Facilitating Partial Nephrectomy with Pre-Operative Pazopanib

When a patient has a localized renal mass, a partial nephrectomy is the desired surgical approach because it preserves renal function. Depending on the tumor size and location, a partial nephrectomy is not always possible. In these cases, pazopanib, a VEGF-targeted agent that has had an anti-tumor effect in primary renal cell carcinoma (RCC) tumors, may prevent patients from undergoing a radical nephrectomy and open up the option of a partial nephrectomy. Dr. Alvarez and colleagues presented data at the 2014 ASCO annual meeting. In their study, 23 patients with clear cell RCC were identified who were not well suited for radical nephrectomy (due to poor kidney function, high risk of morbidity or complex vascular anatomy). Pazopanib was then administered for median of 10.6 weeks. Tumor shrinkage was noted in 95% of patients, and ultimately 90% of patients were able to undergo partial nephrectomy. Although this approach requires further validation, this might be an interest manner in which we can ultimately downsize kidney tumors and facilitate a less invasive surgical intervention.

This post was co-written by Dr. Pal and Melissa Houlemarde