAA + ADT	Placebo + ADT	Placebo + ADT
Inclusion criteria	High-risk mHSPC Gleason > 8 Bone meta > 3 Visceral meta	mHSPC	mHSPC	mHSPC	mHSPC
N (total)	1199	790	1125	1150	1152
N (new treatment)	597	397	563	574	525
Age (new treatment), years, median, (range)	68 yr, (38-89)	64 yr, (36-88)	69 yr, (63-74)	70 yr, (46-92)	69 yr, (45-94)
Elderly patients (new treatment), No. (%)	≥75 yr, 123 (20.6%)	≥70 yr, 178 (44.8%)	≥70 yr, 257 (45.6%)	≥75 yr, 170 (29.6%)	≥75 yr, 133 (25.3%)
OS, months, median, New treatment/control	53.3/ 36.5	57.6/ 47.2	NR/ NR	NR/ NR	NR/ 52.2

	HR 0.66 (95%CI 0.56-0.78)	HR 0.72 (95%CI 0.59-0.89)	HR 0.70 (95%CI 0.58-0.84)	HR 0.66 (95%CI 0.53-0.81)	HR 0.66 (95% 0.53-0.79)
PFS, months, median, New treatment/ control	rPFS 33.1/ 14.7	cPFS 33.0/ 19.8	cPFS 81.0/ 25.0	rPFS 49.8/ 38.9	rPFS NR/ 22.1
	HR 0.46 (95%CI 0.39-0.54)	HR 0.62 (95%CI 0.51-0.75)	HR 0.45 (95%CI 0.39-0.53)	HR 0.63 (95%CI 0.52-0.76)	HR 0.48 (95% 0.39-0.60)
Treatment duration, month, median, (range)					
New treatment	25.8 (IQR: 12.3-49)	NA	NA	40.2 (range 0.2-58.1)	39.3 (range 0-55.7)
Control	14.4 (IQR: 7.3-25.8)	NA	NA	13.8 (range 0.2-27.6)	20.2 (range 0.1-37.0)

ADT, androgen deprivation therapy; c, clinical; CI, confidence interval; meta,metastasis; HR, hazard ratio; NA, not available; NR, not reached; NSAA, non-steroidalantiandrogen; OS, overall survival; PC, prostatecancer; PFS, progression free survival; r, radiographic.

Table 3. Number of patients by type of treatment, breakdown of patients by age, and monthly drug costs.

Treatment	Age, <75 yr	Age, ≥75 yr	Total	Cost per month, JPY
TKI alone	20 (6.9%)	15 (13.5%)	35 (8.8%)	623243
IO-IO (nivolumab + ipilimumab)	57 (19.8%)	20 (18%)	77 (19.3%)	1012535
IO-TKI (pembrolizumab + axitinib)	34 (11.8%)	9 (8.1%)	43 (10.8%)	971919
IO-TKI (avelumab + axitinib)	20 (6.9%)	17 (15.3%)	37 (9.3%)	1616042
IO-TKI (nivolumab + cabozantinib)	50 (17.4%)	20 (18%)	70 (17.5%)	1181236
IO-TKI (pembrolizumab + lenvatinib)	107 (37.2%)	30 (27%)	137 (34.3%)	1104981

TKI: tyrosine kinase inhibitor, IO: immune-oncology drug, JPY: Japanese yen

Table 4. Results of pivotal trials investigating combination therapies for metastatic renal cell carcinoma

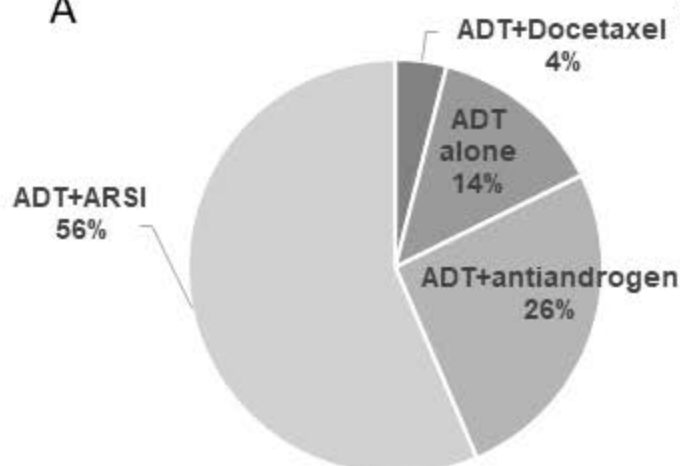
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Author	Motzer (2018, 2019)	Motzer (2019)	Rini (2019)	Choueiri (2021)	Motzer (2021)
	Albiges (2020)	Choueiri (2020)	Powles (2020)	Motzer (2022)	Choueiri (2023)
New treatment	Ipilimumab +Nivolumab	Avelumab + Axitinib	Pembrolizumab +Axitinib	Nivolumab + Cabozantinib	Pembrolizumab +Lenvatinib
Dosage	Nivolumab (3 mg per kilogram), Ipilimumab (1 mg per kilogram)	Avelumab (a dose of 10 mg per kilogram of body weight), axitinib (5 mg twice daily)	Pembrolizumab was (a dose of 200 mg once every 3 weeks), Axitinib (a dose of 5 mg twice daily)	Nivolumab (a dose of 240 mg), cabozantinib (a dose of 40 mg once daily)	lenvatinib (a dose of 20 mg orally once daily), pembrolizumab (a dose of 200 mg)
Control	Sunitinib	Sunitinib	Sunitinib	Sunitinib	Sunitinib
Inclusion criteria	Untreated advanced renal-cell carcinoma with a clear-cell component	Untreated advanced renal-cell carcinoma with a clear-cell component	Untreated advanced renal-cell carcinoma with a clear-cell component	Untreated advanced renal-cell carcinoma with a clear-cell component	Untreated advanced renal-cell carcinoma with a clear-cell component
IMDC risk	Intermediate/ poor	all risk	all risk	all risk	all risk
N (total)	847	886	861	651	1069
N (new treatment)	425	442	432	323	355
Age (treatment), years, median, (range)	62 yr, (26-85)	62 yr, (29-83)	62 yr, (30-89)	62 yr, (29-90)	64 yr, (34-88)
Elderly patients (treatment), No. (%)	≥75 yr, 35 (8.2%)	≥65 yr, 171 (38.7%)	≥65 yr, 172 (39.8%)	≥65 yr, 132 (40.9%)	≥65 yr, 161 (45.4%)
OS, months, median	48.1/ 26.6	NR/ NR	NR/ 35.7	37.7/ 34.3	NR/ NR
New treatment/ control					

	HR 0.65, 95%CI (0.54-0.78)	0.80, 95% CI (0.62-1.03)	HR 0.68, 95%CI (0.55-0.85)	HR 0.70, 95%CI (0.55-0.90)	HR 0.72 95%CI (0.55-0.93)
PFS, months, median New treatment/ control	11.2/8.3	13.3/8.0	15.4/11.1	16.6/ 8.3	23.3/9.2
	HR 0.74 (95%CI 0.62-0.88)	HR 0.69 (95% CI 0.57-0.83)	HR 0.71 (95%CI 0.60-0.84)	HR 0.56 (95%CI 0.46-0.68)	HR 0.42 (95%CI 0.34-0.52)
Treatment duration, month, median, (range)					
New treatment	7.9 (2.1-21.8)	8.6 (0.5-25.3) for avelumab, 9.0 (0.02-24.9) for axitinib	10.4 (0.03-21.2)	14.3 (0.2-27.3)	17.0 (0.1-39.1)
Control	7.8 (3.5-19.6)	7.3 (0.2-23)	7.8 (0.07-20.5)	9.2 (0.8-27.6)	11.0 (0.1-40.0)

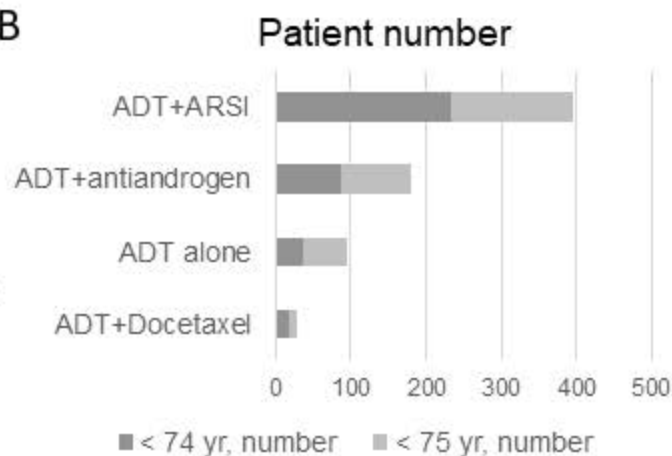
c, clinical; CI, confidence interval; meta,metastasis; HR, hazard ratio; NA, not avairable; NR, not reached; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression free survival.

Figure 1

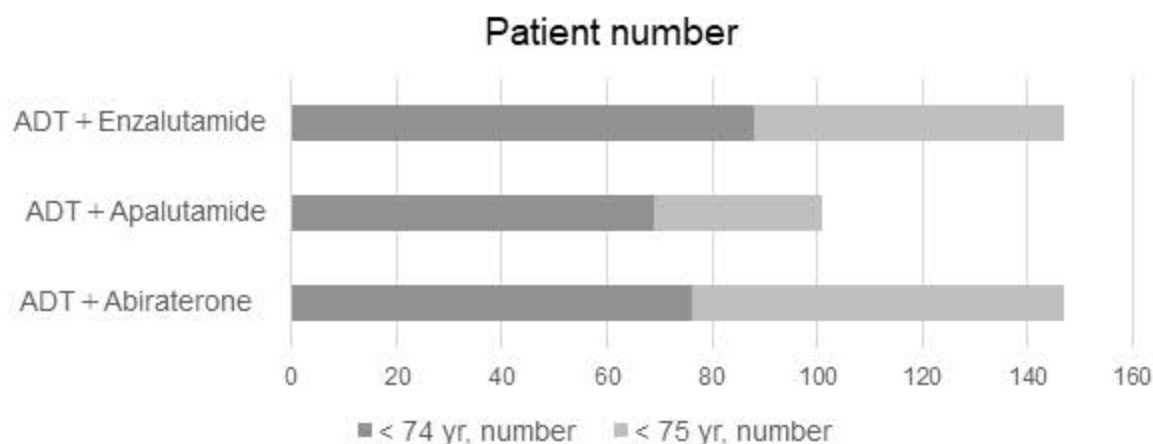
A



B



C



D

Cost per month, JPY

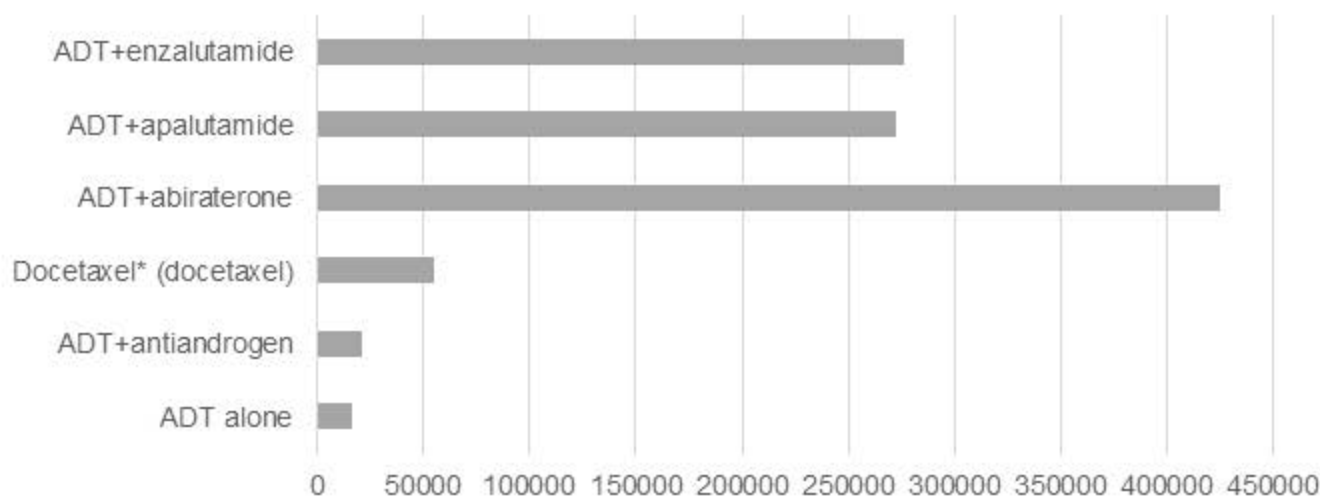
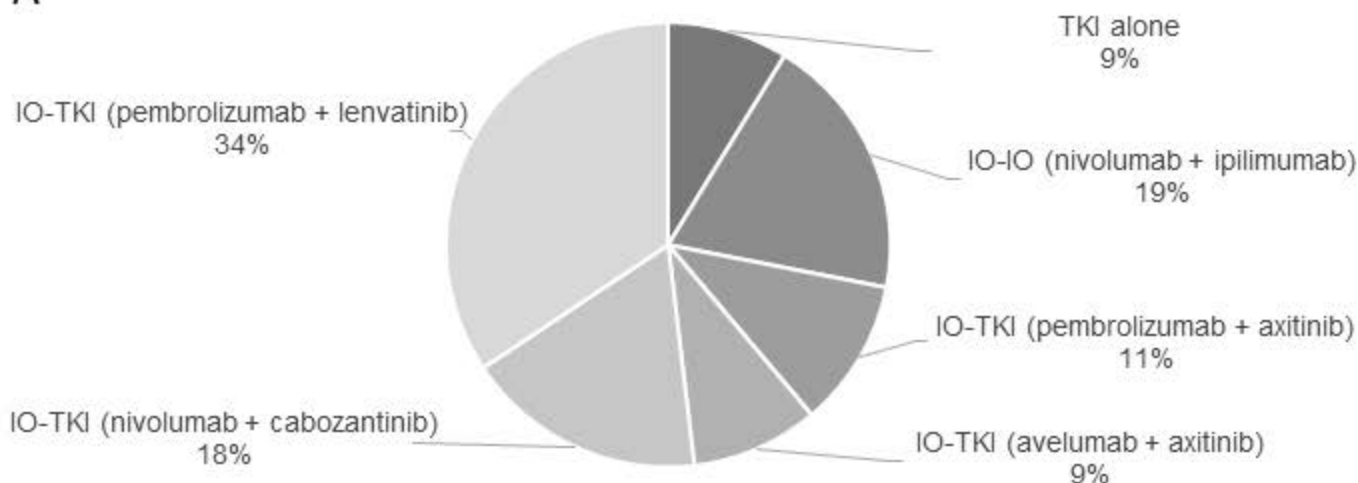
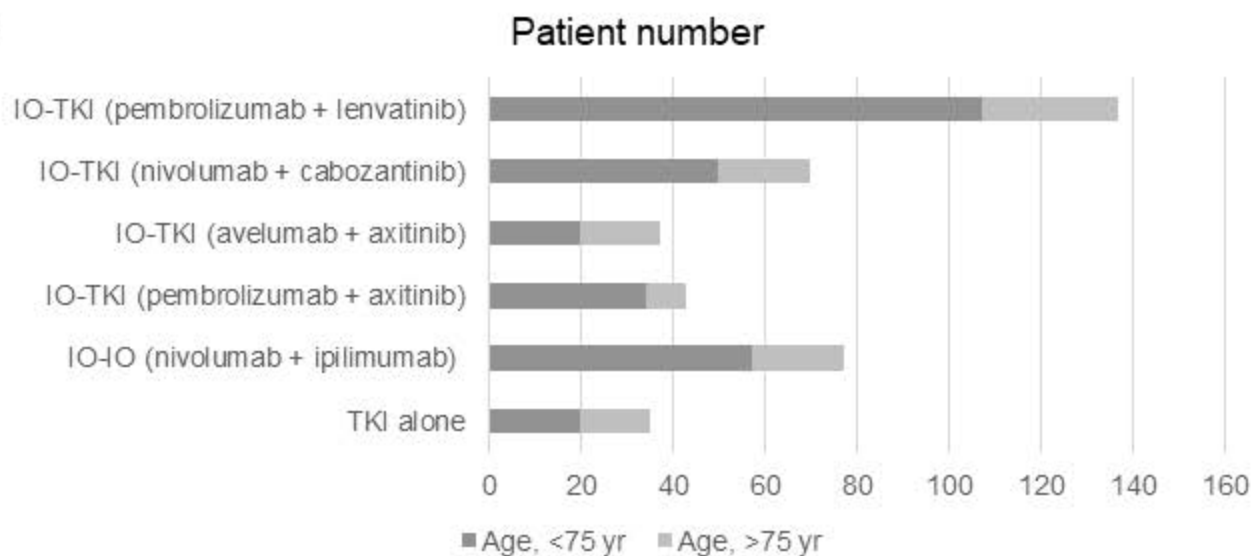


Figure 2

A



B



C

