Renal Cell Cancer: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

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The basic risk factors for the development of renal cell cancer as well as the area of early diagnosis of these tumors will be discussed in detail. Particular problems that have been studied at the Loyola University Medical Center, including the different nature of renal cell cancers in younger patients and the very difficult problem of how to evaluate and manage cystic lesions potentially harboring renal cell cancers, will also be discussed.

The histologic and molecular classification of renal cell cancer will be discussed in detail, particularly as this relates to differences in prognosis and management. Finally, attention will be directed to describing how these new changes in our understanding of renal cell cancer imply the need for different ways to treat them at the time of presentation, follow them after nephrectomy, and assign them to satisfactory clinical trials when advanced disease has occurred. Stage specific guidelines for following renal cell cancer patients after nephrectomy will be discussed in detail.