

Belzutifan improves progression-free survival in advanced renal cell cancer

August 23 2024, by Elana Gotkine



Belzutifan, a hypoxia-inducible factor 2 α (HIF-2 α) inhibitor, improves progression-free survival and objective responses over everolimus among patients with advanced clear-cell renal cell carcinoma, according

to a study [published](#) in the Aug. 22 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Toni K. Choueiri, M.D., from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, and colleagues conducted a phase 3 multicenter trial involving participants with advanced clear-cell [renal cell carcinoma](#) who had previously received immune checkpoint and antiangiogenic therapies. Participants were randomly assigned to receive 120 mg belzutifan (374 participants) or 10 mg everolimus (372 participants).

The researchers found that median [progression-free survival](#) was 5.6 months in both groups at the first interim analysis (median follow-up, 18.4 months); at 18 months, 24.0 and 8.3% of participants in the belzutifan and everolimus groups, respectively, were alive and free of progression (two-sided $P = 0.002$, which met the prespecified significance criterion).

A confirmed objective response occurred in 21.9 and 3.5%, respectively (P

"The LITESPARK-005 trial introduced HIF-2 α inhibition as an active therapeutic mechanism and established belzutifan as a [treatment option](#) in patients with advanced renal-cell carcinoma after both immune checkpoint and antiangiogenic therapies," the authors write.

The study was funded by Merck, the manufacturer of belzutifan.

More information: Toni K. Choueiri et al, Belzutifan versus Everolimus for Advanced Renal-Cell Carcinoma, *New England Journal of Medicine* (2024). [DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2313906](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMoa2313906)

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