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Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for untreated advanced renal cell carcinoma: a systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis

Nigel Fleeman, Rachel Houten, Sarah Nevitt, James Mahon, Sophie Beale, Angela Boland, Janette Greenhalgh, Katherine Edwards, Michelle Maden, Devarshi Bhattacharyya, Marty Chaplin, Joanne McEntee, Shien Chow and Tom Waddell



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Abstract

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for untreated advanced renal cell carcinoma: a systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis

Nigel Fleeman^{1*}, Rachel Houten¹, Sarah Nevitt¹, James Mahon², Sophie Beale³, Angela Boland¹, Janette Greenhalgh¹, Katherine Edwards¹, Michelle Maden¹, Devarshi Bhattacharyya¹, Marty Chaplin¹, Joanne McEntee⁴, Shien Chow⁵ and Tom Waddell⁶

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Background: Renal cell carcinoma is the most common type of kidney cancer, comprising approximately 85% of all renal malignancies. Patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma are the focus of this National Institute for Health and Care Excellence multiple technology appraisal. A patient's risk of disease progression depends on a number of prognostic risk factors; patients are categorised as having intermediate/poor risk or favourable risk of disease progression.

Objectives: The objectives of this multiple technology appraisal were to appraise the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus relevant comparators listed in the final scope issued by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence: sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

Methods: The assessment group carried out clinical and economic systematic reviews and assessed the clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence submitted by Eisai, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, UK (the manufacturer of lenvatinib) and Merck Sharp & Dohme, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA (the manufacturer of pembrolizumab). The assessment group carried out fixed-effects network meta-analyses using a Bayesian framework to generate evidence for clinical effectiveness. As convergence issues occurred due to sparse data, random-effects network meta-analysis results were unusable. The assessment group did not develop a de novo economic model, but instead modified the partitioned survival model provided by Merck Sharp & Dohme.

Results: The assessment group clinical systematic review identified one relevant randomised controlled trial (CLEAR trial). The CLEAR trial is a good-quality, phase III, multicentre, open-label trial that provided evidence for the efficacy and safety of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared with sunitinib.

The assessment group progression-free survival network meta-analysis results for all three risk groups should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons owing to within-trial proportional hazards violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the proportional hazards assumption. The assessment group overall survival network meta-analysis results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that there

was a numerical, but not statistically significant, improvement in the overall survival for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared with patients treated with cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab. Because of within-trial proportional hazards violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the proportional hazards assumption, the assessment group overall survival network meta-analysis results for the favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons.

Only one cost-effectiveness study was included in the assessment group review of cost-effectiveness evidence. The study was limited to the all-risk population, undertaken from the perspective of the US healthcare system and included comparators that are not recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence for patients with untreated advanced renal cell carcinoma. Therefore, the extent to which resource use and results are generalisable to the NHS is unclear.

The assessment group cost-effectiveness results from the modified partitioned survival model focused on the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups. The assessment group cost-effectiveness results, generated using list prices for all drugs, showed that, for all comparisons in the favourable-risk subgroup, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab costs more and generated fewer benefits than all other treatments available to NHS patients. For the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab costs more and generated more benefits than treatment with cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

Conclusions: Good-quality clinical effectiveness evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib is available from the CLEAR trial. For most of the assessment group Bayesian hazard ratio network meta-analysis comparisons, it is difficult to reach conclusions due to within-trial proportional hazards violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the proportional hazards assumption. However, the data (clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness) used to populate the economic model are relevant to NHS clinical practice and can be used to inform National Institute for Health and Care Excellence decision-making. The assessment group cost-effectiveness results, generated using list prices for all drugs, show that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is less cost-effective than all other treatment options.

Study registration: This study is registered as PROSPERO CRD4202128587.

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List of abbreviations

AE	adverse event		Symptom Index-Disease-Related Symptoms
AEO SI	adverse event of special interest	FP	fractional polynomial
AIC	Akaike information criterion	HRQoL	health-related quality of life
AG	assessment group	IA3	third interim analysis (final data cut-off for PFS)
aRCC	advanced renal cell carcinoma	ICER	incremental cost-effectiveness ratios
BIC	Bayesian information criterion	ICTRP	International Clinical Trials Registry Platform
BIRC	Blinded Independent Review Committee	IMDC	International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium
CDF	Cancer Drugs Fund	INAHTA	International Health Technology Assessment
CEA	cost-effectiveness analysis	INMB	incremental net monetary benefit
CHEERS	Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards	ITT	intention to treat
CS	company submission	K-M	Kaplan–Meier
CSR	clinical study report	KPS	Karnofsky Performance Status
CTCAE	common terminology criteria for adverse event	LRiG	Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group
CTLA-4	cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen 4	MHRA	Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency
DIC	deviance information criterion	MSKCC	Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
EED	Economic Evaluation Database	MSD	Merck Sharp & Dohme
EMA	European Medicines Agency	NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
EORTC	European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer	NMA	network meta-analysis
EQ-5D-3L	EuroQol-5 Dimensions, three-level version	ORR	objective response rate
ESMO	European Society for Medical Oncology	OS	overall survival
EuroQOL	European Quality of Life	PD-1	programmed cell death protein 1
FAS	full analysis set	PD-L1	programmed death-ligand 1
FDA	US Food and Drug Administration	PFS	progression-free survival
FE	fixed effect	PH	proportional hazards
FKSI-DRS	Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy Kidney		

PRISMA	Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses	SmPC	summary of product characteristics
PRO	patient reported outcome	TA	technology appraisal
PSA	probabilistic sensitivity analysis	TEAE	treatment-emergent adverse event
PSS	personal and social services	TKI	tyrosine kinase inhibitor
QALY	quality-adjusted life-years	TSAP	trial statistical analysis plan
QLQ-C30	quality of life questionnaire	TTD	time to treatment discontinuation
RCC	renal cell carcinoma	TuDD	time until definitive deterioration
RCT	randomised controlled trial	VEGFR	vascular endothelial growth factor receptor
RDI	relative dose intensity	WTP	willingness to pay
SAE	serious adverse event		

Note

This manuscript is based on the Technology Assessment Report produced for NICE. The full report contained a considerable number of data that were deemed confidential. The full report was used by the Appraisal Committee at NICE in their deliberations. The full report with each piece of confidential data removed and replaced by the statement 'confidential information (or data) removed' is available on the NICE website: www.nice.org.uk. The present monograph presents as full a version of the report as is possible while retaining readability, but some sections, sentences, tables and figures have been removed. Readers should bear in mind that the discussion, conclusions and implications for practice and research are based on all the data considered in the original full NICE report.

Plain language summary

What was the problem?

Renal cell carcinoma is the most common type of kidney cancer. Several drug treatment options are available for NHS patients with advanced or metastatic disease, and the choice of treatment varies depending on a patient's risk of disease progression. A new drug combination, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, may soon become available to treat NHS patients. This review explored whether treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab offered value for money to the NHS.

What did we do?

We reviewed the effectiveness of treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus other NHS treatment options. We also estimated the costs and benefits of treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus current NHS treatments for patients with higher and lower risks of disease progression.

What did we find?

Compared with current NHS treatments, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab may increase the time that people with a higher risk of disease progression (i.e. worsening disease) were alive. However, for patients with a lower risk of disease progression, the available evidence is limited and only shows that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab may prolong the time that patients have a stable level of disease.

For all patients, compared to all current NHS treatments, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is very expensive.

What does this mean?

Compared with current NHS treatments for untreated renal cell carcinoma, using published prices (which do not include any discounts that are offered to the NHS), treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab may not provide good value for money to the NHS.

Scientific summary

Background

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the most common type of kidney cancer, comprising approximately 85% of all renal malignancies. Patients with advanced RCC (aRCC) have Stage 3 (locally advanced) or Stage 4 (metastatic) disease. A patient's risk of disease progression depends on a number of prognostic risk factors. The International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium (IMDC) model is used in NHS clinical practice to categorise patients into one of two groups, namely favourable risk or intermediate/poor risk.

This systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis has been conducted to inform the following National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) multiple technology appraisal: lenvatinib with pembrolizumab for untreated aRCC (ID3760). In November 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency approved the use of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab as a treatment for all patients with untreated aRCC.

Objectives

The comparators listed in the final scope issued by NICE differ depending on the risk of disease progression. The objectives of this assessment were to appraise the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus:

1. cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup
2. sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib in the favourable-risk subgroup
3. sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib in the all-risk population.

Clinical and economic systematic review methods

The assessment group (AG) carried out a systematic review of clinical effectiveness evidence following the general principles outlined by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD). The review was reported using the criteria recommended in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses statement. Searches were conducted between 11 October 2021 and 22 November 2021 in accordance with the general principles recommended by the European Network for Health Technology Assessment. The protocol is registered with PROSPERO (registration number: CRD42021285879). The AG reviewed only randomised controlled trials (RCTs) and full economic analyses identified by the searches. However, the group also considered evidence provided by the manufacturers of lenvatinib (Eisai Ltd) and pembrolizumab (Merck Sharp & Dohme, Whitehouse Station, NJ, USA) provided in submissions to NICE; company submission (CS) reference lists were searched for relevant RCTs.

In line with the final scope issued by NICE, the outcomes considered by the AG were overall survival (OS), progression-free survival (PFS), objective tumour response rate, adverse events (AEs), health-related quality of life (HRQoL), incremental cost per life-year gained and incremental cost per quality-adjusted life-year (QALY) gained.

Clinical effectiveness results

Direct clinical effectiveness evidence (CLEAR trial)

The AG systematic review included one RCT, the CLEAR trial. The CLEAR trial was a good-quality, phase III, multicentre, open-label RCT (with an ongoing extension phase) that provided evidence for the comparison of the efficacy of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib.

Results for all outcomes were assessed at the third interim analysis (August 2020, median OS follow-up of 26.6 months), that is the final data cut-off for PFS. The companies also presented OS results from an updated OS analysis (March 2021, median OS follow-up of approximately 33 months).

At the time of the third interim analysis, the CLEAR trial hazard ratio (HR) results showed statistically significant improvements in PFS and objective tumour response rate for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus patients treated with sunitinib for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population. The HR results from the updated OS analysis showed a statistically significant improvement for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus patients treated with sunitinib for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and the all-risk population; there were too few events in the favourable-risk subgroup for robust OS conclusions to be drawn. Eisai carried out a treatment-switching analysis to test whether adjusting for the effect of subsequent treatments affected OS results. Results were generated only for the all-risk population and were marked as academic-in-confidence.

Nearly all the patients in the CLEAR trial lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib arms experienced at least one all-grade AE, with more Grade ≥ 3 AEs reported in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm than in the sunitinib arm. The proportion of patients who discontinued treatment of either lenvatinib or pembrolizumab due to AEs was approximately twice as high as patients who discontinued treatment of sunitinib; the proportion of patients who withdrew treatment of both lenvatinib and pembrolizumab due to AEs was approximately the same as the proportion of patients who withdrew treatment with sunitinib.

Health-related quality of life was measured using three tools, including the EuroQol-5 Dimensions, three-level version questionnaire. When compared with treatment with sunitinib, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab did not result in any clinically meaningful differences (as measured by predefined minimally important differences) in HRQoL measured using any of the three tools.

Indirect clinical effectiveness evidence

To compare the effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus relevant comparators other than sunitinib, the AG carried out Bayesian HR network meta-analyses. It was decided not to undertake a flexible modelling approach for network meta-analysis (NMA), which relaxes the proportional hazards (PH) assumption, such as fractional polynomial network meta-analyses because interpretation of the estimates provided by these complex modelling techniques can be difficult and results are often not intuitive. While deviance information criterion (DIC) statistics provide an approach to compare the fit of different models, they do not provide information about whether a model is a good fit to the data or whether the estimates generated by the model, including projections of results beyond the follow-up times of trials included in the NMA, are clinically plausible. Furthermore, flexible models, which appear similar according to model fit (i.e. according to DIC statistics), may generate very different long-term survival estimates.

The AG assessed the feasibility of conducting Bayesian HR NMAs for the three population risk groups (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, favourable-risk subgroup and all-risk population) for all outcomes listed in the final scope issued by NICE. However, due to limited data availability, it was not possible to carry out NMAs for all outcomes for all three patient risk groups. Further, as networks were sparse, it was only possible to generate results using fixed-effect NMAs.

The AG PFS NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons because of within-trial PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PHs assumption.

The AG OS NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that there was a numerical, but not statistically significant, improvement in the OS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared with patients treated with cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab. Because of within-trial PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption, the AG OS NMA results for the favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons.

The AG objective tumour response rate NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that, although treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab led to a statistically significant improvement in objective tumour response rate compared to treatment nivolumab plus ipilimumab, it did not lead to a statistically significant improvement in objective tumour response rate for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib. It was not possible to generate results for the IMDC/MSKCC (Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center) favourable-risk subgroup due to data limitations. The AG objective tumour response rate NMA results for the all-risk population suggest that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab led to a statistically significant improvement in objective tumour response rate versus treatment with sunitinib and versus treatment with pazopanib.

The AG Grade ≥ 3 AE NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab led to statistically significantly more Grade ≥ 3 AEs versus treatment with cabozantinib. It was not possible to generate results for the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup. The AG Grade ≥ 3 AE NMA results for the all-risk population suggested that treatment with lenvatinib led to statistically significantly more Grade ≥ 3 AEs versus treatment with sunitinib and versus treatment with pazopanib.

Economic systematic review results

The AG systematic review identified one relevant cost-effectiveness study. This study compared the cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib (and vs. other treatments). However, the study was undertaken from the perspective of the US healthcare system and generated results only for the all-risk population and included comparators that are not recommended by NICE as treatment options for patients with aRCC. Therefore, the extent to which these results were generalisable to the NHS was unclear.

Cost-effectiveness analysis methods

The Eisai and Merck Sharp & Dohme CSs to NICE included partitioned survival models built in Microsoft Excel. The AG considered that results from both models could be used to inform decision-making but that, in some instances, the companies could have made more appropriate assumptions and parameter choices. The AG did not develop a de novo economic model; instead, it modified the model provided by Merck Sharp & Dohme [referred to as the Merck Sharp & Dohme/Assessment Group (MSD/AG) model]. Neither of the companies produced cost-effectiveness results for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) despite both models having the functionality for this comparison. Furthermore, Eisai did not generate any cost-effectiveness results for the favourable-risk subgroup.

The MSD/AG model was populated with OS, PFS and time to treatment discontinuation (TTD) data from the CLEAR trial (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib for favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population). The AG PFS and OS NMA results were used to estimate effectiveness for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab for the intermediate-/poor-risk population. NICE appraisal committees have concluded that sunitinib and pazopanib are of equivalent effectiveness and that, at best, tivozanib may have a similar effect to sunitinib or pazopanib. These conclusions were based on all-risk population data; the AG has assumed that this assumption holds for the favourable-risk population.

The most important changes made by the AG to the Merck Sharp & Dohme model were different choices for estimating PFS, OS and TTD for the intervention and comparator treatments and for modelling two lines, rather than one line, of subsequent treatment.

Cost-effectiveness analysis results

The AG cost-effectiveness results presented in this report were estimated using list prices. Also, the AG cost-effectiveness results generated using confidential discounted prices were supplied to NICE in a confidential appendix, but cannot be presented here.

For the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the AG base-case cost-effectiveness results suggested that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab generated more QALYs versus treatment with cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab, but at a greater overall cost than either of these two treatments. Using list prices, the incremental cost-effectiveness ratios per QALY gained for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab exceed £100,000.

For the favourable-risk subgroup, the AG base-case cost-effectiveness results suggested that treatment with sunitinib generated more QALYs than treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab at a lower overall cost, that is treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was dominated by treatment with sunitinib (and, using the assumption of equivalent effectiveness, by pazopanib and tivozanib).

The AG carried out extensive one-way sensitivity analyses, scenario analyses and probabilistic sensitivity analyses. Results from these analyses demonstrate that the AG base-case cost-effectiveness results are robust.

Clinical and cost-effectiveness conclusions

Good-quality clinical effectiveness evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib was available from the CLEAR trial. For most of the AG Bayesian HR NMA comparisons, it was difficult to reach conclusions due to within-trial PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PHs assumption. However, the data (clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness) used to populate the MSD/AG model are relevant to NHS clinical practice and can be used to inform NICE decision-making. The all-risk population comprises patients with intermediate-/poor-risk and patients with favourable-risk disease. The AG cost-effectiveness analyses have focused on the two subgroups, and the AG cost-effectiveness results, generated using list prices for all drugs, show that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is less cost-effective than all other treatment options.

Study registration

This study is registered as PROSPERO CRD4202128587.

Funding

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Chapter 1 Background

This chapter is reproduced from the assessment group (AG) study protocol www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gid-ta10629/documents/final-protocol. The protocol is registered with PROSPERO (registration number: CRD42021285879), an international database of prospectively registered systematic reviews in health and social care.

Introduction

This systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA) has been conducted to inform the following National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) multiple technology appraisal (MTA): lenvatinib with pembrolizumab for untreated advanced renal cell carcinoma (aRCC) (ID3760). The clinical and cost-effectiveness evidence to inform NICE's final guidance has been submitted by the companies of both lenvatinib (Eisai¹) and pembrolizumab [Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD)²] as well as by the AG [Liverpool Reviews and Implementation Group (LRiG)]. The evidence presented by the AG is presented in this report, in addition to the AG's consideration of analyses presented by the companies in their submissions.^{1,2} Additional sensitivity analyses were presented by the AG during the appraisal and are also included in this report. Final NICE guidance on whether to recommend lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab as a treatment option for patients in NHS clinical practice was published in January 2023.³

Description of the health problem

Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the most common type of kidney cancer, comprising approximately 85% of all renal malignancies.^{4,5} Risk factors for RCC include smoking, obesity, hypertension and acquired cystic kidney disease.^{4,6,7}

There are a number of RCC histological subtypes,⁸ the most common being clear cell RCC, which accounts for between 70% and 90% of all cases of RCC.⁴⁻⁷ Non-clear cell RCC is a heterogeneous group of kidney cancers with distinct histologies, diverse biologic behaviours and different clinical outcomes.^{9,10}

Patients with RCC are often asymptomatic and > 50% of cases are diagnosed incidentally.^{6,7} At diagnosis, RCC can be categorised into four disease stages. Patients with Stage 1 and Stage 2 RCC are considered to have early-stage disease, and those with Stage 3 and Stage 4 RCC are considered to have aRCC.^{6,7,11} In Stage 1 and Stage 2 RCC, the tumour is confined to the kidney.^{6,7,11} The difference between the two early stages is the size of the tumour. A diagnosis of Stage 3 (locally advanced) disease is made when the tumour is growing into a major vein or has spread to regional lymph nodes.^{6,7,11} A diagnosis of Stage 4 (metastatic) disease is made when the tumour is growing into one of the adrenal glands (these are situated on top of the kidneys) or has spread to distant lymph nodes and/or other organs.^{6,7,11}

Patients with Stage 3 or Stage 4 aRCC are the focus of this NICE appraisal and, therefore, of this report.

Epidemiology

Incidence of disease

Between 2015 and 2017, there were 13,055 new cases of kidney cancer in the UK (England: 10,759; Wales: 631).¹² Worldwide, kidney cancer is twice as common in men than in women.⁴ In the UK, between 2015 and 2017, there were 1.7 times more new cases in men (62.8%) than in women (37.2%);¹² a quarter (25.5%) of cases were diagnosed in people aged 60–69 years, with nearly half of the cases (49.2%) diagnosed in people aged ≥ 70 years.¹²

Incidence and death rates by stage of disease

In England, between 2013 and 2017, 43.0% of all cases of kidney cancer with a known stage at diagnosis were classified as being advanced, that is Stage 3 or Stage 4 (see [Table 1](#)). During this period, the 5-year relative survival rates by stage of disease were markedly lower for patients with Stage 4 (metastatic) disease than for patients with the other stages of kidney cancer, including Stage 3 (locally advanced) disease (see [Table 1](#)).

Incidence and death rates by disease risk status

Two models commonly used to classify risk status are the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) risk stratification model^{13,14} and the International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium (IMDC) model.^{15,16} As highlighted in the Eisai company submission (CS),¹ the former ‘was originally the gold standard method for assessing risks associated with targeted treatment in metastatic RCC, and is still considered relevant by UK clinicians today to estimate patient prognosis’ and the latter ‘was developed to extend the MSKCC criteria to increase concordance, and is primarily applied in UK clinical practice’.

Both models¹³⁻¹⁶ calculate patients’ risk of progression taking into consideration a number of specific prognostic risk factors. The following risk factors are common to both models:¹³⁻¹⁶ time from diagnosis to treatment, haemoglobin levels, calcium levels and Karnofsky Performance Status (KPS). The MSKCC model also includes lactate dehydrogenase concentration, and the IMDC model also considers absolute neutrophil count and platelet count.¹³⁻¹⁶ Both models¹³⁻¹⁶ classify risk as favourable (no adverse prognostic risk factors), intermediate (one or two adverse prognostic risk factors) or poor (three or more adverse prognostic risk factors). In a study to validate the IMDC, Heng *et al.*¹⁶ reported that 83% of patients were classified into the same risk subgroup by both models.

The proportions of patients with metastatic RCC who belong to each risk subgroup in eight population-based studies¹⁶⁻²³ are presented in [Table 2](#).

The OS estimates are reported by risk subgroup in six population-based studies¹⁶⁻²¹ of patients with metastatic RCC who received sunitinib as a first-line treatment (see [Table 3](#)). Three^{19,21,23} of the four most recently published studies included in [Table 2](#) also considered prognosis based on whether patients with intermediate-risk status had one or two prognostic factors.

Some drugs are recommended only by NICE^{24,25} for patients with IMDC intermediate or poor (intermediate/poor) risk. Only one of the population studies (Savard *et al.*²¹) listed in [Table 3](#) reported OS for the combined IMDC intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. The reported median OS for this subgroup was 23.2 [95% confidence interval (CI) 21.0 to 25.8] months. In the total (all-risk) population, median OS was 28.6 (95% CI 25.9 to 31.0) months, whereas median OS for the IMDC favourable-risk population was 52.1 (95% CI 43.4 to 61.2) months. Information on treatment options for patients in different IMDC risk subgroups is provided in [Current service provision](#).

TABLE 1 Number, proportion and 5-year survival of people diagnosed with kidney cancer by stage (England, 2013–7)

Disease stage	Number diagnosed	Proportion with a known diagnosis, %	Proportion alive ≥ 5 years, %
Stage 1	17,708	48.0	86.8
Stage 2	3346	9.1	76.6
Stage 3	6829	18.5	74.2
Stage 4	9024	24.5	12.4
All	36,907 ^a	100.0	63.8

^a In addition, 7112 patients were diagnosed with kidney cancer with an unknown stage of disease (total cases = 44,019).
Source
 Public Health England – National Cancer Registration and Analysis Service, Office for National Statistics.²⁶

TABLE 2 Proportions of patients with metastatic RCC by risk subgroup in population-based studies

Study authors	Study type	Risk model n ^a	Favourable risk	Intermediate risk	Poor risk
Heng <i>et al.</i> 2013 ¹⁶	International study validating IMDC, 2004–10	IMDC n = 849	18%	52%	30%
Gore <i>et al.</i> 2015 ²⁰	Global expanded access programme of sunitinib, 2005–7	IMDC n = 4065	24%	54%	22%
Kubackova <i>et al.</i> 2015 ¹⁷	Czech Republic population-based study, 2006–13	IMDC ^b n = 495	22%	62%	16%
Schwab <i>et al.</i> 2018 ²²	Germany single-centre study, 2006–13	IMDC n = 104	14%	63%	23%
Savard <i>et al.</i> 2020 ²¹	International population-based study, 2010–3	IMDC n = 1769	18%	58%	24%
de Groot <i>et al.</i> 2016 ¹⁸	Netherlands population-based study, 2008–10	MSKCC n = 645 (n = 210) ^d	0	42% (69%) ^d	58% (31%) ^d
de Groot <i>et al.</i> 2016 ¹⁸	Netherlands population-based study, 2011–3	MSKCC n = 233 (n = 181) ^d	58% (76%) ^d		42% (24%) ^d
Fiala <i>et al.</i> 2020 ¹⁹	Czech Republic registry, 2006–18	MSKCC n = 2390	34%	61%	6%
Tamada <i>et al.</i> 2018 ²³	Consecutively treated patients in Japan	MSKCC n = 225 ^e	22%	56%	22%
Kubackova <i>et al.</i> 2015 ¹⁷	Czech Republic population-based study, 2006–13	Modified MSKCC ^{b,f} n = 495	12%	61%	27%

I1, one risk factor; I2, two risk factors.

a n denotes the number of participants within a defined risk subgroup.

b Using the IMDC criteria, 54.1% of MSKCC poor-risk patients were reclassified as intermediate risk and 20.2% of MSKCC intermediate-risk patients were reclassified as favourable risk.

c Number of risk factors not available for 146 (8%) patients classified as intermediate risk.

d Numbers and proportions of patients in parentheses are those who fulfilled the SUTENT trial²⁷ criteria.

e Excludes nine patients for whom risk subgroup was not determined.

f Modified model developed by Mekhail *et al.*²⁸ includes two additional prognostic factors (prior radiotherapy and sites of metastasis) and was found to increase the number of patients classified as favourable risk and poor risk compared to the original model.^{13,14}

Current service provision

Surgery

Surgery is usually possible, and is the preferred treatment, for patients with early RCC and patients with locally aRCC²⁹ and is usually curative. However, results from two studies^{30,31} that have explored disease progression following surgery suggest that approximately 30% of patients who have received surgery subsequently develop metastatic RCC. Surgery is rarely a treatment option for patients with metastatic RCC.

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidance for first-line drug treatment

At the time of this appraisal, the NICE-recommended treatments (see [Table 4](#)) are systemic vascular endothelial growth factor receptor (VEGFR)-targeted tyrosine-kinase inhibitor (TKI) agents (sunitinib,³² pazopanib,³³ tivozanib³⁴ and cabozantinib²⁴). Two-drug combination treatments have been made

TABLE 3 Overall survival by risk subgroup in population-based studies of patients with metastatic RCC (all patients received first-line sunitinib)

Study authors	Study type	Median OS, months (95% CI)			
		Risk model, n ^a	Favourable risk	Intermediate risk	Poor risk
Gore <i>et al.</i> 2015 ²⁰	International study validating IMDC, 2004–10	IMDC n = 4065	45.5 ^b	18.9 ^b	6.2 ^b
Heng <i>et al.</i> 2013 ¹⁶	Global expanded access programme of sunitinib, 2005–07	IMDC n = 849	43.2 (31.4 to 50.1)	22.5 (18.7 to 25.1)	7.8 (6.5 to 9.7)
Kubackova <i>et al.</i> 2015 ¹⁷	Czech Republic population-based study, 2006–13	IMDC n = 495	44.3 (31.6 to 56.9)	24.8 (19.8 to 29.8)	9.3 (5.1 to 13.5)
Savard <i>et al.</i> 2020 ²¹	International population-based study, 2010–3	IMDC n = 1769	52.1 (43.4 to 61.2)	31.5 (28.9 to 33.9) ^c	9.8 (8.3 to 11.4)
de Groot <i>et al.</i> 2016 ¹⁸	Netherlands population-based study, 2008–10	MSKCC n = 210	NA	14.6 (11.5 to 16.0)	6.1 (4.9 to 7.7)
	Netherlands population-based study, 2011–3	MSKCC n = 181	16.6 (10.1 to NR)		6.5 (3.4 to 10.0)
Fiala <i>et al.</i> 2020 ¹⁹	Czech Republic registry, 2006–18	MSKCC n = 2390	44.7 (40.9 to 50.5)	24.1 (21.9 to 26.0) ^d	9.5 (7.2 to 14.1)
Kubackova <i>et al.</i> 2015 ¹⁷	Czech Republic population-based study, 2006–13	Modified MSKCC ^e n = 495	39.5 (23.9 to 55.2)	28.5 (20.1 to 36.8)	10.6 (6.3 to 14.8)

NA, not applicable; NR, not reached.

a n denotes the number of participants it was possible to classify risk for, which may not be the same as the number of all-risk participants in the study.

b Confidence intervals not presented.

c Overall survival for patients with one risk factor was 35.1 (95% CI 31.7 to 39.6) months vs. 21.9 (95% CI 18.5 to 25.8) months for those with two risk factors (no statistical significance test reported).

d Overall survival for patients with one risk factor was 28.2 (95% CI 25.9 to 30.7) months vs. 16.2 (95% CI 14.5 to 20.2) months for those with two risk factors ($p < 0.001$).

e Modified model developed by Mekhail *et al.*²⁸ includes two additional prognostic factors (prior radiotherapy and sites of metastasis) and was found to increase the number of patients classified as favourable risk and poor risk compared to the original model.^{13,14}

available to patients via the Cancer Drugs Fund (CDF): avelumab plus axitinib³⁵ [a programmed-death ligand 1 (PD-L1) checkpoint inhibitor in combination with a VEGFR-TKI] and nivolumab plus ipilimumab²⁵ [a programmed death cell protein 1 (PD-1) inhibitor and a cytotoxic T-lymphocyte antigen 4 (CTLA-4) checkpoint inhibitor]. Nivolumab plus ipilimumab was subsequently recommended by NICE as a routine treatment option for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk aRCC (TA780³⁶) on 24 March 2022. Although licensed for treating patients with aRCC, pembrolizumab plus axitinib is not recommended by NICE³⁷ and so is not used in NHS clinical practice. Treatment options that are now rarely used due to their associated toxicities⁶ are cytokines (interferon alpha and high-dose interleukin-2).

European clinical guidelines for first-line drug treatment

Clinical practice guidelines published in 2021 by the European Association of Urology³⁸ and the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO)³⁹ recommend four combination treatments for the first-line treatment of metastatic clear cell RCC: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, pembrolizumab plus axitinib and nivolumab plus cabozantinib for intermediate-/poor-risk or favourable-risk disease and nivolumab plus ipilimumab for intermediate-/poor-risk disease only. For patients who cannot tolerate immune checkpoint inhibitors, the European Association of Urology³⁸ recommend sunitinib, pazopanib and cabozantinib for intermediate-/poor-risk disease and sunitinib and pazopanib for favourable-risk

TABLE 4 Previous NICE appraisals of first-line treatments for aRCC

NICE TA	Intervention(s)	NICE recommendation
Recommended for use as a first-line treatment		
TA169 (2009) ³²	Sunitinib	Sunitinib is recommended as a first-line treatment option for people with advanced and/or metastatic RCC who are suitable for immunotherapy and have an ECOG PS of 0 or 1.
TA215 (2011–3) ³³	Pazopanib	Pazopanib is recommended as a first-line treatment option for people with aRCC who have not received prior cytokine therapy and have an ECOG PS of 0 or 1.
TA512 (2018) ³⁴	Tivozanib	Tivozanib is recommended for treating aRCC in adults who have had no previous treatment and only if the company provides tivozanib with the discount stated in the PAS agreement.
TA542 (2018) ²⁴	Cabozantinib	Cabozantinib is recommended, within its marketing authorisation, for adults with untreated aRCC, i.e. intermediate/poor risk as defined in the IMDC criteria. It is recommended only if the company provides cabozantinib according to the commercial arrangement.
TA780 (2022) ³⁶	Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	Nivolumab with ipilimumab is recommended, within its marketing authorisation, as an option for untreated aRCC in adults whose disease is intermediate or poor risk as defined in the IMDC criteria and only if the company provides nivolumab with ipilimumab according to the commercial arrangement.
Recommended for use as a first-line treatment within the CDF		
TA581 (2019) ²⁵ superseded by TA780 ³⁶	Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	The following recommendation has been superseded by the NICE recommendation in TA780: Nivolumab with ipilimumab is recommended for use within the CDF as an option for adults with untreated aRCC, i.e. intermediate/poor risk as defined in the IMDC criteria. It is recommended only if the conditions in the managed access agreement for nivolumab with ipilimumab are followed.
TA645 (2020) ³⁵	Avelumab plus axitinib	Avelumab with axitinib is recommended for use within the CDF as an option for untreated aRCC in adults. It is recommended only if the conditions in the managed access agreement for avelumab with axitinib are followed.
Not recommended for use as a first-line treatment		
TA178 (2009) ^{40,a}	Bevacizumab Sorafenib Temsirolimus	Bevacizumab, sorafenib and temsirolimus are not recommended as first-line treatment options for people with advanced and/or metastatic RCC.
TA650 (2020) ³⁷	Pembrolizumab plus axitinib	Pembrolizumab with axitinib is not recommended, within its marketing authorisation, for untreated aRCC in adults.

ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; TA, technology appraisal.

a Also considered sorafenib and sunitinib as second-line treatments as part of this appraisal and neither of the treatment was recommended.

disease. The AG highlights that pembrolizumab plus axitinib is not recommended by NICE³⁷ and nivolumab plus cabozantinib has not been appraised by NICE, the planned single technology appraisal (STA) being suspended.⁴¹

NHS first-line treatment options

Clinical advice to the AG is that in NHS clinical practice, patients with aRCC receive the treatments recommended in NICE guidance^{24,25,32–35} (see [Table 4](#)) and that treatment decisions are made based on histological subtype, IMDC disease risk category, patient age and comorbidities, patient fitness, disease aggressiveness/biology and patient preference.

In line with recommendations in NICE guidance,^{24,36} at the time of this appraisal, the clinical advice to the AG is that, in general, nivolumab plus ipilimumab is the preferred first-line treatment option for

patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease and that cabozantinib is the preferred treatment option for fitter patients in this subgroup who have rapidly progressing disease (approximately 20%). The clinical advice to the AG is also that patients unable to tolerate either of these treatments receive sunitinib, pazopanib or tivozanib.

The treatment options available in NHS clinical practice to patients with favourable-risk disease at the time of this appraisal are sunitinib, pazopanib or tivozanib and, via the CDF, avelumab plus axitinib.³⁵ The clinical advice to the AG is that, where available, avelumab plus axitinib is the preferred first-line treatment option for patients with favourable-risk disease who can tolerate this combination, and tivozanib is the favoured treatment option for patients who are able to tolerate only VEGFR-TKI monotherapy.

Subsequent lines of drug treatment

The NICE has recommended five treatment options^{24,25,32-34} for previously treated patients with aRCC (Table 5). All of these subsequent treatments are recommended for patients regardless of their risk status. The clinical advice to the AG is that cabozantinib and nivolumab monotherapy are the most commonly used second-line treatments; lenvatinib plus everolimus is not a treatment option for patients who have previously received lenvatinib.

The ESMO³⁹ recommends axitinib, cabozantinib and lenvatinib plus everolimus, which are all recommended by NICE,^{42,43,44} and sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib.

Description of technology under assessment

The technology under assessment in this appraisal is lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. In November 2021, the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted UK marketing authorisation for the use of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for untreated aRCC.^{45,46} Information regarding lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is provided in Table 6.

As noted in the Eisai CS¹ (p. 18):

It has been proposed that combining an immune checkpoint inhibitor (pembrolizumab) with the simultaneous inhibition of angiogenesis and VEGF-mediated immune suppression (lenvatinib), i.e., co-inhibition of PD-1 and VEGF, may offer complimentary modulation of different aspects of tumour immunobiology and potentially improve survival in patients with aRCC.

Eisai also highlights that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab may be a more convenient treatment for patients than the alternative combination therapies currently recommended by NICE^{25,35} because

TABLE 5 National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommended treatments for previously treated aRCC

NICE TA	Drug(s)	Type of drug(s)	Specified previous treatments
TA333 (2015) ⁴²	Axitinib	VEGFR-TKI	VEGFR-TKI or cytokine
TA417 (2016) ⁴⁷	Nivolumab	PD-1 inhibitor	None specified
TA432 (2017) ⁴⁸	Everolimus	mTOR inhibitor	VEGFR-TKI
TA463 (2017) ⁴³	Cabozantinib	VEGFR-TKI	VEGFR-TKI
TA498 (2018) ^{44,a}	Lenvatinib plus everolimus	Multiple receptor TKI plus mTOR inhibitor	VEGFR-TKI

ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; mTOR, mammalian target of rapamycin; TA, technology appraisal.

a Lenvatinib plus everolimus is recommended only for patients with ECOG PS 0 or 1.

TABLE 6 Summary of the technology

Feature	Lenvatinib	Pembrolizumab
Brand name	Kisplyx	Keytruda
Manufacturer	Eisai Ltd	MSD
Class of drug	Multiple receptor TKI	Monoclonal antibody
Mechanism of action	Inhibits the activity of VEGFR	Blocks the interaction between PD-1 and its ligands, i.e. PD-L1 and PD-L2
Dose information for treating aRCC	20 mg (oral) once daily until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity	200 mg every 3 weeks or 400 mg every 6 weeks administered as an i.v. infusion over 30 minutes Maximum duration of 2 years
List price per pack	30 capsules (4 mg) = £1437 30 capsules (10 mg) = £1437	100 mg vial = £2630 A single administration of 200 mg = £5260 A single administration of 400 mg = £10,520
PAS	Simple discount PAS	Simple discount PAS

i.v. intravenous; PD-L2, programmed death-ligand 2.

Source

Eisai CS¹ (see table 2); MSD CS² (see table 2).

lenvatinib can be taken with or without food and the capsules can be swallowed whole or ingested by dissolving in water or apple juice (although using the dissolving route to administer the drugs is not a straightforward process), and pembrolizumab requires only a 30-minute infusion once every 3 or 6 weeks. In contrast, both cabozantinib⁴⁹ and axitinib⁵⁰ must be swallowed whole (and cabozantinib must be administered after a ≥ 2 -hour fast⁴⁹) and other checkpoint inhibitors^{51,52} require longer infusions, for example, treatment with avelumab requires a 60-minute infusion every 2 weeks.⁵¹

Systematic reviews of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for advanced renal cell carcinoma

A substantial number of systematic reviews that compare the clinical effectiveness of first-line treatments for aRCC have been published; however, the AG has identified only seven reviews⁵³⁻⁵⁹ that include patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. The focus and results of these reviews are summarised in [Focus of the systematic reviews of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab](#) and [Results from the systematic reviews of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab](#), respectively (for further details see [Table 49](#) in [Appendix 1](#)).

Focus of the systematic reviews of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

Six of the reviews^{53-57,59} focused on the efficacy and safety of treatment, and one review⁵⁸ focused only on safety. One review⁵⁶ compared lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus other combination therapies and versus sunitinib. Six other reviews^{53-55,57-59} assessed the evidence for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and other combination therapies versus sunitinib; three reviews^{54,55,59} presented only pooled results and two reviews^{57,58} compared lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus other combination therapies by ranking the probability of maximal efficacy.

The therapies included in the seven reviews⁵³⁻⁵⁹ were a combination of PD-1 and CTLA-4 checkpoint inhibitors (nivolumab plus ipilimumab),^{54,56-59} a PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitor in combination with an angiogenesis inhibitor (atezolizumab plus bevacizumab^{54,55,57-59}), a PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitor in combination with VEGFR-TKI (avelumab plus axitinib^{53-55,57-59}) or a PD-1 checkpoint inhibitor in combination with VEGFR-TKI (pembrolizumab plus axitinib⁵³⁻⁵⁹ or nivolumab plus cabozantinib⁵³⁻⁵⁹).

Three reviews^{55,57,59} included subgroup analyses by risk subgroup and one review⁵³ included only favourable-risk patients.

Results from the systematic reviews of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

All-risk population results

Five reviews^{54-57,59} showed that combination therapies (including lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab) statistically significantly improved progression-free survival (PFS) and objective response rate (ORR) in comparison with sunitinib. Massari *et al.*⁵⁴ also showed that combination therapies statistically significantly improved OS in comparison with sunitinib; however, Mori *et al.*⁵⁵ showed that this finding was applicable only to PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors (including lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab) and not to PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitors.

Four reviews^{54-56,59} showed that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab statistically significantly improved OS in comparison to sunitinib, and one review⁵⁷ showed that OS may favour lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, but the result was not statistically significant. In the two reviews^{56,57} that ranked the probability of most effective treatment, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab ranked highest for PFS and ORR^{56,57} and second highest for OS,^{56,57} while nivolumab plus cabozantinib ranked highest for OS.^{56,57}

Compared with other combination therapies, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was less well tolerated; patients receiving lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab experienced the highest proportion of Grade \geq 3 adverse events (AEs) and treatment discontinuations due to AEs. Treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was also shown to have the highest likelihood of all-grade adrenal insufficiency and the highest likelihood of high-grade aspartate aminotransferase increase.⁵⁸

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup results

Three reviews^{55,57,59} compared PFS and OS for combination therapies versus sunitinib and reported statistically significant evidence that combination therapies improved efficacy. The two reviews^{55,57} that also compared ORR for combination therapies versus sunitinib found statistically significant evidence that combination therapies improved this outcome.

Favourable-risk subgroup results

Three reviews^{53,55,59} identified statistically significant evidence that, compared to sunitinib, combination therapies improved PFS but not OS. A fourth review⁵⁷ identified statistically significant evidence that, compared to sunitinib, four out of six combination therapies studied (including lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab) improved PFS. Only two of the six combination therapies (nivolumab plus ipilimumab and pembrolizumab plus axitinib), compared to sunitinib, resulted in statistically significantly improved OS. The two reviews^{55,57} that also compared ORR for combination therapies versus sunitinib found statistically significant evidence that combination therapies improved this outcome [the exception being atezolizumab plus bevacizumab in the network meta-analysis (NMA)⁵⁷].

Chapter 2 Definition of the decision problem

Decision problem

The key elements of the decision problem for this appraisal, as defined in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE, are presented in [Table 7](#) (for further information, see [Patient population](#), [Comparators](#) and [Subgroup analyses](#)).

TABLE 7 Key elements of the decision problem

Parameter	Final scope issued by NICE	Addressed by AG
Intervention	Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	As per scope
Patient population	Adults with untreated aRCC	Most patients considered in the AG analyses had clear cell aRCC The AG considered the following groups of patients: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup • favourable-risk subgroup • all-risk population
Comparators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunitinib • Pazopanib • Tivozanib • Cabozantinib (only for intermediate- or poor-risk disease as defined in IMDC criteria) • Nivolumab plus ipilimumab (only for intermediate- or poor-risk disease as defined in IMDC criteria) subject to ongoing appraisal 	Direct evidence is available only for sunitinib (CLEAR trial) Some indirect evidence is available for all relevant comparators from Eisai, MSD and AG NMAs
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OS • PFS • Response rates • Adverse effects of treatment • Health-related quality of life 	As per scope for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib Some indirect evidence was available for some outcomes for some subgroups
Economic analysis	<p>The reference case stipulates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the cost-effectiveness of treatments should be expressed in terms of incremental cost per QALY • the time horizon for estimating clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness should be sufficiently long to reflect any differences in costs or outcomes between the technologies being compared <p>Costs should be considered from an NHS and personal and social services perspective. The availability of any commercial arrangements for the interventions, comparators and subsequent treatments should be taken into account. The availability of any managed access arrangement for the intervention should be taken into account</p>	As per scope
Other considerations	<p>If the evidence allows, the following subgroups should be considered: people with aRCC, i.e. intermediate/poor risk as defined in IMDC criteria. Guidance will be issued only in accordance with the marketing authorisations.</p>	As per scope

Patient population

In previous NICE appraisals of treatments for untreated aRCC,^{25,35} NICE appraisal committees (ACs) noted that there was a lack of evidence to guide treatment decisions for patients with non-clear cell RCC. This is primarily due to non-clear cell RCC being (1) heterogeneous (up to 15 different subtypes are listed in the most recent World Health Organization classification of RCC⁹) and (2) less common^{9,10} than clear cell RCC. The AG made no attempt to provide evidence separately for patients with clear cell and non-clear cell histologies.

As noted in *Current service provision*, decisions about the most appropriate first-line treatments for patients with aRCC are now typically made based on patient risk subgroup. Therefore, the AG conducted subgroup analyses for intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups.

Unless otherwise stated, risk subgroup within this report refers to IMDC model risk stratification subgroups.

Comparators

Four of the five comparators listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE (sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, and cabozantinib for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk aRCC) are all used in current NHS clinical practice. Nivolumab plus ipilimumab is also listed as a comparator; however, at the time of writing this AG report, nivolumab plus ipilimumab was subject to an ongoing CDF review²⁵ and was not available for routine use in the NHS. Following advice from the NICE technical team, the AG has included nivolumab plus ipilimumab as a relevant comparator. Nivolumab plus ipilimumab was subsequently recommended by NICE as a routine treatment option for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk aRCC (TA780³⁶) on 24 March 2022.

Subgroup analyses

In line with the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE, the AG carried out clinical and cost-effectiveness analyses of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for the subgroup of patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease. While it is stated in the AG protocol that analyses would be undertaken separately for the two subgroups, the AG has carried out analyses only for the combined intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup; clinical advice to the AG is that, in line with NICE guidance,^{24,36} treatment decisions are based on the combined intermediate-/poor-risk disease category (one category, not two categories). If a patient does not have intermediate-/poor-risk disease then, by definition, the patient has favourable-risk disease; hence the AG has carried out subgroup analysis for the subgroup of patients with favourable risk.

Intermediate/poor risk

The clinical advice to the AG is that, in line with NICE guidance,^{24,36} cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab are first-line treatment options for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk aRCC; in the first-line setting, sunitinib, pazopanib or tivozanib are considered only for those individuals in this subgroup who are unable to tolerate cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab. The clinical advice to the AG is that patients unable to tolerate cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab would be unlikely to tolerate lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. Therefore, the AG does not consider that sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are relevant comparators to lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease.

Avelumab plus axitinib is also an option for patients with all-risk disease and, therefore, intermediate-/poor-risk disease. As this treatment is currently available only via the CDF, it was not considered by NICE to be a relevant comparator because it could not be said to represent standard practice.

Favourable risk

Sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are NICE-recommended treatment options³²⁻³⁴ for patients who are not specifically categorised as having intermediate-/poor-risk aRCC, that is those with favourable-risk disease. The AG has, therefore, carried out subgroup analyses to compare lenvatinib plus

pembrolizumab versus sunitinib, versus pazopanib and versus tivozanib for the subgroup of patients with favourable-risk disease.

Avelumab plus axitinib is also an option for patients with all-risk disease and, therefore, favourable-risk disease. As this treatment is currently available only via the CDF, it was not considered by NICE to be a relevant comparator because it could not be said to represent standard practice.

Overall aims and objectives of assessment

The overall aim of this appraisal is to appraise the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab within its MHRA marketing authorisation^{45,46} for patients with untreated aRCC.

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is licensed to treat all patients with aRCC irrespective of risk status. However, two of the comparators listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE (cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab) are recommended only for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease. Therefore, the objectives of this assessment are to appraise the clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus:

- cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup
- sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib for the favourable-risk subgroup
- sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib for the all-risk population.

Chapter 3 Assessment of clinical effectiveness: direct evidence

This manuscript contains reference to confidential information provided as part of the NICE appraisal process. This information has been removed from the report and the results, discussions and conclusions of the report do not include the confidential information. These sections are clearly marked in the report.

Methods for reviewing effectiveness

The AG carried out a systematic review of clinical effectiveness evidence following the general principles outlined by the Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD).⁶⁰ The review is reported using the criteria recommended in the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA) statement.⁶¹ Searches were conducted in accordance with the general principles recommended by the European Network for Health Technology Assessment.⁶²

Search strategies

The clinical effectiveness search strategy was designed to identify randomised controlled trials (RCTs) that met the inclusion criteria for the review of direct clinical effectiveness evidence and to identify RCTs that could potentially be used to populate the AG NMAs. The AG identified clinical effectiveness studies by searching relevant major medical databases, trial registries, conference abstracts, the NICE technology appraisal (TA) website listed in [Appendix 2, Table 50](#), and grey literature websites. The search terms used to search the database are given in [Appendix 2](#).

As part of the MTA process, companies were invited to submit evidence to NICE to inform this appraisal. Two companies provided direct and indirect evidence: Eisai,¹ the manufacturer of lenvatinib, and MSD,² the manufacturer of pembrolizumab. The AG screened the reference lists of the Eisai CS¹ and the MSD CS² alongside all other included reports for relevant studies and consulted the AG clinical experts to identify any relevant studies that may have been missed.

A database of identified published literature was compiled. MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed, CENTRAL, International Health Technology Assessment (INAHTA), ClinicalTrials.gov and International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) data were collated in a bibliographic database (Endnote X9 software package⁶³) and exported to a specialist systematic review management system (Covidence Systematic Review software⁶⁴). Conference abstracts results were screened on organisations' websites. The search terms used to search each of the databases and the websites are given in [Appendix 2](#).

Inclusion and exclusion criteria: direct evidence

The eligibility criteria used to identify studies for the review of direct clinical effectiveness are listed in [Table 8](#).

Titles and abstracts identified through electronic searches were uploaded to Covidence and screened by two reviewers (NF and either JG or KE). Full-text articles of any titles and abstracts that were considered potentially eligible for inclusion were obtained via online resources, or through the University of Liverpool libraries, and uploaded to Covidence. These full-text articles were assessed for inclusion by two reviewers (NF and either JG or KE). Discrepancies at each stage of screening were resolved via discussion between the three reviewers. Full-text articles that did not meet the inclusion criteria were excluded with reasons for exclusion noted.

In addition to screening the articles exported to Covidence, two out of three reviewers (RH, JG and KE) screened the conference proceedings independently following the eligibility criteria shown in [Table 8](#).

TABLE 8 Inclusion and exclusion criteria for direct clinical effectiveness review

Criteria	Inclusion	Exclusion
Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> English language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not English language
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults with untreated aRCC. If a study included a mixed population and provided subgroup analysis results for the population with untreated aRCC, then this study was included in the review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications which do not include analyses of adults with untreated aRCC
Study design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCTs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-RCTs
Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for previously untreated aRCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib monotherapy Pembrolizumab monotherapy
Comparators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunitinib Pazopanib Tivozanib Cabozantinib (only for intermediate- or poor-risk disease as defined by IMDC criteria^b) Nivolumab plus ipilimumab (only for intermediate-/poor-risk disease as defined in the IMDC criteria) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avelumab plus axitinib^a Any other treatment that is not recommended by NICE for adults with untreated aRCC
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS PFS Response rates Adverse effects of treatment Health-related quality of life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not applicable – no exclusions were made based on outcomes reported

a Avelumab plus axitinib is available only to NHS patients via the CDF;³⁵ it is not subject to an ongoing CDF review, and therefore is not a relevant comparator.⁶⁵

b Cabozantinib is recommended only by NICE²⁴ for intermediate-/poor-risk disease as defined in the IMDC criteria.

Data extraction and quality assessment strategy: direct evidence

Data relating to study characteristics, population characteristics and outcomes were extracted by one reviewer (NF) into tables and independently checked for accuracy by a second reviewer (SN or KE). Data from multiple publications of the same study were extracted and reported as a single study.

Study quality was assessed independently by two reviewers (JG and KE) using the criteria published in the CRD Guidance for Undertaking Reviews in Healthcare.⁶⁰ Disagreements were resolved through discussion and, when necessary, a third reviewer (SN) was consulted.

Statistical approaches for the conduct and analysis of randomised controlled trials: direct evidence

The AG assessed the prespecified statistical approach of the only included RCT.⁶⁶ This assessment considered:

- analysis populations
- trial design and sample size
- amendments to the protocol and statistical analysis plan
- definition and analysis approach for primary and secondary efficacy outcomes
- definition and analysis approach for patient reported outcomes (PROs)
- definition and analysis approach for safety outcomes and AEs
- validity of modelling assumptions [e.g. proportional hazards (PH)]
- approach to handling missing data
- subgroup and sensitivity analyses.

The AG also performed an assessment of specific statistical approaches, where appropriate for any relevant study (e.g. analyses to adjust for treatment switching).

Data analysis/synthesis: direct evidence

Meta-analysis

Only one RCT⁶⁶ was identified for inclusion in the review and, therefore, a meta-analysis was not required.

Presentation of results

The results of the data extraction, quality assessment and statistical assessment from the included RCT⁶⁶ were summarised in tables and described in text.

Direct treatment effect estimates are presented as hazard ratios (HRs) for time-to-event data (i.e. OS and PFS), as odds ratios (ORs) for dichotomous data (i.e. ORR and AEs) or as mean differences for continuous data [i.e. health-related quality-of-life (HRQoL) outcomes]. All treatment effect estimates are presented with 95% CIs.

Results of search for direct evidence: included and excluded studies

The AG study selection process is shown in [Appendix 2](#) (see [Sources searched, Figure 2](#)).

At the title and abstract stage, the AG included any study report that appeared to be a RCT that considered a relevant intervention or comparator. Such a broad approach to inclusion was carried out to aid the identification and selection of studies that provided data that could be used in AG NMAs. This approach resulted in the retrieval of 694 reports (577 via searches of databases and registries and 117 via other searches). After applying inclusion/exclusion criteria, a total of 20 reports^{1,2,66-83} describing one RCT [CLEAR/KEYNOTE-581 trial (NCT02811861) and hereafter referred to as the CLEAR trial] were included in the review.

Sources of CLEAR trial data

The AG review of direct evidence included one RCT, the CLEAR trial; this trial was jointly sponsored by Eisai and MSD. Although 20 study reports^{1,2,66-83} were included in the review, data were extracted only from the sources listed in [Table 9](#). After reviewing the companies' submissions, the AG requested additional information via the NICE appraisal clarification process and used companies' responses to the clarification letters as sources of evidence.

The AG employed a hierarchical approach to data extraction. The initial source of data for the results of clinical effectiveness and safety analyses was the published paper of Motzer *et al.*,⁶⁶ including the online appendix and accompanying trial statistical analysis plan (TSAP).⁷⁴ The initial source of data for HRQoL was the conference abstract by Motzer *et al.*⁸¹ Additional data were extracted first from the Eisai CS¹ and then cross-checked with data in the MSD CS.² Finally, the Clinical Study Report (CSR)⁷⁰ and other CLEAR trial documents provided as part of the companies' submissions to NICE⁶⁸⁻⁷³ were consulted and additional data extracted.

CLEAR trial design and characteristics

The CLEAR trial was a phase III, multicentre, open-label RCT (with an ongoing extension phase) that was designed to compare the efficacy of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib and of lenvatinib plus everolimus versus sunitinib. Patients ($n = 1069$) were randomised 1 : 1 : 1 to the treatment arms. Randomisation was stratified according to geographic region (Western Europe and North America, or the rest of the world) and MSKCC prognostic risk subgroup (favourable, intermediate or poor risk). The

TABLE 9 Sources of CLEAR trial clinical effectiveness data used in this report

Source	Note
Motzer <i>et al.</i> 2021 ⁶⁶	Published paper, including the online appendix and protocol
Motzer <i>et al.</i> 2021 ⁸¹	HRQoL data reported in conference abstract
Eisai CS ¹ and response to AG clarification letter	CS received 15 November 2021; response to the AG clarification letter received 20 December 2021
MSD CS ² and responses to AG clarification letters	CS received 15 November 2021; initial response to the AG clarification letter received 20 December 2021; additional response to the AG clarification letter received 11 January 2022
Protocol v7 ⁷³	Final protocol (Amendment 7), 6 August 2020
TSAP, v3.0	14 August 2020, available online as appendix to published paper ⁶⁶
CSR ⁷⁰	28 August 2020, provided by both companies
Updated OS report ⁷¹	20 May 2021, provided by both companies
HRQoL analysis plan, v2.1 ⁶⁸ and HRQoL report ⁷²	Additional source of HRQoL data (13 February 2021 and 28 August 2020, respectively) provided by Eisai (with Eisai response to the AG clarification letter)

ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; ASGO-GU, American Society of Clinical Oncology Genitourinary.

treatment combination of lenvatinib plus everolimus is not relevant to this appraisal and is not discussed further in this AG report.

A summary of CLEAR trial design and conduct details is provided in [Table 10](#).

The CLEAR trial primary outcome was PFS assessed by Blinded Independent Review Committee (BIRC), using the censoring method preferred by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). All other outcomes relevant to the decision problem were reported (OS, ORR, AEs and HRQoL). Prespecified subgroup analyses, by IMDC and MSKCC risk subgroups, were:

- age (< 65 years, ≥ 65 years)
- sex (male, female)
- race (white, Asian)
- geographic region (Western Europe or North America, rest of the world)
- MSKCC risk subgroup (favourable, intermediate, poor)
- IMDC risk subgroup (favourable, intermediate, poor)
- baseline KPS score (100 to 90, 80 to 70)
- number of organs with metastases (1, 2, ≥ 3)
- baseline bone, liver and lung metastasis (yes, no)
- PD-L1 combined positive score (≥ 1, < 1)
- prior nephrectomy (yes, no)
- clear cell histology with sarcomatoid features (yes, no).

Analyses of MSKCC intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup PFS, OS and ORR data were also presented in the Eisai CS.¹

The CLEAR trial had an ongoing OS extension phase with the final prespecified OS analysis planned to occur after approximately 304 OS events had occurred; the final OS analysis was therefore conducted after this appraisal had concluded (data cut-off: 31 July 2022 with a median OS follow-up time of approximately 4 years).⁸⁴ At the time of this appraisal, OS had only been reported at two different time points: (1) at the time of the third interim analysis (IA3 data cut-off), which was also the final data cut-off for PFS and the time at which all other outcomes were reported, and (2) at the time of the updated

TABLE 10 Summary of CLEAR trial design and conduct details

Parameter	CLEAR trial
Key eligibility criteria	<p>Inclusion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age \geq 18 years • previously untreated aRCC with a clear cell component • \geq 1 measurable lesion according to RECIST version 1 • KPS score \geq 70 (scores range from 0 to 100 and lower scores mean greater disability) • adequately controlled blood pressure, with or without medications • adequate organ function <p>Patients with CNS metastasis were excluded unless they had completed local therapy and discontinued corticosteroids for this indication for \geq 4 weeks before study treatment</p>
Recruitment period	13 October 2016 to 24 July 2019
Number of centres (patients)	All: 181 sites in 20 countries, including 93 sites in Europe (407 patients) UK: 8 sites (26 patients)
Drug doses and schedule	<p>Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenvatinib administered at a dose of 20 mg orally once daily for each 21-day treatment cycle. Pembrolizumab administered at a dose of 200 mg intravenously on day 1 of each 21-day cycle <p>Sunitinib:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunitinib administered at a dose of 50 mg orally once daily for 4 weeks of treatment followed by 2 weeks with no treatment (4/2 schedule) <p>In both arms, patients continued to receive study treatment until disease progression was confirmed by BIRC, development of unacceptable toxicity, patient request, withdrawal of consent, completion of 35 treatments (2 years) for pembrolizumab or study termination by the sponsor. All patients could continue treatment beyond initial RECIST v1.1-defined progression at the investigator's discretion</p>
Dose modifications	<p>Dose interruptions were permitted for all study drugs Dose reductions were not permitted for pembrolizumab If one drug in the combination treatment arm was discontinued (e.g. due to toxicity), the other drug could be continued</p>
<p>CNS, central nervous system; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors. Source Motzer <i>et al.</i>,⁶⁶ Eisai CS;¹ MSD CS.²</p>	

OS analysis (see [Table 11](#) for details). As patients could receive subsequent anticancer treatment on disease progression, company post hoc analyses were also performed excluding patients who received subsequent treatment from the analysis and by adjusting for subsequent anticancer treatment using the two-stage estimation method⁸⁵ (see also [Table 55](#) in [Appendix 3](#)).

TABLE 11 CLEAR trial follow-up periods

Parameter	IA3 data cut-off	Updated OS analysis
Data cut-off date	28 August 2020	31 March 2021
Duration of follow-up	Median OS follow-up: 26.6 months All efficacy, safety and PROs were reported at this time point	Median OS follow-up: ~33 months Only OS was assessed at this follow-up
Number (%) of patients still on study treatment	Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab: 142 (40.0%) Sunitinib: 67 (18.8%)	Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab: 114 (32.1%) Sunitinib: 49 (13.7%)
<p>Source Motzer <i>et al.</i>,⁶⁶ Eisai CS;¹ MSD CS.²</p>		

Analyses of efficacy outcomes were undertaken using data from the full analysis set (FAS) population, which is also the intention-to-treat (ITT) population and the all-risk population. Safety analyses were undertaken using data from the randomised population who received at least one dose of a study drug and who had at least one post-baseline safety evaluation (safety population).

CLEAR trial participant characteristics

A summary of baseline characteristics is presented in [Table 12](#). There were 2.9 times as many men as women. The lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm included a higher proportion of patients aged ≥ 65 years; the median age of patients in this arm was higher than the median age of patients in the sunitinib arm (64 vs. 61 years).

In both the trial arms, more patients were categorised as having favourable-risk disease when using the IMDC classification than using the MSKCC classification, and fewer patients were categorised as having intermediate-risk disease when using the IMDC classification than using the MSKCC classification. Six patients were not assigned a risk category according to the IMDC classification.

Generally, the baseline characteristics of patients included in the CLEAR trial were balanced between treatment arms. However, while the proportions of patients classified in each MSKCC risk subgroup were the same across the trial arms, there were slight imbalances between arms in terms of IMDC risk status.

Quality assessment of the CLEAR trial

The AG conducted a quality assessment of the CLEAR trial using the criteria published in the CRD's guidance for undertaking reviews in healthcare.⁶⁰ The results of the assessment are presented in [Appendix 3, Table 53](#) (see [Quality assessment of the CLEAR trial](#)). The AG considers that the CLEAR trial is a good-quality trial.

Statistical approach followed to analyse the CLEAR trial data

A summary of the AG's checks of the CLEAR trial preplanned statistical approach is provided in [Appendix 3](#) (see [Table 54](#)). The AG was satisfied with the statistical approach taken by the companies. However, the AG highlights that in cases where the PH assumption is violated, the estimated HR is not applicable to all time points across the observed CLEAR trial follow-up period. In the context of a single trial, where violations of the PH assumption are demonstrated, visual inspection of the Kaplan–Meier (K-M) data may provide some insight into the likely direction of relative effect at different time points and changes in the direction or magnitude of relative effect over the time period of the trial (i.e. where K-M curves cross or diverge).

Eisai assessed the PH assumption for BICR-assessed PFS and OS by plotting the log cumulative hazard versus log(time), using the Grambsch–Therneau test⁸⁶ of Schoenfeld's residuals [see Eisai CS¹ (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and Eisai response to the AG clarification letter, questions A1 and A2].

On the basis of these assessments, Eisai considered that over the observed period, the assumption of PH was not violated for BICR-assessed PFS but was violated for the updated analyses of OS (unadjusted for treatment crossover).

TABLE 12 Participants' characteristics in the CLEAR trial for FAS (all-risk) population

Characteristic	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 355)	Sunitinib (N = 357)
Mean (SD) age, years	62.3 (10.23)	60.8 (9.96)
Median (range) age, years	64 (34–88)	61 (29–82)
< 65 years, n (%)	194 (54.6)	225 (63.0)
Male, n (%)	255 (71.8)	275 (77.0)
Region, n (%)		
Western Europe or North America	198 (55.8)	199 (55.7)
Rest of the world	157 (44.2)	158 (44.3)
Race/ethnicity, n (%)		
White	263 (74.1)	270 (75.6)
Black or African American	2 (0.6)	3 (0.8)
Asian	81 (22.8)	67 (18.8)
KPS, n (%)		
90–100	295 (83.1)	294 (82.4)
70–80	60 (16.9)	62 (17.4)
Missing	0	1 (0.3)
MSKCC risk subgroup, n (%)		
Favourable	96 (27.0)	97 (27.2)
Intermediate	227 (63.9)	228 (63.9)
Poor	32 (9.0)	32 (9.0)
IMDC risk subgroup, n (%)		
Favourable	110 (31.0)	124 (34.7)
Intermediate	210 (59.2)	192 (53.8)
Poor	33 (9.3)	37 (10.4)
Could not be evaluated	2 (0.6)	4 (1.1)
Sarcomatoid features, n (%)	28 (7.9)	21 (5.9)
Number of metastatic organs or sites ^a		
1	97 (27.3)	108 (30.3)
≥ 2	254 (71.5)	246 (68.9)
Prior nephrectomy, n (%)	262 (73.8)	275 (77.0)

a Lesion organs/sites involved were derived from independent imaging review; kidney is not included in the number of metastatic organs/sites; the number or organs/sites reported by Motzer *et al.*⁶⁶ differs to that reported in the Eisai CS;¹ data reported here are from Motzer *et al.*⁶⁶

Source

Motzer *et al.*⁶⁶ (see table 1); Eisai CS¹ (see table 10); MSD CS² (see table 5).

CLEAR trial results

Progression-free survival results from the CLEAR trial

Key PFS results from the CLEAR trial are summarised in [Table 13](#).

Progression-free survival: full analysis set population (intention-to-treat population, all-risk population)

In the CLEAR trial, median PFS was statistically significantly longer in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm than in the sunitinib arm [median 23.9 months, 95% CI 20.8 to 27.7 months vs. 9.2 months, 95% CI 6.0 to 11.0; HR = 0.39 (95% CI 0.32 to 0.49); $p < 0.001$]. In addition, PFS rates were higher in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm than in the sunitinib arm at 6, 12, 18 and 24 months.

Exploratory subgroup analyses of progression-free survival assessed by Blinded Independent Review Committee

All results from CLEAR trial PFS subgroup analyses for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib were statistically significantly in favour of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (Motzer *et al.* 2021,⁶⁶ figure 1B). The AG highlights that these subgroup analyses were not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms.

Subgroup results by MSKCC and IMDC risk subgroups for PFS assessed by BIRC, using both the FDA and European Medicines Agency (EMA) preferred censoring methods, were provided by Eisai and MSD in their CSs (appendices D2.4.21 and D1.1, respectively). The AG highlights that these subgroup analyses were not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms. The data are marked as academic-in-confidence and cannot be presented here.

Overall survival results from the CLEAR trial

Key OS results from the CLEAR trial are presented in [Table 14](#).

Full analysis set (intention-to-treat population, all-risk population)

Median OS had not been reached in either CLEAR trial arm at the time of the IA3 data cut-off or at the time of the updated OS analysis ([Table 14](#)). As the PH assumption is violated, the HR should not be used to infer statistical significance or the magnitude of treatment effect from the HR. However, MSD OS K-M data [MSD CS² (figures 5 and 6)] show early survival differences between patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and those treated with sunitinib; OS rates at 12, 18, 24 and 36 months were consistently higher for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared with patients treated with sunitinib.

Exploratory subgroup analyses of OS

Results from most of the OS subgroup analyses generated using data from the IA3 data cut-off favoured lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib, except for favourable-risk subgroup results which favoured sunitinib [Motzer *et al.* 2021⁶⁶ (figure S4)]. The AG highlights that these subgroup analyses were not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms. Neither Eisai nor MSD submitted OS subgroup results, other than by risk subgroup, using data from the updated OS analysis.

Subgroup analyses carried out using updated OS analysis data by risk subgroup were provided by Eisai and MSD in their CSs (appendices D2.4.2 and D1.1). The AG highlights that these subgroup analyses were not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms. The data are marked as academic-in-confidence and cannot be presented here.

Treatment on disease progression and impact on overall survival in the CLEAR trial

In addition to the effect of the study drug, OS results may be influenced by subsequent anticancer treatment(s) received on disease progression. Just under half of all patients in the CLEAR trial received

TABLE 13 CLEAR trial PFS (FDA censoring rules and BIRC) for FAS (all-risk) population and IMDC subgroups (IA3 data cut-off)

Characteristic/outcome	All-risk (FAS)		Intermediate/poor risk		Favourable risk	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 355)	Sunitinib (N = 357)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 243)	Sunitinib (N = 229)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 110)	Sunitinib (N = 124)
Number of events (%)	160 (45.1)	205 (57.4)	115 (47.3)	136 (59.4)	43 (45.1)	67 (54.0)
Death from PFS (%)	15 (4.2)	9 (2.5)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Median PFS in months (95% CI)	23.9 (20.8 to 27.7)	9.2 (6.0 to 11.0)	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential informa- tion has been removed	28.1 (Confidential information has been removed)	12.9 (Confidential information has been removed)
Stratified HR (95% CI) p-value	0.39 (0.32 to 0.49) p < 0.001		Confidential information has been removed ^a Confidential information has been removed		0.41 (0.28 to 0.62) p < 0.001	
PFS rates (%) (95% CI) at:						
6 months	84.9 (80.6 to 88.3)	57.0 (51.1 to 62.5)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
12 months	70.6 (65.3 to 75.2)	38.4 (32.4 to 44.3)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
18 months	57.4 (51.5 to 62.8)	31.2 (25.4 to 37.2)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
24 months	48.9 (42.7 to 54.9)	20.7 (15.0 to 26.9)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

NE, not estimable.

a HR (95% CI) was 0.39 (0.29 to 0.52) in the intermediate risk subgroup and 0.28 (0.13 to 0.60) in the poor risk subgroup.

Note

Six patients (two in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and four in the sunitinib arm) were not assigned a risk category according to the IMDC risk classification.

Source

Motzer *et al.*,⁶⁶ Eisai CS¹ (see table 11 and appendix D2.4.2); MSD CS² (see table 9 and appendix D1.1) .

TABLE 14 Overall survival results from the CLEAR trial for FAS (all-risk) population and IMDC subgroups (IA3 data cut-off and updated OS analysis)

Characteristic/outcome	All-risk (FAS)		Intermediate/poor risk		Favourable risk	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 355)	Sunitinib (N = 357)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 243)	Sunitinib (N = 229)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 110)	Sunitinib (N = 124)
OS – IA3 data cut-off						
Number of deaths (%)	80 (22.5)	101 (28.3)	66 (27.2)	85 (37.1)	14 (12.7)	15 (12.1)
Median OS in months (95% CI)	NE (33.6 to NE)	NE (NE to NE)	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
Stratified HR (95% CI)	0.66 (0.49 to 0.88) ^a		Confidential information has been removed		Confidential information has been removed	
p-value	p = 0.005 ^a		Confidential information has been removed		Confidential information has been removed	
OS rate (%) (95% CI) at:						
12 months	91.4 (87.9 to 93.9)	80.2 (75.5 to 84.1)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
18 months	87.1 (83.1 to 90.3)	74.4 (69.3 to 78.8)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
24 months	79.2 (74.1 to 83.3)	70.4 (65.0 to 75.2)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
OS – updated OS analysis						
Number of deaths (%)	105 (29.6)	122 (34.2)	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
Median OS in months (95% CI)	NE (41.5 to NE)	NE (38.4 to NE)	Not reported	Not reported	NE (NE to NE)	NE (NE to NE)
Stratified HR (95% CI)	0.72 (0.55 to 0.93) ^a		Confidential		1.22 (0.66 to 2.26)	
p-value	Not reported ^a		Not reported		Not reported	

Characteristic/outcome	All-risk (FAS)		Intermediate/poor risk		Favourable risk	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 355)	Sunitinib (N = 357)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 243)	Sunitinib (N = 229)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 110)	Sunitinib (N = 124)
OS rate (%) (95% CI) at:						
12 months	91.4 (87.9 to 93.9)	80.2 (75.5 to 84.1)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
18 months	86.9 (82.9 to 90.1)	73.8 (68.7 to 78.2)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
24 months	80.2 (75.5 to 84.1)	69.7 (64.4 to 74.3)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
36 months	65.5 (59.4 to 71.0)	61.8 (55.8 to 67.1)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

a Neither the *p*-value nor the HR (95% CIs) should be used to infer statistical significance where the PHs assumption is violated.

Note

Six patients (two in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and four in the sunitinib arm) were not assigned a risk category according to the IMDC risk classification.

Source

Motzer *et al.*,⁶⁶ Eisai CS¹ (see tables 12 and 13 and appendices D2.4.2); MSD CS² (see table 10 and appendix D1.1)

subsequent treatment [IA3 data cut-off (45.4%) and updated OS analysis (49.6%)]. Compared with patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm, at the IA3 data cut-off, 1.7 times as many patients in the sunitinib arm (57.1%) than in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm (33.0%) received subsequent treatment (71.0% and 54.9%, respectively, of patients who discontinued treatment). At the updated data cut off, the proportion of patients receiving subsequent treatment was 61.9% of all sunitinib arm patients and 37.2% of all lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab patients.

Eisai¹ presented analyses of updated OS to attempt to take into account additional treatments received for the all-risk population. Eisai presented a comparison of OS data in each treatment arm for patients who received subsequent treatment, and a comparison of OS data in each treatment arm for patients who did not receive subsequent treatment. All the results are academic-in-confidence and so cannot be presented here. However, the AG highlights that the PH assumption was violated for the analysis of OS data from patients who received subsequent treatment and so the OS HR should not be used to infer magnitude of treatment effect or statistical significance for this comparison. Nonetheless, for patients who did not receive subsequent treatment, the K-M data suggested an OS benefit for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. However, for patients who did receive subsequent treatment, the K-M data suggested an OS benefit for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab up to approximately 33 months, at which point the curves cross. Eisai also conducted prespecified analyses to adjust OS for the effect of any subsequent anticancer treatment (FAS population, updated OS analysis). These analyses were conducted using the two-stage estimation method with different models [log-normal acceleration factor (AF) with and without re-censoring; log-logistic AF with and without re-censoring; Weibull AF with and without re-censoring]. A summary of the AG checks of the treatment-switching analysis methods used by Eisai is provided in [Appendix 3](#) (see [Table 55](#)). The results derived from the analysis were marked as academic-in-confidence.

Objective tumour response results from the CLEAR trial

Key tumour response results, including ORR results, from the CLEAR trial all-risk population are presented in [Table 15](#). All subgroup data were marked as academic-in-confidence and cannot be presented.

Full analysis set population

CLEAR trial ORR assessed by BIRC was statistically significantly higher in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm than in the sunitinib arm [71.0% (95% CI 66.3% to 75.7%) vs. 36.0% (95% CI 31.2% to 41.1%); OR = 4.35 (95% CI 3.16 to 5.97)]. While time to response was 1.94 months in both arms, the duration of response was nearly twice as long for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (25.8 months) than for patients treated with sunitinib (14.6 months).

Exploratory subgroup analyses of objective response rate

CLEAR trial ORR subgroup analyses results were presented in the CSR for the CLEAR trial, section 11.4.1.6.3.⁷⁰ The analyses have not been published and so are marked as academic-in-confidence. The AG highlights that these subgroup analyses were not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms.

Objective response rate results by risk subgroup are summarised by Eisai and MSD in their CS (appendices D2.4.2 and D1.1, respectively). The AG highlights that these subgroup analyses were not powered to detect statistically significant differences between the two treatment arms. The data are marked as academic-in-confidence and cannot be presented here.

Safety results

Safety data from the CLEAR trial were reported (IA3 data cut-off). The AEs were graded using common terminology criteria for adverse event (CTCAE) version 4.03.⁸⁷ The safety population included all patients who received at least one dose of either study drug.

The median duration of treatment was longer in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm than in the sunitinib arm (17.0 vs. 7.8 months).

TABLE 15 Blinded Independent Review Committee-assessed objective response results from CLEAR trial for FAS (all-risk) population and IMDC subgroups (IA3 data cut-off)

Characteristic/outcome	All-risk (FAS)		Intermediate/poor risk		Favourable risk	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 355)	Sunitinib (N = 357)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 243)	Sunitinib (N = 229)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 110)	Sunitinib (N = 124)
ORR (CR + PR) by BIRC, % (95% CI)	71.0 (66.3 to 75.7)	36.1 (31.2 to 41.1)	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
Difference, % (95% CI)	34.9 (28.0 to 41.7)		Confidential information has been removed		Confidential information has been removed	
OR (95% CI)	4.35 (3.16 to 5.97)		Confidential information has been removed		Confidential information has been removed	
p-value	Nominal $p \leq 0.0001^a$		Confidential information has been removed		Confidential information has been removed	
Best objective response:						
CR, n (%)	57 (16.1)	15 (4.2)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
PR, n (%)	195 (54.9)	114 (31.9)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Stable disease, n (%)	68 (19.2)	136 (38.1)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Progressive disease, n (%)	19 (5.4)	50 (14.0)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Unevaluable for response/ not known, n (%)	16 (4.5)	42 (11.8)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
No post-baseline tumour assessment	12 (3.4)	38 (10.6)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
≥ 1 Lesion NE	1 (0.3)	2 (0.6)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Early stable disease (< 7 weeks)	3 (0.8)	1 (0.3)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Median time to response, months (range)	1.94 (1.41–18.50)	1.94 (1.61–16.62)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported
Median duration of response, months (95% CI)	25.8 (22.1 to 27.9)	14.6 (9.4 to 16.7)	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported

CR, complete response; NE, not estimable; PR, partial response.

a The difference between the treatment arms was tested using the Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel (CMH) test, stratified by geographic region and MSKCC prognostic groups.

Note

Six patients (two in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and four in the sunitinib arm) were not assigned a risk category according to the IMDC risk classification.

Source

Motzer *et al.*;⁶⁶ Eisai CS¹ (see table 14 and appendix D2.4.2); MSD CS² (see p. 43, table 12 and appendix D1.1)¹

A summary of treatment emergent adverse events (TEAEs) is presented in [Table 16](#). Patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm experienced more AEs (of any type) than patients in the sunitinib arm. While 37.2% of patients discontinued either lenvatinib and/or pembrolizumab due to TEAEs, 13.4% of patients discontinued both lenvatinib and pembrolizumab and 14.4% of patients discontinued sunitinib due to TEAEs.

The AEs of any cause (any grade in $\geq 25\%$ of patients and Grade ≥ 3 in $\geq 5\%$ of patients) that emerged or worsened during the CLEAR are summarised in [Tables 17](#) and [18](#), respectively. Nearly all patients in both arms experienced at least one all-grade AE with more Grade ≥ 3 AEs reported in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm (82.4%) than in the sunitinib arm (71.8%).

The most commonly occurring all-grade AEs in both arms were diarrhoea (61.4% vs. 49.4%) and hypertension (55.4% vs. 41.5%). Hypertension was also the most common Grade ≥ 3 AE in both arms (27.6% vs. 18.8%). The other most common Grade ≥ 3 AEs in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm were increased lipase (12.8% vs. 8.8%), diarrhoea (9.7% vs. 5.3%), increased amylase (9.1% vs. 2.9%), decreased weight (8.0% vs. 0.3%), proteinuria (7.7% vs. 2.9%) and asthenia (5.4% vs. 4.4%).

MSD² (p. 69) reported a 'higher than expected' incidence of Grade ≥ 3 hepatic AEs. From data presented by the companies [Eisai CS¹ (table 20) and MSD CS² (appendix F, see table 3)], incidences of Grade ≥ 3

TABLE 16 Summary of treatment-emergent AEs in CLEAR trial for all-risk safety population (IA3 data cut-off)

Type of AE, n (%)	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 352)	Sunitinib (N = 340)
Any TEAE	351 (99.7)	335 (98.5)
TRAE	341 (96.9)	313 (92.1)
Any grade ≥ 3 TEAE	290 (82.4)	244 (71.8)
Non-fatal serious TEAE	178 (50.6)	113 (33.2)
Non-fatal serious treatment-related TEAE	119 (33.8)	51 (15.0)
TEAE leading to treatment interruption	276 (78.4)	183 (53.8)
Interruption of lenvatinib	257 (73.0)	NA
Interruption of pembrolizumab	194 (55.1)	NA
Interruption of both lenvatinib and pembrolizumab	138 (39.2)	NA
TEAE leading to dose reduction	242 (68.8)	171 (50.3)
TEAEs leading to study drug discontinuation	131 (37.2)	49 (14.4)
Discontinuation of lenvatinib	90 (25.6)	NA
Discontinuation of pembrolizumab	101 (28.7)	NA
Discontinuation of both lenvatinib and pembrolizumab	47 (13.4)	NA
Fatal TEAE	15 (4.3)	11 (3.2)
Fatal TRAE	4 (1.1)	1 (0.3)

NA, not applicable; TRAE, treatment-related adverse event.

Source

Eisai CS¹ (see table 18 and 61 and appendix F5); MSD CS² (see tables 6 and 24 and appendix F).

TABLE 17 Any grade AEs emerging or worsening in $\geq 25\%$ of patients in either arm of the CLEAR trial for all-risk safety population (IA3 data cut-off)

AE	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 352)	Sunitinib (N = 340)
	n (%)	n (%)
Any AE	351 (99.7)	335 (98.5)
Diarrhoea	216 (61.4)	168 (49.4)
Hypertension	195 (55.4)	141 (41.5)
Hypothyroidism	166 (47.2)	90 (26.5)
Decreased appetite	142 (40.3)	105 (30.9)
Fatigue	141 (40.1)	125 (36.8)
Nausea	126 (35.8)	113 (33.2)
Stomatitis	122 (34.7)	131 (38.5)
Dysphonia	105 (29.8)	14 (4.1)
Weight decrease	105 (29.8)	31 (9.1)
Proteinuria	104 (29.5)	43 (12.6)
PPE	101 (28.7)	127 (37.4)
Arthralgia	99 (28.1)	52 (15.3)
Rash	96 (27.3)	47 (13.8)
Vomiting	92 (26.1)	68 (20.0)
Constipation	89 (25.3)	64 (18.8)
Dysgeusia	43 (12.2)	95 (27.9)

PPE, Palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia syndrome.
Source
Adapted from Motzer *et al.*⁶⁶ (see table 3).

TABLE 18 Grade ≥ 3 treatment-emergent AEs in CLEAR trial ($\geq 5\%$ of patients in either arm) for all-risk safety population (IA3 data cut-off)

AE	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 352)	Sunitinib (N = 340)
	n (%)	n (%)
Any grade ≥ 3 TEAE	290 (82.4)	244 (71.8)
Hypertension	97 (27.6)	64 (18.8)
Lipase increased	45 (12.8)	30 (8.8)
Diarrhoea	34 (9.7)	18 (5.3)
Amylase increased	32 (9.1)	10 (2.9)
Weight decreased	28 (8.0)	1 (0.3)
Proteinuria	27 (7.7)	10 (2.9)
Asthenia	19 (5.4)	15 (4.4)

continued

TABLE 18 Grade ≥ 3 treatment-emergent AEs in CLEAR trial ($\geq 5\%$ of patients in either arm) for all-risk safety population (IA3 data cut-off) (continued)

AE	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab (N = 352)	Sunitinib (N = 340)
	n (%)	n (%)
Hypertriglyceridaemia	17 (4.8)	22 (6.5)
Hyponatraemia	17 (4.8)	17 (5.0)
Anaemia	7 (2.0)	18 (5.3)
Neutrophil count decreased	6 (1.7)	19 (5.6)
Platelet cell count decreased	4 (1.1)	31 (6.2)
Thrombocytopenia	2 (0.6)	19 (5.6)
Neutropenia	2 (0.6)	20 (5.9)

SourceAdapted from MSD CS² (appendix F and table 8).

alanine aminotransferase increased and Grade ≥ 3 aspartate aminotransferase increased were 4.3% and 3.1%, respectively, in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm versus 2.4% and 0.9%, respectively, in the sunitinib arm. Grade ≥ 3 blood bilirubin increased in 1.1% of patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and in 0.6% of patients treated with sunitinib. It is reported in the summary of product characteristics (SmPC) for lenvatinib that Grade 3 liver-related reactions occurred in 9.9% of patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and in 5.3% of patients in the sunitinib arm.⁴⁵

MSD² reported that the most common non-fatal serious adverse events (SAEs) in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm were diarrhoea (3.4%), vomiting (2.8%), pneumonitis (2.6%), acute kidney injury (2.3%) and hypertension (2.3%), each of which occurred with an incidence $\leq 1.2\%$ in the sunitinib arm [MSD CS² (appendix F and table 3)]. Pyrexia was the most common SAE in the sunitinib arm (2.1% vs. 1.7% in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm).

Eisai¹ reported that adverse events of special interest (AEOSI) for pembrolizumab were experienced by 60.8% of patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and 30.9% of patients in the sunitinib arm [Eisai CS¹ (appendix F3.2)]. According to the CSR,⁷⁰ for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib, the most common AEOSI was hypothyroidism; other AEOSIs reported by $\geq 5\%$ of patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm were hyperthyroidism, pneumonitis, adrenal insufficiency and severe skin reactions.⁷⁰

Health-related quality of life results from the CLEAR trial

In the CLEAR trial, HRQoL was assessed as a secondary end point using the following validated questionnaires: (1) the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy Kidney Symptom Index-Disease-Related Symptoms (FKSI-DRS), (2) the European Organisation for the Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Quality of Life Questionnaire (QLQ-C30) and (3) the European Quality of Life-5 Dimensions-3 Levels Version (EuroQoL EQ-5D-3L). In summary:

1. The FKSI-DRS consists of nine items designed to assess the frequency/severity of symptoms specific to advanced kidney cancer, including fatigue, pain, bone pain, lack of energy, shortness of breath, fevers, weight loss, coughing and blood in the urine. Scores are measured using a 5-point Likert scale, and higher total scores correspond to better HRQoL.

2. The EORTC is a cancer-specific questionnaire consisting of function and symptom scales, which are scored from 0 to 100. Higher scores on the functional scales reflect better HRQoL, and higher scores on the symptom scales reflect worse symptoms.
3. The EQ-5D-3L is used to assess general HRQoL in five domains (mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression) with three levels of response. Responses are used to generate health state index scores, with higher scores indicating better health. The second part of this questionnaire consists of the visual analogue scale, where patients rate their perceived health on a scale of 0 (worst imaginable health) to 100 (best imaginable health).

Health-related quality of life assessments were performed at baseline, day 1 of each subsequent treatment cycle and at the off-treatment visit (30 days after final dose of study drug). As stated in the Eisai HRQoL outcomes study report,⁷² completion rates (at least one complete score; FAS population) for all HRQoL instruments were notably different for the two trial arms. The completion rates for any instrument declined below 50% at Cycle 26 for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and at Cycle 12 for patients treated with sunitinib. The completion rates at the off-treatment visit were 40.0% for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and 55.7% for patients treated with sunitinib. Compliance was generally greater than 90% in both trial arms during early cycles of treatment; however, at the off-treatment visit, compliance had dropped to approximately 80%.

Change from baseline in FKS-DRS, EORTC QLQ-C30 and EQ-5D-3L score

For each CLEAR trial arm, the overall least squares (LS) mean change was calculated as an average of the change between baseline and each of the time points up until the mean follow-up time (Cycle 15). The difference between the arms in the overall LS mean change was interpreted as clinically meaningful if it exceeded the predefined minimally important difference (MID) for that outcome. As reported by Motzer *et al.* 2021⁸¹ and in the MSD CS,² only a few statistically significant differences were identified between treatment arms for the overall LS mean change in the EORTC QLQ-C30. Lenvatinib and pembrolizumab resulted in higher physical functioning scores and lower fatigue, dyspnoea and constipation scores than sunitinib; none of these differences exceeded the predefined MID. No statistically significant differences were identified between treatment arms for the overall LS mean change in the FKS-DRS or EQ-5D-3L.

Time to first deterioration and time to definitive deterioration analyses

A deterioration event was defined as a detrimental change in HRQoL score from baseline that exceeded the MID value for that outcome. Two time points were assessed: time to first deterioration [time to treatment discontinuation (TTD)], as the earliest deterioration event during treatment, and time until definitive deterioration (TuDD), as the earliest deterioration event during treatment where there was no subsequent recovery above the deterioration threshold or no subsequent HRQoL data. As reported by Motzer *et al.* 2021⁸¹ and in the Eisai CS¹ (appendix M3.1), statistically significant differences were identified in the median TTD in favour of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib for the following EORTC QLQ-C30 scales: physical functioning, appetite loss and dyspnoea, and the EQ-5D-VAS score. As reported in the Eisai CS¹ (appendix M3.2), statistically significant differences were also found in the median TuDD in favour of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib for all scales, except for the cognitive domain and financial difficulties symptom scales. It was not possible to compare the values for the cognitive domain, or constipation and financial difficulties symptom scales, due to no estimable values in one or both of the treatment arms.

Summary of response status during treatment

The proportions of participants in each treatment arm who, relative to baseline, had improved or deteriorated, or who were stable on treatment, were assessed. As reported in the Eisai CS¹ (appendix M3.3), for all HRQoL scales, except for the EORTC QLQ-C30 financial difficulties, deterioration (not stable outcome or improvement) was the most frequently reported outcome for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and for sunitinib.

Interpretation of evidence from the CLEAR trial

The CLEAR trial is a well-designed trial and results are generalisable to NHS clinical practice. However, the trial only provided evidence for the comparison of treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus one of the relevant comparators (sunitinib) identified in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE. Clinical effectiveness data were available from two data cuts: IA3 (PFS, OS, ORR and AEs) and an updated OS analysis (OS).

CLEAR trial efficacy results suggested that PFS and ORR were statistically significantly improved for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared with patients treated with sunitinib (all-risk population, intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and favourable-risk subgroup). For the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups, PFS and ORR differences favoured patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm; all PFS and ORR results were statistically significant, and clinical advice to the AG was that they were also clinically meaningful.

For the all-risk population, OS results were difficult to interpret as the PH assumption was violated over the CLEAR trial follow-up period. Therefore, results should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for the comparison between treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and treatment with sunitinib. However, the CLEAR trial OS survival rates at 12, 18, 24 and 36 months all favour lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib.

The CLEAR trial OS PH assumption was not violated for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups. The HR results from the updated OS analysis showed a statistically significant improvement for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus patients treated with sunitinib for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup; there were too few events in the favourable-risk subgroup for robust OS conclusions to be drawn.

Overall survival results can be influenced by subsequent anticancer treatments received by patients on disease progression. Eisai¹ carried out a treatment-switching analysis to test whether adjusting for the effect of subsequent treatments affected OS results. Results were generated only for the all-risk population and were marked as academic-in-confidence. In addition to a treatment-switching analysis to test whether adjusting for the effect of subsequent treatment affected OS results, Eisai¹ also conducted post hoc analyses that examined OS for patients who did and did not receive subsequent treatment separately. The PH assumption was violated for patients who received subsequent treatments making it difficult to interpret the results from this analysis. Clinical advice to the AG is that patients who do not receive subsequent treatments are a heterogeneous group and, therefore, the results from this post hoc analysis are also difficult to interpret.

More patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab experienced Grade ≥ 3 AEs than patients treated with sunitinib.^{1,2,66} Nonetheless, both companies^{1,2} highlighted that evidence from the CLEAR trial showed that, in general, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was well tolerated in patients with aRCC; generally, the AEs experienced by patients were consistent with the known safety profile of each drug. However, both companies^{1,2} highlighted that there was a higher than expected incidence of Grade 1 and Grade 2 hypothyroidism, a known AE associated with both lenvatinib and pembrolizumab.² MSD² also highlighted there was a higher than expected incidence of Grade ≥ 3 hepatic AEs.

When compared to treatment with sunitinib, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab appeared to neither improve or worsen HRQoL, as measured by the FCSI-DRS, EORTC QLQ-C30 and EQ-5D-3L instruments.^{1,2,81}

As the CLEAR trial provided only clinical effectiveness evidence for the comparison between lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib, it was necessary to generate indirect evidence to compare lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with other relevant comparators (see [Chapter 4, Assessment of clinical effectiveness: indirect evidence](#)).

Chapter 4 Assessment of clinical effectiveness: indirect evidence

Limited direct clinical effectiveness evidence

The only direct clinical effectiveness evidence available for the comparison between lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for patients with untreated aRCC and any comparator listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE is from the CLEAR trial (vs. sunitinib). To allow comparisons between lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and other relevant comparators, indirect comparisons were required.

Eisai and Merck Sharp & Dohme indirect comparisons

A summary and AG critique of the Eisai and MSD NMA statistical approaches is provided in [Appendix 3](#) (see [Tables 56](#) and [57](#), respectively). The AG considered that the NMA statistical approaches used by Eisai and MSD were appropriate and appeared to be correctly implemented. However, neither company presented comparative evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup.

The two companies presented results from two different approaches to carrying out NMAs [Bayesian HR and fractional polynomial (FP)] for PFS and OS (see appendix D.4 in Eisai CS¹ and appendix M in MSD CS²).

Assessment group methodological approach to network meta-analysis: feasibility assessment

Studies assessed by the assessment group for potential inclusion in network meta-analysis

Any study identified by the AG searches for direct evidence that appeared to be designed as a RCT of any drug used to treat adults with untreated aRCC was tagged as 'RCT' within Covidence ($n = 1129$ records). These records were then examined by SN to confirm that the study design and the study population were of interest (i.e. RCTs of adults with untreated aRCC) and to identify the drug treatments included in the studies.

In addition, any study previously identified by the AG searches that appeared to be a NMA of RCTs of drugs used to treat adults with untreated aRCC was tagged as a 'NMA' within Covidence ($n = 36$, published from 2009 to 2021). The AG examined the reference lists and network structures of recently published NMAs ($n = 10$ ^{57,88-96}), that is, those published since 2020, to assess the feasibility of constructing suitable networks for each outcome listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE.

In total, the AG identified 10 RCTs^{27,66,97-104} of drug treatments for adults with untreated aRCC that were potentially eligible for inclusion in the AG NMAs.

Assessment group consideration of specific networks

The AG's assessment of the feasibility of constructing specific networks considered the following:

- the feasibility of constructing a 'suitable connected network' of relevant treatments for each outcome and for each risk subgroup

- the clinical and methodological heterogeneity of the included studies in terms of (1) study population, (2) interventions and comparators, (3) outcome measures (OS, PFS, ORR, safety and HRQoL) and (4) study quality.

For each outcome listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE, the AG initially considered a 'suitable connected network' to be a network that included only RCTs of comparators listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE for the following risk groups, as defined in the IMDC criteria:¹⁵

- intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (network nodes: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab)
- favourable-risk subgroup (network nodes: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib)
- the all-risk population (network nodes: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib).

However, where it was not possible to construct a connected network using only the comparators listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE, the AG considered introducing additional treatments (i.e. nodes), such as interferon-alpha and sorafenib to form connections. The AG considered that it was not appropriate to attempt to connect comparators listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE via two or more non-relevant treatments as more uncertainty is introduced with the addition of each irrelevant node.

Following assessment of suitable network structures and consideration of the availability of outcome data from each of the 10 RCTs,^{27,66,97-104} the AG excluded two trials^{27,99} (reasons are listed in [Table 19](#)) in at least one of the AG NMAs.

Details about the comparators and a list of the RCTs that provided information to inform the AG PFS, OS and ORR NMAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups and all-risk population are presented in [Table 20](#). The AG PFS, OS and ORR network diagrams are presented in [Figures 4-7](#) and the outcome data used to populate the AG PFS, OS and ORR NMAs are presented in [Tables 58-60](#) (see [Appendix 4](#)).

TABLE 19 Randomised controlled trials included/excluded from AG NMAs

RCT	Randomised treatments	Notes
RCTs included in the AG NMAs		
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabozantinib • Sunitinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes only patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease (by IMDC criteria) • This trial can be used to connect cabozantinib to the networks of evidence for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease • Included in PFS, OS, ORR and safety NMAs for intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup only
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nivolumab + ipilimumab • Sunitinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes an all-risk patient population; outcome data (for PFS, OS, and ORR, but not safety) were available for the subgroup of patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease (by IMDC criteria) • This trial can be used to connect nivolumab + ipilimumab to the networks of evidence for patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease • This trial is not required to connect sunitinib to the networks of evidence for all-risk and favourable-risk patient • Included in PFS, OS and ORR NMAs for intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup only
CLEAR trial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab • Sunitinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes an all-risk patient population; outcome data were also available by risk subgroup (by IMDC criteria and MSKCC criteria) • This trial can be used to connect lenvatinib + pembrolizumab to all networks of evidence • Included in PFS, OS, ORR and safety NMAs for intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and all-risk population and in PFS and OS NMAs for favourable-risk subgroup^a

TABLE 19 Randomised controlled trials included/excluded from AG NMAs (continued)

RCT	Randomised treatments	Notes
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pazopanib Sunitinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes an all-risk patient population; PFS and OS data were available for the subgroup of patients with favourable-risk disease (by MSKCC criteria) Included in PFS, OS, ORR and safety NMAs for all-risk population and PFS and OS NMAs for favourable-risk subgroup^a OS data taken from final OS analysis¹⁰⁵
CROSS-J-RCC ¹⁰⁴	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunitinib Sorafenib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes patients with favourable or intermediate-risk disease (by MSKCC criteria) OS data not available for patients receiving first-line treatment Sorafenib is included as a treatment node in the network of evidence for PFS for all-risk patients to enable the connection of tivozanib in this network. Tivozanib could not be connected in the networks of evidence for ORR and safety for all-risk patients (see Assessment group methodological approach: all-risk population) or any outcomes for favourable-risk patients^a (see Assessment group methodological approach: International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium/Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center favourable-risk subgroup) Included in PFS NMAs for all-risk population only
SWITCH ⁹⁸	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunitinib Sorafenib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes an all-risk population; outcome data were also available by favourable or intermediate-risk disease (by MSKCC criteria)^b OS data not available for patients receiving only first-line treatment Sorafenib is only included as a treatment node in the network of evidence for PFS for all-risk patients, to enable the connection of tivozanib in this network. Tivozanib could not be connected in the networks of evidence for ORR and safety for all-risk patients (see Assessment group methodological approach: all-risk population) or any outcomes for favourable-risk patients^a (see Assessment group methodological approach: International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium/Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center favourable-risk subgroup) and is not a relative comparator for intermediate-/poor-risk patients Included in PFS NMAs for all-risk population only
SWITCH II ¹⁰³	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pazopanib Sorafenib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes an all-risk population; outcome data were also available by favourable or intermediate-risk disease (by MSKCC criteria)^c This trial not required to connect pazopanib to the networks of evidence for all-risk or favourable-risk patient populations as pazopanib is already connected by the COMPARZ trial Provides additional evidence for the comparison of two treatments (pazopanib and sorafenib) already included in the network of evidence for PFS in the all-risk population Included in PFS NMAs for all-risk population only
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tivozanib Sorafenib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes an all-risk patient population Tivozanib is a comparator for all-risk patients and patients with favourable-risk disease, but tivozanib could not be connected in the networks of evidence for all-risk patients for OS, ORR and safety (see Assessment group methodological approach: all-risk population) or for any outcomes for favourable-risk patients (see Assessment group methodological approach: International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium/Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center favourable-risk subgroup) Included in PFS NMAs for all-risk population only
RCTs not included in the AG NMAs		
Escudier 2009 ⁹⁹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interferon-alpha Sorafenib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS data not reported so cannot be included in OS NMAs Excluded from PFS, ORR and safety NMAs as neither treatment is a relevant comparator and these trial data cannot be used to connect relevant comparators to the network
Motzer 2007 ²⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interferon-alpha Sunitinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excluded from PFS, OS, ORR and safety NMAs as interferon-alpha is not a relevant comparator and these trial data cannot be used to connect relevant comparators to the network

a It was not possible to carry out NMAs of ORR or safety outcomes for the favourable-risk subgroup (see [Assessment group methodological approach: International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium/Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center favourable-risk subgroup](#)).

b Only 2/365 (0.5%) patients had poor-risk disease in this trial.

c Only 9/377 (2.4%) patients had poor-risk disease in this trial.

TABLE 20 Summary of AG OS, PFS and ORR NMAs

Outcome	Risk group	Comparators ^a	Trials	Notes ^b
PFS	Intermediate/poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib* Cabozantinib Nivolumab + ipilimumab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR CABOSUN⁹⁷ CheckMate 214¹⁰⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIRC assessed PFS data used for all trials IMDC risk subgroup data used for all trials <p>Separate NMAs conducted using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFS assessed by FDA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial (primary analysis) PFS assessed by EMA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial (sensitivity analysis)
	Favourable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib Pazopanib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR COMPARZ¹⁰¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIRC assessed PFS data used for both trials <p>Separate NMAs conducted using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFS assessed by FDA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial, IMDC risk subgroup data used for CLEAR trial and MSKCC risk subgroup data used for COMPARZ trial (primary analysis) PFS assessed by EMA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial, IMDC risk subgroup data used for CLEAR trial and MSKCC risk subgroup data used for COMPARZ trial (sensitivity analysis). PFS assessed by FDA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial, MSKCC risk subgroup data used for both trials (sensitivity analysis) PFS assessed by EMA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial, MSKCC risk subgroup data used for both trials (sensitivity analysis)
	All-risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib Pazopanib Tivozanib Sorafenib* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR COMPARZ¹⁰¹ CROSS-J-RCC¹⁰⁴ SWITCH⁹⁸ SWITCH II¹⁰³ TIVO-1¹⁰² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIRC assessed PFS data used for the CLEAR, COMPARZ and TIVO 1 trials Investigator assessed PFS data used for CROSS-J-RCC and SWITCH trials. PFS assessment method not stated for SWITCH II trial PFS on first-line treatment data used for the CROSS-J-RCC, SWITCH and SWITCH II trials^c Untreated subgroup data used for the TIVO-1 trial^d <p>Separate NMAs conducted using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFS assessed by FDA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial (primary analysis) PFS assessed by EMA censoring rule used for the CLEAR trial (sensitivity analysis)
OS	Intermediate/poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib* Cabozantinib Nivolumab + ipilimumab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR CABOSUN⁹⁷ CheckMate 214¹⁰⁰ 	IMDC risk subgroup data used for all trials

TABLE 20 Summary of AG OS, PFS and ORR NMAs (continued)

Outcome	Risk group	Comparators ^a	Trials	Notes ^b
	Favourable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib Pazopanib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR COMPARZ¹⁰¹ 	Separate NMAs conducted using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMDC risk subgroup data used for CLEAR trial and MSKCC risk subgroup data used for COMPARZ trial (primary analysis) MSKCC risk subgroup data used for both trials (sensitivity analysis) OS data for COMPARZ trial taken from final OS analysis reported by Motzer <i>et al.</i> 2014¹⁰⁵
	All-risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib Pazopanib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR COMPARZ¹⁰¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS data for COMPARZ trial taken from final OS analysis reported by Motzer <i>et al.</i> 2014¹⁰⁵
ORR	Intermediate/poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib* Cabozantinib Nivolumab + ipilimumab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR CABOSUN⁹⁷ CheckMate 214¹⁰⁰ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIRC assessed ORR data used for all trials IMDC risk subgroup data used for all trials
	All-risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib Pazopanib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR COMPARZ¹⁰¹ 	BIRC assessed ORR data used for both trials
Grade \geq 3 AEs	Intermediate/poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib* Cabozantinib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR CABOSUN⁹⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMDC risk subgroup data used for both trials
	All-risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab Sunitinib Pazopanib 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLEAR COMPARZ¹⁰¹ 	

mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

- a Comparators marked with a star (*) are not relevant comparators for the population or subgroup but are included within the network to form connections with relevant comparators.
- b AG preferences for data to include in NMAs: BIRC assessed PFS and ORR data (investigator assessed PFS or ORR data included where BIRC assessed PFS or ORR data not reported), PFS assessed by the FDA censoring rule from the CLEAR trial (PFS assessed by the EMA censoring rule from the CLEAR trial included in sensitivity analysis), risk subgroup data according to IMDC criteria (risk subgroup data according to MSKCC criteria included if IMDC risk subgroup data not reported, risk subgroup data according to MSKCC criteria from the CLEAR trial in sensitivity analysis).
- c The CROSS-J-RCC,¹⁰⁴ SWITCH⁹⁸ and SWITCH II¹⁰³ trials had a sequential design (patients received first-line therapy with the treatment they were randomised to, and patients who discontinued first-line therapy due to disease progression or toxicity received the other trial treatment, i.e. second line). PFS data for first-line treatment is extracted.
- d The TIVO-1 trial¹⁰² recruited patients with untreated mRCC and patients who had received prior systematic therapy for mRCC. OS data for the untreated subgroup are extracted from TA512.³⁴

The AG considered that the different definitions of AEs reported within the trials (i.e. treatment-emergent, treatment-related or all-cause AEs for Grade ≥ 3 AEs and discontinuations due to AEs) made it difficult to interpret any relative differences between treatments. Furthermore, safety data were not reported separately for subgroups of interest, most notably for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup in the CheckMate 214 trial,¹⁰⁰ and for the favourable-risk subgroup in any trials other than the CLEAR trial. AE data were unavailable for the previously untreated patients in the TIVO-1 trial.¹⁰²

Nonetheless, the AG performed NMAs for Grade ≥ 3 AEs where either treatment-emergent or all-cause AEs were reported (see [Appendix 4, Figures 5 and 7](#) for network diagrams and [Table 61](#) for outcome data used to populate these NMAs). The AG also considered performing NMAs for discontinuations due to AEs comparing (1) discontinuations of both lenvatinib and pembrolizumab and (2) discontinuations of either lenvatinib or pembrolizumab with relevant comparators. However, it appeared that only data for the latter were available from the CLEAR trial for risk subgroups. Further, when summing the total of AEs from the two subgroups, there were still many AEs in the all-risk population that appeared to be unaccounted for according to subgroup, that is summing the numbers of discontinuations due to AEs in the intermediate/poor and favourable-risk subgroups from Eisai CS,¹ (Appendix F, see tables 64 and 65) did not sum to the total reported for the all-risk population in [Table 16](#). Therefore, the AG considered it inappropriate to conduct NMAs for discontinuations due to AEs.

It was not possible for the AG to perform any HRQoL NMAs due to the heterogeneity of the HRQoL outcome scales used in the included trials and the sparsity of reported data (i.e. 95% CIs not reported and data not reported separately for subgroups of interest).

Assessment group methodological approach: intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The AG was able to construct a suitable network for PFS, OS and ORR including the two relevant comparators for this subgroup (cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab); these networks also included sunitinib, a comparator common to the three included RCTs^{66,97,100} (see [Figure 4](#) in [Appendix 4](#)). Safety data were not reported for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup in the CheckMate 214 trial,¹⁰⁰ therefore the AG networks for Grade ≥ 3 AEs due to AEs for this subgroup included only cabozantinib (and sunitinib) as comparators (see [Figure 5](#) in [Appendix 4](#)).

Assessment group methodological approach: International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium/Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center favourable-risk subgroup

The AG PFS and OS networks included only sunitinib and pazopanib as comparators (see [Figure 6](#)). It was not possible to connect tivozanib to the PFS and OS networks as the only identified trial of tivozanib (TIVO-1 trial¹⁰²) recruited a mixed population of untreated and previously treated patients with metastatic RCC and did not report PFS and OS data separately for the subgroup of untreated patients.

Only the CLEAR trial reported ORR and safety data for the favourable-risk subgroup; therefore, it was not possible to carry out NMAs of ORR or safety outcomes for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus pazopanib or tivozanib.

Assessment group methodological approach: all-risk population

The AG PFS all-risk population network included all relevant comparators (sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib). This network was constructed by including sorafenib as a node and by using PFS data relating to first-line treatment from two trials (CROSS-J-RCC¹⁰⁴ and SWITCH⁹⁸) of sunitinib versus sorafenib that used a sequential design to connect tivozanib to the network (see [Figure 7](#) in [Appendix 4](#)).

It was not possible to connect tivozanib to the OS network as OS data from patients receiving first-line treatment were not available from the CROSS-J-RCC¹⁰⁴ and SWITCH⁹⁸ trials and no trials were identified that allowed tivozanib to be included in the OS network via a single additional treatment node. The AG did not consider that it was appropriate to attempt to connect tivozanib to the OS network via two or more non-relevant treatments, which were not relevant comparators because of the increased level of uncertainty.

The AG was also unable to connect tivozanib to the ORR network as the only identified tivozanib trial (TIVO-1 trial¹⁰²) recruited a mixed population of untreated and previously treated patients with metastatic RCC and did not report ORR data separately for the subgroup of untreated patients.

Therefore, for the all-risk population, the AG OS, ORR, Grade ≥ 3 AEs networks included only sunitinib and pazopanib as comparators (see [Figure 6](#) in [Appendix 4](#)). The AG was not able to indirectly compare the clinical effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with tivozanib for OS, ORR or Grade ≥ 3 AEs for patients in the all-risk population.

Quality assessment of the trials included in assessment group network meta-analysis

The quality assessment of the CLEAR trial and the seven other RCTs^{97,98,100-104} included in the AG NMAs is presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Table 62](#)).

The AG considers that most of the trials included in the AG NMAs were of good methodological quality. However, due to insufficient information available, the AG was unable to assess the robustness of the randomisation procedures and whether robust procedures were in place to prevent patients or investigators predicting allocation to treatment in one trial.¹⁰³ All of the trials were open-label; however, the CLEAR trial and four other trials^{97,100-102} reported the use of blinded independent review of radiologic outcomes.

Assessment group summary of patient and trial characteristics and assessment of heterogeneity

Summaries of the design, demographic characteristics and the IMDC and MSKCC risk subgroups of patients enrolled in the CLEAR trial and other seven RCTs^{97,98,100-104} included in the AG NMAs are provided in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Tables 63](#) and [64](#)).

In addition to the CLEAR trial, five of the trials were also phase III RCTs^{98,100,101,103,104} and two were phase II RCTs.^{97,102} Three trials^{98,103,104} used a sequential design in which patients were randomised to first-line treatment, and patients who discontinued first-line treatment due to disease progression or toxicity received the alternative trial treatment as a second-line therapy; data from only these trials relating to first-line treatment were extracted. All of the RCTs were designed as open-label trials (see [Table 62](#) in [Appendix 4](#)); the CLEAR trial and four other RCTs^{97,100-102} used blinded independent review for radiologic outcomes (i.e. PFS and ORR), two RCTs^{98,104} used unblinded investigator assessment, and the authors of one RCT¹⁰³ did not report method of radiologic outcome assessment.

Two trials^{102,104} recruited patients with metastatic RCC only. The CLEAR trial and six other RCTs^{97,98,100,101,103,104} recruited untreated patients only, while one trial (TIVO-1¹⁰²) recruited a mix of untreated patients (70.0%) and patients who had received previous systemic therapy (29.8%); data were extracted from the TIVO-1¹⁰² trial for the untreated subgroup only.

The CLEAR trial and five other RCTs^{97,100,102-104} recruited patients with clear cell RCC only, while 12.9% and 13.0% of recruited patients in the other two trials^{98,103} had non-clear cell histology. Results were not reported separately in the SWITCH trials^{98,103} for patients with clear cell histology.

The ages of recruited patients were similar across the RCTs (see [Tables 63](#) and [64](#) in [Appendix 4](#)); across trial arms, the median age ranged from 61 years (in the CLEAR trial and two other trials^{100,101}) to 68 years.¹⁰³ All trials recruited a majority of male patients (72.4%¹⁰³ to 82.5%¹⁰⁴).

In addition to the CLEAR trial, three RCTs¹⁰⁰⁻¹⁰² recruited patients irrespective of disease risk according to IMDC or MSKCC criteria. However, data from the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ (nivolumab plus ipilimumab vs. sunitinib) were available for the intermediate-/poor-risk population and were used in the AG NMAs. The cabozantinib RCT⁹⁷ recruited patients only with intermediate or poor-risk disease. Three RCTs^{98,103,104} were designed to recruit patients only with favourable- or intermediate-risk disease by MSKCC criteria.

Only the CLEAR trial reported disease risk classifications according to both IMDC and MSKCC risk criteria (see [Table 64](#) in [Appendix 4](#)). Two other RCTs^{97,100} reported the proportion of patients classified by IMDC risk subgroup and four other RCTs^{98,101,103,104} reported the proportion of patients classified by MSKCC risk subgroup. The remaining RCT (TIVO-1¹⁰²) did not report risk of disease according to IMDC or MSKCC criteria for the subgroup of untreated patients. The proportions of patients classified within each disease risk subgroup according to either IMDC or MSKCC criteria varied across RCTs (see [Table 64](#) in [Appendix 4](#)).

The following differences between RCTs may have introduced heterogeneity into the AG NMAs:

- population characteristics (see [Table 63](#) and [Table 64](#) in [Appendix 4](#))
- PFS and ORR assessment methods (BIRC, investigator or not reported) and types of AEs (all-cause AE or TEAE)
- differences in median PFS, OS, ORR and Grade ≥ 3 follow-up times (see [Tables 58–61](#) in [Appendix 4](#)).

The AG is not aware of any statistical methods that can be used to adjust for these differences in patient baseline characteristics and trial design.

Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions

For time-to-event outcomes presented as HRs (i.e. PFS and OS), the AG assessed the validity of the within-trial PFS and OS PH assumptions for each of the groups (intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups and all-risk population). The AG PH assessments were carried out by examining the figures (Schoenfeld residuals plots or log cumulative hazard plots) and statistical test results (e.g. Grambsch–Therneau test⁸⁶) presented in the Eisai CS¹ (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and in the Eisai response to clarification (questions A1 and A2).

Data from the CheckMate214 trial¹⁰⁰ (nivolumab plus ipilimumab vs. sunitinib) were not included in the company NMAs. The AG, therefore, digitised the published intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup PFS and OS 42-month K-M data¹⁰⁰ and assessed proportionality by plotting Schoenfeld residuals and performing a Grambsch–Therneau test.⁸⁶ The AG OS and PFS PH assessments are presented in [Appendix 4](#) ([Proportional hazards assessments for trials included in the assessment group network meta-analysis](#)). Violations of the PH assumption within the studies included in the AG NMAs are listed in [Table 21](#).

If the PH assumption holds, a HR represents an average of the relative treatment effect during the trial follow-up period¹⁰⁶ (or trials, in the context of a NMA) and the HR is proportional over time.¹⁰⁷ When the PH assumption is violated, this means that the HR (whether from a trial or from a NMA including data from one or more trials with PH violations) is not applicable to all time points across the trial follow-up periods. If the PH assumption holds, then it may not be unreasonable to assume that the estimated HRs is valid beyond the trial follow-up periods. However, when the PH assumption is violated, estimated HRs may not produce accurate projections of relative survival between treatment arms beyond the observed trial follow-up periods.

TABLE 21 Proportional hazards violations within the studies included in the AG NMAs

Risk group	PFS	OS
Intermediate/poor risk subgroup	CheckMate 214 trial ¹⁰⁰	NA
Favourable risk subgroup	PH could not be assessed within the COMPARZ trial ¹⁰¹ for PFS, or OS ¹⁰⁵ (pazopanib vs. sunitinib) as no K-M data were presented	
All-risk population	TIVO-1 trial ¹⁰²	CLEAR trial
NA, not applicable.		

Some PH test results showed (see [Table 21](#)) that PFS and OS outcome hazards were not proportional. Within any network, if any within-trial hazards are not proportional, then Bayesian HR NMA results [i.e. the HRs and 95% credible intervals (CrIs)] should not be used to infer statistically significant differences (or lack of statistically significant difference) between treatments.

Where violations of the PH assumption are demonstrated, alternative flexible modelling approaches for NMA, which relax the PH assumption, including FP NMAs, have been proposed to aid decision-making.^{108,109} However, interpretation of the estimates provided by these complex modelling techniques can be difficult and often are not intuitive.^{108,109}

The 'best-fitting' FP model (or alternative flexible model) for a NMA, which is defined according to model fit statistics, such as the deviance information criterion (DIC), reflects the model that most closely captures the shape of the observed data. However model fit statistics do not provide information about whether a model is a good fit to the data or whether the estimates generated by the model, including projections of results beyond the follow-up times of trials included in the NMA, are clinically plausible.¹⁰⁹ Furthermore, flexible models that appear similar according to model fit (i.e. according to DIC statistics) may generate very different long-term survival estimates; advice from the Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit¹¹⁰ is that, 'if the difference in DIC is, say, less than 5 and the models make very different inferences, then it could be misleading just to report the model with the lowest DIC.' Because of these limitations, the AG does not consider that it is appropriate to use the results of FP NMAs for clinical decision-making.

The AG considers that the limitations associated with the interpretation of results from FP NMAs are greater than the limitations of interpretation of the Bayesian HR NMA results when the PH assumption is violated. In addition, for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (the largest of the two risk subgroups considered), there was no violation of the OS PH assumption within any of the trials included in the AG OS network.

The AG carried out PFS, OS and ORR NMAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk and the favourable-risk subgroups and all-risk population. However, the AG emphasises that where violations of the PH assumption were demonstrated, HRs and 95% CrIs should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for the treatment comparisons.

Assessment group statistical approach to Bayesian hazard ratio network meta-analysis

The AG performed PFS, OS and ORR NMAs using a Bayesian framework. These were carried out using the *multinma* R package.¹¹¹ This approach is in line with Decision Support Unit (DSU) guidance (documents 2, 3 and 4¹¹²⁻¹¹⁴). All results were generated using 100,000 iterations on 3 chains after a burn-in of 100,000 and vague prior distributions were used for intercept, treatment and heterogeneity [for random-effects (RE) models only] parameters.

The AG performed NMAs using fixed-effects (FE) and RE models. As convergence issues occurred due to sparse data, RE NMA results were unusable. Because of the lack of published information to select informative prior distributions to improve convergence of RE models, the AG has only presented results from FE models in the main body of this report. The AG has described where important clinical or statistical heterogeneity between RCTs included in the NMA may have had an impact on how NMA results can be interpreted.

For PFS, the only outcome with a closed loop present within the network, the AG assessed inconsistency in the NMAs by applying an unrelated mean effects model¹¹⁴ and by comparing model fit statistics of inconsistency models with consistency models.

Treatment effect estimates for direct and indirect clinical effectiveness evidence are presented as HRs for time-to-event data (i.e. PFS and OS) and ORs for dichotomous data (i.e. ORR). All treatment effect estimates are presented with 95% CrIs.

An example of the statistical code used by the AG to perform PFS, OS, ORR and safety NMAs is provided in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)).

Results of the assessment group network meta-analyses

Results of the AG FE NMAs are presented in this section and results of the AG RE NMAs are presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Tables 65–67](#) for PFS, OS and ORR, respectively, and [Table 68](#) for Grade ≥ 3 AEs). The AG RE NMAs were associated with convergence issues; it is likely that these issues arose due to sparse networks (i.e. a small number of included trials). Because of the convergence issues, 95% CrIs around the HRs are very wide and unstable, these RE NMA results should not be used to inform clinical decision-making.

When interpreting AG FE NMA results, it should be noted that the results do not account for the observed heterogeneity between the trials (see [Assessment group summary of patient and trial characteristics and assessment of heterogeneity](#)).

Progression-free survival: assessment group fixed-effects network meta-analysis

The AG PFS NMA results for all pairs of treatments for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup and all-risk population are presented in [Table 22](#).

The AG NMAs included PFS data that were assessed using FDA censoring rules. The AG PFS NMA sensitivity analysis included CLEAR trial PFS data assessed using the EMA censoring rules and data from all other included trials using FDA censoring rules (see [Table 69](#) in [Appendix 4](#)). Results from the two AG PFS NMAs were similar.

Because of PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption, the HRs and 95% CrIs shown in [Table 22](#) cannot be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons (see [Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions](#)).

Overall survival: assessment group fixed-effects network meta-analysis

The OS FE NMA results for all pairs of treatments for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup and all-risk population are presented in [Table 23](#).

In the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, a numerical advantage in terms of OS was shown for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib (HR = 0.78, 95% CrI 0.47 to 1.28) and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab (HR = 0.94, 95% CrI 0.66 to 1.32). However, neither of these numerical advantages was statistically significant. No violations of the PH assumption were observed for OS in this subgroup (see [Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions](#)).

Because of PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption, the AG OS NMA HRs and 95% CrIs for the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup and all-risk population (see [Table 23](#)) cannot be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons (see [Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions](#)).

Objective response rate: assessment group fixed-effects network meta-analysis

The AG ORR NMA results for all pairs of treatments for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and all-risk population and are presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Table 67](#)).

TABLE 22 Results from AG PFS FE NMAs by risk group (FDA censoring rules)

Treatment	Comparator	FEs HR (95% CrI) ^a
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.36 (0.28 to 0.46)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.75 (0.45 to 1.25)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.48 (0.35 to 0.66)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.75 (0.62 to 0.90)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	1.57 (0.97 to 2.51)
IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup ^b		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.41 (0.28 to 0.60)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.40 (0.21 to 0.75)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.02 (0.63 to 1.68)
All-risk population		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.39 (0.32 to 0.48)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.34 (0.26 to 0.43)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Tivozanib	0.50 (0.34 to 0.73)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sorafenib	0.38 (0.29 to 0.50)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.16 (1.01 to 1.34)
Tivozanib	Sunitinib	0.78 (0.57 to 1.07)
Sorafenib	Sunitinib	1.03 (0.86 to 1.22)
Pazopanib	Tivozanib	1.49 (1.07 to 2.05)
Pazopanib	Sorafenib	1.13 (0.94 to 1.35)
Tivozanib	Sorafenib	0.76 (0.58 to 1.00)

a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

b Favourable-risk subgroup data from the COMPARZ trial¹⁰¹ are defined by MSKCC criteria.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Table 58](#)).

In the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, ORR was statistically significantly higher for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared to nivolumab plus ipilimumab (OR = 3.19, 95% CrI 1.95 to 5.26); however, no statistically significant difference was shown between lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and cabozantinib (OR = 2.46, 95% CrI 0.84 to 6.82). In the all-risk population, ORR was statistically significantly higher for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared to sunitinib (OR = 4.35, 95% CrI 3.16 to 5.99) and compared to pazopanib (OR = 3.22, 95% CrI 2.14 to 4.85).

Grade ≥ 3 adverse events: assessment group fixed-effects network meta-analysis

The AG Grade ≥ 3 FE NMA results for all pairs of treatments for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and the all-risk population are presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Table 70](#)).

In the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib, there were no statistically significant differences in Grade ≥ 3 AEs (OR = 1.80, 95% CrI

TABLE 23 Results from AG OS FEs NMAs by risk group

Treatment	Comparator	FEs HR (95% CrI) ^a
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.62 (0.46 to 0.83)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.78 (0.47 to 1.28)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.94 (0.66 to 1.32)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.80 (0.53 to 1.21)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.66 (0.55 to 0.79)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	0.83 (0.53 to 1.30)
IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup ^b		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	1.22 (0.66 to 2.25)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	1.38 (0.69 to 2.80)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	0.88 (0.63 to 1.23)
All-risk population		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.72 (0.55 to 0.94)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.79 (0.58 to 1.06)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	0.92 (0.79 to 1.07)

a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

b Favourable-risk subgroup data from the COMPARZ trial¹⁰¹ including final OS analysis¹⁰⁵ used in the NMA are defined by MSKCC criteria.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code presented in [Appendix 4](#) (section [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Table 59](#)).

0.79 to 4.10). In the all-risk population, there were statistically significantly more Grade ≥ 3 AEs for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared to sunitinib (OR = 1.84, 95% CrI 1.28 to 2.66) and compared to pazopanib (OR = 1.86, 95% CrI 1.17 to 2.94).

Assessment group sensitivity analysis network meta-analysis: favourable-risk subgroup

The COMPARZ trial¹⁰¹ reported PFS and OS results (including a separately reported final OS analysis¹⁰⁵) for the MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup (not for the IMDC favourable-risk subgroup). Therefore, the AG performed sensitivity analyses including MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup data from the CLEAR trial and the COMPARZ trial¹⁰¹ for the PFS (FDA and EMA censoring rules) and the OS NMAs (using COMPARZ trial final OS analysis¹⁰⁵). Results of the MSKCC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup PFS and OS NMAs are presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Table 68](#)). Numerical results (i.e. HRs and 95% CrIs) from the sensitivity analyses of PFS and OS ([Appendix 4](#), [Table 70](#)) were similar to the results presented in [Table 23](#) and [Table 24](#), respectively.

Assessment of inconsistency for overall survival, progression-free survival and objective response rate network meta-analysis

The AG assessments of inconsistency for PFS in the all-risk population, the only NMA with a closed loop present within the network, are presented in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Assessment group assessment of inconsistency in the network meta-analysis](#)). Although a model which accounts for inconsistency in the NMA provides a better statistical model fit compared to a model which assumes consistency, results of AG FE NMAs which assumed consistency or accounted for inconsistency were very similar. Therefore, any inconsistency present between direct and indirect evidence for PFS in the all-risk population does not seem to have had an important impact on AG PFS NMA results.

Because of the lack of closed loops in any of the other AG networks, the consistency of indirect estimates of OS, ORR and AEs are unknown.

Additional assessment group network meta-analysis sensitivity analysis

Additional sensitivity analyses were conducted for reasons described in [Appendix 4](#) (see [Additional assessment group network meta-analysis sensitivity analyses](#)). In summary, updated results from the CheckMate 214 trial^{115,116} were incorporated into the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup NMA. The AG found that, as with the original NMAs, PH is violated for PFS data, but not for OS data. Including the updated data from the CheckMate 214 trial had little impact on the results.

Interpretation of the indirect evidence from assessment group network meta-analysis

The CLEAR trial only provided evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with one of the relevant comparators (sunitinib). Therefore, indirect treatment comparisons were carried out to provide evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib, nivolumab plus ipilimumab, pazopanib and tivozanib. The AG was unable to consider the impact of observed heterogeneity between the trials when carrying out NMAs.

Because of limited data availability and within-trial PFS and OS PH violations (or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption), AG NMA HRs and 95% CIs can only be used to infer a statistically significant OS difference for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib and with nivolumab plus ipilimumab for patients in intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. Results demonstrated a numerical advantage for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab; these results were not statistically significant.

For any treatment comparisons that include sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib, where it is not possible to draw conclusions from NMA results about statistical significance, the AG highlights that previous NICE ACs^{24,25,34,35} have concluded that sunitinib and pazopanib are of equivalent clinical effectiveness in the all-risk population and that: 'At best, tivozanib may have a similar effect to sunitinib or pazopanib'.³⁴

The AG ORR NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab led to only a statistically significant improvement in ORR versus treatment with nivolumab plus ipilimumab. It was not possible to generate results for the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup due to data limitations. The AG ORR NMA results for the all-risk population suggested that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab led to a statistically significant improvement in ORR versus treatments with sunitinib and with pazopanib.

The AG Grade ≥ 3 AE NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab led to statistically significantly more Grade ≥ 3 AEs versus treatment with cabozantinib. It was not possible to generate results for the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup. AG Grade ≥ 3 AE NMA results for the all-risk population suggested that treatment with lenvatinib led to statistically significantly more Grade ≥ 3 AEs versus treatments with sunitinib and with pazopanib.

The AG NMAs incorporated data from subgroups of patients defined by their risk status. An efficacy estimate calculated for a specific subgroup of patients from a RCT may be subject to imbalances in prognostic factors between treatment arms, if randomisation in the trial was not stratified by the subgroup variable of interest. In all but one¹⁰¹ of the RCTs included in the AG NMAs, randomisation was stratified by risk status, and so the AG considers that the impact of imbalanced prognostic factors across treatment arms in the NMAs is likely to be very small.

Chapter 5 Assessment of cost-effectiveness

Systematic review of existing cost-effectiveness evidence

The AG conducted a systematic review of the economic literature to identify the existing evidence base assessing the cost-effectiveness of treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for patients with untreated aRCC versus five different treatments (sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab).

The AG critiqued the companies' systematic reviews (see [Assessment group assessment of the companies' systematic review of cost-effectiveness evidence](#)) and the companies' economic analyses (see [Assessment group summary and critique of companies' economic analyses](#)). The companies' cost-effectiveness results are presented and discussed by the AG in section [Eisai and Merck Sharp & Dohme cost-effectiveness results](#).

Assessment group review of cost-effectiveness evidence

Assessment group search strategy

The AG searched the electronic sources listed in [Appendix 2, Table 51](#). Full search strategies are presented in [Appendix 2](#). As lenvatinib was first approved for the treatment of aRCC by the FDA in 2016, the AG considered that searching databases from 2006 onwards would allow all relevant economic evidence to be identified. In addition, the reference lists of all included publications were assessed for relevance. The results of the searches were entered into an Endnote (X9 software package⁶³) library, de-duplicated, and then exported into Covidence Systematic Review software.⁶⁴

Assessment group study selection and inclusion criteria

Records were selected for inclusion in the review on the basis of the criteria shown in [Table 24](#). The criteria were developed to ensure that the included studies would provide information to help address the AG decision problem which aligns to the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE, that is to assess the cost-effectiveness of treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab for patients with untreated aRCC versus treatment with sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

TABLE 24 Inclusion criteria for cost-effectiveness evidence

Criteria	Inclusion criteria
Limits	Studies published from 2006 to present; English language only
Population	Adults with untreated aRCC
Study design	Full economic evaluations that consider both costs and consequences (CEA, cost-utility analysis, cost-minimisation analysis and cost-benefit analysis)
Intervention	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab
Comparators	Sunitinib Pazopanib Tivozanib Cabozantinib (only for intermediate-/poor-risk disease as defined in IMDC criteria) Nivolumab with ipilimumab (only for intermediate-/poor-risk disease as defined by IMDC criteria)
Costs	Direct healthcare costs
Outcomes	Incremental cost per life-year gained and/or incremental cost per quality-adjusted life-years gained

Two reviewers (RH/DB) independently screened the titles and abstracts of all records identified by the searches. Full-text versions of all studies considered potentially relevant were obtained. The same two reviewers then independently assessed the relevance of these full-text publications and reasons for exclusion were assigned based on the hierarchical order as shown in [Table 24](#). Disagreements about inclusion were resolved through discussion and, in all cases, a consensus was reached.

Quantity of cost-effectiveness evidence

The AG searches identified 3127 records. Of these, 2742 records were obtained from the database searches and 385 records were identified from other sources, that is from conference proceedings ($n = 129$) and website searches ($n = 256$). After duplicates were removed, 1899 records remained. Following screening of titles and abstracts, 47 full-text publications were retrieved (one potentially relevant report could not be retrieved) and checked for eligibility using prespecified inclusion criteria. The AG study selection process is shown in the section [Sources searched](#) of [Appendix 2](#), [Figure 3](#).

Included study

Only one cost-effectiveness study¹¹⁷ was included in the AG review. Using this study, forward citation searches were carried out; however, no additional studies were identified. As the included study was published in 2021, this was to be expected.

Excluded studies

In total, 46 reports were excluded from the review at the full-text stage. Reasons for exclusion were wrong population ($n = 4$), wrong study design ($n = 15$), wrong intervention ($n = 25$) and duplicate publications ($n = 2$).

Assessment group data extraction

A data extraction form was designed in MS Excel. Extracted data included bibliographic information (e.g. authors and title) and details of the type of analyses conducted. Details about the economic model were also extracted (e.g. parameters used and their sources, results of the analyses, authors' conclusions and limitations reported by the authors). Information from the included study was extracted independently by two reviewers (RH/DB).

Quality of cost-effectiveness evidence

The AG assessed the quality of the included cost-effectiveness study (i.e. [Li et al. 2021](#)¹¹⁷) using the Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards (CHEERS) checklist¹¹⁸ (see [Table 75](#) in [Appendix 5](#)). Two reviewers (RH/DB) independently carried out the quality assessment. The reviewers agreed that, except for resource use items, the included study¹¹⁷ had transparently reported the methods used to conduct their CEA.

Key information from the included cost-effectiveness study

The data extracted by the AG from the included cost-effectiveness study¹¹⁷ are provided in [Table 74](#) in [Appendix 5](#).

The cost-effectiveness results generated by [Li et al. 2021](#)¹¹⁷ showed that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab generated more life-years (LYs) and more quality-adjusted life-years (QALYs) in comparison to sunitinib. However, incremental costs were high and the base-case incremental cost-effectiveness ratio (ICER) for this comparison was more than US\$100,000 per QALY – a level that the authors report is an acceptable willingness to pay (WTP) threshold.

Assessment group systematic review conclusions

The [Li et al. 2021](#)¹¹⁷ cost-effectiveness study included estimates of the comparative cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib. However, the study was undertaken from the perspective of the US healthcare system and, therefore, the extent to which resource use and results are generalisable to the NHS is unclear. Further, the study was limited to the all-risk population and included comparators that are not recommended by NICE for patients with untreated aRCC.

Assessment group assessment of the companies' systematic review of cost-effectiveness evidence

The searches for cost-effectiveness studies carried out by Eisai and MSD were very similar. The AG appraisal of the review methods described by the authors was based on information provided in the Eisai¹ and MSD² CSs.

The date span for both of the companies' searches was from the inception of relevant databases to the date on which the searches were conducted. Both first searches were carried out in March 2019 and both companies conducted an updated search in January 2021. No relevant studies were identified. As the companies' searches were last updated in January 2021, the only cost-effectiveness study included in the AG review was not identified.

The AG assessed the companies' literature review using the LRiG in-house systematic review checklist, and details of this assessment are provided in [Appendix 6, Table 76](#).

The AG considers that the companies used appropriate methods to identify potentially relevant cost-effectiveness studies for inclusion in their systematic reviews. However, the final searches were undertaken in January 2021, and therefore the cost-effectiveness study¹¹⁷ included in the AG systematic review was not identified.

Assessment group summary and critique of companies' economic analyses

Assessment group summary of companies' economic models

Key information about the models submitted by the companies is presented in [Table 25](#).

Critical appraisal of the companies' economic analyses

The AG critical appraisal of the companies' economic analyses was carried out using the Drummond checklist (see [Appendix 6, Table 77](#)) and the NICE Reference Case checklist (see [Appendix 6, Table 78](#)).

Eisai and Merck Sharp & Dohme cost-effectiveness results

Because of the differences in the companies' modelling approaches, there are differences between the Eisai and MSD cost-effectiveness results. Eisai and MSD pairwise cost-effectiveness results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup are presented in [Table 26](#). MSD pairwise base-case and fully incremental cost-effectiveness results for the favourable-risk subgroup are presented in [Tables 27 and 28](#), respectively. Eisai did not present any cost-effectiveness results for the favourable-risk subgroup.

Assessment group economic evaluation and description of company models

The Eisai and MSD CSs to NICE included economic models built in Microsoft Excel. The AG considers that results from both models can be used to inform decision-making; however, in some instances, the companies could have made more appropriate assumptions and parameter choices. The AG has not developed a de novo economic model; instead, the AG has modified the model provided by MSD (referred to in this report from now on as the MSD/AG model). The AG adapted the MSD model to reflect what the AG considered to be the most appropriate assumptions and parameters on the basis of the economic models submitted by both companies (MSD and Eisai). The main reason for modifying the MSD model rather than the Eisai model was that MSD provided cost-effectiveness analyses for the favourable-risk subgroup and, therefore, fewer modifications to this model were needed. Neither of the companies produced cost-effectiveness results for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

TABLE 25 Key information about the companies' models

Parameter	Eisai CS	MSD CS
Type of economic evaluation	Cost-utility analysis	Cost-utility analysis
Population	People with untreated aRCC Subgroups: intermediate/poor risk	People with untreated aRCC Subgroups: intermediate/poor risk and favourable risk ^a
Intervention(s) and comparator(s)	Pembrolizumab in combination with: Lenvatinib Sunitinib Pazopanib Tivozanib Cabozantinib (only for intermediate- or poor-risk disease as defined in the IMDC criteria)	Pembrolizumab in combination with: Lenvatinib Sunitinib Pazopanib Tivozanib Cabozantinib (only for intermediate- or poor-risk disease as defined in the IMDC criteria)
Model structure	Partitioned survival model	Partitioned survival model
Health states	PFS, PPS, OS	PFS (on and off treatment), PPS (on and off treatment), OS
Time horizon	40 years	40 years
Cycle length	7 days	7 days
Discount rates for costs and benefits	3.5%	3.5%
Perspective used (country, healthcare system, societal)	NHS and Personal Social Services perspective	NHS and Personal Social Services perspective
Sources of clinical evidence	CLEAR trial data and Eisai NMA results	CLEAR trial data and MSD NMA results
Sources of utilities evidence	CLEAR trial EQ-5D-3L data	CLEAR trial EQ-5D-3L data
Sources of costs evidence	Resource use was based on current clinical practice, previous HTAs in advanced/metastatic RCC and published literature; unit costs were informed by recognised national databases	Resource use was based on current clinical practice, previous HTAs in advanced/metastatic RCC and published literature; unit costs were informed by recognised national databases
Currency used	GBP 2019–20	GBP 2019–20

PPS, post-progression survival.

^a Data provided in MSD initial and additional responses to the AG clarification letters.

Source

Eisai CS;¹ MSD CS.²

TABLE 26 Companies' pairwise base-case results for intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (list prices)

Treatment	ICER per QALY gained
Eisai	
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib	£118,571
MSD	
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib	£77,730

Source

Eisai CS¹ (see table 63); MSD CS² (see table 65).

TABLE 27 Merck Sharp & Dohme's pairwise base-case results for favourable-risk subgroup (list prices)

Treatment	ICER per QALY gained
Gamma distribution for comparator OS	
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. sunitinib	£354,839
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. pazopanib	£359,052
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. tivozanib	£350,580
Weibull distribution for comparator OS	
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. sunitinib	£225,227
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. pazopanib	£227,898
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab vs. tivozanib	£222,527
Source	MSD additional response to the AG clarification letter, see tables 12 and 13 and MSD favourable-risk model.

TABLE 28 Merck Sharp & Dohme fully incremental base-case results for favourable-risk subgroup (list prices)

Treatment	ICER per QALY gained
Gamma distribution for comparator OS	
Pazopanib	
Sunitinib	Sunitinib dominated by pazopanib
Tivozanib	Tivozanib dominated by pazopanib
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	£357,332
Weibull distribution for comparator OS	
Pazopanib	
Sunitinib	Sunitinib dominated by pazopanib
Tivozanib	Tivozanib dominated by pazopanib
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	£229,186
Source	MSD additional response to the AG clarification letter, see tables 12 and 13 and MSD model.

versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup), despite both models having the functionality for this comparison. Furthermore, Eisai did not generate any cost-effectiveness results for the favourable-risk subgroup.

Overview of clinical effectiveness evidence used to populate the models

Direct clinical evidence from the CLEAR trial is available for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib and is the primary source of clinical effectiveness data used to populate the Eisai, MSD and MSD/AG models. The CLEAR trial is a good-quality, phase III, multicentre, open-label RCT. The final analysis of PFS was carried out using data from the IA3 data cut-off (28 August 2020); EQ-5D-3L and TTD data were also reported at this time point. OS data are available from an updated OS analysis (31 March 2021) at which point median OS follow-up was approximately 33 months. At the time of the updated OS analysis, 114 (32.1%) and 49 (13.7%) patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib arms, respectively, were still receiving their randomised treatment.

For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with comparator treatments, the AG considered the following three approaches to generate model inputs:

(1) Use direct clinical evidence

Direct clinical evidence is available from the CLEAR trial to allow comparison of the efficacy of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib.

(2) Use results from NMAs

The PFS and OS NMA results were generated by Eisai, MSD and the AG for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib. However, violations of the PH assumption within some of the studies included within the AG NMAs were observed (see [Table 29](#)). As previously stated (see [Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions](#)), when the PH assumption is violated, NMA results (HRs and 95% CrIs) cannot be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference).

(3) Assume clinical equivalence/similarity

Assume that sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are clinically similar and use CLEAR trial sunitinib data to reflect the effectiveness of pazopanib and tivozanib. The assumption that pazopanib and tivozanib have equivalent efficacy to sunitinib is supported by the conclusions reached by NICE ACs,^{24,25,34,35} namely that sunitinib and pazopanib are of equivalent clinical effectiveness and that 'At best, tivozanib may have a similar effect to sunitinib or pazopanib'.³⁴ No robust evidence to dispute these conclusions was generated by the Eisai, MSD or AG NMAs. This assumption was made based on all-risk population data; the AG has, however, assumed that it also holds for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups.

Model structure

The Eisai and MSD economic models are partitioned survival models with the same three health states: preprogression, postprogression and death. The preprogression and postprogression health states in the MSD model also include on-treatment and off-treatment substates. These models use the same structure as models previously submitted to inform NICE appraisals of treatments for untreated aRCC ([Figure 1](#)).

The cycle length used in both company models was 1 week. Eisai implemented a half-cycle correction but neither MSD nor the AG considered that this was necessary due to the short cycle length and therefore did not implement a half-cycle correction.

TABLE 29 Observed PH violations in the studies included in the AG NMAs

Risk group	PFS	OS
Intermediate/ poor subgroup	CheckMate 214 trial ¹⁰⁰ (nivolumab plus ipilimumab vs. sunitinib)	None ^a
Favourable subgroup	Unclear if HRs were proportional COMPARZ trial ¹⁰¹ information (including final OS analysis ¹⁰⁵ information) did not include K-M data for this subgroup (pazopanib vs. sunitinib)	
All-risk population	TIVO-1 trial ¹⁰² (tivozanib vs. sorafenib)	CLEAR trial (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. sunitinib)

NA, not applicable.

^a Proportional hazards assumption holds for OS in all trials included within the AG OS NMAs.

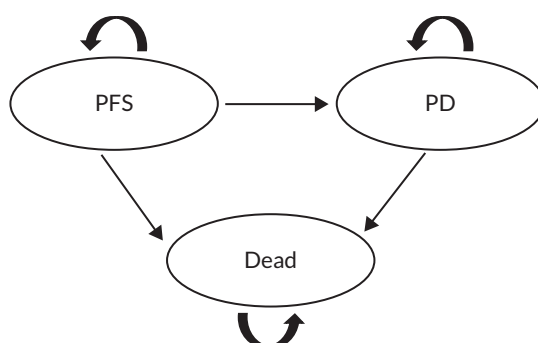


FIGURE 1 Structure of MSD and MSD/AG company model. PD = progressed disease.

Population characteristics

In the Eisai model, the mean age (61.2 years) and proportion of males (74.5%) reflect the characteristics of all patients recruited to the CLEAR trial (Eisai CS,¹ section 5.2.1). In the MSD (and MSD/AG) model, the mean age, proportion of males and weight of patients vary by subgroup and reflect the baseline age, proportion of males, and mean weight of patients in the CLEAR trial who were recruited only from European sites (Table 30).

Prognostic risk subgroups

The IMDC prognostic risk subgroup data are available from the CLEAR trial:

- intermediate/poor risk ($n = 472$, 66.3%)
- intermediate risk ($n = 402$, 56.5%)
- poor risk ($n = 70$, 9.8%)
- favourable risk ($n = 234$, 32.9%).

Previous NICE TAs^{24,25,32-34,36} have produced treatment recommendations for patients with untreated aRCC for the combined intermediate/poor-risk subgroup (TA542,²⁴ TA581²⁵ and TA645³⁵ for use within the CDF; TA780³⁶ which superseded TA581²⁵ for use in routine practice) and all-risk population (TA169,³² TA215³³ and TA512³⁴). As some treatments are only available for the intermediate/poor-risk subgroup, the AG considers that cost-effectiveness results for the all-risk population (CLEAR trial FAS/ITT population) are not relevant to this appraisal. The AG has therefore conducted separate CEAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable subgroups by using relevant comparator data for each subgroup (i.e. intermediate/poor risk: cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab; favourable risk: sunitinib, pazopanib or tivozanib). For completeness, cost-effectiveness results for the all-risk population are provided in Appendix 7. As cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab are only recommended by NICE for treating patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease, the AG does not consider that

TABLE 30 Merck Sharp & Dohme population characteristics by risk group

Risk groups	Mean age	Proportion males	Weight
Intermediate/ poor risk	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
Favourable risk	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
All-risk	61.7	74.5%	81.1 kg

kg, kilograms.
Source
MSD CS;² MSD model.

cost-effectiveness results for the poor-risk subgroup only are relevant and so has not generated any cost-effectiveness results for this subgroup.

Intervention and comparator treatments

The intervention is lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. The comparators listed in the final scope³ issued by NICE are shown in [Table 31](#). For patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease, clinical advice to the AG is that sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are treatments that are generally reserved for use as later lines of treatment and would only be offered as first-line treatments to patients who were unable to tolerate cabozantinib, nivolumab plus ipilimumab or lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (if recommended by NICE). Therefore, the AG considers that sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are not relevant comparators for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup.

Eisai and MSD did not include nivolumab plus ipilimumab as a comparator (Eisai CS,¹ table 1; MSD CS,² table 1). However, as nivolumab plus ipilimumab is a comparator listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE, the AG has included it as a comparator in the MSD/AG model.

Discounting, time horizon and perspective

In line with the NICE Reference Case,¹¹⁹ in the Eisai and MSD (and MSD/AG) models, costs and benefits were discounted at a rate of 3.5%. In the MSD model, discounting was incorrectly applied from the first cycle; in the MSD/AG model, this error was corrected and discounting now starts at the beginning of the second year. Scenario analyses were performed by the AG using annual discount rates of 0% and 6% for costs and benefits.

The time horizon used in the Eisai, MSD and MSD/AG models is 40 years. The AG considers that this is sufficient to capture all relevant costs and benefits. The perspective of all three models is the NHS and personal and social services (PSS).

Populating the model with clinical effectiveness data: general methods

Direct clinical effectiveness evidence (PFS, OS and TTD) is only available from the CLEAR trial for the comparison of the efficacy of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib.

In line with DSU guidance,¹²⁰ Eisai, MSD and the AG assessed the goodness-of-fit to PFS, OS and TTD K-M data of standard distributions (exponential, gamma, generalised gamma, Gompertz, log-logistic, log-normal, Weibull) using the Akaike information criterion (AIC) and the Bayesian information criterion (BIC) statistics. The distribution producing the lowest AIC and BIC statistics is considered the best fitting (i.e. highest ranking); however, Eisai suggests that other distributions may be as good as the highest-ranking distribution. The AG highlights that, for PFS and OS, Eisai only provided AIC and BIC statistics for the all-risk population.

TABLE 31 Comparator treatments considered by the AG for each risk subgroup

Subgroup	Comparators
Intermediate/poor risk	Cabozantinib Nivolumab plus ipilimumab
Favourable risk	Sunitinib Pazopanib Tivozanib
Source Final scope ²⁹ issued by NICE.	

As well as the visual fit of the seven distributions to the K-M data, the AG assessed the:

- clinical plausibility of long-term projections (i.e. whether the mortality rate rapidly fell below background mortality)
- whether the distribution used to model PFS led to higher mortality than the distribution chosen to model OS
- whether survival projections for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup were more/less optimistic than those for the favourable-risk subgroup.

Populating the Merck Sharp & Dohme/assessment group model: progression-free survival

Eisai and MSD fitted distributions to CLEAR trial BICR assessed PFS data (FDA censoring rules). The PFS distributions chosen by Eisai, MSD and the AG are shown in [Table 32](#). The PFS distributions chosen by the AG cannot be shown graphically as these data are confidential.

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (progression-free survival)

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

All the MSD AIC statistics for the distributions fitted to CLEAR trial lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab data lie within five AIC points of each other. The AIC statistics and distributions fitted to the CLEAR trial cannot be shown as these data are confidential. Eisai and MSD chose to model PFS using similar exponential distributions. The AG considered that it was appropriate to use the exponential distribution with the parameters estimated by MSD.

Cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab

Eisai and MSD used results from their respective PFS NMAs and applied these to their chosen lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab distribution to generate results for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib. No NMA results were presented by Eisai or MSD for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

TABLE 32 Modelling PFS

Treatment	Eisai Modelling	MSD	AG
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	Exponential		
Cabozantinib	Eisai NMA result: LEN + PEM vs. cabozantinib HR = Confidential information has been removed	MSD NMA result: first-order FP model	AG NMA result: LEN + PEM vs. cabozantinib HR = Confidential information has been removed
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	No results generated		AG NMA result: LEN + PEM vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab HR = Confidential information has been removed
Favourable-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	No results generated	Generalised gamma	
Sunitinib		Log-normal	
Pazopanib/ tivozanib		Equal to sunitinib	
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. Source Eisai CS; ¹ MSD CS; ² AG PFS NMA.			

For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib, the AG adopted the same approach as Eisai and MSD and applied the HR generated by the AG PFS NMA (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib) to the distribution chosen for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab, the AG applied the HR generated by the AG PFS NMA (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab) to the distribution chosen for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

Eisai NMAs did not include data from the CheckMate 214 trial;¹⁰⁰ nevertheless, the Eisai and AG NMA results were very similar for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib. This suggests that the AG PFS NMA results (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib) are not substantially affected by the inclusion of data from the CheckMate 214 trial.¹⁰⁰ As shown in [Table 29](#) the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ PFS PH assumption is violated; this means that the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ PFS HR is not applicable to all time points across the observed follow-up period. Therefore, the AG PFS NMA HRs are not applicable to all time points across the observed follow-up of the trials included in the NMAs.

Favourable-risk subgroup (progression-free survival)

Eisai did not generate any cost-effectiveness estimates for the favourable-risk subgroup.

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

MSD chose the generalised gamma distribution to model PFS for patients receiving lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (ranked 5/7 using AIC statistics). The distributions cannot be shown as these data are confidential. The generalised gamma distribution's AIC statistic lies within five points of the AIC statistic for the highest-ranking distribution. The AG agrees with MSD that the higher-ranking distributions are either a poor visual fit to the PFS K-M data for patients receiving lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab or produce unrealistic long-term extrapolations, that is patients either progress very rapidly or experience very little progression. The generalised gamma distribution, on visual inspection, seemed to offer long-term projections that were clinically plausible; the AG therefore considered that the generalised gamma distribution was an appropriate choice of distribution to use in the base-case analysis.

Sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib)

MSD chose the distribution with the lowest AIC statistic (log-normal) to model PFS for patients in the favourable-risk subgroup receiving sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib. On the basis of the AIC statistic, there is little to choose between the alternative distributions. The distributions fitted to the CLEAR trial cannot be shown as these data are confidential. The AG considered that because the log-normal distribution was the highest-ranking distribution based on AIC and BIC statistics and was a good visual fit to sunitinib CLEAR trial PFS K-M data as well as the long-term projections appeared clinically plausible, the log-normal distribution was an appropriate choice to use in the base-case analysis.

Assessment group scenario analyses: intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups (progression-free survival)

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the parametric distributions that had AIC statistics that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model PFS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; distributions for cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab changed automatically.

The AG also explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the MSD FP NMA results to model PFS for patients treated with cabozantinib PFS.

Favourable-risk subgroup

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the parametric distributions that had AIC statistics that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model PFS for

patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; distributions for sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib were unchanged.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the parametric distributions that had AIC statistics that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model PFS for patients treated with sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib); distributions for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab were unchanged.

Populating the Merck Sharp & Dohme/assessment group model: overall survival

The distributions chosen by Eisai, MSD and the AG for OS are shown in [Table 33](#). The OS distributions chosen by the AG cannot be shown graphically as these data are confidential.

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (overall survival)

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

Both companies chose the exponential distribution (ranked 6/7 using AIC statistics) to estimate OS for patients in the intermediate/poor risk subgroup receiving lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab despite this not being the highest-ranking distribution based on AIC statistics or within five points of the highest-ranking distribution. Their choice was based on good visual fit to CLEAR trial OS K-M data and the fact that higher ranking distributions generated implausible long-term OS estimates.

Although the AG was satisfied that the companies followed DSU guidance,¹²⁰ the AG did not consider that any of the distributions considered by Eisai or MSD provided a good visual fit to the available CLEAR trial OS K-M data. The AG examined the CLEAR trial OS K-M data received during the NICE appraisal clarification process and observed that the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab OS hazard was constant beyond 50 weeks. The AG therefore considered that the companies' choice of an exponential

TABLE 33 Modelling OS (updated OS analysis)

Treatment	Eisai	MSD	AG
Intermediate/poor risk			
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	Exponential	Exponential	K-M + exponential
Cabozantinib	Eisai NMA: LEN + PEM vs. cabozantinib HR = Confidential information has been removed	MSD NMA: first-order FP model	AG NMA: LEN + PEM vs. cabozantinib HR = Confidential information has been removed
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	No results presented		AG NMA: LEN + PEM vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab HR = Confidential information has been removed
Favourable risk			
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	No results presented	Exponential	Log-logistic
Sunitinib		Gamma or Weibull ^a	Gamma
Pazopanib		Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib
Tivozanib		Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib

LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

a AG presented two sets of results.

Source

Eisai CS;¹ MSD CS;² AG OS NMA.

distribution was appropriate, but that K-M data should be used up to the point that censoring and small numbers of events rendered the data too uncertain (the AG considered that this occurred at 120 weeks). The AG appended the exponential distribution (based on the hazard between 50 and 150 weeks) to the CLEAR trial OS K-M data from 120 weeks onwards.

Cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab

For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib, Eisai and MSD applied the HRs generated by their OS NMAs (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib) to the OS distributions chosen for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib, the AG applied the HR generated by the AG OS NMA (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib) to the OS distribution chosen for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

No NMA results were presented by Eisai or MSD for the comparison between lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab, the AG applied the HR generated by the AG OS NMA (lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab) to the distribution chosen for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

As described in [Overall survival: assessment group fixed-effects network meta-analysis](#), the AG concluded that, for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the OS PH assumption was not violated in the CLEAR trial or either of the two other trials^{97,100} included in the AG OS NMA.

Favourable-risk subgroup (overall survival)

For patients in the favourable-risk subgroup, there was considerable uncertainty around the validity of the CLEAR trial OS estimates due to the low number of events experienced by these patients.

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

MSD chose the exponential distribution (ranked 7/7 using AIC statistics) to model OS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. The AG considered that the exponential distribution generated OS estimates that were too optimistic and was a poor fit to the CLEAR trial OS K-M data. The AG considered that survival in the favourable-risk subgroup should be no worse than survival in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. Four of the seven distributions considered by MSD (i.e. Gompertz, generalised gamma, Weibull and gamma) produced 10-year survival estimates that were above the AG 10-year survival estimates for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. The AG therefore chose the Log-logistic distribution which was the highest-ranking, based on AIC and BIC statistics, of the four distributions that the AG considered clinically plausible.

Sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib)

To model OS for patients in the favourable-risk subgroup who received sunitinib, MSD used two distributions (gamma and Weibull) that they considered were equally plausible.

During the NICE appraisal clarification process, MSD provided CLEAR trial OS K-M and HR data that suggested improved survival for patients in the sunitinib arm versus patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm. Similarly, AG OS NMA results suggested improved survival for patients treated with sunitinib versus patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (although the difference was not statistically significant). The MSD model predicted a survival benefit that was greater for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab than for patients treated with sunitinib. As the CLEAR trial evidence does not support such a benefit, a benefit should not be modelled.

Given the AG's chosen survival distribution for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, the AG considered that the gamma distribution was the appropriate distribution to use to model OS for patients treated with sunitinib (and therefore also for patients treated with pazopanib and tivozanib). The gamma distribution was the highest-ranking distribution, based on AIC and BIC statistics, that produced survival estimates that were consistent with a sustained survival benefit for patients treated with sunitinib versus patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab while not producing implausibly long survival estimates.

Assessment group scenario analyses: intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups (overall survival)

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The AG carried out scenario analyses that employed Eisai and MSD base-case approaches to modelling OS:

- Use the exponential distribution (Eisai and MSD preferred distribution) to model OS for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.
- Apply Eisai and MSD OS NMA HRs to the AG lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab distribution to generate cabozantinib OS estimates.
- Apply the MSD FP NMA HR to the AG lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab distribution to generate cabozantinib OS estimates.

The AG OS NMA HRs for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab and for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib were not statistically significantly different from 1. The AG, therefore, carried out a scenario analysis using a HR equal to 1 for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab and for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib (i.e. the OS distributions for nivolumab plus ipilimumab and for cabozantinib were assumed to be the same as that for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab).

Favourable-risk subgroup

The AG carried out a scenario analysis using the AG OS NMA HR for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib applied to the log-logistic distribution used to represent OS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab in the AG base case.

As the AG NMA OS HR for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib was not statistically significantly different from 1, the AG carried out a scenario analysis using an OS HR = 1 (i.e. the OS distribution for sunitinib was assumed to be the same as that for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab).

In two other scenarios, the AG used an OS HR = 1 for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with pazopanib and with tivozanib.

Populating the model: time to treatment discontinuation

The parametric distributions chosen by Eisai, MSD and the AG to model TTD for all treatments are shown in [Table 34](#). The TTD distributions chosen by the AG cannot be shown graphically as these data are confidential.

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroups (time to treatment discontinuation)

The AG considered that TTD for patients receiving lenvatinib should be modelled by fitting a distribution to CLEAR trial TTD K-M data, and for patients receiving pembrolizumab, the CLEAR trial TTD K-M data should be used directly.

TABLE 34 Modelling TTD

Treatment	Eisai	MSD	AG
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib	Generalised gamma	Generalised gamma	Generalised gamma (Eisai)
Pembrolizumab	Weibull	K-M data (CLEAR trial data are complete)	
Cabozantinib	Generalised gamma	MSD NMA: first-order FP model	Log-logistic (Eisai)
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	Not estimated		Set equal to lenvatinib
Favourable-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib	Not estimated	Exponential	
Pembrolizumab		K-M data (CLEAR trial data are complete)	
Sunitinib		Exponential	
Pazopanib		Equal to sunitinib	
Tivozanib		Equal to sunitinib	

SourceEisai CS;¹ MSD CS.²**Lenvatinib**

Eisai and MSD provided CLEAR trial lenvatinib TTD K-M data during the NICE appraisal clarification process. However, the two data sets differed slightly (within 24 months there was a clear gap between the two data sets). The AG concluded that as safety data from the CLEAR trial suggested a lower level of treatment discontinuation due to lenvatinib than due to pembrolizumab (25.6% vs. 28.7%⁶⁶), the Eisai lenvatinib TTD K-M data were likely to be the most accurate as they followed a trajectory that was consistently above the pembrolizumab TTD K-M data until 24 months, that is until the time when the pembrolizumab stopping rule was activated. In contrast, the MSD lenvatinib TTD K-M data crossed the pembrolizumab TTD K-M data at 20 months.

Both companies chose to use generalised gamma distributions to model TTD for patients treated with lenvatinib [this was the highest-ranking distribution using AIC statistics (MSD CS²)]. The distributions considered by MSD and the AG cannot be shown visually against the CLEAR trial PFS-K-M data as these data are confidential. The AG considered that the Eisai generalised gamma distribution provided a good visual fit to lenvatinib TTD K-M data and did not cross the pembrolizumab TTD K-M data until 24 months. The AG therefore chose to use Eisai's generalised gamma distribution to model lenvatinib K-M TTD data.

Pembrolizumab

The MSD modelled pembrolizumab TTD by directly using the K-M data from the CLEAR trial and applied a 2-year stopping rule in line with the CLEAR trial protocol. Eisai modelled pembrolizumab TTD by fitting a Weibull distribution to the CLEAR trial K-M data; it is clear from the Eisai model outputs that a stopping rule for pembrolizumab at 2 years had been applied. The CLEAR trial pembrolizumab TTD K-M data are almost complete and so the AG used the TTD K-M data directly to estimate the cost of treatment with pembrolizumab for patients in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. As the AG used the K-M data directly, an enforced 2-year stopping rule was not implemented; however, this did mean that some patients remained on pembrolizumab for a short period of time beyond 2 years.

Cabozantinib

The MSD modelled cabozantinib TTD using results from their FP TTD NMA. Eisai digitised the (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) cabozantinib TTD K-M data used to inform NICE TA542²⁴ and

selected a distribution based on AIC and BIC statistics, visual fit and clinical plausibility. The distributions considered by Eisai and the AG cannot be shown visually as these data are confidential. The generalised gamma distribution was not the highest-ranking distribution based on AIC statistics or BIC statistics. However, the generalised gamma distribution based on AIC statistics was within five points of the lowest AIC statistics (log-logistic distribution). In addition, the generalised gamma distribution was the same distribution as the one Eisai used to model TTD for patients receiving lenvatinib, which has a similar mode of action as cabozantinib.

The AG considered that the Eisai approach to modelling cabozantinib TTD was more robust than the MSD approach. While the Eisai approach was essentially a naïve between-trial analysis, the AG considered that Eisai's transparent approach was preferable to the largely arbitrary parameterisation of MSD's FP TTD model. All six distributions assessed by Eisai had AIC statistics that were within five points of each other, were broadly similar in terms of visual fit and generated similar long-term estimates. The AG chose to use the log-logistic distribution as this was the distribution with the lowest AIC statistic.

Nivolumab plus ipilimumab

Nivolumab plus ipilimumab TTD K-M data from the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ are not in the public domain. The AG considered using pembrolizumab CLEAR trial TTD K-M data to model TTD for patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab as both treatments are immunotherapies. However, the effect of the pembrolizumab 2-year stopping rule on TTD data is unclear. Therefore, in the absence of an alternative data source, the AG used the approach that was used to model TTD for patients treated with lenvatinib (generalised gamma distribution) to model TTD for patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

In the MSD/AG model, treatment with ipilimumab was restricted to four cycles, that is, it was stopped at 12 weeks (in line with information provided in the nivolumab plus ipilimumab appraisal⁵²).

Favourable-risk subgroup

Of the two companies, only MSD provided cost-effectiveness results for the favourable-risk subgroup.

Pembrolizumab

The CLEAR trial pembrolizumab TTD K-M data are complete. Therefore, MSD and the AG used pembrolizumab TTD K-M data directly in the MSD and MSD/AG models to estimate the cost of treatment with pembrolizumab for the favourable-risk subgroup. MSD applied a 2-year stopping rule in line with the CLEAR trial protocol. The AG used the TTD K-M data directly to estimate the cost of treatment with pembrolizumab for patients in the favourable-risk subgroup. As the AG used the K-M data directly, an enforced 2-year stopping rule was not fully implemented; some patients remained on pembrolizumab for a short period of time beyond 2 years.

Lenvatinib, sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib

MSD fitted exponential distributions to the lenvatinib and sunitinib CLEAR trial TTD K-M data; these were the highest-ranking distributions based on AIC statistics and BIC statistics. The distributions considered by MSD and the AG cannot be shown visually against the CLEAR trial TTD-K-M data as these data are confidential. MSD and the AG used these distributions to model TTD for patients treated with lenvatinib and sunitinib as they were also a good visual fit to the CLEAR trial TTD K-M data. MSD and the AG assumed that TTD for patients treated with pazopanib and tivozanib was the same as TTD for patients treated with sunitinib.

Assessment group scenario analyses: intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups (time to treatment discontinuation)

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the parametric distributions that had AIC statistics that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model TTD

for patients receiving lenvatinib. The cabozantinib distribution was unchanged and the nivolumab plus ipilimumab distribution automatically updated as it was the same as the lenvatinib TTD distribution.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using alternative parametric distributions (i.e. the five distributions that had not been used in the AG base-case analysis) to model TTD for patients treated with cabozantinib. The distribution for lenvatinib, and consequently for nivolumab plus ipilimumab, was unchanged.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the MSD TTD FP NMA results applied to the AG TTD lenvatinib distribution to model TTD for patients treated with cabozantinib.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the distribution used in the base case to model TTD for patients treated with pembrolizumab (Weibull) to model TTD for patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

Favourable-risk subgroup

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the parametric distributions that had AIC statistics that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model TTD for patients treated with lenvatinib; distributions for sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib were unchanged.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the parametric distributions that had AIC statistics that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model TTD for patients treated with sunitinib and consequently for patients treated with pazopanib and tivozanib. The distribution for lenvatinib was unchanged.

Utility values

Eisai and MSD used EQ-5D-3L data (IA3 data cut-off) collected as part of the CLEAR trial to estimate utility values. In the CLEAR trial, the EQ-5D-3L questionnaire was administered at baseline (prior to first dose) on day 1 of each subsequent cycle until treatment discontinuation, at the discontinuation visit, at time of withdrawal and at the off-treatment visit (i.e. within 30 days of the final dose of study treatment). Thus, the data used to inform postprogression utility values were limited. The UK scoring functions were developed based on the time trade-off technique. Values were calculated using safety population data, but were not calculated for the different risk subgroups.

Eisai used the health state utility value approach, with treatment-specific utilities in the progression-free health state; CLEAR trial data showed that the utility values for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and patients treated with sunitinib utility were statistically significantly different.

MSD used a time-to-death approach in their base case and carried out a scenario that explored the impact on cost-effectiveness results of using the health state utility approach. In the scenario analysis, utility values varied depending on whether the patient was on- or off-treatment.

The AG considered that the MSD time-to-death approach provided the best reflection of the HRQoL of long-term survivors and used this approach in the MSD/AG model. The utility values are confidential and therefore cannot be reported.

Assessment group scenario analyses (utility values)

The AG carried out two scenario analyses. One scenario analysis used the Eisai treatment dependent health state utility values and the other used the MSD treatment independent health state utility values. The utility values are confidential and therefore cannot be reported.

Health state resource use and unit costs

Levels of health state resource use (outpatient consultations, CT scans and blood tests) modelled by Eisai and MSD differed. Eisai implemented the resource use estimates that were used to inform the NICE appraisal of pembrolizumab plus axitinib for untreated aRCC (TA650³⁷), and MSD used the resource estimates that were used to inform the NICE appraisal of cabozantinib for untreated aRCC (TA542²⁴).

Clinical advice to the AG was as follows:

- An initial CT scan was not necessary as scans would have previously been conducted to determine whether the RCC needed treatment and the disease stage.
- All patients would have an initial appointment with a consultant, which would include blood tests.
- Patients would subsequently be seen monthly by a consultant, although, in the longer-term, some patients might be seen less frequently.
- It was appropriate for resource use to be the same for patients in the preprogression health state (after the first visit) and patients in the postprogression health state as monitoring remained broadly the same regardless of treatment.
- The resource use estimates in the MSD economic model appeared too low.

Clinical advice to the AG was that the estimates used by Eisai were a better reflection of clinical practice than the estimates used by MSD; however, all patients would receive a blood test as part of the initial outpatient consultation (Table 35).

Eisai, MSD and the AG sourced unit costs for all modelled health state resources from the National Schedule of NHS Costs 2019–20¹²¹ (Table 36).

Drug costs

Lenvatinib

Eisai and MSD estimated drug acquisition costs for lenvatinib and pembrolizumab on the basis of dosing schedules for each drug as described in the CLEAR trial protocol. Eisai calculated the cost of lenvatinib

TABLE 35 Health state resource use

Health state	Resource	Eisai, %	MSD, %	AG, %
Progression-free: first week	Outpatient consultation	100	100	100
	Computed tomography	0	3	0
	Blood tests	0	8	100
Progression-free: subsequent weeks	Outpatient	25	8	25
	Computed tomography	8	3	8
	Blood tests	25	8	25
Postprogression	Outpatient	25	8	25
	Computed tomography	8	3	8
	Blood tests	25	8	25

Source

Eisai CS¹ (see table 50); MSD CS² (see table 48).

TABLE 36 Health state unit costs used in MSD/AG model

Resource		Unit cost, £	HRG	Type of visit
Consultation	First visit	253.20	WF01B (service code 370)	Non-admitted face-to-face attendance First
	Subsequent visits	200.20	WF01A	Non-admitted face-to-face attendance Follow-up
Computed tomography		120.55	RD22Z	Outpatient
Blood test		1.81	DAPS03	Integrated blood services

SourceNational Schedule of NHS Costs 2019–20.¹²¹

using a weighted average cost per mg on the basis of average dose received by CLEAR trial patients, and MSD used weekly CLEAR trial dosing data. These data were provided for the all-risk population and not separately by risk subgroups. Clinical advice to the AG was that dosing was unlikely to vary by risk subgroup.

Lenvatinib tablets are available in two strengths (4 and 10 mg); the cost of a 30-tablet pack is the same irrespective of dose. Clinical advice to the AG was that, in NHS clinical practice, a patient's dose of lenvatinib varies in line with the CLEAR trial protocol descriptions, that is a patient will start on a dose of 20 mg per day and then their dose will be reduced to 14 mg, then to 10 mg and finally to 8 mg, with reductions ceasing once a level that the patient can tolerate has been reached. Further, clinical advice to the AG was as follows:

- A dose of 8 mg per day was quite rare as patients unable to tolerate a 10 mg per day dose were unlikely to be able to tolerate an 8 mg per day dose.
- In the short term, 14 mg per day was the dose that most patients were titrated to from 20 mg.
- In the longer term, approximately 25% of patients were prescribed a 10 mg per day dose.

As the cost per pack of lenvatinib is the same for a 20 mg per day dose and a 14 mg per day dose, the proportion of people prescribed a 10 mg dose (i.e. one capsule) is important.

The AG has used the weekly lenvatinib CLEAR trial dosing data (available from the MSD model). The AG highlights that after 120 weeks, patient CLEAR trial data are limited and, therefore, are unreliable. The AG estimated the cost of lenvatinib using CLEAR trial data (tablets per week) over the first 120 weeks and, for the remainder of the model timeframe, used the average weekly number of lenvatinib tablets patients received between weeks 94 and 120 (i.e. 6 months prior to the end of the reliable data). This approach meant that use of a relative dose intensity (RDI) multiplier was not relevant.

Pembrolizumab

In the CLEAR trial, treatment with pembrolizumab was available for a maximum of 2 years. On the basis of CLEAR trial data, Eisai and MSD used a RDI multiplier (based on all-risk population data) to account for 'delays in drug administration'. Eisai and MSD used the same methods to estimate RDI values and therefore it is unclear why the values presented by Eisai and MSD differ. Eisai did not provide the values used in their calculation; however, MSD did provide this detail and the AG was able to verify the MSD RDI value. Therefore, the AG used the MSD value in the MSD/AG model.

Sunitinib

Eisai, MSD and the AG estimated the cost of sunitinib using the CLEAR trial dosing schedule. Eisai and MSD used a RDI multiplier (estimated using CLEAR trial data) to adjust the cost of sunitinib. Eisai used a mean value (confidential information has been removed) and MSD used the published median value of 83.2%.⁶⁶ The AG has used the Eisai mean value.

Pazopanib, tivozanib, cabozantinib and nivolumab plus ipilimumab

Eisai and MSD estimated the costs of treatment with pazopanib, tivozanib and cabozantinib using dosing schedules published in the relevant SmPCs (Table 37). Eisai and MSD used RDI multipliers published in previous NICE TAs to adjust the costs of pazopanib (86%), tivozanib (94%) and cabozantinib (94%). The AG considered that the approach followed by the companies were appropriate and used the same dosing schedules and RDI values in the MSD/AG model.

The AG used the published dosing schedule for nivolumab plus ipilimumab⁵² (Table 37). No RDI multiplier information was available for nivolumab plus ipilimumab and therefore the AG used the MSD pembrolizumab RDI multiplier (confidential information has been removed), based on CLEAR trial data, to adjust the cost of nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

For all first-line treatments (intervention and comparators), costs per cycle were calculated using published British National Formulary prices (online database) (Table 38).

Drug administration costs

Drug administration costs are presented in Table 39. Eisai and MSD estimated chemotherapy administration costs using the National Schedule of NHS Costs 2019–20 (SB12Z Simple parenteral chemotherapy at first attendance).¹²¹ However, the costs associated with this code differ as Eisai has assumed that administration is an outpatient appointment (£221.35) and MSD has assumed that administration is a day case appointment (£299.61). Clinical advice to the AG is that chemotherapy infusions are delivered as part of an outpatient appointment and, therefore, the AG has used the same administration cost as Eisai (£221.35) for first attendance and SB15Z Deliver Subsequent Elements of a Chemotherapy Cycle for all other attendances (£253.77).

TABLE 37 Treatment dosing schedules

Regimen	Treatment	Dose per administration	Frequency	Administration method
Pembrolizumab plus lenvatinib	Pembrolizumab	200 mg	Every 3 weeks	Intravenous
	Lenvatinib	Varies	Once daily	Oral
Sunitinib	Sunitinib	50 mg	Once daily (4 weeks on, 2 weeks off)	Oral
Pazopanib	Pazopanib	800 mg	Once daily	Oral
Tivozanib	Tivozanib	1.34 mg	Once daily (3 weeks on, 1 week off)	Oral
Cabozantinib	Cabozantinib	60 mg	Once daily	Oral
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	Nivolumab	3 mg/kg	Every 3 weeks (4 doses)	Intravenous
	Ipilimumab	1 mg/kg	Every 3 weeks (4 doses)	Intravenous
	Nivolumab (monotherapy)	480 mg	Every 4 weeks	Intravenous

Source

Eisai CS¹ (see table 37); MSD CS² (see table 45); nivolumab plus ipilimumab SmPC.⁵²

TABLE 38 Drug acquisition costs (list prices)

Treatment	Milligrams (mg) per unit	Pack size	Cost per pack (£)
Lenvatinib	10 mg/4 mg	30	1437.00
Pembrolizumab	100 mg	1 vial	2630.00
Sunitinib	12.5 mg	28	784.70
Pazopanib	200 mg	30	560.50
Tivozanib	1.3 mg	21	2052.00
Cabozantinib	60 mg	30	5143.00
Nivolumab	240 mg	1	2633.00
Ipilimumab	50 mg	1	3750.00

SourceEisai CS¹ (see table 39); MSD CS² (see table 45); nivolumab plus ipilimumab SmPC.⁵²**TABLE 39** National Schedule of NHS Costs 2019–20 drug administration codes and costs

Drug	Eisai	MSD	AG
Lenvatinib	Assume no administration costs for oral treatments		Deliver exclusively oral chemotherapy (SB11Z) – day case and regular day/night £226.45 Hospital-based staff – pharmacist [Band 6 radiographer – £55 per hour (assumed 12 minutes)] £11.00 ^a
Pembrolizumab	Deliver simple parenteral chemotherapy at first attendance – outpatient (SB12Z) £221.35	Simple parenteral chemotherapy at first attendance – day case (SB12Z) £299.61	Deliver simple parenteral chemotherapy at first attendance (SB12Z) – outpatient £221.35
Sunitinib	Assume no administration costs for oral treatments		Deliver exclusively oral chemotherapy (SB11Z) – day case and regular day/night £226.45 – first cycle only Hospital-based staff – pharmacist [Band 6 radiographer – £55 per hour (assumed 12 minutes)] £11.00 ^a
Pazopanib	Assume no administration costs for oral treatments		Same as sunitinib
Tivozanib			
Cabozantinib			
Nivolumab	NA ^b		Deliver complex chemotherapy at first attendance (SB14Z) – outpatient £352.24 (for first 4 cycles when NIV + IPI are delivered jointly)
Ipilimumab			Deliver simple parenteral chemotherapy at first attendance (SB12Z) – outpatient £221.35 (from the fifth cycle – nivolumab maintenance)

NA, not applicable; NIV + IPI, nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

a Assumption based on administration costs used in TA645.³⁵

b Cost-effectiveness results not presented for nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

SourceNational Schedule of NHS Costs 2019/20.¹²¹

Eisai and MSD assumed that the cost of administering oral drugs was zero. The AG considered that this was a conservative assumption and therefore included the cost of the delivery of oral chemotherapy for the first cycle and the cost of a hospital-based pharmacist dispensing the drugs for the subsequent cycles. These assumptions are the same as the assumptions used in TA645³⁵ (Table 39).

As nivolumab and ipilimumab are both intravenous drugs, the AG assumed that for the period patients received both drugs (first four cycles), the most appropriate administration cost was Deliver Complex Chemotherapy at First Attendance (SB14Z) – outpatient. For the subsequent cycles, when patients received only nivolumab, the administration cost used was Deliver Simple Parenteral Chemotherapy at First Attendance (SB12Z) – outpatient.

End-of-life costs

Eisai and MSD models included a fixed cost to cover end-of-life care (applied at death). Both companies used a published cost (inflated to 2019/20 prices) associated with delivering end-of-life care in hospital (Nuffield Trust report¹²²). MSD also included costs for local authority funded social care, district nursing and GP visits (Nuffield Trust report¹²²); these additional costs were considered relevant during NICE TA542²⁴ and TA650.³⁷ The AG considered that it was appropriate to include the additional costs associated with end-of-life care and has, therefore, used the MSD end-of-life costs in the MSD/AG model (£8442.02).

Adverse events

Eisai and MSD assumed that the frequency of AEs did not vary by risk subgroup and used all-risk population AE rates for all-risk groups. Clinical advice to the AG was that this approach was appropriate.

Eisai, MSD and the AG estimated the cost of Grade ≥ 3 AEs that occurred in $\geq 5\%$ of patients in either of the CLEAR trial treatment arms. Eisai, MSD and the AG used CLEAR trial AE rates for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib and rates used to inform NICE TAs for patients treated with sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib and cabozantinib. For patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab, the AG used CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ AE data.

Eisai carried out a detailed process to estimate AE treatment costs; the approach followed by MSD was much simpler and was largely based on assumptions. The AG was satisfied that the simpler approach followed by MSD was appropriate and has used the MSD AE treatment costs in the MSD/AG model.

Assessment group scenario analysis (adverse events)

The AG carried out two scenario analyses: one in which AE costs were set to zero and one in which AE costs were doubled.

Subsequent treatments

Eisai and MSD relied on expert advice to forecast the specific subsequent treatments that patients would receive and the proportions of patients receiving each of these specific treatments. Eisai estimates of subsequent treatment duration were based on data from the CLEAR trial; MSD relied on expert advice to estimate durations of treatment.

The AG considered that for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib), modelled subsequent treatments should be based on the treatments received by patients in the CLEAR trial. The AG estimated subsequent treatments, for each risk subgroup,

separately using IA3 data presented by MSD (CS and response to clarification letter, question B5). Eisai also provided subsequent treatment data in their response to clarification letter, question B5 (updated OS analysis); however, the MSD data were more detailed than the Eisai data and the AG was able to use the MSD data to estimate subsequent treatment costs using a microcosting approach.

On the basis of clinical advice, the AG assumed that 60% of patients treated with cabozantinib would receive subsequent treatment with nivolumab and 40% of patients would receive a VEGFR-TKI, that is sunitinib, pazopanib or tivozanib. The AG assumed that the split between sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib was the same as the split for CLEAR trial patients randomised to treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab who were subsequently treated with a VEGFR-TKI. The duration of treatment with nivolumab was set equal to the average length of time that patients in the sunitinib arm of the CLEAR trial received nivolumab as a subsequent treatment, and the duration of VEGFR-TKI treatment was set equal to the average length of time that patients in the sunitinib arm received a VEGFR-TKI as a subsequent therapy.

For patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab, the AG assumed that subsequent treatments (and the duration of these treatments) were the same as those for CLEAR trial patients randomised to treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

The AG estimated the cost of two lines of subsequent treatment on the basis of treatments received by at least five patients in each arm of the CLEAR trial. Treatments received by fewer than five patients or in the third-line setting were not considered as they were often used off-licence or were only available as part of a clinical trial. The total costs of subsequent treatments were reweighted to account for the cost of treatments received by fewer than five patients. The AG did not consider any subsequent treatments received after the end of the trial period. The AG considers that MSD/AG subsequent treatment costs are likely to be underestimates.

Assessment group sensitivity analyses (subsequent treatment costs)

The AG carried out sensitivity analyses that varied the costs of subsequent treatments by $\pm 20\%$.

Assessment group cost-effectiveness results

As the treatment options for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups differ, the cost-effectiveness results for these subgroups should be considered separately. The AG considers that the all-risk population results are not relevant to NHS patients; these results are presented in [Appendix 7](#).

The AG cost-effectiveness results for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups have been estimated using the list prices for the intervention, comparators and subsequent treatment drugs. AG cost-effectiveness results generated using confidential discounted prices are presented in a confidential appendix.

A list of the AG scenarios can be found in [Appendix 8](#). All of the parameters that were varied in the AG sensitivity analysis and probabilistic sensitivity analysis (PSA) are listed in [Appendix 9](#).

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

For the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the AG base-case cost-effectiveness results suggest that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab generates more QALYs than treatment with cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab but at a greater overall cost (list prices for all drugs). For the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib, the ICER per QALY gained is £133,362, and for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with nivolumab plus ipilimumab, the ICER per QALY gained is £166,249. Detailed results are presented in [Tables 40](#) and [41](#).

TABLE 40 Assessment group pairwise deterministic results for intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. cabozantinib and vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab (list prices)

Drug	ICER per QALY gained (£)
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	–
Cabozantinib	166,249
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	133,362

TABLE 41 Assessment group fully incremental analysis for intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (list prices)

Drug	ICER per QALY gained
Cabozantinib	–
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	Extendedly dominated by LEN + PEM
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	£166,249

Favourable-risk subgroup

For the favourable-risk subgroup, the AG OS NMA results and the CLEAR trial data suggest that treatment with sunitinib generates improved OS compared to treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. The AG base-case cost-effectiveness results suggest that treatment with sunitinib generates more QALYs than treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab at a lower overall cost (list prices for all drugs), that is treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is dominated by treatment with sunitinib. Detailed results are presented in [Tables 42](#) and [43](#).

TABLE 42 Assessment group pairwise results, favourable-risk subgroup: LEM + PEM vs. sunitinib, vs. pazopanib and vs. tivozanib

Drug	ICER per QALY gained
LEM + PEM	–
Sunitinib	LEN + PEM is dominated
Pazopanib	
Tivozanib	
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 43 Assessment group fully incremental analysis for favourable-risk subgroup (list prices)

Drug	ICER per QALY gained
Sunitinib	–
Pazopanib	Pazopanib is dominated by sunitinib
Tivozanib	Tivozanib is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

Assessment group probabilistic sensitivity analysis results

The AG undertook PSAs using the parameter values and distributions detailed in [Appendix 9](#). For both the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups, as the MSD/AG model mean results [ICERs per QALY gained and incremental net monetary benefits (INMBs)] converged by 1000 iterations, the AG calculated cost-effectiveness results generated using 1000 iterations.

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The mean probabilistic ICERs per QALY gained for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib (£169,019) and with nivolumab plus ipilimumab (£134,253) are slightly higher than the deterministic cost-effectiveness results. In all iterations, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was the most expensive treatment option and generated the most QALYs. At a WTP threshold of £50,000 per QALY gained, in 100% of iterations cabozantinib was the most cost-effective treatment option. At a WTP threshold of £100,000 per QALY gained, in 0.8% of iterations lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was the most cost-effective treatment option.

Favourable-risk subgroup

The mean probabilistic results were almost identical to the deterministic cost-effectiveness results. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was dominated by sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib, and sunitinib was the most cost-effective treatment option. In all iterations, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was the most expensive treatment option and generated the fewest QALYs. As the QALYs generated for sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are always the same in each iteration, the cost effectiveness acceptability curve shows horizontal lines for these, that is the probability of any of these three treatments being cost-effective does not vary with the WTP for a QALY threshold. For the majority (85.9%) of iterations, sunitinib was the cheapest option and therefore also the most cost-effective option. In 14.1% of iterations, pazopanib was the cheapest option and therefore the most cost-effective option. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab or tivozanib were not the most cost-effective options at any WTP threshold.

Sensitivity and scenario analyses

The AG performed one-way deterministic sensitivity analysis using the upper and lower bounds for all parameter values reported in [Appendix 9](#).

Assessment group one-way deterministic sensitivity analysis results

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The AG produced tornado diagrams for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib and with nivolumab plus ipilimumab. The tornado diagrams showed that the INMBs were insensitive across the ranges of input values considered for most model parameters. Cost-effectiveness results were most sensitive to the OS HRs for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

Favourable-risk subgroup

The AG produced tornado diagrams for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib, versus pazopanib and versus tivozanib. The tornado diagrams showed that the INMBs were insensitive across the range of input values considered for model parameters; the INMB values never change by more or less than 2%.

Assessment group deterministic scenario analysis results (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup)

Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup

The AG has presented deterministic scenario results for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib ([Table 44](#)) and with nivolumab plus ipilimumab ([Table 45](#)) for the

TABLE 44 Assessment group scenario analysis: lenvatinib vs. cabozantinib (list prices)

AG scenarios Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£166,249
Discount rate 6%	£199,613
Discount rate 0%	£122,771
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	£166,313
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£166,139
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£166,377
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£165,725
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	£165,665
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	£166,330
CAB MSD FP PFS HR	£166,248
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£143,746
Eisai CABO OS HR	£158,945
MSD CABO FP OS HR	£145,823
CABO OS = LEN + PEM OS	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£175,417
LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£169,392
LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£175,541
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£155,332
Eisai CABO TTD (Weibull)	£186,377
Eisai CABO TTD (log-normal)	£172,583
Eisai CABO TTD (exponential)	£185,941
Eisai CABO TTD (generalised gamma)	£178,656
Eisai CABO TTD (Gompertz)	£181,077
MSD CABO FP TTD HR	£166,249
MSD health state utilities	£174,341
Eisai health state utilities	£170,260
AE costs doubled	£168,187
AE costs set to zero	£163,967
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£165,702
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£167,141

CABO, cabozantinib; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. The ICERs per QALY gained did not change substantially for most of the scenarios considered. This suggests that the results of the AG analyses were robust over most of the assumptions that were required to construct the MSD/AG model. The ICERs per QALY gained were sensitive to the magnitude of the discount rate but as there are no grounds to move away from using the annual base-case value of 3.5% for costs and benefits, these results are not relevant. The

TABLE 45 Assessment group scenario analysis: lenvatinib vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab (list prices)

AG scenarios intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup	ICER, £/QALY
AG base case	£133,362
Discount rate 6%	£161,647
Discount rate 0%	£98,200
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	£133,926
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£132,574
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£134,380
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£129,201
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	£128,425
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	£134,052
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£116,331
LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£85,146
LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£116,143
LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£84,529
MSD LEM + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£190,334
MSD health state utilities	£119,761
Eisai health state utilities	£136,597
AE costs doubled	£140,673
AE costs set to zero	£125,817
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£132,004
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£134,954
NIV + IPI = Eisai PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominant
OS LEM + PEM = OS NIV + IPI	LEN + PEM is dominated

LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; NIV + IPI, nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

AG considered that the following scenario results were particularly important when determining the cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab:

- Uncertainty around the choice of PFS distribution or uncertainty around subsequent treatment costs did not noticeably affect cost-effectiveness results for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib or versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab.
- With the exception of using the MSD FP TTD approach to model TTD for cabozantinib, all the other AG alternative scenarios used to model TTD for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab or cabozantinib increased the size of the ICER per QALY gained for this comparison.
- All the AG alternative scenarios used to model TTD for nivolumab plus ipilimumab or for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab decreased the ICERs per QALY gained for this comparison.
- Using Eisai or MSD approaches to modelling OS for patients treated with cabozantinib lowers the ICER per QALY gained for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib by 4.4% and 12.3%, respectively; however, the resulting ICERs per QALY gained are still above £145,000. If the OS for patients treated with cabozantinib was the same as the OS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, then cabozantinib would dominate lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

Assessment group deterministic scenario analysis results (favourable-risk subgroup)

The AG has presented deterministic scenario results for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib (see [Table 46](#)), with pazopanib (see [Table 47](#)) and with tivozanib (see [Table 48](#)) for the favourable-risk subgroup. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was dominated by sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib across all scenarios considered.

TABLE 46 Assessment group scenario results: lenvatinib vs. sunitinib (list prices)

AG scenario favourable-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY
AG base case	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Discount rate 6%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
AG OS NMA HR for sunitinib	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
OS LEN + PEM = OS sunitinib	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD health state utilities	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
AE costs doubled	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
AE costs set to zero	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 47 Assessment group scenario results: lenvatinib vs. pazopanib (list prices)

AG scenario favourable-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY
AG base case	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Discount rate 6%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
AG OS NMA HR for pazopanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
OS LEN + PEM = OS pazopanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD health state utilities	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
AE costs doubled	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
AE costs set to zero	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 48 Assessment group scenario results: lenvatinib vs. tivozanib (list prices)

AG scenario favourable-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY
AG base case	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Discount rate 6%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
AG OS NMA HR for tivozanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
OS LEN + PEM = OS tivozanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD health state utilities	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
AE costs doubled	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
AE costs set to zero	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

Additional assessment group sensitivity analyses

In response to errors identified during the NICE appraisal consultation comments, and to incorporate the results from the updated intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup NMA, the AG produced additional sensitivity analyses to address two modelling errors. The details of the errors and the results are presented in [Appendix 10](#). In summary, using the updated costs and results from the updated intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup NMA in the model had little impact on results ([Appendix 10](#), [Tables 91–98](#)) and the same conclusions could be drawn.

Assessment group consideration of the cost-effectiveness analysis

The data (clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness) used to populate the MSD/AG model are relevant to NHS clinical practice and can be used to inform NICE decision-making.

The AG considered the cost-effectiveness of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus relevant comparators for the two distinct risk subgroups that comprise the all-risk population: patients with intermediate-/poor-risk disease and patients with favourable-risk disease. For the largest risk subgroup (intermediate-/poor-risk disease), OS data from the CLEAR trial were used in the MSD/AG model (via the AG OS NMAs) to generate cost-effectiveness results for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with cabozantinib and with nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

An area of uncertainty that could not be resolved was around TTD for patients in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup who were treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab. In the base-case analysis, the AG assumed that nivolumab plus ipilimumab TTD data could be represented by lenvatinib TTD data (CLEAR trial). However, this assumption may not be valid as, compared to lenvatinib, both nivolumab and ipilimumab have different mechanisms of action, means of administration and dosing schedules. An alternative approach considered by the AG as a scenario analysis was to use the CLEAR trial MSD pembrolizumab TTD estimates (generalised gamma distribution) to represent TTD for patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab. However, such an approach results in an implausibly long tail and generates higher costs for nivolumab plus ipilimumab than for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. While the AG considers that the approach in the AG base case to model TTD for patients treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab was reasonable (CLEAR trial lenvatinib TTD data) and was preferable to using CLEAR trial MSD pembrolizumab TTD, the AG cannot reject the possibility that nivolumab plus ipilimumab is more costly than lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab at list prices.

For the favourable-risk subgroup, due to limited comparator RCT data, the AG assumed that the clinical effectiveness of pazopanib and tivozanib was equal to that of sunitinib. This assumption aligns with the view of previous NICE ACs.^{24,25,34,35} Evidence from the CLEAR trial was incorporated into the MSD/AG model and generated cost-effectiveness results that suggested that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was dominated by sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib. This finding was robust for all analysis of uncertainty undertaken by the AG.

Chapter 6 Discussion

Statement of principal findings

The NICE, the European Association of Urology³⁸ and the ESMO³⁹ have recommended treatments for patients with untreated aRCC with different levels of disease risk. In the main body of the report, the AG has presented clinical effectiveness results for the three risk groups and has presented cost-effectiveness results for patients in the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups; cost-effectiveness results for the all-risk population are presented in [Appendix 7](#).

Direct clinical effectiveness results

The AG systematic review of clinical effectiveness evidence identified only one RCT of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib for patients with untreated aRCC, the CLEAR trial. Results from this trial demonstrated improved PFS and ORR for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab in the intermediate/poor and favourable-risk subgroups and all-risk population. CLEAR trial results from the updated OS analysis showed a statistically significant improvement for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus patients treated with sunitinib for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and the all-risk population; there were too few events in the favourable-risk subgroup for robust OS conclusions to be drawn. Generally, the AEs experienced by patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab were consistent with the known safety profile of the two drugs. When compared to treatment with sunitinib, treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab appears to neither improve nor worsen HRQoL.

Indirect clinical effectiveness results

The AG carried out Bayesian HR NMAs for the three patient disease risk groups. However, due to limited data availability, it was not possible to carry out NMAs for all outcomes for all three patient risk groups. Further, as networks were sparse, it was possible to generate meaningful results only using FE NMAs.

The AG PFS NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons owing to within-trial PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption.

The AG OS NMA results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup suggested that there was a numerical, but not a statistically significant, improvement in OS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab compared with patients treated with cabozantinib or nivolumab plus ipilimumab. Because of within-trial PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption, the AG OS NMA results for the favourable-risk subgroup and the all-risk population should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) for any of the treatment comparisons.

The AG ORR NMA showed a statistically significantly improved ORR for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab and a non-statistically significant numerical advantage for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab also resulted in statistically significant improvements versus sunitinib and pazopanib in the all-risk population. Evidence was unavailable for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus tivozanib in the all-risk population or versus any relevant comparator in the favourable-risk population.

Results from the AG AE NMAs in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup showed non-statistically significant evidence that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab resulted in an increase in Grade ≥ 3 AEs versus

cabozantinib. In the all-risk population, there were statistically significantly more Grade ≥ 3 AEs for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib and versus pazopanib.

It was not possible for the AG to perform any HRQoL NMAs due to the heterogeneity of the HRQoL outcome scales used in the included trials and limited reported data (i.e. 95% CIs not reported, data not reported separately for risk subgroups).

Cost-effectiveness results

For the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, AG base-case cost-effectiveness results (list prices) suggested that treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab generated more QALYs than cabozantinib and more QALYs than nivolumab plus ipilimumab, but at a greater overall cost than either of these two treatments. Using list prices, the ICERs per QALY gained for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus cabozantinib and versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab exceeded £100,000.

For the favourable-risk subgroup, AG base-case cost-effectiveness results (list prices) suggested that treatment with sunitinib generated more QALYs than lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab at a lower overall cost, that is treatment with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was dominated by treatment with sunitinib (and, using the assumption of equivalent effectiveness, by pazopanib and tivozanib).

The AG base-case cost-effectiveness results for the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups were robust over most of the assumptions used in the AG PSA, sensitivity and scenario analyses.

Patient and public involvement

There was no PPI regarding the production of the protocol or report for this systematic review and CEA. However, as the analyses were conducted to inform a NICE appraisal, NICE received input from experts and stakeholders in addition to the evidence presented by the AG and companies. All stakeholders and the public were able to comment on the preliminary guidance issued by NICE. For this appraisal, NICE received a written submission from the following patient organisations: Action Kidney Cancer and Kidney Cancer Support Network. In addition, patient experts attended the NICE AC meeting and offered valuable insight into living with the disease.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

Participant representation

The AG is unaware of published data regarding the characteristics of patients with Stage 3 or Stage 4 aRCC, that is for the patients who are the main focus of this report. However, it is known that in the UK, 62.8% of new cases of kidney cancer occurring between 2015 and 2017 were in men.¹² Men may have been slightly over-represented in the trials discussed in this report as the proportion of men included in the trials ranged from 72.4%¹⁰³ to 82.5%.¹⁰⁴

Older patients may have been under-represented in the trials discussed in this report. Data by age range were reported only in the CLEAR trial; in this trial, only 41.2% of patients were aged ≥ 65 years.¹² In the UK, between 2015 and 2017, 64.0% of new cases of kidney cancer occurred in patients aged ≥ 65 years.¹² Older patients are commonly under-represented in clinical trials in all disease areas. This is largely due to trial eligibility criteria, which commonly excludes patients with comorbidities that often arise as people age.¹²³⁻¹²⁵

Data regarding ethnicity were reported only in the CLEAR trial and in three other trials.^{97,100,102} Compared to England and Wales 2011 UK Census data,¹²⁶ people identifying as white or black may have been under-represented in the CLEAR trial (74.9% vs. 86.0% and 0.7% vs. 3.3%, respectively), while people identifying as Asian appear to be over-represented in the CLEAR trial (20.0% vs. 7.5%). However, in the other (non-CLEAR) trials, the proportion who identified as white ranged from 88.4%¹⁰⁰ to 92.4%,⁹⁷ the

proportion who identified as Asian ranged from 0.6%⁹⁷ to 8.5%¹⁰⁰ and the proportion who identified as black ranged from 0.2%¹⁰² to 3.2%.⁹⁷ These differences in ethnicity across trials are to be expected as the CLEAR trial and five other trials^{98,101-104} were all reported to be international trials.

Reflections on research team and wider involvement

The research team was made up of academic researchers and healthcare professionals (including clinicians and a senior medicines information pharmacist) with a wide range of experience and expertise. The team worked well together and met regularly to discuss key issues related to the topic area (RCC) and to develop the methods employed in the appraisal (systematic review and CEA). Not everyone in the team had carried out an MTA before and it was important that the less experienced staff were encouraged to participate and were supported by the more experienced members of the team.

Strengths, limitations and uncertainties of the assessment

Strengths

Use of CLEAR trial data

The CLEAR trial is a well-designed trial and clinical advice to the AG is that efficacy and safety results are generalisable to NHS clinical practice for patients with untreated aRCC. This trial provided reliable evidence for the AG direct and indirect comparisons of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with all relevant treatments listed in the final scope²⁹ issued by NICE.

Comparators

The AG included nivolumab plus ipilimumab as a comparator (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup). Evidence for this comparison was missing from the Eisai¹ and MSD² submissions to NICE.

Cost-effectiveness results

The MSD/AG model was populated with data provided by Eisai¹ and data provided by MSD² and generated base-case ICERs per QALY gained that can be used to inform decision-making. The AG carried out extensive one-way sensitivity analyses, scenario analyses and PSA. Results from these analyses demonstrate that AG base-case cost-effectiveness results are robust.

Weaknesses

Lack of direct evidence

Direct efficacy and safety evidence is only available for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib from a single RCT. However, previous NICE ACs^{24,25,34,35} have concluded that it may be appropriate to assume that sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib are similarly effective in clinical practice.

Proportional hazards assumption

The PH assumption is violated for the data used in five of the six time-to-event (PFS and OS) NMAs, the exception being the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup OS NMAs. This means that the HRs estimated from these NMAs are not applicable to all time points across the observed follow-up of the trials included in the NMAs. Further, the AG has confidence only in the FE NMA results. The RE NMA results are presented in [Appendix 4, Tables 65–70](#); these are considered unusable because of convergence issues that have occurred due to the small number of included trials and sparse data.

Uncertainties

CLEAR trial subsequent treatments

In addition to a treatment-switching analysis to test whether adjusting for the effect of subsequent treatment affected OS results, Eisai¹ also conducted post hoc analyses that examined OS for patients

who did and did not receive subsequent treatment separately. The PH assumption was violated for patients who received subsequent treatments. Clinical advice to the AG is that patients who do not receive subsequent treatments are a heterogeneous group. Therefore, the results from these analyses are difficult to interpret.

Assessment group network meta-analysis results

The main area of uncertainty affecting interpretation of AG HR NMA results was the effect of PH assumption violations; this was an issue for five of the six time-to-event (PFS and OS) NMAs.

There were limited data to inform some indirect comparisons. For the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup, there were no ORR data for any of the comparators, and for the all-risk population, there were no ORR data for tivozanib. Similarly, there were no AE outcomes available for nivolumab plus ipilimumab for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, all comparators for the IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup and tivozanib for the all-risk population.

A total of 13% of patients included in the SWITCH trials^{98,103} had non-clear cell aRCC. Results were not reported separately for patients with clear cell and non-clear cell histology. However, the AG considers that the inclusion of this proportion of patients with non-clear cell histology would not have a substantial impact on NMA results.

NICE ACs^{24,25,34,35} have concluded that sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib can be considered to deliver similar efficacy outcomes. This means that CLEAR trial sunitinib results could be used as a proxy for the efficacy of pazopanib and tivozanib for the all-risk population and for the favourable-risk subgroup. Thus, conclusions regarding the relative efficacy of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus pazopanib and versus tivozanib may be generated from the CLEAR trial.

Since the OS PH assumptions for the data used to populate the AG OS NMAs were not violated for patients in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, the AG OS NMA results are robust. However, the PFS PH assumptions for data used to populate the AG PFS NMAs were violated in some cases and, therefore, these results should not be used to infer any statistically significant difference (or lack of statistically significant difference) between treatments. However, a naïve comparison shows that CLEAR trial median PFS for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (Confidential information has been removed) is longer than the PFS for patients treated with cabozantinib (8.6 months⁹⁷) or nivolumab plus ipilimumab (11.6 months¹⁰⁰). This is, potentially, the area of relative clinical effectiveness for patients with untreated aRCC where there is most uncertainty.

Adverse events

While it was not possible for the AG to present AE evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus nivolumab plus ipilimumab, previously published reviews have compared the relative effectiveness of combination therapies to treat aRCC. The Mori *et al.*⁵⁵ meta-analysis results showed that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was less well tolerated (any AE, Grade \geq 3 AEs and discontinuation due to AEs) than nivolumab plus cabozantinib or pembrolizumab plus axitinib. Three other NMAs⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸ also reported that patients who received lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab were more likely to experience Grade \geq 3 AEs and treatment discontinuations (due to AEs) when compared with other combination therapies, including nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

Cost-effectiveness

The AG OS NMA results for the intermediate/poor and favourable-risk subgroups showed that there were no statistically significant differences between treatments. As AG cost-effectiveness results are driven by differences in OS between treatments, if there is no OS gain for patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus comparators, then the higher costs associated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (list prices) means that it is unlikely to be a cost-effective treatment.

An area of uncertainty that could not be resolved was around TTD for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup who were treated with nivolumab plus ipilimumab. The AG base-case assumption that nivolumab plus ipilimumab TTD data would equal CLEAR trial lenvatinib TTD data may not be valid as both nivolumab and ipilimumab have different mechanisms of action, means of administration and dosing schedules compared to lenvatinib.

Other relevant factors

Favourable-risk population

NICE^{24,36} has recommended aRCC treatments for the all-risk population and for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. If a patient does not have intermediate-/poor-risk disease, then, by definition, the patient has favourable-risk disease. The AG has, therefore, carried out clinical and cost-effectiveness analyses for the favourable-risk subgroup. Efficacy results from a recent population-based study²¹ showed that median OS for the all-risk population was approximately half the length of that for the favourable-risk subgroup [all-risk population: 28.6 (95% CI 25.9 to 31.0) months; favourable-risk subgroup: 52.1 (95% CI 43.4 to 61.2) months]. These results suggest that it is informative to consider the favourable-risk subgroup separately alongside results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup.

While there were few events, favourable-risk subgroup CLEAR trial results show no statistically significant OS benefit for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab versus sunitinib; these results are consistent with previously published reviews^{53,55,59} of combination therapies, including lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.

It was beyond the scope of this appraisal to compare lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with avelumab plus axitinib. Clinical advice to the AG is that treatment with avelumab plus axitinib is the preferred option for patients with favourable-risk aRCC.

Issues identified during the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence appraisal

After the NICE AC Meeting, the AG conducted additional clinical and cost-effectiveness sensitivity analyses. The additional clinical effectiveness sensitivity analyses were PFS and OS NMAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup using updated information from the CheckMate 214 trial.¹⁰⁰ The additional cost-effectiveness analyses were to correct for two modelling errors identified in the tivozanib engine for AE costs and application of oral administration costs. Using the revised costs and updated NMA data had relatively little impact on the clinical and cost-effectiveness results and the same conclusions could be drawn as from the original analyses.

The AG considers that it is important to reiterate that the cost-effectiveness analyses presented in this appraisal are based on list prices only. As patient access scheme (PAS) discount prices are in place for lenvatinib, pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, cabozantinib, nivolumab, ipilimumab, everolimus and axitinib, the cost-effectiveness comparisons presented using list prices in this report cannot be used as the basis for NHS decision-making. The AG provided cost-effectiveness results generated using the discounted prices for lenvatinib and pembrolizumab in a confidential appendix presented to NICE. The NICE AC concluded that, when using PAS prices for all drugs, in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup:

- the cost-effectiveness estimates were above the range that NICE considers an acceptable use of NHS resources when lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was compared with cabozantinib
- the cost-effectiveness estimates were within the range that NICE considers acceptable when lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was compared with nivolumab plus ipilimumab.

The NICE AC concluded that, when using PAS prices for all drugs, in the favourable-risk subgroup, all the cost-effectiveness estimates were above the range that NICE considers an acceptable use of NHS resources.³

Chapter 7 Conclusions

Good-quality efficacy and safety evidence for the comparison of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with sunitinib was available from the CLEAR trial. For most of the AG Bayesian HR NMA comparisons, it was difficult to reach conclusions due to within-trial PH violations or uncertainty regarding the validity of the PH assumption. However, the data (clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness) used to populate the MSD/AG model are relevant to clinical practice and could be used to inform decision-making. The all-risk population comprises patients with intermediate-/poor-risk and patients with favourable-risk disease. The AG cost-effectiveness analyses have focused on the two subgroups. The AG cost-effectiveness results, generated using list prices for all drugs, show that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is less cost-effective than all other treatment options. Within the NHS, PAS discount prices are in place for lenvatinib, pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, cabozantinib, nivolumab, ipilimumab, everolimus and axitinib. Therefore, the cost-effectiveness comparisons presented in this AG report were not used as the basis for decision-making by NICE. Rather, NICE considered cost-effectiveness evidence where all relevant discount prices were applied.³

Implications for service provision

Clinical advice to the AG is that if NICE were to recommend lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab as a treatment option for patients with aRCC, there would be minimal impact on current NHS staffing and infrastructure.

Final NICE guidance on whether to recommend lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab as a treatment option for patients in NHS clinical practice was published in January 2023.³ NICE recommended lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab as a routine treatment option for patients with IMDC intermediate-/poor-risk aRCC if:

- nivolumab plus ipilimumab would otherwise be offered
- the companies provide lenvatinib and pembrolizumab according to the confidential commercial arrangements.

Suggested research priorities

Clinical advice to the AG is that avelumab plus axitinib is the preferred first-line treatment option for patients with favourable-risk disease and who can tolerate this combination. As avelumab plus axitinib is currently only available to NHS patients via the CDF, it was not a relevant comparator for this appraisal. If NICE were to recommend routine treatment with avelumab plus axitinib, clinical and cost-effectiveness comparisons of this treatment combination with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib would generate useful information for clinicians and patients. NMAs may be useful for generating this evidence.

Clinical advice to the AG is that the likelihood of future RCTs versus established treatments is low. Therefore, it is important that real-world evidence is monitored to check that results seen in clinical practice reflect RCT results for patients with untreated aRCC.

Additional information

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Sarah Nevitt (<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9988-2709>) reviewed statistical clinical effectiveness evidence, including study selection, data extraction, synthesis and interpretation and also carried out indirect network analyses.

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Data-sharing statement

This systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis includes published and confidential data supplied by the participating companies. Data that are not in the public domain cannot be shared further owing to the nature of this study. All queries should be submitted to the corresponding author.

Ethics statement

This is a systematic review and cost-effectiveness analysis. No primary data were created for this report. Ethical approval was therefore not required.

Disclosure of interests

Full disclosure of interests: Completed ICMJE forms for all authors, including all related interests, are available in the toolkit on the NIHR Journals Library report publication page at <https://doi.org/10.3310/TRRM4238>.

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Appendix 1 Systematic reviews including patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

TABLE 49 Analyses of combination therapy for aRCC which included patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

Author (year)	Title	Population (n = total patients)	Stated purpose and included studies	Main results/conclusions
Ciccarese <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵³	Efficacy of VEGFR-TKIs plus immune checkpoint inhibitors in mRCC for patients with favourable IMDC prognosis.	First-line mRCC patients with favourable IMDC prognosis (n = 839)	Meta-analysis evaluating whether the combinations of VEGFR-TKI + ICI compared to VEGFR-TKIs alone improve the outcome of mRCC patients with favourable IMDC prognosis. Included four RCTs of VEGFR-TKI + ICI therapies (pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, avelumab plus axitinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab) vs. sunitinib.	Combination therapies improved PFS, but did not significantly prolong OS compared to sunitinib. Combination therapies resulted in a higher rate of treatment discontinuation compared to sunitinib.
Massari <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵⁴	Immune-based combinations for the treatment of mRCC.	Treatment-naïve mRCC patients (n = 5175)	Meta-analysis of phase III clinical trials of immune-based combinations in mRCC patients. Included six RCTs of immune-based combination therapies (pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, avelumab plus axitinib, pembrolizumab plus bevacizumab, nivolumab plus ipilimumab) vs. sunitinib.	Compared with sunitinib, combination therapy resulted in statistically significant improvements in PFS, OS and ORR. Some combination therapies resulted in more all-Grade and Grade ≥ 3 AEs and others less all-Grade and Grade ≥ 3 AEs than treatment with sunitinib.
Mori <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵⁵	Differences in oncological and toxicity outcomes between PD-L1 and PD-1 inhibitors in mRCC.	First-line mRCC patients (n = 4025)	Systematic review, meta-analysis and NMA assessing the differences between anti-PD-1 and anti-PD-L1 therapies in RCTs of combination therapies. Included five RCTs total. Three RCTs for PD-1 meta-analysis of combination therapies (pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab) vs. sunitinib.	Anti-PD-1 type combination therapy (including lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab) had statistically significantly longer PFS, OS and ORR than sunitinib in the all-risk population and intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. However, there was no statistically significant difference for OS in the favourable-risk subgroup. There was no difference vs. sunitinib for any grade AEs, but combination therapy had significantly worse grade ≥ 3 AEs. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was less tolerated than other PD-1 combination therapies.
Nocera <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵⁶	Clinical outcomes and AEs after first-line treatment in metastatic RCC: A systematic review and meta-analysis.	First-line mRCC patients (n = 3320)	NMA of first-line trials comparing immune-based combination therapies. Only phase III RCTs with proven OS benefit relative to sunitinib were included, four in total. Interventions were: pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, nivolumab plus ipilimumab	In NMA-derived ranking, against other combination therapies and sunitinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab ranked first for PFS and ORR, and second for OS for providing maximal benefit. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab resulted in statistically significantly more grade ≥ 3 AEs than sunitinib and was ranked lower (i.e. considered to be least tolerated) than all other combination therapies.

TABLE 49 Analyses of combination therapy for aRCC which included patients treated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab (*continued*)

Author (year)	Title	Population (n = total patients)	Stated purpose and included studies	Main results/conclusions
Qahal <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵⁷	First-line immunotherapy-based combinations for mRCC.	First-line mRCC patients (n = 5121)	NMA of the efficacy and safety of first-line ICI-based combination therapies. Included six RCTs of immune-based combination therapies (pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, avelumab plus axitinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, atezolizumab plus bevacizumab, nivolumab plus ipilimumab).	Immune-based combination therapies had higher likelihood of providing better PFS, OS and ORR than sunitinib. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab resulted in statistically significantly improved PFS and ORR vs. sunitinib. Compared with other immune-based combination therapies, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab had highest likelihood of providing maximal PFS benefit and highest ORR. In the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab had the highest likelihood of providing maximal PFS and OS and the highest probability of maximal PFS benefit in the favourable-risk subgroup. The highest likelihood of grade ≥ 3 AEs and AE-related treatment discontinuation was associated with lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.
Qahal <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵⁸	AEs of systemic immune-based combination therapies in the first-line treatment of patients with mRCC.	First-line mRCC patients (n = 5121)	Comparison of the safety profiles of systemic immune checkpoint inhibitor-based combination therapies that were evaluated in the first-line setting of the management of patients with aRCC or mRCC. Included six RCTs of immune-based combination therapies (pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, avelumab plus axitinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, atezolizumab plus bevacizumab, nivolumab plus ipilimumab).	Low treatment-related mortality was found from all combination therapies with no statistically significant differences vs. sunitinib. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab had highest likelihood of grade ≥ 3 AEs, and treatment discontinuation due to AEs. Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab had the highest likelihood of all-grade adrenal insufficiency and high-grade AST increase. All combinations had low likelihood of thrombocytopenia and neutropenia than sunitinib.
Shpilsky <i>et al.</i> (2021) ⁵⁹	First-line immunotherapy combinations in aRCC: a rapid review and meta-analysis.	First-line aRCC patients (n = 5121)	Meta-analysis to combine the evidence of available first-line combination therapies compared to sunitinib monotherapy in aRCC. Included six RCTs of combination therapies (pembrolizumab plus axitinib, nivolumab plus cabozantinib, avelumab plus axitinib, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, atezolizumab plus bevacizumab, nivolumab plus ipilimumab).	Combination therapies resulted in statistically significantly improved PFS and OS compared to sunitinib in the all-risk population and intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. ORR and AEs were only reported for the all-risk population. ORR was statistically significantly improved vs. sunitinib. The incidence of grade ≥ 3 AEs was comparable between combination therapies and sunitinib. There were no statistically significant differences between combination therapies and sunitinib for PFS or OS in the favourable-risk subgroup.

mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma; P+Ax, pembrolizumab plus axitinib; P+L, pembrolizumab plus lenvatinib.

Appendix 2 Assessment group searches for clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness

Sources searched

TABLE 50 Sources searched for clinical effectiveness studies

Search type	Sources	Dates searched
Databases	MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed, CENTRAL, INAHTA	From inception to 11 October 2021
Trial registries	ClinicalTrials.gov, ICTRP	From inception to 11 October 2021
Conference proceedings	ASCO, ASCO-GU, ESMO, HTAi	From 1 January 2019 to 19 November 2021
NICE TAs	TA169, ³² TA178, ⁴⁰ TA215, ³³ TA512, ³⁴ TA542, ²⁴ TA581, ²⁵ TA650, ³⁷ TA645 ³⁵	From inception to 18 November 2021
Grey literature websites	EMA, CADTH, HAS, FDA, MHRA, PBAC, SMC	Searched on 22 November 2021
Other	CSs ^{1,2} for this appraisal ¹²⁷	Received 16 November 2021

ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; ASCO-GU, ASCO-Genitourinary; CADTH, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health; HAS, Haute Autorité de Santé (France); HTAi, Health Technology Assessment International; PBAC, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (Australia); SMC, Scottish Medicines Consortium

TABLE 51 Sources searched for cost-effectiveness studies

Search type	Sources	Dates
Databases	MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed, CENTRAL, INAHTA, NHS EED, EconLit, CEA Registry	From 1 January 2006 to 11 October 2021
Trial registries	ClinicalTrials.gov, ICTRP	From 1 January 2006 to 11 October 2021
Conference proceedings	ASCO, ASCO-GU, ESMO and HTAi, ISPOR	From 2019 to 22 November 2021
Websites	SMC, CADTH, HAS, PBAC	Searched on 22 November 2021

ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; ASCO-GU, ASCO-Genitourinary; CADTH, Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health; CEA Registry, Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Registry; HAS, Haute Autorité de Santé; HTAi, Health Technology Assessment International; ISPOR, International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research; NHS EED, NHS Economic Evaluation Database; PBAC, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee; SMC, Scottish Medicines Consortium.

Clinical effectiveness searches

MEDLINE (via Ovid)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946–7 October 2021>

1	exp Carcinoma, Renal Cell/
2	exp Kidney Neoplasms/
3	(renal adj2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
4	(kidney adj1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
5	(clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
6	(non?clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
7	hypernephroma.tw,kw.
8	hypernephroid carcinoma*.tw,kw.
9	grawitz tumo?r\$.tw,kw.
10	rcc.tw,kw.
11	or/1–10
12	(advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable).tw,kw. or Neoplasm Metastasis/
13	11 and 12
14	(mrcc or arcc).tw,kw.
15	13 or 14
16	randomized controlled trial.pt.
17	controlled clinical trial.pt.
18	(randomized or randomised).ab.
19	placebo.ab.
20	clinical trials as topic.sh.
21	randomly.ab.
22	trial.ti.
23	(randomised or randomized or RCT).ti.
24	or/16–23
25	exp animals/ not humans.sh.
26	24 not 25
27	15 and 26
28	limit 27 to english language

Note

Cochrane RCT sensitivity and precision maximising filter adapted to search for (randomised or randomized or RCT) in title field. https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-technical-supplement-searching-and-selecting-studies#_Ref19198290.

The Cochrane Library (CENTRAL)www.cochranelibrary.com/

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials

Issue 10 of 12 October 2021

#1	MeSH descriptor: [Carcinoma, Renal Cell] explode all trees
#2	MeSH descriptor: [Kidney Neoplasms] explode all trees
#3	((renal NEAR/2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#4	((kidney NEAR/1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#5	((clear-cell NEAR/3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#6	(('non-clear cell' NEAR/3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#7	(hypernephroma):ti,ab,kw
#8	(hypernephroid carcinoma*):ti,ab,kw
#9	(grawitz tumo?r*):ti,ab,kw
#10	(rcc):ti,ab,kw
#11	{OR #1-#10}
#12	(advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable):ti,ab,kw
#13	MeSH descriptor: [Neoplasm Metastasis] this term only
#14	#12 OR #13
#15	#11 AND #14
#16	(mrcc or arcc):ti,ab,kw
#17	#15 OR #16

Note

Cannot limit to English language.

Searches terms with and without hyphen, that is same results for clear-cell as for 'clear cell'.

EMBASE (via Ovid)

EMBASE <1974-7 October 2021>

1	exp renal cell carcinoma/
2	exp kidney tumor/ or exp kidney carcinoma/
3	(renal adj2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
4	(kidney adj1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
5	(clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.

6	(non?clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
7	hypernephroma.tw,kw.
8	hypernephroid carcinoma*.tw,kw.
9	grawitz tumo?r\$.tw,kw.
10	rcc.tw,kw.
11	or/1-10
12	(advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable).tw,kw.
13	metastasis/
14	12 or 13
15	11 and 14
16	(mrcc or arcc).tw,kw.
17	15 or 16
18	randomized controlled trial.sh.
19	controlled clinical trial.sh.
20	(randomized or randomised).ab.
21	placebo.ab.
22	'clinical trial (topic)'/
23	randomly.ab.
24	trial.ti.
25	(randomised or randomized or RCT).ti.
26	or/18-25
27	(random\$ adj sampl\$ adj7 (cross section\$ or questionnaire\$1 or survey\$ or database\$1)).ti,ab. not (comparative study/ or controlled study/ or randomi?ed controlled.ti,ab. or randomly assigned.ti,ab.)
28	Cross-sectional study/ not (randomized controlled trial/ or controlled clinical study/ or controlled study/ or randomi?ed controlled.ti,ab. or control group\$1.ti,ab.)
29	((case adj control\$) and random\$) not randomi?ed controlled).ti,ab.
30	(Systematic review not (trial or study)).ti.
31	(nonrandom\$ not random\$).ti,ab.
32	Random field\$.ti,ab.
33	(random cluster adj3 sampl\$).ti,ab.
34	(review.ab. and review.pt.) not trial.ti.
35	we searched.ab. and (review.ti. or review.pt.)
36	update review.ab.
37	(databases adj4 searched).ab.
38	(rat or rats or mouse or mice or swine or porcine or murine or sheep or lambs or pigs or piglets or rabbit or rabbits or cat or cats or dog or dogs or cattle or bovine or monkey or monkeys or trout or marmoset\$1).ti. and animal experiment/
39	Animal experiment/ not (human experiment/ or human/)

40	or/27–39
41	26 not 40
42	17 and 41
43	limit 42 to embase
44	limit 42 to (conference abstracts and yr='2019 -Current')
45	43 or 44
46	limit 45 to english language

Note

Adapted use of Cochrane Highly Sensitive Search Strategy for identifying controlled trials in EMBASE: (2018 revision) (Note that there is no Cochrane RCT sensitivity and precision maximising filter for EMBASE). Lines #18–25 are translated from the MEDLINE RCT filter above https://training.cochrane.org/handbook/current/chapter-04-technical-supplement-searching-and-selecting-studies#_Ref19198290.

PubMed

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

((('Carcinoma, Renal Cell'[Mesh]) OR ('Kidney Neoplasms'[Mesh]) OR ('renal cancer*[Text Word] OR 'renal carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'renal adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'renal tumor*[Text Word] OR 'renal tumour*[Text Word] OR 'renal malignanc*[Text Word]) OR ('kidney cancer*[Text Word] OR 'kidney carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'kidney adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'kidney tumor*[Text Word] OR 'kidney tumour*[Text Word] OR 'kidney malignanc*[Text Word]) OR ('clear-cell cancer*[Text Word] OR 'clear-cell carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'clear-cell adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'clear-cell tumor*[Text Word] OR 'clear-cell tumour*[Text Word] OR 'clear-cell malignanc*[Text Word]) OR ('non-clear cell cancer*[Text Word] OR 'non-clear cell carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'non-clear cell adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'non-clear cell tumor*[Text Word] OR 'non-clear cell tumour*[Text Word] OR 'non-clear cell malignanc*[Text Word]) OR (hypernephroma[Text Word]) OR (hypernephroid carcinoma*[Text Word]) OR (grawitz tumor*[Text Word] OR grawitz tumour*[Text Word]) OR (rcc[Text Word])) AND ((advanced[Text Word] OR metastatic[Text Word] OR mRCC[Text Word] OR m-RCC[Text Word] OR aRCC[Text Word] OR a-RCC[Text Word] OR 'first-line'[Text Word] OR 'first line'[Text Word] OR metastasize[Text Word] OR metastasis[Text Word] OR metastases[Text Word] OR 'stage iii'[Text Word] OR 'stage 3'[Text Word] OR 'stage 4'[Text Word] OR 'stage iv'[Text Word] OR recurrent[Text Word] OR 'non resectable'[Text Word] OR inoperable[Text Word] OR 'non operable'[Text Word] OR unresectable[Text Word]) OR ('Neoplasm Metastasis'[Mesh])) OR (mrcc[Text Word] OR arcc[Text Word])) AND (((randomized controlled trial [pt] OR 'controlled clinical trial'[Publication Type] OR 'randomized'[Title/Abstract] OR 'randomised' [Title/Abstract] OR 'placebo'[Title/Abstract]) OR ('clinical trials as topic' [mesh: noexp]) OR (randomly [tiab] OR trial [ti] OR RCT [ti])) NOT (animals [mh] NOT humans [mh])))) Filters: English

Note: Cannot search in abstract only field in PubMed [RCT filter].

ClinicalTrials.gov

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/>

((advanced OR metastatic OR secondary OR EXPAND[Concept] 'first-line' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'first line' OR metastasis or mRCC or m-RCC OR aRCC OR a-RCC OR metastasize OR metastasis OR metastases OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage iii' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage 3' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage 4' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage iv' OR recurrent OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non resectable' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-resectable' OR inoperable OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non operable' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-operable' OR unresectable) AND AREA[ConditionSearch] (EXPAND[Concept] 'Renal cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal clear cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal clear-cell' OR

EXPAND[Concept] 'renal non-clear cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal non clear cell' OR RCC OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell malignancy' OR hypernephroma OR EXPAND[Concept] 'hypernephroid carcinoma' OR grawitz) OR (aRCC OR mRCC or a-RCC OR m-RCC)

International Clinical Trials Registry Platform

<https://trialsearch.who.int/>

Search 1:

TITLE: advanced OR metastatic OR metastasis OR metastasize OR secondary OR 'first line' OR 'first-line' recurrent OR non-resectable OR 'non resectable' OR 'stage 3' OR 'stage 4' OR 'stage iii' OR 'stage iv' OR mRCC OR aRCC OR inoperable OR 'non operable' OR unresectable

AND

CONDITION: 'renal cell' OR 'clear-cell' OR 'non-clear cell' OR RCC OR 'kidney cancer*' OR 'renal cancer*' OR 'renal carcinoma*' OR 'renal adenocarcinoma' OR 'renal tumor*' OR 'renal tumour*' OR hypernephroma OR 'hypernephroid carcinoma' OR grawitz

Search 2:

aRCC OR mRCC or a-RCC OR m-RCC

Note: Parentheses (brackets) cannot be used to determine the order in which terms are combined.

Searches automatically include synonyms generated using the UMLS metathesaurus.

Searches are restricted to 256 character spaces, truncated search strategies used.

With/without hyphen retrieves same numbers.

International Health Technology Assessment Database

<https://database.inahta.org/>

((‘Neoplasm Metastasis’[mhe]) OR (advanced OR metastatic OR mRCC OR m-RCC OR aRCC OR a-RCC OR ‘first-line’ OR ‘first line’ OR metastasize OR metastasis OR metastases OR ‘stage iii’ OR ‘stage 3’ OR ‘stage 4’ OR ‘stage iv’ OR recurrent OR ‘non resectable’ OR inoperable OR ‘non operable’ OR unresectable)) AND ((‘renal cancer*’ OR ‘renal carcinoma*’ OR ‘renal adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘renal tumor*’ OR ‘renal tumour*’ OR ‘renal malignanc*’ OR ‘kidney cancer*’ OR ‘kidney carcinoma*’ OR ‘kidney adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘kidney tumor*’ OR ‘kidney tumour*’ OR ‘kidney malignanc*’ OR ‘clear cell cancer*’ OR ‘clear cell carcinoma*’ OR ‘clear cell adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘clear cell tumor*’ OR ‘clear cell tumour*’ OR ‘clear cell malignanc*’ OR ‘non clear cell cancer*’ OR ‘non clear cell carcinoma*’ OR ‘non clear cell adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘non clear cell tumor*’ OR ‘non clear cell tumour*’ OR ‘hypernephroma’ OR ‘hypernephroid carcinoma*’ OR ‘grawitz tumor*’ OR ‘grawitz tumour*’ OR ‘rcc’) OR (‘Kidney Neoplasms’[mhe]) OR (‘Carcinoma, Renal Cell’[mhe])) OR mRCC OR m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC

Cost-effectiveness searches

MEDLINE (via Ovid)

Ovid MEDLINE(R) ALL <1946–7 October 2021>

1	exp Carcinoma, Renal Cell/
2	exp Kidney Neoplasms/
3	(renal adj2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
4	(kidney adj1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
5	(clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
6	(non?clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
7	hypernephroma.tw,kw.
8	hypernephroid carcinoma*.tw,kw.
9	grawitz tumo?r\$.tw,kw.
10	rcc.tw,kw.
11	or/1–10
12	(advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or ‘first-line’ or ‘first line’ or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or ‘stage iii’ or ‘stage 3’ or ‘stage 4’ or ‘stage iv’ or recurrent or ‘non resectable’ or inoperable or ‘non operable’ or unresectable).tw,kw. or Neoplasm Metastasis/
13	11 and 12
14	(mrcc or arcc).tw,kw.
15	13 or 14
16	Economics/
17	exp ‘Costs and Cost Analysis’/
18	Economics, Nursing/
19	Economics, Medical/
20	Economics, Pharmaceutical/
21	exp Economics, Hospital/
22	Economics, Dental/
23	exp ‘Fees and Charges’/
24	exp Budgets/

25	budget*.ti,ab,kf.
26	(economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or price or prices or pricing or pharmaco-economic* or pharmaco-economic* or expenditure or expenditures or expense or expenses or financial or finance or finances or financed).ti,kf.
27	(economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or price or prices or pricing or pharmaco-economic* or pharmaco-economic* or expenditure or expenditures or expense or expenses or financial or finance or finances or financed).ab.
28	(cost* adj2 (effective* or utilit* or benefit* or minimi* or analy* or outcome or outcomes)).ab,kf.
29	(value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab,kf.
30	exp models, economic/
31	economic model*.ab,kf.
32	markov chains/
33	markov.ti,ab,kf.
34	monte carlo method/
35	monte carlo.ti,ab,kf.
36	exp Decision Theory/
37	(decision* adj2 (tree* or analy* or model*)).ti,ab,kf.
38	or/16-37
39	15 and 38
40	limit 39 to yr='2006 -Current'
41	limit 40 to english language

Note

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health Economic evaluation/cost/model filter for MEDLINE Ovid used. https://searchfilters.cadth.ca/list?q=&p=1&ps=20&topic_facet=economic%20evaluations%20%20models%20000000%7CEconomic%20evaluations%20%26%20models.

The Cochrane Library (CENTRAL)

www.cochranelibrary.com/

Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials

Issue 10 of 12 October 2021

#1	MeSH descriptor: [Carcinoma, Renal Cell] explode all trees
#2	MeSH descriptor: [Kidney Neoplasms] explode all trees
#3	((renal NEAR/2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#4	((kidney NEAR/1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#5	((clear-cell NEAR/3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#6	(('non-clear cell' NEAR/3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)):ti,ab,kw
#7	(hypernephroma):ti,ab,kw
#8	(hypernephroid carcinoma*):ti,ab,kw

#9	(grawitz tumo?r*):ti,ab,kw
#10	(rcc):ti,ab,kw
#11	{OR #1-#10}
#12	(advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable):ti,ab,kw
#13	MeSH descriptor: [Neoplasm Metastasis] this term only
#14	#12 OR #13
#15	#11 AND #14
#16	(mrcc or arcc):ti,ab,kw
#17	#15 OR #16
#18	MeSH descriptor: [Economics] this term only
#19	MeSH descriptor: [Costs and Cost Analysis] explode all trees
#20	MeSH descriptor: [Economics, Nursing] this term only
#21	MeSH descriptor: [Economics, Medical] this term only
#22	MeSH descriptor: [Economics, Pharmaceutical] this term only
#23	MeSH descriptor: [Economics, Hospital] explode all trees
#24	MeSH descriptor: [Economics, Dental] this term only
#25	MeSH descriptor: [Fees and Charges] explode all trees
#26	MeSH descriptor: [Budgets] explode all trees
#27	(budget*):ti,ab,kw
#28	(economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or price or prices or pricing or pharmaco-economic* or pharmaco-economic* or expenditure or expenditures or expense or expenses or financial or finance or finances or financed):ti,kw
#29	(economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or price or prices or pricing or pharmaco-economic* or pharmaco-economic* or expenditure or expenditures or expense or expenses or financial or finance or finances or financed):ab
#30	(cost* NEAR/2 (effective* or utilit* or benefit* or minimi* or analy* or outcome or outcomes)):ab,kw
#31	((value NEAR/2 (money or monetary))):ti,ab,kw
#32	MeSH descriptor: [Models, Economic] explode all trees
#33	(economic model*):ti,ab,kw
#34	MeSH descriptor: [Markov Chains] this term only
#35	(markov):ti,ab,kw
#36	MeSH descriptor: [Monte Carlo Method] this term only
#37	(monte carlo):ti,ab,kw
#38	MeSH descriptor: [Decision Theory] explode all trees
#39	((decision* NEAR/2 (tree* or analy* or model*))):ti,ab,kw
#40	{OR #18-#39}
#41	#17 AND #40

Note

Cannot limit to English Language.

EMBASE (via Ovid)

EMBASE <1974–7 October 2021>

1	exp renal cell carcinoma/
2	exp kidney tumor/ or exp kidney carcinoma/
3	(renal adj2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
4	(kidney adj1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)). tw,kw.
5	(clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)). tw,kw.
6	(non?clear?cell adj3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo?r* or malignanc*)).tw,kw.
7	hypernephroma.tw,kw.
8	hypernephroid carcinoma*.tw,kw.
9	grawitz tumo?r\$.tw,kw.
10	rcc.tw,kw.
11	or/1–10
12	(advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable).tw,kw.
13	metastasis/
14	12 or 13
15	11 and 14
16	(mrcc or arcc).tw,kw.
17	15 or 16
18	Economics/
19	Cost/
20	exp Health Economics/
21	Budget/
22	budget*.ti,ab,kw.
23	(economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or price or prices or pricing or pharma- coeconomic* or pharmaco-economic* or expenditure or expenditures or expense or expenses or financial or finance or finances or financed).ti,kw.
24	(economic* or cost or costs or costly or costing or price or prices or pricing or pharma- coeconomic* or pharmaco-economic* or expenditure or expenditures or expense or expenses or financial or finance or finances or financed).ab.
25	(cost* adj2 (effective* or utilit* or benefit* or minimi* or analy* or outcome or out- comes)).ab,kw.
26	(value adj2 (money or monetary)).ti,ab,kw.
27	Statistical Model/
28	economic model*.ab,kw.
29	Probability/
30	markov.ti,ab,kw.

31	monte carlo method/
32	monte carlo.ti,ab,kw.
33	Decision Theory/
34	Decision Tree/
35	(decision* adj2 (tree* or analy* or model*)).ti,ab,kw.
36	or/18-35
37	15 and 36
38	limit 37 to embase
39	limit 37 to (conference abstract status and yr='2019 -Current')
40	38 or 39
41	limit 40 to yr='2006 -Current'
42	limit 41 to english language

Note

Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health Economic evaluation/cost/model filter for EMBASE Ovid used. https://searchfilters.cadth.ca/list?q=&p=1&ps=20&topic_facet=economic%20evaluations%20%20models%2000000%7CEconomic%20evaluations%20%26%20models.

PubMed

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

((('carcinoma, renal cell'[MeSH Terms] OR 'Kidney Neoplasms'[MeSH Terms] OR ('renal cancer*[Text Word] OR 'renal carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'renal adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'renal tumor*[Text Word] OR 'renal tumour*[Text Word] OR 'renal malignanc*[Text Word]) OR ('kidney cancer*[Text Word] OR 'kidney carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'kidney adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'kidney tumor*[Text Word] OR 'kidney tumour*[Text Word] OR 'kidney malignanc*[Text Word]) OR ('clear cell cancer*[Text Word] OR 'clear cell carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'clear cell adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'clear cell tumor*[Text Word] OR 'clear cell tumour*[Text Word] OR 'clear cell malignanc*[Text Word]) OR ('non clear cell cancer*[Text Word] OR 'non clear cell carcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'non clear cell adenocarcinoma*[Text Word] OR 'non clear cell tumor*[Text Word] OR 'non clear cell tumour*[Text Word]) OR 'hypernephroma'[Text Word] OR 'hypernephroid carcinoma*[Text Word] OR ('grawitz tumor*[Text Word] OR 'grawitz tumour*[Text Word]) OR 'rcc'[Text Word]) AND ('advanced'[Text Word] OR 'metastatic'[Text Word] OR 'mRCC'[Text Word] OR 'm-RCC'[Text Word] OR 'aRCC'[Text Word] OR 'a-RCC'[Text Word] OR 'first-line'[Text Word] OR 'first line'[Text Word] OR 'metastasize'[Text Word] OR 'metastasis'[Text Word] OR 'metastases'[Text Word] OR 'stage iii'[Text Word] OR 'stage 3'[Text Word] OR 'stage 4'[Text Word] OR 'stage iv'[Text Word] OR 'recurrent'[Text Word] OR 'non resectable'[Text Word] OR 'inoperable'[Text Word] OR 'non operable'[Text Word] OR 'unresectable'[Text Word] OR 'Neoplasm Metastasis'[MeSH Terms])) AND ('Economics' OR 'Costs and Cost Analysis'[mh] OR 'Economics, Nursing'[mh] OR 'Economics, Medical'[mh] OR 'Economics, Pharmaceutical'[mh] OR 'Economics, Hospital'[mh] OR 'Economics, Dental'[mh] OR 'Fees and Charges'[mh] OR 'Budgets'[mh] OR budget*[tiab] OR economic*[tiab] OR cost[tiab] OR costs[tiab] OR costly[tiab] OR costing[tiab] OR price[tiab] OR prices[tiab] OR pricing[tiab] OR pharmaco-economic*[tiab] OR pharmaco-economic*[tiab] OR expenditure[tiab] OR expenditures[tiab] OR expense[tiab] OR expenses[tiab] OR financial[tiab] OR finance[tiab] OR finances[tiab] OR financed[tiab] OR value for money[tiab] OR monetary value*[tiab] OR 'models, economic'[mh] OR economic model*[tiab] OR 'markov chains'[mh] OR markov[tiab] OR 'monte carlo method'[mh] OR monte carlo[tiab] OR 'Decision Theory'[mh] OR decision tree*[tiab] OR decision analy*[tiab] OR decision model*[tiab])) AND ((english[Filter]) AND (2006:2021[pdat]))))

NHS Economic Evaluation Database via Centre for Reviews and Dissemination
www.crd.york.ac.uk/CRDWeb/

- 1 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Carcinoma, Renal Cell EXPLODE ALL TREES
- 2 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Kidney Neoplasms EXPLODE ALL TREES
- 3 ('renal cancer*')
- 4 ('renal carcinoma*')
- 5 ('renal adenocarcinoma*')
- 6 ('renal tumor*')
- 7 ('renal tumour*')
- 8 ('renal malignanc*')
- 9 ('kidney cancer*')
- 10 ('kidney carcinoma*')
- 11 ('kidney adenocarcinoma*')
- 12 ('kidney tumor*')
- 13 ('kidney tumour*')
- 14 ('kidney malignanc*')
- 15 ('clear-cell cancer*')
- 16 ('clear-cell carcinoma*')
- 17 ('clear-cell adenocarcinoma*')
- 18 ('clear-cell tumor*')
- 19 ('clear-cell tumour*')
- 20 ('clear-cell malignanc*')
- 21 ('non-clear cell cancer*')
- 22 ('non-clear cell carcinoma*')
- 23 ('non-clear cell adenocarcinoma*')
- 24 ('non-clear cell tumor*')
- 25 ('non-clear cell tumour*')
- 26 ('non-clear cell malignanc*')
- 27 (hypernephroma)
- 28 (hypernephroid carcinoma*)
- 29 (grawitz tumor*)
- 30 (grawitz tumour*)
- 31 (rcc)
- 32 #1 OR #2 OR #3 OR #4 OR #5 OR #6 OR #7 OR #8 OR #9 OR #10 OR #11 OR #12 OR #13 OR #14 OR #15 OR #16 OR #17 OR #18 OR #19 OR #20 OR #21 OR #22 OR #23 OR #24 OR #25 OR #26 OR #27 OR #28 OR #29 OR #30 OR #31
- 33 (advanced)
- 34 (metastatic)
- 35 (mRCC)
- 36 (m-RCC)
- 37 (aRCC)
- 38 (a-RCC)
- 39 ('first-line' or 'first line')
- 40 (metastasize)
- 41 (metastasis)
- 42 (metastases)
- 43 ('stage iii')
- 44 ('stage 3')
- 45 ('stage 4')
- 46 ('stage iv')
- 47 (recurrent)
- 48 ('non resectable')
- 49 (inoperable)

- 50 ('non operable')
- 51 (unresectable)
- 52 MeSH DESCRIPTOR Neoplasm Metastasis EXPLODE ALL TREES
- 53 #33 OR #34 OR #35 OR #36 OR #37 OR #38 OR #39 OR #40 OR #41 OR #42 OR #43 OR #44
OR #45 OR #46 OR #47 OR #48 OR #49 OR #50 OR #51 OR #52
- 54 #32 AND #53
- 55 (mrcc)
- 56 (m-rcc)
- 57 (arcc)
- 58 (a-rcc)
- 59 #55 OR #56 OR #57 OR #58
- 60 #54 OR #59

EconLit (via EBSCOhost)

- S1 TI ((renal N2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR AB ((renal N2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR SU ((renal N2 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)))
- S2 TI ((kidney N1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)) OR AB ((kidney N1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)) OR SU ((kidney N1 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)))
- S3 TI ((clear-cell N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR AB ((clear-cell N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR SU ((clear-cell N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)))
- S4 TI (('clear cell' N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR AB (('clear cell' N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR SU (('clear cell' N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)))
- S5 TI ((non-clear-cell N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR AB ((non-clear-cell N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR SU ((non-clear-cell N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)))
- S6 TI (('non clear cell' N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR AB (('non clear cell' N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*))) OR SU (('non clear cell' N3 (cancer* or carcinoma* or adenocarcinoma* or tumo#r* or malignanc*)))
- S7 TI hypernephroma OR AB hypernephroma OR SU hypernephroma
- S8 TI 'hypernephroid carcinoma*' OR AB 'hypernephroid carcinoma*' OR SU 'hypernephroid carcinoma*'
- S9 TI grawitz tumo#r* OR AB grawitz tumo#r* OR SU grawitz tumo#r*
- S10 TI rcc OR AB rcc OR SU rcc
- S11 S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8 OR S9 OR S10
- S12 TI (advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable) OR AB (advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable) OR SU (advanced or metastatic or mRCC or m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC or 'first-line' or 'first line' or metastasize or metastasis or metastases or 'stage iii' or 'stage 3' or 'stage 4' or 'stage iv' or recurrent or 'non resectable' or inoperable or 'non operable' or unresectable)
- S13 S11 AND S12
- S14 TI (mRCC OR m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC) OR AB (mRCC OR m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC) OR SU (mRCC OR m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC)
- S15 S13 OR S14
- S16 S13 OR S14

Narrow by Language: - English, Published: 20060101-20211231

CEA Registry

<https://cevr.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/databases/cea-registry>

advanced renal cell

metastatic renal cell

advanced kidney

metastatic kidney

mRCC

aRCC

first-line renal cell

first-line kidney

first line renal cell

first line kidney

lenvatinib

sunitinib

pazopanib

tivozanib

cabozantinib

nivolumab

Note: Basic search only with free version of CEA Registry. No Boolean. No download function. Screened on website

ClinicalTrials.gov

<https://clinicaltrials.gov/>

((advanced OR metastatic OR secondary OR EXPAND[Concept] 'first-line' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'first line' OR metastasis or mRCC or m-RCC OR aRCC OR a-RCC OR metastasize OR metastasis OR metastases OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage iii' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage 3' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage 4' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'stage iv' OR recurrent OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non resectable' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-resectable' OR inoperable OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non operable' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-operable' OR unresectable) AND AREA[ConditionSearch] (EXPAND[Concept] 'Renal cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal clear cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal clear-cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal non-clear cell' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal non clear cell' OR RCC OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'renal malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney

tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'kidney malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear-cell malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'clear cell malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell cancer' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell carcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell adenocarcinoma' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell tumor' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell tumour' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non-clear cell malignancy' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'non clear cell malignancy' OR hypernephroma OR EXPAND[Concept] 'hypernephroid carcinoma' OR grawitz)) OR (aRCC OR mRCC or a-RCC OR m-RCC)) AND (economic OR economics OR cost OR costs OR costly OR costing OR budget OR price OR prices OR pricing OR pharmacoconomics OR pharmaco-economics OR expenditure OR expenditures OR expense OR expenses OR financial OR finance OR finances OR financed OR EXPAND[Concept] 'value for money' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'monetary value' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'economic model' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'economic models' OR markov OR monte carlo OR EXPAND[Concept] 'Decision Theory' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'decision tree' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'decision analysis' OR EXPAND[Concept] 'decision model')

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<https://trialsearch.who.int/>

Search 1:

TITLE: (economic OR economics OR cost OR costs OR costly OR costing OR budget OR price OR prices OR pricing OR pharmacoconomics OR pharmaco-economics OR expenditure OR expenditures OR expense OR expenses OR financial OR finance OR finances OR financed OR 'value for money' OR 'monetary value' OR 'economic model' OR 'economic models' OR markov OR monte carlo OR 'Decision Theory' OR decision tree OR decision analysis OR decision model)

AND

CONDITION: 'renal cell' OR 'clear-cell' OR 'clear cell' OR RCC OR 'kidney cancer*' OR 'renal cancer*' OR 'renal carcinoma*' OR 'renal adenocarcinoma' OR 'renal tumor*' OR 'renal tumour*' OR hypernephroma OR 'hypernephroid carcinoma' OR grawitz

Search 2:

TITLE: (economic OR economics OR cost OR costs OR costly OR costing OR budget OR price OR prices OR pricing OR pharmacoconomics OR pharmaco-economics OR expenditure OR expenditures OR expense OR expenses OR financial OR finance OR finances OR financed OR 'value for money' OR 'monetary value' OR 'economic model' OR 'economic models' OR markov OR monte carlo OR 'Decision Theory' OR decision tree OR decision analysis OR decision model)

AND

CONDITION: (aRCC OR mRCC or a-RCC OR m-RCC)

Note: Limited to 2006 onwards

Parentheses (brackets) cannot be used to determine the order in which terms are combined.

Searches automatically include synonyms generated using the UMLS metathesaurus.

Searches are restricted to 256 character spaces per line – truncated strategies used

International Health Technology Assessment Database

<https://database.inahta.org/>

((‘Neoplasm Metastasis’[mhe]) OR (advanced OR metastatic OR mRCC OR m-RCC OR aRCC OR a-RCC OR ‘first-line’ OR ‘first line’ OR metastasize OR metastasis OR metastases OR ‘stage iii’ OR ‘stage 3’ OR ‘stage 4’ OR ‘stage iv’ OR recurrent OR ‘non resectable’ OR inoperable OR ‘non operable’ OR unresectable)) AND ((‘renal cancer*’ OR ‘renal carcinoma*’ OR ‘renal adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘renal tumor*’ OR ‘renal tumour*’ OR ‘renal malignanc*’ OR ‘kidney cancer*’ OR ‘kidney carcinoma*’ OR ‘kidney adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘kidney tumor*’ OR ‘kidney tumour*’ OR ‘kidney malignanc*’ OR ‘clear cell cancer*’ OR ‘clear cell carcinoma*’ OR ‘clear cell adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘clear cell tumor*’ OR ‘clear cell tumour*’ OR ‘clear cell malignanc*’ OR ‘non clear cell cancer*’ OR ‘non clear cell carcinoma*’ OR ‘non clear cell adenocarcinoma*’ OR ‘non clear cell tumor*’ OR ‘non clear cell tumour*’ OR ‘hypernephroma’ OR ‘hypernephroid carcinoma*’ OR ‘grawitz tumor*’ OR ‘grawitz tumour*’ OR ‘rcc’) OR (‘Kidney Neoplasms’[mhe]) OR (‘Carcinoma, Renal Cell’[mhe])) OR mRCC OR m-RCC or aRCC or a-RCC

Summary of search results

A summary of the results from the AG searches is presented in [Table 52](#).

TABLE 52 Summary of search results

Database	Date	Clinical No date (+ English language)	Economics 2006- (+ English language)
MEDLINE	11 October 2021	2565	449
EMBASE	11 October 2021	3163	1625
PubMed	11 October 2021	2628	387
Cochrane (CENTRAL) ^a	11 October 2021	2937	109
ClinicalTrials.gov ^{a,b}	11 October 2021	1770	54
ICTRP	11 October 2021	1383	9
NHS EED	11 October 2021	-	44
EconLit	11 October 2021	-	26
International Health Technology Assessment Database	11 October 2021	58	43
Total in Endnote (excluding EU-CTR, CEA, confs)		14,504	2746
Duplicates removed in Endnote		6168	843
Total uploaded to Covidence		8336	1903
Duplicates in removed in Covidence		50	4
Total to screen in Covidence		8286	1899

EU-CTR, European Union Clinical Trials Register.

a Cannot limit to English language.

b Cannot limit by date.

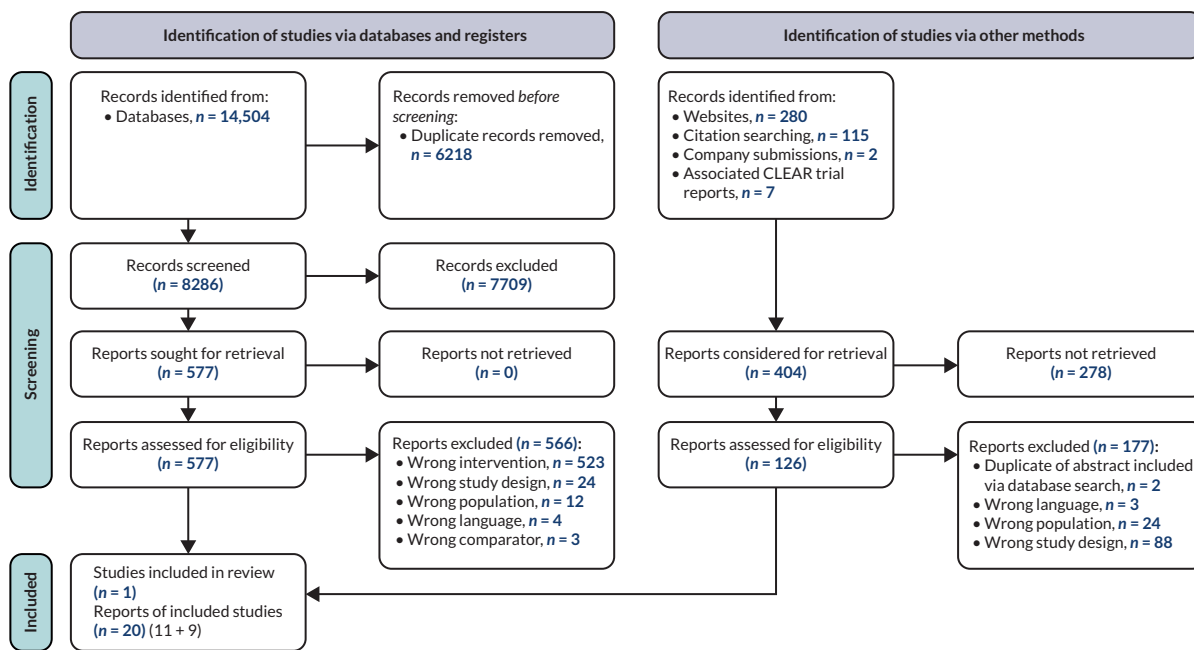


FIGURE 2 PRISMA flow diagram: direct clinical effectiveness evidence. (Reports exclude information provided by Eisai and MSD as part of the NICE appraisal clarification process).

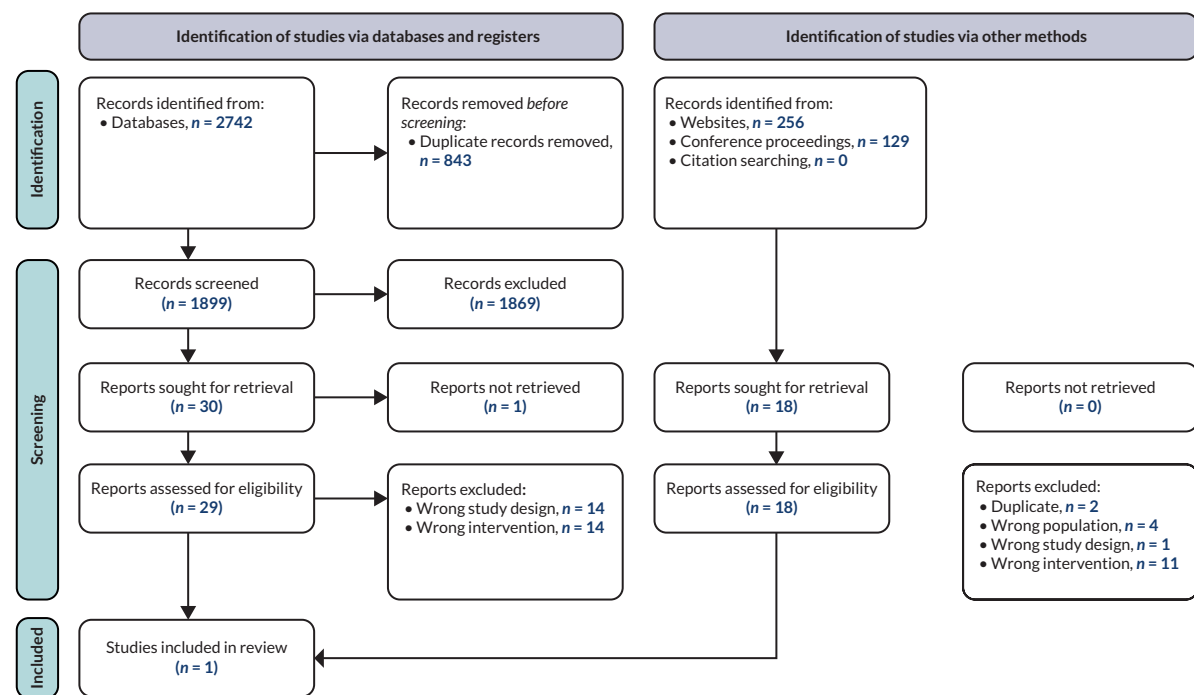


FIGURE 3 PRISMA 2020 flow diagram for cost-effectiveness systematic review.

Appendix 3 Assessment group quality assessment and assessment of company statistical approaches for deriving clinical effectiveness evidence

Quality assessment of CLEAR trial

TABLE 53 Assessment group quality assessment of the CLEAR trial

Quality assessment item	AG assessment
Was the method used to assign participants to treatment arms really random?	✓
Was the allocation of treatment concealed?	✓
Was the number of participants randomised stated?	✓
Were details of baseline comparability presented in terms of prognostic factors?	✓
Was baseline comparability achieved in terms of prognostic factors?	✓
Were the eligibility criteria for study entry specified?	✓
Were any co-interventions identified that may influence the outcomes for each group?	×
Were the outcome assessors blinded to the treatment allocation?	✓
Were the individuals administering the intervention blinded to treatment allocation?	×
Were the participants receiving the intervention blinded to treatment allocation?	× ^a
Was the success of the blinding procedure assessed?	NA
Were at least 80% of the participants included in the randomisation process followed up in the final analysis?	✓
Were the reasons for patient withdrawals stated?	✓
Was an intention to treat analysis included?	✓
Is there any evidence that more outcomes were measured than were reported?	×

✓, yes (item properly addressed); ×, no (item not properly addressed); NA, not applicable.

^a The CLEAR trial was an open-label trial; however, blinded independent review of radiologic outcomes was conducted.

Statistical approach followed for analysis of CLEAR trial data

Information about the statistical approach followed by the company to analyse the CLEAR trial data has been extracted from the Eisai CS,¹ the CSR of the IA3 data cut-off,⁷⁰ the HRQoL outcomes study report (version 1, dated 13 February 2021)⁷² and the HRQoL outcomes statistical analysis plan (HRQoL SAP version 2.1, dated 5 October 2020),⁶⁸ the trial protocol (Amendment 7, dated 6 August 2020)⁷³ and the TSAP (version 3, dated 14 August 2020),⁷⁴ which was available as online supplementary documents to the published paper of the CLEAR trial.⁶⁶ A summary of the AG checks of the preplanned statistical approach for the CLEAR trial is provided in [Table 54](#).

TABLE 54 Assessment group assessment of statistical approaches used in the CLEAR trial

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Were all analysis populations clearly defined and prespecified?	Yes	Analysis populations of the CLEAR trial are the ITT population (FAS), PP analysis set and the safety analysis set [Eisai CS ¹ (see section 4.4)].	The AG is satisfied that the CLEAR trial analysis populations are clearly defined and prespecified (TSAP, section 5.2.1).
Was an appropriate trial design and sample size calculation prespecified?	Yes	The CLEAR trial sample size and power calculations are prespecified (TSAP, section 4). Five interim analyses (IA1–IA5) were preplanned with a Lan-DeMets O'Brien-Fleming alpha spending function used to determine the threshold for statistical significance for each analysis (TSAP, section 6). Multiplicity adjustments for testing the superiority of both lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and lenvatinib plus everolimus compared to sunitinib are also prespecified (TSAP, section 5.3.3). Results of preplanned IA3 data cut-off (28 August 2020) are presented in the Eisai CS ¹ (section 4.6). The IA3 data cut-off is the final planned analysis of PFS and served as the primary analysis of OS as the superiority of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab over sunitinib was demonstrated. ⁷¹ Updated OS analyses requested by the EMA (data cut-off date 31 March 2021) are also presented [Eisai CS ¹ (see section 4.6.2.2)].	The AG is satisfied that the CLEAR trial prespecified sample size calculation and statistical power calculations are appropriate and were correctly implemented.
Were all protocol amendments made prior to analysis?	Yes	A summary of the 'Revision History' is provided in the latest version of the protocol (Amendment 7, 6 August 2020). Most amendments relate to administrative changes or minor clarifications of wording. Amendments 4 and 6 include modifications to the sample size and power calculations, interim analyses and multiplicity adjustments following IA1 and IA2.	The AG is satisfied that all protocol amendments were made prior to the IA3 data cut-off and were appropriate.
Were all primary and secondary efficacy outcomes predefined and analysed appropriately?	Yes	The CLEAR trial primary efficacy outcome is BICR-assessed PFS using FDA censoring rules. Key secondary efficacy outcomes are BICR-assessed PFS using EMA censoring rules, OS and BICR-assessed ORR. Definitions and statistical analysis approaches for primary and secondary efficacy outcomes are outlined in the Eisai CS ¹ (appendix L3 and table 99) and clinical effectiveness results are presented for the ITT population [Eisai CS ¹ (see section 4.6 and appendices M3, M4 and M6)]. A complete list of primary, secondary and exploratory end points and statistical analysis approaches is prespecified [TSAP (section 5.1 and section 5.4)].	The AG is satisfied that efficacy outcomes were clearly defined, pre-specified, analysed appropriately, and that relevant primary and secondary efficacy outcomes are presented.
Was the analysis approach for PROs appropriate and prespecified?	Yes	PROs presented in the Eisai CS ¹ (appendix M3) and in the HRQoL study report were assessed in the HRQoL analysis set (i.e. all patients who had any HRQoL data and received at least one dose of study treatment). PROs measured were changes from baseline FKSI-DRS, EORTC QLQ-C30 and EQ-5D-3L scores, analysed using an MMRM approach and time to deterioration analysed using K-M methods and Cox PH models.	The AG is satisfied that the PRO outcome definitions and analysis approaches were prespecified (HRQoL SAP sections 2–3) and are appropriate.

TABLE 54 Assessment group assessment of statistical approaches used in the CLEAR trial (continued)

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Was the analysis approach for AEs appropriate and prespecified?	Partly	<p>AEs were assessed and graded using the NCI CTCAE version 4.03 classification system (Protocol, section 9.5.1.4) within the safety analysis population [all randomised patients who received at least one dose of study medication (TSAP, section 5.2.1)]. AEs are presented as numbers and percentages of patients experiencing events.</p> <p>An overview of AEs, SAEs, AEs leading to study drug discontinuation, dose modification or death, TEAEs by NCI CTCAE grade and AESIs occurring in the CLEAR trial are presented in the Eisai CS¹ (section 4.8 and appendix F).</p> <p>RDs and 95% CIs are presented comparing lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib for some of the AE summaries in the Eisai CS¹ (section 4.8), computed using the Miettinen and Nurminen method.¹²⁸ Additional summary tables of safety data in the CLEAR trial are provided in the CSR (section 12.2 and section 12.3).</p>	<p>The AG is satisfied that the analysis approach for AEs was prespecified (TSAP, section 5.6.2) and is appropriate.</p> <p>The AG notes that the comparative analyses of AEs were not prespecified in the TSAP and is uncertain why these comparisons are not computed for all AE summaries.</p>
Were modelling assumptions (e.g. PHs) assessed?	Yes	<p>The PH assumption for BICR-assessed PFS and OS were assessed by plotting the log cumulative hazard vs. log(time), by using the Grambsch–Therneau test⁸⁶ of Schoenfeld’s residuals [Eisai CS¹ (section 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and Eisai response to the AG clarification letter (questions A1 and A2)].</p> <p>On the basis of these assessments, Eisai consider that over the observed period, the assumption of PH was not violated for BICR-assessed PFS but was violated for the updated analyses of OS (unadjusted for treatment crossover).</p>	The AG agrees with the Eisai assessments of the PH assumption.
Was a suitable approach employed for handling missing data?	Yes	<p>Missing data were handled with censoring rules for time-to-event outcomes (TSAP, section 5.4.1 and table 4) or general rules for handling other missing data (TSAP, section 5.3.5).</p>	The AG is satisfied that all prespecified methods for handling missing data are appropriate.
Were all subgroup and sensitivity analyses prespecified?	Yes	<p>Subgroup analyses were prespecified for BICR-assessed PFS, OS and BICR-assessed ORR in the ITT population (TSAP, section 5.3.4) and presented in the Eisai CS¹ (appendix E).</p> <p>Sensitivity analyses were prespecified for BICR-assessed PFS in the ITT population (TSAP, section 5.4.1) and BICR-assessed PFS results in the PP analysis set are presented as a sensitivity analysis [Eisai CS¹ (see appendices M1 and M2)].</p>	The AG is satisfied that all relevant, prespecified subgroup analyses and sensitivity analyses are presented.

RD, risk difference; SAP, statistical analysis plan.

Source

Extracted from the Eisai CS,¹ the CSR of the IA3 data cut-off,⁷⁰ the most recent version of the trial protocol and the TSAP,⁶⁶ Eisai response to the AG clarification letter, and includes AG comment.

Statistical approach followed for treatment-switching analyses of OS in CLEAR trial

CLEAR trial OS data were confounded due to patients in both the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and the sunitinib arm receiving subsequent systemic anticancer medication during OS follow-up. Therefore, Eisai performed treatment-switching analyses. A summary and AG critique of the Eisai approach to the treatment-switching analyses used to assess OS in the CLEAR trial are provided in [Table 55](#).

TABLE 55 Assessment group summary and critique of statistical approaches used for treatment-switching analyses of OS in the CLEAR trial

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Were treatment switchers clearly defined?	Yes	Treatment-switching analyses were conducted to adjust for receiving any subsequent anticancer therapy in the CLEAR trial; 132 (37.2%) of 355 patients in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and 221 (61.9%) of 357 patients in the sunitinib arm had received any subsequent systemic anticancer medication up to the data cut-off date (31 March 2021) of the updated OS analyses [Eisai CS ¹ (see table 15)].	The AG considers that the company has clearly defined which patients were included in the treatment-switching analyses.
Was an appropriate method used?	Yes	<p>Eisai used two different adjustment methods, as described in DSU TSD 16:⁸⁵ the two-stage estimation method and the IPCW method. Eisai preferred the two-stage estimation method over the IPCW method due to the 'capability of the two-stage approach to generate two counterfactual scenarios where (1) no patients receive subsequent treatment and (2) all patients receive subsequent treatment and combine both of these estimates to generate additional scenarios with varying proportions of patients receiving subsequent treatment to more closely reflect real-world practice' [Eisai CS¹ (see section 4.6.3.2)].</p> <p>In the first stage of the two-stage estimation method, Eisai used log-normal, log-logistic and Weibull models to estimate the acceleration factor (i.e. the effect of subsequent anticancer medication on OS in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib arms). The company selected the log-normal model as the best fitting model according to AIC and BIC statistics, but presented adjusted OS results for all three accelerated failure time models [Eisai CS¹ (see table 16)]. Eisai implemented the two-stage method with and without re-censoring, and adjusting for treatment arm and (1) stratification factors of the CLEAR trial (geographic region and MSKCC prognostic groups) or (2) selected baseline covariates (IMDC prognostic risk subgroup, number of metastatic organs/sites involved, and prior nephrectomy). Eisai presented adjusted OS results with and without re-censoring and for both sets of adjustment factors [Eisai CS¹ (see table 16)].</p>	<p>The AG agrees that the two-stage method is appropriate and that the company has implemented the two-stage method correctly [Eisai CS¹ (section 4.6.3.2)].</p> <p>The AG also considers that methods to select an accelerated failure time model in the first stage and adjustment factors considered within the two-stage estimation are appropriate. The AG also considers that it was appropriate for the company to present adjusted OS HRs from all models considered.</p> <p>Given the limited OS data available from the CLEAR trial, the AG considers that the two-stage method adjusted OS HRs without re-censoring are the most appropriate for decision making. However, the AG notes that two-stage adjusted OS HRs without re-censoring may be at risk of bias due to informative censoring if any prognostic factors in the CLEAR trial are related to the censoring mechanism.</p>
Were modelling assumptions assessed and shown to be valid?	Yes	Assessment of the 'no unmeasured confounders' for the two-stage method and the IPCW method were presented in an additional report of the OS treatment switching analyses (see Assessment group study selection and inclusion criteria). ⁷¹ The two-stage method requires the identification of a 'secondary baseline', defined by the company as the date of study treatment discontinuation for the CLEAR trial, ⁷¹ and requires the assumption that all patients are in a similar clinical condition (e.g. disease stage) at the time of secondary baseline. Patients discontinued study treatments due to disease progression, AEs and patient choice/withdrawal of consent (CSR, table 2).	<p>The AG agrees with the company that assumption of no unmeasured confounders may not be met fully but the impact of any violation of this assumption is likely to be small.</p> <p>The AG considers that patients who have discontinued treatment due to disease progression cannot be considered to be in a similar clinical condition to patients who have discontinued treatment due to AEs or due to personal choice. However, the impact of the violation of this assumption on the adjusted OS HRs is unknown.</p> <p>Due to the similarity in the durations of time on treatment and time from randomisation to first subsequent anticancer therapy in the CLEAR trial, the AG considers that it is unlikely that any time-dependent confounding could have occurred.</p>

continued

TABLE 55 Assessment group summary and critique of statistical approaches used for treatment-switching analyses of OS in the CLEAR trial (*continued*)

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Were results presented appropriately?	Yes	<p>The two-stage method also requires the strong assumption that there is no time-dependent confounding between the time of secondary baseline and the time of treatment switch (i.e. the date that a subsequent anticancer therapy was started). The median (range) duration of treatment in the CLEAR trial is 17.0 (0.1–39.1) months in the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab arm and 7.8 (0.1–40.0) months in the sunitinib arm and the median (range) time from randomisation to first subsequent anticancer therapy in the CLEAR trial also differed by treatment [Eisai CS¹ (see table 16)].</p> <p>The assumptions that patients are in a similar condition at the time of secondary baseline and no time-dependent confounding were not assessed by the company within the CS or the additional report of the OS treatment-switching analyses.⁷¹</p> <p>Numbers of OS events and adjusted OS HRs with 95% CIs are presented for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. sunitinib for the CLEAR trial ITT population for all treatment-switching analyses conducted: no treatment-switching adjustment (i.e. unadjusted), and two-stage estimation method with log-normal, log-logistic and Weibull AFs, with and without re-censoring and with adjustment for stratification factors only or with adjustment for selected baseline covariates [Eisai CS¹ (see table 16)].</p> <p>95% CIs of adjusted median OS and HRs were estimated using bootstrapping to account for uncertainty introduced into the OS estimates following treatment-switching adjustments.</p> <p>Results of the IPCW adjustment method are presented in an additional report of the OS treatment-switching analyses⁷¹ (see Assessment group summary and critique of companies' economic analyses).</p>	The AG considers that all relevant results are presented appropriately.

IPCW, inverse probability of censoring weights.

Source

Extracted from the Eisai CS,¹ (see section 4.6.3.2 and table 16), the CSR of the IA3 data cut-off,⁷⁰ additional report of the OS treatment-switching analyses,⁷¹ DSU TSD 16,⁸⁵ and includes AG comment.

AG assessment of the statistical approach to the companies' NMA

Summaries and AG critiques of the Eisai and MSD NMA statistical approaches are provided in [Tables 56](#) and [57](#) respectively.

TABLE 56 Assessment group summary and critique of the NMA statistical approaches used by Eisai

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Were NMAs conducted for all relevant outcomes?	Yes	Eisai presented NMAs for PFS (according to FDA and EMA censoring rules), OS, ORR, CR, all-cause Grade \geq 3 AEs and treatment discontinuation due to AEs for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and separately by IMDC or MSKCC risk subgroups where data were available and the all-risk population [Eisai CS ¹ (section 4.7 and appendices D 3.1–D 3.7)].	Indirect evidence is presented for all relevant outcomes for all relevant patient populations and subgroups.
Were the networks of comparators appropriate?	Partly	<p>The Eisai search process identified 36 trials that met the SLR inclusion criteria. Following a feasibility assessment, Eisai excluded 27 trials [Eisai CS¹ (appendix D.2.1.2)] and included nine trials^{27,66,97–99,101–104} in at least one of their NMAs. Eisai NMAs of PFS included [Eisai CS¹ (appendix D.3.2)]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib and cabozantinib (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib (favourable-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib, sorafenib and interferon-alpha (all-risk population). <p>Eisai NMAs of OS included [Eisai CS¹ (appendix D.3.1)]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib and cabozantinib (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib (favourable-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib and interferon-alpha (all-risk population). <p>Eisai NMAs of ORR, CR, all-cause Grade \geq 3 AEs and treatment discontinuation due to AEs included [Eisai CS¹ (appendices D.3.3–D.3.7)]:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib and cabozantinib (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib, sorafenib and interferon-alpha (all-risk population). 	<p>No comparative evidence is presented in the Eisai CS¹ for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. Therefore, the AG has performed NMAs of PFS, OS and ORR to include all relevant comparators by IMDC risk subgroup (see Results of the assessment group network meta-analyses).</p> <p>The AG acknowledges that as it is not possible to connect tivozanib to the network of comparators for the all-risk population for OS, ORR or Grade \geq 3 AEs, no indirect comparisons of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with tivozanib can be made for OS, ORR or Grade \geq 3 AEs.</p>

TABLE 56 Assessment group summary and critique of the NMA statistical approaches used by Eisai (*continued*)

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Were NMA methods appropriate?	Yes	<p>The methods used in the Eisai NMAs are described in the Eisai CS¹ (appendices D.2.2 and D.2.3) and Eisai response to the AG clarification letter (question A3).</p> <p>Eisai performed NMAs in a Bayesian framework using both FE and RE models. For PFS and OS, the company conducted NMAs estimating constant HRs, as well as first-order and second-order FP NMAs (with first- and second-order parameter values ranging from -3 to 3) according to the methods of Jansen,¹²⁹ to estimate time-varying HRs due to PH assumption violation within the included trials. Model fit was assessed according to the DIC statistic and clinical plausibility of estimates.</p> <p>Although Eisai considered that due to heterogeneity of the evidence base, RE models would be more clinically plausible, as a small number of trials were included in the NMAs with few or no data present to estimate heterogeneity variance (appendix D.2.2), FE models were presented and selected as the base case for all NMAs.</p>	<p>The AG considers that the Bayesian HR NMAs for all outcomes as described in appendix D.2.2 and that the FP NMAs for PFS and OS using the methods described by Jansen¹²⁹ have been correctly implemented.</p> <p>The AG agrees with Eisai that due to the heterogeneity in the evidence base, RE models are more clinically plausible than FE models (see Assessment group summary of patient and trial characteristics and assessment of heterogeneity) but acknowledges the instability of results of RE NMAs, due to the small number of included trials and sparse data. However, it should be noted when interpreting FE NMA results that FE NMAs do not take account of observed heterogeneity between the trials.</p>
Was inconsistency appropriately assessed in the NMAs?	Yes	<p>Eisai assessed inconsistency 'locally' within the closed loops including sunitinib, sorafenib, pazopanib, tivozanib, interferon-alpha and sorafenib in the all-risk population networks of PFS, ORR, CR, all-cause Grade ≥ 3 AEs and treatment discontinuation due to AEs using methods described by Bucher¹³⁰ to compare direct and indirect evidence. Statistically significant inconsistency between the studies providing direct and indirect comparisons between sunitinib and sorafenib was observed for PFS and treatment discontinuation due to AEs. Inconsistency could not be statistically assessed within the OS NMAs or the NMAs within IMDC or MSKCC risk subgroups due to lack of closed loops within the networks.</p>	<p>The local assessments of inconsistency performed by Eisai are appropriate. The AG has performed a 'global' assessment of inconsistency in the AG PFS NMA in the all-risk population by applying an unrelated mean effects NMA model¹¹⁴ and by comparing model fit statistics of inconsistency models with consistency models (see Assessment group statistical approach to Bayesian hazard ratio network meta-analysis).</p> <p>The AG acknowledges that the consistency of indirect estimates of OS and indirect estimates for all outcomes within the IMDC and MSKCC risk subgroups is unknown.</p>

continued

TABLE 56 Assessment group summary and critique of the NMA statistical approaches used by Eisai (continued)

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Was the PH assumption appropriately assessed within the NMAs of PFS and OS?	Yes	<p>Eisai assessed the PH assumption for PFS and OS in the included trials by plotting the log cumulative hazard vs. log(time) and by using the Grambsch–Therneau test⁸⁶ of PH [Eisai CS¹ (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2) and Eisai response to the AG clarification letter (questions A1 and A2)].</p> <p>On the basis of these assessments, Eisai considers that over the observed periods of the trials, the assumption of PH was violated for at least one of the trials for PFS and for OS. Due to these PH violations, in addition to PFS and OS NMAs estimating constant HRs, Eisai also used FP models to estimate time-varying HRs in their PFS and OS NMAs.</p>	<p>The AG agrees with the Eisai assessments of PH violation and agrees that estimating time-varying HRs for the PFS and OS NMAs is appropriate.</p> <p>The AG considers that due to the limitations of FP NMAs for decision-making [Eisai CS¹ (appendix D.2.3) and section <i>Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions</i> of this report], it is appropriate to also present NMAs estimating constant HRs for PFS and OS.</p>
Was the presentation of NMA results appropriate?	Yes	<p>Eisai presented FE NMA results for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. each comparator included in the network for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and by IMDC/MSKCC risk subgroups and all-risk population [(Eisai CS¹ (section 4.7 and appendices D3.1–D3.7)]. Constant HRs and time-varying HRs (with 95% CrIs) are presented for PFS and OS NMAs [(Eisai CS¹ and appendices D.3.1–D.3.3, D.4.1 and D.4.2)]. ORs (with 95% CrIs) are presented for ORR, CR, all-cause Grade \geq 3 AEs and treatment discontinuation due to AEs NMAs.</p> <p>The probability that lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab is better than the comparator is also presented for NMAs of all outcomes [Eisai CS¹ and appendices D.3.1–D.3.7)].</p> <p>Eisai also present subgroup, scenario and sensitivity analyses where data are available to examine NMA results for IMDC or MSKCC risk subgroups and to examine the robustness of NMA results to assumptions and to the exclusion of trials from the NMAs [Eisai CS¹ (appendices D.2.2.2.3 and D.3.1–D.3.7)].</p>	<p>The presentation of Eisai NMA results for all outcomes is appropriate. In addition to results for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. each comparator, the AG presents FE NMA results for all pairs of comparators included within each network (see <i>Results of the assessment group network meta-analyses</i>).</p>

CR, complete response; RE, random-effects; SLR, systematic literature review.

Source

Extracted from section B.4.7 and appendix D of Eisai CS,¹ the Eisai response to the AG clarification letter and includes AG comment.

TABLE 57 Assessment group summary and critique of NMA statistical approaches used by MSD

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Were NMAs conducted for all relevant outcomes?	Yes	MSD presented NMAs for PFS and OS (according to FDA censoring rules) for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and all-risk population (section 2.9.3 and appendix M).	Indirect evidence is presented for the key efficacy outcomes for the relevant populations listed within the final scope. ²⁹ No indirect evidence is presented for response outcomes or safety outcomes, or separately for IMDC or MSKCC risk subgroups.
Were the networks of comparators appropriate?	Partly	<p>Following a feasibility assessment of trials identified in the SLR (appendix D.1.1), MSD included six trials^{66,97,98,101,102,104} in at least one of their NMAs.</p> <p>MSD NMAs of PFS included (section 2.9.3, figure 13 and appendix M):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib and cabozantinib (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib, pazopanib, tivozanib and sorafenib (all-risk population). <p>MSD NMAs of OS included (section 2.9.3, figure 12 and appendix M):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib and cabozantinib (intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup) • lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab, sunitinib and pazopanib (all-risk population). 	<p>No comparative evidence is presented in the MSD CS² for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup. Therefore, the AG has performed NMAs of PFS, OS and ORR to include all relevant comparators by IMDC risk subgroup (see Results of the assessment group network meta-analyses).</p> <p>The AG acknowledges that as it is not possible to connect tivozanib to the network of comparators for the all-risk population for OS, no indirect comparisons of lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab with tivozanib can be made for OS.</p>
Were NMA methods appropriate?	Yes	<p>The methods used for the MSD NMAs are described in the MSD CS² (appendix D.1.1 and MSD response to the AG clarification letter, question A2).</p> <p>MSD performed NMAs in a Bayesian framework using both FE and RE models. For PFS and OS, the company conducted NMAs estimating constant HRs, as well as first-order and second-order FP NMAs (with first- and second-order parameter values of -1, 0 and 1) according to the methods of Jansen,¹²⁹ to estimate time-varying HRs due to PH assumption violation within the included trials. Model fit was assessed according to the DIC statistic and clinical plausibility of estimates. Although MSD considered that RE models would be more clinically plausible due to heterogeneity of the evidence base, as a small number of trials were included in the NMAs with most treatment comparisons informed by one trial, only FE models were presented (section 2.9 and appendices D.1.1 and M).</p>	<p>The AG considers that the Bayesian HR NMAs for all outcomes as described in appendix D.1.1 and that the FP NMAs for PFS and OS using the methods described by Jansen¹²⁹ have been correctly implemented.</p> <p>The AG agrees with MSD that RE models are more clinically plausible than FE models due to the heterogeneity in the evidence base (see Assessment group summary of patient and trial characteristics and assessment of heterogeneity) but acknowledges the instability of the results of RE NMAs due to the small number of included trials and sparse data. However, it should be noted when interpreting FE NMA results that FE NMAs do not take account of observed heterogeneity between the trials.</p>

continued

TABLE 57 Assessment group summary and critique of NMA statistical approaches used by MSD (continued)

Item	AG assessment	Statistical approach	AG comments
Was inconsistency appropriately assessed in the NMAs?	Not assessed	MSD did not undertake any assessments of inconsistency in the NMAs.	The AG has performed a 'global' assessment of inconsistency for PFS by applying an unrelated mean effects NMA model ¹¹⁴ and by comparing model fit statistics of inconsistency models with consistency models (see Assessment group statistical approach to Bayesian hazard ratio network meta-analysis). Due to lack of closed loops within the network for OS, inconsistency cannot be formally assessed. Therefore, the consistency of indirect estimates of OS is unknown.
Was the PH assumption appropriately assessed within the NMAs of PFS and OS?	Partly	MSD assessed the PH assumption for PFS and OS in the CLEAR trial by plotting the log cumulative hazard vs. log(time), by plotting Schoenfeld residuals vs. time and by using the Grambsch–Therneau test ⁸⁶ of PH (MSD CS: ² section 3.3 and MSD response to the AG clarification letter, question A1). MSD did not present assessments of the PH assumption for PFS and OS in the other trials included in the NMAs. In order to relax the PH assumption for the NMAs, in addition to PFS and OS NMAs estimating constant HRs, MSD also used FP models to estimate time-varying HRs in their PFS and OS NMAs.	The AG agrees that estimating time-varying HRs for the PFS and OS NMAs is appropriate to relax the PH assumption. The AG considers that due to the limitations of FP NMAs for decision-making [Eisai CS ¹ (appendix D.2.3) and section Assessment group assessment of proportional hazards assumptions of this report], it is appropriate to also present NMAs estimating constant HRs for PFS and OS.
Was the presentation of NMA results appropriate?	Yes	MSD presented FE NMA results for all pairs of comparators included in each network for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup and by IMDC or MSKCC risk subgroups and all-risk population. Constant HRs and time-varying HRs (with 95% CrIs) are presented for PFS and OS NMAs (section 2.9 and appendix M).	The presentation of MSD PFS and OS NMA results is appropriate.

SLR, systematic literature review.

SourceExtracted from section B.2.9 and appendix M to the MSD CS² and MSD response to the AG clarification letter and includes AG comment.

Appendix 4 Assessment group network meta-analyses

This appendix contains additional information about the methods used by the AG to conduct its NMAs in sections [Network diagrams for assessment group network meta-analyses](#), [Outcome data included in assessment group network meta-analyses](#), [Assessment group quality assessment of the trials included in the network meta-analysis](#), [Trial design and patient characteristics in the trials included in the assessment group network meta-analysis](#), [Proportional hazards assessments for trials included in the assessment group network meta-analysis](#) and [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#), including the AG assessment of the methodological quality of the included trials (see [Assessment group quality assessment of the trials included in the network meta-analysis](#)). Additional results are presented in sections [Additional network meta-analysis results tables](#), [Assessment group assessment of inconsistency in the network meta-analysis](#) and [Additional AG NMA analyses](#), including the AG assessment of inconsistency in the NMAs (see [Assessment group assessment of inconsistency in the network meta-analysis](#), [Additional assessment group network meta-analysis sensitivity analyses](#)).

Network diagrams for assessment group network meta-analyses

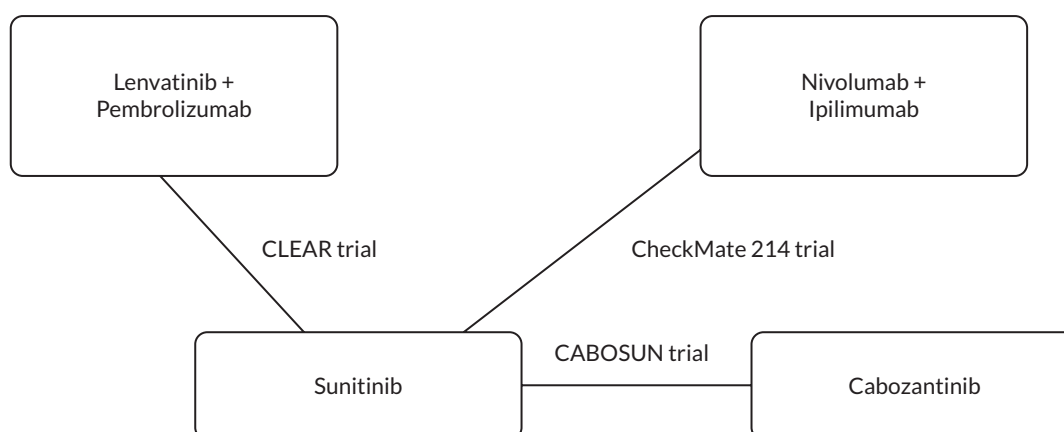


FIGURE 4 Network diagram for the AG NMAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (PFS, OS and ORR).

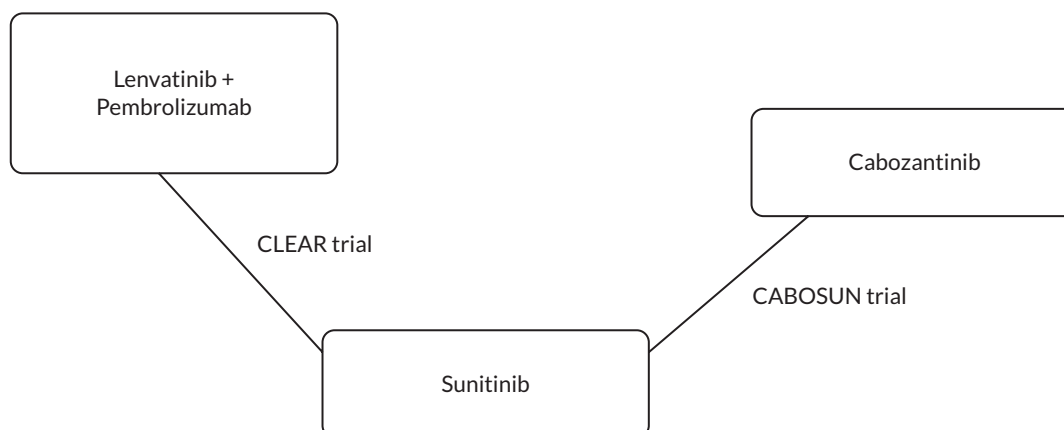


FIGURE 5 Network diagram for the AG NMAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup (Grade ≥ 3 AEs).

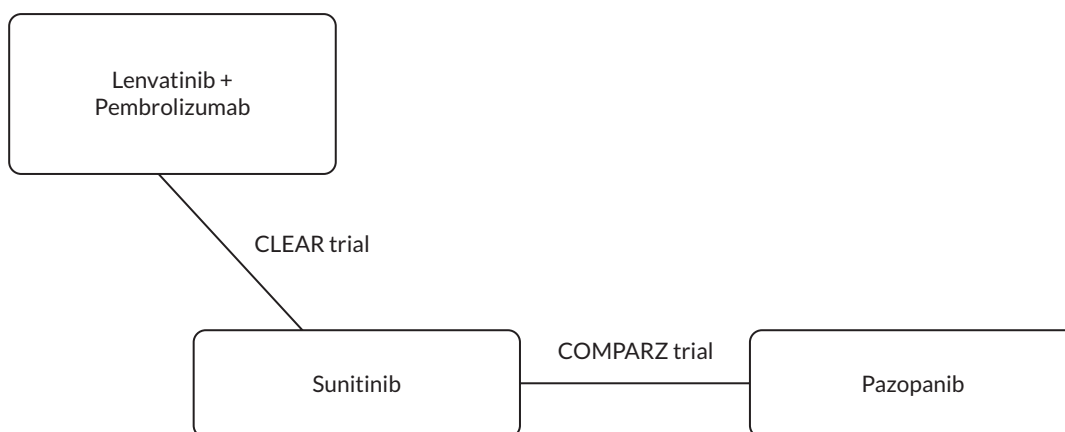


FIGURE 6 Network diagram for the AG NMAs for the all-risk population (OS, ORR and Grade ≥ 3 AEs) and for the favourable-risk subgroup (PFS and OS).

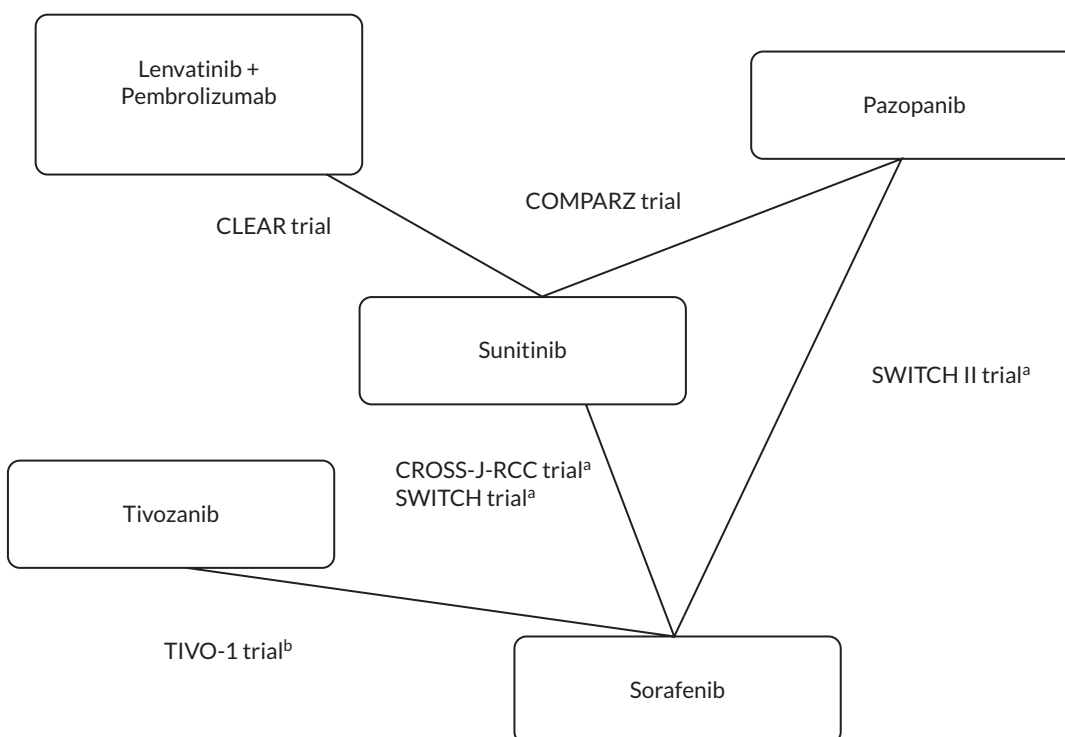


FIGURE 7 Network diagram for the AG NMAs for the favourable-risk subgroup (PFS and OS) and for the all-risk population (OS, ORR and Grade ≥ 3 AEs). a, The CROSS-J-RCC,¹⁰⁴ SWITCH⁹⁸ and SWITCH II¹⁰³ had a sequential design (patients received first-line therapy with the treatment they were randomised to, and patients who discontinued first-line therapy due to disease progression or toxicity received the other trial treatment, i.e. second line). PFS data for first-line treatment used in the NMAs; and b, The TIVO-1 trial recruited patients with untreated mRCC and patients who had received prior systematic therapy for mRCC. PFS data for the untreated subgroup are used in the NMAs. mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma.

Outcome data included in assessment group network meta-analyses

TABLE 58 Progression-free survival outcome data from the trials included in the AG NMAs

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Median PFS months (95% CI) ^a	HR (95% CI) ^a
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMDC risk subgroups Final analysis of PFS BIRC assessed 	22.3 (21.1 to 25.6)	243	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		16.6 (13.1 to 18.5)	229	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSKCC risk subgroups Final analysis of PFS BIRC assessed 	22.3 (21.1 to 25.6)	259	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		16.6 (13.1 to 18.5)	260	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed	
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	Cabozantinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMDC risk subgroups Updated analysis of PFS BIRC assessed 	25 (IQR: 21.9–30.9)	79	8.6 (6.8 to 14.0)	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)
	Sunitinib		25 (IQR: 21.9–30.9)	78	5.3 (3.0 to 8.2)	
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IMDC risk subgroups Updated analysis of PFS BIRC assessed 	NR ^b	425	11.6 (8.4 to 15.5)	0.75 (0.62 to 0.90)
	Sunitinib		NR ^b	422	8.3 (7.0 to 10.8)	

continued

TABLE 58 Progression-free survival outcome data from the trials included in the AG NMAs (continued)

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Median PFS months (95% CI) ^a	HR (95% CI) ^a
Favourable-risk subgroup						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroup • Final analysis of PFS • BIRC assessed 	22.3 (21.1 to 25.6)	110	FDA: 28.1 (NR to NR) EMA: Confidential information has been removed	FDA: 0.41 (0.28 to 0.62)
	Sunitinib		16.6 (13.1 to 18.5)	124	FDA: 12.9 (NR to NR) Confidential information has been removed	EMA: Confidential information has been removed
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroup • Final analysis of PFS • BIRC assessed 	22.3 (21.1 to 25.6)	96	FDA: Confidential EMA: Confidential information has been removed	FDA: 0.36 (0.23 to 0.54)
	Sunitinib		16.6 (13.1 to 18.5)	97	FDA: Confidential information has been removed EMA: Confidential information has been removed	EMA: Confidential
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroup • BIRC assessed 	NR	151	NR	1.02 (0.62 to 1.42) ^c
	Sunitinib		NR	152	NR	
	Pazopanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroup • BIRC assessed 	NR	151	NR	1.01 (0.63 to 1.39) ^c
	Sunitinib		NR	152	NR	
CROSS-J-RCC ^{104,d}	Sunitinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroup • Interim analysis of first-line PFS 	NR	12	NR	0.25 (0.08 to 0.73) ^e
	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigator assessed 	NR	14	NR	
SWITCH ^{98,d}	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroup • First-line PFS 	NR	71	NR	1.30 (0.87 to 1.94) ^e
	Sunitinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigator assessed 	NR	82	NR	
SWITCH II ^{103,d}	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not reported for first-line therapy^d 	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Pazopanib		NR	NR	NR	
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not reported for untreated subgroup^c 	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sorafenib		NR	NR	NR	

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Median PFS months (95% CI) ^a	HR (95% CI) ^a
All-risk population						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final analysis of PFS BIRC assessed 	22.3 (21.1 to 25.6)	355	FDA: 23.9 (20.8 to 27.7) EMA: 22.1 (18.4 to 25.9)	FDA: 0.39 (0.32 to 0.49) EMA: 0.41 (0.33 to 0.50)
	Sunitinib		16.6 (13.1 to 18.5)	357	FDA: 9.2 (6.0 to 11.0) EMA: 9.2 (7.0 to 11.0)	
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BIRC assessed 	NR	557	8.4 (8.3 to 10.9)	1.05 (0.90 to 1.22)
	Sunitinib		NR	553	9.5 (8.3 to 11.1)	
CROSS-J-RCC ^{104,d}	Sunitinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interim analysis of first-line PFS 	NR	57	8.7 (5.5 to 21.1)	0.67 (0.42 to 1.08)
	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigator assessed 	NR	63	7.0 (6.1 to 12.2)	
SWITCH ^{98,d}	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-line PFS Investigator assessed 	Mean: 10.3	182	5.9 (90% CI 5.5 to 7.9)	1.19 (0.93 to 1.45) ^f
	Sunitinib		Mean: 10.3	183	8.5 (90% CI 7.1 to 11.2)	
SWITCH II ^{103,d}	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-line PFS Assessment method: NR 	NR	189	5.6 (4.7 to 6.3)	0.69 (0.54 to 0.87)
	Pazopanib		NR	188	9.3 (7.4 to 10.6)	
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Untreated subgroup^g BIRC assessed 	NR	181	12.7 (9.1 to 15.0)	0.76 (0.58 to 0.99)
	Sorafenib		NR	181	9.1 (7.3 to 10.8)	

IQR, interquartile range; mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma; NE, not estimable; NR, not reported.

a PFS was assessed in the CLEAR trial using two different censoring rules advocated by the FDA and by the EMA.

b The minimum study follow-up was 42 months (median follow-up only reported for OS).

c Extracted from K-M curves.

d The CROSS-J-RCC,¹⁰⁴ SWITCH⁹⁸ and SWITCH II¹⁰³ trials had a sequential design (patients received first-line therapy with the treatment they were randomised to, and patients who discontinued first-line therapy due to disease progression or toxicity received the other trial treatment, i.e. second line). PFS data for first-line treatment are extracted.

e Data not included in the AG PFS NMAs for the favourable-risk subgroup as Sorafenib is not a relevant comparator and data cannot be used to connect relevant comparators (i.e. Tivozanib) to the networks for PFS.

f 90% CI reported in the publication of the SWITCH trial,⁹⁸ 95% CI calculated by the AG.

g The TIVO-1 trial recruited patients with untreated mRCC and patients who had received prior systematic therapy for mRCC. PFS data for the untreated subgroup is extracted from the TIVO-1 trial publication.¹⁰²

Source

Extracted from Eisai CS¹ (see appendix D.2.4 [tables 14 and 20]), MSD CS (see Table 9) and from the publications of the trials included in the NMAs.^{66,97,98,100-104}

TABLE 59 Overall survival outcome data from the trials included in the AG NMAs

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Median OS months (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Updated OS analysis 	33.7 (32.8 to 34.4)	243	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		33.4 (32.5 to 34.1)	229	Confidential information has been removed	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroups • Updated OS analysis 	33.7 (32.8 to 34.4)	259	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		33.4 (32.5 to 34.1)	260	Confidential information has been removed	
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	Cabozantinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Updated OS analysis 	35.4 (IQR 31.4–40.4)	79	26.6 (14.6 to NE)	0.80 (0.53 to 1.21)
	Sunitinib		35.4 (IQR 31.4–40.4)	78	21.2 (16.3 to 27.4)	
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Updated OS analysis 	43.6 (NR to NR)	425	47.0 (35.6 to NE)	0.66 (0.55 to 0.80)
	Sunitinib		32.3 (NR to NR)	422	26.6 (22.1 to 33.5)	
Favourable-risk subgroup						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Updated OS analysis 	33.7 (32.8 to 34.4)	110	NE	1.22 (0.66 to 2.26)
	Sunitinib		33.4 (32.5 to 34.1)	124	NE	
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroups • Updated OS analysis 	33.7 (32.8 to 34.4)	96	NE	1.00 (0.51 to 1.96)
	Sunitinib		33.4 (32.5 to 34.1)	97	NE	
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroups • Final OS analysis^a 	NR	151	42.5 (37.9 to NR)	0.88 (0.63 to 1.21)
	Sunitinib		NR	152	43.6 (37.1 to 47.4)	
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not reported for untreated subgroup^b 	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sorafenib		NR	NR	NR	

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Median OS months (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
All-risk population						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	• Updated OS analysis	33.7 (32.8 to 34.4)	355	NE (41.5 to NE)	0.72 (0.55 to 0.93)
	Sunitinib		33.4 (32.5 to 34.1)	357	NE (38.4 to NE)	
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	• Final analysis of OS ^a	NR	557	28.3 (26.0 to 35.5)	0.92 (0.79 to 1.06)
	Sunitinib		NR	553	29.1 (25.4 to 33.1)	
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	• Untreated subgroup ^b	NR	181	NR	1.23 (0.67 to 1.55) ^c
	Sorafenib		NR	181	NR	

mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma; NE, not estimable; NR, not reported.

a Final OS analysis reported by Motzer *et al.*¹⁰⁵

b The TIVO-1 trial¹⁰² recruited patients with untreated mRCC and patients who had received prior systematic therapy for mRCC. OS data for the untreated subgroup are extracted from TA512.³⁴

c Data not included in the AG OS NMAs for the all-risk population, as tivozanib cannot be connected to the networks for OS.

Source

Extracted from Eisai CS¹ [see appendix D.2.4 (tables 13 and 19)] and from the publications of the trials included in the NMAs.^{66,97,98,100-104}

TABLE 60 Objective response rate outcome data from the trials included in the AG NMAs

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	ORR (n)	ORR (%)
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Time of final PFS analysis • BIRC assessed 	NR ^a	243	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		NR ^a	229	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSKCC risk subgroups • Time of final PFS analysis • BIRC assessed 	NR ^a	259	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		NR ^a	260	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	Cabozantinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Updated PFS analysis • BIRC assessed 	NR	79	16	20
	Sunitinib		NR	78	7	9
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IMDC risk subgroups • Updated PFS analysis • BIRC assessed 	NR ^b	425	179	42.1
	Sunitinib		NR ^b	422	111	26.3
All-risk population						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of final PFS analysis • BIRC assessed 	NR	355	252	71
	Sunitinib		NR	357	129	36.1
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BIRC assessed 	NR	557	3	31
	Sunitinib		NR	553	137	25
CROSS-J-RCC ^{104,c}	Sunitinib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim analysis of first-line ORR • Investigator assessed 	NR	57	14 ^d	29.8 ^d
	Sorafenib		NR	63	10 ^d	21.2 ^d

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	ORR (n)	ORR (%)
SWITCH ^{98,c}	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-line ORR Investigator assessed 	NR	177	55 ^d	31 ^d
	Sunitinib		NR	176	51 ^d	29 ^d
SWITCH II ^{103,c}	Sorafenib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First-line ORR Assessment method: NR 	NR	189	54 ^d	28.6 ^d
	Pazopanib		NR	188	87 ^d	46.3 ^d
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not reported for untreated subgroup 	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sorafenib		NR	NR	NR	NR

IQR, interquartile range; NR, not reported.

a IA3 data cut-off, median follow-up NR for ORR (only PFS and OS).

b The minimum study follow-up was 42 months (median follow-up only reported for OS).

c The CROSS-J-RCC,¹⁰⁴ SWITCH⁹⁸ and SWITCH II¹⁰³ trials had a sequential design (patients received first-line therapy with the treatment they were randomised to, and patients who discontinued first-line therapy due to disease progression or toxicity received the other trial treatment, i.e. second line). ORR data for first-line treatment are extracted.

d Data not included in the AG ORR NMAs for the all-risk population as Sorafenib is not a relevant comparator and data cannot be used to connect relevant comparators (i.e. tivozanib) to the networks for ORR.

Source

Extracted from Eisai CS¹ (see appendix D.2.4 [tables 15 and 21]) and from the publications of the trials included in the NMAs.^{66,97,98,100-104}

TABLE 61 Grade ≥ 3 AE outcome data from the trials included in the AG NMAs

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Grade ≥ 3 AE (n)	Grade ≥ 3 AE (%)
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Grade ≥ 3 TEAE, NCI CTCAE v4.03 (IMDC)	NR ^a	241	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		NR ^a	220	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Grade ≥ 3 TEAE, NCI CTCAE v4.03 (MSKCC)	NR ^a	256	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
	Sunitinib		NR ^a	247	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	Cabozantinib	All cause AEs, NCI CTCAE v4 (IMDC)	NR	78	53	68
	Sunitinib		NR	72	47	65
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sunitinib		NR	NR	NR	NR
All-risk population						
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Grade ≥ 3 TEAE, NCI CTCAE v4.03	NR ^a	352	290	82.4
	Sunitinib		NR ^a	340	244	71.8
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	Grade 3 + TEAEs, NCI CTCAE v3	NR	554	423	76
	Sunitinib		NR	548	419	77
CROSS-J-RCC ^{104,b}	Sunitinib	Interim analysis, first-line treatment, Grade ≥ 3 all-cause AEs, NCI CTCAE v3	NR	57	48 ^c	84.2 ^c
	Sorafenib		NR	63	50 ^c	79.4 ^c
SWITCH ^{98,b}	Sorafenib	Grade 3/4 TEAEs, NCI CTCAE v3	NR	177	117 ^c	66 ^c
	Sunitinib		NR	176	118 ^c	67 ^c

Trial	Intervention	Analysis methods	Median follow-up months (95% CI)	N	Grade ≥ 3 AE (n)	Grade ≥ 3 AE (%)
SWITCH II ^{103,b}	Sorafenib	Grade 3/4 TEAEs, NCI CTCAE v4.03	NR	183	108 ^c	59 ^c
	Pazopanib		NR	183	117 ^c	64 ^c
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sorafenib		NR	NR	NR	NR

IQR, interquartile range; NR, not reported.

a IA3 data cut-off, median follow-up NR for AEs (only PFS and OS). The median duration of treatment was 17.0 months in the lenvatinib + pembrolizumab arm and was 7.8 months in the sunitinib arm.

b The CROSS-J-RCC,¹⁰⁴ SWITCH⁹⁸ and SWITCH II¹⁰³ trials had a sequential design (patients received first-line therapy with the treatment they were randomised to, and patients who discontinued first-line therapy due to disease progression or toxicity received the other trial treatment, i.e. second line). Grade ≥ 3 AE data for first-line treatment are extracted.

c Data not included in the AG Grade ≥ 3 AE NMAs for the all-risk population as sorafenib is not a relevant comparator and data cannot be used to connect relevant comparators (i.e. tivozanib) to the networks for Grade ≥ 3 AEs.

Source

Extracted from Eisai CS¹ [see appendix D.2.4 (tables 17 and 23)] and from the publications of the trials included in the NMAs.^{66,97,98,100-104}

Assessment group quality assessment of the trials included in the network meta-analysis

The AG assessed quality of the RCTs in accordance with suggested criteria published in the CRD's Guidance for undertaking reviews in health care.⁶⁰ The results of the AG's quality assessment of the eight RCTs^{66,97,98,100-104} included in the AG NMAs are presented in [Table 62](#).

TABLE 62 Assessment group quality assessments of trials included in the NMAs

Quality assessment item ⁶⁰	CABOSUN ⁹⁷	CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	CLEAR	COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	CROSS-J-RCC ¹⁰⁴	TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	SWITCH ⁹⁸	SWITCH II ¹⁰³
Was the method used to assign participants to treatment arms really random?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^a	✓	Unclear
Was the allocation of treatment concealed?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ^a	✓	Unclear
Was the number of participants randomised stated?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Were details of baseline comparability presented?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Was baseline comparability achieved?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Were the study eligibility criteria specified?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Were any co-interventions identified that may influence the outcomes for each group?	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Were the outcome assessors blinded to treatment allocation?	✓	✓	✓	✓	×	✓ ^a	×	×
Were the individuals administering the intervention blinded to treatment allocation?	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Were the participants receiving the intervention blinded to treatment allocation?	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
Was the success of the blinding procedure assessed?	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Were at least 80% of the participants originally included in the randomisation process followed up in the final analysis?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Were the reasons for patient withdrawals stated?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Was an intention to treat analysis included?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Is there any evidence that more outcomes were measured than were reported?	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

NA, not applicable.

a Information taken from TA512.³⁴**Source**AG quality assessments based on information extracted the publications of the trials considered for inclusion in the NMAs^{27,66,97-104} and from TA512.³⁴

Trial design and patient characteristics in the trials included in the assessment group network meta-analysis

TABLE 63 Summary of trial design and patient demographic characteristics in the trials included in the AG NMAs

Trial	Trial design and location	Population	Treatments	N	Median age (range) years	Male: n (%) by trial arm	Male: n/N overall
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	Phase II, open label, USA	Untreated advanced or metastatic clear cell RCC; intermediate- or poor-risk disease by IMDC criteria	Cabozantinib	79	63 (IQR 56–69)	66 (83.5%)	123/157 (78.3%)
			Sunitinib	78	64 (IQR 57–71)	57 (73.1%)	
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	Phase III, open label, international	Untreated advanced clear cell RCC	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	425 ^a	62 (26–85)	314 (73.9%)	615/847 (72.6%)
			Sunitinib	422 ^a	61 (2185)	301 (71.3%)	
CLEAR	Phase III, open label, international	Untreated advanced clear cell RCC	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	355	64 (34–88)	255 (71.8%)	530/712 (74.4%)
			Sunitinib	357	61 (29–82)	275 (77.0%)	
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Phase III, open label, international	Untreated advanced or metastatic clear cell RCC	Pazopanib	557	61 (18–88)	398 (71.5%)	813/1110 (73.2%)
			Sunitinib	553	62 (23–86)	415 (75.0%)	
CROSS-J-RCC ¹⁰⁴	Phase III sequential design, open label, Japan	Untreated metastatic clear cell RCC; favourable or intermediate-risk disease by MSKCC criteria	Sunitinib	57	67 (41–79)	46 (80.7%)	99/120 (82.5%)
			Sorafenib	63	66 (44–79)	53 (84.1%)	
SWITCH ⁹⁸	Phase III sequential design, open label, Europe	Untreated advanced or metastatic RCC; 87% with clear cell histology; favourable or intermediate-risk disease by MSKCC criteria	Sunitinib	182	65 (40–83)	135 (74.2%)	274/365 (75.1%)
			Sorafenib	183	64 (39–84)	139 (76.0%)	
SWITCH II ¹⁰³	Phase III sequential design, open label, Europe	Untreated advanced or metastatic RCC; 87% with clear cell histology; favourable or intermediate-risk disease by MSKCC criteria	Pazopanib	188	68 (26–86)	137 (72.9%)	273/377 (72.4%)
			Sorafenib	189	68 (31–84)	136 (72.0%)	
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Phase II, open label, international	Metastatic clear cell RCC; untreated patients (70%) and patients who had received previous systematic therapy (30%)	Tivozanib	181 ^b	NR	NR	NR
			Sorafenib	181 ^b	NR	NR	

IQR, interquartile range; NR, not reported.

^a International Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma Database Consortium intermediate-/poor-risk population data only extracted from the CheckMate 214 trial.¹⁰⁰

^b Age and sex not reported separately for the untreated subgroup in the TIVO-1 trial.¹⁰²

Source

Extracted from the publications of the trials included in the NMAs.^{66,97,98,100–104}

TABLE 64 Summary of IMDC and MSKCC risk subgroups in the trials included in the AG NMAs

Trial	Treatments	N	IMDC risk subgroups: n (% of N)					MSKCC risk subgroups: n (% of N)				
			Favourable	Intermediate	Poor	Intermediate/ Poor	Not evaluated	Favourable	Intermediate	Poor	Intermediate/ Poor	Unknown
CABOSUN ⁹⁷	Cabozantinib	79	NA	64 (81.0%)	15 (19.0%)	79 (100%)	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sunitinib	78	NA	63 (80.8%)	15 (19.2%)	78 (100%)	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
CheckMate 214 ¹⁰⁰	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	425 ^a	NA ^a	334 (78.6%)	91 (21.4%)	425 (100%)	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sunitinib	422 ^a	NA ^a	333 (78.9%)	89 (21.1%)	422 (100%)	NA	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
CLEAR	Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	355	110 (31.0%)	210 (59.2%)	33 (9.3%)	243 (68.5%)	2 (0.6%)	96 (27.0%)	227 (63.9%)	32 (9.0%)	259 (73.0%)	NA
	Sunitinib	357	124 (34.7%)	192 (54.1%)	37 (10.4%)	229 (64.1%)	4 (1.1%)	97 (27.2%)	228 (63.9%)	32 (9.0%)	260 (72.8%)	NA
COMPARZ ¹⁰¹	Pazopanib	557	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	151 (27.1%)	322 (57.8%)	67 (12.0%)	389 (69.8%)	17 (3.1%)
	Sunitinib	553	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	152 (27.5%)	328 (59.3%)	52 (9.4%)	380 (68.7%)	21 (3.8%)
CROSS-J- RCC ¹⁰⁴	Sunitinib	57	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	12 (21.1%)	45 (78.9%)	NA	NA	NA
	Sorafenib	63	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	14 (22.2%)	49 (77.8%)	NA	NA	NA
SWITCH ⁹⁸	Sunitinib	182	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	71 (39.0%)	108 (59.3%)	1 (0.5%)	109 (59.9%)	2 (1.1%)
	Sorafenib	183	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	82 (44.8%)	94 (51.4%)	1 (0.5%)	95 (51.9%)	6 (3.3%)
SWITCH II ¹⁰³	Pazopanib	188	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	91 (48.4%)	89 (47.3%)	5 (2.7%)	94 (50.0%)	3 (1.6%)
	Sorafenib	189	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	95 (50.3%)	90 (47.6%)	4 (2.1%)	94 (49.7%)	0 (0%)
TIVO-1 ¹⁰²	Tivozanib	181 ^b	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
	Sorafenib	181 ^b	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

mRCC, metastatic renal cell carcinoma; NA, not applicable; NR, not reported.

a IMDC intermediate-/poor-risk population data only extracted from the CheckMate 214 trial.¹⁰⁰

b The TIVO-1 trial¹⁰² recruited patients with untreated mRCC and patients who had received prior systematic therapy for mRCC. Risk subgroup data not reported separately for the untreated subgroup.

Source

Extracted from the publications of the trials included in the NMAs.^{66,97,98,100-104}

Proportional hazards assessments for trials included in the assessment group network meta-analysis

The AG assessed the validity of the PH assumption for RCTs included in the AG NMAs using figures (i.e. Schoenfeld residuals plots or log cumulative hazard plots) and statistical tests (i.e. Grambsch–Therneau test⁸⁶) presented in the Eisai CS¹ (sections 5.3.1 and 5.3.2), the Eisai response to question A1 and A2 of the AG clarification letter, and in the MSD response to additional clarification questions. The AG is unable to present the results of these tests or the plots due to their confidential nature. The AG also digitised K-M data presented in the publication of the 42-month follow-up of the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ (this RCT was not included in the Eisai or MSD NMAs), and assessed the PH assumption for OS and PFS in the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup by plotting Schoenfeld residuals and performing a Grambsch–Therneau test.⁸⁶

Results of the tests of Schoenfeld residuals conducted by the AG for the IMDC intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup in the CheckMate 214 trial are $p = 0.0002$ for PFS and $p = 0.4055$ for OS. Plots of Schoenfeld residuals against time for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup in the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ for PFS and OS are presented in [Figures 8](#) and [9](#).

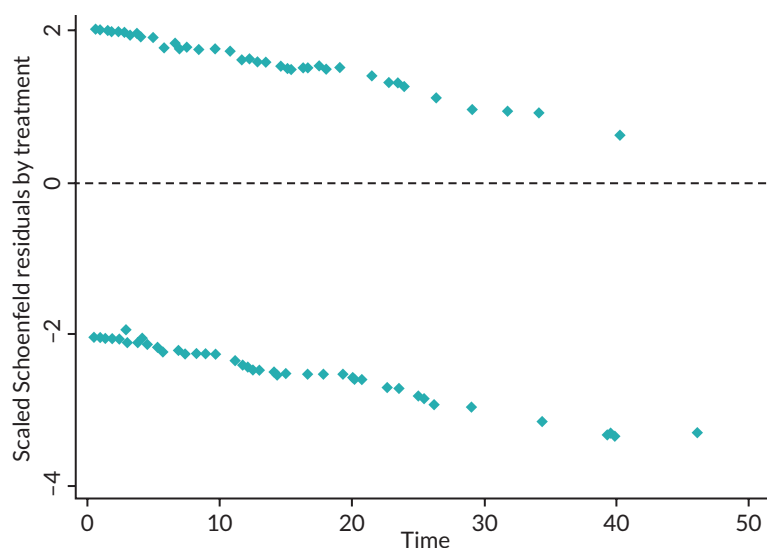


FIGURE 8 Schoenfeld residuals plot for PFS (CheckMate 214 trial, intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup).

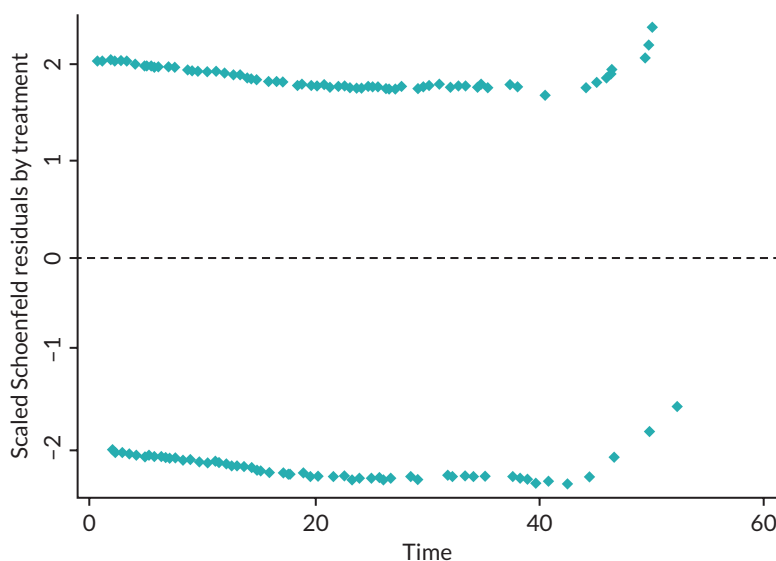


FIGURE 9 Schoenfeld residuals plot for OS (CheckMate 214 trial, intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup).

Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis

Fixed and REs NMAs of contrast-based time-to-event data (PFS and OS)

```
### Install and run multinma to conduct Bayesian network meta-analysis ###
```

```
if (!require('multinma')) install.packages('multinma')
```

```
library('multinma')
```

```
options(mc.cores = parallel::detectCores())
```

```
### Load datasets ###
```

```
os_1 <- read.csv('OS all-risk.csv')
```

```
os_2 <- read.csv('OS intermediate poor IMDC.csv')
```

```
os_3 <- read.csv('OS favourable IMDC.csv')
```

```
os_4 <- read.csv('OS favourable MSKCC.csv')
```

```
### Setting up networks and network plots ###
```

```
os_1_network <- set_agd_contrast(os_1,
```

```
  study = studyc,
```

```
  trt = trtc_1,
```

```
  y = loghr,
```

```
  se = seloghr,
```

```
  sample_size = n,
```

```
  trt_ref = 'Sunitinib')
```

```
plot(os_1_network, weight_edges = TRUE, weight_nodes = TRUE)
```

```
os_2_network <- set_agd_contrast(os_2,
```

```
  study = studyc,
```

```
  trt = trtc_1,
```

```
  y = loghr,
```

```
  se = seloghr,
```

```
  sample_size = n,
```

```
  trt_ref = 'Sunitinib')
```

```
plot(os_2_network, weight_edges = TRUE, weight_nodes = TRUE)
```

```
os_3_network <- set_agd_contrast(os_3,  
  study = studyc,  
  trt = trtc_1,  
  y = loghr,  
  se = seloghr,  
  sample_size = n,  
  trt_ref = 'Sunitinib')
```

```
plot(os_3_network, weight_edges = TRUE, weight_nodes = TRUE)
```

```
os_4_network <- set_agd_contrast(os_4,  
  study = studyc,  
  trt = trtc_1,  
  y = loghr,  
  se = seloghr,  
  sample_size = n,  
  trt_ref = 'Sunitinib')
```

```
plot(os_4_network, weight_edges = TRUE, weight_nodes = TRUE)
```

```
### Fixed-effect NMA ###
```

```
FE_os_1 <- nma(os_1_network,  
  trt_effects = 'fixed',  
  consistency = 'consistency',  
  link='log',  
  chains = 3,  
  iter = 2e5,  
  warmup = 1e5,  
  prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
  prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
FE_os_2 <- nma(os_2_network,  
              trt_effects = 'fixed',  
              consistency = 'consistency',  
              link='log',  
              chains = 3,  
              iter = 2e5,  
              warmup = 1e5,  
              prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
              prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
FE_os_3 <- nma(os_3_network,  
              trt_effects = 'fixed',  
              consistency = 'consistency',  
              link='log',  
              chains = 3,  
              iter = 2e5,  
              warmup = 1e5,  
              prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
              prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
FE_os_4 <- nma(os_4_network,  
              trt_effects = 'fixed',  
              consistency = 'consistency',  
              link='log',  
              chains = 3,  
              iter = 2e5,  
              warmup = 1e5,  
              prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
              prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
### Random-effects NMA ###  
RE_os_1 <- nma(os_1_network,  
  trt_effects = 'random',  
  consistency = 'consistency',  
  link='log',  
  chains = 3,  
  iter = 2e5,  
  warmup = 1e5,  
  adapt_delta = 0.99,  
  prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
  prior_trt = normal(scale = 10),  
  prior_het = half_normal(scale = 5))  
RE_os_2 <- nma(os_2_network,  
  trt_effects = 'random',  
  consistency = 'consistency',  
  link='log',  
  chains = 3,  
  iter = 2e5,  
  warmup = 1e5,  
  adapt_delta = 0.99,  
  prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
  prior_trt = normal(scale = 10),  
  prior_het = half_normal(scale = 5))  
RE_os_3 <- nma(os_3_network,  
  trt_effects = 'random',  
  consistency = 'consistency',  
  link='log',
```

```

      chains = 3,

      iter = 2e5,

      warmup = 1e5,

      adapt_delta = 0.99,

      prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),

      prior_trt = normal(scale = 10),

      prior_het = half_normal(scale = 5))

RE_os_4 <- nma(os_4_network,

      trt_effects = 'random',

      consistency = 'consistency',

      link='log',

      chains = 3,

      iter = 2e5,

      warmup = 1e5,

      adapt_delta = 0.99,

      prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),

      prior_trt = normal(scale = 10),

      prior_het = half_normal(scale = 5))

### Generate all pairwise contrasts between treatments ###

### All-risk ###

FE_all_os1 <- relative_effects(FE_os_1, all_contrasts = TRUE)

RE_all_os1 <- relative_effects(RE_os_1, all_contrasts = TRUE)

### Intermediate poor IMDC ###

FE_all_os2 <- relative_effects(FE_os_2, all_contrasts = TRUE)

RE_all_os2 <- relative_effects(RE_os_2, all_contrasts = TRUE)

### NMA favourable IMDC ###

FE_all_os3 <- relative_effects(FE_os_3, all_contrasts = TRUE)

```

```
RE_all_os3 <- relative_effects(RE_os_3, all_contrasts = TRUE)

### OS NMA favourable MSKCC ###

FE_all_os4 <- relative_effects(FE_os_4, all_contrasts = TRUE)

RE_all_os4 <- relative_effects(RE_os_4, all_contrasts = TRUE)

### Inconsistency models - all-risk only ###

FE_pfs_1_inc <- nma(pfs_1_network,

                    trt_effects = 'fixed',

                    consistency = 'ume',

                    link = 'log',

                    chains = 3,

                    iter = 2e5,

                    warmup = 1e5,

                    control = list(max_treedepth = 15),

                    prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),

                    prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))

FE_pfs_1_sens_inc <- nma(pfs_sens1_network,

                        trt_effects = 'fixed',

                        consistency = 'ume',

                        link = 'log',

                        chains = 3,

                        iter = 2e5,

                        warmup = 1e5,

                        control = list(max_treedepth = 15),

                        prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),

                        prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
### Model fit statistics ####
```

```
dic_FE_pfs1 <- dic(FE_pfs_1)
```

```
dic_FE_pfs1_inc <- dic(FE_pfs_1_inc)
```

```
dic_FE_pfs_sens1 <- dic(FE_pfs_sens1)
```

```
dic_FE_pfs_sens1_inc <- dic(FE_pfs_1_sens_inc)
```

Fixed and random effects NMAs of arm-based binary data (ORR)

```
### Install and run multinma to conduct Bayesian network meta-analysis ###
```

```
if (!require('multinma')) install.packages('multinma')
```

```
library('multinma')
```

```
options(mc.cores = parallel::detectCores())
```

```
### Load datasets ###
```

```
orr_1 <- read.csv('ORR all-risk.csv')
```

```
orr_2 <- read.csv('ORR intermediate poor IMDC.csv')
```

```
### Setting up networks and network plots ###
```

```
orr_1_network <- set_agd_arm(orr_1,
```

```
study = study.c,
```

```
trt = trtc,
```

```
r = r1,
```

```
n = n1,
```

```
trt_ref = 'Sunitinib')
```

```
plot(orr_1_network, weight_edges = TRUE, weight_nodes = TRUE)
```

```
orr_2_network <- set_agd_arm(orr_2,
```

```
study = study.c,
```

```
trt = trtc,
```

```
r = r1,
```

```
n = n1,
```

```
trt_ref = 'Sunitinib')
```

```
plot(orr_2_network, weight_edges = TRUE, weight_nodes = TRUE)
```

```
### Fixed effects NMA ###
```

```
FE_orr_1 <- nma(orr_1_network,  
               trt_effects = 'fixed',  
               consistency = 'consistency',  
               link='logit',  
               chains = 3,  
               iter = 2e5,  
               warmup = 1e5,  
               prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
               prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
FE_orr_2 <- nma(orr_2_network,  
               trt_effects = 'fixed',  
               consistency = 'consistency',  
               link='logit',  
               chains = 3,  
               iter = 2e5,  
               warmup = 1e5,  
               prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),  
               prior_trt = normal(scale = 10))
```

```
### Random effects NMA ###
```

```
RE_orr_1 <- nma(orr_1_network,  
               trt_effects = 'random',  
               consistency = 'consistency',  
               link='logit',
```

```
      chains = 3,
      iter = 2e5,
      warmup = 1e5,
      adapt_delta = 0.99,
      prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),
      prior_trt = normal(scale = 10),
      prior_het = half_normal(scale = 5))
RE_orr_2 <- nma(orr_2_network,
  trt_effects = 'random',
  consistency = 'consistency',
  link='logit',
  chains = 3,
  iter = 2e5,
  warmup = 1e5,
  adapt_delta = 0.99,
  prior_intercept = normal(scale = 10),
  prior_trt = normal(scale = 10),
  prior_het = half_normal(scale = 5))

### Generate all pairwise contrasts between treatments ###
### All-risk ###
FE_all_orr1 <- relative_effects(FE_orr_1, all_contrasts = TRUE)
RE_all_orr1 <- relative_effects(RE_orr_1, all_contrasts = TRUE)

## Intermediate poor IMDC ###
FE_all_orr2 <- relative_effects(FE_orr_2, all_contrasts = TRUE)
RE_all_orr2 <- relative_effects(RE_orr_2, all_contrasts = TRUE)
```

Additional network meta-analysis results tables

TABLE 65 Results from AG PFS random-effects NMAs by risk group (FDA censoring rule)

Treatment	Comparator	REs HR (95% CrI) ^a
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.40 (0 to 773)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.76 (0 to 25,591)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.53 (0 to 21,807)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.53 (0 to 953)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.76 (0 to 1339)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	1.46 (0 to 48,050)
IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.45 (0 to 1249)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.44 (0 to 34,201)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.02 (0 to 2592)
All-risk population		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.39 (0.04 to 3.49)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.30 (0.02 to 4.85)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Tivozanib	0.45 (0.02 to 12.43)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sorafenib	0.34 (0.02 to 4.57)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.31 (0.24 to 7.17)
Tivozanib	Sunitinib	0.88 (0.07 to 11.59)
Sorafenib	Sunitinib	1.15 (0.29 to 4.71)
Pazopanib	Tivozanib	1.49 (0.09 to 23.1)
Pazopanib	Sorafenib	1.14 (0.20 to 6.05)
Tivozanib	Sorafenib	0.76 (0.09 to 7.03)

^a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Table 58](#).

TABLE 66 Results from AG OS random-effects NMAs by risk group

Treatment	Comparator	REs HR (95% CrI) ^a
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.66 (0 to 1200)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.80 (0 to 32,209)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.95 (0 to 36,680)

TABLE 66 Results from AG OS random-effects NMAs by risk group) (continued)

Treatment	Comparator	REs HR (95% CrI) ^a
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.83 (0 to 1525)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.69 (0 to 1274)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	0.84 (0 to 30,031)
IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	1.19 (0 to 2981)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	1.30 (0 to 74,608)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	0.92 (0 to 2465)
All-risk population		
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.74 (0 to 1959)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.81 (0 to 57,526)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	0.91 (0 to 2345)

a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Table 59](#).

TABLE 67 Results from AG ORR NMAs by risk group (fixed and random effects)

Treatment	Comparator	OR (95% CrI) ^a	
		FEs	REs
Intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	6.55 (4.39 to 9.87)	5.37 (0 to 7259)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	2.46 (0.84 to 6.82)	2.25 (0 to 72,403)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	3.19 (1.95 to 5.26)	2.83 (0 to 86,682)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	2.66 (1.05 to 7.32)	2.36 (0 to 3533)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	2.03 (1.52 to 2.75)	1.90 (0 to 3072)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	0.76 (0.27 to 2.03)	0.80 (0 to 30,638)
All-risk population			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	4.35 (3.16 to 5.99)	3.56 (0 to 7044)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	3.22 (2.14 to 4.85)	2.77 (0 to 130,614)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.35 (1.03 to 1.75)	1.30 (0 to 3072)

a OR > 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Table 60](#).

TABLE 68 Results from AG Grade ≥ 3 AE^a NMAs by risk subgroup

Treatment	Comparator	OR (95% CrI) ^b	
		FEs	REs
IMDC intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup ^c			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	2.03 (1.30 to 3.19)	1.88 (0 to 4188)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	1.80 (0.79 to 4.10)	1.68 (0 to 100,710)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	1.13 (0.57 to 2.25)	1.12 (0 to 2670)
All-risk population			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	1.84 (1.28 to 2.66)	1.70 (0 to 4230)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	1.86 (1.17 to 2.94)	1.70 (0 to 115,844)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.99 (0.76 to 1.31)	0.99 (0 to 2566)

a Treatment emergent AE data extracted from the CLEAR trial and COMPARZ trial;¹⁰¹ all-cause AEs extracted from the CABOSUN trial.⁹⁷

b HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

c No data available for favourable-risk subgroup.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in see [Table 61](#).

TABLE 69 Results from AG PFS fixed- and random-effects NMAs by risk group (EMA censoring rule)

Treatment	Comparator	HR (95% CrI) ^a	
		FEs	REs
Intermediate/poor-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.45 (0.36 to 0.56)	0.49 (0 to 953)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.93 (0.57 to 1.52)	0.92 (0 to 33,190)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.60 (0.45 to 0.80)	0.63 (0 to 24,343)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)	0.53 (0 to 973)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.75 (0.62 to 0.90)	0.77 (0 to 1313)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	1.57 (0.97 to 2.51)	1.46 (0 to 45,707)
IMDC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.42 (0.28 to 0.63)	0.47 (0 to 1495)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.41 (0.22 to 0.78)	0.46 (0 to 36,316)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.02 (0.62 to 1.68)	1.03 (0 to 2592)
All-risk population			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.41 (0.33 to 0.51)	0.42 (0.04 to 4.48)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.35 (0.27 to 0.46)	0.32 (0.02 to 5.99)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Tivozanib	0.53 (0.36 to 0.78)	0.48 (0.01 to 18.17)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sorafenib	0.40 (0.30 to 0.53)	0.36 (0.02 to 6.05)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.16 (1.01 to 1.34)	1.31 (0.23 to 8.00)
Tivozanib	Sunitinib	0.78 (0.57 to 1.07)	0.88 (0.06 to 13.2)

TABLE 69 Results from AG PFS fixed- and random-effects NMAs by risk group (EMA censoring rule) (continued)

Treatment	Comparator	HR (95% CrI) ^a	
		FEs	REs
Sorafenib	Sunitinib	1.03 (0.86 to 1.22)	1.15 (0.26 to 5.1)
Pazopanib	Tivozanib	1.49 (1.07 to 2.05)	1.51 (0.08 to 27.94)
Pazopanib	Sorafenib	1.13 (0.94 to 1.35)	1.15 (0.19 to 6.96)
Tivozanib	Sorafenib	0.76 (0.58 to 1.00)	0.76 (0.08 to 7.61)

a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in see [Table 58](#).

TABLE 70 Results from AG NMAs for MSKCC/MSKCC favourable-risk subgroup: PFS and OS, fixed and random effects

Treatment	Comparator	HR (95% CrI) ^a	
		FEs	REs
PFS by FDA censoring rule			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.36 (0.23 to 0.57)	0.41 (0 to 1261)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.36 (0.18 to 0.68)	0.40 (0 to 30,946)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.01 (0.63 to 1.62)	1.01 (0 to 2592)
PFS by EMA censoring rule			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.36 (0.24 to 0.54)	0.41 (0 to 1176)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.36 (0.19 to 0.66)	0.41 (0 to 34,544)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.01 (0.63 to 1.62)	1.00 (0 to 2441)
OS			
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	1.00 (0.51 to 1.95)	1.03 (0 to 2490)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	1.14 (0.54 to 2.41)	1.16 (0 to 72,403)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	0.88 (0.63 to 1.23)	0.88 (0 to 2345)

a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in see [Tables 58](#) and [59](#).

Assessment group assessment of inconsistency in the network meta-analysis

For PFS in the all-risk population, the only NMA with a closed loop present within the network, the AG assessed inconsistency by applying an unrelated mean effects model¹¹⁴ and by comparing model fit statistics and results of this inconsistency model with the results of the AG PFS NMAs presented in [Table 22](#) and [Table 69](#) which assume consistency.

Inconsistency models such as the unrelated mean effects model¹¹⁴ are more complex than NMA models which assume consistency. Therefore, due to the small number of trials included in the network and

instability of REs NMA results (see [Additional network meta-analysis results tables](#)), only FE inconsistency models were applied.

Model fit statistics of FE AG PFS NMA models assuming consistency and inconsistency are presented in [Table 71](#).

Model fit statistics demonstrate that inconsistency models seem to provide a better fit (lower posterior mean residual deviance and DIC statistic) but a higher level of complexity (in terms of effective number of model parameters). However, despite the better model fit of the inconsistency models, AG FEs PFS NMA results from the unrelated mean effects model were very similar ([Table 72](#)) to the results of the AG FEs PFS NMA results assuming consistency [see [Table 22](#) and [Table 69](#)] and conclusions are unchanged.

TABLE 71 Model fit statistics for AG FEs PFS NMA consistency and inconsistency models (all-risk population)

Model	Posterior mean residual deviance	Number of data points	pD	DIC
Consistency model using FDA censoring rule	13.4	6	4	17.4
Inconsistency model ^a using FDA censoring rule	5.7	6	5	10.7
Consistency model using EMA censoring rule	13.4	6	4	17.4
Inconsistency model ^a using EMA censoring rule	5.7	6	5	10.7

pD, effective number of model parameters.

^a Unrelated mean effects model¹¹⁴ applied to assess inconsistency.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Table 58](#).

TABLE 72 Results from AG FEs PFS NMAs using an inconsistency model (all-risk population)

Treatment	Comparator	FEs HR (95% CrI) ^a	
		FDA censoring rule	EMA censoring rule
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.39 (0.32 to 0.48)	0.41 (0.33 to 0.51)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Pazopanib	0.34 (0.26 to 0.43)	0.35 (0.27 to 0.46)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Tivozanib	0.50 (0.34 to 0.73)	0.53 (0.36 to 0.78)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sorafenib	0.38 (0.29 to 0.50)	0.40 (0.30 to 0.53)
Pazopanib	Sunitinib	1.05 (0.90 to 1.22)	1.05 (0.90 to 1.22)
Tivozanib	Sunitinib	0.78 (0.57 to 1.07)	0.78 (0.57 to 1.07)
Sorafenib	Sunitinib	1.25 (1.01 to 1.55)	1.25 (1.00 to 1.55)
Pazopanib	Tivozanib	1.49 (1.07 to 2.05)	1.49 (1.07 to 2.05)
Pazopanib	Sorafenib	1.45 (1.14 to 1.86)	1.45 (1.14 to 1.86)
Tivozanib	Sorafenib	0.76 (0.58 to 1.00)	0.76 (0.58 to 1.00)

^a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

Source

AG analysis using statistical code (see [Example statistical code for assessment group network meta-analysis](#)) applied to the data in [Table 58](#).

Therefore, any inconsistency present between direct and indirect evidence for PFS in the all-risk population does not seem to have had an important impact on the PFS NMA results.

Due to the lack of closed loops within the OS and ORR NMAs, and within all NMAs conducted in the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroups, inconsistency cannot be statistically assessed within these networks. Therefore, the consistency of indirect estimates of OS is unknown.

Additional assessment group network meta-analysis sensitivity analyses

During the NICE appraisal, Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS), the company that manufactures nivolumab plus ipilimumab, noted that the AG NMAs for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup incorporate CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ PFS data according to the primary definition in the trial. The primary definition included censoring for subsequent anticancer therapy. This censoring definition was consistent with the primary definition of PFS in the CLEAR trial (using the censoring method preferred by the FDA) and the definition of PFS in the CABOSUN trial⁹⁷ BMS highlighted that in both the original submission for nivolumab plus ipilimumab²⁵ and the CDF review,³⁶ both the ERG and the NICE AC preferred the analysis that used the secondary definition of PFS from the CheckMate 214 trial.¹⁰⁰ This secondary definition did not apply censoring for subsequent anticancer therapy. This definition is consistent with the secondary definition of PFS in the CLEAR trial (using the censoring method preferred by the EMA).

The PFS and OS data from the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ used in the NMAs presented by the AG were based on a minimum study follow-up time of 42 months (median follow-up time reported for OS was 39.3 months; 43.6 months for nivolumab plus ipilimumab and 32.3 months; for sunitinib). Only results using the primary definition of PFS were available in the publication of the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ that reported 42-month minimum follow-up data.

BMS highlighted that there were two sources of data in the public domain^{115,116} that report PFS and OS data from the CheckMate 214 trial¹⁰⁰ which were more up to date than the data sources used in the AG NMAs. A published paper reported 48-month minimum follow-up PFS and OS data, and a conference poster reported 60-month minimum follow-up PFS and OS data. Both sources reported PFS data according to the primary definition. In its ACD response, BMS provided 60-month PFS results according to the secondary definition of PFS. These results were not previously in the public domain (and are considered to be academic-in-confidence).

Results from the updated intermediate-/poor-risk group NMAs including the most recent PFS and OS data from the CheckMate 214 trial (60-month minimum follow-up) are presented alongside results from the AG original NMAs in [Appendix 4 \(Table 73\)](#). In all three trials that contributed data to the updated NMAs, the primary definition of PFS included censoring on receipt of subsequent anticancer therapy. Therefore, the AG has used these primary definitions for its primary sensitivity analysis. Additional sensitivity analyses have also been conducted using the secondary definitions of PFS from the CLEAR trial and CheckMate 214 trial.¹⁰⁰

For the sensitivity analyses, the AG again assessed the PH assumption for PFS and OS data from the CheckMate 214 trial. The AG's original conclusions (that PH is violated for PFS data, but not for OS data) remain valid.

TABLE 73 Results from the original and updated AG PFS and OS intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup NMAs

Treatment	Comparator	FEs HR (95% CrI) ^a		REs HR (95% CrI) ^a	
		Original	Updated	Original	Updated
PFS – Primary analysis ^b					
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.36 (0.28 to 0.46)	0.36 (0.28 to 0.46)	0.40 (0 to 773)	0.40 (0 to 812)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.75 (0.45 to 1.25)	0.75 (0.45 to 1.25)	0.76 (0 to 25,591)	0.76 (0 to 28,283)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.48 (0.35 to 0.66)	0.49 (0.36 to 0.67)	0.53 (0 to 21,807)	0.53 (0 to 22,471)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)	0.53 (0 to 953)	0.52 (0 to 944)
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.75 (0.62 to 0.90)	0.73 (0.61 to 0.87)	0.76 (0 to 1339)	0.75 (0 to 1394)
Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	1.57 (0.97 to 2.51)	1.52 (0.95 to 2.44)	1.46 (0 to 48,050)	1.43 (0 to 54,176)
PFS – Sensitivity analysis ^c					
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.45 (0.36 to 0.56)	0.45 (0.36 to 0.56)	0.49 (0 to 953)	0.49 (0 to 880)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.93 (0.57 to 1.52)	0.93 (0.57 to 1.54)	0.92 (0 to 33,190)	0.94 (0 to 33,860)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.60 (0.45 to 0.80)	0.69 (0.53 to 0.91)	0.63 (0 to 24,343)	0.72 (0 to 26,108)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)	0.48 (0.31 to 0.74)	0.53 (0 to 973)	0.52 (0 to 1033)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.75 (0.62 to 0.90)	0.65 (0.55 to 0.76)	0.77 (0 to 1313)	0.68 (0 to 1236)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	1.57 (0.97 to 2.51)	1.35 (0.85 to 2.16)	1.46 (0 to 45,707)	1.31 (0 to 52,052)
OS					
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Sunitinib	0.62 (0.46 to 0.83)	0.62 (0.46 to 0.83)	0.66 (0 to 1200)	0.65 (0 to 1200)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Cabozantinib	0.78 (0.47 to 1.28)	0.78 (0.47 to 1.28)	0.80 (0 to 32,209)	0.78 (0 to 28,854)
Lenvatinib + pembrolizumab	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	0.94 (0.66 to 1.32)	0.91 (0.65 to 1.27)	0.95 (0 to 36,680)	0.9 (0 to 31,571)
Cabozantinib	Sunitinib	0.80 (0.53 to 1.21)	0.80 (0.53 to 1.21)	0.83 (0 to 1525)	0.84 (0 to 1510)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Sunitinib	0.66 (0.55 to 0.79)	0.68 (0.58 to 0.81)	0.69 (0 to 1274)	0.72 (0 to 1326)
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	Cabozantinib	0.83 (0.53 to 1.30)	0.85 (0.55 to 1.32)	0.84 (0 to 30,031)	0.87 (0 to 35,596)

a HR < 1 favours the treatment over the comparator.

b Primary definition of PFS used (includes censoring for subsequent anticancer therapy) for all three included trials.

c Secondary definition of PFS (no censoring for subsequent anticancer therapy) used for the CLEAR trial⁶⁶ and the CheckMate 214 trial⁶⁶ and primary definition of PFS (includes censoring for subsequent anticancer therapy) for the CABOSUN trial.⁹⁷

Appendix 5 Included cost-effectiveness study

TABLE 74 Consolidated Health Economic Evaluation Reporting Standards quality assessment checklist for the included study

	Li et al. 2021¹¹⁷
Title	Yes, p. 1
Abstract	Yes, p. 1
Background and objectives	Yes, p. 2
Target population and subgroup	Yes, p. 2 (Methods: Analytics Overview)
Setting and location	Yes, p. 2 (Introduction)
Study perspective	Yes, p. 2 (Introduction)
Comparators	Yes, p. 2 (Methods: Analytics Overview)
Time horizon	Yes, p. 2 (Methods: Analytics Overview)
Discount rate	Yes, p. 2 (Methods: Analytics Overview)
Choice of health outcomes	Yes, p. 3 (Transition Probability and Costs and Utilities)
Measurement of effectiveness	Yes, p. 2 and p. 3 (Transition Probability)
Measurement and valuation of preference-based outcomes	Yes, p. 3 (Costs and Utilities)
Estimating resources and costs	Individual resource use was reported for drug costs in the supplementary material but not for AEs
Currency, price date, and conversion	Costs were adjusted to 2021 US\$, p. 2
Choice of model	Yes, p. 2
Assumptions	Yes, p. 2 and p. 3
Analytical methods	Yes, p. 2 and p. 3
Study parameters	Yes, p. 4 and p. 5
Incremental costs and outcomes	Yes, p. 6
Characterising uncertainty	Yes, one-way sensitivity, probabilistic sensitivity and scenario analyses were undertaken (p. 7 and supplementary material)
Characterising heterogeneity	NA
Study findings, limitations, generalisability, and current knowledge	Yes, p. 7 and p. 8
Source of funding	Yes, p. 8
Conflicts of interest	Yes, p. 10

p., page.
Source
 CHEERS checklist¹¹⁸ and includes AG comment.

TABLE 75 Key information from the included cost-effectiveness study

Parameter	Li <i>et al.</i> 2021 ¹¹⁷
Year	2021
Type of economic evaluation	Cost-utility analysis
Population	Adults aged 62 years with aRCC, all-risk population
Intervention(s) and comparator(s)	Sunitinib, avelumab + axitinib, ^a nivolumab + ipilimumab, ^a lenvatinib + pembrolizumab, pembrolizumab + axitinib, ^a nivolumab + cabozantinib ^a
Model structure	Microsimulation
Health states	First-line treatment, second-line treatment, third-line treatment, discontinued treatment due to AEs, BSC, dead
Time horizon	Lifetime
Cycle length	42 days
Discount rates for costs and benefits	3% for costs and benefits
Perspective used (country, health-care system, societal)	US payer (direct costs only)
Sources of clinical evidence	K-M data from the key trials (the CLEAR trial, CheckMate 9ER trial, ¹³¹ CheckMate 214 trial, ¹⁰⁰ KEYNOTE-426 trial, ¹³² and JAVELIN Renal 101 trial ¹³³)
Sources of utilities evidence	Published sources: Cella <i>et al.</i> 2018; ¹³⁴ de Groot <i>et al.</i> 2018; ¹³⁵ Wan <i>et al.</i> 2019; ¹³⁶ Patel <i>et al.</i> 2021 ¹³⁷
Sources of costs evidence	Published sources include Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services 2021; ¹³⁸ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality US Dept of Health and Human Services 2021; ¹³⁹ Motzer <i>et al.</i> 2018; ¹⁴⁰ Perrin <i>et al.</i> 2015 ¹⁴¹
Currency used	US \$
Year to which costs apply	2021
Total costs	LEN + PEM = \$562,080.09 SUN = \$239,257.68
Total QALYs	LEN + PEM = 2.61 SUN = 2.42
Total LYs	LEN + PEM = 3.44 SUN = 3.21
Incremental costs	LEN + PEM vs. SUN=\$322,822.41
Incremental QALYs	LEN + PEM vs. SUN = 0.19
Incremental LYs	LEN + PEM vs. SUN = 0.23
ICER per LY gained	LEN + PEM vs. SUN=\$1,403,575.70
ICER per QALY gained	LEN + PEM vs. SUN=\$172,749.53
Sensitivity analysis results	The time horizon varied to 5, 10 and 20 years. A time horizon of 5 years significantly increased the ICER per QALY gained as most of the costs occurred in the first 5 years but the period over which benefits accrued exceeded 5 years.
Conclusions of cost-effectiveness results	Pembrolizumab plus axitinib ^a is the best option at a WTP threshold of \$100,000.
Limitations	Indirect comparisons include bias of different patient characteristics, lack of long-term OS data for patients treated with immune checkpoint inhibitors to validate model estimates, estimates of treatment discontinuation do not extend beyond the trial periods studied and the utility estimates come from a range of sources that may not accurately reflect clinical reality. The model is designed to represent the US health system so estimates may not be transferable to other healthcare systems.

BSC, best supportive care; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; SUN, sunitinib.

^a Not a relevant comparator or not used in a relevant population in this appraisal, therefore full results are not presented.

Appendix 6 Assessment group quality assessment and assessment of company approaches for deriving cost-effectiveness evidence

TABLE 76 Assessment group appraisal of companies' cost-effectiveness systematic review methods

Review process	AG response
Was the review question clearly defined in terms of population, interventions, comparators, outcomes and study designs?	Yes
Were appropriate sources searched?	Yes
Was the timespan of the searches appropriate?	Partially
Were appropriate search terms used?	Yes
Were the eligibility criteria appropriate to the decision problem?	Yes
Was study selection applied by two or more reviewers independently?	Yes
Were data extracted by two or more reviewers independently?	NA
Were appropriate criteria used to assess the risk of bias and/or quality of the primary studies?	NA
Was the quality assessment conducted by two or more reviewers independently?	NA
Were attempts to synthesise evidence appropriate?	NA
NA, not applicable.	
Source	
LRiG in-house checklist.	

TABLE 77 Critical appraisal checklist for the companies' economic analyses (Drummond check list)

Question	Eisai model	MSD model
Was a well-defined question posed in answerable form?	✓	✓
Was a comprehensive description of the competing alternatives given?	✓	✓
Was the effectiveness of the programme or services established?	✓	✓
Were all the important and relevant costs and consequences for each alternative identified?	✓	✓
Were costs and consequences measured accurately in appropriate physical units?	✓	✓
Were the cost and consequences valued credibly?	✓	✓
Were costs and consequences adjusted for differential timing?	✓	✓
Was an incremental analysis of costs and consequences of alternatives performed?	✓	✓
Was allowance made for uncertainty in the estimates of costs and consequences?	✓	✓
Did the presentation and discussion of study results include all issues of concern to users?	✓/X	✓/X
✓, yes (item properly addressed); X, no (item not properly addressed); ✓/X, partially (item partially addressed).		
Source		
Drummond and Jefferson. ¹⁴²		

TABLE 78 National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Reference Case checklist

Element of health technology assessment	Reference Case	MSD and Eisai models
Defining the decision problem	The scope developed by NICE	Yes
Comparators	As listed in the scope developed by NICE	Partly – nivolumab + ipilimumab was not included as a comparator
Perspective on outcomes	All direct health effects, whether for patients or, when relevant, carers	Yes
Perspective on costs	NHS and PSS	Yes
Type of economic evaluation	Cost-utility analysis with fully incremental analysis	Yes
Time horizon	Long enough to reflect all important differences in costs or outcomes between the technologies being compared	Yes
Synthesis of evidence on health effects	On the basis of systematic review and NMA	Yes
Measuring and valuing health effects	Health effects should be expressed in QALYs; the EQ-5D is the preferred measure of HRQoL in adults	Yes
Source of data for measurement of HRQoL	Reported directly by patients and/or carers	Yes
Source of preference data for valuation of changes in HRQoL	Representative sample of the UK population	Yes
Equity considerations	An additional QALY has the same weight regardless of the other characteristics of the individuals receiving the health benefit	Yes
Evidence on resource use and costs	Costs should relate to NHS and PSS resources and should be valued using the prices relevant to the NHS and PSS	Yes
Discounting	The same annual rate for both costs and health effects (currently 3.5%)	Yes

SourceNational Institute for Health and Care Excellence Reference Case.¹¹⁹

Appendix 7 Assessment of cost-effectiveness (all-risk population)

Unless described in this section, all parameters used in the all-risk population model are the same as were used in the intermediate-/poor-risk and favourable-risk subgroup models (see main body of the report).

Intervention and comparator treatments

The intervention is lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. The comparators listed in the final scope³ issued by NICE are sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib.

Populating the Merck Sharp & Dohme/assessment group model: progression-free survival

Eisai and MSD fitted distributions to CLEAR trial BIRC PFS data (FDA censoring rules). The PFS distributions chosen by Eisai, MSD and the AG for the all-risk population are shown in [Table 79](#). The PFS distributions chosen by the AG for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab and sunitinib/pazopanib/tivozanib cannot be shown graphically as the data are confidential.

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

All the MSD AIC statistics for the distributions fitted to CLEAR trial lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab data lie within five AIC points of each other. Eisai chose to model lenvatinib and pembrolizumab PFS using a log-normal distribution and MSD chose to model lenvatinib and pembrolizumab PFS using an exponential distribution. The AG considered that the gamma distribution, which has the lowest AIC statistic (highest ranking), and on visual inspection, seemed to offer long-term projections that were clinically plausible, was an appropriate option in the base case.

Sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib)

Eisai chose to model sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib) PFS using a log-normal distribution. MSD chose to model sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib) PFS using a gamma distribution. Although the gamma distribution only ranked 4/7 using AIC statistics, MSD considered the gamma distribution generated the most plausible long-term survival estimates.

The AG considered the distribution with the lowest AIC statistic (generalised gamma distribution) generated PFS estimates that were too optimistic. The AG considered that the log-normal distribution (ranked 2/7 using AIC statistics) produced long-term PFS projections that were clinically plausible and therefore considered that this was an appropriate option to use in the base case.

TABLE 79 Modelling PFS (all-risk population)

Treatment	Eisai	MSD	AG
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	Log-normal	Exponential	Gamma
Sunitinib	Log-normal	Gamma	Log-normal
Pazopanib/tivozanib	Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib
Source			
Eisai CS ¹ (see section 5.3.2); MSD CS ² (see section B3.3).			

Assessment group scenario analyses: all-risk population (progression-free survival)

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the distributions that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the chosen distribution to model PFS for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. The distributions for sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib were unchanged.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the MSD preferred gamma distribution to model PFS for sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib. The distribution for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was unchanged.

Populating the Merck Sharp & Dohme/assessment group model: overall survival

The distributions chosen by Eisai, MSD and the AG for OS in the all-risk population are shown in [Table 80](#).

Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab

Both companies chose the exponential distribution (ranked 6/7 using AIC and BIC statistics) to estimate OS for patients receiving lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab. This distribution was not within 5 points of the distribution with the lowest AIC statistic. The companies' choice was based on good visual fit to the CLEAR trial OS K-M data and because the higher-ranking distributions appeared to generate implausible long-term OS estimates. Although the AG was satisfied that the companies followed DSU guidance,¹²⁰ the AG did not consider that any of the distributions considered by Eisai or MSD provided a good visual fit to the available CLEAR trial OS K-M data available.

The AG examined the CLEAR trial OS K-M data received during the NICE appraisal clarification process and observed that the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab OS hazard was constant beyond 80 weeks. The AG therefore considered that the companies' choice of an exponential distribution was appropriate, but that K-M data should be used up to the point that censoring and small numbers of events rendered the data too uncertain (the AG considered that this occurred at 120 weeks). The AG observed that between 80 and 120 weeks the OS hazard was constant. The AG appended the exponential distribution (based on the hazard between 80 and 120 weeks) to the CLEAR trial OS K-M data from 120 weeks onwards.

Sunitinib (pazopanib and tivozanib)

To model OS for patients treated with sunitinib, Eisai chose the exponential distribution as it did not cross the lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab OS distribution. MSD chose the gamma distribution as they considered distributions with higher ranking AIC statistics generated implausible long-term OS projections. Although the AG was satisfied that the companies followed DSU guidance,¹²⁰ it did not consider that any of the distributions considered by Eisai or MSD provided a good visual fit to the available CLEAR trial OS K-M data.

TABLE 80 Modelling OS (all-risk population)

Treatment	Eisai	MSD	AG
Lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab	Exponential	Exponential	K-M + exponential
Sunitinib	Exponential	Gamma	K-M + exponential
Pazopanib/tivozanib	Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib
Source			
Eisai CS ¹ (see section 5.3.1); MSD CS ² (see section B3.3).			

The AG examined the CLEAR trial OS K-M data received during the NICE appraisal clarification process and observed that the sunitinib OS hazard was constant beyond 50 weeks. The AG therefore considered that the MSD choice of an exponential distribution was appropriate, but that K-M data should be used up to the point that censoring and small numbers of events rendered the data too uncertain (the AG considered that this occurred at 120 weeks). The AG observed that between 50 and 120 weeks the OS hazard was constant. The AG appended the exponential distribution (based on the hazard between 50 and 120 weeks) to the CLEAR trial OS K-M data from 120 weeks onwards.

Assessment group scenario analyses: all-risk population (overall survival)

The AG carried out the following scenario analyses using company base approaches to modelling:

- Use the exponential distribution (Eisai and MSD preferred distribution) instead of the AG K-M + exponential distribution to model OS for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.
- Use the exponential distribution (Eisai preferred distribution) instead of the AG K-M + exponential distribution to model OS for sunitinib.
- Use the gamma distribution (MSD preferred distribution) instead of the AG K-M + exponential distribution to model OS for sunitinib.

Populating the model: time to treatment discontinuation

The AG considered that TTD for patients receiving lenvatinib and sunitinib should be modelled by fitting a distribution to CLEAR trial TTD K-M data and, for patients receiving pembrolizumab, the CLEAR trial TTD K-M data should be used directly. The parametric distributions chosen by Eisai, MSD and the AG to model TTD for all treatments are shown in [Table 81](#). The TTD distributions chosen by the AG cannot be shown graphically for the all-risk population as the data are confidential.

Lenvatinib

Eisai and MSD provided CLEAR trial lenvatinib TTD K-M data during the NICE appraisal clarification process. However, the two data sets differed slightly (within 24 months there was a clear gap between the two data sets). The AG concluded that as the safety data from the CLEAR trial suggested a lower level of treatment discontinuation for lenvatinib than for pembrolizumab (25.6% vs. 28.7%⁶⁶), the Eisai TTD K-M lenvatinib data were likely to be the most accurate as they followed a trajectory that was consistently above the TTD K-M pembrolizumab data until 24 months, that is until the time when the pembrolizumab stopping rule was activated. In contrast, the MSD TTD lenvatinib K-M data crossed the pembrolizumab TTD K-M data at 20 months.

TABLE 81 Modelling TTD (all-risk population)

Treatment	Eisai	MSD	AG
Lenvatinib	Generalised gamma	Generalised gamma	Generalised gamma (Eisai)
Pembrolizumab	Weibull	K-M data (CLEAR trial data are complete)	
Sunitinib	Generalised gamma	Log-logistic	
Pembrolizumab/tivozanib	Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib	Equal to sunitinib
Source			
Eisai CS ¹ (see section 5.3.2); MSD CS ² (see section B3.3).			

Both companies chose to use generalised gamma distributions to model TTD for patients treated with lenvatinib (in the MSD CS,² this was the highest-ranking distribution using AIC statistics). The AG considered that the Eisai generalised gamma distribution provided a good visual fit to the TTD K-M data and did not cross the pembrolizumab TTD K-M data until 24 months. The AG therefore chose to use the Eisai generalised gamma distribution to model lenvatinib K-M TTD data.

Pembrolizumab

The MSD modelled pembrolizumab TTD by directly using the K-M data from the CLEAR trial and applied a 2-year stopping rule in line with the CLEAR trial protocol. Eisai modelled pembrolizumab TTD by fitting a Weibull distribution to the CLEAR trial K-M data; it is clear from the Eisai model outputs that a stopping rule for pembrolizumab at 2 years had been applied. The CLEAR trial pembrolizumab TTD K-M data are almost complete and so the AG used the TTD K-M data directly to estimate the cost of treatment with pembrolizumab for patients in the all-risk population. The AG did not include an enforced stopping rule at 2 years but used the K-M data directly, which means that some patients remained on pembrolizumab for a short period of time beyond 2 years.

Sunitinib

Eisai used the generalised gamma distribution to model sunitinib TTD. The company considered this distribution to have good statistical and visual fit to the tail of the sunitinib TTD K-M data. The AG and MSD used the log-logistic distribution as this has the lowest AIC and was a good visual fit to the sunitinib TTD K-M data.

Assessment group scenario analyses: all-risk population (time to treatment discontinuation)

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the distributions that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model TTD for patients treated with lenvatinib. The distributions for sunitinib, pazopanib and tivozanib were unchanged.

The AG explored the effect on cost-effectiveness results of using the distributions that were within five points of the AIC statistic for the distribution used to model TTD for patients treated with sunitinib. The distribution for lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab was unchanged.

Utility values

The AG considers that the MSD time-to-death approach provided the best reflection of the HRQoL of long-term survivors and used this approach in the MSD/AG model. The values used cannot be reported as they are confidential.

Assessment group scenario analyses (utility values)

The AG has carried out two scenario analyses. One scenario analysis used the Eisai treatment dependent health state utility values and the other used the MSD treatment independent health state utility values. The values used cannot be reported as they are confidential.

Assessment group scenario analysis (adverse events)

The AG has carried out two scenario analyses: one in which AE costs were set to zero and one in which AE costs were doubled.

Assessment group sensitivity analyses (subsequent treatment costs)

The AG carried out sensitivity analyses that varied the costs of subsequent treatments by $\pm 20\%$.

Assessment group cost-effectiveness results

The all-risk population cost-effectiveness results are presented here for completeness. The AG cost-effectiveness results were estimated using the list prices for the intervention, comparators and subsequent treatments ([Tables 82](#) and [83](#)). AG cost-effectiveness results generated using confidential discounted prices are presented in a confidential appendix. Results from all AG probabilistic and sensitivity analyses are confidential. Results from AG scenario analyses are presented in [Tables 84–86](#).

Deterministic results

TABLE 82 Assessment group pairwise deterministic base-case results, all-risk population: LEM + PEM vs. sunitinib, vs. pazopanib and vs. tivozanib

Drug	Incremental: LEM + PEM vs. comparator ICER per QALY gained
LEN + PEM	–
Sunitinib	£4,205,044
Pazopanib	£4,167,492
Tivozanib	£4,048,514
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 83 Assessment group fully incremental analysis, all-risk population (list prices)

Drug	ICER per QALY gained
Sunitinib	–
Pazopanib	Pazopanib is dominated by sunitinib
Tivozanib	Tivozanib is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM	£4,205,044
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

Assessment group deterministic scenario analysis results (all-risk population)

TABLE 84 Assessment group scenario analyses: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. sunitinib (list prices)

AG scenarios All-risk population	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£4,205,044
Discount rate 6%	£1,498,809
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	£4,197,889
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£4,197,048
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£4,211,511
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£4,169,615
MSD sunitinib PFS (gamma)	£4,191,672
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£263,613
Eisai sunitinib OS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated
MSD sunitinib OS (gamma)	£241,564
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£4,356,024
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£4,281,938
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£4,381,303
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,157,860
Eisai sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,364,812
Eisai sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	£4,050,501
Eisai sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	£4,256,635
MSD health state utilities	£1,871,468
Eisai health state utilities	£859,692
AE costs doubled	£4,203,370
AE costs set to zero	£4,206,717
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£4,128,236
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£4,281,851
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 85 Assessment group scenario analyses: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. pazopanib (list prices)

AG scenarios All-risk population	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£4,167,492
Discount rate 6%	£1,487,254
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	£4,160,337
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£4,159,496
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£4,173,960
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£4,132,063
MSD sunitinib PFS (gamma)	£4,158,249
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£261,289
Eisai sunitinib OS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated
MSD sunitinib OS (gamma)	£239,468
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£4,318,472
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£4,244,386
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£4,343,751
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,120,308
Eisai sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,336,576
Eisai sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	£4,004,184
Eisai sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	£4,221,966
MSD health state utilities	£1,854,755
Eisai health state utilities	£852,015
AE costs doubled	£4,191,262
AE costs set to zero	£4,143,721
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£4,090,684
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£4,244,299
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 86 Assessment group scenario analyses: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. tivozanib (list prices)

AG scenarios All-risk population	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£4,048,514
Discount rate 6%	£1,041,860
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	£1,630,398
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£1,604,639
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£2,003,596
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£1,168,137
MSD sunitinib PFS (gamma)	£1,742,343
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£253,739
Eisai sunitinib OS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated
MSD sunitinib OS (gamma)	£233,603
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£1,839,917
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£1,821,429
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£1,845,753
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£1,788,521
Eisai sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	£1,711,271
Eisai sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	£1,904,812
Eisai sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	£1,773,649
MSD health state utilities	£1,801,804
Eisai health state utilities	£827,691
AE costs doubled	£4,058,317
AE costs set to zero	£4,038,712
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£3,971,707
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£4,125,322
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

Appendix 8 Assessment group table of cost-effectiveness scenario analyses

A summary of the AG's scenario analyses conducted is presented in [Table 87](#).

TABLE 87 Assessment group scenario analyses

Scenario analysis	Intermediate/poor risk	Favourable risk	All-risk population
Discounting	6%	6%	6%
	0%	0%	0%
PFS	LEN + PEM distributions within 5 AIC points	LEN + PEM distributions within 5 AIC points	LEN + PEM distributions within 5 AIC points
	Gamma	Exponential	Exponential
	Generalised gamma	Gamma	Generalised gamma
	Gompertz	Gompertz	Gompertz
	Log-logistic	Log-logistic	Log-logistic
	Log-normal	Log-normal	MSD gamma distribution for SUN
	Weibull	Weibull	-
	CABO MSD FP PFS NMA HR	SUN distributions within five AIC points	Eisai/MSD exponential distribution for LEN + PEM
	-	Gamma	Eisai exponential distribution for SUN
	-	Generalised gamma	MSD gamma distribution for SUN
OS	-	Log-logistic	-
	-	Weibull	-
	Eisai/MSD exponential distribution for LEN + PEM	AG OS NMA HR for SUN	LEN + PEM distributions within five AIC points (exponential)
	Eisai CABO OS	SUN OS = LEN + PEM OS	Eisai SUN OS exponential
	MSD CABO FP OS	-	MSD SUN OS gamma
	CABO OS = LEN + PEM OS	-	-
NIV + IP OS = LEN + PEM OS	-	-	

continued

TABLE 87 Assessment group scenario analyses (continued)

Scenario analysis	Intermediate/poor risk	Favourable risk	All-risk population
TTD	LEN + PEM distributions within five AIC points	LEN + PEM distributions within five AIC points	LEN + PEM distributions within five AIC points
	Exponential	Generalised gamma	Eisai exponential
	Gompertz	Gamma	Eisai Gompertz
	Weibull	Gompertz	Eisai Weibull
	MSD generalised gamma	Log-logistic	MSD generalised gamma
	Eisai CABO TTD within five AIC points	Weibull	Eisai SUN generalised gamma
	Weibull	SUN distributions within five AIC points	Eisai SUN generalised gamma
	Log-normal	Gamma	Eisai SUN Gompertz
	Exponential	Generalised gamma	Eisai SUN log-normal
	Generalised gamma	Gompertz	-
	Gompertz	Log-logistic	-
	MSD CABO FP TTD	Log-normal	-
	NIV + IPI = Eisai PEM TTD (Weibull)	Weibull	-
Utility values	MSD treatment independent health state utility values	MSD treatment independent health state utility values	MSD treatment independent health state utility values
	Eisai treatment dependent health state utility values	-	Eisai treatment dependent health state utility values
AEs	Double AE costs	Double AE costs	Double AE costs
	Set AE costs to zero	Set AE costs to zero	Set AE costs to zero
Subsequent treatments	Increase costs by 20%	Increase costs by 20%	Increase costs by 20%
	Decrease costs by 20%	Decrease costs by 20%	Decrease costs by 20%

CABO, cabozantinib; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; NIV + IPI, nivolumab plus ipilimumab; SUN, sunitinib.

Appendix 9 Assessment group one-way sensitivity analysis and probabilistic sensitivity analysis parameters

A summary of the parameter values used for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup sensitivity analyses is presented in [Table 88](#).

TABLE 88 Assessment group intermediate/poor risk: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
Age at model start	61	55.21	67.48	Normal	SE = 0.405
Percentage of males	74.61%	0.67	0.82	Normal	$\alpha = 529$ $\beta = 180$
Patient weight	79.40	71.46	87.34	Normal	SE = 0.693
OS HR CABO	1.28 ^a	1.05	1.56	Log-normal	SE = 0.128
OS HR, NIV + IPI	1.06 ^a	0.87	1.29	Log-normal	SE = 0.106
PFS HR (constant), CABO	1.33 ^a	1.10	1.62	Log-normal	SE = 0.133
PFS HR (constant), NIV + IPI	2.08 ^a	1.71	2.53	Log-normal	SE = 0.208
RDI – PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Beta	Confidential information has been removed
RDI – CABO	0.94	0.91	0.97	Beta	$\alpha = 229.149$ $\beta = 13.851$
Drug costs: admin costs, oral prescription cost	£11.00	8.84	13.16	Normal	SE = 1.100
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – simple, first	£221.35	177.97	264.73	Normal	SE = 22.135
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – simple, subsequent	£365.91	294.19	437.62	Normal	SE = 36.591
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – complex, first	£352.24	283.20	421.28	Normal	SE = 35.224
Drug costs: admin costs, oral chemo admin, first	£226.45	182.07	270.83	Normal	SE = 22.645
EOL cost: NICE ID1426 (ERG)	8073.00	6490.72	9655.28	Normal	SE = 807.300
Subsequent treatment costs – LEN + PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
Subsequent treatment costs – CABO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-

continued

TABLE 88 Assessment group intermediate/poor risk: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters (continued)

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
Subsequent treatment costs – NIV + IPI	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – LEN + PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – CABO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – NIV + IPI	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
Resource use: health state cost, progression-free (first cycle)	£255.01	£205.03	£305.00	Normal	SE = 25.501
Resource use: health state cost, progression-free (subsequent cycles)	£59.89	£48.15	£71.63	Normal	SE = 5.989
Resource use: health state cost, disease progression	£59.89	£48.15	£71.63	Normal	SE = 5.989
Resource use: frequency – PF first cycle – outpatient consultation	1.00	0.80	1.20	Normal	SE = 0.100
Resource use: frequency – PF first cycle – blood test	1.00	0.80	1.20	Normal	SE = 0.100
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – outpatient consultation	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – CT scan	0.08	0.06	0.10	Normal	SE = 0.008
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – blood test	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PD – Outpatient consultation	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PD – CT scan	0.08	0.06	0.10	Normal	SE = 0.008
Resource use: frequency – PD – blood test	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Time-to-death utilities ^b	See description in text				

CABO, cabozantinib; EOL, end of life; ERG, Evidence Review Group; i.v., intravenous; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; NIV + IPI, nivolumab plus ipilimumab; PD, progressed disease; PF, progression free; SE, standard error.
a Reciprocal of AG NMA HR used in the AG/MSD model.
b Only varied in PSA.

A summary of the parameter values used for the favourable-risk subgroup sensitivity analyses is presented in [Table 89](#).

TABLE 89 Assessment group favourable risk: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
Age at model start	62.18	55.96	68.40	Normal	SE = 0.501
Percentage of males	74.71%	0.67	0.82	Normal	$\alpha = 260$ $\beta = 88$
Patient weight (kg)	84.32	75.89	92.75	Normal	SE = 0.993
RDI – PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Beta	Confidential information has been removed
RDI – SUN	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Beta	Confidential information has been removed
RDI – PAZO	0.86	0.81	0.90	Beta	$\alpha = 208.980$ $\beta = 34.020$
RDI – TIVO	0.94	0.91	0.97	Beta	$\alpha = 228.420$ $\beta = 14.580$
Drug costs: admin costs, oral prescription cost	£11.00	£8.84	£13.16	Normal	SE = 1.100
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – simple, first	£221.35	£177.97	£264.73	Normal	SE = 22.135
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – simple, subsequent	£365.91	£294.19	£437.62	Normal	SE = 36.591
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – complex, first	£352.24	£283.20	£421.28	Normal	SE = 35.224
Drug costs: admin costs, oral chemo admin, first	£226.45	£182.07	£270.83	Normal	SE = 22.645
EOL cost: NICE ID1426 (ERG)	£8073.00	£6490.72	£9655.28	Normal	SE = 807.300
Subsequent treatment costs – LEN + PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
Subsequent treatment costs – SUN/PAZO/TIVO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – LEN + PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – SUN	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – PAZO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – TIVO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-

continued

TABLE 89 Assessment group favourable risk: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters (continued)

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
Resource use: health state cost, progression-free (first cycle)	£255.01	£205.03	£305.00	Normal	SE = 25.501
Resource use: health state cost, progression-free (subsequent cycles)	£59.89	£48.15	£71.63	Normal	SE = 5.989
Resource use: health state cost, disease progression	£59.89	£48.15	£71.63	Normal	SE = 5.989
Resource use: frequency – PF first cycle – outpatient consultation	1.00	0.80	1.20	Normal	SE = 0.100
Resource use: frequency – PF first cycle – blood test	1.00	0.80	1.20	Normal	SE = 0.100
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – outpatient consultation	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – CT scan	0.08	0.06	0.10	Normal	SE = 0.008
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – blood test	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PD – outpatient consultation	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PD – CT scan	0.08	0.06	0.10	Normal	SE = 0.008
Resource use: frequency – PD – blood test	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Time-to-death utilities ^a	See description in text				

EOL, end of life; i.v., intravenous; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; PD, progressed disease; PF, progression free; PAZO, pazopanib; SE, standard error; SUN, sunitinib; TIVO, tivozanib.
^a Only varied in PSA.

A summary of the parameter values used for the all-risk population sensitivity analyses is presented in [Table 90](#).

TABLE 90 Assessment group all-risk population: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
Age at model start	62.18	55.96	68.40	Normal	SE = 0.501
Percentage of males	74.71%	0.67	0.82	Normal	$\alpha = 260$ $\beta = 88$
Patient weight (kg)	84.32	75.89	92.75	Normal	SE = 0.993

TABLE 90 Assessment group all-risk population: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters (continued)

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
RDI – PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Beta	Confidential information has been removed
RDI – SUN	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Beta	Confidential information has been removed
RDI – PAZO	0.86	0.81	0.90	Beta	$\alpha = 208.980$ $\beta = 34.020$
RDI – TIVO	0.94	0.91	0.97	Beta	$\alpha = 228.420$ $\beta = 14.580$
Drug costs: admin costs, oral prescription cost	£11.00	£8.84	£13.16	Normal	SE = 1.100
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – simple, first	£221.35	£177.97	£264.73	Normal	SE = 22.135
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – simple, subsequent	£365.91	£294.19	£437.62	Normal	SE = 36.591
Drug costs: admin costs, i.v. – complex, first	£352.24	£283.20	£421.28	Normal	SE = 35.224
Drug costs: admin costs, oral chemo admin, first	£226.45	£182.07	£270.83	Normal	SE = 22.645
EOL cost: NICE ID1426 (ERG)	£8073.00	£6490.72	£9655.28	Normal	SE = 807.300
Subsequent treatment costs – LEN + PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
Subsequent treatment costs – SUN/PAZO/TIVO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – LEN + PEM	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – SUN	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – PAZO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
AE costs – TIVO	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Confidential information has been removed	Uniform	-
Resource use: health state cost, progression-free (first cycle)	£255.01	£205.03	£305.00	Normal	SE = 25.501
Resource use: health state cost, progression-free (subsequent cycles)	£59.89	£48.15	£71.63	Normal	SE = 5.989

continued

TABLE 90 Assessment group all-risk population: one-way sensitivity analysis and PSA parameters (*continued*)

Parameter	Base-case value	Lower bound	Upper bound	Distribution	Distribution parameters
Resource use: health state cost, disease progression	£59.89	£48.15	£71.63	Normal	SE = 5.989
Resource use: frequency – PF first cycle – outpatient consultation	1.00	0.80	1.20	Normal	SE = 0.100
Resource use: frequency – PF first cycle – blood test	1.00	0.80	1.20	Normal	SE = 0.100
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – outpatient consultation	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – CT scan	0.08	0.06	0.10	Normal	SE = 0.008
Resource use: frequency – PF subsequent cycle – blood test	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PD – outpatient consultation	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Resource use: frequency – PD – CT scan	0.08	0.06	0.10	Normal	SE = 0.008
Resource use: frequency – PD – blood test	0.25	0.20	0.30	Normal	SE = 0.025
Time-to-death utilities ^a	See description in text				

EOL, end of life; ERG, Evidence Review Group; i.v., intravenous; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; PAZO, pazopanib; PD, progressed disease; PF, progression free; SE, standard error; SUN, sunitinib; TIVO, tivozanib.
^a Only varied in PSA.

Appendix 10 Assessment group additional cost-effectiveness sensitivity analyses

During the appraisal, in response to consultation comments, the AG produced additional sensitivity analyses to correct two modelling errors and to update the cost-effectiveness results for the intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup using the updated NMA results with the addition of the CheckMate 214 trial 60-month minimum follow-up data. The two modelling errors were:

- error in tivozanib engine for AE costs
- error in application of oral administration costs.

Using the updated costs and NMA data in the model had relatively little impact on results ([Tables 91–98](#)) and the same conclusions could be drawn.

Assessment group deterministic scenario analysis results (intermediate-/poor-risk population)

TABLE 91 Assessment group scenario analysis: lenvatinib vs. cabozantinib (list prices)

AG scenarios intermediate/poor-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£161,714
Discount rate 6%	£194,420
Discount rate 0%	£119,138
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	£161,757
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£161,633
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£161,805
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£161,344
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	£161,317
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	£161,770
CAB MSD FP PFS HR	£145,178
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£139,828
Eisai CABO OS HR	£154,615
MSD CABO FP OS HR	£141,851
CABO OS = LEN + PEM OS	Dominated
LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£170,839
LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£164,842
LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£170,962
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£150,849
Eisai CABO TTD (Weibull)	£181,794
Eisai CABO TTD (log-normal)	£168,033

continued

TABLE 91 Assessment group scenario analysis: lenvatinib vs. cabozantinib (list prices) (*continued*)

AG scenarios intermediate/poor-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
Eisai CABO TTD (exponential)	£181,358
Eisai CABO TTD (generalised gamma)	£174,091
Eisai CABO TTD (Gompertz)	£176,507
MSD CABO FP TTD HR	£155,158
MSD health state utilities	£169,585
Eisai health state utilities	£157,279
AE costs doubled	£163,652
AE costs set to zero	£159,432
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£160,291
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£163,482
CABO, cabozantinib; LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 92 Assessment group scenario analysis: lenvatinib vs. nivolumab plus ipilimumab (list prices)

AG scenarios intermediate-/poor-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£89,524
Discount rate 6%	£108,525
Discount rate 0%	£66,007
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	£89,839
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£89,081
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£90,095
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£87,191
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	£86,762
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	£89,910
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£78,171
LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£57,441
LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£78,069
LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£57,030
MSD LEM + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£127,435
MSD health state utilities	£85,712
Eisai health state utilities	£63,626
AE costs doubled	£94,372
AE costs set to zero	£84,523
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£88,791
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£90,411
NIV + IPI = Eisai PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominant
OS LEM + PEM = OS NIV + IPI	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab; NIV + IPI, nivolumab plus ipilimumab.	

Assessment group deterministic scenario analysis results (favourable-risk subgroup)

TABLE 93 Assessment group scenario results: lenvatinib vs. sunitinib (list prices)

AG scenario favourable-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Discount rate 6%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Sunitinib PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
AG OS NMA HR for sunitinib	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
OS LEN + PEM = OS sunitinib	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD sunitinib TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
MSD health state utilities	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
AE costs doubled	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
AE costs set to zero	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by sunitinib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 94 Assessment group scenario results: lenvatinib vs. pazopanib (list prices)

AG scenario favourable-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Discount rate 6%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Pazopanib PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
AG OS NMA HR for pazopanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
OS LEN + PEM = OS pazopanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD pazopanib TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
MSD health state utilities	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
AE costs doubled	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
AE costs set to zero	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by pazopanib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 95 Assessment group scenario results: lenvatinib vs. tivozanib (list prices)

AG scenario favourable-risk subgroup	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Discount rate 6%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Tivozanib PFS (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
AG OS NMA HR for tivozanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
OS LEN + PEM = OS tivozanib	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (generalised gamma)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (Gompertz)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (log-logistic)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (log-normal)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD tivozanib TTD (Weibull)	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
MSD health state utilities	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
AE costs doubled	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
AE costs set to zero	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	LEN + PEM is dominated by tivozanib
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

Assessment group deterministic scenario analysis results (all-risk population)

TABLE 96 Assessment group scenario analyses: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. sunitinib (list prices)

AG scenarios All-risk population	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£4,151,860
Discount rate 6%	£1,481,454
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	£4,145,679
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£4,144,952
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£4,157,450
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£4,121,252
MSD sunitinib PFS (gamma)	£4,139,053
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£260,322
Eisai sunitinib OS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated
MSD sunitinib OS (gamma)	£238,557
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£4,302,116
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£4,228,387
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£4,327,271
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£3,877,720
Eisai sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,310,945
Eisai sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	£3,997,979
Eisai sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	£4,203,231
MSD health state utilities	£1,847,799
Eisai health state utilities	£848,819
AE costs doubled	£4,150,186
AE costs set to zero	£4,153,534
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£4,065,229
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£4,238,491
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 97 Assessment group scenario analyses: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. pazopanib (list prices)

AG scenarios All-risk population	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£4,116,623
Discount rate 6%	£1,470,672
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	£4,110,442
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£4,109,715
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£4,122,213
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£4,086,014
MSD sunitinib PFS (gamma)	£4,107,944
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£258,142
Eisai sunitinib OS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated
MSD sunitinib OS (gamma)	£236,590
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£4,266,878
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£4,193,150
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£4,292,034
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£3,842,483
Eisai sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,284,682
Eisai sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	£3,954,305
Eisai sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	£4,170,766
MSD health state utilities	£1,832,116
Eisai health state utilities	£841,615
AE costs doubled	£4,140,393
AE costs set to zero	£4,092,852
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£4,282,780
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£3,950,466
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

TABLE 98 Assessment group scenario analyses: lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab vs. tivozanib (list prices)

AG scenarios All-risk population	ICER per QALY gained
AG base case	£4,000,330
Discount rate 6%	£1,431,073
Discount rate 0%	LEN + PEM is dominated
LEN + PEM PFS (exponential)	£3,994,149
LEN + PEM PFS (generalised gamma)	£3,993,422
LEN + PEM PFS (Gompertz)	£4,005,920
LEN + PEM PFS (log-logistic)	£3,969,721
MSD sunitinib PFS (gamma)	£3,989,820
LEN + PEM OS (exponential)	£250,946
Eisai sunitinib OS (exponential)	LEN + PEM is dominated
MSD sunitinib OS (gamma)	£230,057
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (exponential)	£4,150,585
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Gompertz)	£4,076,857
Eisai LEN + PEM TTD (Weibull)	£4,175,741
MSD LEN + PEM TTD (generalised gamma)	£3,726,190
Eisai sunitinib TTD (generalised gamma)	£4,182,510
Eisai sunitinib TTD (Gompertz)	£3,824,226
Eisai sunitinib TTD (log-normal)	£4,059,095
MSD health state utilities	£1,780,359
Eisai health state utilities	£817,840
AE costs doubled	£4,012,817
AE costs set to zero	£3,987,843
Subsequent treatment costs increased by 20%	£4,166,487
Subsequent treatment costs decreased by 20%	£3,834,173
LEN + PEM, lenvatinib plus pembrolizumab.	

EME
HSDR
HTA
PGfAR
PHR

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