

A CASE OF METASTATIC RENAL CELL CARCINOMA WITH COMPLETE RESPONSE ACHIEVED BY NIVOLUMAB

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Introduction - Purpose : The most common malignant renal tumors are renal cell carcinomas and usually have poor prognosis. Renal cell carcinoma cases are resistant to chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Therefore, nephrectomy is the only effective treatment option. Nowadays, we are observing and experiencing the effects of immunotherapies (especially the effects of anti-PD1 agents such as nivolumab and pembrolizumab which are primarily target to eliminate the T-cell associated immune tolerance and trigger the cytotoxic response against the tumor) mainly in Hodgkin's lymphoma and malign melanoma but also in lung, renal cell carcinomas, MSI high colon carcinomas in our clinical practice. Here we wanted to share a refractory metastatic renal cell carcinoma case that treated with Nivolumab

Findings : A 66-years-old male patient admitted to hospital with flank pain in September 2013. A mass was found in his left kidney and he was diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma. After the diagnosis, left radical nephrectomy was performed and he was decided to be followed up. Splenic metastasis was detected in his control examination performed on December 2014 and metastasectomy was performed. IFN treatment was planned however he couldn't tolerate IFN treatment. Therefore, sunitinib treatment was administered. In his control examination performed in April 2016 metastasis was detected in small intestines and confirmed by biopsy. Treatment with nivolumab at a dose of 3 mg / kg was administered. After 16 doses of nivolumab, complete response was achieved and the patient is still in follow-up.

Discussion : The basic mechanism of immunotherapy is to re-activate T lymphocytes (which are non-responsive against tumor cells that ensures cancer cells immune tolerance) against cancer cells and ensuring them to create cytotoxic response. In tumors with high mortality and poor prognosis, it is possible to obtain a complete and permanent response with anti-PD1 treatment that triggers the immune system to create a persistent and effective response against tumors.

Keywords: Anti-PD1 agents, Renal cell carcinoma