**facts about COMBINATION IMMUNOTHERAPY for kidney cancer.**

Immunotherapy is a cancer treatment that boosts the body’s own immune system to fight cancer. Combination Immunotherapy uses immunotherapy with other therapies to fight kidney cancer.

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**WHY USE COMBINATION IMMUNOTHERAPY?**

Combination immunotherapy can help the immune system attack cancer cells better than with one drug alone.

- **Immunotherapy** includes antibodies, vaccines, viruses and other agents to make the immune system attack cancer cells.

- **Combination Immunotherapy** is when more than one type of checkpoint inhibitor is combined to better block certain proteins.

Immune checkpoint inhibitors are antibodies given intravenously to block the “checkpoints” that cancer cells use to avoid being attacked by the immune system. This combination helps the body attack cancer cells.

Examples include: axitinib and avelumab, axitinib and pembrolizumab, bevacizumab and atezolizumab.

**RISKS AND BENEFITS**

- Kidney cancer is among the 10 most common cancers in the U.S.
- 90% of kidney cancers are renal cell carcinoma (RCC).
- 15% of patients using a combination immunotherapy to treat RCC lived longer than with one treatment.
- 9% of patients with advanced RCC were found to have “no more signs of cancer” after using combination immunotherapy in a clinical test.

**WHY USE COMBINATION IMMUNOTHERAPY?**

While patients can benefit, there is a risk that healthy cells may be targeted. Autoimmune problems are usually manageable but, in rare cases, can be serious.

**RISKS:**
- wheezing
- chest pain
- vomiting
- unusual stools
- diarrhea
- yellow skin/eyes
- coughing
- fever
- fluid loss

**BENEFITS:**

While patients can benefit, there is a risk that healthy cells may be targeted. Autoimmune problems are usually manageable but, in rare cases, can be serious.

**EFFECTIVE in treating kidney cancer**

For more information about kidney cancer and immunotherapy, visit the Urology Care Foundation’s website: UrologyHealth.org

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