

Real-world outcomes of second novel hormonal therapy or radium-223 following first novel hormonal therapy for mCRPC

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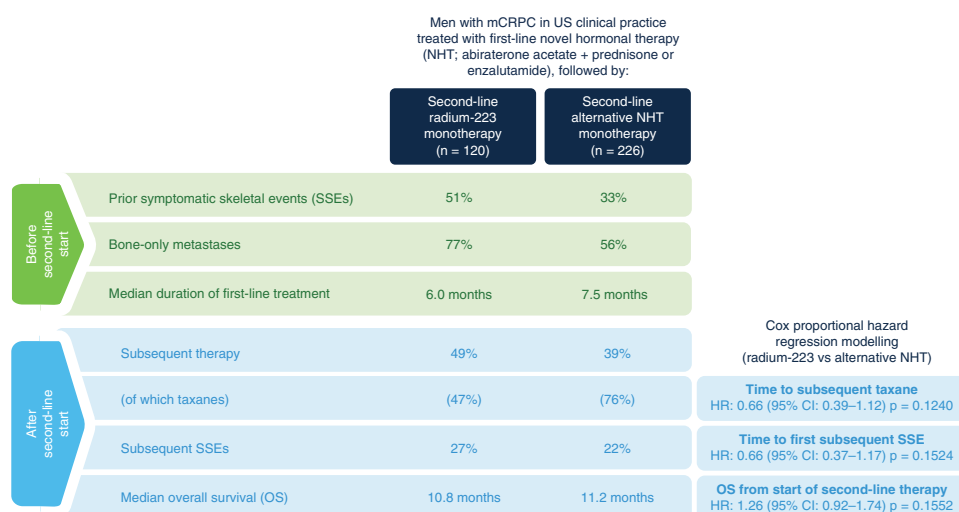
Aim: To evaluate real-world clinical outcomes of radium-223 or alternative novel hormonal therapy (NHT) following first-line NHT for metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC). **Patients & methods:** Retrospective analysis of the US Flatiron database (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03896984). **Results:** In the radium-223 cohort (n = 120) versus the alternative NHT cohort (n = 226), proportionally more patients had prior symptomatic skeletal events and bone-only metastases, and first-line NHT duration was shorter. Following second-line therapy, 49 versus 39% of patients received subsequent life-prolonging therapy; of these, 47 versus 76% received taxane. Median overall survival was 10.8 versus 11.2 months. **Conclusion:** Real-world patients with mCRPC had similar median overall survival following second-line radium-223 or alternative NHT after first-line NHT. Many patients received subsequent therapy, with less taxane use after radium-223.

Lay abstract: Patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer are often first treated with novel hormonal therapy (NHT) using abiraterone or enzalutamide. To aid decisions about what treatment to use next, we reviewed information about patients who were treated with an alternative NHT (226 patients) or the nuclear medicine radium-223 (120 patients) after the first NHT. Most patients given radium-223 had cancer that had spread to their bones only, whereas many patients given an alternative NHT had cancer in their bones and other parts of their body. Around one in four patients given radium-223 and one in five given an alternative NHT had symptoms related to their bone metastases after starting treatment. Five in every ten patients given radium-223 received further therapy, including chemotherapy in 50% of these patients, while four in every ten patients given an alternative NHT received further therapy, including chemotherapy in 75%. On average, patients lived for almost a year after starting radium-223 or an alternative NHT.

Tweetable abstract: In men with mCRPC in US real-world practice, survival was similar after radium-223 or alternative novel hormonal therapy (NHT) following first-line NHT. Subsequent therapies were common in both cohorts, but with less taxane use after radium-223.

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Graphical abstract:

In patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) in US real-world practice, median overall survival was similar after second-line radium-223 or alternative NHT following first-line NHT. Use of subsequent life-prolonging therapies was frequent in both cohorts, with proportionally less taxane use in the radium-223 cohort.

The available treatment options for patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) have expanded considerably in recent years. However, there is limited evidence to support decisions about optimal sequencing, including choice of second-line therapy following disease progression on first-line novel hormonal therapy (NHT) [1,2]. In real-world settings, many patients receive a second NHT, although the clinical benefit of this sequence may be limited by cross-resistance [2–4]. Taxane chemotherapy is also an option, although patients may prefer to avoid taxanes, because of concerns about the toxicity profile [5–7]. The bone-targeted alpha emitter radium-223 has demonstrated favorable safety and efficacy in patients with bone-predominant mCRPC, including those who experienced disease progression on first-line NHT [8]. A randomized trial of radium-223 versus a second NHT following first-line NHT is ongoing in Europe, Australia, and Asia (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT04597125). While results of that trial are awaited, to aid physicians who are making clinical decisions about treatment sequencing, we used data from the US real-world Flatiron registry database to evaluate clinical outcomes in patients with mCRPC who received a first-line NHT followed by radium-223 or an alternative NHT.

Patients & methods**Study design & patients**

The Flatiron electronic health record-derived database (<https://flatiron.com/real-world-evidence/>) is a longitudinal, demographically and geographically varied database comprising electronic health record data from >280 community clinics and seven major academic institutions, with data from almost 3 million patients with cancer in USA available for analysis [7].

This retrospective, observational study (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03896984) included all patients in the Flatiron prostate cancer database with a diagnosis of mCRPC, according to International Classification of Diseases 9th and 10th revision diagnostic codes, identified by electronic extraction and processing of patient-level data, and confirmed by an experienced oncology nurse or tumor registrar under the supervision of an oncologist. In addition, patients had to have received a first-line NHT followed by monotherapy with radium-223 or an alternative NHT, together with androgen-deprivation therapy. Second-line therapy had to have started between 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2018. To minimize the impact of other therapies, patients who received radium-223 or NHT in combination with other therapies were excluded. Patients could have received chemotherapy for metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer.

Study outcomes

All patient-level data within the database were subject to extensive review and extraction as described previously [7]. Patient-level data were collated for the following outcomes: duration of therapy; subsequent treatments (including chemotherapy) after second-line therapy and the time to subsequent chemotherapy; frequency of symptomatic skeletal events (SSEs; defined as symptomatic pathologic fracture, spinal cord compression, bone surgery, and external-beam radiation therapy for pain palliation) and time to first SSE after the start of second-line therapy; and overall survival (OS) from the start of second-line therapy.

Statistical analyses

All statistical analyses were conducted using SAS 9.4 software (SAS Institute Inc., NC, USA). On the basis of a feasibility study, which indicated that the sample size was not sufficient for a well-powered comparative study, baseline patient characteristics, treatments and outcomes for each cohort are reported descriptively: frequency and percentage are reported for categorical variables; means (standard deviation) or medians (range) are reported for continuous variables; and Kaplan–Meier estimates, with medians and 95% CIs, are reported for time-to-event variables. Correlative analyses were performed for OS, time to first SSE, and time to first use of subsequent taxane chemotherapy using Cox proportional hazard regression modeling based on non-missing values, with hazard ratios (HRs), 95% CIs, and p-values reported.

Study ethics

No Institutional Review Board review or patient consent was required for this retrospective study from the US Flatiron database (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03896984).

Results

Patient disposition & baseline characteristics

We identified 346 patients who had received first-line NHT for mCRPC and then started second-line monotherapy with radium-223 (n = 120) or alternative NHT (n = 226) during the index period (Figure 1). The Kaplan–Meier estimated median duration of follow-up for OS was 25.8 months (95% CI: 16.1–38.0; range: 0–61.9) in the radium-223 cohort and 21.7 months (95% CI: 17.2–28.8; range: 0–55.5) in the alternative NHT cohort.

Compared with the alternative NHT cohort, the radium-223 cohort had proportionally more patients with a history of prior SSEs and with bone-only metastases at baseline and a slightly shorter median duration of first-line NHT (Table 1). Other patient and disease characteristics at baseline (i.e., within 6 months before or at the start of second-line therapy) were generally similar between the two cohorts.

Second-line treatment exposure

The median duration of second-line therapy was 5.6 months (range: 0.03–31.1) in the radium-223 cohort and 4.7 months (range: 0.03–34.2) in the alternative NHT cohort. In the radium-223 cohort, 50% of patients received five or six of the maximum six scheduled injections.

Subsequent therapy

Subsequent life-prolonging therapy was received by 59/120 patients (49%) and 88/226 patients (39%), respectively (Table 2; Figure 2). Among patients who received subsequent therapy, 28/59 (47%) in the radium-223 cohort and 67/88 (76%) in the alternative NHT cohort received subsequent taxane therapy (docetaxel and/or cabazitaxel); 1/59 (2%) and 4/88 (5%), respectively, received other chemotherapies.

According to multivariable Cox regression modeling (n = 264 without missing values), the time to first use of subsequent taxanes was numerically longer in the radium-223 cohort than in the alternative NHT cohort, although the difference was not statistically significant (HR: 0.66; 95% CI: 0.39–1.12; p = 0.1240). Factors significantly associated with longer time to first use of subsequent taxanes after second-line therapy were age (HR: 0.96; 95% CI: 0.93–0.98; p = 0.0010) and hemoglobin > 12.8 g/dl versus ≤ 12.8 g/dl at the start of second-line therapy (HR: 0.56; 95% CI: 0.33–0.95; p = 0.0323; Table 3).

Symptomatic skeletal events

From the start of second-line therapy until the end of the observation period, 32/120 patients (27%) in the radium-223 cohort and 49/226 patients (22%) in the alternative NHT cohort experienced SSEs. Before the start of second-line therapy, 61/120 patients (51%) in the radium-223 cohort and 75/226 patients (33%) in the alternative NHT cohort had experienced SSEs. Among these patients, 18/61 (30%) in the radium-223 cohort and

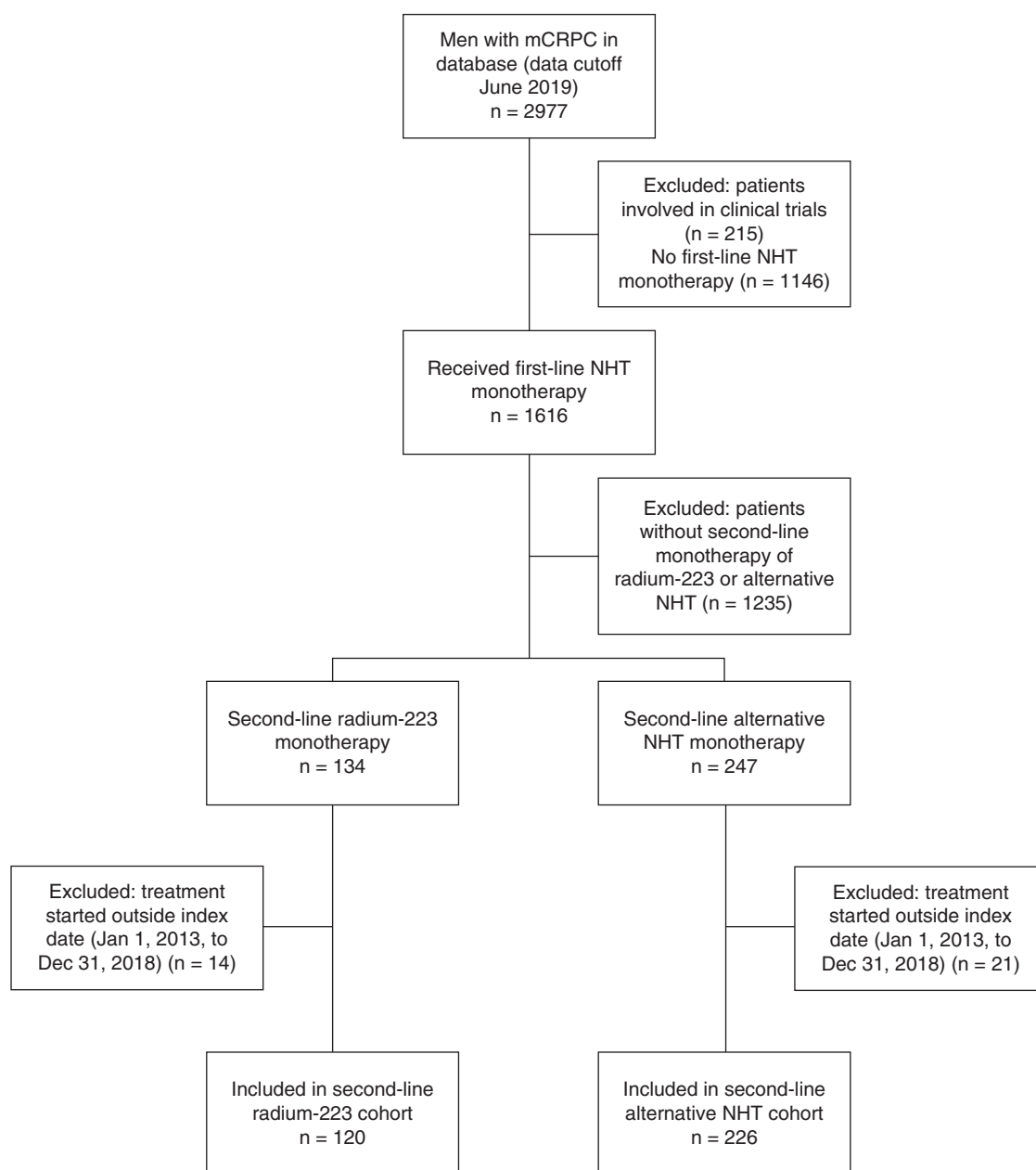


Figure 1. CONSORT flow diagram.

mCRPC: Metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; NHT: Novel hormonal therapy.

23/75 (31%) in the alternative NHT cohort had at least one SSE after the start of second-line therapy, including five and 12 patients, respectively, who had multiple SSEs.

The median time from the start of second-line therapy to first SSE was 33.9 months (95% CI: 16.4–43.6) in the radium-223 cohort and could not be estimated (95% CI: 24.7–not estimable) in the alternative NHT cohort; however, censoring resulted in the number of patients at risk being very low at the median timepoints in both cohorts (Supplementary Figure 1). After controlling for patient characteristics and baseline factors ($n = 264$ without missing values), the time to first subsequent SSEs after the start of second-line therapy was numerically longer in the radium-223 cohort versus the alternative NHT cohort (HR: 0.66; 95% CI: 0.37–1.17; $p = 0.1524$). Age (HR: 0.95; 95% CI: 0.92–0.98; $p = 0.0014$) and prior use of bone health agents (BHAs) (HR: 0.49; 95% CI: 0.29–0.82; $p = 0.0071$) were associated with a longer time to first subsequent SSEs, whereas a medical history of SSEs (HR: 2.51; 95% CI: 1.48–4.26; $p = 0.0006$) was strongly predictive of earlier occurrence of subsequent SSEs (Table 4).

Table 1. Patient demographics and disease characteristics.

Characteristic [†]	After first-line NHT	
	Second-line radium-223 (n = 120)	Second-line alternative NHT (n = 226)
At initial diagnosis		
Gleason score, n (%)		
– >7	56 (47)	102 (45)
– ≤7	33 (28)	56 (25)
– Unknown/not documented	31 (26)	68 (30)
Metastatic stage, n (%)		
– M0	44 (37)	70 (31)
– M1	47 (39)	83 (37)
– Unknown/not documented	29 (24)	73 (32)
Race, n (%)		
– White	91 (76)	145 (64)
– Black or African American	8 (7)	26 (12)
– Asian	1 (1)	7 (3)
– Other	12 (10)	36 (16)
– Missing	8 (7)	12 (5)
At the start of second-line therapy		
Median age, years (range)	75 (50–84)	79 (51–84)
ECOG performance status, n (%)		
– 0 or 1	59 (49)	101 (45)
– ≥2	17 (14)	40 (18)
– Missing	44 (37)	85 (37)
Site of metastasis, n (%)		
– Bone only	92 (77)	127 (56)
– Distant lymph node ± bone	13 (11)	50 (22)
– Visceral ± bone or lymph node	15 (13)	47 (21)
– Missing	0	2 (1)
Prior SSEs, n (%)	61 (51)	75 (33)
Prior treatment with a BHA, n (%)	68 (57)	130 (58)
Prior chemotherapy (docetaxel or cabazitaxel) for mHSPC, n (%)	15 (13)	14 (6)
Median laboratory values		
– ALP, U/l	105 (n = 97)	106 (n = 194)
– Hemoglobin, g/dl	12 (n = 97)	12 (n = 196)
– LDH, U/l	226 (n = 18)	215 (n = 46)
– Prostate-specific antigen, µg/l	48 (n = 90)	34 (n = 187)
Hemoglobin, n (%)		
– ≤12.8 g/dl	72 (60)	146 (65)
– >12.8 g/dl	25 (21)	50 (22)
– Missing	23 (19)	30 (13)
Median duration of first-line NHT, months	6.0	7.5
Median time from diagnosis of mCRPC to start of second-line therapy, months	9.7	9.9

[†] Unless otherwise specified, data were recorded at the start of second-line therapy.
 BHA: Bone health agent; ECOG: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; mCRPC: Metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; mHSPC: Metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer; NHT: Novel hormonal therapy; SSE: Symptomatic skeletal event.

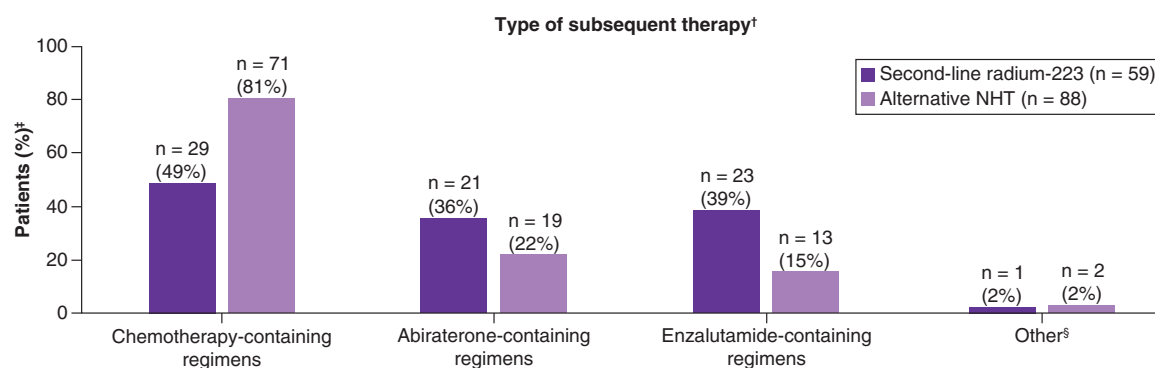
Overall survival

Median OS from the start of second-line therapy was 10.8 months (95% CI: 9.3–12.9) in the radium-223 cohort and 11.2 months (95% CI: 10.0–13.2) in the alternative NHT cohort (Figure 3). After controlling for baseline characteristics and other factors (n = 264 without missing values), no statistically significant difference in OS from the start of second-line therapy was observed between the two cohorts (radium-223 vs alternative NHT: HR: 1.26; 95% CI: 0.92–1.74; p = 0.1552). Factors significantly associated with shorter OS from the start of second-line therapy were site of metastasis (visceral ± lymph node/bone vs bone only; HR: 1.69; 95% CI: 1.17–2.42; p = 0.0048) and baseline hemoglobin >12.8 g/dl versus ≤12.8 g/dl (HR: 0.58; 95% CI: 0.40–0.84; p = 0.0038). Patients with bone + lymph node metastases had a similar prognosis to that of patients with bone-only metastases (Table 5).

Table 2. Subsequent life-prolonging therapy after second-line therapy.

Subsequent therapy	After first-line NHT	
	Second-line radium-223 (n = 120)	Second-line alternative NHT (n = 226)
Any subsequent life-prolonging therapy, n (%)	59 (49)	88 (39)
– 1 line	36 (30)	53 (23)
– 2 lines	15 (13)	22 (10)
– 3 lines	6 (5)	9 (4)
– >3 lines	2 (2)	4 (2)
Third-line life-prolonging therapy, n/N [†] (%)		
– NHT	30/59 (51)	15/88 (17)
– Taxane	16/59 (27)	56/88 (64)
– NHT + taxane	0	4/88 (5)
– NHT + other treatment	7/59 (12)	4/88 (5)
– Taxane + other treatment	0	1/88 (1)
– Other treatment	6/59 (10)	8/88 (9)
Fourth-line life-prolonging therapy, n/N [†] (%)		
– NHT	5/59 (8)	5/88 (6)
– Taxane	13/59 (22)	22/88 (25)
– NHT + taxane	0	3/88 (3)
– NHT + other treatment	2/59 (3)	1/88 (1)
– Taxane + other treatment	0	1/88 (1)
– Other treatment	3/59 (5)	3/88 (3)
Subsequent chemotherapy, n/N [†] (%)		
– Docetaxel and/or cabazitaxel	28/59 (47)	67/88 (76)
– Docetaxel and cabazitaxel	6/59 (10)	26/88 (30)
– Other chemotherapy	1/59 (2)	4/88 (5)

[†]The denominator (n) is all patients who received subsequent therapy in each cohort.
NHT: Novel hormonal therapy.

**Figure 2. Subsequent life-prolonging therapy after second-line therapy.**

[†]Patients were counted once for each treatment type, regardless of the number of lines received; patients who received more than one treatment type were counted in each category.

[‡]The denominator is the number of patients in each cohort who received any subsequent therapy (radium-223 n = 59; alternative NHT n = 88).

[§]In the radium-223 cohort, one patient received subsequent radium-223 monotherapy; in the alternative NHT cohort, one patient received subsequent pembrolizumab monotherapy, and one patient received subsequent sipuleucel-T monotherapy.

NHT: Novel hormonal therapy.

Table 3. Multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression model for time to first use of subsequent taxane therapy^{†,‡}.

Parameter [§]	Hazard ratio	95% CI	p-value
Study cohort (second-line radium-223 vs alternative NHT)	0.66	0.39–1.12	0.1240
Age (years)	0.96	0.93–0.98	0.0010
Hemoglobin (>12.8 vs ≤12.8 g/dl)	0.56	0.33–0.95	0.0323

[†]Analysis included patients without missing values: radium-223 cohort 87 patients, 20 subsequent taxane events; alternative NHT cohort 177 patients, 54 subsequent taxane events.

[‡]Initial model included age, race, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, Gleason score, site of metastasis, prior use of bone health agents, prior symptomatic skeletal events, prior chemotherapy, hemoglobin, log-transformed prostate-specific antigen and log-transformed ALP.

[§]Parameter (recorded at the start of second-line radium-223 or second-line alternative NHT) predicting the time to first use of subsequent taxane therapy.

NHT: Novel hormonal therapy.

Table 4. Multivariable cox proportional hazards regression model for symptomatic skeletal event occurrence^{†,‡}.

Parameter [§]	Hazard ratio	95% CI	p-value
Study cohort (second-line radium-223 vs alternative NHT)	0.66	0.37–1.17	0.1524
Age (years)	0.95	0.92–0.98	0.0014
Prior BHA use (yes vs no)	0.49	0.29–0.82	0.0071
Prior SSE (yes vs no)	2.51	1.48–4.26	0.0006

[†] Analysis included patients without missing values: radium-223 cohort 87 patients, 19 SSEs; alternative NHT cohort 177 patients, 42 SSEs.

[‡] Initial model included age, race, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, Gleason score, site of metastasis, prior use of BHAs, prior SSEs, prior chemotherapy, hemoglobin, log-transformed prostate-specific antigen, and log-transformed ALP.

[§] Parameter (recorded at the start of second-line radium-223 or second-line alternative NHT) predicting the future occurrence of SSEs.

BHA: Bone health agent; NHT: Novel hormonal therapy; SSE: Symptomatic skeletal event.

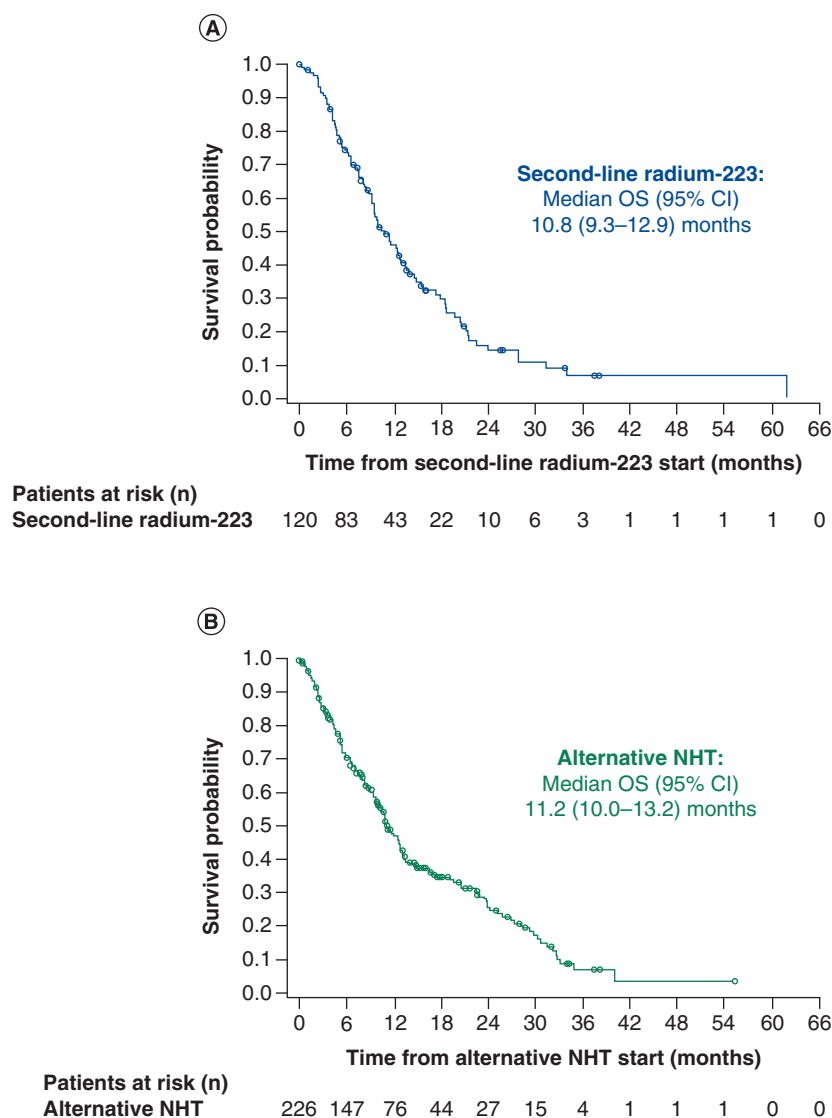


Figure 3. Kaplan-Meier estimates of OS from the start of second-line therapy. (A) Radium-223 cohort. (B) Alternative NHT cohort.

NHT: Novel hormonal therapy; OS: Overall survival.

Table 5. Multivariable Cox proportional hazards regression model for overall survival^{†,‡}.

Parameter [§]	Hazard ratio	95% CI	p-value
Cohort (second-line radium-223 vs alternative NHT)	1.26	0.92–1.74	0.1552
Site of metastasis (lymph node ± bone vs bone only)	1.13	0.74–1.72	0.5702
Site of metastasis (visceral ± lymph node/bone vs bone only)	1.69	1.17–2.42	0.0048
Hemoglobin (>12.8 vs ≤12.8 g/dl)	0.58	0.40–0.84	0.0038
Log-transformed PSA (μg/l)	1.19	1.07–1.32	0.0019
Log-transformed ALP (U/l)	1.41	1.14–1.76	0.0019

[†]Analysis included patients without missing values: radium-223 cohort 87 patients, 65 death events; alternative NHT cohort 177 patients, 124 death events.

[‡]Initial model included age, race, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, Gleason score, site of metastasis, prior use of bone health agents, prior symptomatic skeletal events, prior chemotherapy, hemoglobin, log-transformed PSA, and log-transformed ALP.

[§]Parameter (recorded at the start of second-line radium-223 or second-line alternative NHT) predicting overall survival.

NHT: Novel hormonal therapy; PSA: Prostate-specific antigen.

Discussion

This was a retrospective study of second-line monotherapy with radium-223 or an alternative NHT, following first-line NHT, in patients with mCRPC in US real-world clinical practice. The study provided information about patient and disease characteristics that may influence disease management decisions, sequence of therapies, and potential outcomes in a real-world setting.

Baseline characteristics and medical history likely had an impact on treatment selection, starting with the choice of radium-223 or alternative NHT as second-line treatment and continuing through the later treatment lines. Following first-line NHT, patients with bone-only metastases or prior SSEs are likely to receive bone-targeting therapy with radium-223, in line with its licensed indication and treatment guidelines [5,9–11]. This approach is reflected in our study: at the start of second-line therapy, a markedly higher proportion of patients in the radium-223 cohort than in the alternative NHT cohort had bone-only metastases (77 vs 57%) and prior SSEs (51 vs 33%).

The duration of first-line NHT in both cohorts (<8 months) was substantially shorter than has been reported in clinical trials [12–15], potentially reflecting the broader range of patients, including those with more advanced disease or poorer general health and performance status, in the real world compared with clinical trial settings. Alternatively, the decision to proceed to second-line therapy may have been based on an increase in prostate-specific antigen rather than radiographic progression, as required in clinical trials. However, data are unavailable regarding the reasons for stopping first-line therapy, and we are unable to ascertain the exact reasons why physicians selected one therapy over another.

Thirteen percent of patients in the radium-223 cohort and 6% in the alternative NHT cohort received chemotherapy before first-line NHT for mCRPC. Although the reasons for prior chemotherapy were not specified in the database, a key factor may have been the presence of symptomatic or high-volume disease before the mCRPC stage [16,17]. A similar proportion of patients in each cohort received subsequent life-prolonging therapy after second-line therapy. Among patients who received subsequent therapy following second-line radium-223, almost 50% received chemotherapy (27% as third line, 22% as fourth line) and 75% received further NHT (63% as third line, 12% as fourth line). Use of radium-223 after first-line NHT might reflect physician or patient preference to delay chemotherapy and instead use a treatment with a distinct and relatively tolerable adverse event profile [8,18]. The high proportion of patients who received subsequent NHT in this cohort may indicate that radium-223 postpones rather than replaces further NHT in patients who have received first-line NHT, but it also highlights the lack of sufficient options to treat patients with mCRPC.

In patients in the alternative NHT cohort who received subsequent therapy, 76% received a taxane, and 26% received a third line of NHT. This cohort had a higher proportion of patients with visceral metastases at baseline compared with the radium-223 cohort. These patients would therefore not be eligible for radium-223 therapy, making a taxane a reasonable choice for third-line therapy. This approach is supported by findings from the multicenter, randomized, open-label CARD study, in which outcome benefits were reported for third-line therapy with cabazitaxel versus an alternative NHT after prior docetaxel and NHT [19].

Despite the differences in baseline characteristics between the two cohorts, median OS and time to first SSE were similar in patients treated with second-line radium-223 or an alternative NHT. In a separate analysis of the Flatiron database, real-world median OS was longer in patients with metastatic prostate cancer who received second-line NHT following first-line NHT than in those who received second-line docetaxel [20], but the reason

for this difference might be that patients with rapid disease progression were more likely to be given docetaxel than a second NHT.

Our analysis adds to the growing real-world evidence base on treatment sequencing, while we await data from randomized controlled trials to provide definitive guidance. Recruitment has started in a Phase IV, randomized, open-label study of second-line radium-223 versus alternative NHT in patients with bone-predominant mCRPC that progressed on or after one line of NHT, and results are anticipated in 2024 (ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT04597125). Meanwhile, our analysis indicates the feasibility of second-line radium-223 in patients with mCRPC who require a switch from first-line NHT. The finding of similar OS, but reduced taxane use, in patients who received second-line radium-223 versus an alternative NHT is reassuring for patients with bone-predominant disease who wish to avoid or delay chemotherapy and its associated toxicities [6]. Nonetheless, almost 50% of patients received chemotherapy after radium-223, indicating that radium-223 will not limit a patient's ability to receive subsequent cytotoxic therapy. Another relevant real-world study (the ongoing global REASSURE study; ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT02141438) is also demonstrating the long-term safety profile of radium-223 in a heterogeneous population of patients, including a substantial proportion who received prior NHT (abiraterone plus prednisone [45%] and/or enzalutamide [37%]) [21].

Patients with mCRPC will also benefit from greater use of BHA therapy, as recommended by current guidelines [5,11]. Fewer than 60% of patients in the current study had received BHAs before the start of second-line therapy, even though more than 50% of patients in the radium-223 cohort and 30% in the alternative NHT cohort had prior SSEs.

This study is limited by its retrospective nature, small sample size, and potential for selection bias, because the second-line treatment decision was based on factors not ascertained, and we excluded patients who received radium-223 in combination regimens or after sequential NHT–NHT. Furthermore, adjustment for confounding factors was limited to the available data, as indicated in the multivariable Cox proportional hazard regression modeling analyses, and some variables with missing values or unknown factors were not considered.

Conclusion

In real-world clinical practice in USA, patients with mCRPC had a similar survival duration following second-line radium-223 or alternative NHT after first-line NHT. Many patients received subsequent therapies, although proportionally fewer patients in the radium-223 cohort than in the alternative NHT cohort received subsequent taxane. Our findings indicate the feasibility of using radium-223 in the sequence of life-prolonging therapies, including chemotherapy, in patients with bone-predominant mCRPC in real-world settings.

Summary points

- In patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) who experience disease progression during or after first-line novel hormonal therapy (NHT), data on optimal sequencing of subsequent therapies are limited.
- We used data from the US Flatiron prostate cancer registry database to assess clinical outcomes in patients with mCRPC who received first-line NHT followed by monotherapy with either radium-223 (n = 120) or an alternative NHT (n = 226).
- At the start of second-line therapy, the radium-223 cohort had proportionally more patients with prior symptomatic skeletal events (SSEs) and bone-only metastases and a slightly shorter duration of first-line NHT, compared with the alternative NHT cohort, while the alternative NHT cohort had a higher proportion of patients with visceral metastases.
- Similar proportions of patients in the two cohorts received subsequent life-prolonging therapy (radium-223 49%; alternative NHT 39%), although proportionally fewer patients in the radium-223 cohort (47%) than in the alternative NHT cohort (76%) received subsequent taxane chemotherapy.
- From the start of second-line therapy, similar proportions of patients in each cohort had SSEs (radium-223 27%; alternative NHT 22%).
- The median OS from the start of second-line therapy was around 1 year in both cohorts: radium-223 10.8 months, alternative NHT 11.2 months.
- When interpreting these findings, it is important to take into account the retrospective, nonrandomized design, small sample size, and inconsistent data availability from a registry database.
- Nonetheless, this real-world study adds to the evidence base for treatment sequencing in patients with mCRPC, indicating that subsequent therapy, including taxane chemotherapy, can be sequenced after first-line NHT and second-line radium-223 therapy.

Supplementary data

To view the supplementary data that accompany this paper please visit the journal website at: www.futuremedicine.com/doi/suppl/10.2217/fon-2021-0886

Author contributions

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Ethical conduct of research

As this study was a retrospective review of electronic health record data, no Institutional Review Board review or patient informed consent was required.

Data sharing statement

The data underlying this publication were provided by Flatiron under contract to Bayer. Requests for access to the data should be sent to the corresponding author.

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