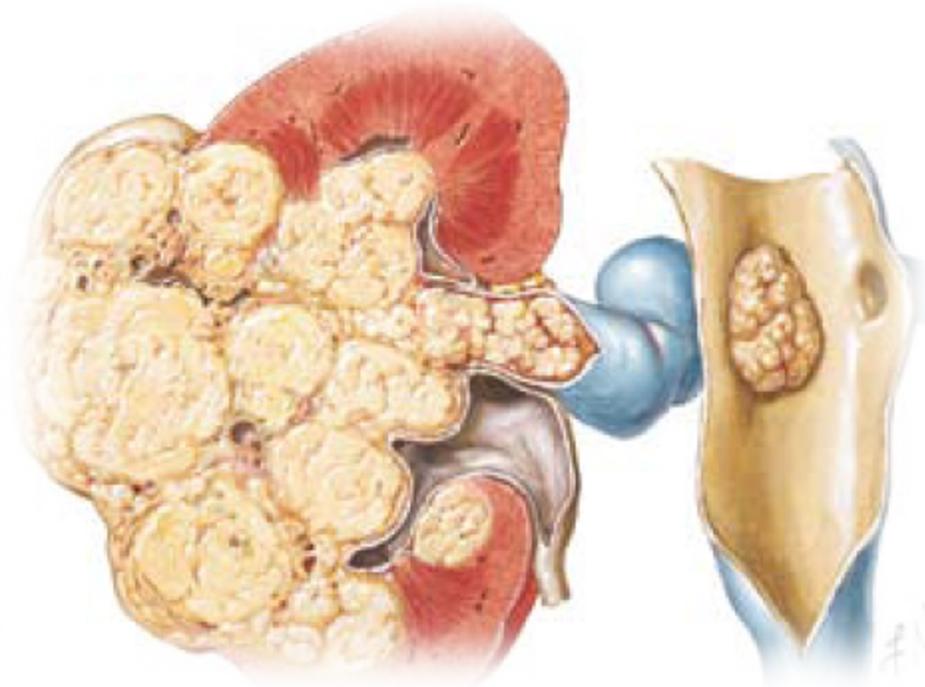


# Systemisk behandling av avansert og metastatisk nyrecancer



Norsk onkologisk  
forening

DEN NORSKE LEGEFORENING

Daniel Heinrich  
Onkologisk avdeling  
Sykehuset Innlandet

# Potensielle interessekonflikter

- Deltakelse i AdBoard: Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer, Eisai, IPSEN, Janssen-Cilag, Organon, Roche
- Honorert foredragsholder: AAA, a Novartis company, Astellas, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Dagens Medisin, EUSA Pharma, IPSEN, Janssen-Cilag, Novartis, PROFO, Statens Legemiddelverk
- Forskningsstøtte:  
(sykehus, ikke personlig) AstraZeneca, Bayer, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Janssen-Cilag, Merck Sharp & Dome, Pfizer, Roche

# The advent of the angiogenesis hypothesis



*'One is almost forced to the conclusion that there is, associated with the viable growing tumour, some blood vessel growth stimulating factor'*

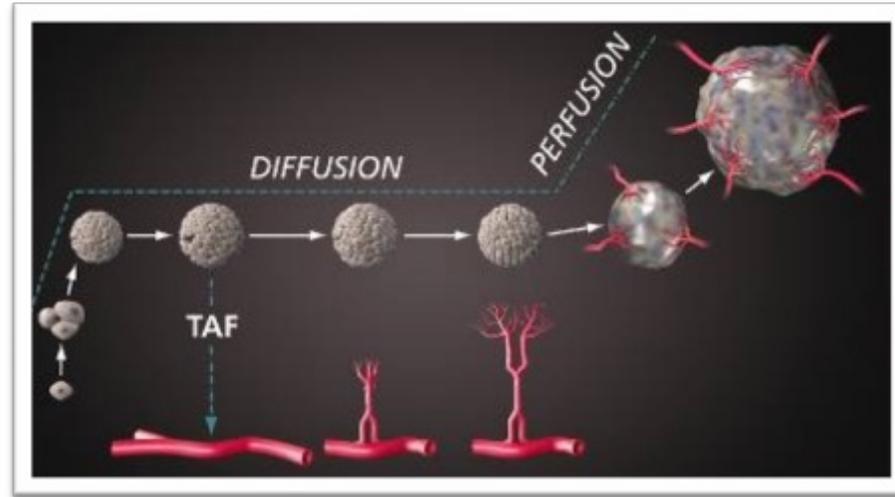
- Gordon Ide, 1939

↓ 1939



Ide, et al. Am J Roentgenol 1939

# The anti-angiogenesis theory, a new way of thinking



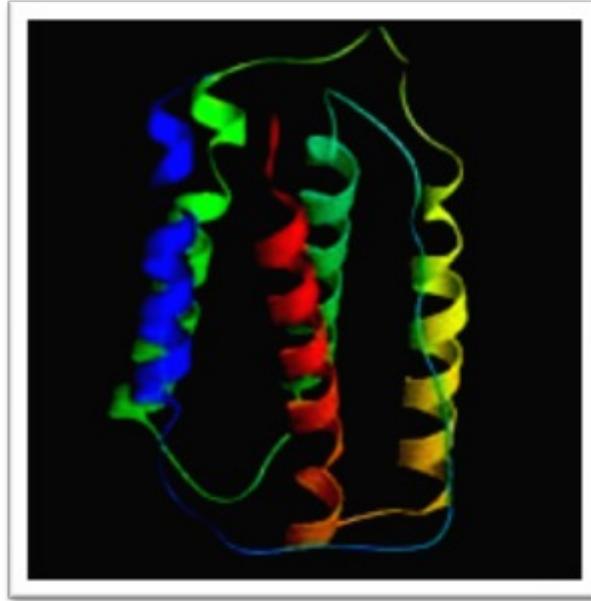
Judah Folkman

- Isolates 'a tumour factor responsible for angiogenesis'<sup>1</sup>
- Controversial hypothesis 'tumours are dependent on angiogenesis'<sup>2</sup>



1. Folkman, J Exp Med 1971; 2. Folkman, NEJM 1971

# The excitement of the cytokine era



1950s: IFN discovered

1980s: clinical trials using IFN

IFN in kidney cancer: proven efficacy, increased OS

Therapy of choice in Europe early 2000s



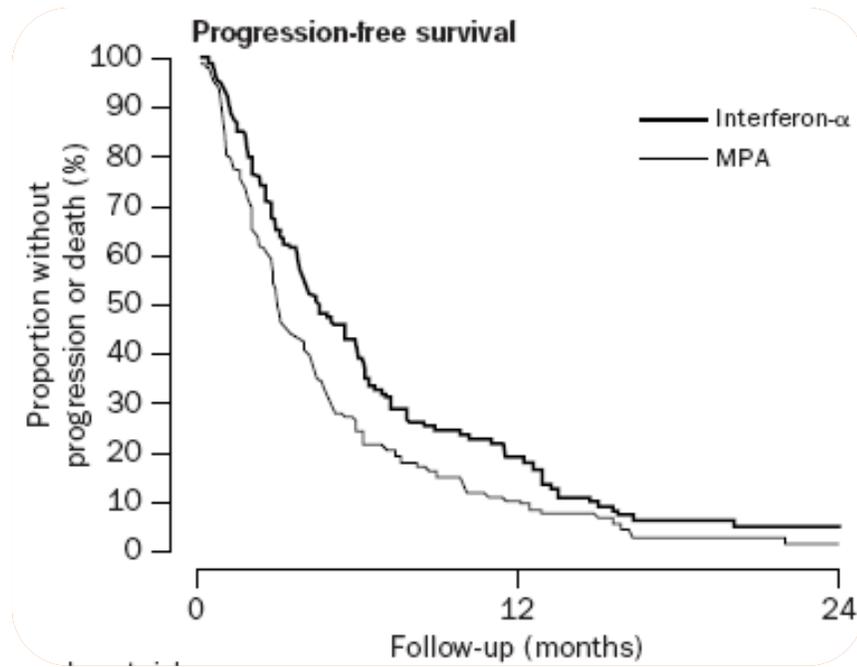
# Haemangiomas

Some therapy resistant and life threatening

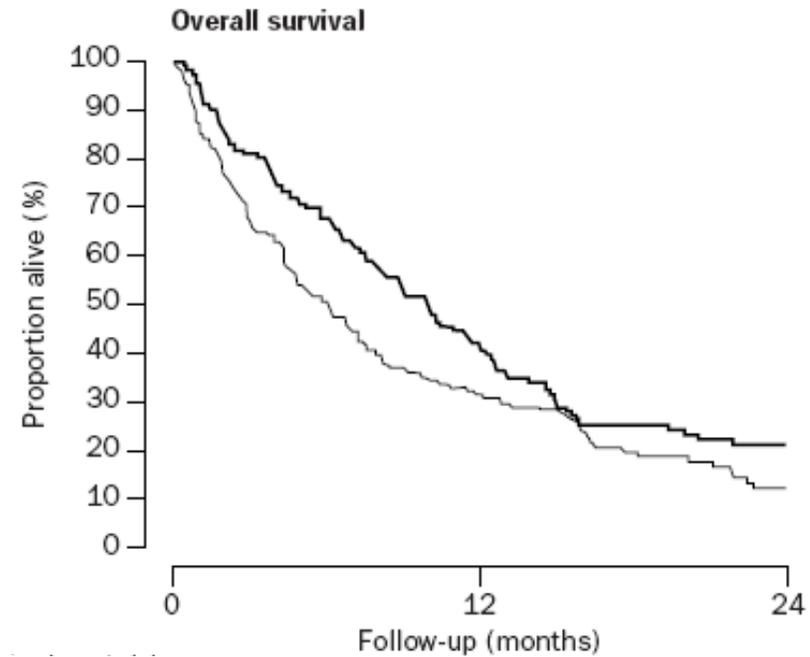


After 11 months of IFN treatment

# Interferon

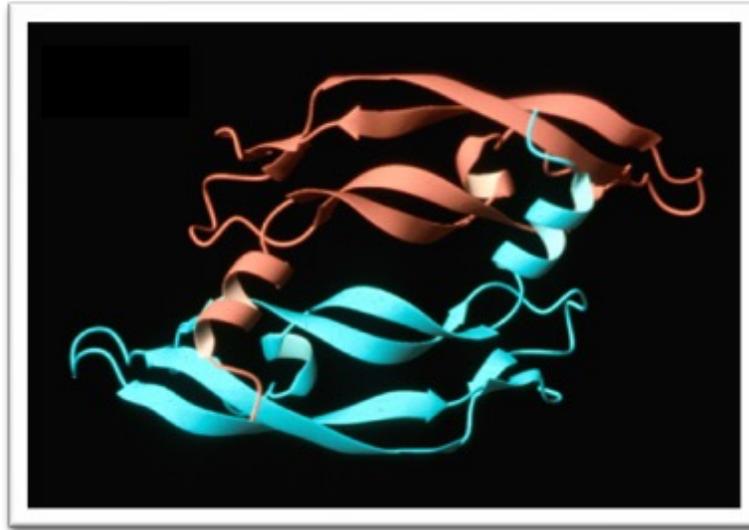


PFS 5,0 months  
OS 11,4 months



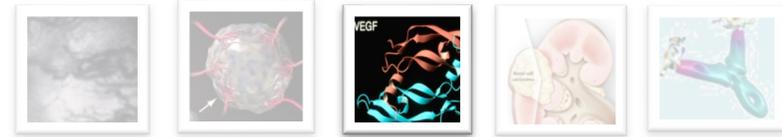
MRCRCC, Lancet 1999

# VEGF, the key mediator of angiogenesis



- Senger - vascular permeability factor (VPF) identified as important to tumour growth<sup>1</sup>
- Ferrara - discovers vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)<sup>2</sup>
- VEGF and VPF shown to be identical

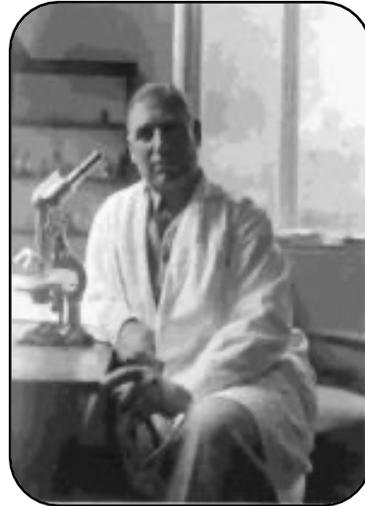
↓ 1980s



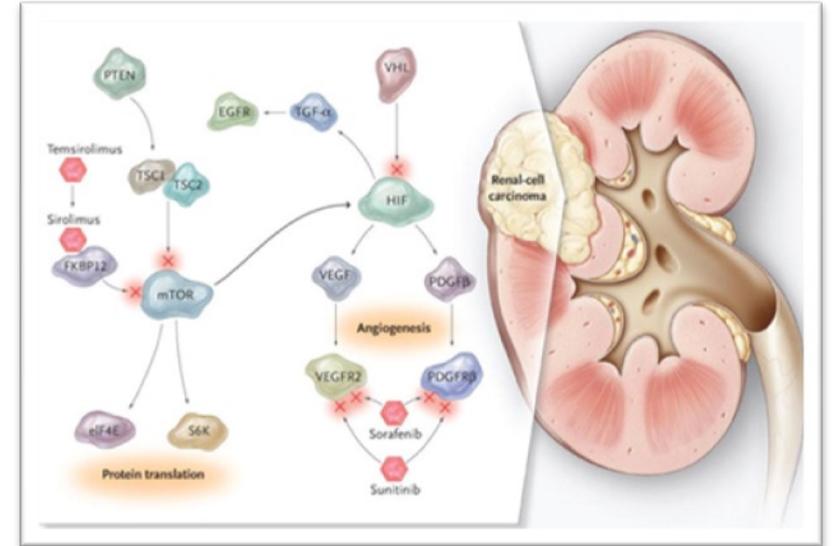
# Identification of VHL



Eugen von Hippel:  
"Ueber eine sehr  
seltene Erkrankung  
der Netzhaut" 1904



Arvid Lindau: "Studien über  
Kleinhirncysten, Bau,  
Pathenogenese und Beziehungen  
zur Angiomatosis retinae., 1926

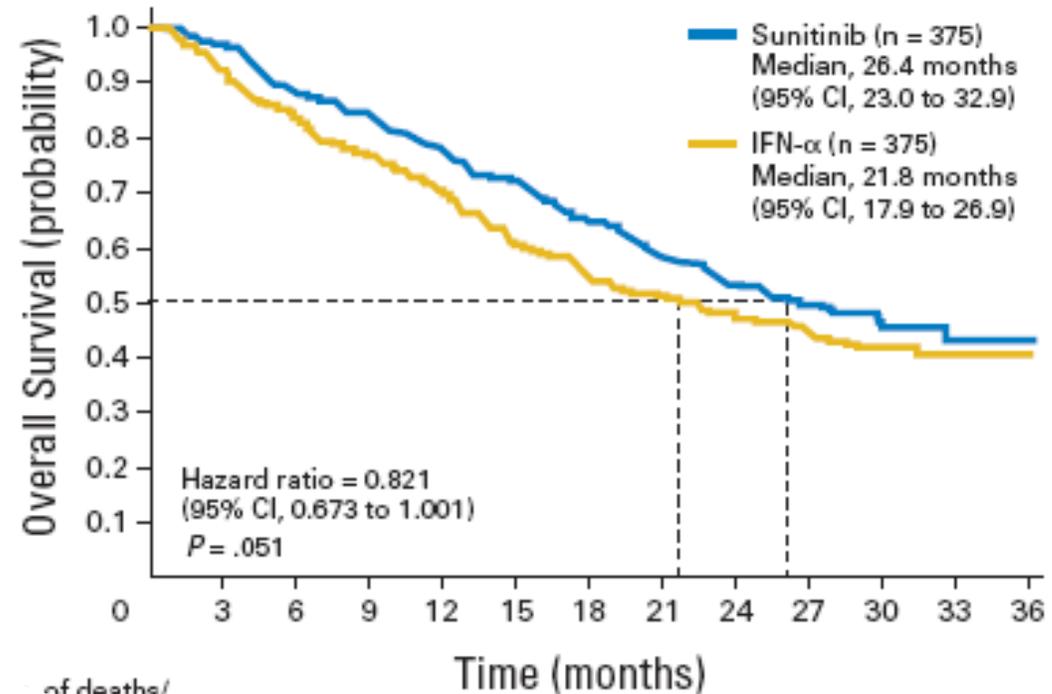
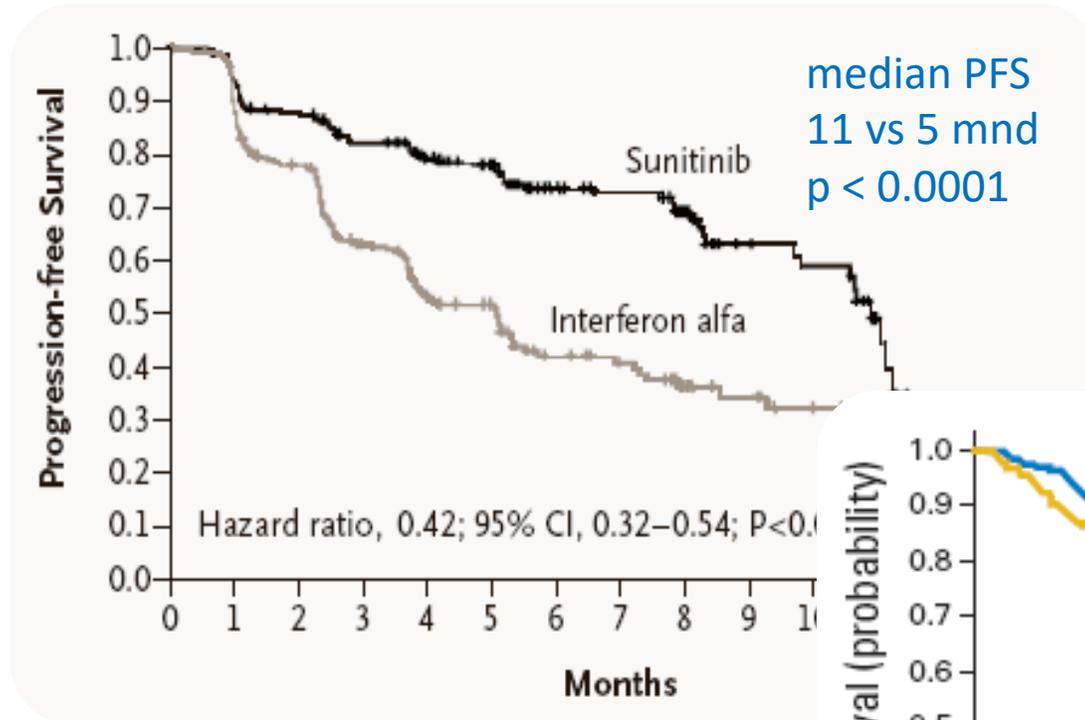


Latif et al (1993) identify VHL gene  
mutation and link to clear-cell RCC

1993



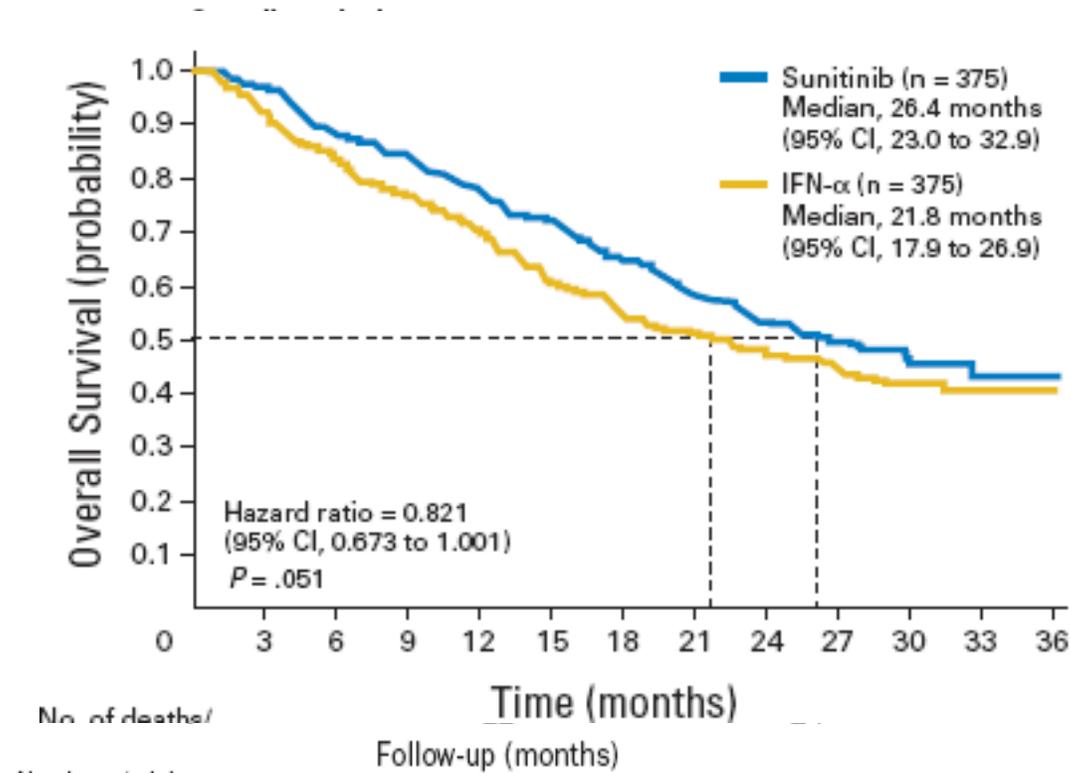
# 1. line - Sunitinib



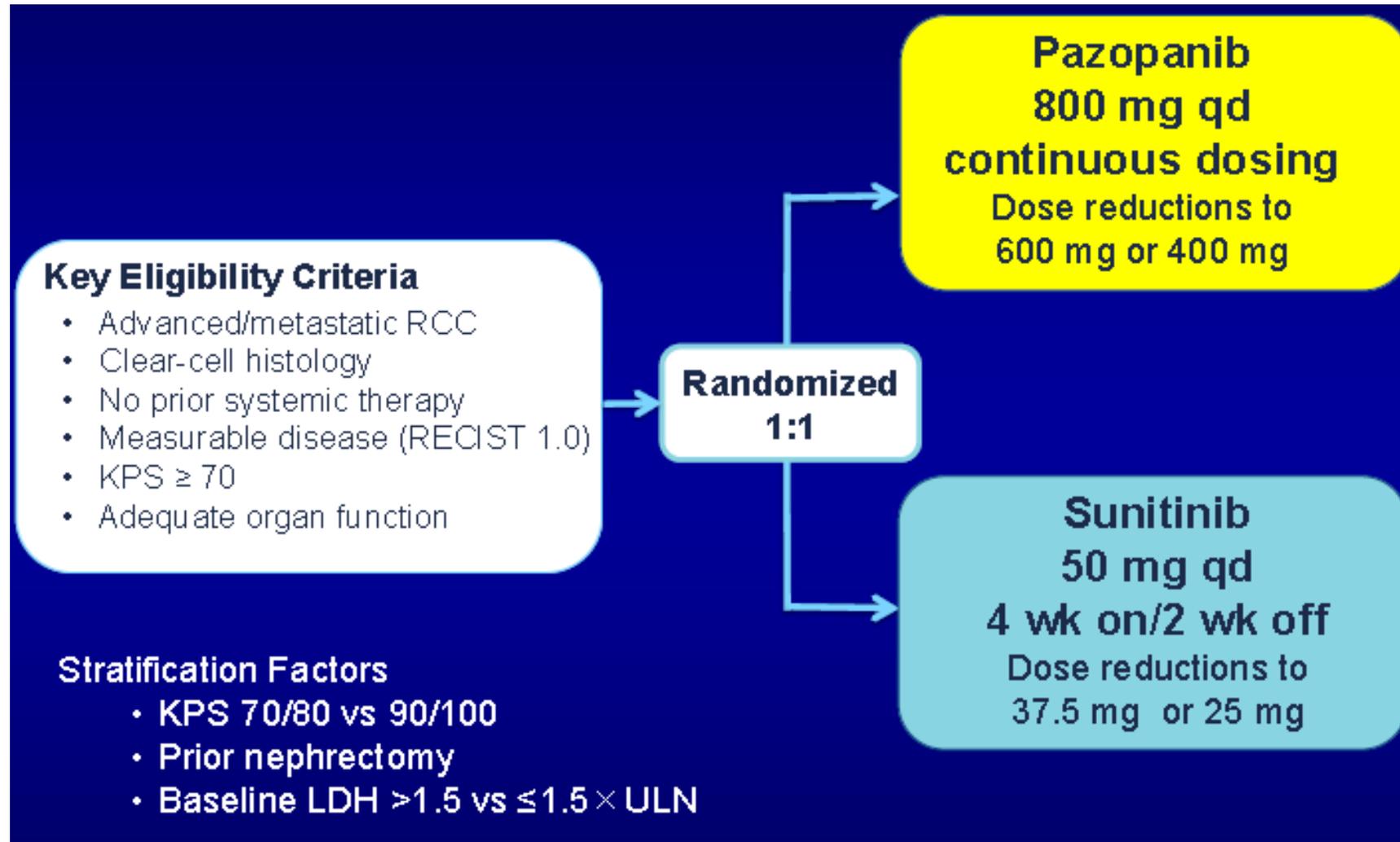
Motzer et al., N Engl J Med 2007

Motzer et al., J Clin Oncol 2009

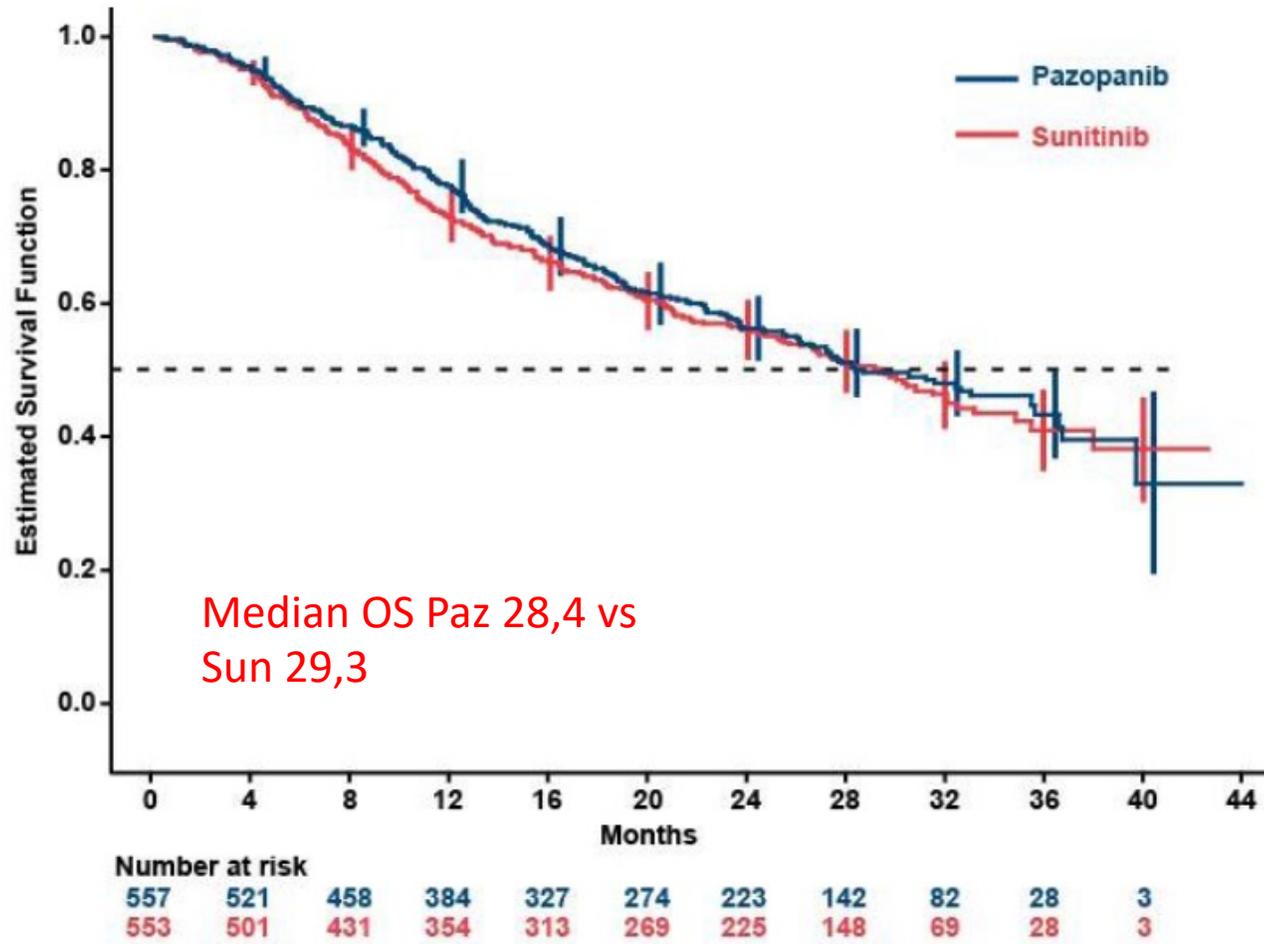
# Improvement?



# Sunitinib vs Pazopanib - COMPARZ

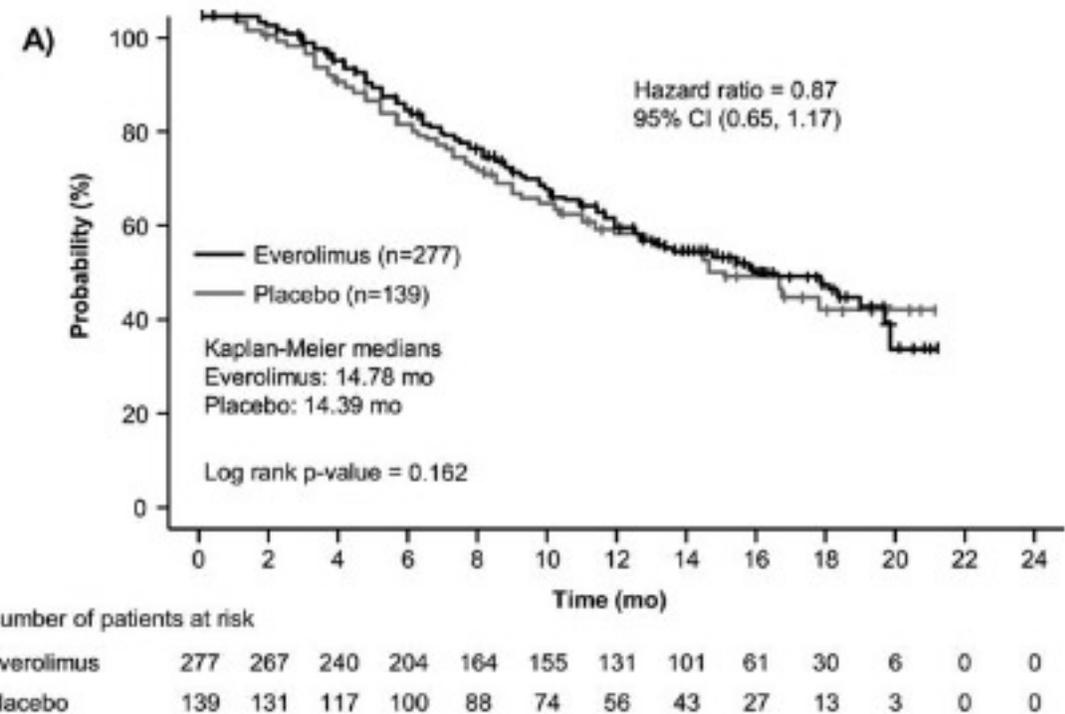
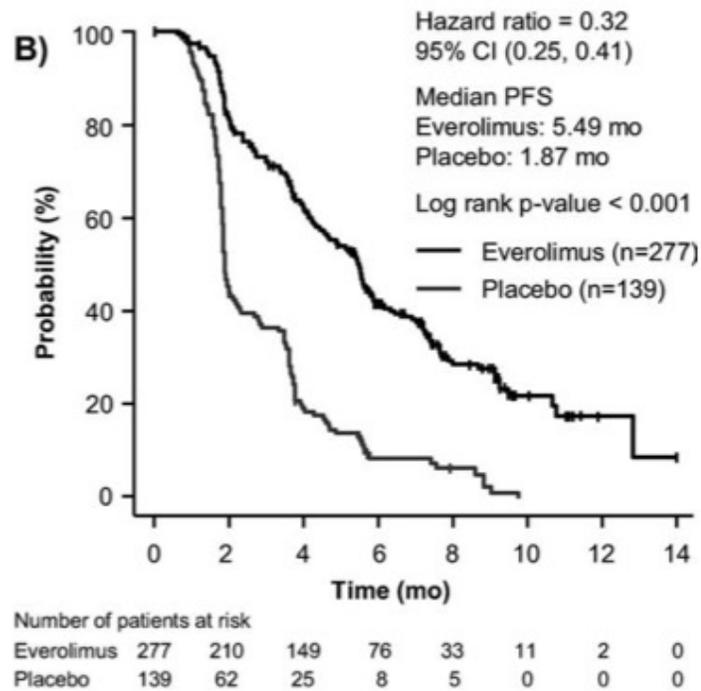


# 1. line - Pazopanib vs Sunitinib

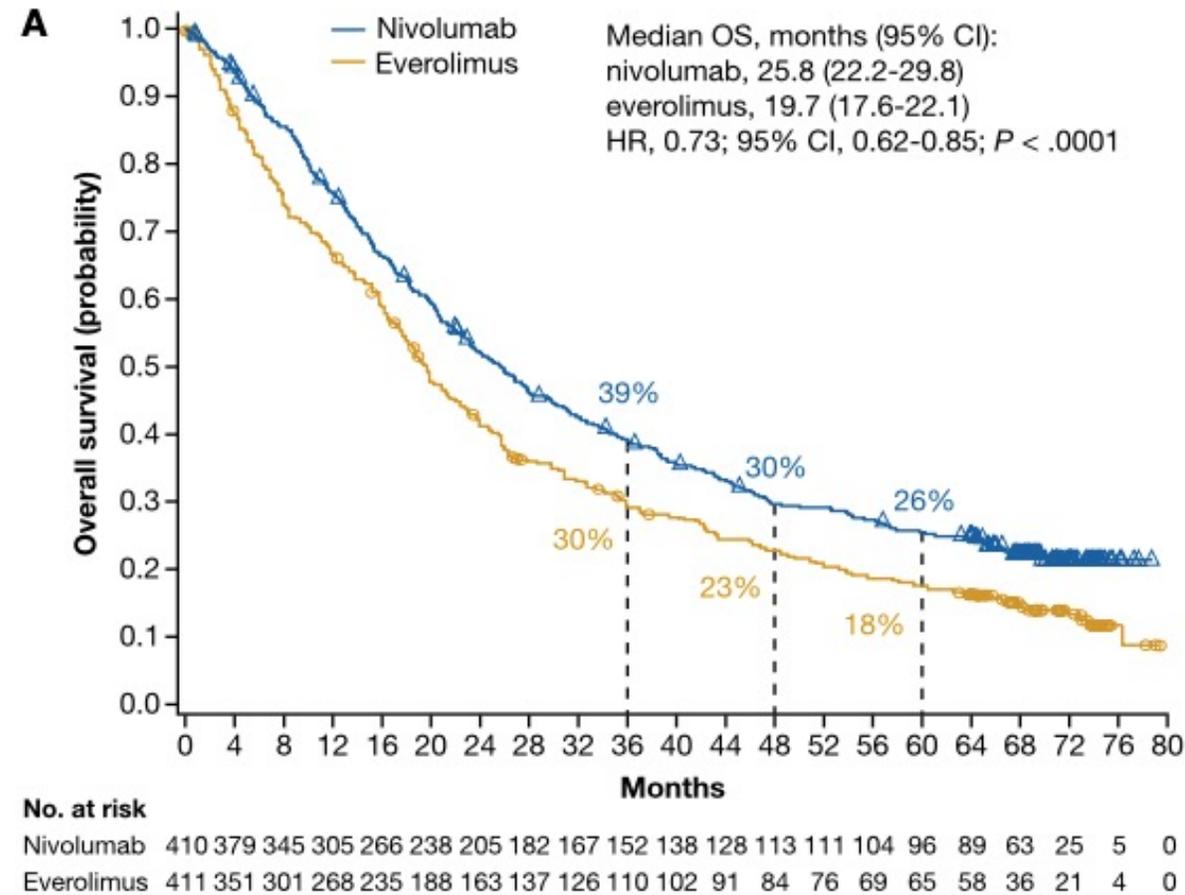


## 2. line therapy after 1. line TKI

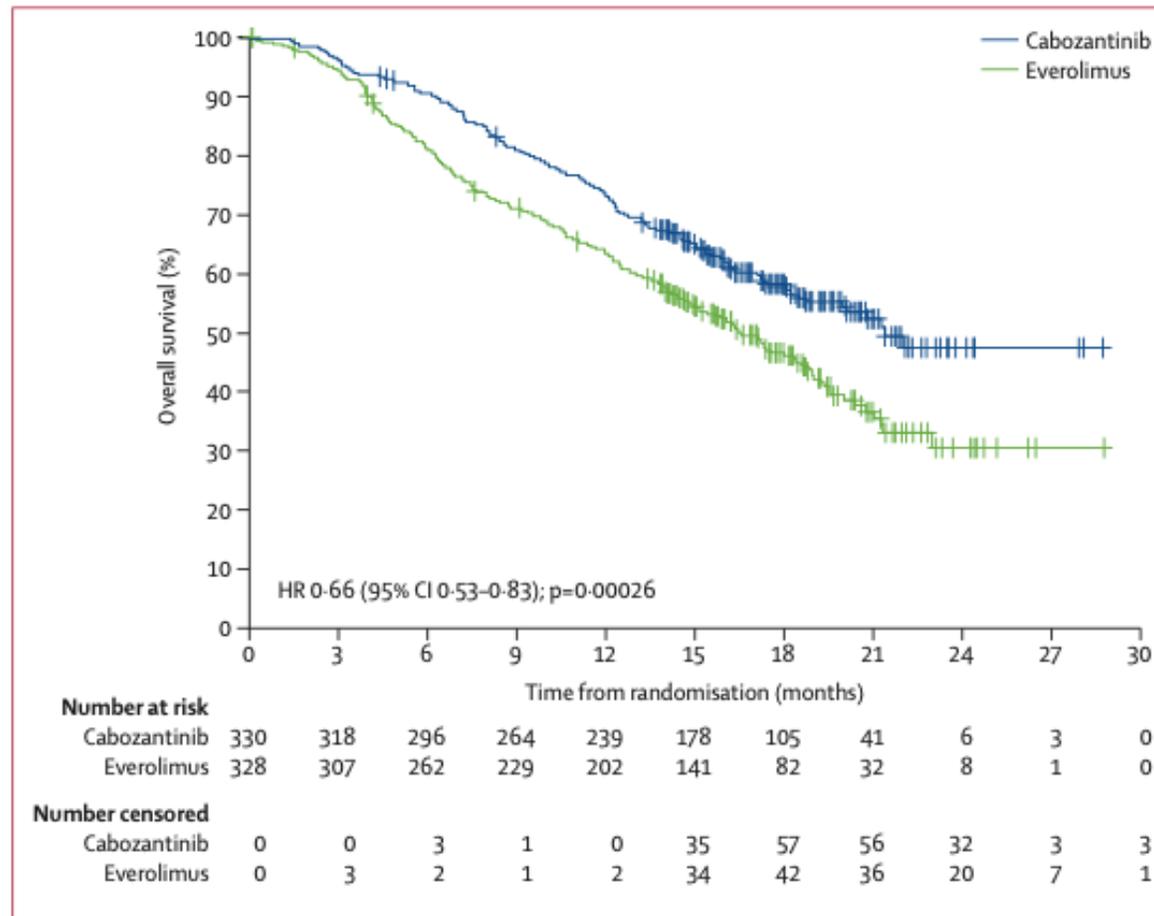
- Everolimus established 2008



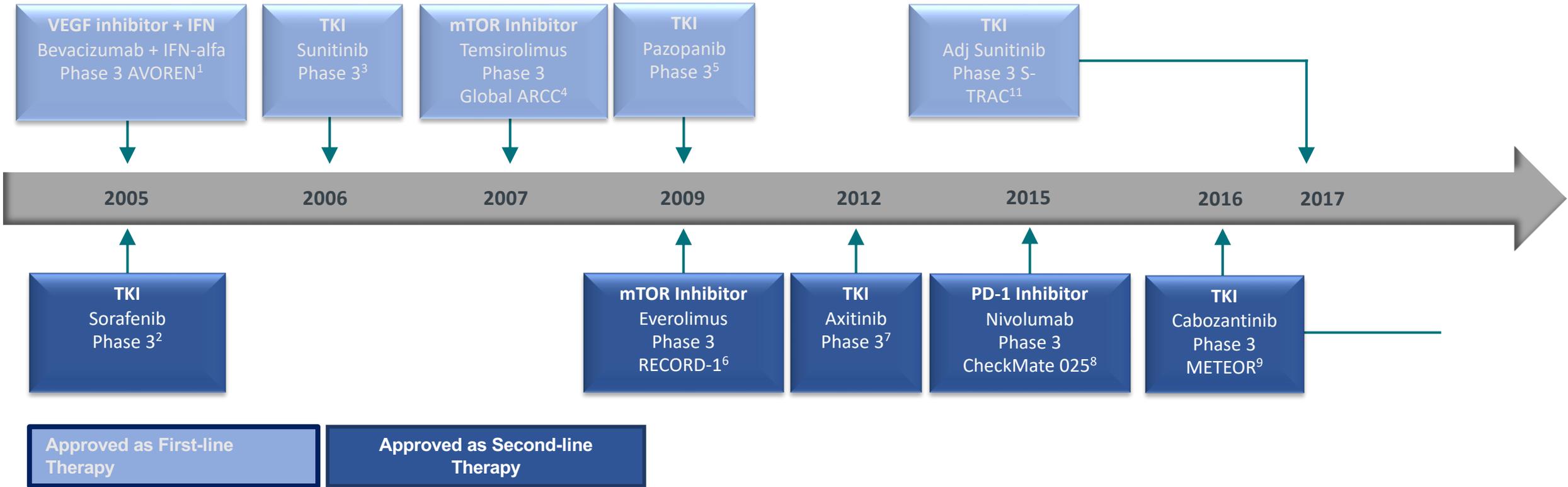
# Nivolumab vs Everolimus (CheckMate 025)



# Cabozantinib vs Everolimus (METEOR)



# (R)Evolution of treatment opportunities for mRCC 2005–2017



# What has happened since then?

**CTLA-4 Inhibitor**

**Ipilimumab +  
nivolumab**  
(intermediate/  
poor risk)  
CheckMate -214

**PD-1 and PD-L1  
Inhibitors**

**Pembrolizumab +  
axitinib**  
(all risk groups)  
KEYNOTE-426

**Avelumab +  
axitinib**  
(all risk groups)  
JAVELIN  
Renal 101

**Nivolumab +  
cabozantinib**  
(all risk groups)  
Checkmate-9ER

**Pembrolizumab +  
Lenvatinib**  
(all risk groups)  
CLEAR

**TKIs**

# CheckMate 214

## Key eligibility criteria

- Treatment naïve, inoperable, locally advanced, or metastatic RCC
- Clear-cell histology<sup>a</sup>
- KPS ≥70%

## Stratification

- IMDC prognostic score (0 vs 1-2 vs 3-6)
- Region (United States vs Canada/Europe vs rest of the world)

N = 1,096

**R**

1:1

**Nivolumab 3 mg/kg IV every 3 wk + ipilimumab 1 mg/kg IV every 3 wk x 4 doses, then nivolumab 3 mg/kg every 2 wk**

**Sunitinib 50 mg orally daily (4 wk on, 2 wk off)**

## Endpoints

- **Coprimary:** PFS, OS, ORR (intermediate/poor risk)
- **Secondary:** PFS, OS, ORR (ITT)
- **Exploratory:** PFS, OS, ORR (favorable risk)

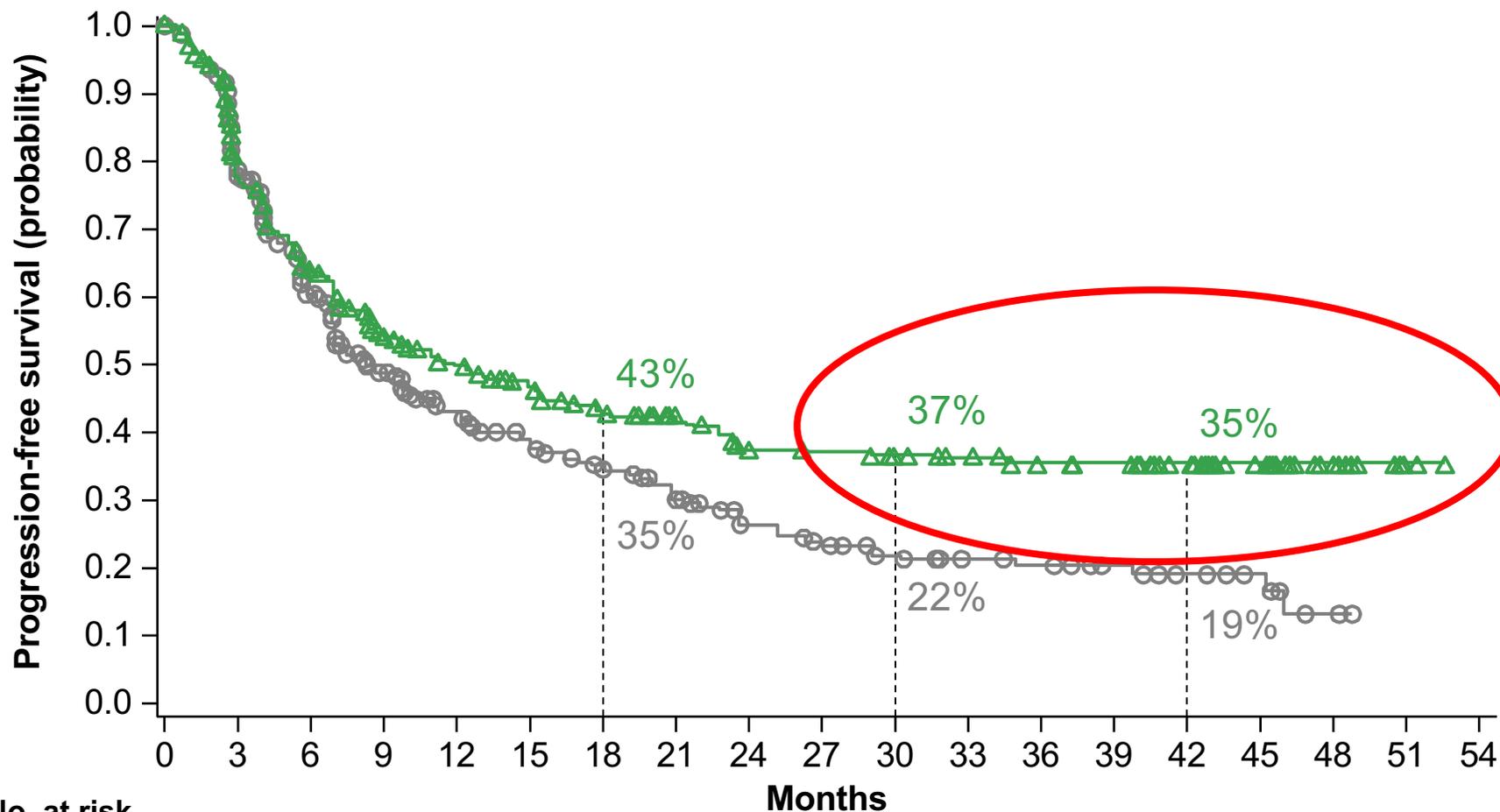
# Overall and Progression Free Survival

Primary efficacy population: Intermediate/poor-risk patients

Minimum Follow-Up, mo	Median OS, mo (95% CI)		Median PFS, mo (95% CI)	
	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab (n = 425)	Sunitinib (n = 422)	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab (n = 425)	Sunitinib (n = 422)
17.5 <sup>1</sup>	NR (28.2-NE) HR (99.8% CI) <b>0.63</b> (0.44-0.89); P < .001	26.0 (22.1-NE)	11.6 (8.7-15.5) HR (99.1% CI) <b>0.82</b> (0.64-1.05); P = .03	8.4 (7.0-10.8)
30 <sup>2</sup>	NR (35.6-NE) HR (95% CI) <b>0.66</b> (0.54-0.80); P < .0001	26.6 (22.1-33.4)	8.2 (6.9-10.0) HR (95% CI) <b>0.77</b> (0.65-0.90); P = .0014	8.3 (7.0-8.8)
42 <sup>3</sup>	47.0 (35.6-NE) HR (95% CI) <b>0.66</b> (0.55-0.80); P < .0001	26.6 (22.1-33.5)	11.6 (8.4-15.5) HR (95% CI) <b>0.75</b> (0.62-0.90); P = .0015	8.3 (7.0-10.8)
48 <sup>4</sup>	48.1 (35.6-NE) HR (95% CI) <b>0.65</b> (0.54-0.78); P < .0001	26.6 (22.1-33.5)	11.2 (8.4-16.1) HR (95% CI) <b>0.74</b> (0.62-0.88); P = .0015	8.3 (7.0-10.8)
60 <sup>5</sup>	47.0 (35.4-57.4) HR (95% CI) <b>0.68</b> (0.58-0.81); P < .0001	26.6 (22.1-33.5)	11.6 (8.4-16.5) HR (95% CI) <b>0.73</b> (0.61-0.87); P = .0004	8.3 (7.0-10.4)

# PFS per IRRC

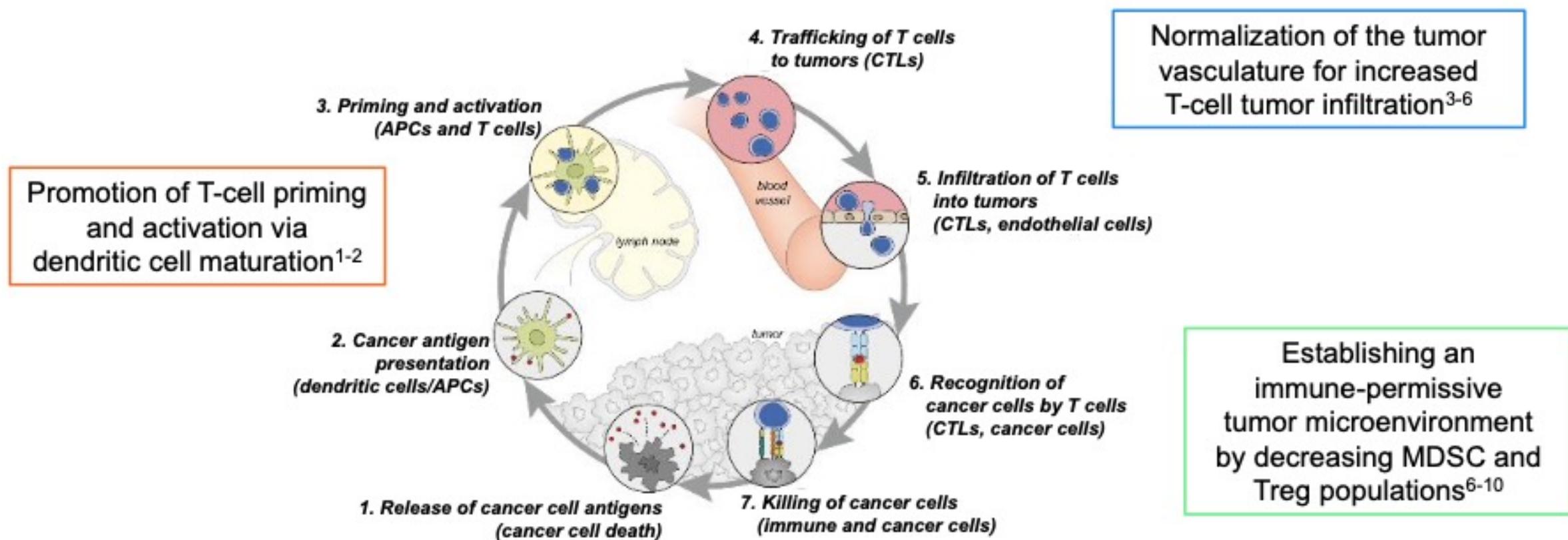
Primary efficacy population: Intermediate/poor-risk patients



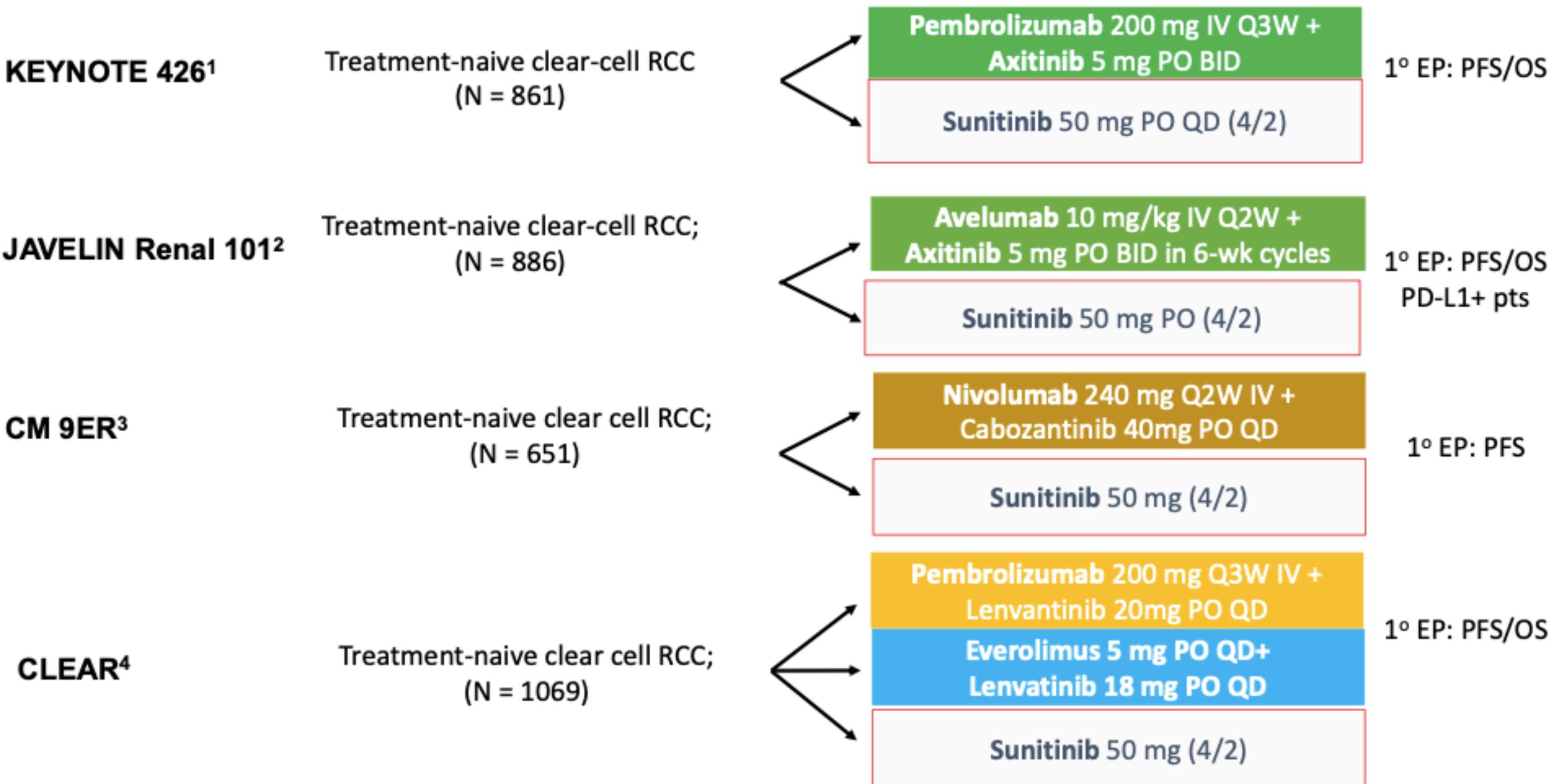
No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54
<b>NIVO+IPI</b>	425	302	229	182	159	144	126	113	98	95	90	82	75	70	56	34	13	2	0
<b>SUN</b>	422	280	188	136	104	88	73	59	45	36	30	25	21	16	11	8	3	0	0

Minimum follow-up	PFS	NIVO+IPI N = 425	SUN N = 422
17.5 mo <sup>1</sup>	Median, mo (95% CI)	11.6 (8.7–15.5)	8.4 (7.0–10.8)
	HR (99.1% CI)	0.82 (0.64–1.05) P = 0.03	
42 mo	Median, mo (95% CI)	12.0 (8.7–15.5)	8.3 (7.0–11.1)
	HR (95% CI)	0.76 (0.63–0.91) P < 0.01	

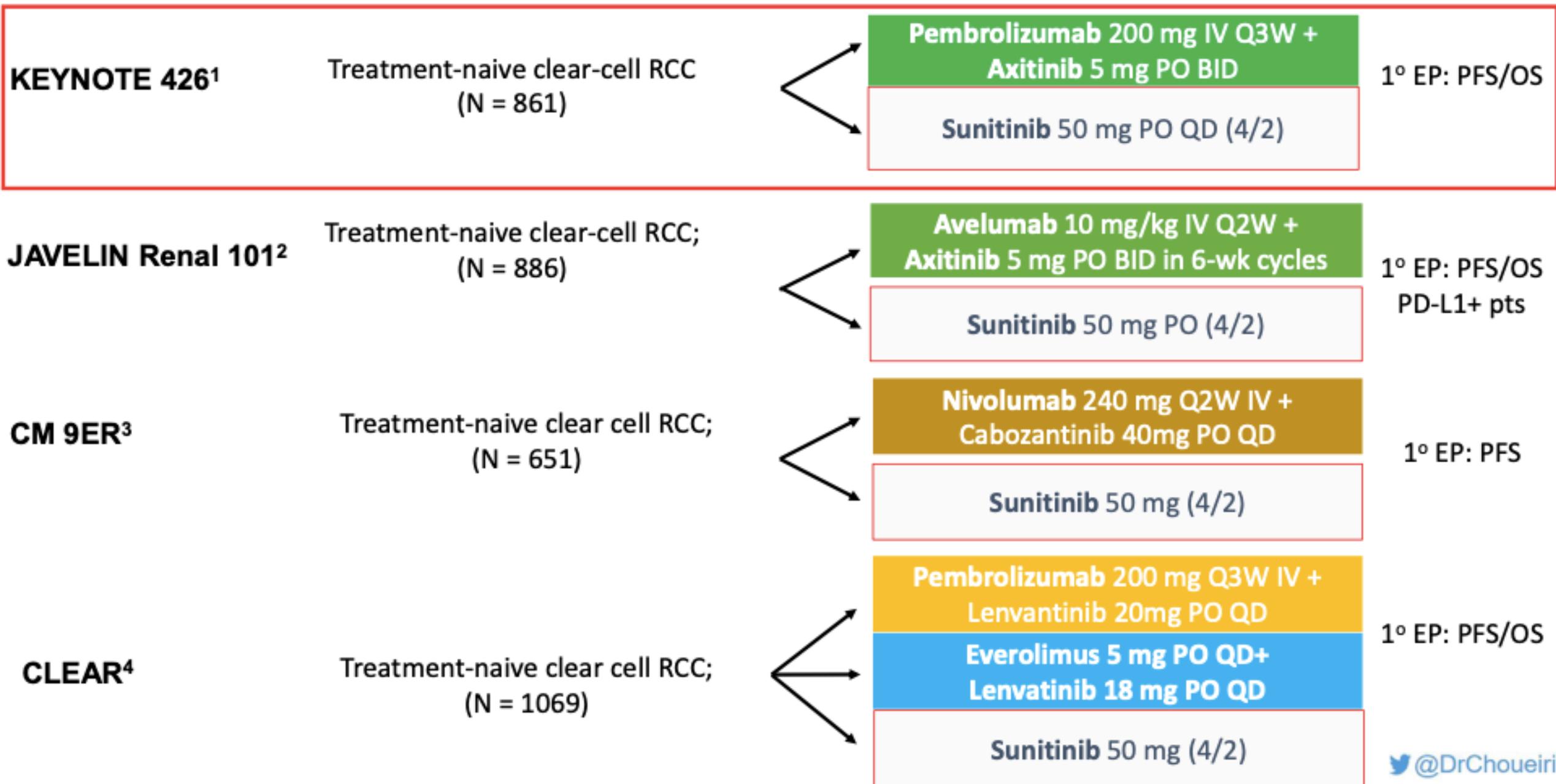
# Rationale for Combining Immunotherapy with VEGF-targeted Therapy



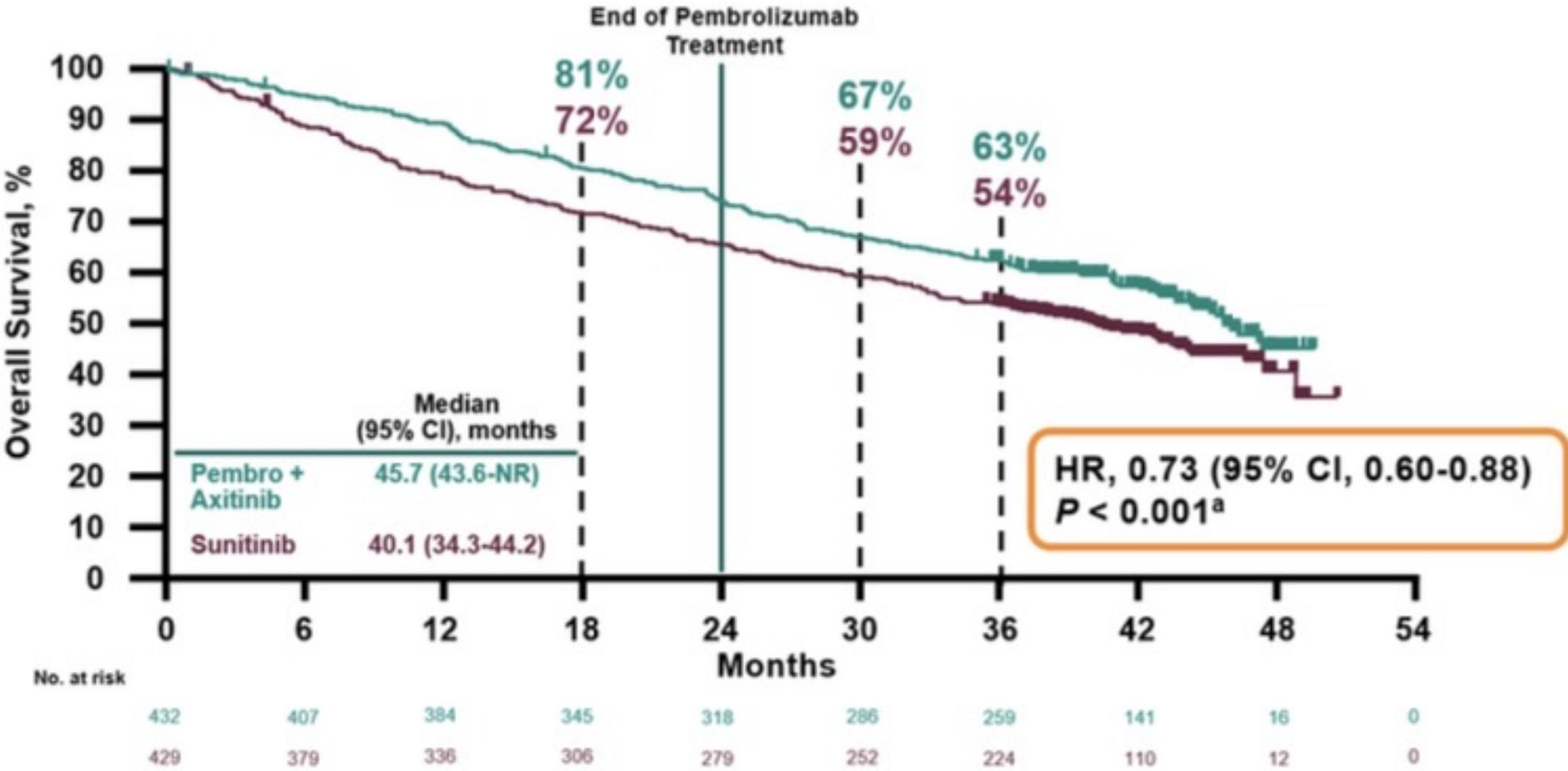
→ T-cell mediated cancer cell killing may be enhanced through reversal of VEGF-mediated immunosuppression



1. Rini et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779529. 2. Motzer et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779531. 3. Choueiri et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33657295. 4. Motzer et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33616314.



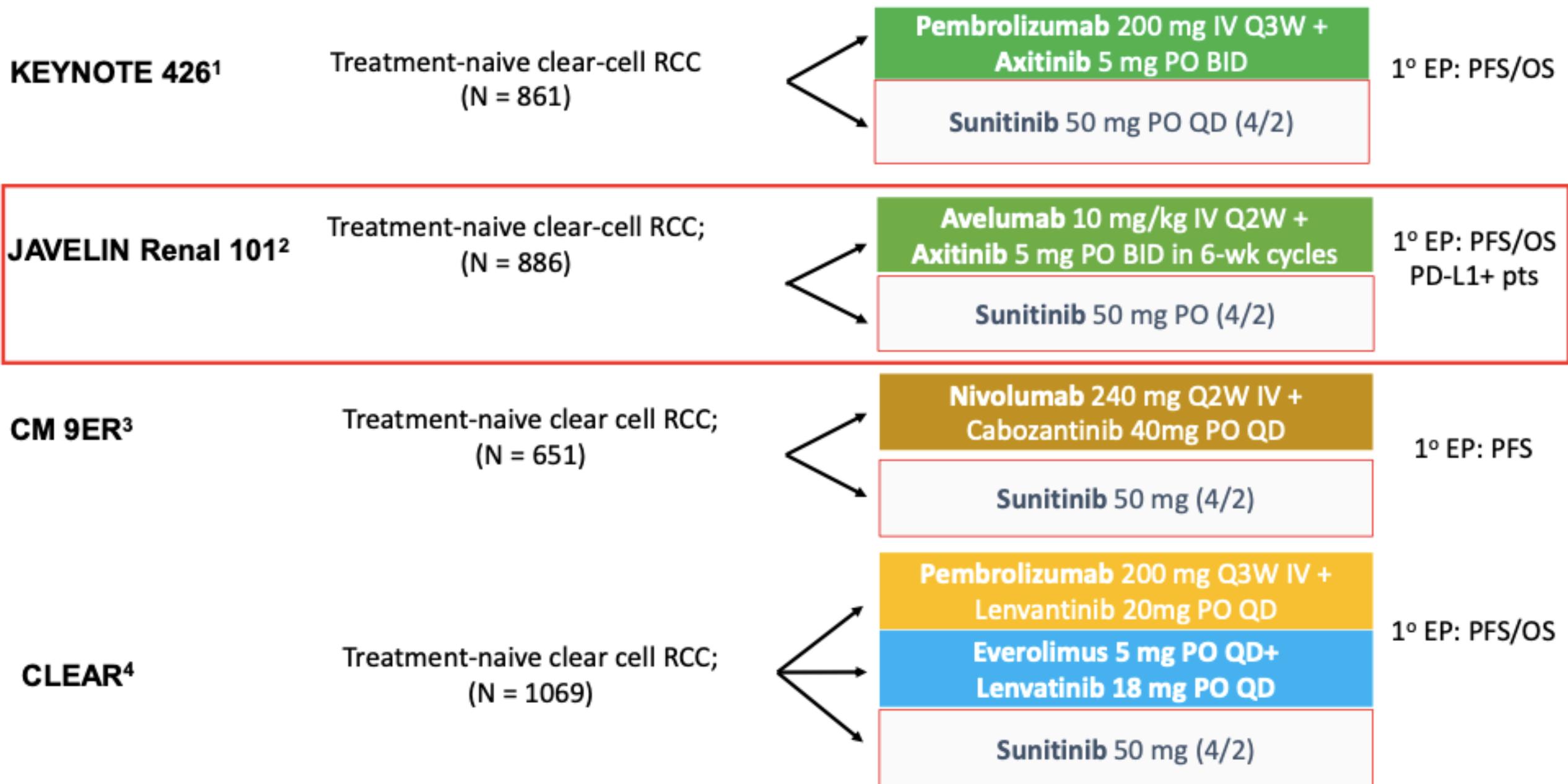
# OS in the ITT Population (co-primary endpoint)



Adapted from Rini B. et al.; ASCO 2021

# KEYNOTE-426 Highlights

Median follow-up (months)	12.8	30.6	42.8
OS, months	NR	NR	45.7
HR (95% CI)	0.53 (0.38-0.74)	0.68 (0.55-0.85)	0.73 (0.6-0.88)
PFS, months	15.1	15.4	15.7
HR (95% CI)	0.69 (0.57-0.84)	0.71 (0.6-0.84)	0.68 (0.58-0.8)
ORR(%)/CR(%)	59/6	60/9	60/10



1. Rini et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779529. 2. Motzer et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779531. 3. Choueiri et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33657295. 4. Motzer et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33616314.

# Javelin Renal 101- Highlights

## Key eligibility criteria:

- Treatment-naïve aRCC with a clear cell component
- $\geq 1$  measurable lesion as defined by RECIST v1.1
- Tumor tissue available for PD-L1 staining
- ECOG PS 0 or 1

## Stratification:

- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- Geographic region (USA vs Canada/Western Europe vs ROW)

N = 886

R  
1:1

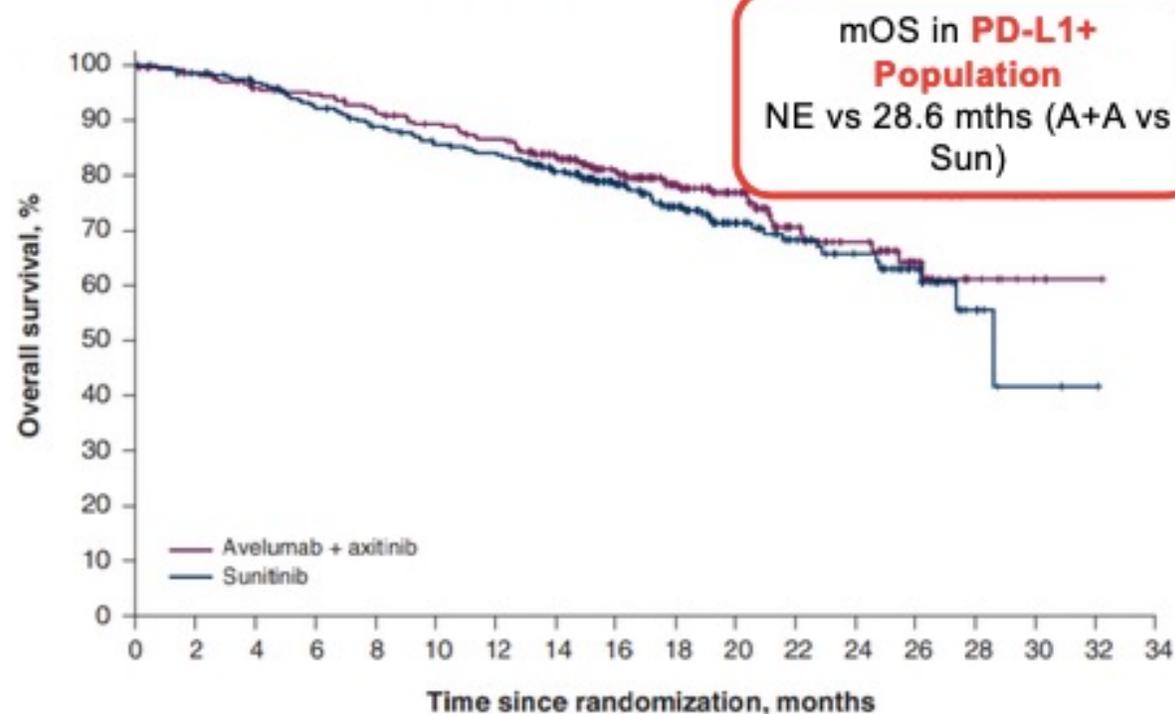
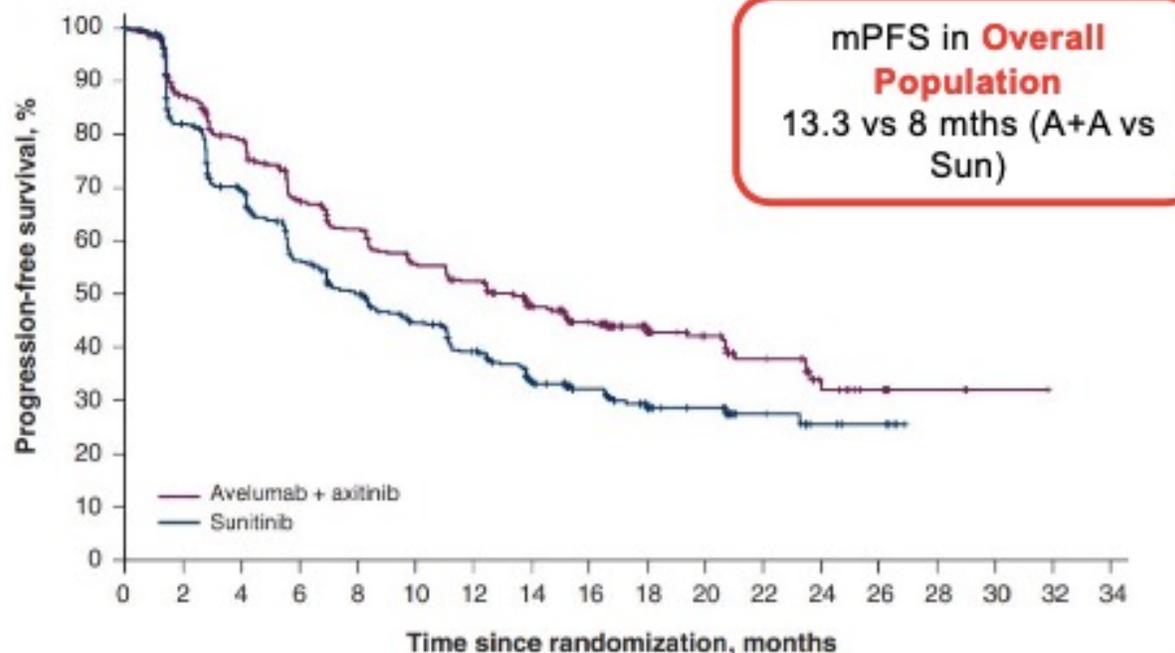
Avelumab 10 mg/kg IV Q2W  
+  
Axitinib 5 mg PO BID  
(6-week cycle)

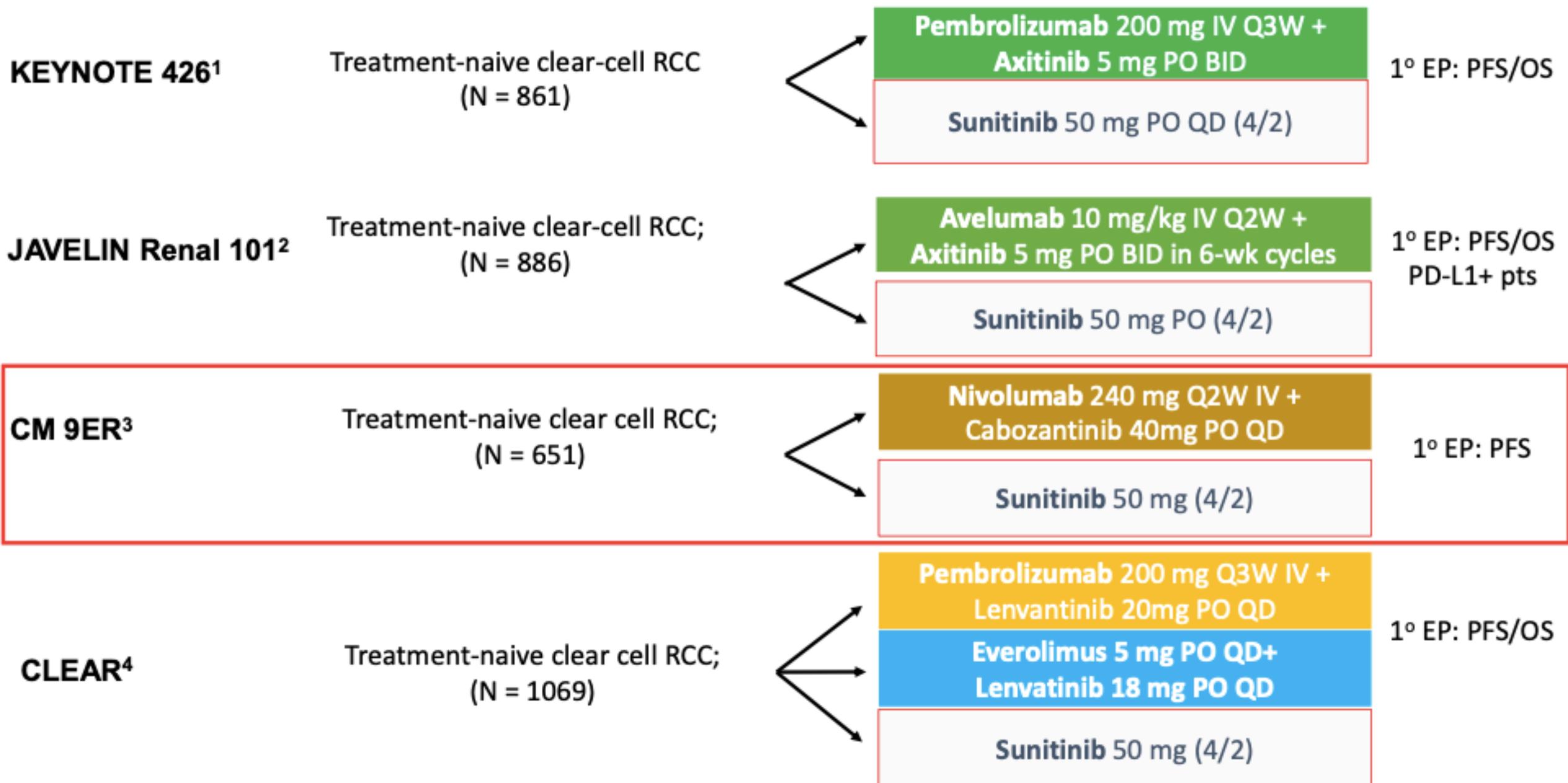
Sunitinib 50 mg PO QD  
(4 weeks on, 2 weeks off)

Primary Endpoint: PFS or OS in patients with PD-L1+ tumors

**OS: Not Significant**

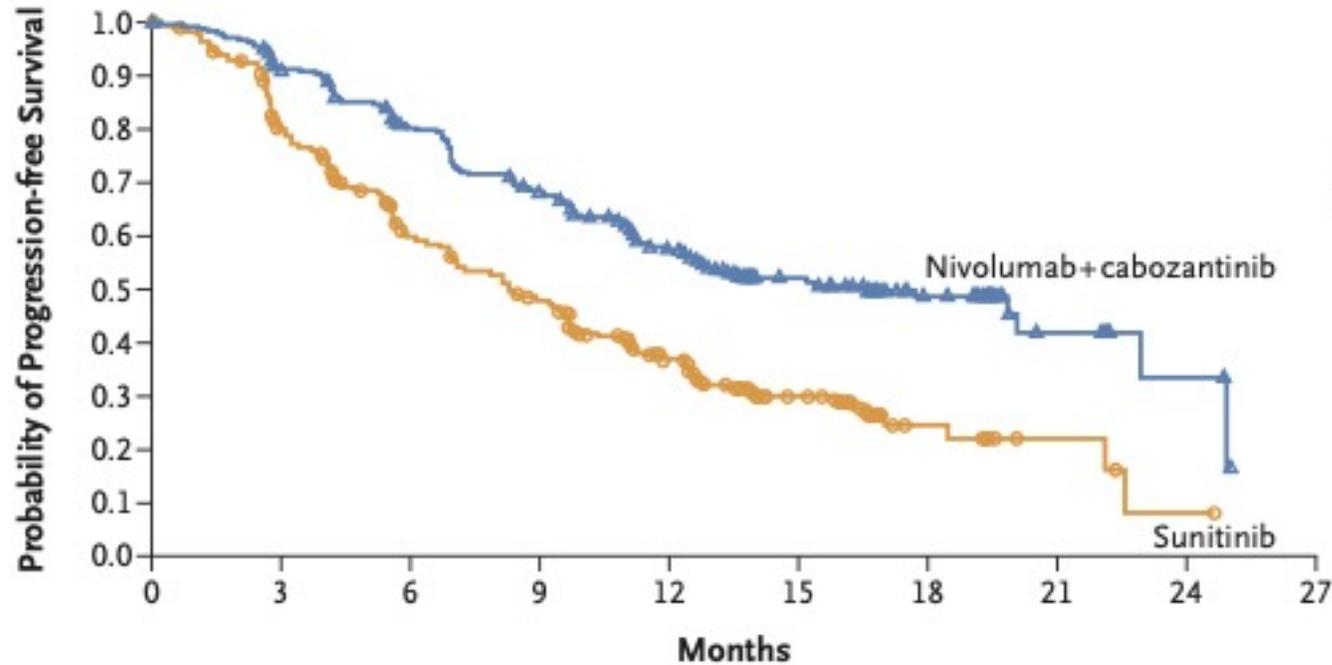
**HR: 0.828 (95% CI 0.596-1.151); one-sided P = 0.13**





1. Rini et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779529. 2. Motzer et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779531. 3. Choueiri et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33657295. 4. Motzer et al, *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33616314.

# Progression free survival



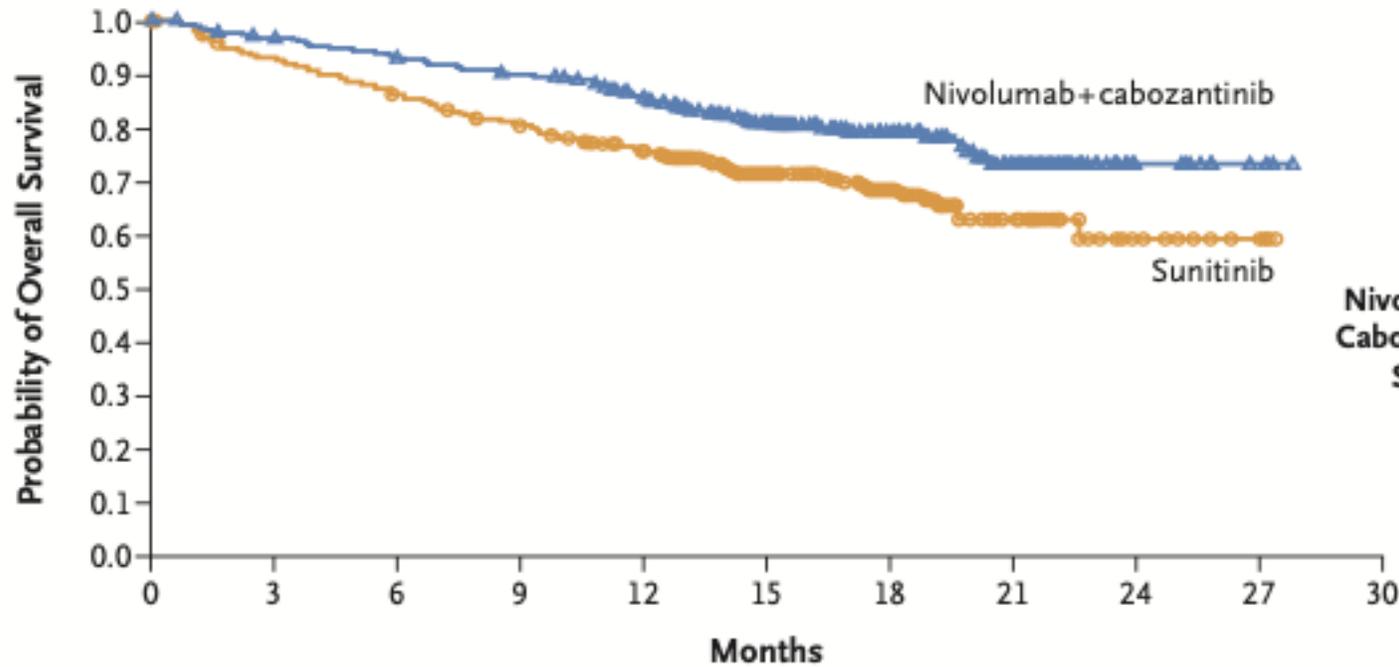
	No. of Patients	Median (95% CI) mo
Nivolumab+ Cabozantinib	323	16.6 (12.5–24.9)
Sunitinib	328	8.3 (7.0–9.7)

Hazard ratio for disease progression or death, 0.51 (95% CI, 0.41–0.64)  
P<0.001

## No. at Risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27
Nivolumab+cabozantinib	323	279	234	196	144	77	35	11	4	0
Sunitinib	328	228	159	122	79	31	10	4	1	0

# Overall survival

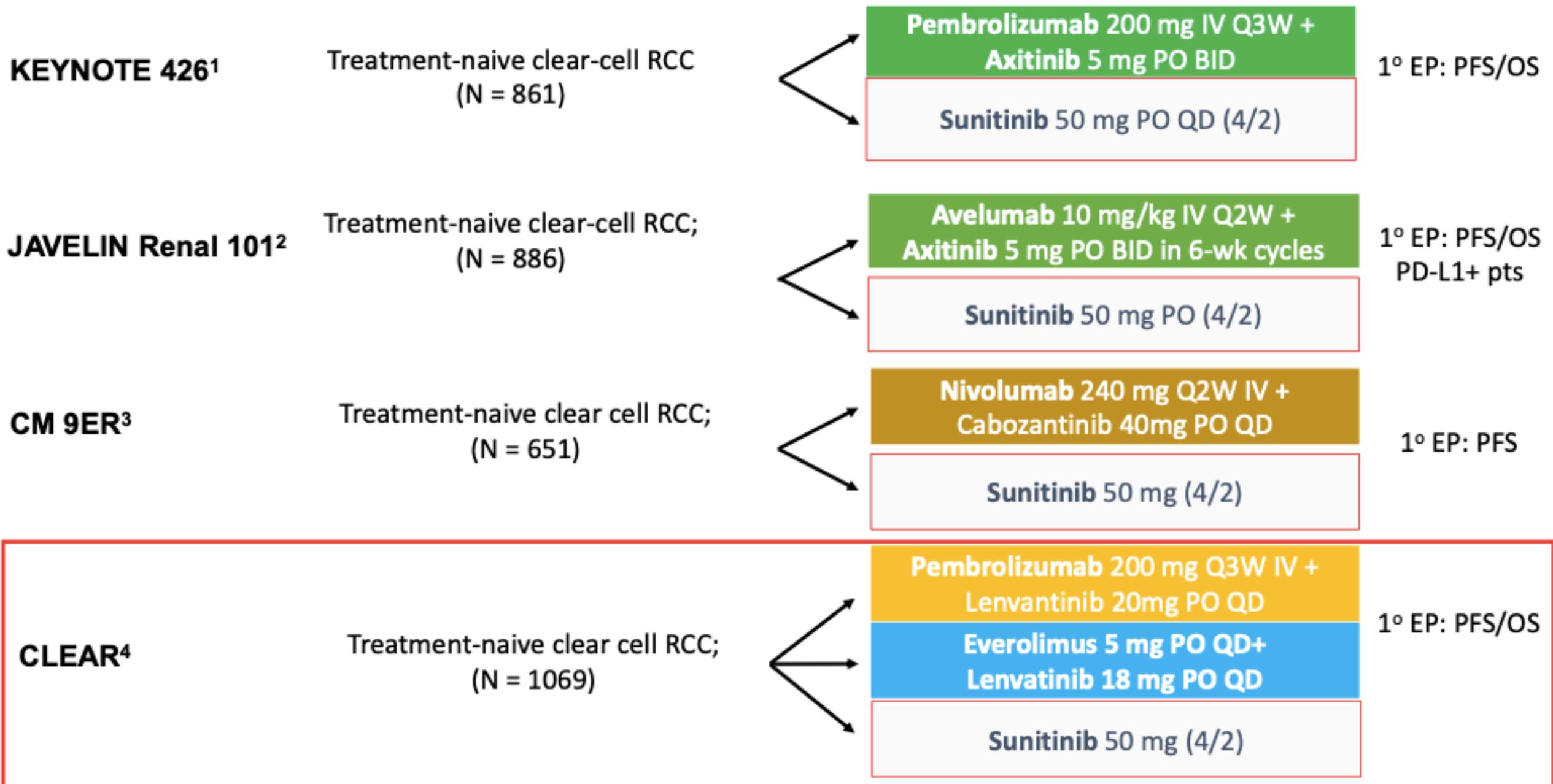


## No. at Risk

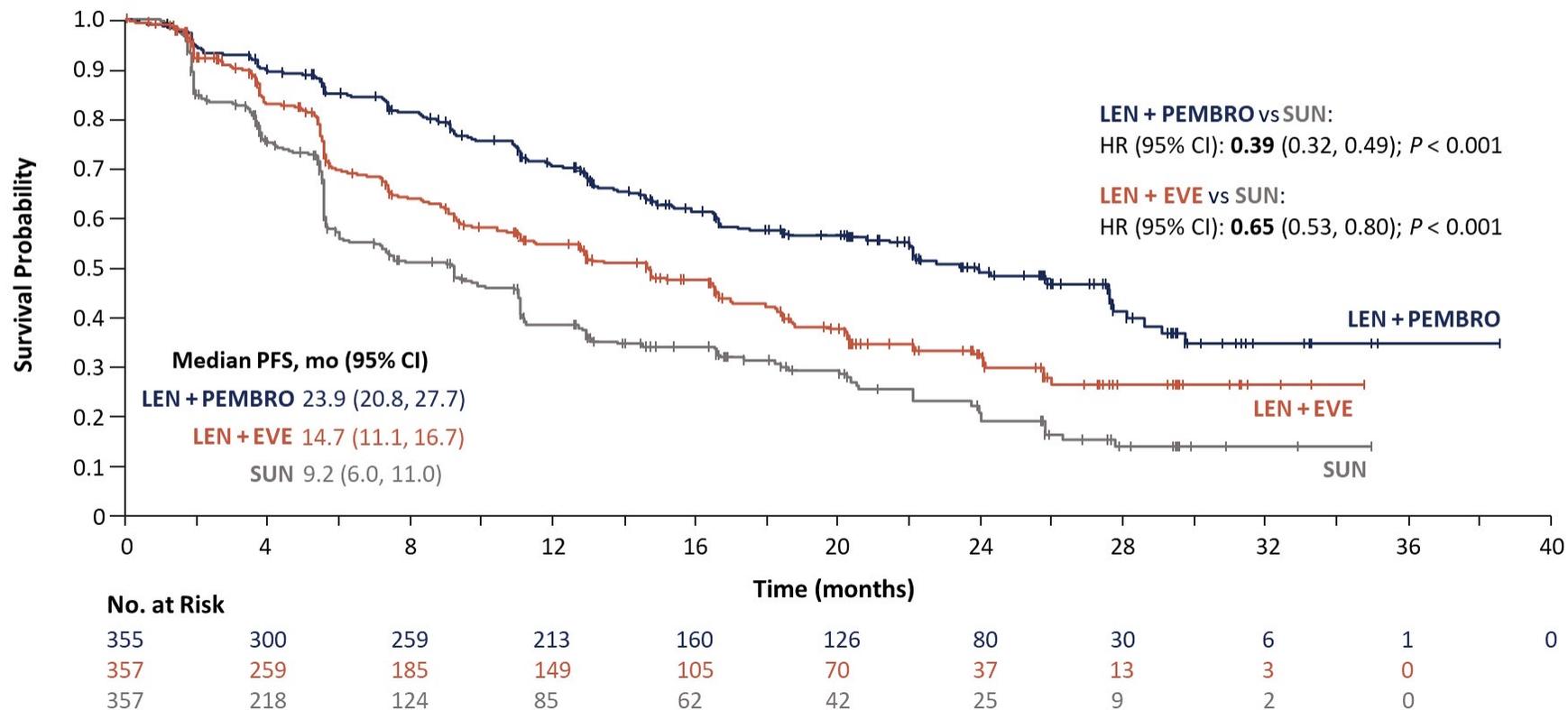
Nivolumab+cabozantinib	323	308	295	283	259	184	106	55	11	3	0
Sunitinib	328	296	273	253	223	154	83	36	10	3	0

# Checkmate-9ER Highlights

<b>Median follow-up (months)</b>	<b>18<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>23.5<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>OS, months</b>	NR	NR
<b>HR (95% CI)</b>	<b>0.60 (0.40-0.89)</b>	<b>0.66 (0.50-0.87)</b>
<b>PFS, months</b>	16.6	17.0
<b>HR (95% CI)</b>	0.51 (0.41-0.64)	0.52 (0.43-0.64)
<b>ORR(%)/CR(%)</b>	55.7/8.0	56.5/8.5

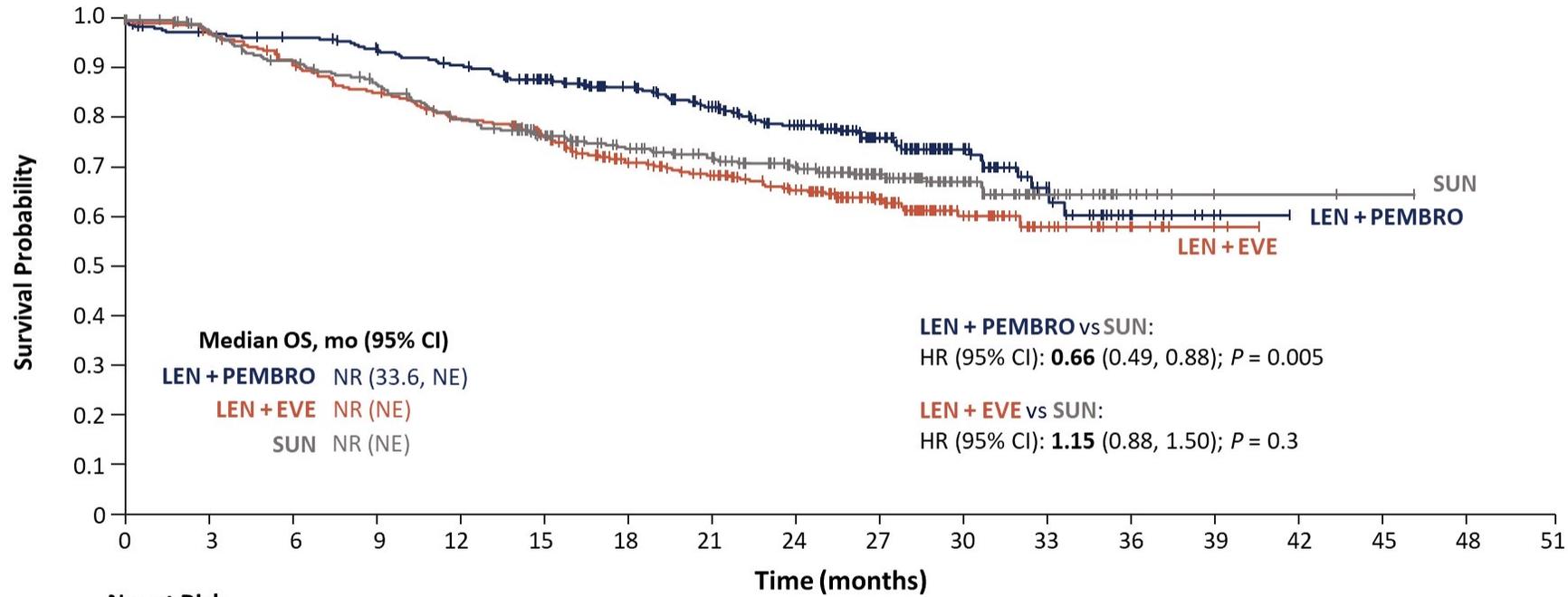


# Progression-free Survival\*



\*By Independent Review Committee per RECIST v1.1.

# Overall Survival



NE, not estimable; NR, not reached.

# CLEAR Study Highlights

	LEN + PEMBRO	LEN + EVE	SUN
	n = 355	n = 357	n = 357
Median PFS, mo (95% CI)	23.9 (20.8–27.7)	14.7 (11.1–16.7)	9.2 (6.0–11.0)
<b>Stratified HR (95% CI) vs SUN</b>	<b>0.39 (0.32–0.49)</b>	<b>0.65 (0.53–0.80)</b>	--
<i>P</i> -value	< 0.001	< 0.001	--
Median OS, mo (95% CI)	NR (33.6–NE)	NR (NE)	NR (NE)
<b>Stratified HR (95% CI) vs SUN</b>	<b>0.66 (0.49–0.88)</b>	<b>1.15 (0.88–1.50)</b>	--
<i>P</i> -value	0.005	0.3	--
<b>Objective response rate, %</b>	<b>71.0</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>36.1</b>
Complete response, %	16.1	9.8	4.2

How to choose?

## IO+IO

## IO+TKI

### PROS

- Improved OS
- Mature follow-up data
- Durable responses
- Potential to stop therapy

- Improved OS
- High ORR
- Longer PFS
- Lower irAE rate

### CONS

- Higher irAE rate
- Lower PFS/response rate

- Unclear AE attribution
- Less mature follow-up
- Chronic TKI toxicity

	KEYNOTE-426 <sup>1</sup>	CheckMate 9ER <sup>3</sup>	CLEAR <sup>4</sup>
	Axi + Pembro N=432	Cabo + Nivo N=323	Len + Pembro N=355
<b>IMDC Risk Group, %</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Intermediate</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Poor</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Sarcomatoid features, %</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Prior Nephrectomy, %</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>≥ 2 organs with metastasis, %</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Liver Metastasis, %</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Bone Metastasis, %</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>

1. Rini et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779529. 2. Motzer et al. *NEJM*, 2019. PMID: 30779531. 3. Choueiri T.K. et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33657295. 4. Motzer R.J. et al. *NEJM*, 2021. PMID: 33616314.

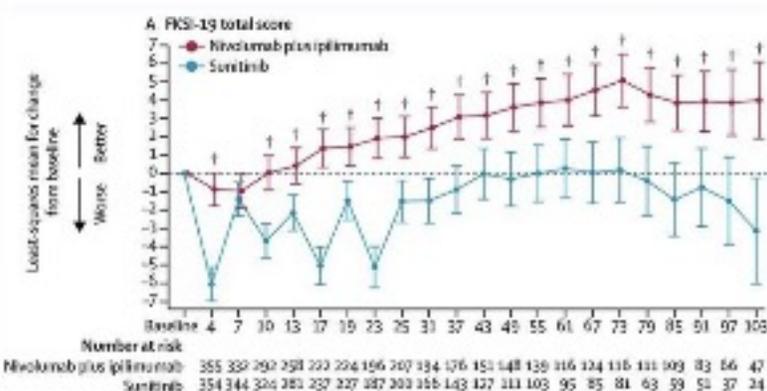
# Summary of Immunotherapy Combination Trials with OS benefit

	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab CheckMate-214 n=1096 <sup>1</sup>	Pembrolizumab + Axitinib Keynote 426 n=861 <sup>2</sup>	Nivolumab + Cabozantinib CheckMate-9ER n=651 <sup>3</sup>	Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib CLEAR n=1096 <sup>4</sup>
Follow-up, mo	60 (minimum)	42 (median)	23.5 (median)	26.6 (median)
Median PFS, mo	12.3	15.7	17	23.9
PFS HR	0.86	0.68	0.52	0.39
Median OS, mo	55.7	45.7	NR	NR
OS HR	0.72	0.73	0.66	0.66
ORR, %	39	60.4	54.8	71.0
CR, %	12	10.0	9.3	16.1
PD, %	17.6	11.3	6.2	5.4
QOL vs sunitinib	Improved	Similar	Improved	Similar to Improved

Mo=months; PFS=Progression-free survival; HR=Hazard ratio; ORR=Objective response rate; CR=Complete response rate; PD=Progressive disease rate; TTR=Time to response; DOR=Duration of response; NR=Not reached. QOL=Quality of Life

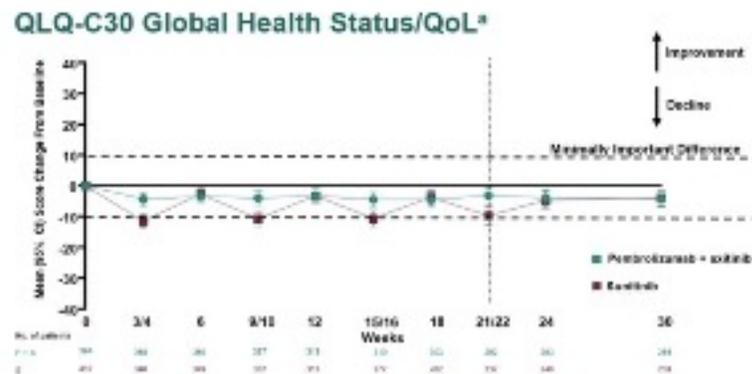
# Quality of Life Data from Phase 3 Studies (vs. Sunitinib)

## CheckMate-214 Nivolumab + Ipilimumab



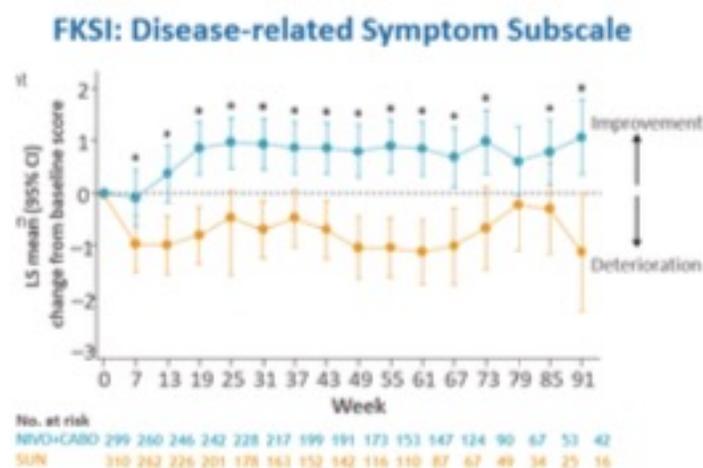
Improved QOL\* (FKSI-19)

## Keynote-426 Pembrolizumab + Axitinib



Similar QOL\* (QLQ-C30)

## CheckMate-9ER Nivolumab + Cabozantinib



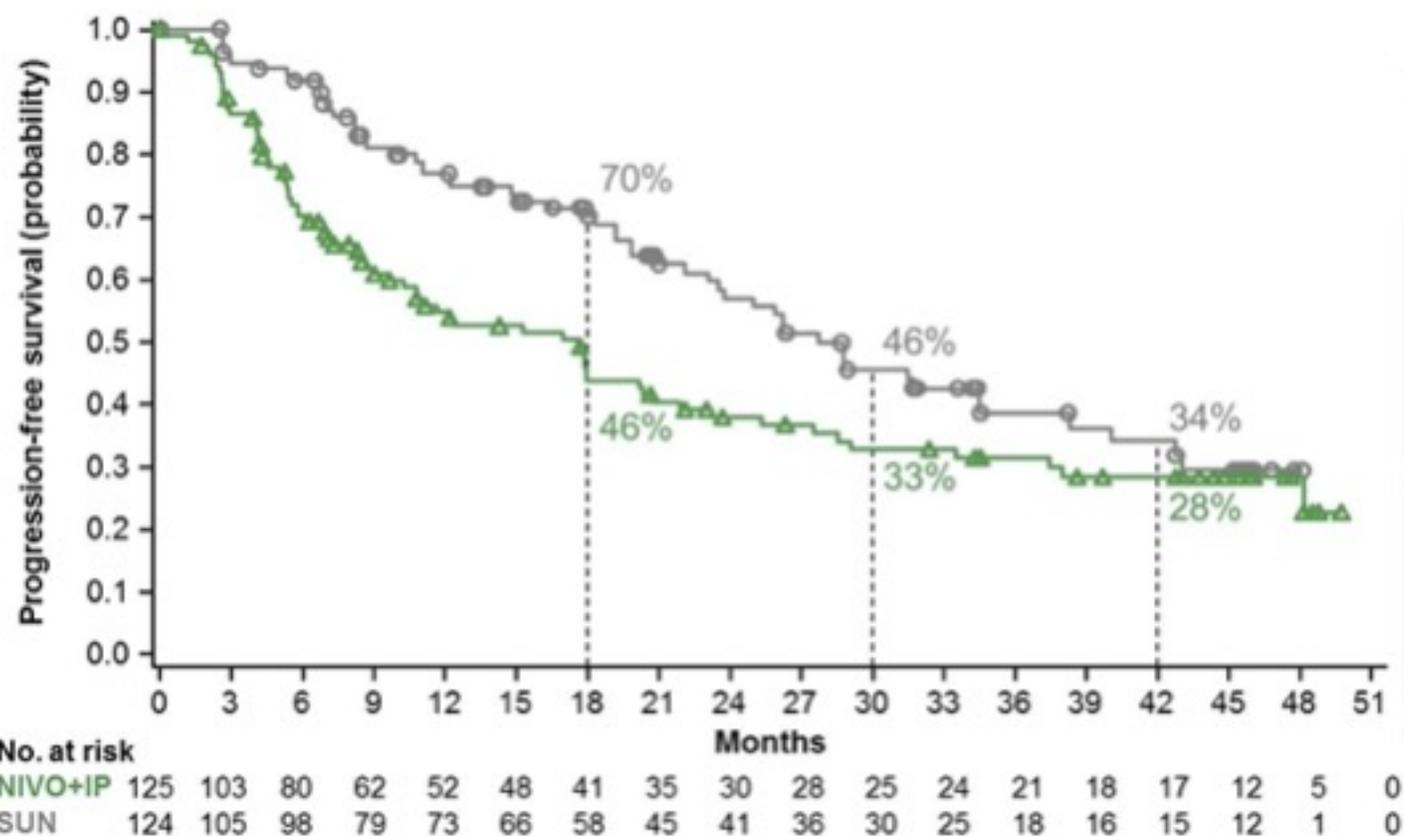
Improved QOL\* (FKSI-19/DRSS)

### Caveats

- Different instruments across studies
- Different time points
- Compliance rate varies
- ==> Comparisons between studies challenging

# CheckMate214: Favorable risk patients

Exploratory efficacy population: Favorable-risk patients



Minimum follow-up	PFS	NIVO+IP N = 125	SUN N = 124
17.5 mo <sup>1</sup>	Median, mo (95% CI)	15.3 (9.7–20.3)	25.1 (20.9–NE)
	HR (99.1% CI)	2.18 (1.29–3.68) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	
42 mo	Median, mo (95% CI)	17.8 (10.3–20.7)	27.7 (23.2–34.5)
	HR (95% CI)	1.62 (1.14–2.32) <i>P</i> < 0.01	

**BUT: 60 months OS HR: 0.94<sup>3</sup>**

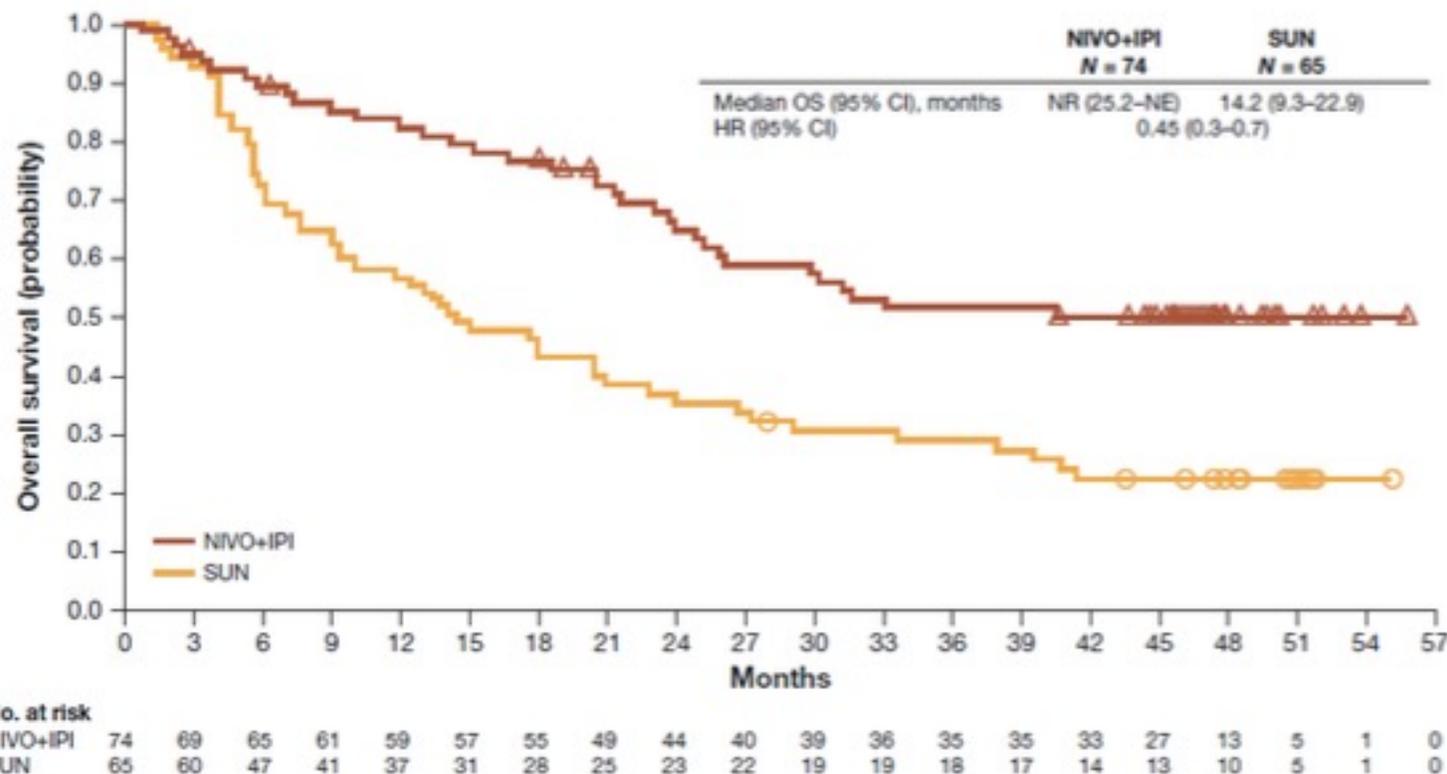
## Favorable risk-patients in IO+TKI combinations: PFS benefit, no OS benefit

Favorable Risk	Checkmate-9ER <sup>1</sup>	Keynote-426 <sup>2</sup>	CLEAR <sup>3</sup>
PFS HR (95% CI)	0.62 (0.38-1.01)	0.81 (0.53-1.24)	0.41 (0.28-0.62)
OS HR (95% CI)	0.84 (0.35-1.97)	0.64 (0.24-1.68)	1.15 (0.55-2.40)

OS benefit in Favorable risk patients may be elusive:

- Limited Nb. of patients
- Limited Nb. of events
- Indolent disease with available 2<sup>nd</sup> line options

# IO + IO in mRCC with Sarcomatoid Features (CheckMate-214)



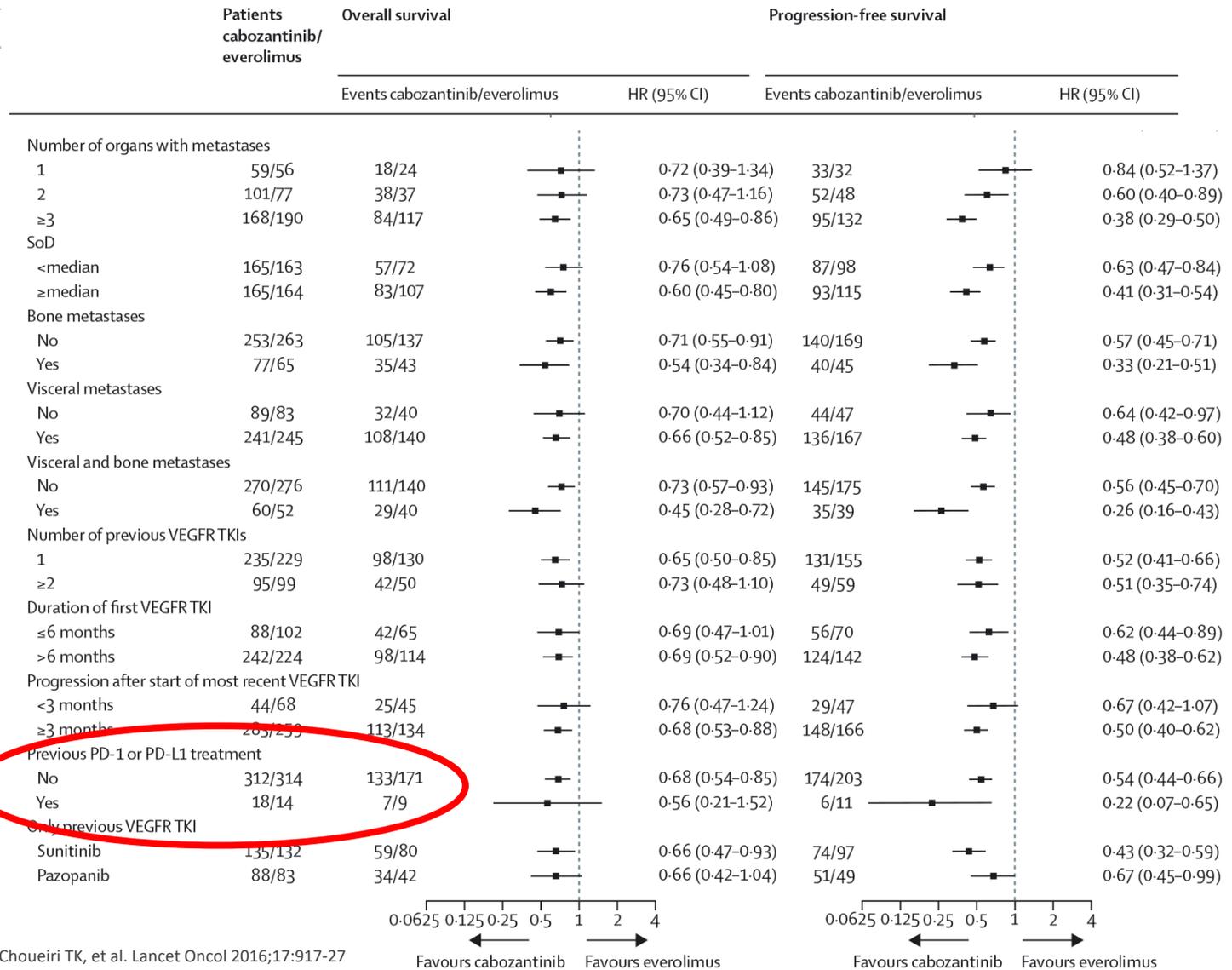
I/P mRCC	Nivo/Ipi (n=74)	Sunitinib (N=65)	HR
mOS (mo)	NR	14.2	0.45
mPFS (mo)	26.5	5.1	0.56
CR (%)	19	3	

**Sarcomatoid RCC tumors are characterized by an *immune-inflamed phenotype*<sup>2</sup>:**

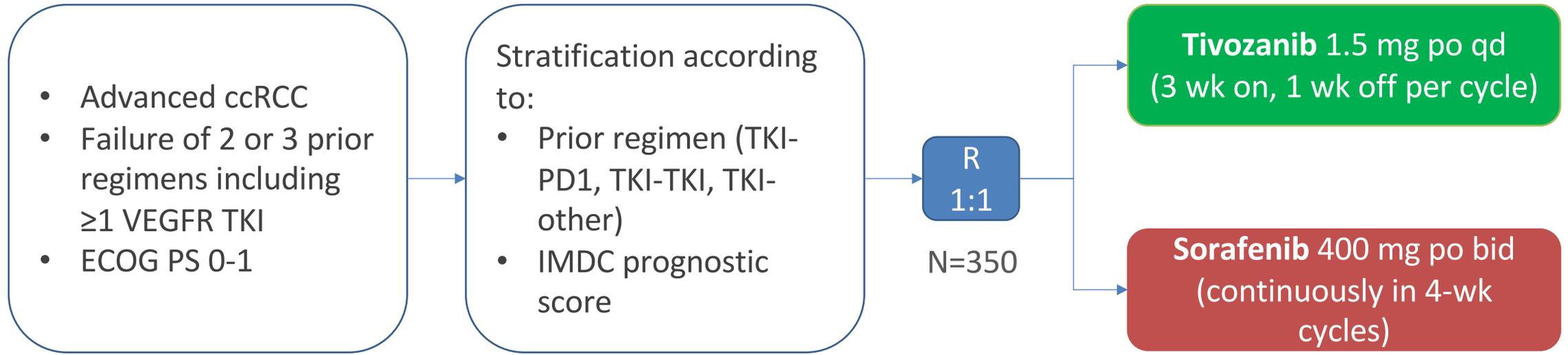
- 1) Activation of immune pathways
- 2) Increased expression of APM genes
- 3) Increased cytotoxic immune infiltration
- 4) High PD-L1 on tumor cells

What to choose in 2. and later lines?

# Cabozantinib post IO?



# TIVO-3: a multi-centre, open-label, phase III study

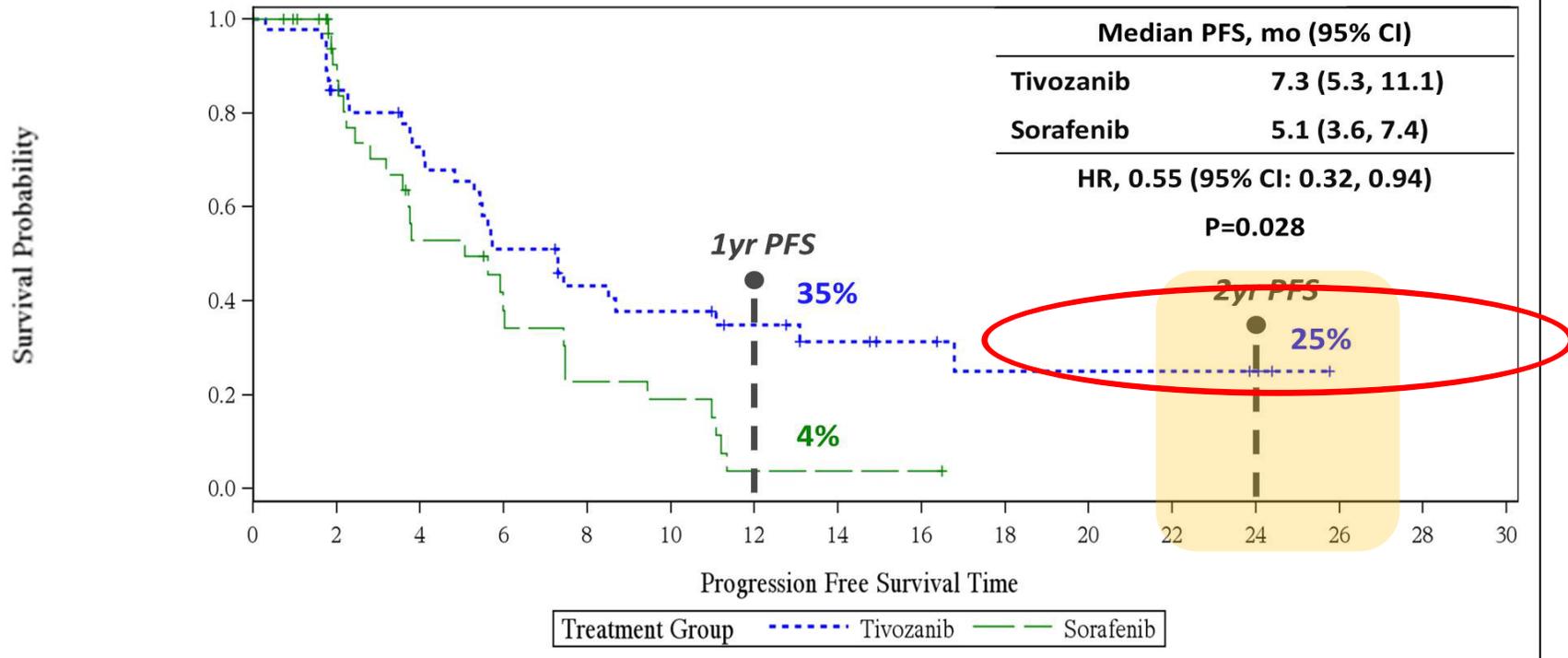


Tx until progression or unacceptable toxicity

Primary endpoint: PFS by IRC (90% power to detect PFS improvement of 4 vs 6 mo)

# TIVO-3: a multi-centre, open-label, phase III study

## Progression-Free Survival per IRC (Prior IO Subgroup)



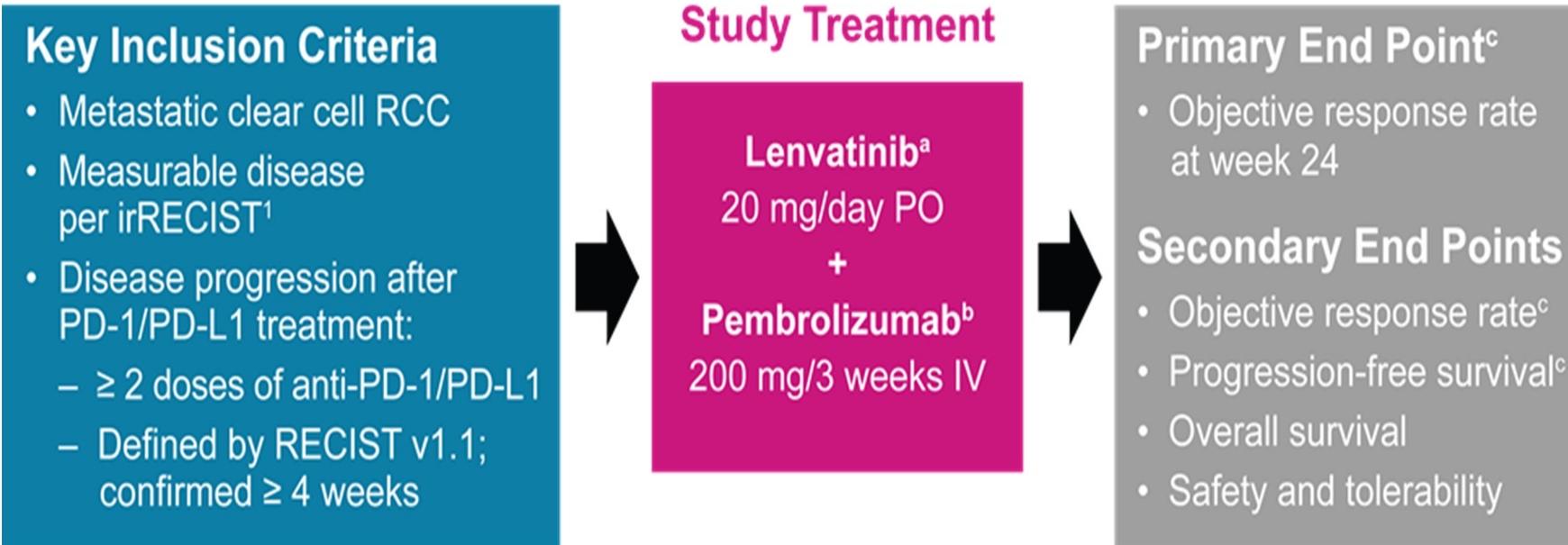
# Axitinib post IO

- Median PFS 8.8 months
- ORR 45 %

Participants, n=40	
<b>Number of previous therapies*</b>	
1	11 (28%)
2	19 (48%)
3	9 (23%)
4	1 (3%)
<b>Most recent therapy</b>	
Nivolumab	25 (63%)
Ipilimumab plus nivolumab	6 (15%)
Nivolumab plus hypoxia-inducible factor inhibitor	3 (8%)
Atezolizumab	2 (5%)
Bevacizumab plus atezolizumab	2 (5%)
Durvalumab plus tremelimumab	1 (3%)
Durvalumab	1 (3%)
<b>Best response to checkpoint inhibitor therapy†</b>	
Partial response	8 (20%)
Stable disease	21 (53%)
Progressive disease	10 (25%)
<b>Duration on previous checkpoint inhibitor</b>	
<6 months	25 (63%)
≥6 months	15 (38%)
Median duration, months	4.8 (2.0–8.7)
<b>Reason for checkpoint inhibitor discontinuation</b>	
Disease progression	37 (93%)
Toxicity‡	3 (8%)
<b>Time from checkpoint inhibitor discontinuation to axitinib initiation, months</b>	<b>1.1 (0.7–1.7)</b>
<small>Values are n (%) or median (IQR). *The majority of patients (28 [70%]) received previous VEGF-directed therapy. †Unknown for one patient. ‡One patient each: fatigue, pneumonitis, and colitis.</small>	

**Table 2: Previous therapies and response to immune checkpoint inhibitor**

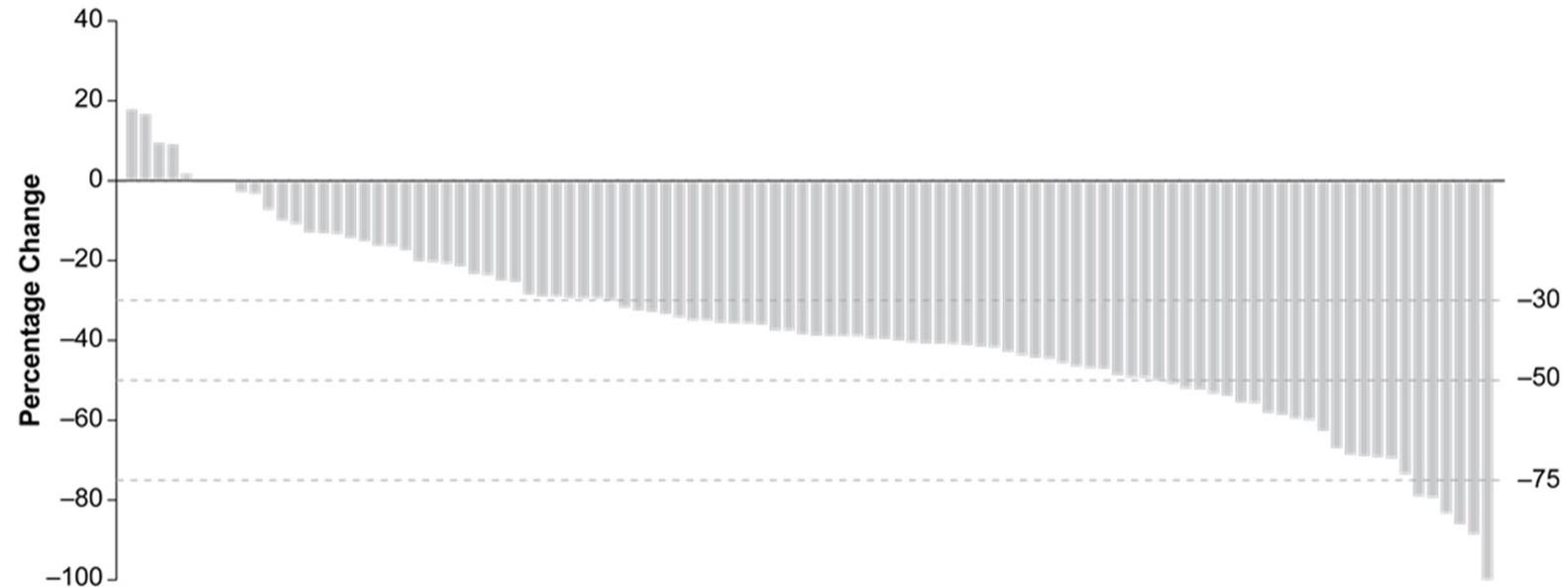
# Study Design for the Phase 2 RCC Cohort



<sup>a</sup>Dose reductions to lenvatinib 14 mg/day, 10 mg/day, 8 mg/day and 4 mg/day were allowed to manage toxicities; dose reductions below 4 mg/day were discussed with the sponsor; <sup>b</sup> maximum of 35 treatments (approximately 2 years); <sup>c</sup> per irRECIST, by investigator assessment.

1. Perrone A. Immuno-Oncology 360° conference. New York, NY. 2016.  
IV, intravenously; PO, by mouth; RECIST v1.1, Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors version 1.1.

# Percentage Change in Sum of Diameters of Target Lesions From Baseline to Nadir<sup>a</sup>



Note: Each bar represents 1 patient.  
<sup>a</sup> By irRECIST per investigator assessment.

# Study Design (NCT03634540)

## Key Eligibility Criteria

- Advanced or metastatic ccRCC
- Being treatment naive or having previously received immunotherapy and  $\leq 2$  regimens for locally advanced or metastatic RCC
- ECOG PS 0 or 1
- All IMDC risk categories (favorable/intermediate/poor) allowed

**Cohort 1:**  
Treatment-naive  
Belzutifan 120 mg/day PO +  
Cabozantinib 60 mg/day PO  
N  $\approx$  50

**Cohort 2:**  
Prior immunotherapy treatment  
with or without prior targeted treatment  
Belzutifan 120 mg/day PO +  
Cabozantinib 60 mg/day PO  
N  $\approx$  50

## Tumor Assessments

- Q8W after week 9 for 12 months and then Q12W thereafter

## End Points

- Primary: ORR
- Secondary: PFS, TTR, DOR, OS, safety/tolerability, PK/PD

## Median follow-up<sup>a</sup>

- 15.4 months (range, 8.7-30.6)

Safety and tolerability were evaluated in the first 6 participants enrolled, irrespective of cohort

- If tolerability was established, enrollment continued
- If tolerability was not established, dose was reviewed

# Objective Response Rate and Disease Control Rate

Population	ORR (CR + PR)		DCR (CR + PR + SD)	
	n/N	% (95% CI)	n/N	% (95% CI)
<b>All patients</b>	15/52	28.8 (17.1-43.1)	48/52	92.3 (81.5-97.9)
<b>IMDC risk category</b>				
Favorable	3/11	27.3 (6.0-61.0)	11/11	100 (71.5-100)
Intermediate/poor	12/41	29.3 (16.1-45.5)	37/41	90.2 (76.9-97.3)
<b>Prior anticancer therapy</b>				
IO only	8/28	28.6 (13.2-48.7)	26/28	92.9 (76.5-99.1)
IO/VEGF	7/24	29.2 (12.6-51.1)	22/24	91.7 (73.0-99.0)

# Personal preference?

- Therapy management (dose reduction, supportive measures) is easiest for the drug you know best

Takk for oppmerksomheten!