



藥物不良反應工作小組藥物安全警訊通告 107.08

歐洲藥物管理局(EMA)用藥安全資訊風險溝通：

限制攝護腺癌藥物Xofigo[®] (radium-223 dichloride)之治療策略

摘要說明：

Xofigo[®] 目前於衛生福利部、美國食品藥物管理署及歐洲藥物管理局之核准適應症為治療去勢抗性攝護腺癌(castration-resistant prostate cancer)病患，其合併有症狀的骨轉移且尚未有臟器轉移者。

EMA 建議 Xofigo[®] 應限制用於已經兩次治療轉移性前列腺癌（前列腺癌已經擴散到骨骼）或無法接受其他治療之患者。

ERA-223 為隨機雙盲第三期臨床試驗，顯示與 Zytiga (abiraterone acetate)、prednisone 或 prednisolone 併用相較於安慰劑組會有增加骨折(試驗組 28.6% vs.安慰劑組 11.4%)及降低存活率(試驗組 30.7 個月 vs.安慰劑組 33.3 個月)的風險，故禁止併用。特別在有骨質疏鬆病史的骨轉移數量低病患中發生骨折的風險較高。Xofigo[®] 僅用於單一治療或與 LHRH 衍生物合併治療外，不建議同時接受其他化療。

另外，在 ALSYMPCA 隨機雙盲第三期臨床試驗中，研究結果顯示骨轉移數量低 (osteoblastic bone metastases)或 ALP <220 U/L 的病患族群在統計學上沒有顯著的臨床效益。

醫療人員注意事項：

- 1) Xofigo[®] 禁止與 Zytiga (abiraterone acetate)、prednisone 或 prednisolone 併用。上述併用藥品最後一次服用應至少五天後再開始 Xofigo[®] 治療。
- 2) Xofigo[®] 為單一治療或合併 LHRH 衍生物用於已經兩次治療轉移性前列腺癌（前列腺癌已經擴散到骨骼）或無法接受其他治療之患者。在最後一次 Xofigo[®] 治療後至少 30 天內不應接受的全身性癌症治療。
- 3) 骨轉移數量低的病患和僅有無症狀骨轉移的病患，不建議使用 Xofigo[®]。
- 4) Xofigo[®] 療程開始前及治療期間應評估病患的骨質狀態(如:骨密度測量)及危險因子(如:骨質疏鬆症、骨轉移數量、併用藥物及 BMI 指數等)並提醒病患應注意的事項。應監測至少 24 個月。
- 5) 現已發現同時併用雙磷酸鹽或 denosumab 可以降低 Xofigo[®] 引起骨折的風險。
- 6) 醫療人員若懷疑病人因為使用藥品導致不良反應發生時，請立即線上通報藥物不良反應及登入於藥物過敏/不良反應記錄中。

院內品項：

Xofigo[®] (radium-223 dichloride) 6000 kBq/vial 鐳治骨

北醫藥物不良反應工作小組 敬啟
臨床藥學組 呂懷恩 藥師
(分機 8443/8444)

27 July 2018
EMA/500948/2018

EMA restricts use of prostate cancer medicine Xofigo

Medicine to be used only after two previous treatments or when other treatments cannot be taken

The European Medicines Agency has concluded its review of the cancer medicine Xofigo (radium-223 dichloride), and has recommended restricting its use to patients who have had two previous treatments for metastatic prostate cancer (prostate cancer that has spread to the bone) or who cannot receive other treatments.

Xofigo must also not be used with the medicines Zytiga (abiraterone acetate) and the corticosteroid prednisone or prednisolone. Xofigo should not be used with other systemic cancer therapies, except for treatments to maintain reduced levels of male hormones (hormone therapy). The medicine should also not be used in patients who have no symptoms, in line with the current indication; in addition, the use of Xofigo is not recommended in patients with a low number of bone metastases called osteoblastic bone metastases.

The review of Xofigo was carried out by EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) after data from a clinical study suggested that patients given Xofigo in combination with Zytiga and prednisone/prednisolone could be at risk of dying earlier and had more fractures than patients given placebo (a dummy treatment) with Zytiga and prednisone/prednisolone. The study included patients with no or only mild symptoms, whereas Xofigo is only authorised in patients with symptoms. In addition, the combination used in this study is now contraindicated. In the study, patients given the combination with Xofigo died on average 2.6 months earlier than those given the combination with placebo. In addition, 29% of patients who received the Xofigo combination had fractures, compared with 11% of patients given the placebo combination.

It is thought that Xofigo, which is taken up by the bone, accumulates at sites where the bone is already damaged, for example by osteoporosis or micro-fractures, increasing the risk of fracture. However, the reasons for a possible earlier death seen in this study are not fully understood. The company that markets Xofigo will have to conduct studies to further characterise these events and clarify the mechanisms behind them.

The PRAC's recommendations have now been endorsed by EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) and will be sent to the European Commission for a final legal decision.

Information for patients

- The prostate cancer medicine Xofigo can increase the risk of having fractures. Also, having Xofigo together with the cancer medicine Zytiga and a corticosteroid medicine (prednisone or prednisolone) for prostate cancer could possibly increase the risk of death.
- Your doctor will not use the combination of Xofigo and the other two medicines for prostate cancer. In addition Xofigo, used on its own or with medicines called 'luteinising hormone releasing hormone (LHRH) analogues', will be reserved for patients who have had at least two previous treatments for prostate cancer that has spread to the bone, or who cannot receive other treatments.
- Xofigo is authorised for use only when the spreading cancer is causing symptoms; depending on how the cancer has spread to the bone, your doctor will decide whether Xofigo is the right treatment for you.
- Before, during, and after treatment with Xofigo your doctor will carry out tests to check the health status of your bones. Depending on the results of these tests, Xofigo may be interrupted or stopped, and you may be given an alternative treatment.
- Before starting and during treatment with Xofigo, your doctor may also give you a medicine to protect your bones from fractures.
- If you experience any new or unusual bone pain or swelling before, during or after your treatment with Xofigo, you should consult your doctor.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your treatment, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

Information for healthcare professionals

- The use of Xofigo is associated with an increased risk of fractures. A possible increased risk of death was also observed in a clinical trial investigating Xofigo in combination with abiraterone acetate and prednisone/prednisolone in patients with asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic castration-resistant prostate cancer.
- Xofigo should only be used as monotherapy or in combination with an LHRH analogue for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC), symptomatic bone metastases and no known visceral metastases, who are in progression after at least two prior lines of systemic therapy for mCRPC (other than LHRH analogues), or ineligible for any available systemic mCRPC treatment.
- Xofigo is contraindicated in combination with abiraterone acetate and prednisone/prednisolone. In addition, Xofigo should not be started in the first 5 days following the last dose of abiraterone and prednisone/prednisolone. Subsequent systemic cancer treatment should not be initiated for at least 30 days after the last administration of Xofigo.
- Xofigo is not recommended in patients with a low level of osteoblastic bone metastases and in patients with only asymptomatic bone metastases. It is also not recommended in combination with systemic cancer therapies other than LHRH analogues.
- In mildly symptomatic patients, the benefit of treatment should be carefully assessed against its risks, considering that high osteoblastic activity is likely to be required for treatment benefit (see below for more information).

- Before starting and during treatment with Xofigo, an assessment of patients' bone status (e.g. by scintigraphy, bone mineral density measurement) and risk of fractures (e.g. osteoporosis, fewer than 6 bone metastases, medication increasing fracture risk, low body mass index) should be performed. Monitoring should continue for at least 24 months.
- In patients with a high baseline risk of fracture, carefully consider the benefit of treatment against the risks.
- Concurrent use of bisphosphonates or denosumab has been found to reduce the incidence of fractures in patients treated with Xofigo. Therefore such preventive measures should be considered before starting or resuming treatment with Xofigo.

The Agency's recommendations are based on the assessment of data from a randomised, double blind, placebo controlled phase III trial (ERA-223), which showed that there was an increased incidence of fractures (28.6% vs 11.4%), a possible reduction in median overall survival (30.7 months vs 33.3 months, HR 1.195, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.950 - 1.505, p=0.13) and an increased risk of radiological non-bone progression (HR 1.376 [95% CIs 0.972, 1.948], p=0.07) among patients receiving Xofigo in combination with abiraterone acetate plus prednisone/prednisolone (n=401) compared to patients receiving placebo in combination with abiraterone acetate plus prednisone/prednisolone (n=405). An increased fracture risk was found particularly in patients with a medical history of osteoporosis and in patients with fewer than 6 bone metastases.

In another randomised, double blind, placebo controlled phase III trial (ALSYMPCA), a statistically significant overall survival benefit of treatment with Xofigo could not be demonstrated in the subgroups of patients with fewer than 6 metastases (HR for radium-223 to placebo 0.901; 95% CI [0.553 - 1.466], p=0.674) or a baseline total alkaline phosphatase (ALP) <220 U/L (HR 0.823 95% CI 0.633-1.068, p=0.142), indicating that efficacy may be diminished in patients with a low level of osteoblastic activity from their bone metastases.

More about the medicine

Xofigo is currently used to treat adult men with cancer of the prostate (a gland of the male reproductive system). It is authorised for use when medical or surgical castration (stopping the production of male hormones in the body using medicines or surgery) does not work, and when the cancer has spread to the bones and is causing symptoms such as pain but is not known to have spread to other internal organs.

Xofigo was authorised in the European Union in November 2013. More information on Xofigo is available on the EMA website: [ema.europa.eu/Find_medicine/Human_medicines/European_public_assessment_reports](https://www.ema.europa.eu/Find_medicine/Human_medicines/European_public_assessment_reports)

More about the procedure

The review of Xofigo was initiated on 1 December 2017 at the request of the European Commission, [Article 20 of Regulation \(EC\) No 726/2004](#).

The review was first carried out by the Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC), the Committee responsible for the evaluation of safety issues for human medicines. In March 2018, the

PRAC recommended contraindicating the use of Xofigo with Zytiga and prednisone/prednisolone, as an interim measure, while the review was ongoing.

The final PRAC recommendations were adopted on 12 July 2018 and then sent to the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP), responsible for questions concerning medicines for human use, which adopted the Agency's opinion. The CHMP opinion will now be forwarded to the European Commission, which will issue a final legally binding decision applicable in all EU Member States in due course. The final stage of the review procedure is the adoption by the European Commission of a legally binding decision applicable in all EU Member States.

Radium-223 Dichloride and Abiraterone Acetate Compared to Placebo and Abiraterone Acetate for Men With Cancer of the Prostate When Medical or Surgical Castration Does Not Work and When the Cancer Has Spread to the Bone, Has Not Been Treated With Chemotherapy and is Causing no or Only Mild Symptoms (ERA 223)

The safety and scientific validity of this study is the responsibility of the study sponsor and investigators. Listing a study does not mean it has been evaluated by the U.S. Federal Government. Read our [disclaimer](#) for details.

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02043678

[Recruitment Status](#) ⓘ: Active, not recruiting

[First Posted](#) ⓘ: January 23, 2014

[Last Update Posted](#) ⓘ: July 12, 2018

Sponsor:

Bayer

Collaborator:

Janssen Research & Development, LLC

Information provided by (Responsible Party):

Bayer

[Study Details](#)
[Tabular View](#)
[No Results Posted](#)
[Disclaimer](#)
[How to Read a Study Record](#)

Tracking Information

First Submitted Date ICMJE	January 21, 2014
First Posted Date ICMJE	January 23, 2014
Last Update Posted Date	July 12, 2018
Actual Study Start Date ICMJE	March 30, 2014
Actual Primary Completion Date	February 15, 2018 (Final data collection date for primary outcome measure)
Current Primary Outcome Measures ICMJE (submitted: April 4, 2018)	Symptomatic skeletal event free survival (SSE-FS). [Time Frame: At 4 years]
Original Primary Outcome Measures ICMJE (submitted: January 21, 2014)	Symptomatic skeletal event free survival (SSE-FS) [Time Frame: At 3 years]
Change History	Complete list of historical versions of study NCT02043678 on ClinicalTrials.gov Archive Site
Current Secondary Outcome Measures ICMJE (submitted: April 4, 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall Survival [Time Frame: At 4 years for interim and at 6 years for final.] Time to opiate use for cancer pain [Time Frame: At 4 years] Time to pain progression [Time Frame: At 4 years]

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to cytotoxic chemotherapy [Time Frame: At 4 years] • Radiological progression free survival (rPFS) [Time Frame: At 4 years] • Number of participants with adverse events as a measure of safety and tolerability. [Time Frame: Up to 4 years]
Original Secondary Outcome Measures ICMJE (submitted: January 21, 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Survival [Time Frame: At 3 years for interim and at 6 years for final] • Time to opiate use for cancer pain [Time Frame: At 3 years] • Time to pain progression [Time Frame: At 3 years] • Time to cytotoxic chemotherapy [Time Frame: At 3 years] • Radiological progression free survival (rPFS) [Time Frame: At 3 years] • Number of participants with adverse events as a measure of safety and tolerability [Time Frame: Up to 3 years]
Current Other Outcome Measures ICMJE	<i>Not Provided</i>
Original Other Outcome Measures ICMJE	<i>Not Provided</i>
Descriptive Information	
Brief Title ICMJE	Radium-223 Dichloride and Abiraterone Acetate Compared to Placebo and Abiraterone Acetate for Men With Cancer of the Prostate When Medical or Surgical Castration Does Not Work and When the Cancer Has Spread to the Bone, Has Not Been Treated With Chemotherapy and is Causing no or Only Mild Symptoms
Official Title ICMJE	A Phase III Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial of Radium-223 Dichloride in Combination With Abiraterone Acetate and Prednisone/Prednisolone in the Treatment of Asymptomatic or Mildly Symptomatic Chemotherapy-naïve Subjects With Bone Predominant Metastatic Castration-resistant Prostate Cancer(CRPC)
Brief Summary	To determine if the addition of radium-223 dichloride to standard treatment is able to prolong life and to delay events specific for prostate cancer which has spread to the bone, such as painful fractures or bone pain which needs to be treated with an X-ray machine.
Detailed Description	This study is a phase III multinational, multicenter, randomized, double blind, placebo controlled, study with a randomization allocation ratio of 1:1 (radium-223 dichloride plus abiraterone acetate plus prednisone/prednisolone: placebo plus abiraterone acetate plus prednisone/prednisolone). The study period will consist of screening/randomization, treatment, active follow-up with clinic visits, active follow-up without clinic visits, and long-term follow-up phases. In this study, subjects will receive study treatment (radium-223 dichloride or placebo in addition to abiraterone acetate plus prednisone/prednisolone for the first 6 cycles followed by abiraterone acetate plus prednisone/prednisolone thereafter) until an on-study symptomatic skeletal event (SSE) occurs (or other withdrawal criteria are met). Follow-up will continue for up to 7 years or until the subject dies, is lost to followup, or withdraws informed consent and actively objects to collection of further data. This study will be conducted at approximately 150 investigative study centers and approximately 800 subjects will be enrolled.
Study Type ICMJE	Interventional
Study Phase	Phase 3
Study Design ICMJE	Allocation: Randomized Intervention Model: Parallel Assignment Masking: Quadruple (Participant, Care Provider, Investigator, Outcomes Assessor) Primary Purpose: Treatment
Condition ICMJE	Prostatic Neoplasms

Intervention <small>ICMJE</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug: Radium-223 dichloride (Xofigo, BAY88-8223) 50 kBq/kg body weight, intravenous injection (IV-slow bolus), every 4 weeks for 6 cycles. (nominal change to 55 kBq/kg after implementation of National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) update) • Drug: Matching placebo (normal saline) Intravenous injection (IV-slow bolus), every 4 weeks for 6 cycles • Drug: Abiraterone All study subjects will receive treatment with oral abiraterone acetate (1000 mg once daily),with best supportive care • Drug: Prednisone/Prednisolone All study subjects will receive treatment with oral prednisone/prednisolone (5 mg twice daily), with best supportive care
Study Arms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental: Radium-223 dichloride Radium-223 dichloride +abiraterone+prednisone/prednisolone All study subjects will receive treatment with oral abiraterone acetate (1000 mg once daily), oral prednisone/prednisolone (5 mg twice daily), with best supportive care Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Drug: Radium-223 dichloride (Xofigo, BAY88-8223) ◦ Drug: Abiraterone ◦ Drug: Prednisone/Prednisolone • Placebo Comparator: Placebo Placebo+abiraterone+prednisone/prednisolone All study subjects will receive treatment with oral abiraterone acetate (1000 mg once daily), oral prednisone/prednisolone (5 mg twice daily), with best supportive care Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Drug: Matching placebo (normal saline) ◦ Drug: Abiraterone ◦ Drug: Prednisone/Prednisolone
Publications *	<i>Not Provided</i>
<p>* Includes publications given by the data provider as well as publications identified by ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier (NCT Number) in Medline.</p>	
Recruitment Information	
Recruitment Status <small>ICMJE</small>	Active, not recruiting
Actual Enrollment <small>ICMJE</small> (submitted: September 22, 2016)	806
Original Estimated Enrollment <small>ICMJE</small> (submitted: January 21, 2014)	800
Estimated Study Completion Date	December 23, 2019
Actual Primary Completion Date	February 15, 2018 (Final data collection date for primary outcome measure)
Eligibility Criteria <small>ICMJE</small>	Inclusion Criteria:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Histologically confirmed adenocarcinoma of the prostate Male subjects of age ≥ 18 years Prostate cancer progression documented by prostate specific antigen according to the Prostate Cancer Working Group 2 (PCWG2) criteria or radiological progression according to Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST), version 1.1. Two or more bone metastases on bone scan within 4 weeks prior to randomization with no lung, liver, other visceral and/or brain metastasis. Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic prostate cancer. Subjects who received combined androgen blockade with an anti-androgen must have shown PSA(prostate specific antigen) progression after discontinuing the anti-androgen prior to enrollment. Medical or surgical castration with testosterone less than 50 ng/dL (1.7nmol/L). Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) Performance Status 0 or 1 <p>Exclusion Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prior cytotoxic chemotherapy for the treatment of CRPC, including taxanes, mitoxantrone and estramustine Any chronic medical condition requiring a higher dose of corticosteroid than 5 mg prednisone/prednisolone bid. Pathological finding consistent with small cell carcinoma of the prostate History of visceral metastasis, or presence of visceral metastasis detected by screening imaging examinations History of or known brain metastasis. Malignant lymphadenopathy exceeding 3 cm in short-axis diameter. Blood transfusion or erythropoietin stimulating agents prior 4 weeks of screening and during the whole screening period before randomization Imminent spinal cord compression based on clinical findings and/or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Subjects with history of spinal cord compression should have completely recovered Use of opiate analgesics for cancer-related pain, including codeine and dextropropoxyphene, currently or anytime during the 4- week period prior to randomization.
Sex/Gender	Sexes Eligible for Study: Male
Ages	18 Years and older (Adult, Older Adult)
Accepts Healthy Volunteers	No
Contacts <small>ICMJE</small>	Contact information is only displayed when the study is recruiting subjects
Listed Location Countries <small>ICMJE</small>	Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States
Removed Location Countries	
Administrative Information	
NCT Number <small>ICMJE</small>	NCT02043678
Other Study ID Numbers <small>ICMJE</small>	15396 2013-003438-33 (EudraCT Number)
Has Data Monitoring Committee	Yes

U.S. FDA-regulated Product	Studies a U.S. FDA-regulated Drug Product: Yes Studies a U.S. FDA-regulated Device Product: No
IPD Sharing Statement	<i>Not Provided</i>
Responsible Party	Bayer
Study Sponsor ICMJE	Bayer
Collaborators ICMJE	Janssen Research & Development, LLC
Investigators ICMJE	Study Director: Bayer Study Director Bayer
PRS Account	Bayer
Verification Date	July 2018
ICMJE	Data element required by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors and the World Health Organization ICTRP

Alpha Emitter Radium-223 and Survival in Metastatic Prostate Cancer

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Radium-223 dichloride (radium-223), an alpha emitter, selectively targets bone metastases with alpha particles. We assessed the efficacy and safety of radium-223 as compared with placebo, in addition to the best standard of care, in men with castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases.

METHODS

In our phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study, we randomly assigned 921 patients who had received, were not eligible to receive, or declined docetaxel, in a 2:1 ratio, to receive six injections of radium-223 (at a dose of 50 kBq per kilogram of body weight intravenously) or matching placebo; one injection was administered every 4 weeks. In addition, all patients received the best standard of care. The primary end point was overall survival. The main secondary efficacy end points included time to the first symptomatic skeletal event and various biochemical end points. A prespecified interim analysis, conducted when 314 deaths had occurred, assessed the effect of radium-223 versus placebo on survival. An updated analysis, when 528 deaths had occurred, was performed before crossover from placebo to radium-223.

RESULTS

At the interim analysis, which involved 809 patients, radium-223, as compared with placebo, significantly improved overall survival (median, 14.0 months vs. 11.2 months; hazard ratio, 0.70; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.55 to 0.88; two-sided $P=0.002$). The updated analysis involving 921 patients confirmed the radium-223 survival benefit (median, 14.9 months vs. 11.3 months; hazard ratio, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.58 to 0.83; $P<0.001$). Assessments of all main secondary efficacy end points also showed a benefit of radium-223 as compared with placebo. Radium-223 was associated with low myelosuppression rates and fewer adverse events.

CONCLUSIONS

In this study, which was terminated for efficacy at the prespecified interim analysis, radium-223 improved overall survival. (Funded by Algeta and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals; ALSYMPCA ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00699751.)

The authors' full names, academic degrees, and affiliations are listed in the Appendix. Address reprint requests to Dr. Parker at the Royal Marsden Hospital, Academic Urology Unit, Downs Rd., Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT, United Kingdom, or at chris.parker@rmh.nhs.uk.

*Additional investigators in the Alpharadin in Symptomatic Prostate Cancer Patients (ALSYMPCA) study are listed in the Supplementary Appendix, available at NEJM.org.

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MORE THAN 90% OF PATIENTS WITH metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer have radiologic evidence of bone metastases, which are a major cause of death, disability, decreased quality of life, and increased treatment cost among these patients.^{1,2} Unlike deaths from many other types of cancer, deaths from prostate cancer are often due to bone disease and its complications.³ Current bone-targeted therapies have not been shown to improve survival, and the benefits derived from bisphosphonates, denosumab, and existing radioisotope treatments are primarily limited to pain relief and delay of skeletal events.⁴⁻¹³

Radium-223 dichloride (radium-223) is a targeted alpha emitter that selectively binds to areas of increased bone turnover in bone metastases and emits high-energy alpha particles of short range (<100 μm).¹⁴ As a bone-seeking calcium mimetic, radium-223 is bound into newly formed bone stroma, especially within the microenvironment of osteoblastic or sclerotic metastases.^{15,16} The high-energy alpha-particle radiation induces mainly double-stranded DNA breaks that result in a potent and highly localized cytotoxic effect in the target areas.^{10,15,17,18} The short path of the alpha particles also means that toxic effects on adjacent healthy tissue and particularly the bone marrow may be minimized.^{16,19,20}

Radium-223 has been reported to have a favorable safety profile, with minimal myelotoxicity, in phase 1 and 2 studies involving patients with bone metastases.^{21,22} Phase 2 studies have shown that radium-223 reduces pain and improves disease-related biomarkers (e.g., bone alkaline phosphatase and prostate-specific antigen [PSA]),²²⁻²⁴ and they have suggested a survival benefit among patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases.²² To evaluate the effect of radium-223 on survival, we conducted the Alpha-radin in Symptomatic Prostate Cancer Patients (ALSYMPCA) study, a phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multinational study comparing the efficacy and safety of radium-223 versus placebo in patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases.

METHODS

STUDY OVERSIGHT AND CONDUCT

The study was designed, conducted, and analyzed by employees of Algeta and Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals, the sponsors, in collaboration with

the study investigators. The blinded database was held at a third-party contract clinical research organization that provided data to the independent data and safety monitoring committee, assembled by the sponsors. After the independent data and safety monitoring committee recommended unblinding of the data, analyses were performed as defined in the statistical-analysis plan by statisticians employed by the sponsors, and the results were reviewed by the authors. The study investigators signed time-limited confidentiality agreements with the sponsors regarding publishing of the study data. Assistance in writing the first draft of the manuscript was provided by a professional medical writer paid by Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals. All authors wrote the manuscript, made the decision to submit it for publication, and assume responsibility for the completeness and integrity of the data and adherence of the study to the protocol. The protocol and statistical-analysis plan are available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

The institutional review board at each participating center approved the study, which was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and the Good Clinical Practice guidelines of the International Conference on Harmonisation.

PATIENTS

Patients were eligible to participate in the study if they had histologically confirmed, progressive castration-resistant prostate cancer with two or more bone metastases detected on skeletal scintigraphy and no known visceral metastases; were receiving the best standard of care; and had received docetaxel, were not healthy enough or declined to receive it, or it was not available. Castration-resistant disease was defined as a serum testosterone level of 50 ng per deciliter or lower (≤ 1.7 nmol per liter) after bilateral orchiectomy or during maintenance treatment consisting of androgen-ablation therapy with a luteinizing hormone-releasing hormone agonist or polyestradiol phosphate. Patients with castration-resistant disease during maintenance treatment were required to continue that treatment throughout the study. Patients were required to have symptomatic disease with regular use of analgesic medication or treatment with external-beam radiation therapy required for cancer-related bone pain within the previous 12 weeks. Additional eligibility criteria included a baseline PSA level of 5 ng per milliliter or higher with



A Quick Take animation is available at NEJM.org

evidence of progressively increasing PSA values (two consecutive increases over the previous reference value); an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance-status score of 0 to 2 (on a scale of 0 to 5, with 0 indicating no symptoms and full activity and higher scores indicating greater functional compromise²⁵) (see the definitions of ECOG performance-status scores in the Supplementary Appendix, available at NEJM.org); a life expectancy of 6 months or longer; and adequate hematologic, renal, and liver function.

Patients were excluded if they had received chemotherapy within the previous 4 weeks or had not recovered from adverse events due to chemotherapy. Additional exclusion criteria were previous hemibody external radiotherapy, systemic radiotherapy with radioisotopes within the previous 24 weeks, a blood transfusion or use of erythropoietin-stimulating agents within the previous 4 weeks, a malignant lymphadenopathy that was more than 3 cm in the short-axis diameter, a history of or the presence of visceral metastases, and imminent or established spinal cord compression. All patients provided written informed consent.

STUDY DESIGN AND REGIMEN

Patients were stratified according to previous use or nonuse of docetaxel, baseline alkaline phosphatase level (<220 U per liter vs. ≥ 220 U per liter), and current use or nonuse of a bisphosphonate. They were randomly assigned in a 2:1 ratio to receive six intravenous injections of radium-223 (at a dose of 50 kBq per kilogram of body weight) or matching placebo; one injection was administered every 4 weeks (see Fig. S1A and the description of radium-223 radiation safety in the Supplementary Appendix). The best standard of care was defined as the routine care provided at each center (e.g., local external-beam radiation therapy or treatment with glucocorticoids, antiandrogens, ketoconazole, or estrogens such as diethylstilbestrol or estramustine). Chemotherapy, hemibody external radiotherapy, and other systemic radionuclides were not permitted during the period from the first injection of the study drug to 4 weeks after the last injection of the study drug. The planned follow-up period was 3 years.

The primary end point was overall survival, defined as the time from randomization to the date of death, regardless of cause. The main secondary efficacy end points were the time to an increase in the total alkaline phosphatase level (defined as an increase of $\geq 25\%$ from baseline at

≥ 12 weeks, in patients with no decrease from baseline, or as an increase of $\geq 25\%$ above the nadir, confirmed ≥ 3 weeks later, in patients with an initial decrease from baseline), a total alkaline phosphatase response (defined as a reduction of $\geq 30\%$ from the baseline value, confirmed ≥ 4 weeks later), the time to the first symptomatic skeletal event (defined as the first use of external-beam radiation therapy to relieve skeletal symptoms, new symptomatic pathologic vertebral or nonvertebral bone fractures, spinal cord compression, or tumor-related orthopedic surgical intervention), normalization of the total alkaline phosphatase level (defined as a return to a value within the normal range at 12 weeks [confirmed by two consecutive measurements ≥ 2 weeks apart] in patients with total alkaline phosphatase values above the upper limit of the normal range at baseline), and the time to an increase in the PSA level (defined as a relative increase of $\geq 25\%$ from the baseline level and an absolute increase of ≥ 2 ng per milliliter at ≥ 12 weeks, in patients with no decrease in the PSA level from baseline, or a relative increase of $\geq 25\%$ and an absolute increase of ≥ 2 ng per milliliter above the nadir, confirmed ≥ 3 weeks later, in patients with an initial decrease from baseline). Other secondary end points included additional efficacy end points (listed in Table S1 in the Supplementary Appendix), safety end points, and quality of life.

STUDY ASSESSMENTS

Efficacy assessments included survival status, clinically evaluated symptomatic skeletal events, and total alkaline phosphatase and PSA concentrations. Safety was assessed on the basis of adverse events, hematologic values, clinical laboratory variables, and findings on electrocardiography and physical examination. All adverse events that occurred after randomization and within 12 weeks after the last injection of the study drug were reported and evaluated for their potential relationship to the study drug. Adverse events that occurred more than 12 weeks after the final injection of the study drug were reported only if they were determined to be related to the study drug by the investigator. Adverse events were graded according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 3.0 (http://ctep.cancer.gov/protocolDevelopment/electronic_applications/docs/ctcae3.pdf). Quality of life was assessed with the use of the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy–Prostate (FACT-P) questionnaire.²⁶

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

A sample of 900 patients was required to provide a statistical power of 90% to detect a hazard ratio of 0.76 for the risk of death in the radium-223 group versus the placebo group with a two-sided alpha significance level of 0.05. The final overall survival analysis would be conducted after approximately 640 deaths had occurred. One formal interim analysis was planned after approximately 50% of the deaths (i.e., 320 deaths) had occurred, to assess the effect of radium-223 on the primary end point (overall survival). As prespecified in the protocol, the Lan-DeMets alpha spending approach²⁷ was applied with O'Brien-Fleming stopping boundaries²⁸ to evaluate the difference in overall survival between the two groups. On the

basis of the actual number of deaths at the time of the interim analysis (314), a two-sided alpha significance level of 0.0028 or lower was required to support early termination of the study for efficacy. An independent data and safety monitoring committee was responsible for evaluating the results of the interim analysis. On the basis of this evaluation, which showed a survival advantage with radium-223 and an acceptable safety profile, the committee recommended early discontinuation of the trial and crossover from placebo to radium-223. We report here the results of an updated descriptive analysis of the efficacy and safety data, performed when 528 deaths had occurred, before any crossover treatment with radium-223 was administered.

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics of the Patients.*

Characteristic	Radium-223 (N = 614)	Placebo (N = 307)
Age		
Median (range) — yr	71 (49–90)	71 (44–94)
>75 yr — no. (%)	171 (28)	90 (29)
White race — no. (%)†	575 (94)	290 (94)
Total alkaline phosphatase — no. (%)		
<220 U/liter	348 (57)	169 (55)
≥220 U/liter	266 (43)	138 (45)
Current use of bisphosphonates — no. (%)		
Yes	250 (41)	124 (40)
No	364 (59)	183 (60)
Any previous use of docetaxel — no. (%)		
Yes	352 (57)	174 (57)
No	262 (43)	133 (43)
ECOG performance-status score — no. (%)‡		
0	165 (27)	78 (25)
1	371 (60)	187 (61)
≥2	77 (13)	41 (13)
WHO ladder for cancer pain — no. (%)§		
1	257 (42)	137 (45)
2	151 (25)	78 (25)
3	194 (32)	90 (29)
Extent of disease — no. (%)		
<6 metastases	100 (16)	38 (12)
6–20 metastases	262 (43)	147 (48)
>20 metastases	195 (32)	91 (30)
Superscan¶	54 (9)	30 (10)

Table 1. (Continued.)

Characteristic	Radium-223 (N = 614)	Placebo (N = 307)
External-beam radiation therapy within 12 wk after screening — no. (%)		
Yes	99 (16)	48 (16)
No	515 (84)	259 (84)
Median biochemical values (range)		
Hemoglobin — g/dl	12.2 (8.5–15.7)	12.1 (8.5–16.4)
Albumin — g/liter	40 (24–53)	40 (23–50)
Total alkaline phosphatase — U/liter	211 (32–6431)	223 (29–4805)
Lactate dehydrogenase — U/liter	315 (76–2171)	336 (132–3856)
PSA — µg/liter	146 (3.8–6026)	173 (1.5–14500)

* Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

† Race was self-reported.

‡ The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scores the performance status of patients with respect to activities of daily living as follows: 0, fully active and able to carry out all predisease activities without restriction; 1, restricted in physically strenuous activity but ambulatory and able to carry out work of a light nature; 2, ambulatory and up and about for more than 50% of waking hours and capable of self-care but unable to carry out work activities; 3, capable of only limited self-care and confined to a bed or chair for more than 50% of waking hours; 4, completely disabled; and 5, dead.

§ A total of 12 patients in the radium-223 group (2%) and 2 patients in the placebo group (1%) had no pain or analgesic use at baseline. A World Health Organization (WHO) score of 1 indicates mild pain and no opioid use, 2 indicates moderate pain and occasional opioid use, and 3 indicates severe pain and regular daily opioid use.

¶ Superscan refers to a bone scan showing diffuse, intense skeletal uptake of the tracer without renal and background activity.

|| The normal ranges are as follows: hemoglobin, 13.4 to 17.0 g per deciliter; albumin, 36 to 45 g per liter; total alkaline phosphatase, 35 to 105 U per liter; lactate dehydrogenase, 115 to 255 U per liter; and prostate-specific antigen (PSA), 0 to 3.999 µg per liter.

The stratified log-rank test was used as the primary analysis for survival; subgroup analyses were performed to assess whether the treatment effect was consistent across subgroups. The main secondary efficacy end points were analyzed with the use of a gatekeeping procedure to control for the overall type I error rate; an end point was tested at a two-sided significance level of 0.05 only if the two-sided P value for all higher-ranking end points was 0.05 or lower. The intention-to-treat population included all randomly assigned patients, and the safety population was composed of patients who received at least one injection of a study drug.

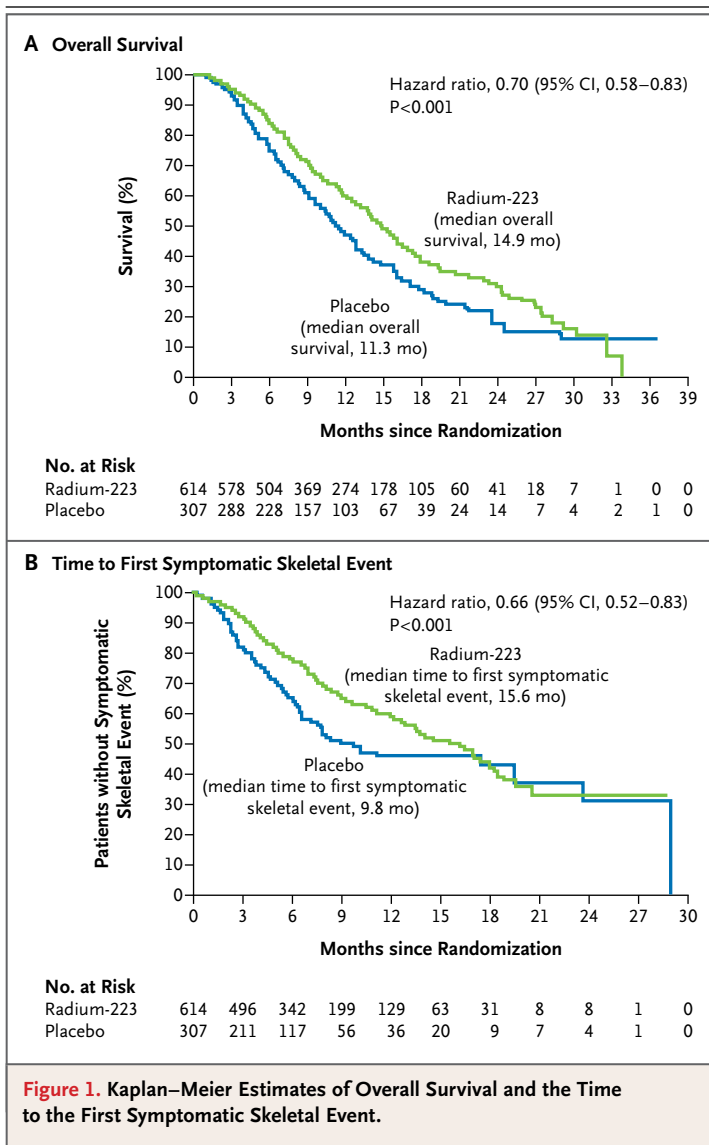
After unblinding of the data, inconsistencies were noted between the total number of symptomatic skeletal events as reported on the case-report form and the number in the listings of adverse events. Thus, a post hoc sensitivity analysis was performed after resolution of these inconsistencies with the study sites. As shown in Figure S2 and Table S2 in the Supplementary Appendix, these inconsistencies did not affect the results of the original analysis to any meaningful degree.

RESULTS

PATIENTS AND STUDY REGIMEN

From June 2008 through February 2011, a total of 921 patients were enrolled (614 in the radium-223 group and 307 in the placebo group) at 136 study centers in 19 countries and were included in the intention-to-treat population (Fig. S1B in the Supplementary Appendix). The safety population included 901 patients (600 in the radium-223 group and 301 in the placebo group). Baseline clinical and demographic characteristics were well balanced between the study groups (Table 1). The planned interim analysis was based on data from 809 enrolled patients (541 in the radium-223 group and 268 in the placebo group) (Table S3 in the Supplementary Appendix).

Overall, as of this writing, 532 of 921 patients (58%) had received all six injections of the study drug (387 patients in the radium-223 group [63%] and 145 in the placebo group [47%]). The median number of injections was six in the radium-223 group and five in the placebo group.



EFFICACY

At the interim analysis, the median overall survival was 14.0 months in the radium-223 group and 11.2 months in the placebo group (Fig. S3A in the Supplementary Appendix). Radium-223, as compared with placebo, was associated with a 30% reduction in the risk of death (hazard ratio, 0.70; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.55 to 0.88; two-sided $P=0.002$). In the intention-to-treat population, 314 patients died. In the radium-223 group, 191 of 541 patients died (35%), and in the placebo group, 123 of 268 patients died (46%). The effect of radium-223 on overall survival was consistent across all subgroups (Fig. S3B in the Supplementary Appendix), and radium-223, as compared with

placebo, was not associated with significantly more grade 3 or 4 toxic effects (Table S4 in the Supplementary Appendix). On the basis of these data, the independent data and safety monitoring committee recommended termination of the trial.

In the updated analysis, the median overall survival was 14.9 months in the radium-223 group and 11.3 months in the placebo group (Fig. 1A). The updated analysis confirmed the 30% reduction in the risk of death among patients in the radium-223 group as compared with the placebo group (hazard ratio, 0.70; 95% CI, 0.58 to 0.83; $P<0.001$). A total of 528 patients in the intention-to-treat population died. In the radium-223 group, 333 of 614 patients died (54%), and in the placebo group, 195 of 307 patients died (64%). The effect of radium-223 on overall survival was consistent across all subgroups (Fig. 2).

All main secondary efficacy end points provided support for the benefit of radium-223 plus the best standard of care over placebo plus the best standard of care (Table 2). Radium-223, as compared with placebo, significantly prolonged the time to the first symptomatic skeletal event (median, 15.6 months vs. 9.8 months; hazard ratio, 0.66; 95% CI, 0.52 to 0.83; $P<0.001$) (Fig. 1B), the time to an increase in the total alkaline phosphatase level (hazard ratio, 0.17; 95% CI, 0.13 to 0.22; $P<0.001$) (Fig. S4A in the Supplementary Appendix), and the time to an increase in the PSA level (hazard ratio, 0.64; 95% CI, 0.54 to 0.77; $P<0.001$) (Fig. S4B in the Supplementary Appendix). Increases in the alkaline phosphatase and PSA levels, as defined in the protocol, were assessed after 12 weeks; a post hoc analysis of alkaline phosphatase and PSA levels from the start of study-drug administration is shown in Figure S4C and S4D in the Supplementary Appendix, respectively. In addition, a significantly higher proportion of patients in the radium-223 group than in the placebo group had a response according to the total alkaline phosphatase level ($\geq 30\%$ reduction, $P<0.001$) and normalization of this level ($P<0.001$). A 30% or greater reduction in PSA blood levels at week 12 was achieved in 16% of patients in the radium-223 group and in 6% of patients in the placebo group ($P<0.001$). This reduction was sustained 4 weeks after the last injection in 14% of patients in the radium-223 group and in 4% of patients in the placebo group ($P<0.001$).

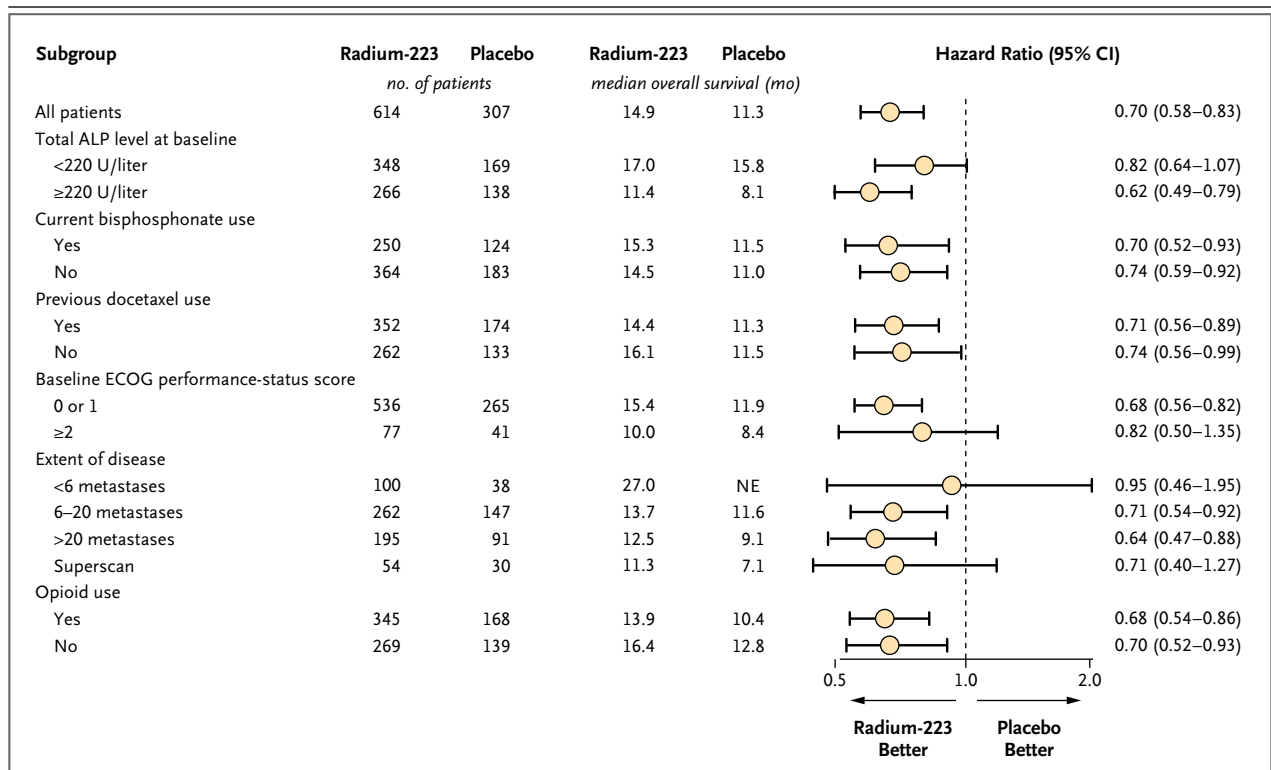


Figure 2. Subgroup Analysis of Hazard Ratios for Death in the Two Study Groups.

The Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scores the performance status of patients with respect to activities of daily living as follows: 0, fully active and able to carry out all predisease activities without restriction; 1, restricted in physically strenuous activity but ambulatory and able to carry out work of a light nature; 2, ambulatory and up and about for more than 50% of waking hours and capable of self-care but unable to carry out work activities; 3, capable of only limited self-care and confined to a bed or chair for more than 50% of waking hours; 4, completely disabled; and 5, dead. The category for use of opioids includes patients with a score of 2 or 3 on the World Health Organization “ladder” for cancer pain (a score of 1 indicates mild pain and no opioid use, 2 indicates moderate pain and occasional opioid use, and 3 indicates severe pain and regular daily opioid use). The category for nonuse of opioids includes patients without pain or opioid use at baseline and patients with a score of 1 on the WHO ladder for cancer pain. Superscan refers to a bone scan showing diffuse, intense skeletal uptake of the tracer without renal and background activity. ALP denotes alkaline phosphatase, and NE not evaluated.

SAFETY

The number of patients who had adverse events after they received the study drug was consistently lower in the radium-223 group than in the placebo group for all adverse events (558 of 600 patients [93%] vs. 290 of 301 patients [96%]), grade 3 or 4 adverse events (339 patients [56%] vs. 188 patients [62%]), serious adverse events (281 patients [47%] vs. 181 patients [60%]), and study-drug discontinuation because of adverse events (99 patients [16%] vs. 62 patients [21%]).

Hematologic and nonhematologic adverse events that occurred in at least 5% of patients in either study group are shown in Table 3. Overall, no clinically meaningful differences in the frequency of grade 3 or 4 adverse events were ob-

served between the study groups. Grade 3 febrile neutropenia was reported in one patient (<1%) in the radium-223 group and in one patient (<1%) in the placebo group. Only one grade 5 hematologic adverse event was considered to be possibly related to the study drug: thrombocytopenia in a patient in the radium-223 group, who died from pneumonia with hypoxemia, with no evidence of bleeding. For serious adverse events that occurred in at least 5% of patients in the radium-223 group or the placebo group, the respective frequencies were as follows: disease progression (11% and 12%), bone pain (10% and 16%), anemia (8% and 9%), and spinal cord compression (4% and 5%).

A significantly higher percentage of patients who received radium-223, as compared with those

Table 2. Main Secondary Efficacy End Points in the Intention-to-Treat Population.

End Point	Radium-223 (N=614)	Placebo (N=307)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Median time to first symptomatic skeletal event — mo	15.6	9.8	0.66 (0.52–0.83)	<0.001
Median time to increase in total alkaline phosphatase level — mo	7.4	3.8	0.17 (0.13–0.22)	<0.001
Median time to increase in PSA level — mo	3.6	3.4	0.64 (0.54–0.77)	<0.001
Patients with ≥30% reduction in total alkaline phosphatase response — no./total no. (%)	233/497 (47)	7/211 (3)		<0.001
Patients with normalization of total alkaline phosphatase level — no./total no. (%)*	109/321 (34)	2/140 (1)		<0.001

* Only patients who had elevated total alkaline phosphatase levels at baseline are included.

who received placebo, had a meaningful improvement in the quality of life according to the FACT-P total score (i.e., an increase in the score of ≥ 10 points on a scale of 0 to 156, with higher scores indicating a better overall quality of life) during the period of study-drug administration (25% vs. 16%, $P=0.02$). The mean change in the FACT-P total score from baseline to week 16 significantly favored the radium-223 group, as compared with the placebo group (-2.7 vs. -6.8 , $P=0.006$).

DISCUSSION

In this phase 3 study, radium-223 significantly prolonged overall survival in patients who had castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases, with a 30% reduction in the risk of death, as compared with placebo. In the updated analysis, the median survival was longer among patients who received radium-223 than among those who received placebo, by 3.6 months. All main secondary efficacy end points were significant and favored treatment with radium-223, including the clinically defined end point of the time to the first symptomatic skeletal event, which was significantly prolonged among patients who received radium-223. Whereas other trials included asymptomatic fractures — detected by means of periodic radiologic review — as skeletal events, in this study, only symptomatic pathologic bone fractures were included as symptomatic skeletal events.

The highly targeted nature of radium-223, with alpha particles of short range ($<100\ \mu\text{m}$), mini-

mizes myelosuppression and has limited effects on normal tissue. The overall incidence of adverse events was consistently lower in the radium-223 group than in the placebo group for adverse events of all grades, grade 3 or 4 adverse events, and serious adverse events. The number of patients who discontinued the study drug because of adverse events was also lower in the radium-223 group. No clinically meaningful differences in the frequency of hematologic adverse events were observed between the study groups.

A distinctive feature of the study was the liberal definition of the best standard of care permitted with both study drugs (radium-223 and placebo); this allowed patients to be treated with standard therapies chosen by the treating physician. Consequently, findings from this study may be generalizable to routine clinical practice, since the control group consisted of patients who received placebo with the best standard of care. The study also has high external validity because it used liberal inclusion criteria that are representative of the general population of patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer. One limitation was the exclusion of patients with visceral metastases, which may occur in up to 25% of patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer.^{1,29}

Many patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases do not receive docetaxel because they are too frail (ECOG performance-status score >2), they have coexisting conditions that preclude its use, or they simply decline treatment. Our study addressed this important group by including patients who were not

Table 3. Adverse Events That Occurred in at Least 5% of Patients in Either Study Group in the Safety Population.

Adverse Event	Radium-223 (N = 600)				Placebo (N = 301)			
	All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5*	All Grades	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5*
	number of patients (percent)							
Hematologic								
Anemia	187 (31)	65 (11)	11 (2)	0	92 (31)	37 (12)	2 (1)	1 (<1)
Thrombocytopenia	69 (12)	20 (3)	18 (3)	1 (<1)	17 (6)	5 (2)	1 (<1)	0
Neutropenia	30 (5)	9 (2)	4 (1)	0	3 (1)	2 (1)	0	0
Nonhematologic								
Constipation	108 (18)	6 (1)	0	0	64 (21)	4 (1)	0	0
Diarrhea	151 (25)	9 (2)	0	0	45 (15)	5 (2)	0	0
Nausea	213 (36)	10 (2)	0	0	104 (35)	5 (2)	0	0
Vomiting	111 (18)	10 (2)	0	0	41 (14)	7 (2)	0	0
Asthenia	35 (6)	5 (1)	0	0	18 (6)	4 (1)	0	0
Fatigue	154 (26)	21 (4)	3 (1)	0	77 (26)	16 (5)	2 (1)	0
Deterioration in general physical health	27 (4)	9 (2)	2 (<1)	5 (1)	21 (7)	8 (3)	2 (1)	2 (1)
Peripheral edema	76 (13)	10 (2)	0	0	30 (10)	3 (1)	1 (<1)	0
Pyrexia	38 (6)	3 (1)	0	0	19 (6)	3 (1)	0	0
Pneumonia	18 (3)	9 (2)	0	4 (1)	16 (5)	5 (2)	2 (1)	0
Urinary tract infection	47 (8)	7 (1)	0	0	28 (9)	4 (1)	1 (<1)	1 (<1)
Weight loss	69 (12)	4 (1)	0	0	44 (15)	5 (2)	0	0
Anorexia	102 (17)	9 (2)	0	0	55 (18)	2 (1)	0	0
Decreased appetite	35 (6)	2 (<1)	0	0	13 (4)	0	0	0
Bone pain	300 (50)	120 (20)	5 (1)	0	187 (62)	74 (25)	3 (1)	0
Muscular weakness	9 (2)	2 (<1)	1 (<1)	0	17 (6)	6 (2)	0	0
Pathologic fracture	22 (4)	13 (2)	0	0	15 (5)	8 (3)	1 (<1)	0
Progression of malignant neoplasm	77 (13)	9 (2)	4 (1)	55 (9)	44 (15)	4 (1)	1 (<1)	33 (11)
Dizziness	43 (7)	2 (<1)	0	0	26 (9)	2 (1)	0	0
Spinal cord compression	25 (4)	14 (2)	6 (1)	1 (<1)	23 (8)	16 (5)	1 (<1)	0
Insomnia	27 (4)	0	0	0	21 (7)	1 (<1)	0	0
Hematuria	30 (5)	7 (1)	0	0	15 (5)	3 (1)	0	0
Urinary retention	25 (4)	9 (2)	0	0	18 (6)	6 (2)	0	0
Dyspnea	49 (8)	10 (2)	1 (<1)	1 (<1)	26 (9)	7 (2)	0	3 (1)

* Only one grade 5 hematologic adverse event was considered to be possibly related to the study drug: thrombocytopenia in one patient in the radium-223 group.

thought to be eligible to receive chemotherapy or who chose not to receive it. It is possible that some of these men could have received chemotherapy at other institutions or in other studies; however, at least 20 to 40% of patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases never receive chemotherapy,³⁰⁻³² so our

study addresses an important unmet need in a population that is not served by current therapies.

The treatment of prostate cancer has evolved since the trial began, with new data on the use of cabazitaxel,²⁹ abiraterone,³³ and enzalutamide³⁴ in patients who have received docetaxel. The excellent safety profile of radium-223 and the nonover-

lapping mechanism of action make radium-223 potentially suitable for use either sequentially or in combination with these other agents. A phase 1–2 trial of radium-223 combined with docetaxel in patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer and bone metastases is currently ongoing (ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT01106352).

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Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

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APPENDIX

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