

 PROSTATE CANCER

## Radium-223 safe in combination

New results from an early-access, phase 3b trial of radium-223 dichloride ( $^{223}\text{Ra}$ ) in men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) corroborate survival and safety data of the ALSYMPCA trial. Furthermore, the data show that  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  treatment is safe in patients who also receive abiraterone and/or enzalutamide.

This new trial was initiated to give men with mCRPC access to  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  treatment ahead of regulatory approval. In contrast to the ALSYMPCA trial, which investigated efficacy outcomes of  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  in patients with mCRPC and symptomatic skeletal metastases, this study also included men with asymptomatic skeletal metastases and those who had received or commenced treatment with abiraterone, enzalutamide or denosumab.

In total, 696 patients enrolled in 14 countries received at least one of six planned  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  injections. At baseline, 20% of these men were asymptomatic, 60% had received

docetaxel and 48% had received abiraterone and/or enzalutamide. All six  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  treatments were administered in 58% of patients.

At a median follow-up duration of 7.5 months, median overall survival was 16 months. *Post hoc* analyses showed longer overall survival in men who received abiraterone and/or enzalutamide or denosumab concomitantly with  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  compared with those who received  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  only. No difference in survival was seen for previous docetaxel use. Overall, adverse event profiles were similar to those in the ALSYMPCA trial. In addition, the data did not show worse safety profiles in men receiving abiraterone, enzalutamide or denosumab concomitantly to  $^{223}\text{Ra}$ .

This study was not randomized and had a short follow-up period. Randomized trials to investigate combination therapies of  $^{223}\text{Ra}$  and abiraterone or enzalutamide are currently ongoing.

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**ORIGINAL ARTICLE** Saad, F. *et al.* Radium-223 and concomitant therapies in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer: an international, early access, open-label, single-arm phase 3b trial. *Lancet Oncol.* [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(16\)30173-5](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30173-5) (2016)

**FURTHER READING** Body, J.-J. *et al.* Targeting bone metastases in prostate cancer: improving clinical outcome. *Nat. Rev. Urol.* **12**, 340–356 (2015)