Renal Mass and Localized Renal Cancer[1]

Evaluation/Diagnosis

1. Obtain high quality, multiphase, cross-sectional abdominal imaging to optimally characterize/stage the renal mass.
2. Obtain CMP, CBC, and UA. If malignancy suspected, metastatic evaluation should include chest imaging and careful review of abdominal imaging.
3. Assign CKD stage based on GFR and degree of proteinuria.

Counseling

1. A urologist should lead the counseling process and should consider all management strategies. A multidisciplinary team should be included when necessary.
2. Counseling should include current perspectives about tumor biology and a patient-specific oncologic risk assessment. For cT1a tumors, the low oncologic risk of many small renal masses should be reviewed.
3. Counseling should review the most common and serious urologic and non-urologic morbidities of each treatment pathway and the importance of patient age, comorbidities/frailty, and life expectancy.
4. Physicians should review the importance of renal functional recovery related to renal mass management, including risk of progressive CKD, potential short/long-term need for dialysis, and long-term overall survival considerations.
5. Consider referral to nephrology in patients with a high risk of CKD progression, including those with GFR < 45[2], confirmed proteinuria, diabetics with preexisting CKD, or whenever GFR is expected to be < 30[2] after intervention.
6. Recommend genetic counseling for all patients ≤ 46 years of age and consider genetic counseling for patients with multifocal or bilateral renal masses, or if personal/family history suggests a familial renal neoplastic syndrome.

Renal Mass Biopsy (RMB)

1. RMB should be considered when a mass is suspected to be hematologic, metastatic, inflammatory, or infectious.
2. RMB is not required for young/healthy patients who are not willing to accept the uncertainties associated with RMB or for older/frail patients who will be managed conservatively independent of RMB.
3. Counsel regarding rationale, positive/negative predictive values, potential risks and non-diagnostic rates of RMB.
4. Multiple core biopsies are preferred over FNA.

Management

Partial Nephrectomy (PN) and Nephron-Sparing Approaches

1. Prioritize PN for the management of the cT1a renal mass when intervention is indicated.
2. Prioritize nephron-sparing approaches for patients with an anatomic or functionally solitary kidney, bilateral tumors, known familial RCC, preexisting CKD, or proteinuria.
3. Consider nephron-sparing approaches for patients who are young, have multifocal masses, or comorbidities that are likely to impact renal function in the future.

Radical Nephrectomy (RN)

1. Physicians should consider RN for patients where increased oncologic potential is suggested by tumor size, RMB, and/or imaging characteristics. In this setting, RN is preferred if all of the following criteria are met: 1) high tumor complexity and PN would be challenging even in experienced hands; 2) no preexisting CKD/proteinuria; and 3) normal contralateral kidney and new baseline eGFR will likely be > 45[2].

Thermal Ablation (TA)

1. Consider TA an alternate approach for management of cT1a renal masses <3 cm in size. A percutaneous approach is preferred.
2. Both radiofrequency ablation and cryoablation are options.
3. A RMB should be performed prior to TA.
4. Counseling about TA should include information regarding increased likelihood of tumor persistence/recurrence after primary TA, which may be addressed with repeat TA if further intervention is elected.

Active Surveillance (AS)

1. For patients with renal masses suspicious for cancer, especially those <2cm, AS is an option for initial management.
2. Prioritize AS/Expectant Management when the anticipated risk of intervention or competing risks of death outweigh the potential oncologic benefits of active treatment.
3. When the risk/benefit analysis for treatment is equivocal and the patient prefers AS, physicians should repeat imaging in 3-6 months to assess for interval growth and may consider RMB for additional risk stratification.
4. When the oncologic benefits of intervention outweigh the risks of treatment and competing risks of death, physicians should recommend active treatment. In this setting, AS may be pursued only if the patient understands and is willing to accept the associated oncologic risk

Factors Favoring AS/Expectant Management

Patient-related	Tumor-related
Elderly	Tumor size <3cm
Life expectancy <5 years	Tumor growth <5mm/year
High comorbidities	Non-infiltrative
Excessive perioperative risk	Low complexity
Frailty (poor functional status)	Favorable histology
Patient preference for AS	
Marginal renal function	

Principles Related to PN

1. Prioritize preservation of renal function through efforts to optimize nephron mass preservation and avoidance of prolonged warm ischemia.
2. Negative surgical margins should be a priority. The extent of normal parenchyma removed should be determined by surgeon discretion taking into account the clinical situation; tumor characteristics including growth pattern, and interface with normal tissue. Enucleation should be considered in patients with familial RCC, multifocal disease, or severe CKD to optimize parenchymal mass preservation.

Surgical Principles

1. In the presence of clinically concerning regional lymphadenopathy, lymph node dissection should be performed for staging purposes.
2. Adrenalectomy should be performed if imaging and/or intraoperative findings suggest metastasis or direct invasion.
3. A minimally invasive approach should be considered when it would not compromise oncologic, functional and perioperative outcomes.
4. Pathologic evaluation of the adjacent renal parenchyma should be performed after PN or RN to assess for possible nephrologic disease, particularly for patients with CKD or risk factors for developing CKD.

1. Focus is on clinically localized renal masses suspicious for RCC in adults, including solid enhanced tumors and Bosniak 3 and 4 complex cystic lesions. 2. ml/min/1.73m[2].