Real-World Outcomes for Patients With Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer Within a US Community Urology Network

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Abstract

Background: The role of novel hormonal agents (NHAs) for advanced prostate cancer (PCa) has expanded over time to include treatment of metastatic and nonmetastatic disease. Additionally, in the last 5 years, select poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors have been FDA-approved and incorporated into treatment guide-lines for homologous recombination repair and *BRCA* mutant metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). To understand the evolving treatment landscape and unmet medical needs in mCRPC, treatment patterns, patient characteristics, and outcomes within a large community urology network were evaluated.

Methods: Retrospective data from the Specialty Networks Uro-oncology deidentified electronic medical records database were analyzed. A cohort of patients with mCRPC who initiated first-line (1L) systemic treatment between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2022, were grouped by NHA exposure prior to 1L mCRPC treatment: group 1 (NHA naive; n = 500) and group 2 (prior NHA use; n = 500). Patient demographics, lines of therapy, and referral patterns to oncologists were analyzed. Time to next treatment (TTNT) as a proxy for progression-free survival and overall survival (OS) were evaluated using Kaplan-Meier methods and Cox proportional hazards regression. Sub-group analyses were performed for Black/African American patients.

Results: Of 1000 patients, 79.5% received NHA-based 1L therapy for mCRPC. Novel hormonal agent monotherapy accounted for 65% of 1L mCRPC treatment, and approximately 35% of patients received NHA-based treatment for metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC) and 1L mCRPC. Overall median TTNT and OS were 17 and 35 months, respectively. Eleven percent of the overall population had a documented oncology visit. A total of 218 patients (23%) were Black/African American.

Conclusions: Results from this large US urology dataset demonstrate a paucity of multidisciplinary care; most patients were treated by urology clinicians only. The majority of patients received NHA-based treatment for 1L mCRPC, approximately one-third of whom also received an NHA in the mHSPC setting. Sequential use of NHAs in mHSPC and 1L mCRPC despite the lack of robust, prospective data supporting this approach highlights the need for alternative treatment strategies.

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Introduction

Prostate cancer (PCa) is a leading cause of mortality and morbidity, both globally and in the United States (US), representing a substantial public health care burden.¹⁻⁴ In the US, approximately 299010 men were diagnosed in 2024, and 35250 will die from the disease.^{2,3} US estimates suggest that most PCa cases are localized (70%) or regional (13%) at initial presentation, with an estimated 8% and 9% of patients presenting with distant disease and unknown stage, respectively.^{3,4}

Metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) represents the most aggressive phenotype of the disease. While novel hormonal agents (NHAs) such as abiraterone and enzalutamide have demonstrated efficacy in delaying disease progression in multiple trials, a substantial proportion of patients will develop resistance to these agents over time.⁵⁻⁸ Across landmark clinical studies, including COU-AA-302 studying abiraterone and PREVAIL studying enzalutamide, median overall survival (OS) time frames were approximately 35 months.⁵⁻⁸ Treatment has also evolved for patients whose tumors are homologous recombination repair (HRR) or BRCA mutated. Specifically, poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors have emerged as a treatment option for certain patients with mCRPC, such as those with BRCA alterations who have received prior hormonal therapy and chemotherapy as well as those with a broader range of HRR mutations.⁹ As such, genetic testing in patients with mCRPC can help determine eligibility for PARP inhibitors, which can improve survival as monotherapy or as a component of combination therapy.9

Several studies of real-world clinical practice in mCRPC have been published. Caram et al¹⁰ utilized US Department of Veterans Affairs data to examine differences in survival, stratified by year of first CRPC treatment, initially finding survival times to have improved between 2010 and 2017. However, these benefits were mitigated when adjusting for markers of disease burden, suggesting that recent gains may be due to an earlier time to treatment initiation rather than improved treatment effective-ness. Malangone-Monaco and colleagues¹¹ utilized

ABBREVIATIONS

1L, first line 2L, second line EMR, electronic medical record FDA, US Food and Drug Administration HR. hazard ratio HRR, homologous recombination repair LOT, line of therapy mCRPC, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer mHSPC, metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer NGS, next-generation sequencing NHA, novel hormonal agent OS, overall survival PARP, poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase PCa, prostate cancer PFS, progression-free survival PSA, prostate-specific antigen SDOH, social determinants of health TTNT, time to next treatment US, United States

US employer-sponsored claims data to improve upon understanding of treatment sequencing in patients with mCRPC, finding high patient attrition with successive lines of therapy, with only 47.8% and 21.8% of patients receiving second and third lines, respectively. Novel hormonal agents were found to be the most common first-line (1L), second-line (2L), and third-line treatment class; back-to-back use of alternate NHAs was found to be the most common treatment sequence.¹¹ Lastly, Barata et al¹² evaluated the impact of taxane-based chemotherapy and NHA use in the metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC) setting on selection of 1L treatment regimen in the mCRPC setting. Their findings suggest that physicians initiate 1L treatment most commonly with an NHA, regardless of prior treatment.¹²

In the US, patients with PCa are cared for by urologists and/or oncologists; therefore, generating realworld evidence from both perspectives is important for enhanced understanding of real-world care. The goal of this study was to build upon published urology and oncology data by describing treatment patterns, sequencing, and outcomes for US patients, including Black/African Americans treated in a large network of urology practices, and with this information, discuss opportunities for improvement in patient care strategies.

Methods

This study was a retrospective analysis using the Specialty Networks Uro-oncology deidentified electronic medical records (EMR) database. This is a large US urology dataset consisting of records from EMR, practice management, and in-office dispensing and imaging systems from approximately 90 community urology practices with over 3200 providers. More than 1 million patients with PCa were identified. The database is representative of the US geography, payers, and relevant cohort ages and sex, and it aligns with the incidence and prevalence of US disease state comparisons as reported by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.^{4,13}

Adult patients with a diagnosis of mCRPC and who initiated 1L systemic treatment for mCRPC between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2022, were identified using a random sampling-based methodology. Figure 1 shows a flow diagram of patient selection for the analysis. Patients were excluded if they had brain metastases at the time of 1L mCRPC treatment, lacked relevant unstructured documents for study data, had sipuleucel-T or radiopharmaceutical use prior to the index date, or were enrolled in a clinical trial involving an investigational product at any time during the study period. The index date was the start of 1L for mCRPC. This study contained 1000 patients comprised of 2 groups. Group 1 included patients who had not been treated with an NHA prior to 1L therapy for mCRPC (ie, NHA naive), and group 2 included patients who had been treated with an NHA prior to 1L therapy for mCRPC (ie, prior NHA use).

An algorithm to determine lines of therapy (LOTs) was developed based on prior literature and the clinical expertise of the study team. The patient's first systemic treatment up to 14 days prior to the mCRPC diagnosis date was considered 1L mCRPC. Treatments added beyond 45 days after the initial regimen triggered an advancement in the LOT. A gap of up to 90 days for the same regimen was allowable before advancing the

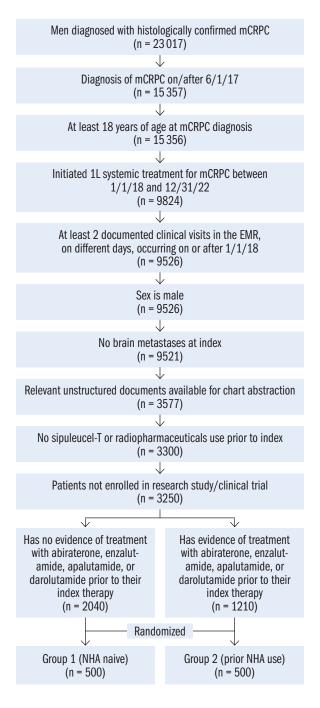


Figure 1. Patient selection flow diagram

Abbreviations: 1L, first line; CR, castration resistant; EMR, electronic medical record; mCRPC, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; NHA, novel hormonal agent. LOT. (See LOT rules in Supplement.) It is important to note that androgen-deprivation therapy use was not characterized as part of the LOT algorithm used for this study given that it is initiated early in patients' disease course and continued as part of the treatment for metastatic disease.¹⁴

Primary objectives of the study were to describe patient clinical and demographic characteristics, utilization of 1L systemic regimens, and real-world outcomes for time to next treatment (TTNT) and OS. Secondary objectives included describing the proportion of patients who received an NHA for both pre-1L and 1L mCRPC therapy and the percentage of patients who received care by an oncologist (in addition to a urologist) for mCRPC. The study was exempt from institutional review board approval.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Baseline patient characteristics for the overall population and for the 2 study groups were summarized using descriptive statistics. The χ^2 or Fisher exact test, where applicable, was used to analyze categorical variables; the Welch 2-sample *t* test or Wilcoxon rank sum test, as appropriate, was used to analyze continuous variables between the 2 groups. Time-toevent outcomes were evaluated using Kaplan-Meier methods and Cox proportional hazards regression models adjusted for baseline patient characteristics, including cohort grouping (1 or 2), age, geography, insurance, race and ethnicity, initial stage at diagnosis, index year, Gleason score at initial PCa diagnosis, prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level at mCRPC diagnosis, 1L treatment type, and time from initial PCa to mCRPC diagnosis. Analysis was conducted using RStudio, version 1.2.5033, software (RStudio, Inc).

Results

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHICS AND BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

Of the 3300 patients meeting eligibility criteria, 1000 patients were stratified sampled for inclusion in group 1 (NHA naive; n=500) and group 2 (prior NHA use; n=500). Patient demographics and baseline characteristics are presented in Table 1. The mean age of the overall population was 75.8 years at the 1L index date; most (703 patients, [75%]) were White, and

Characteristic	No.	Overall (N = 1000)	Group 1 (NHA naive) n = 500	Group 2 (prior NHA use) n = 500	P value
Age at mCRPC diagnosis, y	1000				.463ª
Mean (SD)		75.8 (9.4)	76.0 (9.3)	75.6 (9.5)	
Range		40-89+	40-89+	40 to ≥89	
Median (IQR)		76.0 (69-82)	76.0 (70-82)	76.0 (69-83)	
Age group, No. (%)	1000				.435 ^⁵
18-64		134 (13)	63 (13)	71 (14)	
65-74		306 (31)	147 (29)	159 (32)	
75-79		203 (20)	111 (22)	92 (18)	
≥80		357 (36)	179 (36)	178 (36)	
Geography (patient treatment region), No. (%)	1000	. ,			.021 ^b
Midwest		343 (34)	172 (34)	171 (34)	
Northeast		113 (11)	61 (12)	52 (10)	
South		465 (47)	216 (43)	249 (50)	
West		79 (8)	51 (10)	28 (6)	
Insurance coverage, No. (%)	965	()			.952 [°]
Commercial		183 (19)	90 (19)	93 (19)	
Medicaid		10 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)	
Medicare		772 (80)	389 (80)	383 (80)	
Unknown ^d		35 (4)	16 (3)	19 (4)	

Characteristic	No.	Overall (N = 1000)	Group 1 (NHA naïve) n = 500	Group 2 (prior NHA use) n = 500	<i>P</i> value
Race or ethnicity, No. (%)	937				.952 [°]
Asian	931	11 (1)	5 (1)	6 (1)	.902
Black/African American		218 (23)	113 (24)	105 (23)	
Hispanic or Latino		. ,	3 (1)	2 (0)	
White		5 (1) 703 (75)	358 (75)	345 (75)	
Unknown ^d		()		()	
	1000	63 (6)	21 (4)	42 (8)	.954 ^b
Stage prior to mCRPC, No. (%)	1000	676 (60)	226 (67)	240 (60)	.954
Patients from mHSPC		676 (68)	336 (67)	340 (68)	
Patients from nmCRPC		299 (30)	151 (30)	148 (30)	
Patients from nmHSPC setting	1000	25 (3)	13 (3)	12 (2)	00F ^C
Stage at PCa diagnosis, No. (%)	1000	070 (07)	454 (00)	100 (0.4)	.005 [°]
Patients at nmHSPC		873 (87)	451 (90)	422 (84)	
Patients at mHSPC		123 (12)	46 (9)	77 (15)	
Patients at mCRPC	4000	4 (0)	3 (1)	1 (0)	, c c c h
1L index year, No. (%)	1000	440 (47)	404 (04)	10 (0)	<.001 ^b
2018		146 (15)	104 (21)	42 (8)	
2019		178 (18)	119 (24)	59 (12)	
2020		193 (19)	88 (18)	105 (21)	
2021		221 (22)	102 (20)	119 (24)	
2022		262 (26)	87 (17)	175 (35)	h
1L index year group, No. (%)	1000				<.001 ^b
2018-2020		517 (52)	311 (62)	206 (41)	
2021-2022		483 (48)	189 (38)	294 (59)	
Gleason score at initial PCa diagnosis	875				.010 ^ª
Mean (SD)		8.1 (1.1)	8.0 (1.2)	8.2 (1.1)	
Range		3-10	3-10	6-10	
Median (IQR)		8.0 (7-9)	8.0 (7-9)	8.0 (7-9)	
Unknown, ^d No. (%)		125 (13)	62 (12)	63 (13)	
Gleason score group at initial PCa diagnosis, No. (%)	875				.019 ^b
≤7		278 (32)	146 (33)	132 (30)	
8		194 (22)	102 (23)	92 (21)	
9		325 (37)	164 (37)	161 (37)	
10		78 (9)	26 (6)	52 (12)	
Unknown ^d		125 (13)	62 (12)	63 (13)	
Gleason risk group at initial PCa diagnosis, No. (%)	875	()	()	()	.320 ^b
Intermediate (≤7)	0.0	278 (32)	146 (33)	132 (30)	.020
High (≥8)		597 (68)	292 (67)	305 (70)	
Unknown ^d		125 (13)	62 (12)	63 (13)	
PSA at mCRPC diagnosis, ng/mL	998	120 (10)	02 (12)	00 (10)	.010 ^e
Mean (SD)	550	30.9 (119.8)	39.2 (149.4)	22.5 (79.1)	.010
Range		0-1840	0-1840	0-1047	
Median (IQR)		3.0 (0-16)	4.0 (0.5-19)	3.0 (0-13)	
	1000	3.0 (0.10)	+'0 (0'2-T2)	3.0 (0-13)	<.001 ^b
NHA vs non-NHA based 1L treatment, No. (%) NHA based	1000	705 (70 5)	265 (72)	120 (96)	~.001
Non-NHA based		795 (79.5) 205 (20.5)	365 (73) 135 (27)	430 (86) 70 (14)	

Table 1. Baseline Patient Characteristics in the Overall Population, Continued

Abbreviations: mCRPC, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; mHSPC, metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer; NHA, novel hormonal agent; nmCRPC, nonmetastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; nmHSPC, nonmetastatic hormone sensitive prostate cancer; PCa, prostate cancer; PSA, prostate-specific antigen.

^a Welch 2-sample *t* test.

 $^{^{b}}$ Pearson $\chi^{^{2}}$ test.

[°] Fisher exact test.

^d Excluded from analyses.

^e Wilcoxon rank sum test.

about one-fourth (218 patients, [23%]) were Black/ African American. Among patients with a known Gleason score at initial PCa diagnosis, 68% had a score >7. Geographic region distribution differed between group 1 and group 2 (P = .021). Patients in group 1 were more likely than those in group 2 to have nonmetastatic HSPC at initial PCa diagnosis (90% vs 84%, P = .005). The mean Gleason score at initial PCa diagnosis was slightly higher in group 2 than in group 1 (8.2 vs 8.0, P=.01). The median PSA level at mCRPC diagnosis was 3.0 ng/mL for the overall population. Group 2 had a lower mean PSA level at mCRPC diagnosis than group 1 (22.5 vs 39.2 ng/mL, respectively; P = .01). More patients received NHA-based 1L treatment (79.5%) compared with non-NHA-based treatment (20.5%) in the overall population. Group 2 had a higher proportion of patients who received NHA-based 1L treatment than group 1 (86% vs 73%, respectively; P<.001).

Among this stratified cohort, 444 patients (44%) had genetic testing performed and documented in the chart at any point during the study period. Of these, next-generation sequencing (NGS) was the most common method used, occurring in 90% (n=398) who had genetic testing documented. Among those who were tested for *BRCA* with NGS (n=364), 12% were positive. Among patients who received HRR testing (n=283), 24% were positive for the mutation.

Patients in this cohort (N = 1000) were treated by 293 unique urology clinicians during the study period. A total of 112 patients (11%) had a documented oncologist-related office visit within 90 days before or after starting 1L treatment for mCRPC, of whom 56 (50%) consulted both a urologist and an oncologist for 1L. An oncologist prescribed 1L for 38 patients.

Social determinants of health (SDOH) information, including household size, education, marital status, and income, was available for only 23% (n=227) of patients. More than 85% (n=197) had a household size of 2 or more; 48% (n=108) had completed college or graduate school, 70% (n=158) were married, and 69% (n=157) had an income of \$50 000 or more. In terms of baseline characteristics, the mean age was 74.6 years; approximately 50% (n=113) were from the South treatment region; and the majority had Medicare insurance coverage (n = 183 [82%]) and median (IQR) values for Gleason score and PSA as 8.0 (7-9) and 2.0 (0-13), respectively.

TREATMENT PATTERNS

The proportion of patients who were NHA naive at 1L showed a decreasing trend over time: 71% (2018), 67% (2019), 46% (2020), 46% (2021), and 33% (2022). The most common 1L systemic regimens in the overall population (Table 2) were enzalutamide (37%), abiraterone (17%), and sipuleucel-T (14%). Combined, the top 3 1L treatment regimens accounted for 68% of overall 1L therapy, and NHA monotherapy accounted for 65% of 1L therapy. A total of 13 patients in our population received a PARP inhibitor in 1L treatment (11 monotherapy, 2 in combination with an NHA). Refer to Table 3 for the most common treatment sequences. In the overall population, 549 (55%) patients received 2L therapy, 267 (49%) of whom were NHA naive, and 282 (51%) had prior NHA use.

CLINICAL OUTCOMES

Median TTNT was 17 months in the overall population (95% CI, 14-19 months) (Figure 2). The median TTNT for group 1 was 19 months (95% CI, 14-28 months) and for group 2 was 14 months (95% CI, 10-18 months) (Table 4). Adjusting for clinical and demographic characteristics (Table 5), patients in group 2 were more likely to initiate a new anticancer therapy than patients in group 1 (hazard ratio [HR], 1.49; P<.001), and patients receiving non–NHA-based 1L treatment were more likely than those receiving NHA-based 1L treatment to initiate new anticancer therapy (HR, 2.63; P<.001). Patients who were 80 years of age or older were less likely to initiate new anticancer therapy than those aged 18 to 64 years (HR, 0.62; P=.009).

Median OS was 35 months for the overall population (95% Cl, 33-39 months) (Figure 3). The median OS for group 1 was 42 months (95% Cl, 36-48 months) and for group 2 was 27 months (95% Cl, 24-35 months) (Table 4). Adjusting for clinical and demographic characteristics (Table 5), patients in group 2

Table 2. Utilization o	f 1L Systemic Regimens"
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-	-		
1L therapy	No.	%	
Overall population (N = 1000)			
Enzalutamide	373	37	
Abiraterone	172	17	
Sipuleucel-T	138	14	
Enzalutamide/sipuleucel-T	80	8	
Apalutamide	65	7	
Darolutamide	37	4	
Bicalutamide	27	3	
Abiraterone/sipuleucel-T	23	2	
Enzalutamide/radium	17	2	
Docetaxel	13	1	
Olaparib	11	1	
Radium	11	1	
Apalutamide/sipuleucel-T	10	1	
Group 1 (NHA naive) (n = 500)			
Enzalutamide	207	41	
Sipuleucel-T	105	21	
Abiraterone	52	10	
Enzalutamide/sipuleucel-T	49	10	
Bicalutamide	22	4	
Apalutamide	20	4	
Darolutamide	14	3	
Enzalutamide/radium	9	2	
Abiraterone/sipuleucel-T	8	2	
Group 2 (prior NHA use) (n = 500)			
Enzalutamide	166	33	
Abiraterone	120	24	
Apalutamide	45	9	
Sipuleucel-T	33	7	
Enzalutamide/sipuleucel-T	31	6	
Darolutamide	23	5	
Abiraterone/sipuleucel-T	15	3	
Docetaxel	13	3	
Olaparib	10	2	
Enzalutamide/radium	8	2	
Radium	8	2	
Apalutamide/sipuleucel-T	7	1	
Bicalutamide	5	1	

Abbreviations: 1L, first line; NHA, novel hormonal agent.

^a Only treatment regimens used by ≥1% of patients within the sample are reported; patient counts will not total overall patient sample sizes.

had a higher risk of death than those in group 1 (HR, 1.86; P < .001). Patients aged 80 years and older had a higher risk of death than those aged 18 to 64 years (HR, 2.49; P < .001), and patients with a time from initial PCa diagnosis to mCRPC at or below median time had a higher risk of death than those with a time from PCa diagnosis to mCRPC that was above the median (HR, 1.52; P = .004). Patients who received non–NHA-based 1L treatment had a numerically higher risk of death than patients who received NHA-based 1L treatment (not statistically significant).

NHA (PRE-1L mCRPC) TO NHA (1L mCRPC) ANALYSIS

For the 795 patients who were treated with NHA-based treatment in 1L mCRPC, 285 (36%) received NHA for mHSPC. Among patients in group 2 specifically, 402 patients (80%) were treated with an NHA prior to mCRPC and for 1L mCRPC. The treatment sequences for this subgroup are shown in Figure 4, with enzalut-amide -> enzalutamide as the most common (33%), followed by abiraterone -> abiraterone (21%), then apalutamide -> apalutamide (11%). Most patients receiving an NHA in both pre-1L and 1L treatment received the same drug (71%) compared with those who switched to a different NHA (29%).

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN SUBGROUP ANALYSIS

Baseline and demographic characteristics for the Black/African American subcohort (n=218 [23%]) are presented in Table 6. The mean age was 73.1 years, with 65% having a Gleason score >7 at PCa diagnosis. The median PSA level at mCRPC diagnosis was 5.0 ng/mL, and more patients received NHA-based 1L treatment (78%) than non–NHA-based 1L treatment (22%). Median TTNT from the start of 1L treatment for mCRPC was 27 months (95% CI, 14-57 months), and median OS was 39 months (95% CI, 34 months– not reached).

Sequence	No.	%
Overall population (N = 1000)		
Leuprolide -> enzalutamide ^a -> No treatment ^b	80	8
Leuprolide -> sipuleucel-T ^a -> enzalutamide	33	3
Leuprolide -> enzalutamide ^a -> enzalutamide/sipuleucel-T	25	3
Group 1 (NHA naive) (n = 500)		
Leuprolide -> enzalutamide ^a -> No treatment ^b	76	15
Leuprolide -> sipuleucel-T ^a -> enzalutamide	33	7
Leuprolide -> enzalutamide ^ª -> enzalutamide/sipuleucel-T	22	4
Group 2 (prior NHA use) (n = 500)		
Enzalutamide/leuprolide -> enzalutamide ^a -> No treatment ^b	21	4
Enzalutamide/leuprolide -> enzalutamide ^ª -> enzalutamide/sipuleucel-T	15	3
Abiraterone/leuprolide -> abiraterone ^ª -> abiraterone/sipuleucel-T	11	2

Abbreviations: 1L, first line; 2L, second line; mCRPC, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; NHA, novel hormonal agent.

^a 1L treatment for mCRPC

^b Patients may have still been on 1L treatment at the time of study end, died, or were alive and did not receive 2L treatment.

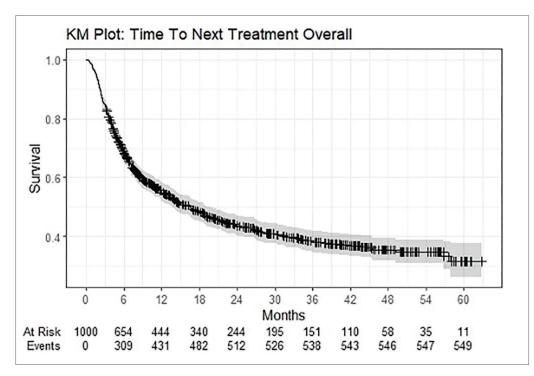


Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier curve for TTNT in the overall population

Abbreviations: KM, Kaplan-Meier; LOT line of treatment; TTNT, time to next treatment.

TTNT was measured as the time from 1L index date to start of subsequent LOT or death; patients' data were censored at the date of last seen (if the last seen is greater than 3 months from the end of the study period) or the end of data collection (if the last-seen is less than 3 months to the end of database).

Table 4. Median Time to Event (in Mo	nths)	
Cohort	Median TTNT (95% CI)	Median OS (95% CI)
Overall	17 (14-19)	35 (33-39)
Group 1 (NHA naive)	19 (14-28)	42 (36-48)
Group 2 (prior NHA use)	14 (9.9-18)	27 (24-35)

Abbreviations: NHA, novel hormonal agent; OS, overall survival; TTNT, time to next treatment.

Table 5. Cox Proportional Hazards Regression Model for Time-to-Event Outcomes

	Time to n	Time to next treatment (n = 787)		Overall survival (n = 787)		
	HR	SE	P value	HR	SE	P value
Cohort (ref: group 1 [NHA naive])						
Group 2 (prior NHA use)	1.49	0.10	<.001	1.86	0.13	<.001
Age (ref: 18-64), y						
65-74	0.97	0.17	.836	1.15	0.25	.589
75-79	0.99	0.18	.945	1.67	0.26	.051
≥80	0.62	0.18	.009	2.49	0.25	<.001
Geography (patient treatment region) (ref: South)						
Midwest	0.82	0.11	.071	1.06	0.14	.697
Northeast	1.10	0.17	.555	1.24	0.20	.278
West	1.09	0.18	.630	1.57	0.22	.038
Insurance coverage (ref: Medicare)						
Commercial	1.05	0.14	.732	0.83	0.19	.354
Medicaid	0.79	0.52	.658	0.35	1.02	.299
Race (ref: White)						
Asian	0.78	0.51	.633	0.16	1.01	.066
Black/African American	0.93	0.12	.545	0.91	0.16	.553
Hispanic or Latino	0.51	1.00	.505	0.52	1.02	.518
Stage prior to mCRPC (ref: mHSPC)						
Patients from nmCRPC	0.90	0.12	.357	1.14	0.14	.332
Patients from other setting	1.41	0.31	.275	0.74	0.37	.427
Index year (ref: 2018-2020)						
2021-2022	0.96	0.10	.709	1.17	0.15	.289
Gleason score at initial PCa diagnosis	1.05	0.05	.316	1.17	0.06	.012
PSA at mCRPC diagnosis, ng/mL	1.00	0.00	.582	1.00	0.00	<.001
1L treatment type (ref: NHA based)						
Non-NHA based	2.63	0.11	<.001	1.28	0.15	.099
Time from PCa to mCRPC (ref: above median)						
At or below median	0.98	0.11	.833	1.52	0.15	.004

Abbreviations: 1L, first line; HR, hazard ratio; mCRPC, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; mHSPC, metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer; NHA, novel hormonal agent; nmCRPC, nonmetastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; PCa, prostate cancer; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; ref, reference.

Discussion

In this real-world, noninterventional analysis, we explored descriptive characteristics, treatment patterns, and clinical outcomes for 1000 patients from US community urology practices who initiated 1L mCRPC therapy between January 1, 2018, and December 31, 2022. The start of this time period coincided approximately with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of abiraterone in mHSPC, the first NHA to be approved for patients in this setting; it was anticipated that this approval may begin to shift systemic treatment patterns for mCRPC. In this stratified cohort of patients, most (80%) received NHA-based 1L treatment for mCRPC. and a notable proportion of these patients also received NHA-based treatment in a prior LOT, despite a lack of robust data supporting sequential use of these agents. A key finding from our analysis is that

nearly 40% of the overall population were treated with an NHA in both 1L mCRPC and mHSPC. Other realworld studies have reported similar findings, despite a lack of data and guideline recommendations to support this approach, perhaps reflecting the desire by patients and providers to avoid side effects of alternate therapies, including chemotherapy, as well as patient performance status or comorbidities that help inform treatment selection.¹⁵⁻¹⁷

Median OS was 35 months for the overall population, and TTNT was 17 months; patients in our study experienced numerically longer OS and TTNT than other real-world studies in mCRPC, likely due to a variety of differing factors, including the severity and aggressiveness of disease related to the cohorts.¹⁵⁻¹⁹ The OS in other real-world studies of patients with mCRPC ranged from 12.9 months to 23.7 months, and TTNT was 13.7 months.¹⁵⁻¹⁹ These studies included patients

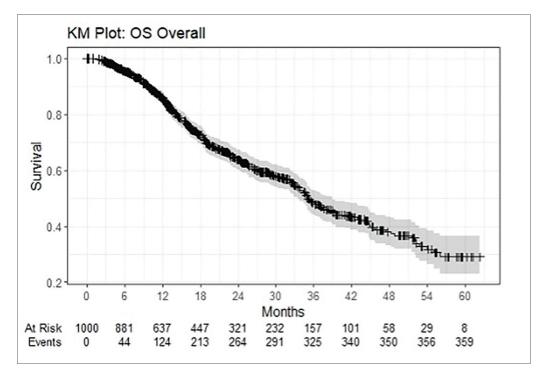


Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier curve for OS in the overall population

Abbreviations: KM, Kaplan-Meier; OS, overall survival.

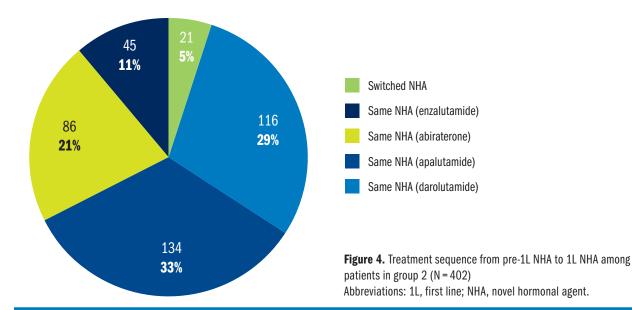
OS was measured as the time from 1L index date to death from any cause; data were censored at the date of last-seen (if the last seen is greater than 3 months from the end of study period) or the end of data collection (if the last seen is less than 3 months to the end of the database).

identified from the Flatiron Health database and Medicare claims data, respectively. With our population being treated primarily in a urology setting, patients likely experienced better outcomes due to a lower severity of disease compared with patients treated in oncology settings. More effective therapies for mCRPC available in recent years (ie, NHAs) may also have contributed.¹⁵⁻¹⁹

Disparities in care across race and ethnicity exist across several different types of cancer; however, Black/African American patients with PCa tend to be differentially impacted given poor access to care and late diagnoses of disease.^{20,21} A higher percentage of patients in our cohort were Black/African American compared with other observational studies and clinical trials.^{22,23} Black/African American patients in our study tended to be younger, with more advanced disease at initial diagnosis; however, with treatment, they experienced longer numerical median OS and TTNT relative to the overall population. Similar trends have been observed in other published research. The prospective PANTHER study evaluated outcomes in Black and White men with mCRPC receiving abiraterone, with primary findings showing similar progression-free survival (PFS) and OS rates; however, Black patients achieved higher rates of PSA decline by ≥50% (26% vs 10%) and longer time to

PSA progression (16.6 months vs 11.5 months).²⁴ A real-world study analyzing data from Flatiron Health found slightly longer numerical outcomes related to time to treatment discontinuation and OS in Black patients vs the overall population; Black race was also significantly associated with longer time to treatment discontinuation vs patients who were White.¹⁶

National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines recommend multigene tumor testing for alternations in HRR genes and microsatellite instability-high or deficient mismatch repair in patients with metastatic PCa and mCRPC, respectively.¹⁴ Tumor mutational burden testing may be considered in patients with mCRPC. Nearly half of patients' tumors in our study were tested at any point during the study period utilizing NGS, BRCA, and/or HRR testing platforms. Overall, previously published literature reported underutilization of these tests relative to other types of cancer, including mCRPC and mHSPC.²⁵⁻²⁷ In analyses of mCRPC data through 2021 from Flatiron Health, barriers to HRR testing included age 65 years or older and treatment within a community oncology setting. Black patients with metastatic PCa were also disproportionately impacted, reinforcing the need for mitigating strategies that facilitate better access to care for these patients. Additionally, Barata et al²⁷ demonstrated that in US patients with mHSPC between



Characteristic	No.	Overall (N = 218)	Group 1 (NHA naive) (n = 113)	Group 2 (prior NHA use) (n = 105)	P value
Age at mCRPC diagnosis, y	218				.505ª
Mean (SD)		73.1 (9.6)	72.7 (8.9)	73.6 (10.2)	
Range		40 - 89+	56 - 89+	40 to ≥89	
Median (IQR)		72.0 (67-79)	71.0 (67-78)	73.0 (67-79)	
Age group, No. (%)	218				.551 ^b
18-64 у		39 (18%)	21 (19)	18 (17)	
65-74 у		92 (42)	51 (45)	41 (39)	
75-79 у		34 (16)	14 (12)	20 (19)	
≥80		53 (24)	27 (24)	26 (25)	
Geography (patient treatment region), No. (%)	218				.764 [°]
Midwest		76 (35)	41 (36)	35 (33)	
Northeast		10 (5)	5 (4)	5 (5)	
South		128 (59)	66 (58)	62 (59)	
West		4 (2)	1 (1)	3 (3)	
Insurance coverage, No. (%)	206				.678 [°]
Commercial		51 (25)	25 (24)	26 (26)	
Medicaid		3 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	
Medicare		152 (74)	81 (76)	71 (72)	
Unknown ^d		12 (6)	6 (5)	6 (6)	
Stage prior to mCRPC, No. (%)	218				.602 [°]
Patients from mHSPC		137 (63)	68 (60)	69 (66)	
Patients from nmCRPC		75 (34)	41 (36)	34 (32)	
Patients from nmHSPC		6 (3)	4 (4)	2 (2)	
1L index year, No. (%)	218				<.001 ^b
2018		35 (16)	28 (25)	7 (6.7)	
2019		44 (20)	27 (24)	17 (16)	
2020		44 (20)	24 (21)	20 (19)	
2021		46 (21)	19 (17)	27 (26)	
2022		49 (22)	15 (13)	34 (32)	
1L index year group, No. (%)	218				<.001 ^b
2018-2020		123 (56)	79 (70)	44 (42)	
2021-2022		95 (44)	34 (30)	61 (58)	
Gleason score at initial PCa diagnosis	183				0.241 ^ª
Mean (SD)		8.0 (1.1)	7.9 (1.2)	8.1 (1.1)	
Range		6-10	6-10	6-10	
Median (IQR)		8.0 (7-9)	8.0 (7-9)	8.0 (7-9)	
Unknown, ^d No. (%)		35 (16)	17 (15)	18 (17)	

Table 6. Baseline Patient Characteristics for Black/African American Patients

Continued

Characteristic	No.	Overall (N = 218)	Group 1 (NHA naive) (n = 113)	Group 2 (prior NHA use) (n = 105)	P value
Gleason score group at initial PCa diagnosis, No. (%)	183				.800 ^b
≤7		65 (36)	36 (38)	29 (33)	
8		45 (25)	25 (26)	20 (23)	
9		58 (32)	28 (29)	30 (34)	
10		15 (8)	7 (7)	8 (9)	
Unknown ^d		35 (16)	17 (15)	18 (17)	
Gleason risk group at initial PCa diagnosis, No. (%)	183				.556 ^b
Intermediate (≤7)		65 (36)	36 (38)	29 (33)	
High (≥8)		118 (64)	60 (63)	58 (67)	
Unknown ^d		35 (16)	17 (15)	18 (17)	
PSA at mCRPC diagnosis, ng/mL	218				.279 ^e
Mean (SD)		48.5 (159.8)	64.9 (200.4)	30.8 (97.1)	
Range		0-1580	0-1580	0-834	
Median (IQR)		5.0 (1-23)	6.0 (1-31)	5.0 (0-21)	
NHA-based vs non-NHA-based 1L treatment, No. (%)	218				.032 ^b
NHA based		169 (78)	81 (72)	88 (84)	
Non-NHA based		49 (22)	32 (28)	17 (16)	

Table 6. Baseline Patient Characteristics for Black/African American Patients, Continued

Abbreviations: 1L, first line; mCRPC, metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; mHSPC, metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer; NHA, novel hormonal agent; nmCRPC, nonmetastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; nmHSPC, nonmetastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer; PCa, prostate cancer; PSA, prostate-specific antigen.

^a Welch 2-sample *t* test.

^b Pearson χ^2 test.

[°] Fisher exact test.

^d Excluded from analyses.

^e Wilcoxon rank sum test.

January 2020 and August 2020, 72% did not receive HRR mutation testing, and more patients receiving care by an oncologist were tested vs those receiving care by a urologist. A lack of family history of PCa as well as lack of visceral metastases were also associated with a lower likelihood of HRR mutation testing. It is important to understand how testing patterns will continue to evolve over time with not only the availability of current therapies but also the increased need for clinical trial participation and the subsequent, future availability of new therapeutic modalities.

Our population had a relatively low likelihood of receiving multidisciplinary care, which is a consistent pattern with what has been reported in other real-world research in PCa.²⁸⁻²⁰ Only 11% of patients in our study had a documented oncologist-related office

visit. The remainder of the patients were solely cared for by their urologist. The lack of referrals to oncology represents an opportunity to optimize the treatment of patients with mCRPC by engaging a multidisciplinary team.

Several limitations should be considered while interpreting the results of this study. First, data for this 1000-patient cohort may not be generalizable to the broader population of US patients with mCRPC as groups 1 and 2 were created based on specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. Second, data within EMRs were primarily collected for clinical and administrative purposes rather than research; however, we employed standardization measures to ensure consistent use and interpretation of structured and unstructured data and noted missing data, where applicable. Third, measurement of real-world PFS was limited by lack of documentation of progression in the EMR; therefore, TTNT was used as a proxy based on experience in other real-world studies.³⁰⁻³² Social determinants of health information was available only for 23% of the patients, and further analysis should be strongly considered for future exploration with larger cohorts.

Conclusions

In a population of patients treated by community urologists, a notable percentage of patients received NHA-based treatment for both mHSPC and 1L mCRPC. A small percentage of patients were referred to an oncologist for care. Coinciding with the timing of FDA approval of the first NHA for mHSPC, the percentage of patients who were NHA naive at 1L mCRPC between 2018 and 2022 trended downward with each subsequent year. Among the entire cohort, the top 3 1L treatments for mCRPC were enzalutamide, abiraterone, and sipuleucel-T. Patients receiving NHA-based 1L treatment were less likely to initiate new anticancer therapy during the study period. Black patients experienced numerically better TTNT and OS than the overall population, despite a greater percentage of patients with advanced disease at diagnosis.

Based on these findings, opportunities for improvement in the care of patients with mCRPC within a US community urology network include better adherence to guideline recommendations with respect to use of NHAs, consideration of genetic testing, greater focus of screening efforts for Black patients, and greater multidisciplinary collaboration with oncology clinicians.

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