



# Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma

by Dr. Joe DiBenedetto, Jr., M.D.  
 Medical Director, Oncology Associates

Metastatic renal cell carcinoma accounts for more than 30,000 new cases of cancer in the United States and accounts for more than 12,000 deaths annually. The treatment for this disease in the past has included interleukin-2 (IL-2) or interferon. The response with these cytokines has been quite low. Recently, there have been two new chemotherapeutic drugs that have been approved for advanced renal cell carcinoma. Sutent, an oral multitargeted inhibitor of

vascular endothelial growth factor receptor, has shown activity in this disease and appears to be promising. Nexavar, another oral agent, is a multikinase inhibitor that has been shown to decrease tumor cell proliferation as well. Both of these oral agents are now FDA approved for metastatic renal cell carcinoma and have shown to offer some benefit. Temsirolimus, a specific inhibitor of mTOR, a signaling protein critical for tumor

growth and cell survival, has also been shown to be effective in renal cell carcinoma. This is an intravenous drug that has currently shown positive results in Phase III studies in this malignancy. These three drugs all seem to be effective and demonstrate activity in a malignancy where previously no systemic chemotherapy was recognized and may offer some hope in treating this unfavorable disease. **OA**

## Web Watch

Point and Click for our top web picks

**www.accc-cancer.org**

Association of Community Cancer Centers



**www.accc-cancer.org**

Since 1974, the Association of Community Cancer Centers (ACCC) has been the premier education and advocacy organization for the multidisciplinary cancer care team. ACCC promotes the entire continuum of quality cancer care for patients and communities. For more than 30 years, ACCC has been helping oncology professionals adapt to the complex changes of delivering quality cancer care while responding to regulatory and legislative changes.

ACCC's website includes up-to-the-minute oncology news, public policy updates, reimbursement assistance hotlines, clinical trial resources and patient advocacy groups. The organization also offers a compendia-based drug bulletin, as well as an oncology drug database.