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IN BRIEF

PROSTATE CANCER

Promising combination treatment for prostate cancer

A new study has demonstrated the potential of combining abiraterone acetate (plus prednisone) and sipuleucel-T for the treatment of prostate cancer. These agents have presumed nonoverlapping mechanisms of action, with abiraterone acetate showing an immediate antitumour effect and sipuleucel-T promoting a sustained immunological and antitumour effect. Small *et al.* investigated use of these agents in 69 patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. Giving these agents in combination did not change immune parameters known to correlate with the clinical benefit occurring with sipuleucel-T.

Original article Small, E. J. *et al.* A randomized phase II trial of sipuleucel-T with concurrent vs sequential abiraterone acetate plus prednisone in metastatic castration resistant prostate cancer. *Clin. Cancer Res.* doi:10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-15-0079

BPH

Resveratrol does not reduce prostate volume

Resveratrol does not reduce prostate volume in middle-aged men and is, therefore, unlikely to be useful in the treatment of benign prostate hyperplasia, according to a new study. Kjaer *et al.* performed a randomized, placebo-controlled study of two doses of resveratrol (150 mg and 1,000 mg daily) for 4 months in 66 men aged ~50 years with metabolic syndrome. The high dose was associated with reductions in serum levels of androgen precursors, but prostate size and circulating levels of PSA, free testosterone, testosterone and dihydrotestosterone did not change.

Original article Kjaer, T. N. *et al.* Resveratrol reduces the levels of circulating androgen precursors but has no effect on, testosterone, dihydrotestosterone, PSA levels or prostate volume: a 4-month randomised trial in middle-aged men. *Prostate* doi:10.1002/pros.23006

PROSTATE CANCER

Two novel loci associated with Gleason score identified

A genome-wide association study of 12,518 cases of prostate cancer has identified two loci that are associated with prostate cancer aggressiveness (measured as Gleason score)—rs35148638 at 5q14.3 and rs78943174 at 3q26.31. “The proximity of these loci to genes involved in vascular disease suggests potential biological mechanisms worthy of further investigation,” say the authors.

Original article Berndt, S. I. *et al.* Two susceptibility loci identified for prostate cancer aggressiveness. *Nat. Commun.* doi:10.1038/ncomms7889

PROSTATE CANCER

Assay for *PTEN* deletion developed for clinical use

Assessment of *PTEN* alterations using fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (FISH) might be useful for predicting recurrence-free survival in men with prostate cancer and assisting with treatment decisions. Troyer *et al.* developed probes optimized for sensitivity and specificity in a FISH assay for use on radical prostatectomy specimens. *PTEN* deletion was significantly associated with extracapsular extension, seminal vesicle invasion and Gleason score using the assay, which offers a potential tool to assess *PTEN* in the clinic.

Original article Troyer, D. A. *et al.* A multicenter study shows *PTEN* deletion is strongly associated with seminal vesicle involvement and extracapsular extension in localized prostate cancer. *Prostate* doi:10.1002/pros.23003