Enzalutamide (Xtandi®) as monotherapy or in combination with androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) for the treatment of high risk biochemical recurrent (BCR) non-metastatic hormone sensitive prostate cancer (nmHSPC)

General information

Drug description [1]

Enzalutamide (Xtandi[®]) is a potent androgen receptor signalling inhibitor that blocks several steps in the androgen receptor signalling pathway. Enzalutamide competitively inhibits androgen binding to androgen receptors and consequently inhibits nuclear translocation of activated receptors and inhibits the association of the activated androgen receptor with DNA, even in the setting of androgen receptor overexpression and in prostate cancer cells resistant to anti-androgens. Enzalutamide treatment decreases the growth of prostate cancer cells and can induce cancer cell death and tumour regression.

Indication [2]

Enzalutamide (Xtandi[®]) is indicated as monotherapy or in combination with ADT for the treatment of adult men with high-risk BCR nmHSPC who are unsuitable for salvage radiotherapy.

Incidence [3]

In Austria, in 2022, 7,000 men were newly diagnosed with prostate cancer. The age-standardised¹ incidence rate was 165.3/per 100,000 men.

Current treatment [4, 5]

The ESMO treatment recommendation for the treatment of high-risk localised and locally advanced prostate cancer is displayed in Figure 1 of the Appendix.

Regulatory status											
EMA [2]	FDA [6, 7]										
Approval status for this indication : On 21 March 2024, the CHMP adopted a positive opinion recommending a change to the terms of the marketing authorisation for Xtandi [®] .	Approval status for this indication : On 16 November 2023, the FDA approved enzalutamide (Xtandi®) for										
The CHMP adopted a new indication as follows:	(nmCSPC) with high-risk BCR										
Xtandi [®] is indicated as monotherapy or in combination with ADT for the treatment of adult men with high-risk BCR nmHSPC who are unsuitable for salvage radiotherapy.	Other indications: Xtandi® is indicated for the										
 Other indications: Xtandi[®] is indicated: In combination with ADT for the treatment of adult men with metastatic hormone-sensitive prostate cancer (mHSPC). For the treatment of adult men with high-risk non-metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). For the treatment of adult men with metastatic CRPC who are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic after failure of ADT in whom chemotherapy is not yet clinically indicated. For the treatment of adult men with metastatic CRPC whose disease has progressed on or after docetaxel therapy. 	 CRPC. Metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer. 										
Manufacturer	Manufacturer										
Xtandi [®] is manufactured by Astellas Pharma.											
Costs [8]											
4x28 Xtandi® film tablets 40 mg = € 2,501.06 (ex-factory price)											
Posology [1]											
 The recommended dose is 160 mg enzalutamide (four 40 mg film-coated tablets or two 80 mg film-coated tablets) as a single oral daily dose. Medical castration with a luteinising hormone-releasing hormone analogue should be continued during the treatment of patients not surgically castrated. 											

Warnings and precautions [1]

Risk of seizure

- The use of enzalutamide has been associated with seizures. The decision to continue treatment in patients who develop seizures should be taken case by case.
- Posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome
 - There have been rare reports of posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (PRES) in patients receiving Xtandi. PRES is a rare, reversible neurological disorder which can present with rapidly evolving symptoms, including seizure, headache, confusion, blindness, and other visual and neurological disturbances, with or without associated hypertension. A diagnosis of PRES requires confirmation by brain imaging, preferably MRI. Discontinuation of Xtandi in patients who develop PRES is recommended.
- Second primary malignancies
 - In clinical studies, cases of second primary malignancies have been reported in patients treated with enzalutamide. In phase 3 clinical studies, the most frequently reported events in enzalutamide-treated patients, and greater than placebo, were bladder cancer (0.3%), adenocarcinoma of the colon (0.2%), transitional cell carcinoma (0.2%) and bladder transitional cell carcinoma (0.1%).
 - Patients should be advised to promptly seek the attention of their physician if they notice signs of gastrointestinal bleeding, macroscopic haematuria, or other symptoms such as dysuria or urinary urgency develop during treatment with enzalutamide.
- Concomitant use with other medicinal products
 - Enzalutamide is a potent enzyme inducer and may lead to loss of efficacy of many commonly used medicinal products. A review of concomitant medicinal products should, therefore, be conducted when initiating enzalutamide treatment. Concomitant use of enzalutamide with medicinal products that are sensitive substrates of many metabolising enzymes or transporters should generally be avoided if their therapeutic effect is of large importance to the patient and if dose adjustments cannot easily be performed based on monitoring of efficacy or plasma concentrations.
 - Co-administration with warfarin and coumarin-like anticoagulants should be avoided. If Xtandi[®] is co-administered with an anticoagulant metabolised by CYP₂C₉ (such as warfarin or acenocoumarol), additional INR monitoring should be conducted.
- Renal impairment
 - Caution is required in patients with severe renal impairment, as enzalutamide has not been studied in this patient population.
- Severe hepatic impairment
 - An increased half-life of enzalutamide has been observed in patients with severe hepatic impairment, possibly related to increased tissue distribution. The clinical relevance of this observation remains unknown. A prolonged time to reach steady state concentrations is, however, anticipated, and the time to maximum pharmacological effect, as well as time for onset and decline of enzyme induction, may be increased.
- Recent cardiovascular disease
 - The phase 3 studies excluded patients with recent myocardial infarction (in the past six months) or, unstable angina (in the past three months), NYHA III or IV heart failure except if LVEF ≥ 45%, bradycardia or uncontrolled hypertension. This should be taken into account if Xtandi[®] is prescribed to these patients.
- ADT may prolong the QT interval
 - In patients with a history of or risk factors for QT prolongation and in patients receiving concomitant medicinal products that might prolong the QT interval, physicians should assess the benefit-risk ratio, including the potential for Torsade de pointes prior to initiating Xtandi[®].
- Use with chemotherapy
 - The safety and efficacy of concomitant use of Xtandi[®] with cytotoxic chemotherapy has not been established. Co-administration of enzalutamide has no clinically relevant effect on the pharmacokinetics of intravenous docetaxel; however, an increase in the occurrence of docetaxel-induced neutropenia cannot be excluded.
- Hypersensitivity reactions
 - Hypersensitivity reactions manifested by symptoms including, but not limited to, rash or face, tongue, lip, or pharyngeal oedema have been observed with enzalutamide. Severe cutaneous adverse reactions have been reported with enzalutamide. At the time of prescription patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for skin reactions.
- Excipients
 - This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (less than 23 mg) per film-coated tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

Study characteristics (REF)											
Trial name	n	Intervention (I)	Intervention2 (I2)	Comparator (C)	PE	Median follow-up	Characteristics	Biomarker	Funding	Publication(s)	

EMBARK 1,067 NCT02319837 1:1:1	enzalutamide + leuprolide (combination group, double- blind)	pla + leu (leupro group b	acebo prolide lide-alone , double- lind)	enzalutamide monotherapy (monotherapy group, open-label)	metastasis-free survival by BICR in the combination group as compared with the leuprolide- alone group.	60.7 months	ongoing ² , international, randomised, phase 3 trial		PSA	Pfizer and Astellas Pharma	EMBARK [9]				
Incl	usion criteria ³				Exclusion criteria			Patient characteristics at baseline (I vs. I2							
 ≥18 years or cytologically the prostate neuroendocr small cell fea Prostate can prostatector brachythera PSA doubling by the spons Screening PS ng/mL for pa prostatector as primary tr at least two in patients who treatment for Serum testor at screening. ECOG PS of Estimated lift Throughout female partr potential, m of birth cont months afte per local guid additional de methods. Tw control thus Throughout condom if ha Must agree r dose of stud 	older with histologically of confirmed adenocarcino at initial biopsy, without ine differentiation, signed tures. cer is initially treated by r by or radiotherapy (include by) or both, with curative of time \leq 9 months as calcu- by) or both, with curative of time \leq 9 months as calcu- br. A by the central laborator tients who had radical by (with or without radiot eatment for prostate can og/mL above the nadir for had radiotherapy only as r prostate cancer. Sterone \geq 150 ng/dL (5.2 m the study, the patient and er, who is of childbearing ust use two acceptable m rol from screening throug the last dose of the stud- lelines where these requi scription of contraceptive to acceptable methods of nclude the the study, the patient mu ving sex with a pregnant of to donate sperm from r drug through 3 months	r ma of cell, or adical ing intent. Jlated ry \geq 1 herapy) cer and primary mol/L) ths. l his ethods h 3 / drug or re birth st use a woman. the first after the		Prior or present evidence of chest x-ray for soft tissue of disease. Prior hormonal therapy. Normonal therapy. Normonals in duration and ≥ 0 course (≤ 6 months) of how randomisation is allowed. Prior cytotoxic chemotheration action is allowed. Prior cytotoxic chemotheration is allowed. Prior cytotoxic chemotheration is allowed. Prior systemic biologic the Major surgery within four Treatment with 5- α reduce. For patients who had a prior radiotherapy is determined guidelines. Participation in a clinical solution in a clinical solute receptor or androgen syntheration of fully treated for a systemic for goal of the fully treated for a systemic for the systemic for goal to a systemic for a systemic for the systemic for the systemic for the systemic for a systemic for	of distant metastatic disease as disease and whole-body radional leoadjuvant/adjuvant therapy to 9 months before randomisation rmonal therapy given for rising le rapy, aminoglutethimide, ketoc for prostate cancer. erapy, including immunotherap weeks before the randomisatio tase inhibitors within four week for prostatectomy, a suitable ca d by the investigator in conside tudy of an investigator in conside tudy of an investigator in conside to a gent within four weeks cancer within three years befor cancers with a remote probabili c < 1500/µL, platelet count < 1000 reening. the ULN (except patients with c transferase or aspartate aminor µmol/L) at screening. .) at screening. ondition that may predispose to t ischemic attack within 12 mon povascular disease including the fore screen within six months before screen within three months before screen ovascular disease including the fore screen within three months before screen ovascular disease including the fore screen ovascular disease	assessed by CT or, M uclide bone scan for b o treat prostate cance o, or a single dose or a PSA \geq 9 months befor onazole, abiraterone y, for prostate cancer n date. s of randomisation. ndidate for salvage ration of appropriate t that inhibits the andro- olacebo are allowed. before the randomisa ngeal disease. ore screening, with the ty of recurrence. ,ooo/µL, or haemoglo locumented Gilbert's transferase \geq 2.5 time o seizure. History of loc ths before randomisa following: screening	RI or one short e rogen tion e bbin < s the oss of tion.		C, N=355Median age (rvs. 69 (49–93)Age group: $< <65$ 25.6 65 tr49.0 ≥ 75 25.4Race or ethnicWhiAsiaBlacWhiAsiaBlacAme1.1%NatiIslarOthNot3.9%Geographic reNor37.5EuroRestvs. 2ECOG PS scor0:921:7.>1:0PSA doubling < 3 n	Ange): 69 (51–87 years: 22.8% vs. % 0 <75 years: 56.6 % years: 20.6% vs. % c group: te: 82.5% vs. 84. n: 7.3% vs. 7.3% k: 4.5% vs. 4.5% erican Indian or A 5 vs. 0.3% vs. 0 ve Hawaiian or c der: 0.3% vs. 0 ve Hawaiian or c der: 1.4% vs. 2.5% reported: 2.8% v 6 gion: th America: 40.6 % ope: 36.6% vs. 35 of the world: 22 1.4% e: 2.4% vs. 93.9% vs. 9 0.3% vs. 0 vs. 0 sing data: 0 vs. 0 time: nonths: 19.4% vs	n=355)) vs. 70 (50–92) 25.4% vs. % vs. 50.3% vs. 24.3% vs. 1% vs. 83.1% vs. 7.3% vs. 4.2% Alaska Native: other Pacific s. 0 vs.1.4% vs. % vs. 38.3% vs. .8% vs. 41.1% .8% vs. 26.0% s. 90.4% .6% 3 vs. 0 . 22.3% vs.				

² The EMBARK trial is currently ongoing; the estimated study completion date is 09/2026. ³ For detailed in- and exclusion criteria, please see trial protocol.

 NYHA class III or IV congestive heart failure or a IV congestive heart failure unless a screening ec acquisition scan performed within 3 months bef demonstrates a LVEF ≥ 45% History of clinically significant ventricular arrhyt History of Mobitz II second-degree or third-degr permanent pacemaker in place Hypotension as indicated by systolic blood press screening Bradycardia as indicated by a heart rate of ≤ 45 screening ECG. Uncontrolled hypertension as indicated by a min blood pressure measurements showing systolic or diastolic blood pressure > 105 mH g at screet Gastrointestinal disorder affecting absorption. Hypersensitivity reaction to enzalutamide or any of the cate < Contraindication to the use of leuprolide, such as a previo to an LHRH analogue or any of the excipients in the leupre Ongoing drug or alcohol abuse as per investigator judgma Any concurrent disease, infection, or comorbid condition ability of the patient to participate in the study, which pla or complicates the interpretation of data, in the opinion o monitor. 	 a history of NYHA class III or chocardiogram or multigated fore the randomisation date >3 to 6 months: 52.7% vs. 39.7% vs. 46.2% >6 to 9 months: 27.6% vs. 37.7% vs. 32.1% Missing data: 0.3 vs. 0.3 vs. 0.3 Median PSA doubling time (months): 4.6 vs. 5.0 vs. 5.0 Median serum PSA level (ng/ml): 5.0 vs. 5.5 vs. 5.3 Previous hormonal therapy: Yes: 30.1% vs. 31.6% vs 31.5% No: 69.9% vs. 68.4% vs. 68.5% Primary definitive therapy: Prostatectomy alone: 25.4% vs. 20.9 vs. 27.9% Radiation therapy alone: 24.2% vs. 29.1% vs. 25.4 Prostatectomy and radiation therapy: 50.4% vs. 50.0% vs. 46.8%
Efficacy (I vs. I2 vs. C); interim analysis data	Safety (I vs. I2 vs. C); interim analysis data Any AE of any grade: 97.2% vs. 97.5% 98.0%
Data-cutoff date 31 January 2023; median follow-up 60.7 months 5-year metastasis-free survival: 87.3% (95% Cl, 83.0-90.6) in 1 vs. 71.4% (95% Cl, 65.7-76.3); HR 0.42 (95% Cl, 0.30-0.61); p<0.001	Any AE of grade \geq 3: 46.5% vs. 42.7% vs. 50.0% Treatment-related AE of any grade: 86.4% vs. 79.9% vs. 88.1% Treatment-related AE of grade \geq 3: 17.6% vs. 8.8% vs. 16.1% SAE of any grade: 34.8% vs. 31.6% vs. 37.0% SAE of grade \geq 3: 31.2% vs. 28.2% vs. 32.8% Treatment-related SAE of any grade: 7.4% vs. 2.3% vs. 2.3% Treatment-related SAE of grade \geq 3: 6.2% vs. 2.0% vs. 4.8% AE of any grade leading to permanent discontinuation of treatment: 20.7% vs. 10.2% vs. 17.8% AE of grade \geq 3 leading to permanent discontinuation of treatment: 8.8% vs. 5.4% vs. 9.6% AEs leading to death4: 1.7% vs. 0.8% vs. 2.3% Fractures: 18.4%vs. 13.6% vs. 11.0% Cognitive and memory impairment: 15.0% vs. 6.5% vs. 14.1% Seizures: 1.1% vs. 0 vs. 0.8%

⁴ AEs leading to death were not considered by the site investigators to be related to treatment.

At baseline, all groups had high HRQoL.

- For worst pain, the median TTFD was 19.35 months with leuprolide alone, 13.93 months with the combination (HR 1.08; 95% CI, 0.89 -1.30) and 16.59 months with monotherapy (HR 1.09; 95% CI, 0.90-1.31).
- The median TTCD was 66.27 months with leuprolide alone, 80.00 months with the combination (HR 0.82; 95% CI, 0.65-1.04), and 60.91 months with monotherapy (HR 1.02; 95% CI, 0.82-1.28).
- For Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy–Prostate total score, the median TTFD was 11.10 months with leuprolide alone, 8.31 months with the combination (HR 1.14; 95% CI, 0.95-1.36), and 8.38 months with monotherapy (HR 1.17; 95% CI, 0.98-1.39).
- The median TTCD was 36.53 months with leuprolide alone, 38.77 months with the combination (HR 1.04; 95% Cl, 0.85-1.28), and 30.55 months with monotherapy (HR 1.16; 95% Cl, 0.95-1.41).
- Prespecified PRO analysis of sexual activity (SA)
 - measured as a composite score using the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer QoL Questionnaire-Prostate 25.
 - SA was better preserved with enzalutamide monotherapy vs. placebo+leuprolide in terms of interest, activity, satisfaction, and maintaining an erection.
 - no significant difference between enzalutamide+leuprolide vs. placebo+leuprolide.
 - A post hoc analysis at the HRQoL item level was conducted to understand the effect on SA in each comparison and enable shared decision-making between physicians and patients.

ESMO-MCBS version 1.1 [12]												
Scale	Int.	Form	MG ST	MG		HR (95% CI)	Score calculation	PM	Toxicity	QoL	AJ	FM
Original	NC	2B	Median >60 months; 5 years 71.4%	5-year metastasis-free survival: +1	netastasis-free survival: +15.9%		HR≤0.65 AND gain ≥ 3 months	3	-	Not statistically significant	-	3
Adapted	NC	2B	Median >60 months; 5 years 71.4%	5-year metastasis-free survival: +1	٤.9%	0.42 (0.30 - 0.61)	HR≤0.65 AND gain ≥ 3 months	3	-	Not statistically significant	-	3
Risk of bias (RCT) [13]												
Adequate generation of randomisation sequence		Adequate allocation concealment			Blinding	Selective outcome reporting unlikely	Other aspects which increase the risk of bias		Risk of bias			
yes unclears		unclear ⁵ nclear risk	unclear ⁶ unclear risk		unclear ⁷ unclear risk	yes ⁸ high risk		unclear				
Ongoing trials												
NCT number/trial name					Description			Estimated study completion date				
	NCT02	319837/EMBARK	Pleas	Please see above. 09/2026				2026				
Available assessments												

In July 2022, NIHR published a Health Technology Briefing, "Enzalutamide for treating non-metastatic prostate cancer after radical prostatectomy and/or radiotherapy" [14].

Two assessments evaluating enzalutamide + ADT in patients with high-risk nmHSPC were published by

- IQWIG (2019): Enzalutamid (Prostatakarzinom) Nutzenbewertung [15] and
- ICER (2019): pCODR pERC Final Recommendation [16].

No further assessment was identified via ICER.

Other aspects and conclusions

- In March 2024, the CHMP adopted a new indication for Xtandi[®], indicated as monotherapy or in combination with ADT for the treatment of adult men with high-risk BCR nmHSPC who are unsuitable for salvage radiotherapy. In November 2023, the FDA approved enzalutamide (Xtandi[®]) for nmCSPC with high-risk BCR.
- EMBARK (NCT02319837) is an ongoing, randomised phase 3 trial assessing the efficacy and safety of enzalutamide plus ADT and enzalutamide monotherapy, as compared with ADT alone. Adult patients with prostate cancer who had had biochemical recurrence after local therapy were eligible if, at the time of the initial biopsy before primary definitive therapy, they had histologically or cytologically

⁵ No information was found regarding the allocation procedure.

⁶ Enzalutamide-monotherapy group was open-label.

⁷ The EMBARK trial is currently ongoing; currently, only interim analysis data is available.

⁸ Data were collected by the investigators, analyzed by statisticians who were employed by the sponsors, and interpreted by the authors, some of whom are employees of the sponsors. The sponsors provided and funded editorial and medical writing support for the preparation of the manuscript.

confirmed adenocarcinoma of the prostate without neuroendocrine differentiation, signet-cell features, or small-cell features and an ECOG of o or 1. Patients were excluded if they had undergone previous cytotoxic chemotherapy, had a history of seizure or a condition that may confer a predisposition to seizure, showed evidence of distant metastatic disease, or if, after radical prostatectomy, they were considered by the investigator to be a candidate for salvage radiation therapy.

- The primary endpoint was metastasis-free survival, as assessed by BICR, in the combination group as compared with the leuprolide-alone group. At five years, metastasis-free survival was 87.3% in the combination group, 71.4% in the leuprolide-alone group, and 80.0% in the monotherapy group. With respect to metastasis-free survival, enzalutamide plus leuprolide was superior to leuprolide alone (HR for metastasis or death 0.42; 95% CI, 0.30-0.61; p<0.001); enzalutamide monotherapy was also superior to leuprolide alone (HR for metastasis or death, 0.63; 95% CI, 0.46-0.87; p=0.005).</p>
- According to the PROs analysis, no substantial difference was noted in the time to first deterioration of FACT-P total scores in the combination group or the monotherapy group compared with the leuprolide-alone group.
- The original and adapted ESMO-MCBS was applied, resulting in a final adjusted magnitude of clinical benefit of 3 each.
- The risk of bias was considered unclear due to the ongoing status of the trial. However, this is increased partly by the open-label design and the industry-funded background.
- Sesides EMBARK, no further phase 3 trial assessing enzalutamide monotherapy in patients with high-risk nmHSPC was identified.
- Final analysis data and further phase 3 data are required to sufficiently assess the efficacy and safety of enzalutamide monotherapy or enzalutamide+ADT combination therapy in patients with high-risk BCR nmHSPC.

First published: 04/2024

Abbreviations: ADT=androgen deprivation therapy, AE=adverse event, AJ=adjustment, BCR= biochemical recurrent BICR=blinded independent central review, C=comparator, CADTH=Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency, CHMP=Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use, CI=confidence interval, CRPC=castration-resistant prostate cancer, CT=computed tomography, DNA=deoxyribonucleic acid, ECG=electrocardiogram, ECOG PS=Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, EMA=European Medicines Agency, ESMO-MCBS= European Society of Medical Oncology – Magnitude of Clinical Benefit Scale, FDA=Food and Drug Administration, FM=final magnitude of clinical benefit grade, G-BA=Gemeinsamer Bundesausschuss, HR=hazard ratio, HRQoL=health-related quality of life, I=intervention, ICER=Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, INR=International Normalised Ratio, Int.=intention, LVEF=Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction, MG=median gain, MRI=magnetic resonance imaging, n=number of patients, NICE=National Institute for Health Care Excellence, nmHSPC=non-metastatic hormone sensitive prostate cancer, NYHA=New York Heart Association Class, OS=overall survival, pCODR=pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review, PE=primary endpoint, pERC=pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review Expert Review Committee, PFS=progression-free survival, PM=preliminary grade, PRES=postate specific antigen, QoL=quality of life, ER=radiotherapy, SA=sexual activity, SAE=serious adverse event, ST=standard treatment, TTCD=time to clinically meaningful deterioration, TTFD=time to first deterioration, ULN=upper limit of normal

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- pERC Canada's Drug and Health Technology Agency (CADTH). pCODR Final Recommendation. [Available from: 16. https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pcodr/Reviews2019/10149Enzalutamidenm-CRPC FnRec EarlyConv 2019-03-26v4 Post 26Mar2019 final.pdf].

<u>Appendix – Figure 19: Therapy algorithm for the treatment of localised prostate cancer</u>



Abbreviations: ADT, androgen deprivation therapy; EBRT, electron beam radiotherapy; HDR, high-dose rate; HIFU, high-intensity focused ultrasound; PC, prostate cancer; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; RP, radical prostatectomy; RT, radiotherapy. a For men with biochemical relapse and symptomatic local disease, proven metastases or a PSA doubling time of <3 months.

⁹ According to the updated treatment recommendations from the ESMO, abiraterone acetate with prednisone improved MFS and OS for very-high-risk localised prostate cancer undergoing RT and ADT.