

**POSTER PRESENTATION**

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# CD40 expression in renal cell carcinoma correlates with tumor apoptosis, CD8 T cell frequency and patient survival

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From Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer 28th Annual Meeting  
National Harbor, MD, USA. 8-10 November 2013

## Purpose

To investigate the relationship between tumor-associated CD40 expression, RCC patient survival and tumor stage.

## Experimental design

The expression of CD40, TUNEL and CD8 in human renal cell carcinomas was analyzed by immunohistochemistry. Computer-assisted quantitation of protein expression was used to correlate results with patient survival and tumor stage.

## Results

We show for the first time that tumor-associated CD40 expression correlates with prolonged survival in RCC patients. CD40 also correlated with TUNEL and CD8 staining in tumor tissues. No correlation was observed between CD40 and tumor stage.

## Conclusions

Our results suggest CD40 may be a prognostic biomarker indicative of prolonged RCC patient survival. Strategies that up-regulate CD40 expression in some RCC patients might lead to improved survival. The further development and use of agonistic CD40 antibodies for treatment of RCC is warranted.

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Published: 7 November 2013

doi:10.1186/2051-1426-1-S1-P65

**Cite this article as:** Weiss et al.: CD40 expression in renal cell carcinoma correlates with tumor apoptosis, CD8 T cell frequency and patient survival. *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2013 **1**(Suppl 1):P65.

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