# Supplementary methods

# Patients' characteristics

Complete anamnestic data were recorded for all the patients, including age, patient weight and height, body mass index (BMI), previous abdominal operations, smoking status, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status, American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) score, Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI), history of hypertension and its treatment, history of acute myocardial infarction and its treatment, history of coronary artery disease and its treatment, history of peripheric vasculopathies, history of other comorbidities, presence of symptoms or sings at diagnosis, clinical tumor size, tumour location in the kidney, nephrometric scores (P.A.D.U.A. and R.E.N.A.L.) and TNM stage (according to 8th edition, 2017). Preoperative data were also recorded for all the patients, regarding preoperative imaging, cardiological evaluation, serum haemoglobin and creatinine levels, and complete blood count. Estimated glomerular filtration rate (EGFR) was calculated with the Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology Collaboration formula for younger patients (<70 years), and with the Berlin Initiative Study formula for older patients ( $\geq 70$  years).

#### Histologic assessment

The following histological parameters were re-evaluated by an experienced and dedicated pathologist: tumour diameter, WHO/ISUP grade, histologic heterogeneity, presence of necrosis, of cystic component, of regions with a different WHO/ISUP grade and of lymphoid infiltration or aggregates.

### Computed tomography acquisition protocol and image analysis

A 7 years experienced radiologist measured qualitative, semi-quantitative and quantitative radiological features from CT scan images obtained with a 64-slice multidetector CT scanner (Philips Brilliance 64, Philips, Best, The Netherlands). The CT protocol included scanning acquisition in four phases: unenhanced phase (UP), corticomedullary phase (CMP, at 30 seconds delay after contrast injection), nephrographic phase (NP, at 90 seconds delay after contrast injection) and excretory phases (EP, at 5 minutes delay after contrast injection).

The region of interest (ROI) was defined as the tumour area delimited in axal scan by use of a dedicated software (Intellispace portal v.8, Philips, Best, The Netherlands).

Central scar was defined as a central stellate hypoattenuating area in corticomedullary phase with a surface area lower than 5% than the scan area, with or without progressive enhancement in nephrographic phase. Pseudocapsule was defined as a high- or low-attenuation rim surrounding the tumor. Heterogeneity of the lesion was defined as the presence of different radiologic appearance. Calcification presence was also assessed.

Tumour enhancement was defined high if similar to renal cortex enhancement, moderate if similar to soft tissue enhancement but lower than renal cortex, low if slightly higher than water attenuation and with measurable contrast enhancement.

With regards to their attenuating pattern, both in the unenhanced and nephrographic phase, the lesions were defined as hypoattenuating, isoattenuating, hyperattenuating or mixed compared to adjacent parenchyma. Tumour composition (solid or cystic), necrosis and homogeneity [homogeneous (uniform in attenuation) or heterogeneous (mixed areas of attenuation)] were also assessed.

The following volumetric features were analysed: length of tumour in the short axis (measured in millimetres), l e n g t h of tumour in the long axis (measured in millimetres); total tumour volume (measured in cubic centimetres); exophytic tumour volume (measured in cubic centimetres), and percentage of exophytic tumour volume.

The following features were analysed in UP images: mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum tumour attenuation (measured in HU), attenuation of the psoas (measured in HU), the tumour-to-psoas attenuation ratio, calculated as the ratio between the maximum attenuating region of the tumour and the psoas attenuation; the tumour-to-kidney attenuation ratio, calculated as the ratio between the maximum attenuating region of the tumour and the renal cortex attenuation.

The following features were analysed on CMP images: mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum tumour attenuation (measured in HU), the attenuation of the renal cortex (measured in HU), and tumour-to-kidney attenuation ratio.

The following features were analysed on nephrographic phase (NP) images: mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum tumour attenuation (measured in HU), the attenuation of the renal cortex (measured in HU), and tumour-to-kidney attenuation ratio.

The following enhancement features were also examined: (I) the early tumour enhancement (measured in HU), calculated as difference between the mean tumour attenuation in the CMP and the mean tumour attenuation in the UP, and (II) the late tumour enhancement (measured in HU), calculated as between the mean tumour attenuation in the NP and the mean tumour attenuation in the UP.

The following 19 features were selected for correlation analysis with transcriptomic signature:

- (I) The mean attenuation of the tumour in unenhanced phase,
- (II) The maximum attenuation of the tumour in the unenhanced phase,
- (III) The minimum attenuation of the tumour in the unenhanced phase,
- (IV) The attenuation of the renal cortex in the unenhanced phase,
- (V) The tumour-to-psoas attenuation ratio in the unenhanced phase,
- (VI) The tumour-to-kidney attenuation ratio in the unenhanced phase,
- (VII) The mean attenuation of the tumour in the corticomedullary phase,
- (VIII) The maximum attenuation of the tumour in the corticomedullary phase,
- (IX) The minimum attenuation of the tumour in the corticomedullary phase,
- (X) The attenuation of the renal cortex in the corticomedullary phase,

(XI) The tumour-to-kidney attenuation ratio in the corticomedullary phase,

(XII) The mean attenuation of the tumour in the nephrographic phase,

(XIII) The maximum attenuation of the tumour in the nephrographic phase,

(XIV) The minimum attenuation of the tumour in the nephrographic phase,

(XV) The attenuation of the renal cortex in the nephrographic phase,

(XVI) The tumour-to-kidney attenuation ratio in the nephrographic phase,

(XVII) The early tumour enhancement

(XVIII) The late tumour enhancement

(XIX) The attenuation of the psoas.

An example of 4 phase CT imaging is the showed in *Figure S1*.

### Transcriptomics and RNA sequencing quality control

The tumoral molecular landscape was assessed through transcriptomic signature analysis. RNA sequencing was perfumed using quantseq 3' mrna-Seq library prep kit and the prepared libraries were sequenced on the Illumina nextseq 500 platform. Reads were generated towards a poly(A) tail.

Rnaseq quality control was performed by use of the multiqc v1.0. Dev0 (a4e3db2) platform (https://github.com/ewels/ multiqc, developed by Phil Ewels et al., Science for Life Laboratory, Stockholm University, Stockholm 106 91, Sweden) (1) implementing the Bamtools toolkit to manage BAM files (http://github.com/pezmaster31/bamtools, developed by Derek Barnett et al., Marth Lab, Biology Dept., Boston College, Boston, USA) (2).

After calculation of Reads Per Kilobase of transcript per Million mapped reads (RPKM) values, the sequencing depth and the quality of alignment of the 6 samples were examined. Sequencing depth was found not to be high, with the reads being roughly between 3 and 5 million per sample. The majority of aligned genes are protein-coding genes. However, fractions of mitochondrial-ribosomal RNA (Mt\_rrna), processed pseudogene and long intergenic noncoding RNAs (lincrna) were present (*Figure S2*).

The alignment quality, evaluated with the STAR ultrafast universal RNA-seq aligner plot (https://github.com/alexdobin/ STAR developed by Alex Dobin et al., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA) (3), was good, with a high percentage of reads (around 80%) univocally mapped on the human genome (*Figure S3*).

The mean quality value across each base position in the read, measured by fastqc toolkit (developed by Simon Andrews et al., Babraham Bioinformatics, Babraham Institute, Cambridge, United Kingdom), was satisfactory as the Phred scored above 30 from base 1 to base 75 for each sample (*Figure S4*). The per sequence quality scores, measured through the fastqc toolkit,

assessed the number of reads with average quality scores and suggested that no subset of reads had poor quality (*Figure S5*). Sequence duplication levels, measured by fastqc toolkit, by analysing the level of duplication found in each sequence, suggested that duplication levels were low: from 65.5% to 85% of the libraries in the different samples had no duplication (*Figure S6*). In addition, the total amount of overrepresented sequences found in each library, measured by fastqc toolkit, showed only 0.15% - 0.79% over-represented sequences in the different samples (*Figure S7*).

The data discussed in this publication have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression Omnibus and are accessible through GEO Series accession number GSE133460 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?Acc=GSE133460).

# Statistical analysis

To assess the heterogeneity of the transcriptomes in the samples, Principal Component Analysis (PCA) was fitted. First, a PCA with all transcripts was performed. Then, a list of 369 out of 406 genes known to be associated with ccRCC from the 2013 Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) rnaseq and transcriptomic analysis was used (4), after excluding those genes with a constant expression in our samples in order to focus on transcripts really involved in ccRCC and avoid possible confounding (the list of the involved genes is below). A second PCA with this restricted list was performed, considering zero-centred RPKM values. While elaborating the ccRCC-associated gene list, we noted that 26 genes listed in the TGCA analysis were not referenced with the GENCODE basic annotation but with an alias, so a translation to the GENCODE basic annotation was made. Since PCA is unstable when the number of features is greater than the number of samples, we ran 1,000 resampling via bootstrapping. For each re-sampling the corresponding PCA was calculated and 50 genes with Enrichr (Ma'ayan Laboratory, Computational Systems Biology, Mount Sinai Center for Bioinformatics, One Gustave L. Levy Place, Box 1603, New York, NY, USA), in relation to the KEGG 2016 database, while significant gene ontologies were assessed in relation to GO Cellular Component 2018, GO Biological Process 2018, and GO Molecular Function 2018, to evaluate respectively which pathways, cellular components, biological process, and molecular function impacted on the variance of the PC. Statistically significance was set at adjusted P value <0.05.

Pearson's correlation coefficients were used to assess correlation among 19 selected radiomic features themselves and between the radiomic features and RPKM values. Adjusted p-values were computed through Benjamini-Hochberg false discovery rate. Correlation was considered adequate if  $\rho$ <-0.85 or  $\rho$ >0.85.

To interpret the correlation data, a heatmap showing correlation between genes expression and radiomic features was drawn. A dendogram showed the hierarchical relationship between radiomic features and transcripts. Statistical significance of the radiogenomic correlation patterns was assessed with Mann-Whitney U test, for dichotomic comparison, or with Kruskal-Wallis tests, for multiple comparison. In order to obtain the graphics graphpad Prism (graphpad Software La Jolla, CA, USA) was used.

#### References

- 1. Ewels P, Magnusson M, Lundin S, et al. MultiQC: summarize analysis results for multiple tools and samples in a single report. Bioinformatics 2016;32:3047-8.
- Barnett DW, Garrison EK, Quinlan AR, et al. BamTools: a C++ API and toolkit for analyzing and managing BAM files. Bioinformatics 2011;27:1691-2.
- 3. Dobin A, Davis CA, Schlesinger F, et al. STAR: ultrafast universal RNA-seq aligner. Bioinformatics 2013;29:15-21.
- 4. Creighton CJ, Morgan M, Gunaratne PH, et al. Comprehensive molecular characterization of clear cell renal cell carcinoma. Nature 2013;499:43-9.

List of t	he 369	genes	obtained	from	The	Cancer	Genome	Atlas
(TCGA)	Rnaseq	and tr	anscripto	mic an	alysis	used for	· PCA	

	Genes		Genes
1	AGRN	36	KIF21B
2	CHD5	37	NFASC
3	KIF1B	38	CR1
4	MTOR	39	DNAH14
5		40	OBSCN
6	VPS13D	41	SIPA1L2
7	SPEN	42	TARBP1
8	UBB4	43	LYST
9		44	RYR2
10	CSMD2	45	PXDN
11	ZMVM1	46	MYT1L
10		47	KIDINS220
12		48	GREB1
14	DAT I	49	APOB
15		50	ITSN2
16	AGI	51	EMILIN1
17	COL 1141	52	CAD
18	SI C1644	53	BIRC6
10		54	PLEKHH2
20		55	LRPPRC
21	SPAG17	56	NRXN1
22		57	PAPOLG
22		58	USP34
24		59	XPO1
25	ASH11	60	ALMS1
26	GON4I	61	AFF3
27	SPTA1	62	GCC2
28		63	RANBP2
20	LAMC2	64	UGGT1
30	HMCN1	65	THSD7B
31	TPR	66	LRP1B
32	CFH	67	NEB
33	ASPM	68	BAZ2B
34	CBB1	69	SLC4A10
35	KIF14	70	SCN1A
continued	111 17	71	LRP2

	Genes		Genes
72	NFE2L2	108	ANKRD50
73	TTN	109	FAT4
74	DNAH7	110	PCDH10
75	NDUFS1	111	MAML3
76	ZDBF2	112	DCHS2
77	CPS1	113	FNIP2
78	ABCA12	114	RAPGEF2
79	FN1	115	TRAPPC11
80	ZFAND2B	116	FAT1
81	DOCK10	117	DNAH5
82	SPHKAP	118	CDH18
83	COL6A3	119	PDZD2
84	SETD5	120	ADAMTS12
85	VHL	121	NIPBL
86	SETD2	122	MAST4
87	DOCK3	123	BDP1
88	BAP1	124	CMYA5
89	PBRM1	125	VCAN
90	USF3	126	ADGRV1
91	ZBTB38	127	DMXL1
92	MED12L	128	SLC12A2
93	ZBBX	129	FBN2
94	PIK3CA	130	RAPGEF6
95	ATP13A4	131	RAD50
96	BOD1L1	132	PCDHA12
97	PCDH7	133	PCDHB11
98	RFC1	134	NSD1
99	KDR	135	FLT4
100	ADGRL3	136	RREB1
101	ANKRD17	137	HIVEP1
102	FRAS1	138	KIF13A
103	WDFY3	139	DNAH8
104	PTPN13	140	CUL9
105	TET2	141	ZNF318
106	NPNT	142	XPO5
107	ANK2	143	PKHD1

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Genes Genes 144 DST 180 ABCA1 145 MDN1 181 SVEP1 LAMA2 KIAA0368 146 182 147 UTRN 183 RGS3 148 PPIL4 184 TNC ODF2 149 SYNE1 185 150 IGF2R 186 LAMC3 151 PLG 187 CAMSAP1 DIP2C 152 SDK1 188 153 ABCB5 189 FAM208B 154 DNAH11 190 FBXO18 155 HECW1 191 UPF2 156 ABCA13 192 CUBN PCLO МҮОЗА 157 193 AKAP9 ANK3 158 194 159 COL1A2 195 JMJD1C RELN DDX50 160 196 CPED1 GRID1 197 161 ZNF800 PTEN 162 198 163 RBM28 199 KIF20B KMT2C 200 BTAF1 164 CSMD1 201 RRP12 165 202 166 CDCA2 GBF1 167 NSD3 203 SMC3 RP1 204 SFXN4 168 169 CHD7 205 *MKI*67 ZFHX4 NAV2 170 206 171 LRRCC1 207 CCDC73 172 VPS13B 208 KIAA1549L ZFPM2 209 TNKS1BP1 173 174 ΤG 210 AHNAK PLEC LRP5 175 211 176 FREM1 212 PPFIA1 GBA2 177 213 TENM4 PRUNE2 SYTL2 178 214 COL15A1 FAT3 179 215

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	Genes		Genes
216	BIRC2	252	FREM2
217	DYNC2H1	253	VWA8
218	ATM	254	MYCBP2
219	EXPH5	255	SLITRK6
220	CEP164	256	NALCN
221	KMT2A	257	NYNRIN
222	HSPA8	258	ARHGAP5
223	WNK1	259	RALGAPA1
224	CACNA1C	260	TOGARAM1
225	VWF	261	SYNE2
226	CHD4	262	PCNX1
227	PZP	263	YLPM1
228	GRIN2B	264	FLRT2
229	ABCC9	265	AHNAK2
230	LRRK2	266	HERC2
231	KMT2D	267	RYR3
232	ACVR1B	268	AQR
233	ESPL1	269	STARD9
234	ERBB3	270	FBN1
235	LRP1	271	SECISBP2L
236	LRIG3	272	DMXL2
237	NAV3	273	PRTG
238	NT5DC3	274	VPS13C
239	SART3	275	HERC1
240	NOS1	276	ITGA11
241	GCN1	277	IL16
242	DNAH10	278	AKAP13
243	RIMBP2	279	ACAN
244	ZMYM2	280	ANPEP
245	LATS2	281	IQGAP1
246	SACS	282	LRRK1
247	PARP4	283	KIAA0430
248	ATP8A2	284	MYH11
249	MTUS2	285	RBBP6
250	BRCA2	286	ZNF423
251	NBEA	287	SALL1

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	Genes		Genes
288	CHD9	324	ALPK2
289	CNOT1	325	CDH19
290	CDH8	326	ZNF407
291	CDH11	327	Сз
292	NFATC3	328	FBN3
293	ZFHX3	329	MUC16
294	ADAMTS18	330	COL5A3
295	ZC3H18	331	SMARCA4
296	PRPF8	332	CACNA1A
297	ZZEF1	333	ADGRE3
298	POLR2A	334	CPAMD8
299	TP53	335	TSHZ3
300	DNAH2	336	RYR1
301	CHD3	337	SIGLEC8
302	MYH13	338	PEG3
303	NCOR1	339	MACROD2
304	MYO15A	340	PHF20
305	SSH2	341	PTPRT
306	ATAD5	342	NCOA3
307	NF1	343	PREX1
308	C17orf75	344	ARFGEF2
309	HEATR9	345	ZNFX1
310	CDK12	346	SCAF4
311	NBR1	347	SYNJ1
312	GPATCH8	348	SON
313	KANSL1	349	BRWD1
314	MED13	350	PCNT
315	SDK2	351	MICAL3
316	TTYH2	352	PI4KA
317	DNAH17	353	PRR14L
318	RNF213	354	TRIOBP
319	LAMA1	355	EP300
320	ASXL3	356	TCF20
321	SETBP1	357	FBLN1
322	LOXHD1	358	CELSR1
323	MYO5B	359	TUBGCP6

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	Genes
360	SBF1
361	DMD
362	HDAC6
363	KDM5C
364	HUWE1
365	TAF1
366	ATRX
367	COL4A5
368	STAG2
369	TENM1



**Figure S1** An example of 4 phase CT imaging is the following. Four-phase CT protocol (unenhanced, corticomedullary, nephrographic and excretory phases) in two cases of renal cell carcinoma (yellow ROIs in all images). Case 1 is a ccRCC of 4 cm diameter involving the upper third of the left kidney, Case 2 is a ccRCC of 3 cm involving the upper third of the right kidney. Both tumours showed similar features at qualitative assessment of each CT scan, being characterized by round shape, an hypervascular peripheral region (white arrows) and an irregular hypovascular central region (asterisks). At radiomic evaluation case 1 showed slightly lower HU in CMP and NP compared to case 2 (63 and 64 *vs.* 69 and 84 HU) but with higher maximum HU in both phases (168 and 139 HU *vs.* 120 and 106 HU) as for more necrotic lesion with higher degree of vascularization in the periphery. HU, Hounsfield Unit; CMP, corticomedullary phase; NP, nephrographic phase; ROI, Region Of Interest; ccRCC, clear cell Renal Cell Carcinoma; CT, Computed Tomography.



Figure S2 The mean quality value across each base position in the read was good, as the Phred scored remaining above 30 from base 1 to base 75 for each sample.



Per Sequence Quality Scores

Figure S3 The per sequence quality scores, which evaluates the number of reads with average quality, suggested that no subset of reads has poor quality.



**Figure S4** Biotypes distribution among samples, using RPKM values. 15935 expressed genes have been considered. IG\_C\_gene are Immunoglobulin (Ig) variable chain and T-cell receptor (tcr) genes imported or annotated according to IMGT (http://www.imgt.org/). Mt\_ rrna, Mt\_trna, misc\_RNA, snrna, snorna are non-coding RNA predicted using sequences from Rfam and mirbase (http://rfam.xfam. org/ & http://www.mirbase.org/). TEC are rnas that need to be experimentally validated, used for non-spliced EST clusters that have polya features; this category has been specifically created for the ENCODE project for regions that could indicate the presence of protein coding locus on the opposite strand. LincRNA are long, intervening noncoding (linc) RNA that can be found in evolutionarily conserved, intergenic regions. Processed\_pseudogene are pseudogenes that lack introns and are thought to arise from reverse transcription of mrna followed by reinsertion of DNA into the genome. Processed\_transcript are transcripts not containing an open reading frame (ORF). Protein\_coding are transcripts containing an ORF, thus thought to be protein coding. Sense\_intronic are long non-coding transcript in introns of a coding gene that does not overlap any exons. RPKM, Reads Per Kilobase of transcript per Million mapped reads; Ig, Immunogolobuline; RNA, RiboNucleic Acid.





Figure S5 STAR alignment scores plot. RNA uniquely mapped ranges from 75.1% to 85.2%. RNA mapped to multiple loci ranged from 11% to 19.7%. RNA unmapped ranged from 2.6% to 5%.



# **Figure S6** Sequence duplication levels, that show the relative level of duplication found in each sequence, were extremely low: from 65.5% to 85% of the libraries in the samples had no duplication.

#### Overrepresented sequences



Figure S7 The graph shows the total amount of overrepresented sequences found in each library, with the top over-represented sequences ranging from 0.15% to 0.79% in the different samples.

Table S1 Radiomics characteristics at computed tomography imaging

Variable	
Volumetric data	
Long axis, mm	41 (32.5-46)
Short axis, mm	32 (30.5-41.5)
Total volume, cc	19.5 (16.2-38.4)
Exophytic volume, cc	12 (5-28.1)
Exophytic growth percentage, %	14.5 (13.1-15.6)
Unenhanced phase data	
Mean tumor attenuation, HU	25.5 (21-33.4)
Standard deviations tumor attenuation, HU	14 (11.8-19.3)
Maximum tumor attenuation, HU	35.6 (31.4-41.1)
Minimum tumor attenuation, HU	13 (9.8-27.8)
Psoas attenuation, HU	53.6 (50.6-59.6)
Tumor-to-Psoas ratio	0.67 (0.60-0.7)
Renal cortex attenuation, HU	31.3 (27.3-35.6)
Tumor-to-Kidney Ratio	1.22 (0.94-1.38)
Corticomedullary phase data	
Mean tumor attenuation, HU	133.9 (71.2-164.3)
Standard deviations tumor attenuation, HU	47.6 (32.2-67.7)
Maximum tumor attenuation, HU	168.3 (129.9-232.5)
Minimum tumor attenuation, HU	23.7 (14.7-65.4)
Renal cortex attenuation, HU	173 (155.5-204.8)
Tumor-to-Kidney Ratio	0.92 (0.81-1.19)
Nephrographic phase data	
Mean tumor attenuation, HU	97.9 (74.6-141.2)
Standard deviations tumor attenuation, HU	35.9 (27.5-44.3)
Maximum tumor attenuation, HU	139.4 (114.3-169.5)
Minimum tumor attenuation, HU	32.2 (17.2-74)
Renal cortex attenuation, HU	171 (146.7-241)
Tumor-to-Kidney Ratio	0.75 (0.69-0.81)
Enhancement data	
Early tumor enhancement	106.5 (50.2-131.9)
Late tumor enhancement	70.5 (53.6-108.7)

Four phases at CT scan were evaluated: unenhanced, i.e., before contrast injection; corticomedullary, i.e., 30 seconds after contrast injection; nephrographic, i.e., 90 seconds after contrast injection; excretory, i.e., 5 minutes after contrast injection. No data from the excretory phase were used for the analysis. Data are presented as median and interquartile range (IQR). HU, Hounsfield Units.