

ZYTIGA[®] Now Reimbursed in Ontario for Use Prior to Chemotherapy In Men with Advanced Prostate Cancer

We are excited to share that men with metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) in Ontario now have access to a therapy that can be used prior to chemotherapy. Effective February 13, 2014, ZYTIGA[®] (abiraterone acetate) is being reimbursed by the public drug plan for the treatment of mCRPC in men who are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic after failure of androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), who meet specific criteria.¹ This is important news for men who want a treatment option that can be used earlier in advanced disease, helps delay disease progression, shows a consistent trend in improving overall survival and improves overall quality of life.

Men and their caregivers are encouraged to speak to their healthcare providers to learn more about the specific eligibility criteria that are required to be met for reimbursement of ZYTIGA[®] in Ontario.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer to afflict men in Canada. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, approximately 9,600 men in Ontario are diagnosed with prostate cancer annually and 1,500 will die of the disease.² Prostate cancer has a great impact on quality of life, affecting men physically, psychologically and socially.³ Approximately 10 to 20 per cent of prostate cancer cases will present with metastatic disease, in which the tumour spreads beyond the prostate.⁴ Fortunately, death rates have been declining since the mid-1990s.⁵

In July 2011, ZYTIGA[®] was approved by Health Canada for the treatment of men with mCRPC who had received prior chemotherapy containing docetaxel after failure of ADT.⁶ Health Canada approved a second indication for ZYTIGA[®] in May 2013 for the treatment of men with mCRPC who are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic after failure of ADT.⁷

ZYTIGA[®] is now reimbursed by provincial cancer agencies or public drug plans in British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Ontario and Québec.

For more information about ZYTIGA[®], please talk to your treating urologist, medical oncologist or other healthcare provider.

References

¹ ZYTIGA[®] Canadian Product Monograph. Page 3. February 14, 2014.

² Canadian Cancer Society. Ontario Cancer Statistics at a glance. Available at: <http://www.cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-101/canadian-cancer-statistics-publication/?region=on> Last accessed February 24, 2014

³ The “Prostate Cancer – Quality of Life Patient and Caregiver Study” was conducted through an online survey by Leger Marketing between June 21st and July 7th, 2013 with 517 Canadian men who currently have or have had prostate cancer and 256 caregivers.

⁴ Bellmunt J, Charles J, Albanell J. Predictive modelling in hormone-refractory prostate cancer (HRPC). Clin Transl Oncol. 2009 Feb;11(2):82-5.

⁵ Canadian Cancer Society. Prostate Cancer Statistics at a glance. Available at: <http://www.cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-type/prostate/statistics/?region=sk>. Last accessed January 28, 2014.

⁶ ZYTIGA[®] Canadian Product Monograph. Page 3. February 14, 2014.

⁷ Ibid.