

# CARMENA & the Role of Cytoreductive Nephrectomy in 2019

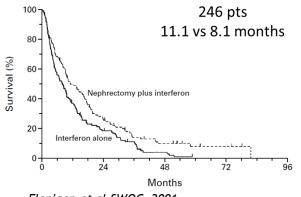
Laurence Albiges
Gustave Roussy Institute

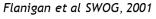
CKCF19, Toronto April 11<sup>th</sup>

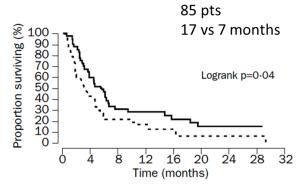
#### 2001, 2 randomized studies

Retrospective studies 2014, IMDC database analysis

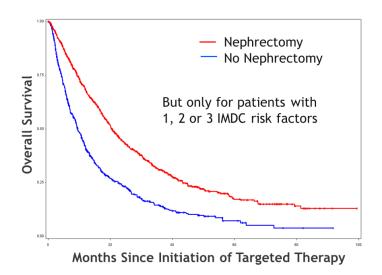
Meta-analysis







Mickisch et al EORTC, 2001



CN: Cytoreductive nephrectomy

SOC: Standard of Care

mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma

1.Flanigan R, et al. N Engl J Med 2001;345:1655. 2. Mickish G, et al. Lancet 2001;358:966.

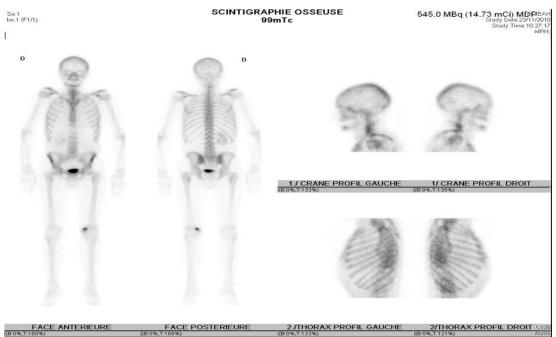
IMDC, International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium; mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma

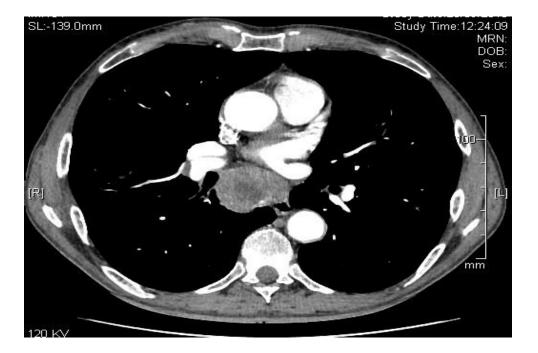
Heng D, et al, Eur Urol 2014;66:704.

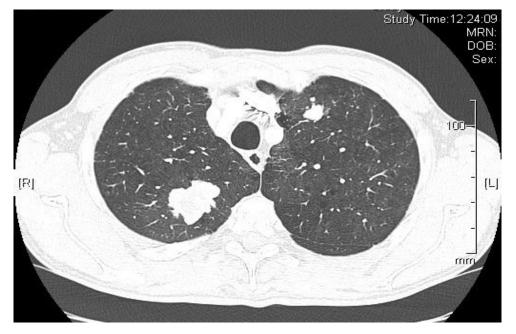
#### A Carmena Case

- 63 year old male
- Past medical history: tobacco (40 pxyear)
- Presentation:
  - Hematuria
  - Asthenia grade 1 + weight loss (7%)
  - CT scans and staging:







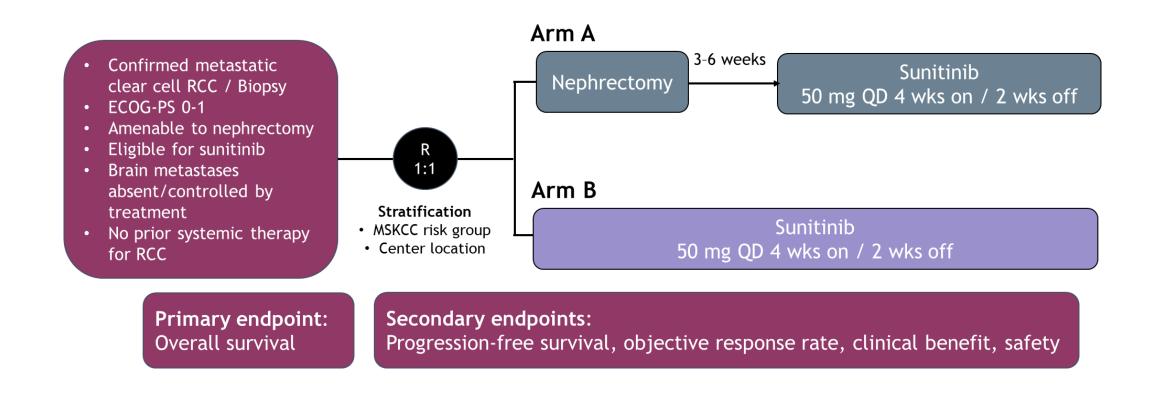


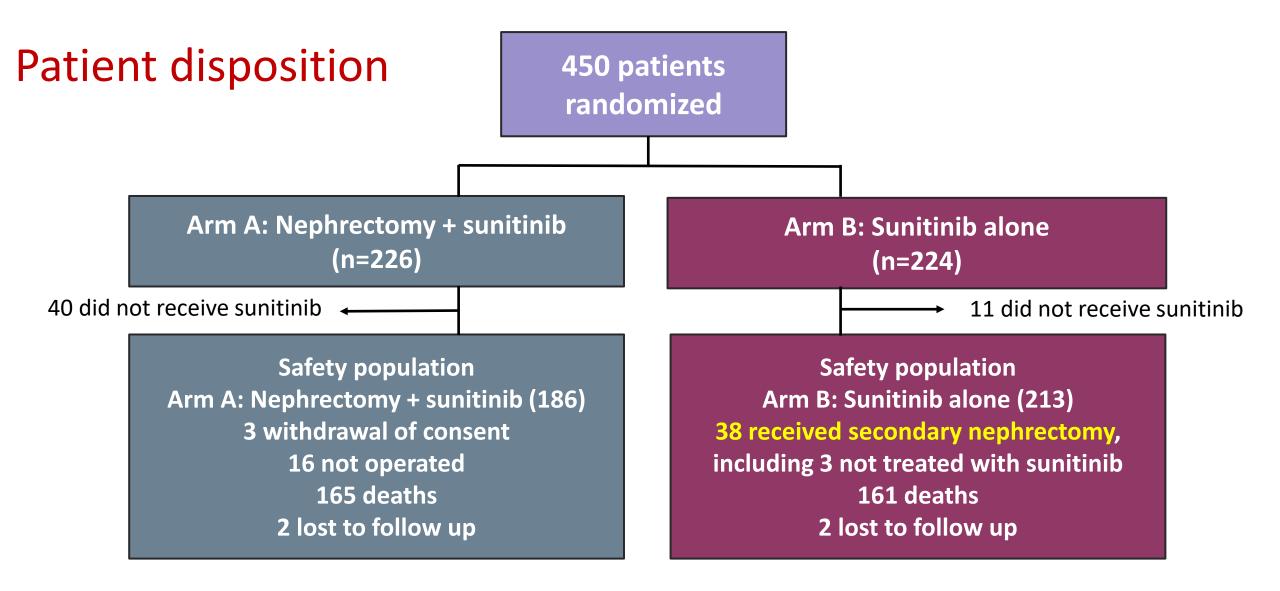
#### A Carmena Case

- 63 year old male
- Past medical history: tobacco (40 pxyear)
- Presentation:
  - Hematuria
  - Asthenia grade 1 + weight loss (7%)
- Initial evaluation:
  - PS 1 (IK 80%)
  - Normal lab values

#### **CARMENA**

# Prospective, multicenter, academic, randomized, phase 3 non-inferiority study





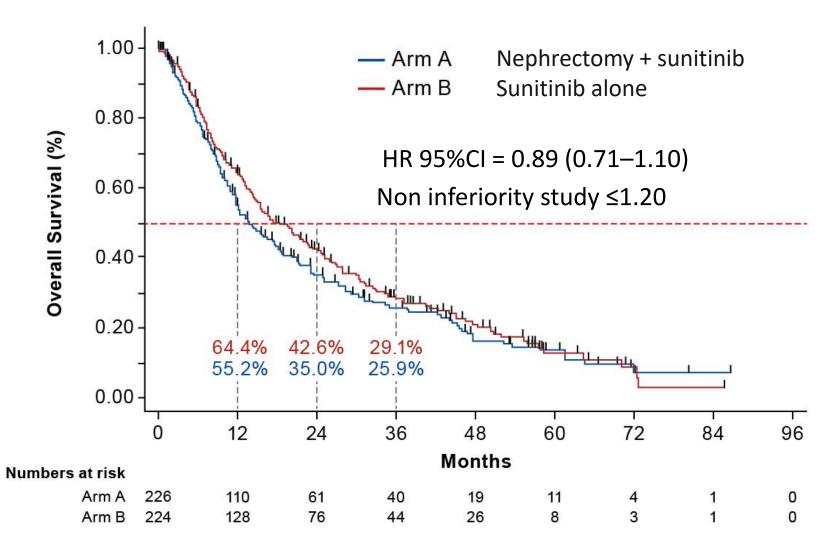
Data cutoff: September 9, 2017

ITT, intention to treat

#### Patient characteristics

Characteristic	Arm A: Nephrectomy + sunitinib (N = 226)	Arm B: Sunitinib alone (N = 224)
Median age (range), years	63 (33-84)	62 (30-87)
Male sex, n (%)	169 (75)	167 (75)
MSKCC score, n (%)		
Intermediate	125 (56)	131 (59)
Poor	100 (44)	93 (41)
Missing	1	0
ECOG PS, n (%)		
0	130 (57)	122 (54)
1	96 (42)	102 (45)

# Overall survival (ITT)



Median follow-up was 50.9 months (range 0.0-86.6)

## Overall survival (ITT)

Median OS, months	Arm A:	Arm B:	HR
(95% CI)	Nephrectomy + Sunitinib	Sunitinib alone	
	(n = 226)	(n = 224)	(95% CI)
Overall	13.9	18.4	0.89
	(11.8–18.3)	(14.7–23.0)	(0.71–1.10)
MSKCC intermediate risk	19.0	23.4	0.92
	(12.0–28.0)	(17.0–32.0)	(0.6–1.24)
MSKCC poor risk	10.2	13.3	0.86
	(9.0–14.0)	(9.0–17.0)	(0.62–1.17)

Non inferiority study ≤1.20

#### Response rate

Best overall response, n (%)	Arm A: Nephrectomy + sunitinib (N = 186)	Arm B: Sunitinib alone (N = 213)
CR	1 (0.6)	0 (0)
PR	50 (28)	62 (30)
SD	64 (36)	97 (47)
PD	49 (27)	40 (19)
Not evaluable	14 (8)	9 (4)
Missing	8	5
Objective response rate (CR + PR), % (95% CI)	27.4 (21-34)	29.1 (23-36)
Disease control rate (CR + PR + SD), % (95% CI)	61.8 (54-69)	74.6 (68-80)
Clinical benefit, % (disease control beyond 12 wks)	36.6	47.9*

\*p=0.022

CI, confidence interval; CR, complete response; PD, progression of disease; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease<sup>2</sup>

#### Secondary nephrectomy in Arm B (sunitinib alone)

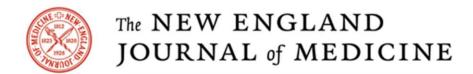
- 38 patients required secondary nephrectomy
  - For emergency treatment of the primary tumor
  - For CR or near CR in metastatic sites (> 6 months)
- Median 11.1 months (range 0.7–85.4)
   from randomisation to surgery
- 31.3% of patients with secondary nephrectomy restarted sunitinib

	Arm B: Sunitinib alone (N = 224)
Secondary nephrectomy, n (%)	
No	185 (83.0)
Yes	38 (17.0)
Missing	1
Emergency	
Yes	7 (18.9)
No	30 (81.1)
Missing	1

#### Conclusions

- Sunitinib alone is non-inferior to cytoreductive nephrectomy followed by sunitinib for OS, both in intermediate- and poor-risk patients with mRCC
- Clinical benefit was significantly higher in sunitinib alone arm

 Cytoreductive nephrectomy should no longer be considered the standard of care in mRCC, at least when medical treatment is required



#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

#### Sunitinib Alone or after Nephrectomy in Metastatic Renal-Cell Carcinoma

A. Méjean, A. Ravaud, S. Thezenas, S. Colas, J.-B. Beauval, K. Bensalah, L. Geoffrois, A. Thiery-Vuillemin, L. Cormier, H. Lang, L. Guy, G. Gravis, F. Rolland, C. Linassier, E. Lechevallier, C. Beisland, M. Aitchison, S. Oudard, J.-J. Patard, C. Theodore, C. Chevreau, B. Laguerre, J. Hubert, M. Gross-Goupil, J.-C. Bernhard, L. Albiges, M.-O. Timsit, T. Lebret, and B. Escudier

# Guidelines have changed after CARMENA report

• CARMENA demonstrated that upfront CN should no longer be considered the standard of care in MSKCC intermediate- and poorrisk patients with asymptomatic primary tumours when medical treatment is required [I, A].

 Results of these trials should not be used to abandon CN in patients with low volume metastatic disease, a good PS and favourable and intermediate risk, who are candidates for initial observation.

## Yes – CARMENA is changing our SOC

 Why to choose a noninferiority design?

- At the start of the trial, the standard of care was CN followed with sunitinib
- Based on retrospective data in TKI era (and prospective cytokine era) suggested that CN + sunit was better than sunit alone
- the non-inferiority trial design was justifiable, ethical and pragmatic
  - If met: avoid the risk/delay/pain/cost associated to surgery
- Upper limit of non-inferiority of 1.20 was selected a priori, and is commonly used in non inferiority trials

Enrolment was slow ...

 Underline the challenge of surgical trial and medical community belief of one assumption

 13 centers included ≥ 10 pts for a total of 247 pts (55%)

Study did not met planned accrual...

- Study was discontinued after 2<sup>nd</sup> planned interim analysis
- By sponsor upon IDMC recommendation
- based on the fact that complete enrollment could not change the outcome of the reported results

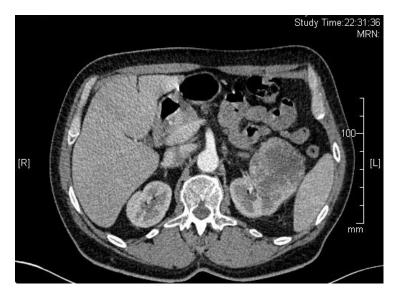
 42% of patients were poor risk...

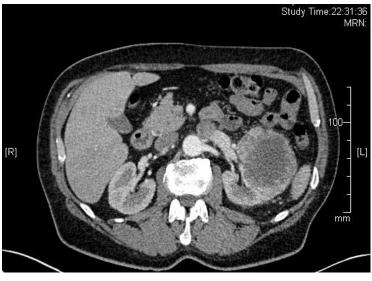
- CARMENA inclusion criteria included PS
   0,1 and eligible both for surgery and systemic therapy
- Therefore capture a **clinically fit** population

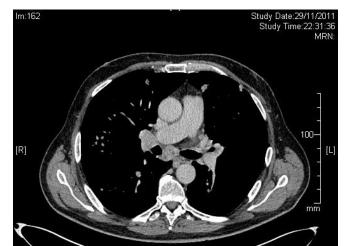
#### Case 2

- 66 year old male
- No past history
- Hematuria and weight loss 3 kgs

## Case 3 staging











#### Case 3

- 66 year old male
- No past history
- Hematuria and weight loss 3 kgs

- PS 0
- Hemoglobin 10,8 g
- Platelets 520 000
- Neutrophils, calcemia, LDH normal



#### CARMENA IN CONTEXT

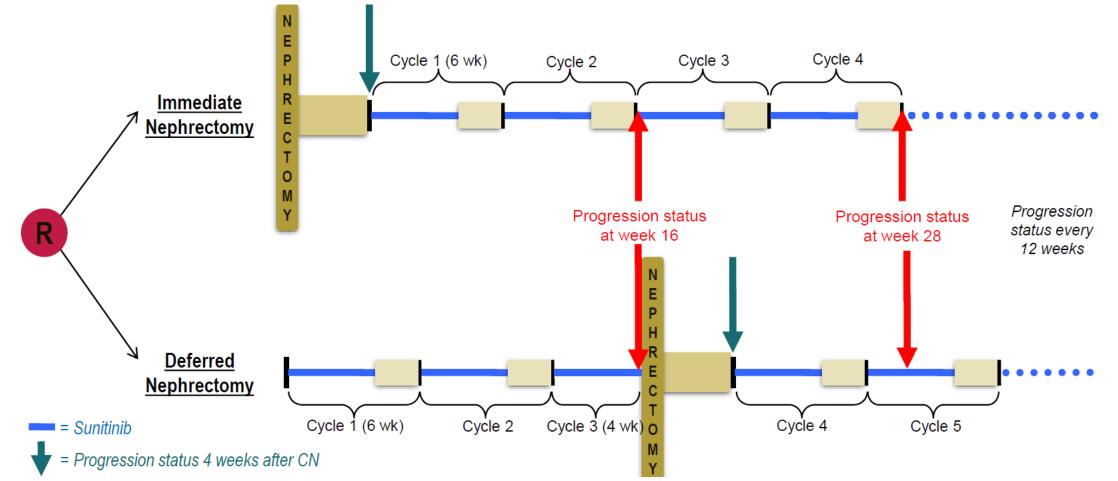
 How SURTIME adds to CAMENA understanding?

#### SURTIME INSIGHT: SEQUENCE TRIAL



- Due to poor accrual (64 patients after 3 years recruitment), a revised statistical design had been submitted before the end of accrual to the Independent Data Monitoring Committee (IDMC) and approved the following changes:
- Primary endpoint: Progression-free rate (PFR) at 28 weeks, using RECIST v1.1

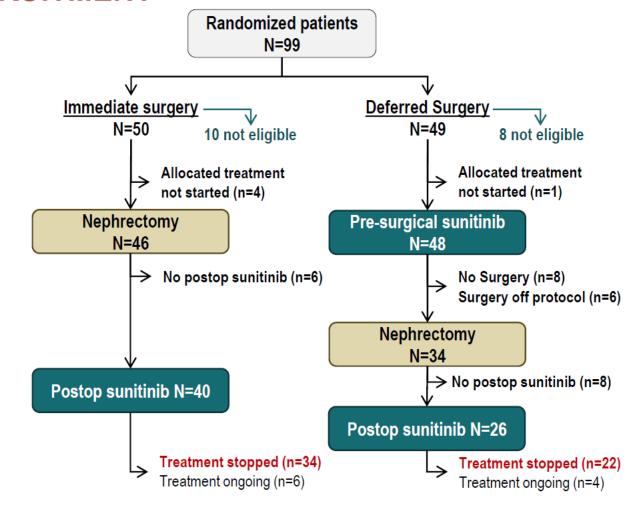
Sample size: Based on the PFR at 7 months (28 weeks) in the sunitinib arm in the pivotal trial comparing sunitinib and interferon-alpha, in which 90% of the patients had a nephrectomy<sup>1</sup>, a PFR at 28 weeks of 70% was assumed for the immediate arm in trial 30073. To show an increase in the PFR at 28 weeks from 70% in the immediate arm to 90% in the deferred arm (H0: no difference versus H1: increase of 20% in the PFR), based on a one sided Fisher Exact test at 5% with 80% power in the intention-to-treat population, 98 patients were needed.



#### SURTIME INSIGHTS

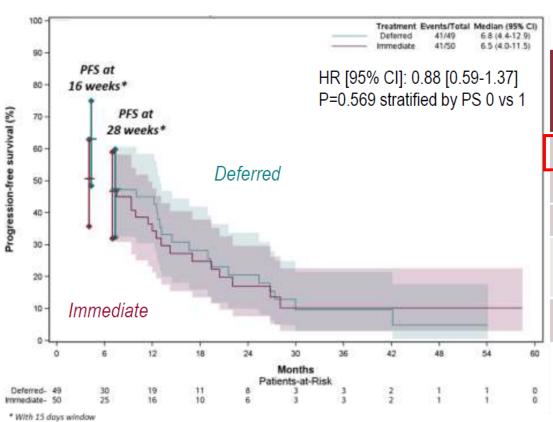
#### RECRUITMENT

- From 14/07/2010 to 24/03/2016 (ie 5.7 years):
  - 99 patients randomized
  - by 19 institutions
  - from 4 countries (the Netherlands, Canada, United Kingdom, Belgium).
- As of May 5, 2017, median follow-up is 3.3 years (95% CI: 2.8, 3.8).



#### SURTIME INSIGHTS

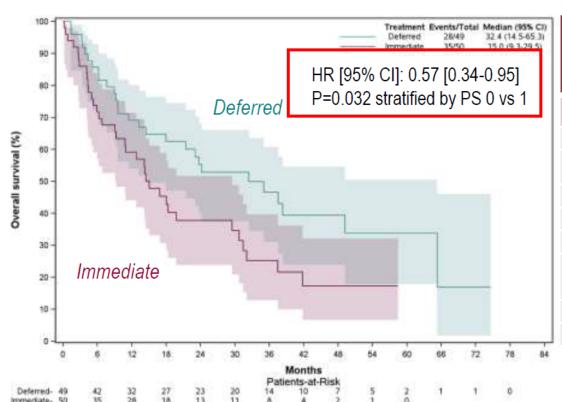
## PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL - INTENTION TO TREAT -



Progression-free status at w 28 (±15 days)	Immediate nephrectomy (N=50)	Deferred nephrectomy (N=49)	
Progression-free at week 28	21 (42.0%)	21 (42.9%)	
[95% CI]	[28.2% – 56.8%]	[28.8% – 57.8%]	
p-value (Fisher exact test)	>0.99		
Progression before or at week 28, or treatment failure	25 (50.0%)	24 (49.0%)	
Not assessable	4 (8.0%)	4 (8.2%)	

### SURTIME INSIGHTS

## OVERALL SURVIVAL - INTENTION TO TREAT-



	Immediate nephrectomy (N=50)	Deferred nephrectomy (N=49)
Survival status		
Dead	35 (70.0)	28 (57.1)
Reason of death		
Progression	30	25
Surgery related toxicity	1	0
Progression and surgery related toxicity	1	0
Cardiovascular disease (not due to toxicity or progression)	1	0
Other (not due to toxicity or progression)	1	0
Unknown	1	3

#### SURTIME KEY MESSAGES

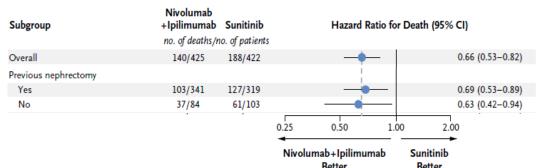
- Study accrued poorly and closed after 5.7 years
- (strict eligibility criteria to include best surgical candidates based on 7 preoperative factors predicting outcome after CN)
- Deferred versus immediate CN
  - OS in ITT(secondary endpoint) HR 0.57 (95% CI: 0.34–0.95, p=0.032)
  - median OS 32.4 (95%CI: 14.5-65.3) vs 15.0 months (95% CI: 9.3–29.5)
- These data support the hypothesis that delaying systemic therapy to perform immediate CN may result in a detrimental effect

#### CARMENA in an IO era?

 Are these data relevant in the IO era...



- CARMENA questions a general strategy of systemic therapy upfront, it is anticipated to remain valid in the IO era
- New IO combos have demonstrated superiority over sunitinib-> increased activity of our systemic therapies
- Could the primary exposure to IO 'enhance' the immune response?



### **CARMENA** Taken altogether

- Best prospective data available for CN
  - Demonstrate feasibility of surgical trial
  - Long Follow up
  - Hard endpoint
  - Homogenous results in all subgroups and endpoints (OS/PFS)
  - In line with SURETIME RCC trial
- Answer a clinically meaning full question

PRACTICE CHANGING TRIAL



#### **Acknowledgement**

**Arnaud Mejean Bernard Escudier** 

## Gustave Roussy GU Group laurence.albiges@igr.fr



## Even more

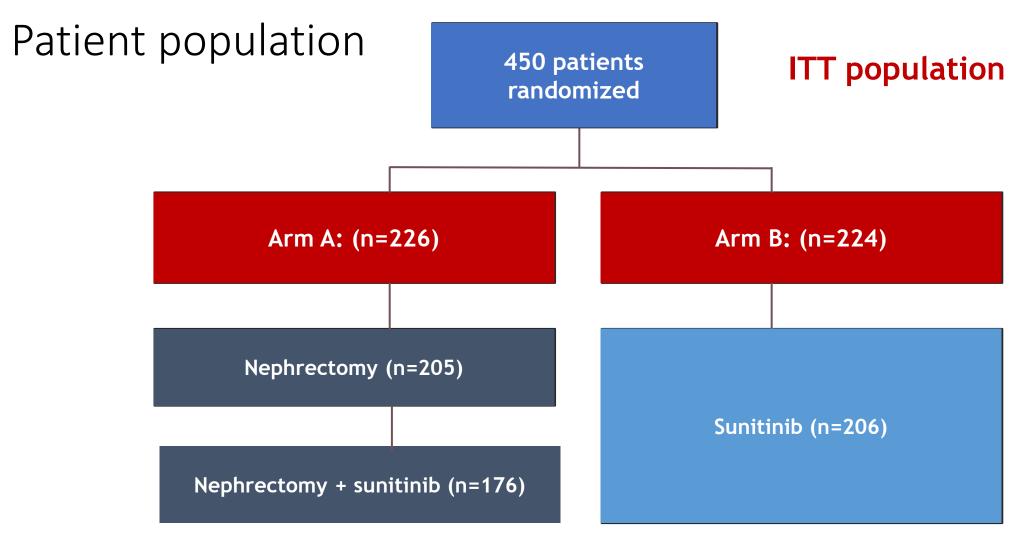
### Not in the scope of CARMENA

- Does not answer the questions of
  - What to do in small metastatic burden where CN+ surveillance is the standard (good risk patients that don't require upfront systemic therapy)
  - When (nor even if needed!) to operate on great responders to Systemic therapy

#### CARMENA REVOLUTION

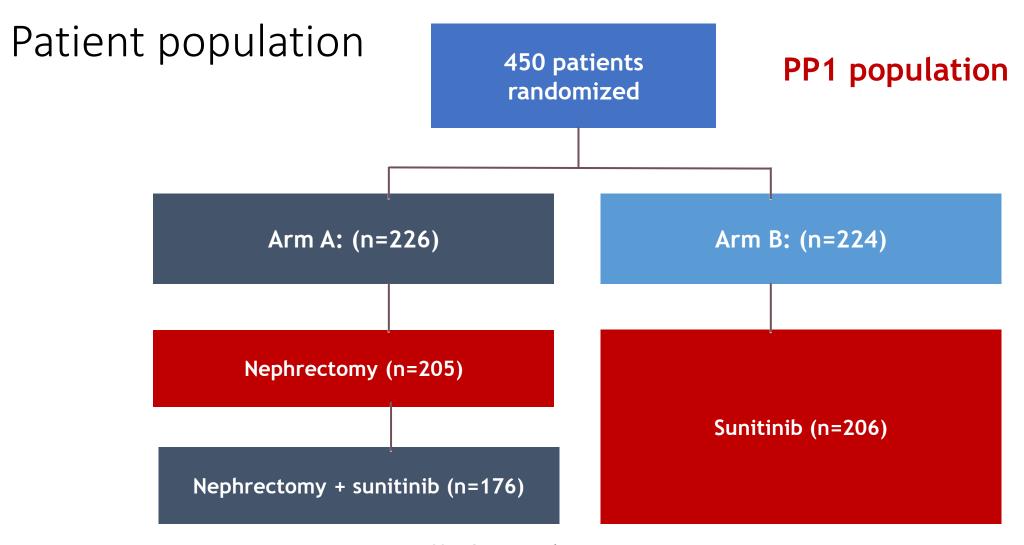
 But all previous study said right the opposite...

- RCT in cytokines era:
  - Flanigan study, only PS 0 with lung mets benefited.... These are the one likely to be under delay strategy
- Retrospective (even large) data are biaised especially in surgery, IMDC factors don't capture the reason why the patient was taken to surgery (mets size, mets kinetics physiological status...)

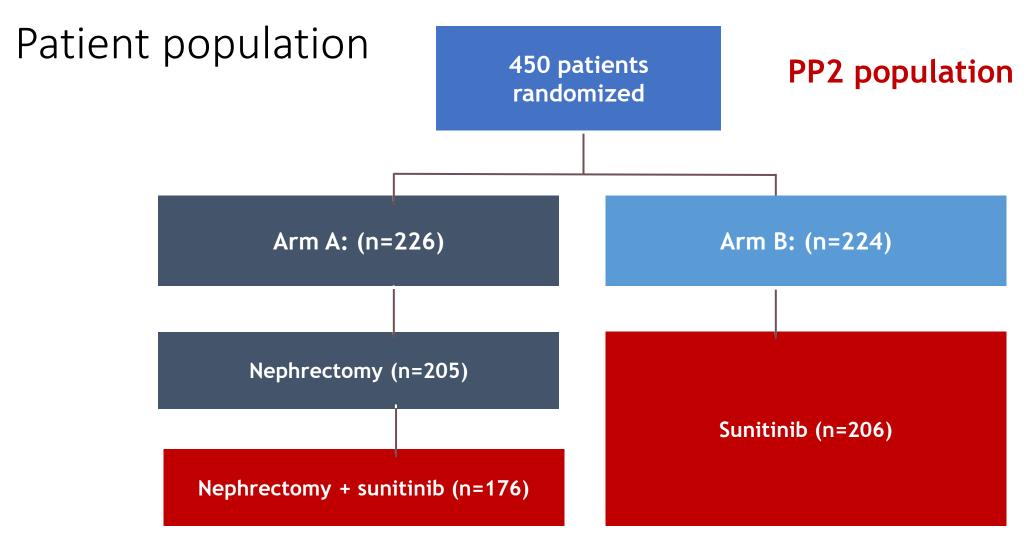


ITT, intention to treat

Data cutoff: September 9, 2017



PP1, per protocol Data cutoff: September 9, 2017



Data cutoff: September 9, 2017

PP2: per protocol

### Overall survival by patient population

Population	n (Nephrectomy + sunitinib)			Arm B (Sunitinib)	HR (95% CI), stratified by		
	n	Events, n (%)	Median (95% CI), months	n	Events, n (%)	Median (95% CI), months	MSKCC risk group
ITT	226	165 (73)	13.9 (11.8–18.3)	224	161 (72)	18.4 (14.7–23.0)	0.89 (0.71–1.10)
PP1*	205	149 (73)	14.5 (11.9–20.2)	206	143 (69)	20.5 (15.6–25.2)	0.87 (0.69–1.1)
PP2#	176	122 (64)	18.3 (13.7–23.2)	206	143 (69)	20.5 (15.6–25.2)	0.98 (0.77–1.25)

<sup>\*</sup>The PP1 analysis included only patients who had nephrectomy in Arm A, and patients who receive sunitinib in Arm B.

#The PP2 analysis included only patients who had nephrectomy and receive sunitinib after nephrectomy in Arm A, and patients who receive sunitinib in Arm B.

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; ITT, intent-to-treat; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center; PP, per-protocol.

#### YES CARMENA HAS CAVEATS

 Patient carried large metastatic burden ...  Patients requiring systemic therapy are the focus of CARMENA trial

 Patients considered for observation only or multimodal (oligometastatic disease) were not the focus

#### YES CARMENA HAS CAVEATS

- CI cross the 1.2 boundary in the intermediate risk group...
- All HR are consistent (below<1)</li>
- trial was not powered to address this subgroup analysis

#### YES CARMENA HAS CAVEATS

• PP2 CI did net met HR<1.2 boundary...

- CARMENA addresses the question of sequence and therefore ITT is the relevant population
- You don't know ahead if a patient will go through the full sequence

- Where patients from the CN

   + sunitinib arm <u>under</u>
   <u>treated</u> with systemic
   therapy?
- CN potentially delays TKI treatment: 29 patients never received sunitinib after CN
- Proper exposure :
  - no difference in toxicity rate under sunitinib
  - No difference in subsequent lines rate

	Arm A: Nephrectomy + Sunitinib (N = 186)	Arm B: Sunitinib alone (N = 213)
Dose reductions, n (%)	57 (31)	65 (30)
Severe (grade 3-4) AE, n (%)	61 (33)	91 (43)

 Does CARMENA say CN is detrimental?

- CN does result in some complications (Clavien Grade ≥3 : 16%)
- 205 − 176 = **29** patients never started systemic therapy
  - Mostly for disease progression/death
- CN +sunitinib is associated with worse OS (by 11%) and PFS (by 18%) for all subgroups, but particularly for poor-risk disease. Median were longer for OS and PFS

### Mortality and morbidity post-nephrectomy (Arm A)

	Arm A: Nephrectomy + sunitinib (N = 210)	
Total nephrectomy performed	199 (95)	
Open surgery	114 (58)	
Postoperative mortality <sup>†</sup>	4 (2)	
Postoperative morbidity, n (%)	82 (39)	
Clavien-Dindo Grade I	45 (55*)	
Clavien-Dindo Grade II	24 (29*)	
Clavien-Dindo Grade III	9 (11*)	
Clavien-Dindo Grade >III	4 (5*)	

Classification of Surgical Complications A New Proposal With Evaluation in a Cohort of 6336 Patients and Results of a Survey Dindo D, et al, *Ann Surg* 2004;240(2):205.

A. Méjean et al, *N Engl J Med* 2018;379:417-27

<sup>†</sup>Within 1 month of surgery

<sup>\*</sup>Percentage of 82 patients with postoperative morbidity