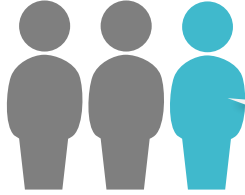




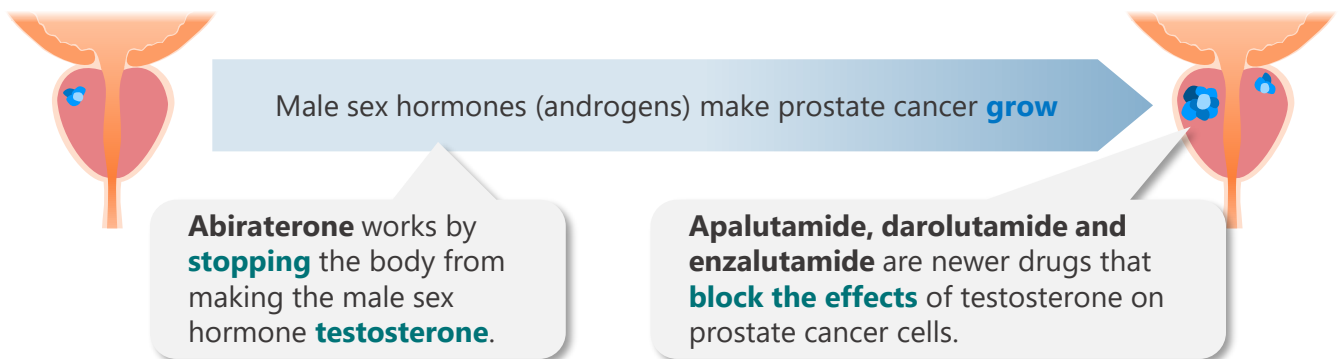
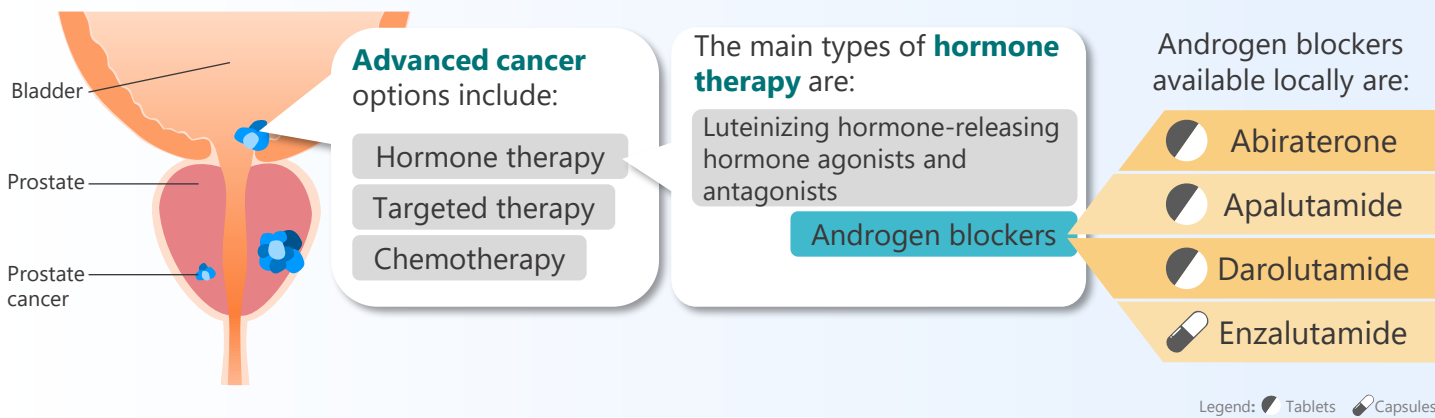

HORMONE THERAPY FOR ADVANCED PROSTATE CANCER



Three men are diagnosed with prostate cancer **every day**, making it the **second most common** cancer among men in Singapore.¹

One in three of these men² have cancer that has spread outside of the prostate to other parts of the body, which is known as **advanced or metastatic prostate cancer**.

How is prostate cancer **treated**?

Published studies show all 4 androgen blockers are **effective** treatments for advanced prostate cancer. They have **different** side effects from each other.

- ▶ For prostate cancer that has not spread outside the prostate but **continues to grow** even when treatment reduces the amount of testosterone to very low levels (non-metastatic prostate cancer), **apalutamide, darolutamide and enzalutamide** are **effective** treatment options.
- ▶ For **other forms** of advanced prostate cancer that has spread outside the prostate (metastatic prostate cancer), **abiraterone, apalutamide, darolutamide and enzalutamide** are **effective** treatment options.

ACE reviewed all available clinical evidence and received clinical advice from doctors for each androgen blocker. ACE also negotiated prices with the companies.³

Generic abiraterone was the most affordable treatment option. Value for money (cost-effectiveness) of **darolutamide** and **enzalutamide** were improved at the prices proposed by the companies.



Cash or MediSave

needed **every month** after subsidy and MediShield Life for a **middle-income patient** receiving **outpatient** treatment at **public hospitals***:

Abiraterone

Less than \$15

Subsidised ✓

MediShield Life: \$400 ✓

Darolutamide

\$300 to \$400

Subsidised ✓

MediShield Life: \$400 ✓

Enzalutamide

\$650 to \$750

Subsidised ✓

MediShield Life: \$400 ✓

Apalutamide

\$2,000 to \$2,500[§]

Subsidised ✗

MediShield Life: \$400 ✓

[§]Effective from 1 February 2025

Abiraterone, darolutamide and **enzalutamide** were **recommended** for government funding⁴ because they are **effective** and provide good value for money for treating advanced prostate cancer.



Apalutamide was **not recommended** for subsidy because its benefits do not justify its cost at the price offered by the company. MediShield Life is **available** to help with some of the cost of treatment.

Talk to your **doctor** to discuss which treatment is suitable for you. You can also speak to a **medical social worker** if you need further financial assistance, or you can reach out to **local patient support groups**⁵ if you want to meet people with similar experiences.

* Expenses will differ according to the amount of medicine that each patient needs and does not include other costs for doctor consultations, medical tests etc. MediSave withdrawal is capped at \$600 per month for these treatments. For Singaporeans who are eligible for subsidy, treatment costs will be subsidised by 40% to 75%. For subsidised drugs, expenses have been calculated using prices proposed by the companies including patient assistance programmes. For non-subsidised drugs, prices at public healthcare institutions at the time of subsidy review were used.

Sources:

1. Health Promotion Board National Registry of Diseases Office. Singapore Cancer Registry Annual Report 2018. 31 March 2021.
2. Health Promotion Board National Registry of Diseases Office. Singapore Cancer Registry 50th Anniversary Monograph 1968 to 2017.
3. ACE Technology Guidance, Darolutamide for treating prostate cancer. 13 September 2024.
4. Ministry of Health, Singapore. Cancer Drug List.
5. Singapore Cancer Society.



The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established by the Ministry of Health (Singapore) to drive better decision-making in healthcare through health technology assessment (HTA), clinical guidance and education. It publishes guidances on diagnosing, treating, and preventing different medical conditions based on the latest research information available worldwide. This factsheet is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition. © Agency for Care Effectiveness, Ministry of Health, Republic of Singapore. All rights reserved. Reproduction of this publication in whole or part in any material form is prohibited without the prior written permission of the copyright holder. **Updated: 01 November 2024; first published: 21 February 2022.**

To find out more about ACE, scan the QR code or visit www.ace-hta.gov.sg. You can also follow us on social media at:

