Upper Tract Urothelial Carcinomas: Asia Aspect

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Abstract
Urothelial carcinoma in the upper tract (UTUC) is rare and often discussed separately. However, in Asia, UTUC may not seem to be an uncommon disease. Many established risk factors have been identified for the disease, including genetic and external risk factors. Specific carcinogens such as arsenic and aristolochic acid are related to the development of UTUC in Asia and have different clinical characteristic as compared to the Western countries. As such, we should reconsider whether nephroureterectomy with bladder cuff excision is still the gold standard for our patients, perhaps kidney-sparing surgeries should be considered in these patients. Furthermore, immune checkpoint inhibitors have led to a new era of treatment for advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinomas. The remarkable results achieved thus far show that immunotherapy will likely be the future treatment paradigm. However, with this novel yet expansive treatment can all Asian patient be benefited?

In Asia, urothelial carcinoma patients need specific attention in order to provide our best therapy for our patient.