

**FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH TREATMENT OUTCOMES OF PROSTATE  
CANCER PATIENTS ON ANDROGEN DEPRIVATION THERAPY AT KENYATTA  
NATIONAL HOSPITAL**

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of the Degree of Master of Pharmacy in Clinical Pharmacy in the School of Pharmacy of  
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## DECLARATION

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## **DEDICATION**

I wish to dedicate this work to my family and friends.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

To God be all the glory for His grace.

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## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMNS**

ADT	Androgen Deprivation Therapy
AJCC	American Joint Committee on Cancer
BCR	Biochemical recurrence
CAB	Combined Androgen Blockade
CRPC	Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer
EBRT	External Beam Radiation Therapy
HB	Hemoglobin
KNH	Kenyatta National Hospital
LHRH	Luteinizing Hormone Release Hormone
NCCN	National Comprehensive Cancer Network
OS-	Overall survival
PCA	Prostate Cancer
PFS	Progression Free Survival
RT	Radiotherapy
RP-	Radical prostatectomy
TNM	Tumor, Node, Metastasis
UON	University of Nairobi

## **OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS**

**Advanced Cancer or metastatic Cancer**-This is defined as cancer that has spread to the lymph nodes and other parts of the body.

**Androgen Deprivation Therapy (ADT)** or Hormonal therapy is treatment used in prostate cancer patients that suppresses the production of testosterone.

**Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer (CRPC)**-This is defined as prostate-specific antigen (PSA) progression despite primary androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) in the absence of obvious disease obtained through conventional imaging.

**Localized cancer**-This is the cancer that is confined within the prostate gland. It has not spread outside of the prostate gland or to any other parts of the body.

**Locally advanced cancer**- This is when the cancer has broken through the capsule of the prostate gland. It may have spread into the tissue around the prostate or spread to the seminal vesicles.

**Overall survival**- This is the period that patient survives

**Prostate specific antigen failure (biochemical recurrence)** -This is a rise in the blood level of PSA in prostate cancer patients after treatment with surgery or radiation. Two consecutive PSA values higher than 0.2 ng/mL.

**Progression free survival**-refers to survival without progression of the disease.

**Treatment outcome**- For the purpose of this study, treatment outcomes were progression free survival, castrate resistant prostate cancer and overall survival of patients.

## **ABSTRACT**

### **Background**

Androgen deprivation therapy is recommended in the management locally advanced and metastatic prostate cancer. The two available therapeutic options are orchiectomy and medical castration. The use of either orchiectomy or medical castration has proven to improve patient's quality of life and overall survival of the patients. Hormonal deprivation therapy at Kenyatta National Hospital has been used to reduce testosterone levels in conjunction with other therapies. Treatment outcomes include castrate resistant prostate cancer, progression-free survival and overall survival of patients. Several factors e.g. Prostate specific antigen levels, type of androgen deprivation therapy and duration of treatment can influence outcomes.

### **Objectives**

To determine the prevalence of androgen deprivation therapy use among prostate cancer patients, to characterize the clinical profiles of prostate cancer patients on androgen deprivation therapy and to determine the treatment outcomes and the factors associated with androgen deprivation therapy.

### **Methodology**

This was a retrospective cross-sectional study. We sampled 90 prostate cancer patients who met the eligibility criteria. Simple random sampling method of medical records was used for adult patient  $\geq 18$  years seen at Kenyatta National Hospital, with prostate cancer between January 2016 and December 2019. A predesigned data collection form was used to abstract data from patient records. Descriptive and inferential data analysis was done in 90 patients. STATA software version 16 was used for analysis.

### **Results**

Ninety patients were enrolled with a mean age of 70 years (SD +8.3). All the ninety patients were on androgen deprivation therapy. Forty-four patients (48%) had T3b – T4 tumor staging while 34 (38%) had T3a tumor staging whereas 69 patients (76%) had G3-Gleason 7 -10. Forty-eight patients (53%) were treated with a combination of medical androgen deprivation therapy and radiotherapy. Of the 90 patients, 14 (16%) developed hormonal refractory prostate cancer while 76 (84%) were in progression free survival state with a mean survival of 30 months. Duration of treatment, hemoglobin level and post prostate specific antigen after therapy were

significantly associated with castrate resistant prostate cancer and progression free survival at multivariate analysis. Linear regression analysis results demonstrated an association between overall survival and duration of treatment.

### **Conclusion**

All patients were started on androgen deprivation therapy. Fourteen patients developed castrate resistant prostate cancer while seventy-six were at progression free survival state. The factors that were significantly associated to androgen deprivation treatment outcomes were duration of treatment, hemoglobin level and post prostate specific antigen while duration of treatment was associated with overall survival of patients.

## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Prostate cancer (PCA) is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common cancer worldwide. It is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among men globally (1). In 2018, there were 1,276,106 new cases and 358,989 deaths (1). Mortality has been observed to be lower in white men as compared to African-American men (2). This has been associated with social, environmental and genetic factors. Through the Global Cancer Observatory, 2,293,818 new cases are estimated until 2040, with an expected variation in increase in mortality of 1.05 % (3).

In Africa, several studies have been done on prostate cancer. Wabinga *et al.* indicated a rise in the incidence rate (5.2%) in Kampala (Uganda) (4), while Chokunonga *et al.* indicated a rise in incidence rate (6.4%) in Harare (Zimbabwe) (5). In both studies, the rise in cancer was associated with change of lifestyle and unhealthy behaviors due to urbanization. In Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH), Wasike *et al.* reported that the elderly 66-70 years presented with clinically advanced disease had an incidence rate of 76.5 patients/100,000 (6).

In 1941, Huggins and Hodges introduced surgical castration or the use of estrogenic injections as the therapy for PCA (7). However from 2004, androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) became a treatment modality for prostate cancer management (8). This therapy has two options, medical castration or orchiectomy (8). Prostate cancer management is based on the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) staging of the tumor (9) or risk stratification of the cancer, where the classification is based on tumor stage, Gleason pattern and PSA levels.

In Kenya, both medical castration and surgical castration (orchiectomy) are used for therapy depending on the patient specifics. Medical castration uses anti-androgens or Luteinizing Hormone Releasing Hormone (LHRH) as an antagonist or agonist with the option of combining both LHRH drug (Leuprolide, Goserelin, Triptorelin or Histrelin) and the antiandrogens. Depending on the drug used and staging of the tumor, it can be given as intermittent or continuous for up to one year. The LHRH antagonist used in ADT is Degarelix for advanced prostate cancer. The antiandrogen tablets include Flutamide, Bicalutamide and Nilutamide. They are used to control tumor flare that occurs due to the use LHRH agonist.

Overall survival (OS) and progression-free survival (PFS) of patients has been used in the recent past as primary end points of chemotherapy in several studies. Progression free survival has been used as an outcome to evaluate drug efficacy in clinical trials and as a marker for overall survival of patients. Patients who are free of clinical progression of the disease have an improved quality of life and the likelihood of prolonged survival (10). Halabi *et al.* investigated the association between the PFS and OS in castrate resistant prostate cancer patients. Those who had a PFS at 3 months had an OS of 9.2 months while those who had no PFS at 3 months had an OS of 17.8 months (11).

The use of hormonal therapy and radiotherapy is associated with reduced mortality and overall survival of patients (12)(13). Biochemical recurrence is associated with the duration of the hormonal therapy and survival of the patient. A PSA level of more than 0.2 ng/mL after 8 months after ADT post operation or post radiation was associated with mortality (14).

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

KNH currently treats a large population with PCA. For patients classified as intermediate- risk group or high and very high-risk patients, ADT is recommended. There is a knowledge gap on the treatment outcome of ADT on PCA patients therefore this study has investigated factors associated with this therapy. There are few studies in Africa indicating the treatment outcomes of the different treatment modalities of PCA. In Ghana, the reported adverse outcomes of radiotherapy and prostatectomy were erectile dysfunction and incontinence (15). The study results can be used as guide in identifying patients at risk of CRPC.

## **1.3 Research Question**

What are the factors associated with treatment outcomes among prostate cancer patients managed with androgen deprivation therapy at Kenyatta National Hospital?

## **1.4 Objectives**

### **1.4.1 General Objective**

To evaluate the factors associated with treatment outcomes of androgen deprivation therapy among prostate cancer patients at Kenyatta National Hospital.

### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

1. To determine the prevalence of ADT use among prostate cancer patients at Kenyatta National Hospital.
2. To characterize the clinical profiles of prostate cancer patients receiving ADT at KNH.
3. To determine the treatment outcomes of ADT therapy and the factors associated with it among prostate cancer patients at KNH.

### **1.5 Justification of the study**

Research on prostate cancer has been done widely in developed countries. The information obtained from this research has led to the development of different guidelines on PCA management. Kenyatta National Hospital has adopted the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines in managing PCA. The risk stratification of patients has led to proper diagnosis and treatment in these patients.

Currently, there are few studies on prostate cancer in Africa. A study done in Nigeria indicated that PSA nadir  $> 4\text{ng/mL}$  was associated with the clinical progression of the disease (16). Mutua *et al.* described the cultural influences on PCA screening in Kenya (17) while Wasike *et al.* studied the characteristics of patients being treated for prostate cancer at KNH (18) indicating more need for research in Kenya. There is no research that has been done so far on the treatment outcomes of ADT in Kenya.

Clinical and pathological characteristics of patients influence the treatment outcomes of ADT. This study identified the factors associated with the treatment outcome of ADT use with the aim of identifying optimal treatment strategies that are affordable to patients for PCA management at KNH. The study will also assist health care professionals in improving or updating local guidelines on PCA management.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

This study identified the patients the factors associated with ADT treatment outcomes. The results will be of use in making clinical decisions based on patients at risk of progressing to hormonal refractory disease



### **1.7 Delimitations**

The study was carried out at the Cancer Treatment Centre. The medical records of PCA patient were used for the data and using the eligibility criteria, information was collected using the data tool.

### **1.8 Study limitations**

The main limitation is that the data reported here is limited to KNH therefore there will be the inability to generalize the results and need for further research. Being a retrospective study, any omissions or inaccuracies in patient records cannot be clarified. Furthermore, a preliminary survey indicated that the records lack medication and past medical history thus adverse effects of drugs and comorbidities cannot be evaluated in this study. Most records were incomplete and patients defaulted treatment and therefore the patients who had minimum treatment of 19 months were few. Lack of updated records or missing records became a challenge because KNH uses manual records.

## 1.9 Conceptual/Theoretical Framework

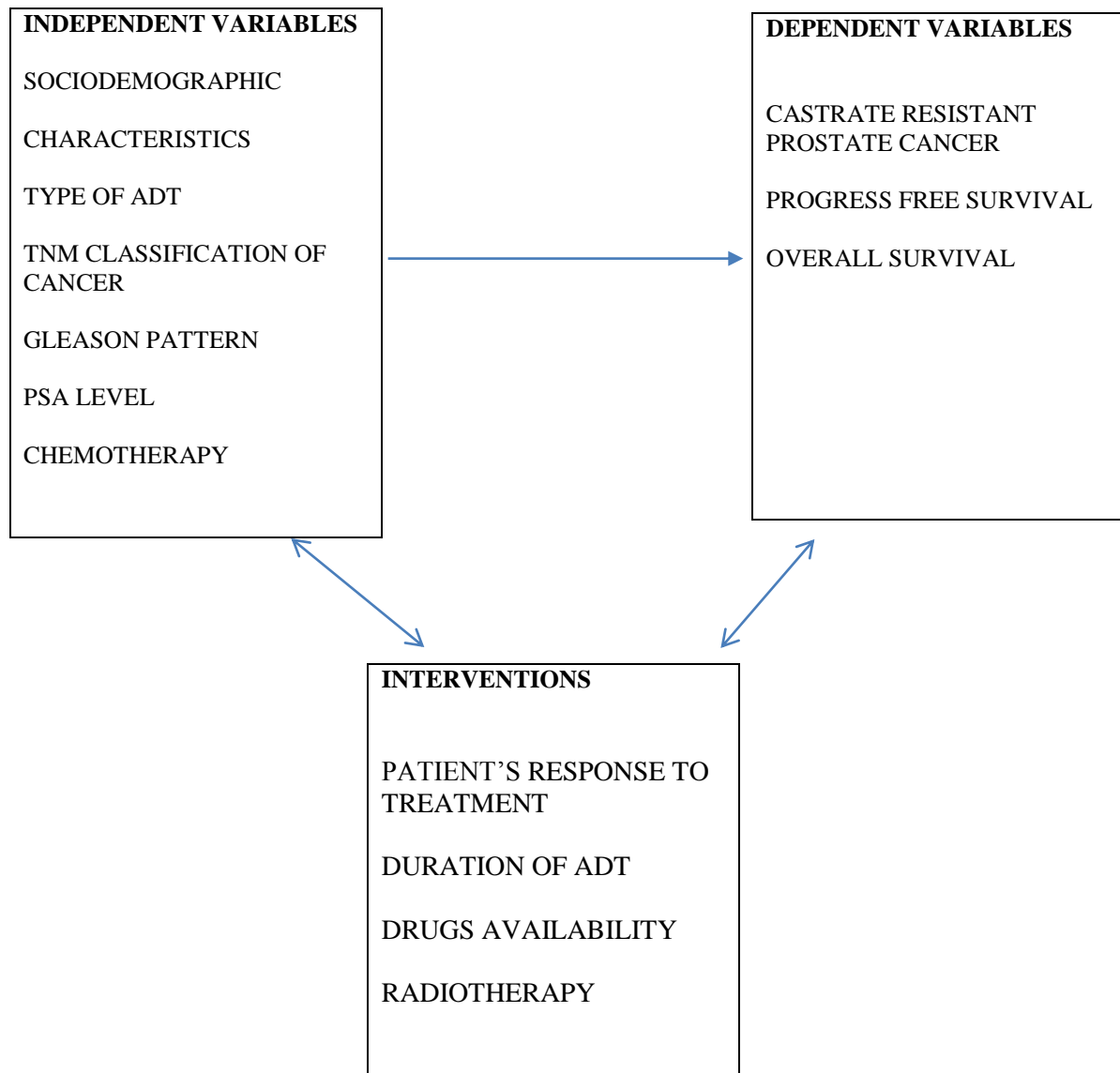


Figure 1-Conceptual/Theoretical framework

Author *Gathu*, 2020

The factors associated with treatment outcomes are the socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of the patient. ADT has been associated with castrate resistant prostate cancer. The use of chemotherapeutic agents has indicated improvement in the overall survival of patients. Tumor Node Metastasis (TNM) classification and Gleason pattern also affect PSA levels in patients who have had radical prostatectomy. PSA is also used as a predictor for overall survival of patients.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Risk factors associated with Prostate Cancer**

Obesity and a high body mass index are associated with prostate cancer (19). Obesity is also associated with PCA after radical prostatectomy (20). Moriera *et al.* in a retrospective study indicated that cigarette smoking is associated with developing metastasis, Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer (CRPC) and mortality after radical prostatectomy (21).

The risk of prostate cancer increases with age (1) with race being a risk factor between African-American and the white men (1). African-American men recorded the highest incidence rate while the lowest incidence is seen in men of American-Asian origin (22). These results have been associated with differences in both socioeconomic status and biologic factors of the PCA patients (23). This could be due to a lower quality of health care and low chances of PSA screening among PCA (24). Black men at age of 40 are at a higher risk, while white men with no family history of prostate cancer, the risk increases significantly after 50 years (25). Family history of shared genes, common lifestyle habits and carcinogens were identified in 20% of patients who developed cancer (26).

Studies have indicated that the average age of PCA diagnosis is between 65 years and 75 years. According to Diallo *et al.* the average age of patients diagnosed with PCA was 75.3 years in Senegal (27) while Amegbor *et al.* (28) and Sequeira *et al.* (29) found an average age of 70 years (Ghana) and 71.2 years (Portugal) respectively.

In Sub Saharan Africa, a study indicated that a low incident rate of PCA was due to inability to access healthcare services, unhealthy lifestyle and environmental factors (30) with most of the health care budget spent on tropical diseases while cancer receives little or no funding at all (31).

### **2.2 Tumor node metastasis classification of prostate cancer**

There are four stages of prostate cancer. The clinical staging of prostate cancer was revised from the American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Tumor, Node, and Metastasis (TNM) system.

There are different methods of assessing the tumor stage. These methods include:

- Prostate biopsy
- Digital rectal examination
- Imaging modalities

### **2.3 Risk group stratification of prostate cancer**

According to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network Guidelines (NCCN), PCA is managed based on risk stratification which classifies PCA according to clinical and pathological features with stage grouping (8).

The NCCN added two groups into the risk stratification of PCA, the very low-risk and very high-risk group of patients. The risk groups defined by the NCCN (Table 1) guidelines are as follows; Low risk group, intermediate risk group and high-risk group. The main objective of ADT is to lower the testosterone level to <50 ng/dL, an equivalent to castration (8).

For the very low-risk group, recommended therapy is active surveillance with selected interventions including radical prostatectomy (RP) and radiotherapy (RT). For the intermediate risk group, RT or brachytherapy with or without ADT is recommended. For the high and very high-risk groups, RP or RT is considered plus early or delayed ADT. Management might also include lymph node dissection for positive lymph node or positive resection margins. Metastatic PCA may require combination of ADT with chemotherapeutic agents (8). Total remission is considered if PSA nadir remains below 2.0 ng/dL after RT with or without ADT or 0.2 ng/dL after RP (32).

**TABLE 2.1: RISK STRATIFICATION OF PROSTATE CANCER**

<b>RISK GROUP</b>	<b>PATHOLOGICAL FEATURES</b>
Very Low	Stage <b>T(I)C</b> Grade group I PSA <10 ng/mL Prostate Specific Antigen density <0.15ng/ml
Low	Stage <b>T(I)-T(II)A</b> Grade group I Prostate Specific Antigen <10ng/mL
Intermediate	Stage <b>T(II)B-T(II)C</b> Grade group II or III Prostate Specific Antigen 10-20 ng/mL
High	Stage <b>T(III)A</b> Grade group IV or V Prostate Specific Antigen >20 ng/mL
Very High	Stage <b>T(III)B- T(IV)</b> Primary Gleason pattern V

#### **2.4 Androgen deprivation therapy**

Androgen deprivation therapy is classified into medical castration or orchiectomy. ADT can be given as neoadjuvant, concomitant or adjuvant in the management of locally advanced and advanced PCA. Drugs used in ADT include: LHRH (agonists and antagonists), antiandrogen drugs such as bicalutamide or combined oral blockade of LHRH agonist and antiandrogen drug (8).

## **2.5 Prostate cancer management**

### **2.5.1 Localized prostate cancer**

Radical prostatectomy (RP) and radiotherapy (RT) are recommended for localized PCA with monitoring of PSA levels. For low risk PCA, active surveillance is recommended, but for intermediate and high-risk PCA, RP is recommended (33). Active surveillance is required and if cancer progresses, there will be need to initiate ADT (34). A study comparing bicalutamide and dutasteride over bicalutamide indicated no clinical benefit in treating locally advanced and advanced PCA (35).

### **2.5.2 Locally advanced disease**

The treatment of choice for locally advanced disease is ADT. Other treatment options include RP or RT with hormonal manipulations. In locally advanced cancer, combined use of ADT and RT improves overall survival compared to ADT alone (12). Souhami *et al.* demonstrated that patients on ADT for more than 5 years compared to those on ADT for less than five years treated with RT had a significant improvement in the overall survival and a lower risk of distant metastasis (36).

For patients in the intermediate risk group, short term use of ADT with RT is recommended with supported evidence showing increased survival of the patients (36,37). For high risk patients and very high-risk patients, a combination of EBRT and long-term ADT (2-3 years) is recommended (33,34). Monotherapy with an ADT is not currently recommended (8).

### **2.5.3 Metastatic prostate cancer**

When patients progress to metastatic PCA, the ADT should not be discontinued. ADT has been shown to delay death by two months (40) while chemotherapy delays by one month (41). Zoledronic acid is recommended for patients with metastasis of the bone (8).

#### **2.5.4 Castrate resistance prostate cancer**

Castrate resistance prostate cancer develops in patients after receiving ADT (16). A study indicated that after a follow up of 39.9 months, patients on ADT had high levels of PSA and serum alkaline phosphatase with more bone lesions and an increased risk of CRPC (42). The time to develop CRPC has been estimated to be 19 months (43).

#### **2.6 Chemotherapeutic agents**

The use of docetaxel and cabazitaxel in the treatment of metastatic CRPC has shown remarkable decrease in PSA levels (44). The use of sipuleucel T has indicated that it improves the overall survival of patients.(45)

Harshman *et al.* also indicated that the use of ADT with or without docetaxel in metastatic cancer with a PSA  $\leq 0.2$  ng/dL at 7 months is prognostic marker for a longer overall survival of patients (46). Wu *et al.* demonstrated that the three-modality mode of ADT, EBRT and paclitaxel can be used in high risk prostate cancer patients. The maximum dose of paclitaxel that can be used weekly was 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup>. This was done in patients who had localized prostate cancer or radical prostatectomy (47).

#### **2.7 Treatment outcomes of androgen deprivation therapy**

##### **2.7.1 Biochemical recurrence**

Prostate specific antigen is a prognostic marker of clinical progression of PCA (48).The disease progresses to CRPC despite ADT (49).The use of ADT with chemotherapeutic agent reduces PSA progression. Gravis *et al.* compared the addition of 3-weekly docetaxel to ADT and ADT alone. This indicated a significant reduction in PSA levels within six months (50).

Kim *et al.* indicated that pre and post levels of gleason score and PSA levels are all independent risk factors affecting the postoperative first serum PSA level in prostate cancer patients therefore risk stratification post-surgery may be a guide in patients receiving adjuvant therapies (51).

In localized prostate cancer, patients receiving ADT whose PSA level was above 0.2 ng/ mL were at higher risk of death from prostate cancer (52). Stewart *et al.* indicated that PSA failure is associated with prostate cancer mortality. A PSA level of more than 0.2 ng/mL after 8 months



after ADT post operation or post radiation was associated with mortality (14). Some studies have concluded that the use of neoadjuvant ADT with EBRT has clinical benefits. Roach *et al.* compared the use of goserelin with flutamide plus EBRT with EBRT alone. The result indicated that the prior group had lower risk of biochemical recurrence and distant metastasis (53).

### **2.7.2 Progression-free survival and overall survival of prostate cancer patients**

Progression-free survival (PFS) is measured as an outcome that correlates symptomatic progression of the tumor. The progression includes measurable disease progression e.g gleason pattern or staging of PCA, rise in PSA levels and bone metastasis and (54).

Overall survival (OS) has also been used in many clinical trials and cohort studies as an outcome. However, the measurement of this outcome requires the use of large sample size that requires a lengthy follow up of period of time. PFS has been investigated to be a predictor of OS in CRPC. Patients who experienced the disease progression at three months had a median survival of 9.2 months while those who had no disease progression at three months had a median survival of 17.8 months (11). Berglund *et al.* study included ten year follow up of 55 patients on goserelin and flutamide. Out of these patients, 38% had clinical progression of the disease. The PFS was 7.5 years with a survival of 68% of the patients (55).

The use of ADT may influence the overall survival of patients. Harshman *et al.* demonstrated that patients had an overall survival of 75 months with a PSA level < 0.4ng/mL after the use of goserelin and bicalutamide for seven months followed by continuous administration of ADT (56). Borcardo *et al.* compared the use of bicalutamide with ADT (flutamide and goserelin). Patients were followed up for a period of 54 months and the conclusion was there were no significant differences in the duration of PFS and OS (57). PSA of 4 ng/mL or less after 7 months of ADT is a strong predictor of survival (58).

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter contains the methods that were used to carry out the study. The chapter also includes study location, target population, sample size calculation methods of sampling data management and ethical considerations of the study.

### **3.2 Research design**

The study design was a retrospective cross-sectional study. The period was from January 2016 to December 2019.

### **3.3 Location of the study**

The study was carried out at Kenyatta National Hospital, which is located in Upper Hill region in Nairobi County. The study was conducted at the cancer treatment center. The Hospital which is the largest public referral Hospital serves a diverse population from Kenya and receives patients as referrals from other hospitals and institutions. The bed capacity is 1800 with different specialized wards. The Hospital also serves as a teaching hospital of the University of Nairobi, College of Health Sciences. The Hospital has highly qualified medical personnel that are trained in all areas. The different specialties based on the services given include Oncology, Neurology, Nephrology, Infectious diseases, Endocrinology, Orthopedic surgery, General surgery, Gynecology and pediatrics.

### **3.4 Target population**

The target population is records of all patients aged 18 years and above who are being treated for prostate cancer using ADT at KNH from January 2016 to December 2019.

### **3.5 Study population**

The study population was records of patients aged 18 years and above who are receiving ADT for PCA treatment.

#### **3.5.1 Inclusion criteria**

- Patients who were already on ADT between January 2016 to December 2019.
- Patients aged 18 years and above.

### 3.5.2 Exclusion criteria

- Patients with incomplete clinical records.

### 3.6 Sample size estimation

This was a retrospective cross sectional study based on the international survey of ADT use in several countries (58). The number of patients on ADT was 38%. The Cochran formula for determining the sample size in cross-sectional studies is used (59):

$$n = \frac{z^2 p(1-p)}{e^2}$$

Where:

- n= sample size
- z= statistic for 95% level of confidence, critical value 1.96
- p=Estimated proportion of patients receiving ADT- 38 %
- e= level of precision set at 0.05

n=

$$\frac{1.96^2 \times 0.38 (1 - 0.38)}{0.05^2}$$

= 362 patients

For finite population

N= Total number of patients that were on ADT during the four-year period

no

1+no/N

=362

1+362/120 =90 patients

.

### 3.7 Sampling method

Simple random sampling method was used to identify prostate cancer patients receiving ADT within the period January 2016 to December 2019.

### **3.8 Research instrument**

A well-structured data collection tool was designed to capture the socio-demographic characteristics, clinical characteristics of the patients and the treatment outcome of ADT from the selected files.

### **3.9 Data collection techniques**

Using the data collection tool, socio-demographic and clinical characteristics, drug therapy and treatment outcome of ADT was abstracted from the patient files. The period studied was from January 2016 to December 2019.

### **3.10 Pretesting of the research instrument**

The tool was piloted at the oncology pharmacy for review by the clinical pharmacist using patient files. This enabled proper capturing of all the required information. The tool was revised based on the feedback.

### **3.11 Variables**

The variables under study include; socio-demographic characteristics (gender, age, level of education, marital status, income) and clinical characteristics (tumor staging, Gleason score, PSA level, biochemical recurrence,) and drug therapy information of the patients. The treatment outcome variables include castrate resistant prostate cancer, progression free survival and overall survival of the patients.

### **3.12 Validity**

To ensure the validity of the results of the study, the research instruments were structured in a way that ensures the objectives of the study are met minimizing internal validity.

### **3.13 Reliability**

Data collection tool was pretested to determine the internal reliability of the results through a pilot study. Improvements or amendments to ensure the reliability of the results was done. The tool was handed over to clinical pharmacist for more expertise information. Reproducibility of results was ensured by collecting all relevant information from the patient records.

### **3.14 Data management**

A serialized data collection tool was used to avoid duplication of data. After complete information entry into a database, data cleaning was done before analysis. Raw data was coded, cleaned, validated. All the data was backed up at the end of each clinic day in a flash disk and hard drive. After completion of data collection, the data was exported into STATA software 16.0 (StataCorp, USA) for data analysis.

### **3.15 Data analysis**

Data was analyzed using STATA software (StataCorp, USA). Continuous variables such as age were summarized as measures of central tendency. Descriptive analysis was expressed through frequencies, percentages. Logistic regression was used to determine the factors associated with ADT treatment outcomes. Factors associated with overall survival were determined using linear regression.

### **3.16 Ethical considerations**

Permission to carry out the study sought from KNH/UON Ethics and research committee and the approval protocol number was P165/03/2020 Ref KNH-ERC/A/152 dated 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Patient's outpatient numbers were not recorded but serialized with specific codes. This maintained the anonymity and privacy of the patients.

## CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS

### 4.1 Demographic characteristics

We enrolled 90 patients with prostate cancer with a mean age of 70 years ( $SD \pm 8.3$ ). Seventy-five patients (83%) were married, 36 (40%) had secondary school as their highest level of education. Half of the patients (50%) were self-employed, 50 (56%) were not cigarette smokers while also 49 (54%) did not consume alcohol. More than half of the respondents, 48 (52%) had normal BMI levels (Table 4.1).

**Table 4.1: Demographic characteristics of the patients.**

Variable		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Age</b>	Mean	70 $\pm$ 8.3	
	Median	70(65 – 78 years)	
<b>Marital status</b>	Single	1	1
	Married	75	83
	Separated	8	9
	Widowed	6	7
<b>Level of education</b>	Informal	6	7
	Primary	26	28
	Secondary	36	40
	Tertiary	22	25
<b>Employment status</b>	Unemployed	27	30
	Employed	10	11
	Self employed	45	50
	Retired	8	8.9
<b>Cigarette Smoking</b>	Yes	40	44
	No	50	56
<b>Alcohol consumption</b>	Yes	41	46
	No	49	54
<b>BMI</b>	Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	24 $\pm$ 4	
	Median (IQR)	24(21 – 27)	
	<18.5	8	9
	18.5 – 24.9	48	52
	25.0 – 29.9	27	30
	30 and Above	7	8

## 4.2 Baseline laboratory investigations

Sixty nine patients (77%) had low levels of neutrophils of less than 60%, 56 (62%) had normal hemoglobin levels of between 12g/dl and 17gdl and 76 (84%) of the patients had normal platelet count of between 150 cells/ $\mu$ L and 450 cells/ $\mu$ L. Prior to first treatment administration, most of the patients had very high levels of prostate specific antigen (PSA), 66 (73%) of greater than >20ng/dl as shown in Table 4.2.

**Table 4.2: Baseline laboratory investigations of the patients**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>	
<b>Neutrophil (%)</b>	Mean $\pm$ SD	52 $\pm$ 12.20	
	Median (IQR)	53(47.1 – 59.8)	
	<60	69	77
	60 – 70	17	19
	>70	4	4
<b>Hemoglobin (g/dl)</b>	Mean $\pm$ SD	13.92 $\pm$ 4.3	
	Median (IQR)	13.65(12 – 15.2)	
	<12	30	33
	12 – 17	56	62
	>17	4	5
<b>Platelet count (cells/<math>\mu</math>L)</b>	Mean $\pm$ SD	294.41 $\pm$ 106.59)	
	Median (IQR)	260.8(225.75 – 337)	
	<150	11	13
	150 – 450	76	84
	>450	3	9
<b>Prostate Specific antigen (PSA)</b>	<10ng/dl	6	7
	10 - 20ng/dl	18	20
	>20ng/dl	66	73

## 4.3 TNM Classification

In evaluating the pathological profile, the study focused on tumor staging, grading, lymph node and metastasis of the prostate cancer cells. The findings showed that, 44 (48%) had T3b – T4 tumor staging while 34 (38%) had T3a tumor staging. Majority of the respondents, 69 (76%) had G3-Gleason 7 -10 grading as shown in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: TNM classification of the patients**

	<b>Pathological profile</b>	<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Tumor staging</b>	T1a - T2a	8	9
	T2b - T2c	4	5
	T3a	34	38
	T3b - T4	44	48
<b>Grading</b>	G1 -GLEASON 2-4	8	9
	G2-GLEASON 5-6	13	15
	G3-GLEASON 7 -10	69	76
<b>Lymph node</b>	NX	19	23
	NO	16	19
	N1	55	58
<b>Metastasis</b>	MX	28	33
	MO	15	15
	M1	47	52

#### 4.4 Prostate cancer management

Thirty-three patients used medical ADT only as their first treatment while 7(8%) used prostatectomy and ADT as the first treatment. The results also further showed that 48 patients (53%) also used radiotherapy as shown in Table 4.4

**Table 4.4: Prostate cancer management among patients**

	<b>Variable</b>	<b>Frequency (n=90)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>First treatment (ADT)</b>	ADT Medical	33	37
	ADT Surgical	2	2
	Radiotherapy with ADT	48	53
	Prostatectomy with ADT	7	8
<b>Medication used</b>	Goserilin alone	35	39.8
	Goserilin and Bicalutamide	53	60.2

##### 4.4.1 Additional treatment in first treatment

Among the patients who had been given goserilin only, 11 (30.6%) used zoledronic and additional treatment while 4 (12.1%) used docetaxel as additional treatment while among those



who had combined goserilin and bicalutamide, 9 (17%) added zoledronic and 5 (9.4%) added docetaxel (Table 4.5).

**Table 4.5: Additional drugs used in first treatment**

		Additional treatment	
		Zoledronic Acid n (%)	Docetaxel n (%)
Medical ADT	Goserilin Only	11(30.6)	4 (12.1)
	Goserilin and Bicalutamide	9 (17)	5 (9.4)

#### 4.4.2 Second Treatment

The analysis also showed that only 14 (15%) of the patients had second treatment. In assessing risk stratification for those who underwent second treatment, all had very high-risk PCA. Among those who had biochemical recurrence, the average time was 7 months after the first treatment with majority ranging from 5 to 11 months as presented in Table 4.6.

**Table 4.6: Administration of ADT and second treatment among patients**

		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
<b>Administration of ADT</b>	Adjuvant	58	64
	Neoadjuvant	1	1
	Concomitant	31	34
<b>Second Treatment</b>	Yes	14	19
	No	76	81
<b>Time to Biochemical recurrence (months)</b>	Mean $\pm$ SD	7.92 $\pm$ 4.2	
	Median (IQR)	7(5 – 11)	
<b>Risk Stratification for second treatment</b>	Very High risk	14	100
<b>ADT Second Treatment</b>	Goserilin only	3	21.4
	Goserilin and Bicalutamide	11	78.6

#### 4.4.3 Additional treatment used in second treatment

In assessing additional treatment in second treatment, 5 (37.7%) of the patients combined goserilin, bicalutamide and abiraterone while 8 (57%) combined goserilin, bicalutamide and docetaxel as shown in Table 4.7

**Table 4.7 Additional drugs used in second treatment**

		Additional treatment	
		Abiraterone n (%)	Docetaxel n (%)
Medical ADT	Goserilin Only	2(14.2)	3 (21.4)
	Goserilin and Bicalutamide	5 (37.7)	8 (57.1)

#### 4.4.4 Duration of ADT and Post ADT Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA)

The average duration of ADT was 24 months with majority ranging between 17 and 27 months. Most of the patients had low PSA average 50 with less than 10ng/dL (55.6%) as shown in Table 4.8

**Table 4.8: Duration of ADT and post ADT PSA among patients.**

Duration of ADT		Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)
Median (IQR)		24(17 – 27)	
Post ADT prostate specific antigen	<10ng/dL	50	55.6
	10 - 20ng/dL	13	14.4
	>20ng/dL	27	30

#### 4.5 Outcomes of ADT

The outcomes of patients on ADT were also assessed. The findings revealed that the mean overall survival was 29.7 months with a standard deviation of 9.16. The median was 28 months with range between 24 and 38 months. Majority of the respondents, 76 (84%) were progression free while 14 (16%) were castrate resistant (Table 4.9).

**Table 4.9: Outcomes of ADT**

		<b>Frequency (n)</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
<b>Overall survival (Months)</b>	Mean $\pm$ SD	29.7 $\pm$ 9.16	
	Median (IQR)	28 (24 – 38)	
<b>Outcome</b>	Castrate resistant	14	16
	Progression Free	76	84

#### 4.6 Association between sociodemographic characteristics and ADT treatment outcomes among patients

A Fisher's exact test was conducted to determine the existing association between patient characteristics and ADT treatment outcome. The findings showed that there was a significant association between age,  $p = 0.002$ , level of education,  $p = 0.038$ , cigarette smoking,  $p = 0.008$ , BMI,  $p = 0.018$  with ADT treatment outcome as shown in Table 4.10.

**Table 4.10: Univariate test for association between sociodemographic characteristics and ADT treatment outcomes**

Variables		Outcome		
		CRPC	PFS	P-value
Age of the respondents	<70 Years	2(14.3%)	45 (59.2%)	<b>0.003</b>
	>70 Years	12(85.7%)	31(40.8%)	
Marital status	Single	1(7.1%)	0	0.065
	Married	10(71.4%)	65(85.5%)	
	Separated	1(7.1%)	7(9.2%)	
	Widowed	2(14.3%)	4(5.3%)	
Employment	Unemployed	3(21.4%)	24(31.6%)	0.777
	Employed	2(14.3%)	8(10.5%)	
	Self employed	7(50%)	38(50%)	
	Retired	2(14.3%)	6(7.9%)	
Level of education	Informal	2(14.3%)	4(5.3%)	<b>0.038</b>
	Primary	2(14.3%)	24(31%)	
	Secondary	3(21.4%)	33(44%)	
	Tertiary	7(50%)	15(20%)	
Cigarette smoking	Yes	11(78.6%)	29(48.2%)	<b>0.008</b>
	No	3(21.4%)	47(61.8%)	
Alcohol consumption	Yes	8(57.1%)	33(43.4%)	0.343*
	No	6(42.9%)	43(56.6%)	
BMI	Underweight	3(21.4%)	5(6.8%)	<b>0.018</b>
	Normal	3(21.4%)	44(59%)	
	Overweight	8(57.1%)	21(28.4%)	
	Obese	0	7(9.5%)	

#### **4.7 Association between clinical characteristics and ADT treatment outcome among patient**

A test for association was conducted to determine association between clinical characteristics and treatment outcomes. The results found that platelet count,  $p < 0.001$ , Hb level,  $p < 0.001$ , duration of ADT,  $p = 0.029$ , Medical ADT  $= 0.047$  and PSA Post ADT,  $p < 0.001$ , were significantly associated with ADT treatment outcomes as shown in Table 4.11.

**Table 4.11: Univariate test for association between clinical characteristics and treatment outcomes**

Variables		Outcome		P- value
		CRPC	PFS	
Neutrophil count	Low	12(85.7%)	57(75%)	0.356
	Normal	1(7.1%)	16(21.1%)	
	High	1(7.1%)	3(3.9%)	
Baseline PSA	<10ng/dL	0	6(8%)	0.677
	10 - 20ng/dL	2(14.3%)	16(20%)	
	>20ng/dL	12(85.7%)	54(72%)	
Platelet count	Low	8(57.1%)	3(4.1%)	<0.001
	Normal	5(35.7%)	71(93%)	
	High	1(7.1%)	2(3%)	
HB level	Lower	13(92.9%)	17(22.4%)	<0.001
	Normal	1(7.1%)	55(72.4%)	
	High	0	4(5.3%)	
Tumor staging	T1a - T2a	2(14.3%)	6(8%)	0.34
	T2b - T2c	0	4(5.3%)	
	T3a	3(21.4%)	31(41.3%)	
	T3b - T4	9(64.3%)	34(45.3%)	
Grading	G1 -GLEASON 2-4	1(7.1%)	7(9.5%)	0.998
	G2-GLEASON 5-6	2(14.3%)	11(14.9%)	
	G3-GLEASON 7 -10	11(78.6%)	56(75.7%)	
First treatment	Medical ADT Only	7(50%)	26(34.2%)	0.306
	Orchiectomy	0	2(2.6%)	
	Radiotherapy with ADT	6(42.8%)	42(55.3%)	
	Prostatectomy with ADT	1(7.1%)	6(7.9%)	
Medical ADT	Goserilin Only	9(64.3%)	26(35%)	0.047*
	Goserilin and Bicalutamide	5(35.7%)	48(65%)	
Duration of ADT	<12 months	1(7.1%)	30(39.5%)	0.029
	>12 months	13(92.9%)	46(60.5%)	
Prostate Specific Antigen (Post ADT)	<10ng/dL	2(14.3%)	48(65%)	<0.001
	10 - 20ng/dL	3(21.4%)	10(13%)	
	>20ng/dL	9(64.3%)	18(22%)	

\* Chi square test

#### **4.8 Logistic regression analysis of factors associated with Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer and Progression Free Survival**

Age, cigarette smoking, Hb level, platelet count, medical ADT, duration of ADT and post ADT PSA had a significant association to ADT treatment outcomes. Younger patients (<70years) were 0.8 times less likely to become castrate resistant 95% CI [OR=0.81, 0.72 – 0.90]. Patients who smoke were 5.9 times more likely to become castrate resistant 95% CI [OR=5.9, 0.01 – 23.11]. Patients who took goserilin only as first ADT treatment were 6.5 times more likely to be castrate resistant, 95%CI [OR=6.518,1.671 – 25.42]. The results also found that patients who had less duration of ADT were 0.9 times less likely to become castrate resistant, 95% CI [OR=0.86,0.79 – 0.94]. Patients with lower Hb level were 1.5 times more likely to become castrate resistant, 95%CI [OR=1.5, 1.13 – 2.9] Patients who had lower platelet count were 16 times likely to become castrate resistant, 95% CI [ 3.87-67.14]. Patients who had lower post ADT mean prostate specific antigen were 0.29 times less likely to become castrate resistant 95% CI[OR=0.29,0.14-0.6]

A multivariate regression analysis was conducted to assess significant predictors of outcome on adjusted odds ratio. The results showed that, duration of ADT, hemoglobin level and average of PSA post ADT were significant predictors of ADT treatment outcome. Patients with lower duration of ADT were 0.8 times less likely to become castrate resistant, 95% CI [aOR=0.8, 0.65 – 0.98]. Patients with lower Hb level were 1.1 times more likely to become castrate resistant, 95%CI [aOR=1.1, 0.9– 3.2]. Patients who had lower post ADT mean prostate specific antigen were 0.21 times less likely to become castrate resistant 95% CI [aOR=0.21, 0.04– 0.98] as shown in Table 4.12.

**Table 4.12: Bivariate and multivariate logistic regression of factors associated with Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer and Progression Free Survival**

Variables	Bivariate analysis				Multivariate analysis			
	cOR	95% Confidence Interval		P-value	aOR	[95% Conf. Interval]		P-value
		Lower	Upper			Lower	Upper	
Age	0.8	0.72	0.90	<b>0.000</b>	0.2	0.01	2.05	0.16
Education	0.7	0.34	1.35	0.269				
Marital status	0.8	0.31	1.95	0.595				
Employment	0.8	0.44	1.43	0.436				
Alcohol use	1.7	0.55	5.50	0.347				
Cigarette smoking	5.9	1.53	23.11	<b>0.01</b>	8.1	0.54	121.61	0.131
BMI	1.1	0.51	2.31	0.828				
HB level	1.5	1.13	2.9	<b>0.000</b>	1.1	0.9	3.2	<b>0.026</b>
Baseline PSA	0.4	0.11	1.7	0.231				
Platelet count	16.1	3.87	67.14	<b>0.000</b>	0.42	0.017	10.35	0.597
Neutrophil level	1.3	0.41	4.33	0.633				
Tumor staging	0.9	0.44	1.68	0.658				
Grading	0.9	0.34	2.26	0.778				
First treatment	1.4	0.81	2.40	0.233				
Medical ADT	6.5	1.67	25.42	<b>0.007</b>	2.8	0.22	36.15	0.432
Duration of ADT	0.9	0.79	0.94	<b>0.001</b>	0.8	0.66	0.98	<b>0.028</b>
Prostate Specific Antigen (Post ADT)	0.3	0.14	0.6	<b>0.001</b>	0.2	0.04	0.98	<b>0.047</b>

Note: \_cons estimates baseline odds.

#### 4.9 Linear regression analysis of factors associated with overall survival

The linear regression results show that duration of ADT was a statistically significant predictor of survival among the patients. The findings show that an increase in one month of ADT is associated with 4.8 months increase in overall survival ( $p = 0.005$ ) as shown in Table 4.13.

**Table 4.13: Bivariate and multivariate linear regression of factors associated with overall survival**

	Bivariate analysis			Multivariate analysis		
	Unadjusted $\beta$ coefficient	(95%CI)	P-value	Adjusted $\beta$ coefficient	(95% CI)	P-value
Age	0.98	(-2.9, 4.8)	0.617			
Education	1.6	(-0.5,3.8)	0.138			
Marital status	0.4	(-3,3.8)	0.83			
Employment	-1	(-2.9, 0.9)	0.281			
Cigarette smoking	1.5	(-2.4,5.4)	0.44			
Alcohol use	1.8	(-2.4,5.4)	0.37			
BMI	0.14	(-0.34,0.61)	0.57			
HB level	-0.08	(-0.5,0.34)	0.7			
Platelet count	0.002	(-0.02,0.02)	0.834			
Baseline PSA	2.8	(-0.45,5.9)	0.091	1.7	(-1.4,4.9)	0.293
Neutrophil level	-0.9	(-4.5,2.6)	0.603			
Tumor staging	0.5	(-1.6,2.6)	0.643			
Grading	0.8	(-3.1,4.8)	0.612			
First Treatment	0.9	(-0.8,2.8)	0.289			
Medical ADT treatment	0.8	(-3.1,4.8)	0.682			
Duration of ADT	6	(2.2, 9.9)	<b>0.002</b>	4.8	(0.8, 8.9)	<b>0.019</b>
Post ADT PSA	2.7	(0.6,4.9)	<b>0.013</b>	1.5	(-0.8, 3.8)	0.198



## CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 5.1 Discussion

In this study investigating factors associated with ADT treatment outcomes, we enrolled 90 prostate cancer patients all of whom were on ADT. ADT was used together with radiotherapy or after prostatectomy. Hemoglobin level, duration of ADT and PSA post ADT levels were significantly associated with the treatment outcomes. Duration of ADT was also significantly associated with the overall survival.

Globally, the use of ADT has increased over the last decade (61). In Europe, it is reported that up to 43% of PCA patients are initiated on ADT while the data from the USA and Canada indicates a 34% and 29% prevalence of ADT use respectively (62). All the patients investigated were on ADT confirming that this is the mainstay of therapy for patients with locally advanced prostate cancer and metastatic prostate cancer (8,63). A similar Sub Saharan study investigated the predictors of PFS among PCA and confirmed that all patients were started on ADT (16).

TNM classification, biochemical recurrence, medical ADT, duration of ADT, PSA levels were some of clinical characteristics of the patients that were investigated in this study. These variables have been found to be associated with ADT response and survival of the PCA patients in other studies (16,64–66).

In assessment of the TNM classification, almost half of the cancer patients presented with T3b – T4. This concurs with Wasike *et al.* who in a descriptive study reported that most patients are diagnosed at stage III and stage IV of PCA (67). This is similar to other studies that have also indicated that most patients present for treatment at stage III or stage IV of PCA (63,71). Seventy six percent of the patients had grade 3 (Gleason score of 7-10). These findings are comparable to Ji *et al.* who found out that most patients were in grade 3 (69). Similarly, Hori *et al.* in assessing patient characteristics, found that 46% of the patients had grade score of 8-10 (65). This

confirms that patients with PCA are more likely to be diagnosed at the advanced stage of PCA (70).

PSA has been used a biological marker for hormonal refractory disease (69,71,72). BCR has been defined in different studies using variables to assess efficacy of treatment (73) and as a predictor of CRPC (74). The average time to biochemical recurrence for patients in this study was 7 months. Sureka *et al.* concluded that biochemical recurrence was 10 months for patients to develop CRPC (74). Ji *et al.* also found analogous results where the average time to biochemical recurrence was 8 months (69). According to Elishmereni *et al.* time to biochemical recurrence of 67 days was used as clinical outcome for ADT (75). In a study conducted in Japan, it was found that biochemical recurrence was not associated with progression to CRPC (76). This was observed in our study but it did not show any significant association.

Patients in this study were treated with combination of radiotherapy and medical ADT with 53 patients (60%) on goserelin and bicalutamide. This combination has been observed to reduce mortality and disease progression in patients (37,77,78). In the Mottet *et al.* study, patients who had combined androgen blockade (LHRH and flutamide) with RT had longer PFS time compared to ADT alone (79). Similarly the use of leuprolin and RT has been shown to reduce clinical progression to metastatic progression compared to leuprolin alone (79). Additional treatment of docetaxel, zoledronic acid and abiraterone was observed in our study. Docetaxel was used along with zoledronic acid as chemotherapeutic agent. Docetaxel has been recommended as the one of the main drugs to be used in metastatic prostate cancer (80) while abiraterone is recommended for hormonal refractory prostate cancer (81).

A Sub Saharan study of black men revealed different results. Out of the PCA newly diagnosed patients, majority (65%) opted for orchiectomy compared to 2% of the patients in our study (16).

In a similar study conducted in India, 80% of the patients opted for surgical castration quoting higher cost of medical ADT (82).

The mean duration of ADT in our study was a median of 24 months. The recommended duration for treating high-risk PCA patients is 18-36 months years (8,83). This period has been studied and it has shown improved survival of patients (84) but a clinical trial was done to show the efficacy of ADT reducing the treatment period from 36 months to 18 months (85).

Majority of the patients (73%) presented with high baseline PSA >20 ng/mL at the beginning of the treatment and low PSA after treatment (60%). This confirms that the use of ADT lowers PSA in PCA. In a study done in Japan, baseline PSA level was 27.0 ng/ml and after ADT treatment it reached below 0.2ng/ml (25 ). Hah *et al.* also suggested that combined androgen blockade reduces the PSA levels after treatment (87).

Baseline hemoglobin levels, post ADT duration and duration of ADT were found to be significantly associated with CRPC. Low hemoglobin (<12g/L) was significantly associated with CRPC. This correlated with the Bournakis *et al.* study that anemia was significantly associated with CRPC and poor overall survival (88). Lin *et al.* found no association between Hb level and CRPC (71).

Patients investigated in our study who presented with low PSA values (<10ng/mL) were less likely to progress to CRPC. These results concur with those from a Japanese study where it was revealed that patients with PSA  $\geq$ 20 ng/mL were associated with progression to CRPC (76). According to Hori *et al.* patients developed CRPC after a median follow up of 70 months. Predicting factors included high post ADT PSA values and shorter time to PSA nadir (65). Morote *et al.* analyzed 185 patients with prostate cancer and they found nadir PSA above 0.2 ng/ml was associated with 20 times likelihood progression to CRPC (89).

Patients who had ADT for less than 12 months were less likely to develop CRPC. There are no studies currently that clearly indicate the duration of ADT and the progression to CRPC. In the recent past, research has proven that ADT duration for PCA should be a minimum of 18 months (83,90). Rapid decline of PSA levels is observed on the first few months of ADT. The mechanisms to that effect have not been explained but there is a possibility of down regulation of PSA expression of androgen sensitive cells and over expression of androgen resistant cells (91). After 2-5 years, patients progress to hormonal refractory cancer (49,92) indicated by increasing serum levels of prostate specific antigen (PSA). This may be used as a probable explanation as to why a period of less than 12 months is less likely to be associated with CRPC.

Patients who progressed to CRPC (16%) were fewer than those who were at progression free survival state (84%). Time to CRPC was an average of seven months. This is comparable to studies that had patients who had hormonal refractory disease after receiving ADT treatment. According to Kwak *et al.* after a median follow up of 39 months, 117 patients (77.5%) had CRPC following hormonal therapy. In a retrospective study done in Japan, a total of 105 of the 387 patients enrolled progressed to CRPC after using combined androgen blockade in a median of 140 months (76).

Use of ADT has shown to improve overall survival in patients who have advanced prostate cancer. (84,85). A one month increase in the duration of ADT was found to be associated with 4.8 months increase in overall survival. This correlates with Souhami *et al.* where patients who had used ADT for 5 years had longer overall survival compared those who had ADT for less than five years (78). Bolla *et al.* also concluded that the overall survival improved with use of ADT in three years compared to six months in locally advanced prostate cancer patients (83). A different observation was made by Lu-Yao *et al.* where ADT was not associated with overall

survival of patients. Patients who had ADT were compared to those who had no ADT and there was no difference in overall survival in both groups (93). PSA nadir, radiotherapy and combined androgen blockade are variables in other studies that have prolonged survival in patients though in this study there was no significant association. Low PSA nadir  $<0.02\text{ng/mL}$  after ADT prolongs overall survival (91) while combined androgen blockade with RT improves overall survival in patients (79).

Strength of this was the ability to investigate the association different variables and treatment outcomes. Being a retrospective study, the major limitation encountered was the high number of incomplete medical records and patients defaulted treatment.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Medical androgen deprivation therapy is the treatment modality used for most prostate cancer patients at the KNH. Majority present at an advanced stage for treatment (stage III and stage IV). Combination of radiotherapy and ADT was also considered as part of the treatment for high-risk patients. A proportion of patients (16%) on ADT eventually progressed to hormonal refractory cancer. Hemoglobin levels, duration of ADT, PSA levels were associated with CRPC while duration of ADT was associated with overall survival. A one month increase in the duration of ADT was found to be associated with 4.8 months increase in overall survival.

## **5.3 Recommendations for policy and practice**

1. Create awareness and early screening of PCA by providing screening services at county levels, so as to manage PCA at earlier stages.
2. Combined androgen blockade should be considered for all patients starting ADT at an advanced stage of the cancer.

#### **5.4 Recommendations for research**

Further research is needed to assess outcomes of bilateral orchiectomy vs medical ADT so as to provide better treatment in PCA patients. The research can include the complications that arise due to ADT with the aim of improving patient's quality of life.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1. Data collection tool

Patient details (file number)

Study number.....

### SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

#### 1. AGE (in completed years)

#### 2. MARITAL STATUS

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE [0]  | <input type="checkbox"/> SEPARATED/DIVORCED [2] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED [1] | <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED [3]            |

#### 3 EMPLOYMENT

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> UNEMPLOYED [0]    | <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYED [2] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SELF EMPLOYED [1] | <input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED [3]  |

#### 4 LEVEL OF EDUCATION

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMAL [0] | <input type="checkbox"/> SECONDARY[2] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PRIMARY [1]  | <input type="checkbox"/> TERTIARY[3]  |

#### 5 CIGARETTE SMOKING

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO[0] | <input type="checkbox"/> YES[1] |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|

#### 6 ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NO [0] | <input type="checkbox"/> YES [1] |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|

#### 7 WEIGHT(KG)

#### 8 BMI(kg/m<sup>2</sup>)

**BASELINE LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS**

**9 NEUTROPHIL COUNT** .....

**10 HAEMOGLOBIN (g/dL)** .....

**11 PLATELET COUNT (cells/ $\mu$ L)** .....

**12 PROSTATE SPECIFIC ANTIGEN**

<10ng/dL[1]

10-20 ng/dL[2]

>20ng/dL[3]

**PATHOLOGICAL PROFILE**

**13 TUMOUR STAGING**

T1a-T2a[1]

T3a[3]

T2b-T2c[2]

T3b-T4[4]

**14 GRADING**

GX[0]

G2-GLEASON 5-6[2]

G1-GLEASON 2-4[1]

G3-GLEASON 7-10[3]

**15 LYMPH NODE**

NX[0]

NO[1]

N1[2]

**16 METASTASIS**

MX[0]

MO[1]

M1[2]

**PROSTATE CANCER MANAGEMENT**

**17 FIRST TREATMENT**

ORCHIDECTOMY

MEDICAL ADT

- GOSERELIN [1.1]
- BICALUTAMIDE [1.2]
- OTHER ADDITIONAL DRUGS[1.3]

PROSTATECTOMY WITH  
ADT

RADIOTHERAPY WITH  
ADT

**18 ADMINISTRATION OF ADT**

- NEOADJUVANT
- ADJUVANT
- CONCOMITANT WITH RT

**19 TIME TO BIOCHEMICAL RECCURENCE (MONTHS).....**

**20 SECOND TREATMENT**

- YES  NO

**21 RISK STRATIFICATION FOR SECOND TREATMENT**

- LOW RISK[1]  HIGH RISK [3]
- INTERMEDIATE RISK [2]  VERY HIGH RISK [4]

**22 ANDROGEN DEPRIVATION THERAPY**

- ORCHIDECTOMY [1]
- MEDICAL 2.]

- GOSERELIN [ 2.1]
- BICALUTAMIDE [2.2]

**23 DURATION OF ADT (MONTHS).....**

**24 PROSTATE SPECIFIC ANTIGEN (POST ADT)**

.....

- <10ng/dL[1]                       10-20 ng/dL[2]                       >20ng/dL[3]

**25 OUTCOME**

- CASTRATE RESISTANT PROSTATE CANCER [1]
- OVERALL SURVIVAL [2]
- PROGRESSION FREE SURVIVAL [3]