

Treatment Strategies for Metastatic Castration-Sensitive Prostate Cancer: From “All-Comers” to “Personalized” Approach

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Abstract: Standard treatment for metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC) was androgen-deprivation therapy (ADT) for >7 decades, and this was termed the “all-comers” approach. A remarkable evolution in the treatment of mCSPC has been noted in the previous several years. High-quality clinical trials have shown that the addition of docetaxel or androgen receptor pathway inhibitors, such as abiraterone acetate, enzalutamide, and apalutamide, to ADT improves the overall survival (OS) as compared to ADT alone. The first 2 trials demonstrated the benefits of docetaxel and abiraterone acetate in terms of OS in high-volume and high-risk cancer subgroups, respectively. The later trials indicated that upfront combination therapies were associated with improved OS in all patients, irrespective of tumor volume and risk category. Upfront combination therapies are becoming a standard of care for all patients with mCSPC. However, meta-analyses have failed to show that all upfront combination therapies provide significant survival benefits in all patient subgroups. In the low-volume subgroup, significance was observed only for treatment with enzalutamide and radiation to the prostate. Men with low-volume low-risk cancer who have favorable response to ADT achieve long-term survival with ADT only, and toxicities induced by combination therapies would exceed the benefit for these patients. Treatments should be tailored to each patient because mCSPC has marked diversity in its biological and clinical features. Recent advances in diagnostic and molecular technologies will provide useful prognostic and predictive biomarkers, and the treatment strategy will shift from the “for all-comers” to the “individualized” approach.

Keywords: castration-sensitive, prostate cancer, personalized therapy, biomarker, treatment decision

Introduction

Prostate cancer is one of the most common cancers in the male population. As of 2020, the estimated number of new cases of prostate cancer is 191,930, and this cancer represents the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States.¹ The number of patients with prostate cancer has been increasing worldwide, particularly in Asia and developing countries.² The global incidence of prostate cancer is expected to rise further with an increase in the elderly population. Prognosis of localized prostate cancer is favorable, and the 5-year relative survival rate is >99%; however, the 5-year relative survival rate for metastatic prostate cancer is only 30%.¹ For metastatic prostate cancer, androgen-deprivation therapy (ADT) with either surgical or medical castration was the only standard of care. ADT was

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recommended as the primary treatment for all patients with metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC), irrespective of patient and cancer characteristics, and it was a treatment for “all-comers”. Up to 95% of patients respond to ADT; however, almost all patients progress to fatal disease, castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC).³ A recent clinical trial, Systemic Therapy in Advancing or Metastatic Prostate Cancer: Evaluation of Drug Efficacy (STAMPEDE), revealed that the median failure-free survival (FFS) and OS for men with mCSPC receiving ADT were 11 mon and 42 mon, respectively, even though this trial recruited relatively younger patients without serious complications than those in the actual clinical setting.⁴

The advent of novel therapeutic strategies is changing the treatment paradigms. Large-scale clinical trials have demonstrated that upfront combination therapies using chemotherapeutic agent docetaxel and androgen receptor pathway inhibitors (ARPIs) achieve better survival outcomes than ADT alone.^{5–11} The Chemohormonal Therapy Versus Androgen Ablation Randomized Trial for Extensive Disease in Prostate Cancer (CHAATED) trial and the Abiraterone Acetate Plus Prednisone in Patients With Newly Diagnosed High-Risk Metastatic Castration-Sensitive Prostate Cancer (LATITUDE) trial showed the survival benefit of upfront combination therapies in the subgroup defined by tumor burden and cancer risk, respectively.^{5,7} However, more recent studies have shown that combination therapies improved survival in all patients, irrespective of tumor burden and risk.^{9–12} Thus, upfront combination therapies are becoming the first-line standard of care for “all-comers” as per the recommendations of recent clinical guidelines.^{13,14} This direction may go against the recent general trend of cancer treatment because cancer treatment is advancing from the “all-comers” approach to the “individualized” and “precision” medicine approach.

Previous review papers have described the details of the clinical trials for mCSPC.^{15–20} Thus, in the present review, we discuss the primary treatment for mCSPC from the viewpoint of personalized treatment choice.

From “All-Comers” to “Personalized” Treatment

As mentioned above, ADT with or without 1st generation antiandrogens such as bicalutamide and flutamide were the only standard treatment for all mCSPC patients before the

important results of the clinical trial, CHAATED, was published.⁵ This large-scale Phase 3 study demonstrated that adding six cycles of docetaxel to ADT as a primary treatment achieved better OS than the administration of ADT alone. A long-term follow-up study with a median follow-up duration of 53.7 mon confirmed the results.²¹ The OS benefit of upfront docetaxel over ADT alone was observed in patients with a high-volume metastatic burden [median OS: 51.2 vs 33.4 mon; hazard ratio (HR), 0.72; 95% confidence interval (CI), 0.59–0.89; $p = 0.0018$], but not in those with low-volume disease (median OS: 63.5 mon vs not reached; HR, 1.04; 95% CI, 0.70–1.55; $p = 0.86$). In this trial, high-volume was defined as visceral metastases and/or ≥ 4 bone metastases and at least one outside the vertebral column and pelvis.⁵ Analysis of the aggregate data of 2 independent clinical trials, CHAATED and Androgen-deprivation therapy alone or with docetaxel in non-castrate metastatic prostate cancer (GETUG-AFU15), also showed that upfront docetaxel was able to achieve better OS than ADT alone in patients with high-volume (HR, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.56–0.82; $p < 0.001$), but not in those with low-volume disease (HR, 1.03; 95% CI, 0.77–1.38; $p = 0.8$).²²

Another clinical trial LATITUDE demonstrated the benefit for OS by using a combination of abiraterone acetate, selective CYP17 inhibitor, plus prednisone (AAP), and ADT in patients with high-risk mCSPC (median OS; not reached vs 34.7 mon, HR, 0.66; 95% CI, 0.57–0.78; $p < 0.0001$).^{7,23} In this trial, high-risk was defined as the presence of at least two of the following three factors; Gleason score ≥ 8 , ≥ 3 bone metastases, and visceral metastases. These results indicate that patients with a high-volume metastatic burden and high-risk cancer should be treated with upfront docetaxel and AAP, respectively, and the standard treatment has changed from the “all-comers” to the “personalized” approach.

From “Personalized” to “All-Comers”

A systematic review and meta-analyses of the aggregate data of the CHAATED, GETUG-AFU15, and STAMPEDE trials indicated that the upfront use of docetaxel showed better OS in patients with mCSPC than in those with ADT alone (HR, 0.77; 95% CI, 0.68–0.87; $p < 0.0001$).²⁴ As per the STAMPEDE trial, upfront docetaxel improved the OS irrespective of the metastatic tumor burden (HR, 0.81; 95% CI, 0.69–0.95; $p = 0.003$).²⁵ For low-volume patients, the median OS was

93.2 mon and 76.7 mon for upfront docetaxel and ADT alone, respectively (HR, 0.76; 95% CI, 0.54–1.07). This HR was consistent with that in high-volume patients (HR, 0.81, 95% CI, 0.64–1.02), suggesting that upfront docetaxel would be beneficial for all patients with mCSPC, irrespective of the metastatic burden, and this treatment may be for “all-comers”.

In addition, the efficacy of upfront AAP was assessed in the STAMPEDE trial that recruited mCSPC patients irrespective of tumor volume and risk. Patients in the trial arm G and the arm A received AAP + ADT and ADT alone, respectively.¹² The OS benefit of upfront AAP + ADT over ADT alone was achieved not only in high-risk patients (absolute 3-year survival: 65% vs 45%; HR, 0.54; 95% CI, 0.41–0.70), but also in low-risk patients (absolute 3-year survival: 83% vs 78%; HR, 0.66, 95% CI, 0.44–0.98). AAP + ADT was also associated with more favorable FFS, which was defined as radiological, clinical, or PSA progression, or death from prostate cancer, than ADT alone in low-risk (HR, 0.25; 95% CI, 0.17–0.33) and high-risk patients (HR, 0.31; 95% CI, 0.25–0.39). The heterogeneity of OS and FFS between high- and low-risk groups was not significant. As per the CHAATED volume definition,⁵ AAP + ADT improved the OS and FFS more than ADT alone in both, high-volume (HR for OS, 0.60, 95% CI, 0.46–0.78, HR for FFS, 0.33, 95% CI, 0.26–0.41) and low-volume (HR for OS, 0.64; 95% CI, 0.42–0.97, HR for FFS, 0.26; 95% CI, 0.19–0.36) subgroups. In addition, AAP + ADT conferred a more significant improvement in the OS and FFS than ADT alone in the low-risk low-volume (double low) subgroup (HR for OS, 0.56; 95% CI, 0.34–0.94) and FFS (HR, 0.21; 95% CI, 0.14–0.30). These results suggest that upfront AAP would improve the treatment outcomes in patients with mCSPC, irrespective of the tumor burden or risk and may be the standard of care for “all-comers”.

Enzalutamide plus Androgen-Deprivation Therapy for Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer (ARCHES), a randomized Phase III study, compared the clinical benefit of ENZ plus ADT with ADT alone for men with mCSPC.⁹ Although the data for OS are immature and inadequate, radiographic progression-free survival (rPFS), the primary end-point, was significantly better in the ENZ plus ADT group than in the ADT group (HR, 0.39; 95% CI, 0.30–0.50; $p < 0.001$). This study recruited mCSPC patients irrespective of the tumor volume and previous chemotherapy with docetaxel; this is a unique point of this study. The oncologic benefit of upfront ENZ over ADT alone was consistent across all subgroups, including men with high-volume (HR, 0.43; 95%

CI, 0.33–0.57) and low-volume (HR, 0.25; 95% CI, 0.14–0.46) and those with (HR, 0.52; 95% CI 0.30–0.89) or without prior docetaxel (HR, 0.37, 95% CI, 0.28–0.49). Another trial, the Enzalutamide in First-Line Androgen-Deprivation Therapy for Metastatic Prostate Cancer (ENZAMET), compared the efficacy of upfront ENZ between patients receiving ENZ plus ADT and those receiving first-generation nonsteroidal antiandrogens (bicalutamide, flutamide, or nilutamide) plus ADT.¹⁰ Upfront ENZ was associated with significantly longer OS (HR, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.52–0.86; $p = 0.002$) and FFS (HR, 0.39; 95% CI, 0.33–0.47; $p < 0.001$) than ADT plus first-generation nonsteroidal antiandrogen. In the subgroup analyses, the ENZ arm achieved longer progression-free survival (PFS) than the first-generation antiandrogen arm across all subgroups. ENZ was associated with better OS in patients with low-volume tumor burden and those without previous docetaxel use. Differences in the OS between the treatment groups did not reach statistical significance in patients with high-volume disease (HR = 0.80; 95% CI = 0.5–1.07) and those with previous docetaxel (HR, 0.90; 95% CI, 0.62–1.31), probably owing to the short follow-up period (median 34 mon); a longer follow-up is necessary for determining the effect of ENZ on OS in this trial.

Apalutamide (APA), another second-generation nonsteroidal antiandrogen, was assessed the efficacy for mCSPC in the Apalutamide Plus ADT Versus ADT in Patients With Metastatic Hormone-Sensitive Prostate Cancer (TITAN) study.¹¹ This study included patients with low-volume and high-volume disease and those with previous docetaxel chemotherapy. Patients were randomized to treatment with APA plus ADT or placebo plus ADT and the primary end points were OS and rPFS. rPFS was significantly longer with the APA group than in the placebo group (HR = 0.48; 95% CI = 0.39–0.60; $P < 0.001$) and the effect of APA was consistently favorable across the subgroups, including tumor burden and previous docetaxel use. OS was also significantly longer in the APA group than in the placebo group (HR, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.51–0.89; $p = 0.005$). Similar favorable tendency of OS was observed in the subgroup analyses, including tumor volume and previous docetaxel at an interim analysis performed at 24 mon.

These recent clinical trials suggest that early combination therapies are consistently associated with better outcomes than ADT alone, irrespective of the tumor burden and risk category. Thus, recent clinical guidelines recommend a combination of docetaxel or ARPIs with ADT as first-line therapy for all patients with mCSPC.^{13,14} The era of ADT alone may end and upfront combination therapies

are becoming a standard of care as the initial treatment for “all-comers” with mCSPC.

The Rationale for a Paradigm Shift from the “All-Comers” Toward the “Personalized” Approach

Insufficient Evidence of Upfront Combination Therapies as Standard of Care for All Patients

Several high-quality clinical trials have concluded that early combination therapies provided survival benefit for all men with mCSPC, as mentioned above. The clinical trials, however, excluded elderly subjects or patients with poor performance status (Table 1). The survival benefit and tolerability of upfront combination therapies are unknown in elderly and/or frail patients, and evidence regarding clinical benefit in these patient groups is lacking. The exploratory subgroup analyses failed to show any significant benefit of combination therapies over ADT alone in some specific patient groups, although favorable consistency was observed. The benefit was statistically unproven in several subgroups in terms of the Gleason score (<8),^{10,26} some regions,^{10,23} younger age (<70 y),¹⁰ and older age (>75 y),²³ although low statistical power with small number of patients in each subgroup may have caused these

non-significant results. Recent meta-analyses, including large-scale clinical trials, have performed subgroup analysis. The meta-analysis by Sathianathen et al included six RCTs (ENZAMET, TITAN, GETUG-AFU-15, CHAARTED, STAMPEDE, and LATITUDE) with 8388 patients.²⁷ Addition of ENZ, APA, docetaxel, or AAP to ADT achieved better OS than ADT alone in patients with high-volume disease. In patients with low-volume disease, all the combination treatments showed tendency of favorable survival over ADT alone; however, only ENZ demonstrated significant OS benefit than ADT alone (HR, 0.38, 95% CI, 0.20–0.68). The same results were also obtained in another meta-analysis.²⁸ This meta-analysis included seven RCTs (ENZAMET, TITAN, GETUG-AFU-15, CHAARTED, STAMPEDE, LATITUDE, HORRAD) with 8820 patients. In the low-volume subgroup, ENZ, APA, docetaxel, AAP, and external beam radiation therapy (EBRT) to the prostate had superior OS than ADT alone; however, statistical significance was only observed for ENZ (HR, 0.38; 95% CI, 0.21–0.69) and EBRT (HR, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.54–0.87). In patients with Gleason score <8, APA (HR, 0.56, 95% CI, 0.33–0.95) and docetaxel (HR, 0.71; 95% CI, 0.54–0.92) had significant OS benefit over ADT alone; however, others did not show this result. Therefore, upfront combination therapies may not be the standard of care for all-comers.

Table 1 Published Clinical Trials of Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Castration-Sensitive Prostate Cancer

Trial Name	Experimental Arm	Control Arm	Risk	Age: Median (Yr, Range)	Performance Status	Results on Primary Endpoint(s)	Ref
				Experimental/Control Arm			
CHAATED	DTX+ADT	ADT	All	64 (38–88)/63 (39–91)	ECOG ≤ 2	OS benefit for high-vol cancer No OS benefit for low-vol cancer	[21]
GETUG-AFU 15	DTX+ADT	ADT	All	63 (IQR 58–70)/64 (IQR 57–68)	Karnofsky ≥ 70%	No OS benefit	[22]
STAMPEDE arm A/C	DTX+ADT	ADT	All	65 (IQR 60–71)/65 (IQR 60–70)	WHO ≤ 2	OS benefit	[6]
LATITUDE	AAP+ADT	ADT+ placebo	High risk	68 (38–89)/67 (33–92)	ECOG ≤ 2	rPFS and OS benefit	[23]
STAMPEDE arms A/G	AAP+ADT	ADT	All	67(IQR 62–72)/67(IQR 62–72)	WHO ≤ 2	OS benefit	[8]
ENZAMET	ENZ+ADT	ADT+ first-generation antiandrogen	All	69 (63–75)/69 (63–75)	ECOG ≤ 2	OS benefit	[10]
ARCHES	ENZ+ADT	ADT+ placebo	All	70 (46–92)/70 (42–92)	ECOG ≤ 1	rPFS benefit	[9]
TITAN	APA+ADT	ADT+ placebo	All	68 (43–91)/68 (43–90)	ECOG ≤ 1	rPFS and OS benefit	[11]

Abbreviations: AAP, abiraterone acetate and prednisone; ADT, androgen deprivation therapy; APA, apalutamide; DTX, docetaxel; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; ENZ, enzalutamide; high-vol, high-volume; IQR, interquartile; low-vol, low-volume; OS, overall survival; rPFS, radiographic progression-free survival; WHO, World Health Organization.

Definitive Treatment is Beneficial Only in Patients with Low-Volume Disease

Not only systemic pharmacotherapy, but radiation to the prostate also improves OS in low-volume disease. The recent high-quality RCTs, STAMPEDE²⁹ and Hormonal Therapy Versus Hormonal Therapy Plus Local External Radiation Therapy in Patients With Primary Diagnosed Metastasized Prostate Cancer (HORRAD),³⁰ concluded that adding radiation therapy to the prostate in mCSPC patients receiving ADT did not further improve their OS, the primary endpoint. In contrast, subgroup analyses by metastatic burden in the STAMPEDE trial showed OS benefit for patients with low-volume disease (HR, 0.68; 95% CI, 0.52–0.90). The HORRAD trial also showed a similar trend without statistical significance in patients with <5 metastatic lesions. Meta-analysis of 2 RCTs that involved 2493 patients suggested that ADT plus EBRT to the prostate was associated with improved OS as compared to ADT alone in men with low-volume metastatic burden (HR, 0.68, 95% CI, 0.54–0.87); however, this result was not observed in those with high-volume disease (HR, 1.1, 95% CI, 0.92–1.2).²⁸ Prostatectomy may also improve the oncologic outcomes in patients with oligometastatic prostate cancer.³¹ The definitive treatments, either radiation or prostatectomy, may be associated with survival benefit in patients with low metastatic burden. The results of several ongoing clinical trials on the benefit of prostatectomy and radiation to the prostate are expected to provide more information on this subject.³²

Balance of Efficacy and Toxicity

Serious adverse events (\geq grade 3) were observed in 30%–60% of patients receiving combination therapies.^{9–11,23,25} The toxicity may exceed the benefits in some patients. Increased medical expense with combination therapies is also an issue.

Some metastatic patients are also shown to achieve long-term survival with ADT alone. For example, patients with low-volume and low-risk mCSPC who achieved PSA \leq 2 ng/mL at 3 mon after ADT commencement had a considerably long OS of 112 mon with ADT with or without first-generation antiandrogens.³³ It is very likely that upfront combination therapy using docetaxel and ARPIs would be excessive for these patients. The profile of adverse events and medical cost are different among agents. For example, docetaxel is cheaper than ARPIs, but it is associated with neutropenia and peripheral neuropathy.⁵ ENZ increases the risk of fatigue,

hypertension, cardiovascular event, and seizure.^{9,10,34} Abi is associated with hypertension, cardiovascular events, and hypokalemia.^{23,34} Rash is relatively common adverse event of APA.¹¹ Therefore, treatments must be tailored according to the individual patient's profile, comorbidities and preferences, and it is crucial to choose the appropriate treatments for each patient while avoiding unnecessary overtreatment. All-comers therapeutic approaches may not be used anymore in clinical practice.

Future Perspective

With advances in imaging modalities, treatment strategies are expected to evolve. Positron emission tomography (PET) of ⁶⁸Ga-labelled prostate-specific membrane (PSMA-PET) has a very high detection rate for prostate cancer lesions. The sensitivity and specificity of PSMA-PET are 80% and 97%, respectively, on per lesion analysis, and this tool is able to detect cancer lesions at very low levels of PSA.³⁵ Highly sensitive imaging modalities are able to detect very tiny lesions that are not detected with conventional CT and bone scan and will induce stage migration. Therefore, definitions of cancer volume and risk category may change, and treatment strategies would be determined accordingly.

Prostate cancer has marked diversity in its biological and clinical features, probably determined by germline and somatic gene alteration as well as gene polymorphisms of the patients. Substantial number of single nucleotide polymorphisms are associated with OS and PFS in patients who receive ADT.³⁶ These genetic diversities influence the treatment response and toxicity; moreover, the response to treatment would be different among patients even if they have similar cancer characteristics.

Investigation of the gene expression in the prostate cancer tissue can help identify promising predictive biomarkers.^{37,38} For example, the addition of docetaxel to ADT was beneficial for those with luminal B subtype of mCSPC, determined by the expression profile of the 50 genes using PAM50; however, this was not beneficial for those with the basal subtype.³⁸

Feng et al³⁹ investigated the gene expression in primary prostate cancer patients enrolled in the TITAN study. The gene expression subtype was classified into DECIPHER genomic classifier (GC) as high versus average-to-low risk of metastases, basal and luminal A/B determined with PAM50, and androgen receptor activity (AR-A) signature high and low. The addition of APA to ADT improved the PFS in GC high-risk subtype (median PFS: not reached vs 18.2 mon; HR, 0.40; 95% CI, 0.24–0.67; $p = 0.0004$), but not

in GC average-to-low subtypes. APA also showed benefit in terms of PFS in patients with basal subtype (APA vs placebo; median PFS: not reached vs 18.4 mon; HR, 0.31; 95% CI, 0.18–0.62; $p = 0.0008$) and AR-A low subtype (APA vs placebo; median PFS: not reached vs 15.0 months; HR, 0.25; 95% CI, 0.12–0.52; $p = 0.0002$) disease. These results suggest that APA is beneficial in patients with specific molecular subtypes, but not in others. Alterations in germline DNA damage repair (DDR) genes, such as *BRC42* and *ATM*, predicted the response to ADT. Men with germline DDR gene mutations had significantly shorter time to progression to CRPC than those with wild type DDR genes (median time to CRPC; 8.3 vs 13.2 months; HR, 2.37; 95% CI, 1.48–3.80; $p < 0.001$).⁴⁰ DDR gene status in circulating tumor DNA was also associated with progression to CRPC. Men harboring DDR gene mutations had shorter time to CRPC than those with wild type DDR genes (7.3 months vs not reached; $p = 0.01$).⁴¹ Patients with DDR gene mutations have poor response to ADT alone and combination of ADT with platinum-based chemotherapy⁴² or PARP inhibitors⁴³ would be beneficial for patients with DDR gene mutations.

Androgen-androgen receptor signaling and other molecular pathways such as Wnt/ β -Catenin signaling and PTEN/PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway⁴⁴ are involved in hormone- and docetaxel-resistance. For example, AR splice variant, AR-V7, expression was associated with primary resistance to Abi or ENZ^{45,46} and AR-V7 expression in CSPC was correlated with poor response to ADT.⁴⁷ The SPOP gene was frequently mutated in primary prostate cancer and its mutations induced resistance to docetaxel.⁴⁸

The molecular heterogeneity is associated with different clinical outcomes among patients with similar cancer characteristics. The genomic-driven approach will provide the precise predictive biomarkers that identify the subset of patients who would benefit most from the treatment. We will be able to tailor the optimal treatment for each patient, and treatments will shift from the “all-comers” to the “individualized” approach.

Possible Future Treatment Strategy as per the Clinical and Biological Characteristics

The treatment strategies should be determined as per cancer and patient characteristics as well as patient preference. We showed the possible treatment strategy for patients with mCSPC as per patient subgroups (Figure 1). Group 1: elderly and/or fragile patients with

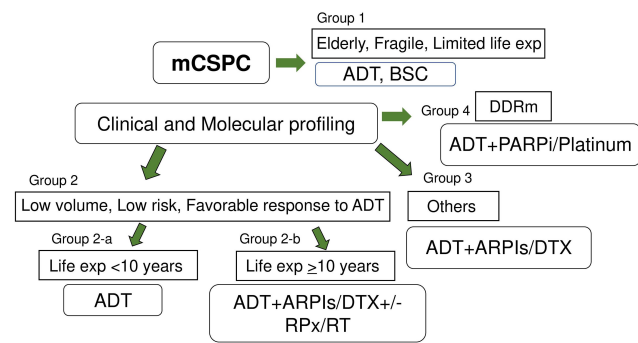


Figure 1 Perspective of treatment strategy for metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer as per the clinical and biological characteristics.

Abbreviations: ADT, androgen-deprivation therapy; ARPIs, androgen receptor pathway inhibitors; BSC, best supportive care; DDRm, DNA damage repair gene mutation; DTX, docetaxel; life exp, life expectancy; mCSPC, metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer; PARPi, poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase inhibitor; Platinum, platinum-based chemotherapy; RPx, radical prostatectomy; RT, radiation therapy.

very limited life expectancy; ADT alone or best supportive care. Group 2-a: patients with low-volume, low-risk disease, favorable response to ADT, and life expectancy <10 y; ADT alone, because long-term OS, about 10 years, is expected with ADT alone in this patient group.³³ Adverse events caused by upfront combination therapies may exceed their efficacy in those patients. Group 2-b: patients with the same cancer characteristics as group 2-a patients and having longer life expectancy (>10 y); upfront combination therapies using docetaxel or ARPIs, with or without prostatectomy or EBRT to the prostate together with ADT. Metastases-directed radiotherapy may be also indicated. Complete eradication of cancer and cure may be anticipated with these aggressive combination treatments in these patients. Group 3: patients with high-volume, high-risk, or unfavorable response to ADT; upfront combination therapies using docetaxel or ARPIs. Group 4: patients carrying DDR gene mutations; poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors or platinum-based chemotherapy. The prognostic and predictive biomarker-based decision will enable optimal personalized treatment.

Conclusion

There has been remarkable evolution in mCSPC treatment in the previous several years. Recent upfront combination treatments with ADT have improved the oncologic outcomes and are becoming a standard of care for mCSPC. Treatments should be tailored to each patient because mCSPC has marked diversity in its biological and clinical features. Recent advance in the field of imaging and molecular technology will allow more effective individualized treatment, improving the changes of favorable clinical outcomes.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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