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POSITION PAPER

Rationale for the treatment of Wilms tumour in the UMBRELLA SIOP–RTSG 2016 protocol

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Abstract | The Renal Tumour Study Group of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP–RTSG) has developed a new protocol for the diagnosis and treatment of childhood renal tumours, the UMBRELLA SIOP–RTSG 2016 (the UMBRELLA protocol), to continue international collaboration in the treatment of childhood renal tumours. This protocol will support integrated biomarker and imaging research, focussing on assessing the independent prognostic value of genomic changes within the tumour and the volume of the blastemal component that survives preoperative chemotherapy. Treatment guidelines for Wilms tumours in the UMBRELLA protocol include recommendations for localized, metastatic, and bilateral disease, for all age groups, and for relapsed disease. These recommendations have been established by a multidisciplinary panel of leading experts on renal tumours within the SIOP–RTSG. The UMBRELLA protocol should promote international collaboration and research and serve as the SIOP–RTSG best available treatment standard.

The Renal Tumour Study Group of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP–RTSG) has developed a new protocol for diagnosis and treatment of childhood renal tumours, UMBRELLA SIOP–RTSG 2016 (referred to as the UMBRELLA protocol), to continue international collaboration in the treatment of childhood renal tumours¹. The UMBRELLA protocol succeeds the SIOP–2001 protocol². The name UMBRELLA signifies the ambitious aim to collect information concerning all paediatric primary renal tumours in a comprehensive multidimensional data registry, which includes embedded review of diagnostics, standardized biobanking, and treatment recommendations¹ (FIG. 1). The UMBRELLA protocol will support integrated biomarker and imaging research, with a particular focus on assessing the independent prognostic value of genomic changes within the tumour (chromosomal gain of 1q and the extent of its intratumoral heterogeneity) and the volume of

the blastemal component that survives preoperative chemotherapy^{3,4}.

Childhood renal tumours are relatively uncommon, accounting for ~5% of all paediatric malignancies. Of these tumours, around 80–90% are thought to be Wilms tumours, whereas other renal tumours (non-Wilms tumours), including clear cell sarcoma of the kidney, renal cell carcinoma, malignant rhabdoid tumour of the kidney, and congenital mesoblastic nephroma are even less common⁵. The exact incidence of non-Wilms tumours is unclear, owing to the probable under-registration of patients with these tumours in renal tumour protocols.

The UMBRELLA protocol addresses both Wilms tumours and non-Wilms tumours, and will be available on the SIOP–RTSG website (www.siop-rtsg.eu) after launch in 2017. All countries that are interested in joining the UMBRELLA protocol will be given full access to the treatment schedules, based on their commitment

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to register renal tumour patients. This Consensus Statement focuses on the rationale for treatment of Wilms tumours in the UMBRELLA protocol.

Treatment guidelines for Wilms tumours in the UMBRELLA protocol include recommendations for localized, metastatic (stage IV), and bilateral disease, for all age groups, and for relapsed disease. These recommendations were established by a multi-disciplinary panel of leading experts on renal tumours within the SIOP-RTSG, including paediatric oncologists, radiologists, pathologists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, statisticians, and scientists involved in basic research. Thorough communications were undertaken with colleagues with similar expertise involved in the Children's Oncology Group (COG), to ensure all relevant evidence was applied when deciding how to implement the results of the SIOP-2001 randomized trial, which investigated the safety of omitting doxorubicin in treating stage II-III intermediate-risk Wilms tumours, and to refine recommendations for patients with Wilms tumour. Over the past 15 years, wide-ranging discussions on global strategies for children with renal tumours have evolved between SIOP-RTSG and COG during meetings and workshops. These conversations

have resulted in sharing of data and knowledge, which has been used in the design of the current UMBRELLA guideline for diagnostics and treatment.

Treatment recommendations

In general, treatment of Wilms tumours is tailored to the patient based on tumour stage and histology, and involves a combination of chemotherapy, surgery, and, sometimes, radiotherapy. Since the first SIOP protocol started in 1971, treatment intensity has been successfully reduced for the majority of patients with Wilms tumours, and survival has risen to 90%^{2,6-10}. Consequently, the identification of additional predictive and prognostic factors is increasingly important to improve the stratification of patients according to their individual risk. Approximately two-thirds of patients with Wilms tumour now receive chemotherapy consisting of only two drugs, actinomycin D and vincristine¹¹. Other patients, including those with metastatic disease and high-risk histological subtypes, are believed to benefit from doxorubicin¹²⁻¹⁶. Moreover, as innovative techniques emerge, surgical and radiotherapeutic procedures are improving.

Localized disease. Similar to the SIOP-2001 protocol, the UMBRELLA protocol continues to recommend preoperative actinomycin D and vincristine for patients newly diagnosed with Wilms tumour aged ≥ 6 months, based on results of previous SIOP trials that showed tumour downstaging using this regimen^{2,6,8,9,14,17}. This benefit was also independently observed in the randomized, controlled UKW3 trial conducted by the UK Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (UKCCLG, previously known as the UK Children's Cancer Study Group)¹⁸. In patients receiving preoperative chemotherapy, the use of radiotherapy or doxorubicin could be reduced by 20% compared with those treated with direct nephrectomy, with no significant difference in survival¹⁸. The SIOP-RTSG accounts for the risk of misdiagnosis of Wilms tumour by recommending direct surgery instead of preoperative chemotherapy for children < 6 months old, and the consideration of fine-needle biopsy for patients who have unusual clinical presentations or unusual findings on imaging. To avoid treatment delay, routine histological assessment before treatment is not advocated. This approach has been shown to be safe and identifies the vast majority of patients with non-Wilms tumours who are at risk of being unnecessarily treated with preoperative chemotherapy.

Furthermore, preoperative chemotherapy enables personalized assessment of tumour chemosensitivity, including identification of the high-risk, blastemal-type Wilms tumours. The centralized review process of histology, undertaken in the SIOP-RTSG, has shown that identification of the blastemal subtype is feasible and clinically relevant. Yet, the definition of blastemal-type histology might be improved by considering the absolute residual volume of blastema rather than the relative percentage, as will be investigated in the UMBRELLA protocol¹⁹.

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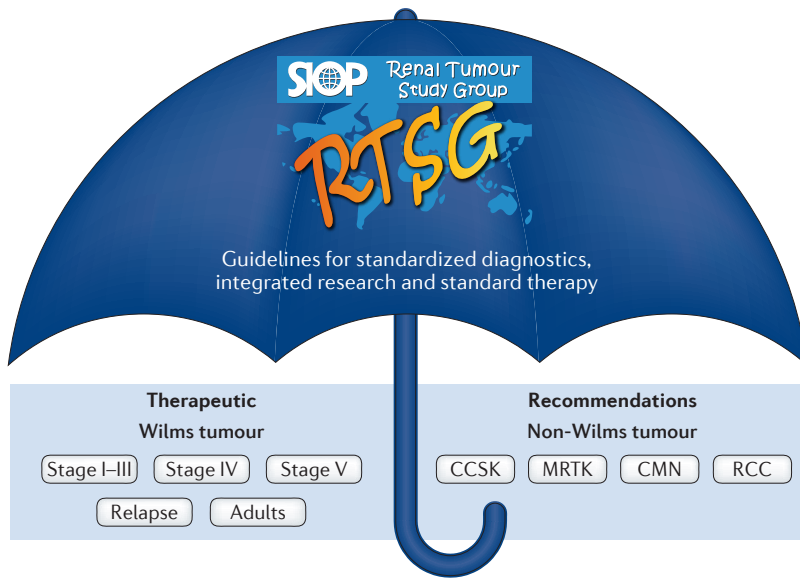


Figure 1 | The UMBRELLA SIOP-RTSG 2016 protocol logo. The UMBRELLA signifies the ambitious aim to collect information concerning all paediatric primary renal tumours in a comprehensive multidimensional data registry, which includes embedded review of diagnostics, standardized biobanking, and treatment recommendations. CCSK, clear cell sarcoma of the kidney, MRTK, malignant rhabdoid tumour of the kidney, CMN, congenital mesoblastic nephroma, RCC, renal cell carcinoma.

Patients registered in the UMBRELLA protocol will continue to be stratified for postoperative treatment according to tumour stage and histological risk group, as was the protocol in SIOP-2001 (TABLE 1). Prospective data from patients who are stratified and treated based on standardized recommendations will be collected and analysed. This data collection, in combination with the results of planned integrated biomarker and imaging studies (which will assess the relative contribution of gain of 1q and assessment of residual blastemal volume), might be used to guide stratification in future protocols.

The therapeutic regimen of the experimental arm of the SIOP-2001 trial has been adopted as the new standard management regimen for most patients in the UMBRELLA protocol with stage II-III intermediate-risk Wilms tumours. This regimen consists of 27 weeks of

vincristine and actinomycin D without doxorubicin. This schedule resulted in a nonsignificant small decrease in event-free survival (EFS) and had no effect on overall survival compared with 27 weeks of vincristine and actinomycin D plus five doses of doxorubicin at 50 mg/m² (the standard arm) in the SIOP-2001 trial².

Post hoc analysis of data from SIOP-2001 was carried out to examine the association between omitting doxorubicin and the outcomes of patients with large-volume tumours (defined as tumours with a volume >500 ml after preoperative chemotherapy). Stromal and epithelial tumour types, which have excellent prognosis²⁰, were excluded from this analysis, leaving only stage II-III regressive, mixed, and focal anaplasia-type tumours (*n* = 429). In Kaplan Meier analysis, patients with large-volume tumours had an estimated 5-year EFS of 80% versus 90% for patients with small-volume tumours (log rank *P* = 0.01) (FIG. 2). Most importantly, EFS was significantly improved (93% versus 67%, log rank *P* = 0.0005) when doxorubicin was added to the treatment regimen for large-volume (≥500 ml) tumours (FIG. 3). Thus, the inclusion of doxorubicin in postoperative treatment of patients with large-volume (≥500 ml) stage II-III nonstromal, nonepithelial tumours is recommended in the UMBRELLA protocol.

Furthermore, the UMBRELLA protocol will continue treatment for blastemal-type tumours according to the regimen used in SIOP-2001. A comparison of the results of the SIOP-2001 and SIOP-93-01 trials showed that in SIOP-2001, in which treatment was intensified by changing to the high-risk tumour treatment schedule for patients with blastemal-type Wilms tumour, EFS increased from 67% to 80% (log rank *P* = 0.006) avoiding intensive treatment for relapse in a considerable number of patients¹².

Metastatic disease (stage IV). Overall, ~17% of patients with Wilms tumours present with stage IV disease at diagnosis, which is defined as haematogenous metastases to the lungs, liver, or other sites, or extra-abdominal lymph node metastases. Pulmonary metastases are by far the most frequently observed²¹⁻²³. The increasing use of chest CT as routine imaging for staging has resulted in the detection of small pulmonary nodules

Table 1 | Overview of postoperative treatment for localized Wilms tumour in UMBRELLA SIOP-RTSG 2016

Disease	Tumour volume after preoperative chemotherapy	Treatment		
		Stage I	Stage II	Stage III
Low-risk	All	None	AV (27 weeks)	AV (27 weeks)
Intermediate-risk, all subtypes	<500 ml	AV (4 weeks)	AV (27 weeks)	AV (27 weeks) + flank radiotherapy
Intermediate-risk, stromal or epithelial-type	≥500 ml	AV (4 weeks)	AV (27 weeks)	AV (27 weeks) + flank radiotherapy
Intermediate-risk, nonstromal, nonepithelial	≥500 ml	AV (4 weeks)	AVD (27 weeks)	AVD (27 weeks) + flank radiotherapy
High-risk blastemal type Wilms tumour	All	AVD (27 weeks)	HR-1 (34 weeks)	HR-1 (34 weeks) + flank radiotherapy
High-risk diffuse anaplasia	All	AVD (27 weeks)	HR-1 (34 weeks) + flank radiotherapy	HR-1 (34 weeks) + flank radiotherapy

A, actinomycin D; D, doxorubicin; HR-1; etoposide, carboplatin, cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin (34 weeks); V, vincristine

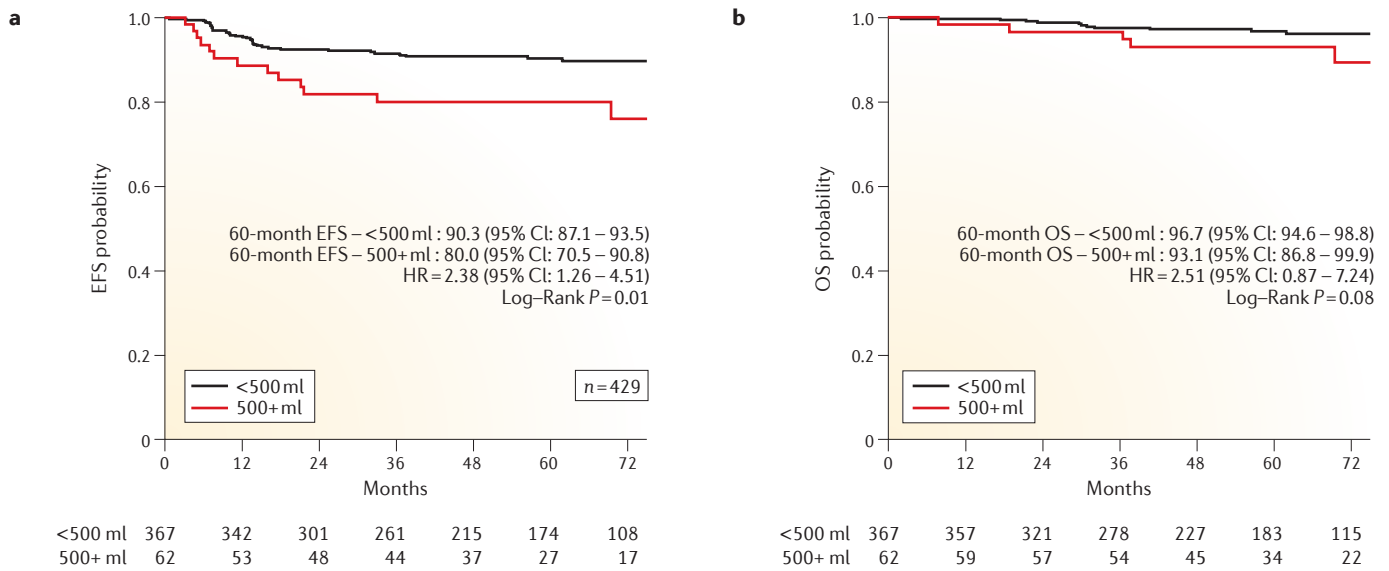


Figure 2 | **Post hoc analysis of data from patients with stage II or III intermediate-risk, nonstromal, nonepithelial Wilms tumour in the SIOP-2001 randomized controlled trial.** Association of tumour volume with **a** | event-free survival (EFS) and **b** | overall survival (OS). Kaplan Meier curves.

not visible on chest radiography (CT-only nodules). Similar to the COG protocol, CT-only nodules are included in the definition of lung nodules and treated as metastases in the UMBRELLA protocol if they have a transverse diameter of at least 3 mm (REFS 22,24,25). Presence of these CT-only nodules was associated with increased relapse risk and reduced survival in a SIOP-RTSG analysis comparing the outcomes of patients with CT-only lung lesions with those with true localized disease²⁴. Results from the COG National Wilms Tumor Study Group (NWTs)-4 and NWTs-5 trials showed that patients with CT-only nodules who were treated with vincristine and actinomycin D plus doxorubicin had superior EFS to those who received vincristine and actinomycin D only, but overall survival was similar in both groups²⁵. Including CT-only nodules in the definition of metastatic disease will benefit patients with intermediate-risk or low-risk histology who achieve a rapid complete response of their CT-only nodules. These patients do not need pulmonary radiotherapy and have, therefore, a reduced risk of severe long-term sequelae such as lung disease, cardiac complications or secondary malignancies.

Similar to SIOP-2001, preoperative treatment for metastatic (stage IV) disease in the UMBRELLA protocol includes a combined vincristine, actinomycin D, and doxorubicin regimen for 6 weeks, followed by reassessment imaging of local tumour (using MRI) and metastatic sites (using CT and/or MRI) before surgery. With this preoperative regimen, 61–67% of patients have complete metastatic response before surgery^{21,23}. Detailed guidelines are provided for the stratification of postoperative chemotherapy, in which the cumulative dose of doxorubicin has been lowered in order to reduce cardiac toxicity. The cumulative doxorubicin dose for patients with metastatic disease was 300 mg/m² in SIOP-2001, preliminary data from the COG AREN0533

trial suggest that using a cumulative doxorubicin dose of 150 mg/m² for patients with favourable histology does not considerably affect survival^{25,26}. For this reason, the UMBRELLA protocol recommends stratifying patients to either vincristine and actinomycin D plus doxorubicin with a cumulative doxorubicin dose of 150 mg/m², vincristine, and actinomycin D plus doxorubicin with cumulative doxorubicin of 250 mg/m², or a four-drug regimen including etoposide (150 mg/m²/day), carboplatin (200 mg/m²/day), cyclophosphamide (450 mg/m²/day), and doxorubicin (cumulative dose 300 mg/m²). Stratification is based on local stage of the primary tumour, histology of the primary tumour and the metastatic tumour (if resected), the size of metastatic lesions, and their response to preoperative treatment and surgery (TABLE 2).

Notably, patients with metastatic disease and high-risk characteristics on histological examination are a rare subgroup, with recognized unfavourable prognosis. Only a few patients per year will be stratified into this category. Thus, UMBRELLA protocol advises that local centres discuss the best current treatment approach with the principle investigator for stage IV disease. Currently, the SIOP-RTSG board suggests a regimen based on unpublished but presented data from the COG²⁷, including combinations of vincristine, irinotecan, cyclophosphamide, carboplatin, etoposide, and doxorubicin, followed by high-dose chemotherapy and autologous stem cell transplantation at the discretion of the treating physician. The role of upfront high-dose chemotherapy for this subgroup is under debate, but a trend towards favourable outcomes has been reported by several groups in the primary and relapsed settings^{28–30}. Details of this suggested regimen were added as an appendix to the UMBRELLA protocol. Data on the use of this regimen and outcomes will be prospectively captured in the SIOP database and can, therefore, be evaluated in a descriptive study.

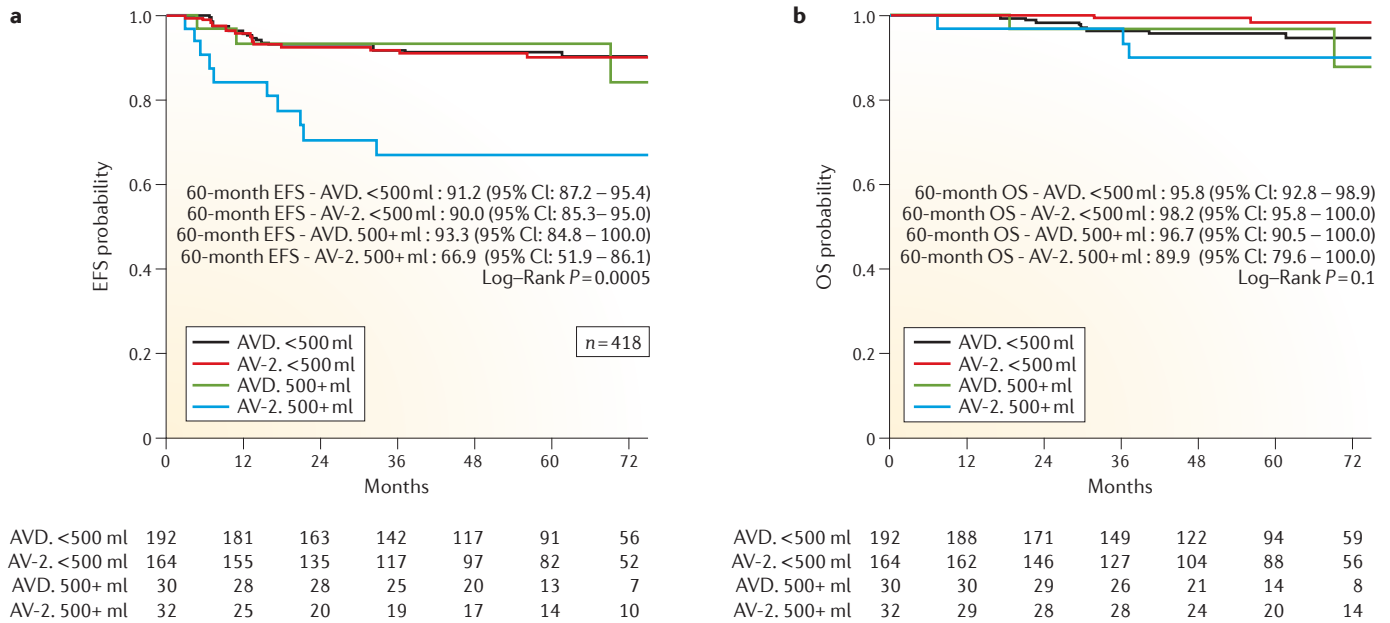


Figure 3 | **Post hoc analysis of data from patients with stage II or III, intermediate-risk, nonstromal, nonepithelial Wilms tumour in the SIOP-2001 randomized controlled trial.** Association of tumour volume and treatment with **a** | event-free survival (EFS) and **b** | overall survival (OS). Kaplan Meier curves. AV-2, actinomycin D, vincristine (27 weeks); AV-D, actinomycin D, vincristine and doxorubicin.

Bilateral disease (stage V). Synchronous bilateral Wilms tumour (stage V) accounts for ~5–8% of instances of Wilms tumour and long-term overall survival is currently ~80%^{31–35}. End-stage renal disease (ESRD) is the most clinically significant morbidity for patients with bilateral Wilms tumours and can be caused by underlying germline genetic aberrations as well as treatment-related loss of functional renal tissue. Aronson *et al.*³⁵ observed that functional renal outcome was considerably better after bilateral nephron sparing surgery (NSS) than when other types of surgery were used³⁵. Independently of the type of treatment, children with Wilms tumour, aniridia, genitourinary anomalies, and retardation (WAGR), Denys-Drash or other syndromes associated with *WT1* mutations, are at increased risk of ESRD³⁶. Thus, avoiding total nephrectomy at initial surgery is advised for bilateral tumours in the UMBRELLA protocol³⁵. However, other important causes of ESRD exist, including tumour recurrence requiring bilateral nephrectomy or renal irradiation. Long-term monitoring of renal function is required after treatment of bilateral disease. In the SIOP-2001 study, patients with bilateral disease received preoperative chemotherapy including vincristine and actinomycin D until NSS was deemed feasible, with response evaluations performed every 4 weeks. However, several studies have shown that prolonged preoperative chemotherapy is often ineffective (especially as many bilateral tumours are the chemotherapy-insensitive stromal subtype) and could even result in an increased risk of the presence of anaplasia, disease progression, and development of metastases^{31,32,34}. Thus, the UMBRELLA protocol limits preoperative chemotherapy to a maximum of 12 weeks, with time intervals for evaluation fixed to 6 weeks, to be

comparable with the COG approach for future studies. The occurrence of misdiagnosis, in which synchronous bilateral renal tumours other than Wilms tumours are present, is, from experience, extremely rare. In instances of tumour nonresponsiveness or inoperability switching to treatment with etoposide and carboplatin is recommended, to avoid use of anthracyclines, and biopsy can be considered to determine histology.

Relapsed Wilms tumour. The UMBRELLA protocol provides structured guidelines for the treatment of patients with relapsed Wilms tumours. In retrospective studies, the best prognostic factors were initial histology and the first-line treatment used^{37–39}. Thus, patients with relapsed tumours will be prospectively classified into three groups in the UMBRELLA protocol, group AA, group BB, and group CC, based on these factors.

Treatment of group AA relapsed Wilms tumours, defined as patients with initial stage I–II low-risk or intermediate-risk tumours, who received only vincristine and/or actinomycin D (no radiotherapy) in their first-line treatment, will include four drugs (combinations of doxorubicin and/or cyclophosphamide and carboplatin and/or etoposide). The combination of these drugs has already been tested in two comprehensive studies, the UKW-R protocol and the NWT5-5 relapse protocol, but drug combinations and doses varied^{40,41}.

Patients without initial diffuse anaplasia or blastemal-type histology, who have already received doxorubicin in their initial treatment, will be classified as group BB and receive an intensive reinduction drug regimen (including the combination of etoposide and carboplatin with either ifosfamide or cyclophosphamide), followed by either high-dose melphalan

Table 2 | Treatment overview for stage IV WT based on response to treatment and histology*

Metastasis surgery	Wilms tumour histology	Treatment
Complete remission or very good partial remission		
Surgical complete resection if needed	Low-risk or intermediate-risk disease & lung nodules 3–5mm	AVD150, no pulmonary radiotherapy unless complete resection of viable metastasis, then pulmonary radiotherapy
	Low-risk or intermediate-risk disease & lung nodules >5mm or other site	AVD250, no pulmonary radiotherapy unless complete resection of viable metastasis, then pulmonary radiotherapy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-risk or intermediate-risk disease • No evidence of metastasis 	Treatment as localized
Partial response or stable disease		
Representative nodule resection feasible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-risk disease • Viable metastasis confirmed 	AVD250, lung or metastasis radiotherapy, CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery recommended to achieve complete response if feasible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-risk disease • Completely necrotic metastasis 	AVD150, CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery recommended to achieve complete response if feasible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-risk or intermediate-risk disease • No evidence of viable tumour 	Contact principal investigator†, potentially treatment as localized or AVD250, CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery recommended to achieve complete response if feasible, no radiotherapy to metastases
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-risk disease • Viable metastasis confirmed 	Four-drug regimen, radiotherapy to metastasis. CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery recommended to achieve complete response if feasible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-risk disease • Completely necrotic metastasis 	AVD250 regimen, CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery recommended to achieve complete response if feasible
Resection not feasible	Low-risk disease	AVD250, CT at week 10: reconsider resection and discuss radiotherapy to metastasis
	Intermediate-risk disease	Four-drug regimen, CT at week 10: if remaining nodules radiotherapy to metastasis is indicated
Progressive disease		
Representative nodule resection feasible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-risk disease • Metastasis confirmed 	Four-drug regimen, radiotherapy to metastasis. CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery is recommended to achieve complete response if feasible
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate-risk disease • No evidence of viable or necrotic tumour 	AVD250, CT at week 10: if remaining nodules then surgery; if viable metastasis then CDCV plus radiotherapy to metastases is indicated: contact principal investigator‡
All		
All	High-risk disease	Ask principal investigator† for advice, radiotherapy to metastases, CT week 10: if remaining nodules consider resection if feasible
Mixed		
Indicated	Confirm metastatic disease by histology	If metastases present then treat according to worst histology and worst response

*source: UMBRELLA-SIOP-RTSG-2016 protocol. AVD, actinomycin-D, vincristine and doxorubicin; CDCV, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, carboplatin and VP16. †arnaud.verschuur@ap-hm.fr

and autologous stem cell rescue (ASCR) or two further reinduction courses, at the discretion of the local physician^{28,37}. Acceptable response rates have been observed with both cyclophosphamide and etoposide and carboplatin and etoposide combinations, but ifosfamide showed an increased response rate in early-phase trials⁴². In an effort to reduce the risk of ifosfamide-related nephrotoxicity, cyclophosphamide will be alternated with ifosfamide in the group BB protocol recommendations. The heterogeneous settings in which the role of high-dose chemotherapy and ASCR has been explored and the inconclusive results reported led us to propose a flexible approach to the consolidation phase, and high-dose chemotherapy is at the discretion of the treating physician, aiming to describe the results in a prospective observational fashion²⁸.

Relapsed group CC includes patients with initial diffuse anaplasia or blastemal-type tumours. For patients in this category, and for the other relapsing patients showing no response to salvage treatment, the UMBRELLA protocol advises trying camptothecins (irinotecan or topotecan) or novel compounds, as these patients will have already received most conventional active agents in their first-line therapy and are likely to develop chemotherapy-resistant disease⁴³. In the UMBRELLA protocol, the SIOP-RTSG commits to endorse initiatives dedicated to new drug development in children, such as those launched by the Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer consortium.

Importantly, approaches to local treatment (including radiotherapy and surgical excision of relapsing tumour masses) have not been systematically explored,

so the UMBRELLA protocol provides structured guidelines for administering radiotherapy and surgery at relapse. These guidelines include considering resection after proven reduction of relapsed disease after chemotherapy, independently of histological subtype or risk group, when radical surgery seems possible or when it is useful to evaluate histological tumour response. Applying radiotherapy to initially nonirradiated sites is uniformly accepted, but developing standard recommendations for the approach to previously irradiated sites is difficult, because of the many different situations encountered. For these instances, the UMBRELLA protocol recommends contacting radiotherapists on the SIOP–RTSG panel.

Infant Wilms tumours. Infants, defined as patients younger than 6 months (182 days), should be considered for primary surgery according to the UMBRELLA protocol, unless tumours are judged not amenable to immediate nephrectomy in a multidisciplinary team consensus. The reason for upfront nephrectomy is that, compared with older children, a higher proportion of renal tumours in infants are congenital mesoblastic nephroma or malignant rhabdoid tumours that either need surgery alone (congenital mesoblastic nephroma) or alternative chemotherapy at the outset (more intensive chemotherapy than actinomycin D and vincristine)^{44,45}. Percutaneous cutting needle biopsy is recommended in instances of stage IV disease or when immediate surgery is deemed difficult. Postoperative chemotherapy for Wilms tumour is similar in infants to that in older children who underwent direct nephrectomy, with adjustment of drug doses according to age and body weight based on the experience from previous SIOP studies⁴⁴.

Adult Wilms tumours. The UMBRELLA protocol registers and provides comprehensive guidelines for the management of adults with Wilms tumours, recognizing the long treatment delays and associated poor

outcomes experienced by adult patients in the past^{46–49}. The diagnosis of Wilms tumour in adults is exceptional and treatment recommendations are based on literature review and broad international and multidisciplinary consensus, as published in 2011 (REF. 46). Adult Wilms tumour is often diagnosed unexpectedly after nephrectomy for a suspected renal cell carcinoma. In rare instances in which the diagnosis of Wilms tumour is histologically proven before surgery, preoperative chemotherapy is recommended, similar to treatment strategies for Wilms tumour diagnosed in childhood. In contrast to the histological classification of childhood Wilms tumours, both focal and diffuse anaplasia are considered high-risk subtypes in adults, as no evidence exists that patients with focal anaplasia have better outcomes⁵⁰.

Adult patients often experience considerable delays before starting postoperative chemotherapy, owing to the time needed to verify histology^{46–49}. For this reason, postoperative treatment recommendations for children cannot simply be applied to adult patients. For instance, the treatment regimen for paediatric stage I disease of actinomycin D and vincristine is only advised for a selected group of adult stage I patients without anaplasia. All other adult patients will receive more intensive treatment, either consisting of vincristine and actinomycin D plus doxorubicin for patients with nonanaplastic subtypes, or four drugs (carboplatin, cyclophosphamide, etoposide, and doxorubicin) for anaplastic tumours of any stage. Exceptions can be made in individual instances, in which diagnosis of a stage II Wilms tumour with favourable histology is timely and postoperative chemotherapy can start within 14 days after surgery. Notably, vincristine dose intensity is decreased in guidelines for treatment of adult Wilms tumours compared with standard guidelines for children, as adults more frequently develop severe neurological toxicities⁴⁸.

Surgical recommendations

After preoperative chemotherapy, radical tumour nephrectomy is the standard of care for children with Wilms tumour. The UMBRELLA protocol specifies surgical guidelines and emphasizes the importance of lymph node sampling, stating that the aim should be to sample seven locoregional lymph nodes, for the purpose of accurate staging^{51–53}.

NSS is now acceptable for nonsyndromic unilateral Wilms tumours under certain conditions, specified in the UMBRELLA protocol, that include small tumour volume (<300 ml) and the expectation of a substantial remnant kidney function in patients with tumours <300 ml who never had lymph node involvement⁵². A new classification system for NSS, developed by a group of surgeons and pathologists from SIOP–RTSG, was adopted in the UMBRELLA protocol to optimize comparison of patient outcomes⁵⁴ (TABLE 3). For bilateral Wilms tumours, discussion with the SIOP–RTSG surgical panel is strongly recommended, in order to assess the feasibility of NSS and minimize the risk of upstaging by incomplete resection of the tumour.

Table 3 | Classification of nephron-sparing

Aspect*	Description
Surgical technique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSS (A) = Partial Nephrectomy = resection of tumour with a rim of normal renal parenchyma • NSS (B) = Enucleation = resection of tumour without a rim of normal renal parenchyma
Surgical resection margin (SRM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intact pseudo-capsule = (0) • Doubt = (1) • Tumour breach = (2)
Pathological resection margin (PRM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe rim of renal parenchyma on resection margin, except nephroblastomatosis = (0) • Intact pseudocapsule along the resection margin = (1) • Tumour breach = (2)
Remaining renal parenchyma (RRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A subjective evaluation is done by the surgeon of the percentage of renal parenchyma remaining on the operated kidney = (n %) • For example, a polar nephrectomy usually corresponds to a RRP of 70%.

NSS, nephron-sparing surgery *A classification for each case would be reported as follows: NSS(X)-SRM(n)-PRM(n)-RRP(n%). Adapted from Godzinski, J. et al. Current concepts in surgery for Wilms tumour—the risk and function-adapted strategy. *Eur. J. Pediatr. Surg.* 24, 457–460 (2014). © Georg Thieme Verlag KG.

Where possible, surgery should be performed in identified reference centres. Issues related to minimally invasive or laparoscopic surgery are addressed in the UMBRELLA protocol, and although not advocated, owing to lack of evidence supporting its safety, these techniques will be acceptable in selected circumstances, including small, central tumours with a rim of non-malignant renal tissue, which still enable lymph node sampling. Minimally invasive or laparoscopic surgery should not be done in patients in whom NSS can be safely performed.

Radiotherapy recommendations

In SIOP–2001, around 25% of children with Wilms tumours underwent radiotherapy to the flank and/or metastatic sites. For the UMBRELLA protocol, the radiotherapy guidelines used in SIOP–2001 were refined based on the experience from a 2017 SIOP–2001 analysis and prior COG–NWTS trials^{2,8,14,55} (TABLE 4,5). The boost dose to the area of lymph node involvement for stage III intermediate-risk tumours is omitted in the UMBRELLA protocol, based on a 2017 analysis of SIOP–2001 data in which no locoregional control or survival benefit was observed (Davila Fajardo *et al.* unpublished data, manuscript submitted). Moreover, the dosage of whole-lung irradiation was decreased from 15 Gy to 12 Gy in the UMBRELLA protocol, to be in line with previous NWTS experience demonstrating high relapse-free and overall survival (72% and 78% respectively) for favourable-histology tumours after treatment with doxorubicin, actinomycin-D, vincristine, and 12 Gy to the lungs¹³.

Whole-abdominal radiotherapy is indicated for intermediate-risk or high-risk histology tumours with major (visible on imaging or during surgery)

preoperative or intraoperative tumour rupture, or macroscopic peritoneal deposits.

Pulmonary radiotherapy is administered for lung metastases lacking complete response by post-operative week 10. Evidence suggests that the majority of patients achieving a complete response after induction chemotherapy with or without surgery do not need radiotherapy to the lungs, as they have excellent survival even without radiotherapy (5-year EFS 84%, 5-year OS 92%)²¹. Patients with viable metastases at surgery or high-risk histology, both of which are associated with poor survival of <40%, are the exception and receive radiotherapy to the lungs²³. Given the inferior outcome with second-line treatment for patients with disease recurrence in the lung, whole-lung irradiation is recommended for patients who did not receive lung irradiation during first-line treatment, irrespective of histology⁵⁶.

Radiotherapy recommendations are similar for adults and children with Wilms tumours, with the exception of stage II disease. In adult protocols, unlike paediatric protocols, radiotherapy is indicated for all stage II Wilms tumours, as lymph node sampling is often not performed⁴⁶. Only for adult patients that are enrolled in UMBRELLA in time to confirm negative lymph nodes and intermediate-risk histology can the avoidance of radiotherapy be discussed.

The UMBRELLA protocol also provides a detailed description of the radiotherapy target volumes so that advanced radiotherapy techniques can be applied if they are available. The potential role of proton therapy for flank irradiation in treating Wilms tumours has only been suggested in a dosimetric study, and needs further investigation before implementation in the UMBRELLA protocol⁵⁷.

Table 4 | Radiotherapy guidelines in UMBRELLA SIOP–RTSG 2016 for locoregional disease

	Stage I (total/fraction dose)	Stage II (total/fraction dose)	Stage III (total/fraction dose)	Stage III (major rupture)‡ (total/fraction dose)
Low-risk	no	no	no	no
Intermediate-risk	no	no	14.4/1.8 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	15.0/1.5 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)§
High-risk blastemal-type Wilms tumour	no	no	25.2/1.8 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	19.5/1.5 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*
High-risk diffuse anaplasia	no	25.2/1.8 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	25.2/1.8 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	19.5/1.5 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*

*Boost dose indicated for localized residual tumour at the time of radiotherapy only. ‡Radiotherapy to the whole abdomen. §Boost only indicated for multiple residual peritoneal deposits (± 4.5/1.5 Gy)

Table 5 | Radiotherapy guidelines in UMBRELLA SIOP–RTSG 2016 for metastatic disease

	Lung (whole ± boost) (total/fraction dose)	Liver (whole ± boost) (total/fraction dose)	Brain (whole ± boost) (total/fraction dose)	Bone (total/fraction dose)
Low-risk	no	no	no	no
Intermediate-risk	12.0/1.5 Gy (± 10–13 Gy)*	14.4/1.8 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	15.0/1.5 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	30.6/1.8 Gy
High-risk	15.0/1.5 Gy (± 15–20 Gy)*	19.8/1.8 Gy (± 16.2/1.8 Gy)*	25.2/1.8 Gy (± 10.8/1.8 Gy)*	30.6/1.8 Gy

*Boost dose indicated for residual tumour at the time of radiotherapy only.



Country	Institution and location
Preliminary European surgical expert referral sites	
Germany	University Hospital of Munich, Munich
Germany	University Hospital of Tuebingen, Tuebingen
Italy	Azienda Ospedaliera, Padova
Italy	Ospedale Pediatrico Bambino Gesù, Rome
Italy	Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milano
Netherlands	Prinses Maxima Centrum, Utrecht
Poland	Marciniak Hospital, Wroclaw
Poland	Faculty of Medicine, Gdansk
Austria	St. Anna Kinderspital/CCRI, Vienna
France	Armand Trousseau Hospital, Paris
Spain	Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, Seville
Spain	Hospital Vall d'Hebron, Barcelona
UK	Great Ormond Street Hospital, London
Overall subnetwork coordination	
Germany	University Hospital Homburg, Homburg
Netherlands	Prinses Maxima Centrum, Utrecht
France	L'Institut d'Hématologie et d'Oncologie Pédiatrique de Lyon, Lyon
Italy	Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milano
UK	Great Ormond Street Hospital, London

Figure 4 | Centres involved in the European Expert Paediatric Oncology Reference Network for Diagnostics and Treatment.

International collaboration

The UMBRELLA protocol will guide treatment of Wilms tumour treatment in over 50 countries in Europe and beyond, making it the largest collaborative SIOP renal tumour protocol published to date, enabling international research to be conducted. In Europe alone, about 1,000 instances of paediatric renal tumours are diagnosed each year. In general, survival is excellent, but the SIOP-RTSG aims to address the current geographic inequalities in childhood cancer survival by providing a standardized approach to diagnosis, risk stratification, and treatment. Furthermore, estimates suggest that ~300 instances of complex renal tumours in Europe would benefit from multidisciplinary discussion of treatment with clinicians at centres of expertise⁵. Examples include most instances of bilateral Wilms tumours, patients with extensive intravascular tumour thrombus or complicated metastatic sites, and advanced diffuse anaplastic Wilms tumours. Patients with these diseases could benefit from international collaboration to access specialized surgical techniques, cardiothoracic expertise, innovative radiotherapy options, and guidance for phase I/II trials. European initiatives like the European Expert Paediatric Oncology Reference Network for Diagnostics and Treatment (ExPO-r-Net) pilot (<http://www.expornet.eu/>) aim to enhance such collaboration. The EXPO-R-Net is an online consultation platform for which national reference centres have been identified (FIG. 4), and this platform should contribute to the establishment of international tumour boards, funding for coordinators, IT platforms and logistics, and future outreach to low-income countries.

Conclusions

As well as providing a useful guideline for routine clinical practice, the UMBRELLA protocol should stimulate international collaboration and research. By standardizing the treatment for all Wilms tumour types, prospectively collected data from a large, homogenous cohort of patients will be available for future validation of biomarkers, treatment stratification, and therapeutic targets. Moreover, the UMBRELLA protocol can serve as the SIOP-RTSG best-available treatment standard. It will be the backbone for new treatment approaches in future phase I/II and randomized trials, in which collaboration with the COG will continue to be sought. Global collaboration is still necessary for finding effective treatments for the most unfavourable Wilms tumours, such as refractory metastatic, bilateral, and relapsed high-risk disease, and the UMBRELLA protocol will contribute to this aim.

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Author contributions

J.A.H. and H.v.T. researched data for the article. M.M.v.d.H.-E. and J.A.H. wrote the manuscript. M.M.v.d.H.-E., J.A.H., K.P.-J., H.v.T., R.F., A.C.V., G.M.V., I.L. J.B., C.R., A.M.S., G.O.J., J.G., B.d.C., H.S., P.C., M.G., C.B., F.S. and N.G. made substantial contributions to discussions of content. M.M.v.d.H.-E., K.P.-J., R.F., A.C.V., G.M.V., I.L. J.B., C.R., A.M.S., G.O.J., J.G., G.L.R.-V., B.d.C., H.S., P.C., M.G., C.B., F.S. and N.G. reviewed and edited the manuscript before submission.

Competing interests statement

The authors declare no competing interests.

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