

- 5 Uemura H, Shinohara N, Yuasa T *et al.* A phase II study of sunitinib in Japanese patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma: insights into the treatment, efficacy and safety. *Jpn J Clin Oncol* 2010; **40**: 194–202
- 6 Therasse P, Arbuck SG, Eisenhauer EA *et al.* New guidelines to evaluate the response to treatment in solid tumors. European organization for research and treatment of cancer, national cancer institute of the United States, national cancer institute of Canada. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000; **92**: 205–1
- 7 Payne RB, Little AJ, Williams RB, Milner JR. Interpretation of serum calcium in patients with abnormal serum proteins. *Br Med J* 1973; **4**: 643–6
- 8 Motzer RJ, Murphy BA, Bacik J, Russa P, Mazudmar M. Interferon-alfa as a comparative treatment for clinical trials of new therapies against advanced renal cell carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2001; **20**: 289–96
- 9 Motzer RJ, Bacik J, Schwartz LH *et al.* Prognostic factors for survival in previously treated patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2004; **22**: 454–63
- 10 Gore ME, Szczylik C, Porta C *et al.* Safety and efficacy of sunitinib for metastatic renal-cell carcinoma: an expanded-access trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2009; **10**: 757–63
- 11 Tomita Y, Shinohara N, Yuasa T *et al.* Overall survival and updated results from a phase II study of sunitinib in Japanese patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma. *Jpn J Clin Oncol* 2010; **40**: 1166–72
- 12 Bamias A, Karadimou A, Lampaki S *et al.* Prognostic stratification of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma treated with sunitinib: comparison with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering prognostic factors model. *BMC Cancer* 2010; **10**: 45
- 13 Choueiri TK, Garcia JA, Elson P *et al.* Clinical factors associated with outcome in patients with metastatic clear-cell renal cell carcinoma treated with vascular endothelial growth factor-targeted therapy. *Cancer* 2007; **110**: 543–50
- 14 Patil S, Figlin RA, Hutson TE *et al.* Prognostic factors for progression-free and overall survival with sunitinib targeted therapy and with cytokine as first-line therapy in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma. *Ann Oncol* 2011; **22**: 295–300
- 15 Heng DY, Xie W, Regan MM *et al.* Prognostic factors for overall survival in patients with metastatic renal cell carcinoma treated with vascular endothelial growth factor-targeted agents: results from a large, multicenter study. *J Clin Oncol* 2009; **27**: 5794–9
- 16 Schouten LJ, Rutten J, Huvneers HA, Twijnstra A. Incidence of brain metastases in a cohort of patients with carcinoma of the breast, colon, kidney, and lung and melanoma. *Cancer* 2002; **94**: 2698–705
- 17 Barnholtz-Sloan JS, Sloan AE, Davis FG, Vigneau FD, Lai P, Sawaya RE. Incidence proportions of brain metastases in patients diagnosed (1973 to 2001) in the Metropolitan Detroit Cancer Surveillance System. *J Clin Oncol* 2004; **22**: 2865–72
- 18 Medioni J, Cojocarasu O, Belcaceres JL, Halimi P, Oudard S. Complete cerebral response with sunitinib for metastatic renal cell carcinoma. *Ann Oncol* 2007; **18**: 1282–3
- 19 Zeng H, Li X, Yao J *et al.* Multifocal brain metastases in clear cell renal cell carcinoma with complete response to sunitinib. *Urol Int* 2009; **83**: 482–5
- 20 Flanigan RC, Salmon SE, Blumenstein BA *et al.* Nephrectomy followed by interferon alfa-2b compared with interferon alfa-2b alone for metastatic renal-cell cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2001; **345**: 1655–9
- 21 Mickisch GH, Garin A, van Poppel H, de Prijck L, Sylvester R. European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Genitourinary Group. Radical nephrectomy plus interferon-alfa-based immunotherapy compared with interferon alfa alone in metastatic renal-cell carcinoma: a randomised trial. *Lancet* 2001; **358**: 966–70

Correspondence: Takeshi Yuasa, Department of Urology and Medical Oncology, Cancer Institute Hospital, Japanese Foundation for Cancer Research, 3-8-31, Ariake, Tokyo 135-8550, Japan.
e-mail: takeshi.yuasa@jfcrr.or.jp

Abbreviations: ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; Hb, haemoglobin; LDH, lactate dehydrogenase; MSKCC, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PS, performance status.

