

Prostate cancer survivorship in Australia - Exploring existing support system

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INTRODUCTION

Although that prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in Australia, cancer-specific survival is excellent for the majority of patients. The number of survivors is projected to increase over the years, highlighting the importance of improving prostate cancer survivorship.

METHODS

The authors reviewed and contacted all pharmaceutical companies in Australia that are directly involved in prostate cancer management. Patient support programs were defined as any form of support of intervention aiming to improve and address adverse effects related to androgen deprivation therapy [ADT].

RESULTS

The majority of companies have a patient support program which is delivered either as a web application, face to face or have a mixed delivery. All the programs offer physical exercise with a therapist and tailored information as core components. Next, since COVID-19, most companies incorporated a nurse injection and delivery service for ADT. The most comprehensive program is funded by Mundipharma which also provide access to sexual counsellors. Patients are linked in to the program free of charge by the treating practitioner and clinicians receive regular updates of their patients progress. Last, companies also offer subsidised access to treatment or scans.

Agent	Program availability	Internet viability	Exercise program	Nurse injection service	Sexual health	Information	Financial
Zoladex	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
Lucrin	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	
Eligard	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Diphereline	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Degarelix	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓	
Enzalutamide	✓	X					✓
Abiraterone	✓	X					✓
Apalutamide	✓	X					✓
Daralutamide	✓	X					✓

CONCLUSION

As advances in prostate cancer treatment enable men to live longer, there is a need to explore the efficacy of the existing programs at addressing patients' unique needs efficiently and/or develop better support system to add quality to the prostate survivors' life.