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## The Journal of Urology

Volume 166, Issue 5, November 2001, Pages 1611-1623

CLINICAL UROLOGY: Review Articles

# THE CHANGING NATURAL HISTORY OF RENAL CELL CARCINOMA

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[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-5347\(05\)65640-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0022-5347(05)65640-6)

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### Purpose

Our understanding of the natural history of renal cell carcinoma, the role of nephrectomy, the benefits of immunotherapy and the possibilities of new technologies are evolving and being integrated with advances in classification and staging. We reviewed the relevant literature to clarify these pertinent questions and provide a current review of the changes in the epidemiology, treatment and prognosis of patients with renal cell carcinoma.

### Materials and Methods

We comprehensively reviewed the peer reviewed literature on the current management of and results of treatment for renal cell carcinoma.

### Results

The incidence of and mortality from renal cell carcinoma have continuously increased during the last 50 years. Despite this increase in the number of new patients and

during the last 50 years. Despite this increase in the number of new patients and consequently the number of deaths yearly the percent of those surviving for 5 years has notably improved. Factors related to improved survival include advances in renal imaging, earlier diagnosis, improved staging, better understanding of prognostic indicators, refinement in surgical technique and the introduction of immunotherapy approaches for advanced disease.

## Conclusions

Currently patients with localized and metastatic renal cell carcinoma have had improvements in outlook and the therapeutic options available have expanded.



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## Key Words

kidney; carcinoma, renal cell; epidemiology; therapeutics

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Presented at annual meeting of American Urological Association Atlanta, Georgia, April 29–May 4, 2000.

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