

# Kidney cancer

**RENAL CELL CARCINOMA IS THE MOST COMMON FORM OF KIDNEY CANCER (90%) AND ORIGINATES IN THE CELLS LINING THE INNER TUBULES OF THE KIDNEY.<sup>(1)</sup>**

## diagnosis



**Kidney cancer** may remain silent for many years: **60% of cases** are **discovered accidentally**, usually during an ultrasound examination or a **CT scan** performed for other reasons. The presence of **blood in the urine, abdominal mass, or flank pain** are the **most common symptoms** of kidney cancer and usually occur when the tumor is at an advanced stage. The doctor may prescribe **blood and urine tests** as well as imaging tests such as **ultrasounds**, computerized tomography (**CT**) scan or magnetic resonance imaging (**MRI**).<sup>(4)</sup>

## risk factors<sup>(5)</sup>



## staging

Classification by degree of severity based on the size and extension of the tumor.<sup>(6)</sup>



**STAGE I**  
less than 7 cm  
in diameter,  
confined to kidney



**STAGE II**  
more than 7 cm  
in diameter,  
confined to kidney



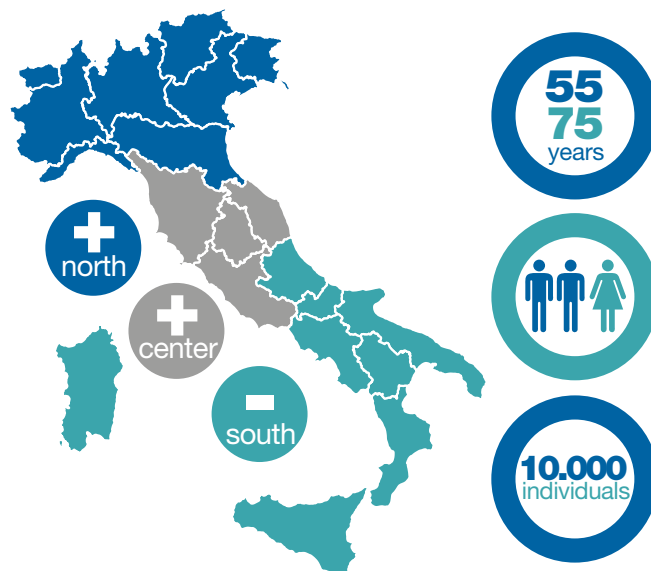
**STAGE III**  
tumor cells  
have spread to  
the renal vein  
and/or vena cava,  
lymph nodes or  
perirenal adipose  
tissue



**STAGE IV**  
tumor cells  
have spread to  
surrounding organs,  
lymph nodes and/or  
other distant  
organs

## incidence

The incidence of kidney cancer increases with **age**, with a peak between **55 and 75 years**; it is **twice more common in men** than in **women**.<sup>(2)</sup>



In **Italy**, about **10,000** people are diagnosed with kidney cancer every year, with a **higher** incidence in **Northern** and **Central** regions than in the **South**.<sup>(3)</sup>

## treatment



Treatment options vary according to tumor stage and include surgery, targeted therapy, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. **Immunotherapy** is now offering new treatment opportunities for patients with advanced disease.<sup>(7)</sup>

## References

1. Chow WH et al. Nat Rev Urol. 2010;7(5):245-57.
2. Ferlay J et al. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer; 2010. Available from: <http://globocan.iarc.fr>; accessed on 13/10/2011]
3. Marcos-Gragera R et al. European Journal of Cancer (2015) 51, 2217-2230.
4. Decastro GJ et al. Urol Clin North Am 2008;35(4):581-92.
5. Setiawan VW et al. Am J Epidemiol 2007; 166(8):932-40
6. Sobin LH et al. UICC International Union Against Cancer. 7th edn. Wiley-Blackwell, 2009: pp. 255-257.
7. Porta C et al. N Engl J Med 2018; 378:1277-1290