

Plain English Summary

Talazoparib in combination with enzalutamide for treating homologous recombination repair gene-mutated metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer

What does the guidance say?

Talazoparib in combination with enzalutamide is not recommended for government funding for patients with homologous recombination repair gene-mutated (HRRm) metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). It is not subsidised and not claimable under MediShield Life.

Why was it not recommended for funding?

ACE evaluates how well a treatment works in relation to how much it costs compared to other treatments. Talazoparib in combination with enzalutamide was not recommended for government funding because its benefits for patients with mCRPC do not justify its cost.

If you need talazoparib and enzalutamide for advanced prostate cancer, you can speak to a medical social worker to find out if there is other financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment.

What is advanced prostate cancer?

Prostate cancer occurs when abnormal cells in the prostate gland grow uncontrollably and form a mass (tumour). These cancer cells need male sex hormones (androgens) like testosterone to grow. Hormone therapy, also known as androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) is used to lower testosterone levels and slow the growth of cancer cells. Doctors classify prostate cancer according to the type of treatment that is likely to work:

- Hormone-sensitive or hormone-dependent prostate cancer means that it needs hormones (androgens) in order to grow and can be treated with ADT.
- Castrate-resistant prostate cancer means that the cancer cells keep growing even when the amount of testosterone is reduced to very low levels with treatment.

When cancer cells spread from the prostate to other parts of the body, this is known as metastatic disease.

What is homologous recombination repair gene mutation?

In our body, cells have a set of instructions called DNA that tells them how to grow and function. When DNA is damaged in a normal cell, it is repaired by homologous recombination repair (HRR) genes. In homologous recombination repair gene-mutated (HRRm) prostate cancer, the HRR genes are unable to repair the DNA, causing normal cells to transform into cancer cells due to the damaged DNA.

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What is talazoparib?

Talazoparib belongs to a group of targeted medicines called PARP inhibitors. PARP (poly-ADP-ribose polymerase) is a protein (enzyme) that helps damaged cells repair themselves. PARP inhibitors block this repair process in cancer cells, causing them to die. It is taken orally in combination with another prostate cancer drug called enzalutamide.


Is this the right treatment for me?

There are different types of treatments available for mCRPC. Your doctor may recommend you have talazoparib in combination with enzalutamide if other drugs cannot adequately control your condition. Your doctor should give you clear information, listen to your views and concerns, and talk to you about your treatment options. Some of the questions you may want to ask your doctor when making decisions about your care are:

- How will the treatment affect my day-to-day activities?
- How well does it work compared to other treatments?
- What are the side effects and risks of treatment, and how likely are they?
- How much does the treatment cost, and who can I approach if I want to find out whether there is financial assistance available to help with the cost of treatment?
- How long will I need to be on the treatment for?
- What happens if the treatment stops working?
- What happens if I do not want to have treatment?

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 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE

 Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

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This summary is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition.

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