

Pharmacological landscape of the management of prostate cancer in Australia over the past 11 years

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INTRODUCTION

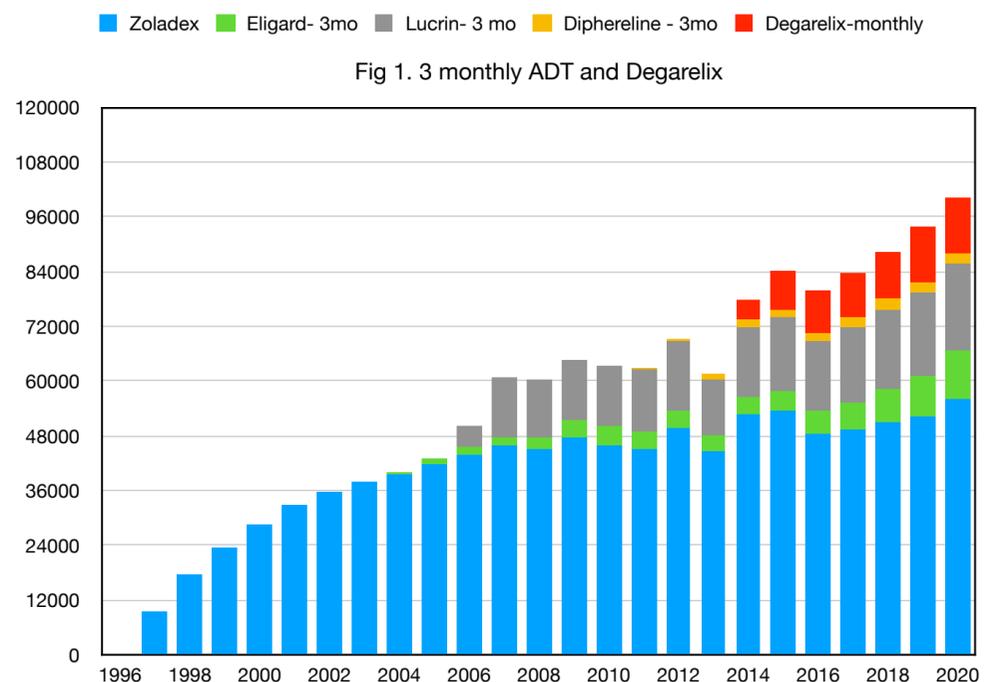
Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer in men worldwide and the most common cancer diagnosed in men in Australia. Yet, prostate cancer mortality-to-incidence ratio in Australia is amongst the lower in the developed world. We aimed to describe the national trends in the prescription of systemic treatment in Australia.

METHODS

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme [PBS] database was queried from January 2009 to December 2020.

RESULTS

Zoladex appears to be the LHRH agonist of choice given its disproportionately higher frequency of dispensing. The uptake of longer formation of Lucrin and Eligard remains low but consistent. There was no change in uptake despite the COVID-19 crisis in 2020 which would have restricted access to health care. Next, the most two common anti-androgens used by far were Cyproterone acetate and Bicalutamide with the data reflecting a mirror-image transition in prescribing pattern in favour of Bicalutamide. Enzalutamide prescriptions steadily rose since its introduction on the PBS and has now surpassed Abiraterone acetate. Darolutamide and apalutamide is only available via private script. Further, the data showed that docetaxel remains the preferred agent in men with metastatic prostatic cancer. Last, Olaparib, Pemprolizumab, and Ipatasertib are available as part of trials in Australia whereas Spileucel-T & protein kinase B inhibitors are not available in Australia.



CONCLUSION

The majority of the treatments for prostate cancer as described through the literature are available in Australia.

As expected, doctors and patients' preferences likely play a role in influencing the use of particular drugs.