## Review



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# Is There an Optimal Curative Option in HIV-Positive Men with Localized Prostate Cancer? A Systematic Review

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## **Key Words**

HIV • Prostate cancer • Radical prostatectomy • Systematic review • Options

## Abstract

Aims: We aimed to compare the outcome of curative treatment options in localised Prostate Cancer (PCa) amongst HIV positive (HIV+) men. *Methods:* A systematic search of the Cochrane Library of Systematic Reviews, the Scopus and PubMed databases was performed (January 1995 to November 2015) using pre-determined search terms. Outcome measures for comparison included the rate of biochemical failure (BCF), survival benefit and complications. Results: A total of 14 eligible articles were identified for inclusion, representing a total of 202 HIV+ men with PCa. Radical Prostatectomy was performed in 40/153 compared to 109/153 patients undergoing alternative (non-surgical) treatments options. Only 3 studies compared outcomes within their respective study cohort. One study (n = 10) reported BCF results with 1/2 BCF patient in the surgical arm vs. 1/8 BCF positive patients in the non-surgical arm (mean 46 months follow-up), while two other studies reported no occurrences of BCF within both arms of their studies. **Conclusion:** Due to

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This article is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC-ND) (http://www.karger.com/Services/OpenAccessLicense). Usage and distribution for commercial purposes as well as any distribution of modified material requires written permission. paucity in the literature, there is insufficient evidence to support a certain treatment modality arm specifically for HIV+ men with localized PCa. An individualized management algorithm seems feasible within this cohort, until more definitive studies are performed.

#### Introduction

Due to the effective use of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) the natural progression of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) has been improved. The net effect of this scientific advancement resulted in HIV-positive (HIV+) patients having a longer life expectancy [1]. Traditionally, in the setting of HIV/AIDS, overwhelming infectious diseases limit patients' survival. The advances in HIV treatment have further resulted in non-AIDs defining cancers playing an increased role in the mortality of this "older" patient cohort [1–3].

When reviewing the cancer related mortality, prostate and lung malignancies are increased in HIV+ people when compared to non-infected populations [2, 3]. This

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may be due to HIV-infected men presenting at a relatively younger age, with more advanced disease stage when compared to the general population [4]. The hormonal effect of testosterone in the HIV-infected population due to hypogonadism may also play a role in the pathogenesis of this malignancy [5]. A trend has been noted that HIV+ men more frequently received radiation for the management of prostate cancer (PCa) and less frequently received surgery [2]. A recent review and meta-analysis have reviewed the outcomes of surgery versus radiotherapy for clinically localized PCa, and observed a higher mortality in the radiotherapy treatment arm [6].

Active treatment for PCa, including prostatectomy, has consistently been shown to provide a survival benefit in men with optimistic life expectancies [7]. Accordingly, as the lifespan of HIV+ patients has been progressively increasing, controversy exists in the optimal treatment option for HIV+ men with PCa. Thus, we aimed to perform a systematic review of the literature to assess whether the current evidence supports a specific treatment modality for localized PCa amongst HIV+ men. Specifically, we aimed to review the rate of biochemical failure (BCF), survival benefit and complications.

#### **Material and Methods**

#### Search Strategy

A systematic review was performed in accordance with Cochrane Collaboration and Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Guidelines [8]. Scientific literature databases (MEDLINE, Scopus and the Cochrane Library) were systematically searched in December 2015 using several keywords, including: ("prostate" or "prostate cancer" or "prostate neoplasm" or "prostate malignancy"), ("human immunodeficiency virus" or "HIV" or "acquired immunodeficiency disease" or "AIDS"), "prostatectomy", "radiotherapy", "active surveillance" and "treatment".

Both retrospective and prospective studies as well as clinical trials assessing the curative treatment for HIV+ patients with Pca were included in the current study. Articles involving non-curative, metastatic, or palliative treatment were excluded. The concept of active surveillance was considered as a "treatment" modality within the confines of this study. Journal article abstracts were screened for inclusion and suitability. Full-text papers were retrieved for all of the relevant articles. The study selection was independently performed by 2 reviewers (A.A., J.B.). Discrepancies in selection were solved by discussion, or group consensus.

Primary outcomes for the current study included BCF and prevalence of perioperative complications, including death. Heterogeneity in definitions of the PCa risk stratification methods and outcome measures of the included studies precluded meta-analytical assessment. Extracted data were collated in Excel 2007 (Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, CA).

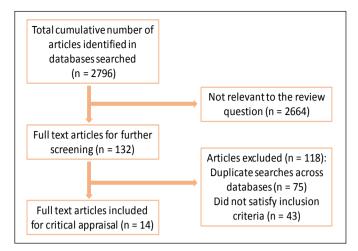


Fig. 1. Flow diagram outlining the study review process.

#### Quality Appraisal

Articles were quality assessed based on nine closed ended questions within the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) cohort study checklist [9]. This tool is a validated checklist that assesses 3 domains for each study: the validity of the results, the precision of the results and the usefulness of the results. The closed ended question of the relevant CASP checklist was utilized.

#### Results

#### Search Strategy

Using the systematic search strategy outlined, 2,796 articles were identified, of which 2,664 were not suitable for full-text review. Of the remaining 132, 75 were duplicate publications and 43 did not meet the inclusion criteria of the study (fig. 1). Thus, 14 relevant studies were included in this review. The relevant study inclusion categories, grade, and treatment modalities utilized and subsequent outcomes are summarized in table 1 (demographic data) and table 2 (outcome stratification).

This review, represented a total of 153 individual patients, since an additional 49 patients from Riedel et al. [4] could not be included in table 2 due to a paucity of treatment details. A total of 2 studies evaluating 13 men, assessed the surgical outcome. A further 6 studies assessed the non-surgical modalities, assessing 48 men in total. Five studies involved both surgical and non-surgical management and included 92 patients.

## Quality Appraisal Results

Each relevant study was scored using the CASP cohort study checklist [9]. Scoring was performed by 2 evaluators (A.A., J.B.) and any discrepancies were resolved by

Author	Country	п	Race	Age	Mean CD4 cells/ml	Vıral Ioad copies/ml	HAKKI, n	PSA at diagnosis ng/mls	Gleason score	ore	T stage		Risk categories
Ong et al. [10]	Victoria, Australia	12	SN	62.7	559.4	8/12 UD <sub>20</sub> 4/12 26– <sup>5</sup> 6,200	12	mean (11.1)		4 <b></b> ω <b>-</b> - ω	T1c T2a T2b T4	0 0 0 0	D'Amico L H
Riedel et al. [4]	Baltimore, UK	49	mixed 45 AA 4 CA	60.7	391	37/49 ≤ 400 8/49 > 400	47	mean (82) MD (7.7)	mean median range	7 7 5-10	T1 T2 T4	20 14 5	SN
Murphy et al. [11]	Chicago, US	43	mixed 15 AA 24 CA 4 UN	59.2	459.5 (MD)	37/43 < 500 6/43 > 500	41	MD (5.9)	NS		T1 T2a T2b T3c T3a T3b	122 $0$ $0$ $12$ $12$ $12$ $12$ $12$ $12$ $12$ $12$	NCCN L H M
Schreiber et al. [12]	Brooklyn, US	15	mixed 12 AA 1 CA 2 HI	65	464.2	11/15 UDU 4/15 90–70,276	13	< 10 (11) 10.1 to 20 (3) > 20 (1)	2 to 6 7 8 to 10	ю <i>ч</i> и	T1c T2a T2b T3b	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	D'Amico L H
Kahn et al. [13]	Atlanta, US	13	mixed	55	412.5	5/13 UDU 8/13 418–20,718	6	< 10 (11) 10 to 20 (2) > 20 (0)	L > L <	- 0 0	T1c T2a T2c	10 - 10	NS
Silberstein et al. [14]	San Diego, US	×	5 AA 3 CA	54.5	634	8/8 UD <sub>50</sub>	×	mean (6) MD (5.6)	9 8  \   \   \   \   \   \   \	0 0 0 5	T1b-c T2a-c T3a-b	с v v	D'Amico L H
Wosnitzer et al. [15]	New York, US New York, US	4 ω	NS NS	53 NS	543 437	138 255	0 m	mean (7.9) mean (8)	NS NS	NS NS	T1c T1c T7a	40-	NS NS
	New York, US	4	NS	SN	1417	12.5	2	mean (10)	NS	NS	T1c T2b	- co	NS
Ng et al. [16]	New York, US	14	NS	61	523	9/14 UDU 5/14 1,600–27,000	=	mean (14.3)	Г > Г <	8 S -	T1c T2b T2c	0 V V	NS
Pantanowitz et al. [5]	Burlington, Chicago, Boston, Seattle, US	16	3 AA 8 CA 2 HI 1 HA 2 UN	59	336	17319	14	mean (30)	mean	6.8	T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	C C 4	NS
Walters et al. [17]	London, UK	-	NS	59	300	$\mathrm{UD}_{\mathrm{50}}$	1	mean (7.9)	4+3	-	T2	-	NS
Huang et al. [18]	New York, US	S	NS	52	617.4	3/5 UD <sub>50</sub> 2/5 3,600–18,700	e	mean (11.26)	3 + 3 + 4 4 + 2	14	T1c T2a	m 0	NS
O'Connor et al. [19]	New Orleans, US	ŝ	2 AA 1 CA	55.3	331	2/3 400–37,000 1/3 NS	б	mean (5.1)	6 7	2	T1c T2a	- 6	NS
Quatan et al. [20]	London, UK	7	NS	61	420.5	1/2 1242 1/2 NS	7	mean (2,821.3)	3 + 2 NS	1 NS	NS T4		NS
Levinson et al. [21]	New York, US	10	6 AA 2 CA 2 HI	54	417	$\mathrm{UD}_{s_0}$	6	mean (9.2)	5 6	0 0 7	T1c T2a T2b	- 0 -	NS

Table 1. Tabulation of the demographic constituents of the relevant studies assessed

Table 2. The outcomes within the studies reviewed

Author	Palliative treatment/ non-localized disease	Curative tr RP	Curative treatment modality used RP Non-RP	Mean follow-up Total	dn-woll	BCF RP positive	Outcome BCF Non-RP positive	ne RP	Non-RP
Ong et al. [10]	1 WW 1 metastatic	2 RP	1 BT 5 EBRT 1 AS 1 EBRT & ADT	12	46	1/2	1/8	2/2 RP clear surgical mar- gins 1/2 RP, put on salvage FBRT	1/5 curative EBRT pts developed BCF (based on phoenix definition). Three deaths reported, none of which were PCa-related deaths
Riedel et al. [4]	S	SZ	SN	NS	32.4	S	Š	By the end of the study period, 13 (27%) patients had died (8 patients [16%] of the cancer they had). Cumulative 5-year mor- tality was 22%, whereas CSS was 74% at 5 years. Mortality was higher in patients with stage III–IV disease compared with that in patients with stage I-II disease	
Schreiber et al. [12]	o	0	10 EBRT & ADT 5 EBRT	5	52.67	o	2/15	- conservation	2 BCF (28 and 63 months). 0/2 had evidence of metastatic disease. BCF negative (5-year) 92.3%. Acute GU toxicity: 4 Grade 1, 4 Grade 2, 1 Grade 3. Late GU toxicity: 2 Grade 2, 1 Grade 3. Acute GI toxicity: 1 Grade 2.
Kahn et al. [13]	0	0	1 EBRT & ADT 12 EBRT	<u>8</u>	6	0	2/13		4-year BCF -ve survival rate = 87% in the HIV+ group elevated pre- and post-BBRT VL were found to be significant risk factors for BCF. Acute GU toxicity: 3 Grade 1, 4 Grade 2 Late GU toxicity: 4 Grade 1, 1 Grade 3 Acute GI toxicity: 2 Grade 1, 5 Grade 1 HIV positivity and the use of intensity-modu- lated radiation threapy were found to be pro- lated tradiation threapy were found to be pro- tective of acute GU toxicity:
Silberstein et al. [14]	0	8 RALP	0	×	5.6	0	0	8/8 pts had negative mar- gins. No significant dif- ferences in the prevalence of overall, low-grade, or high-grade complications between H1V	
Wosnitzer et al. [15]	0	4 3 RP 1 MIRP 0 0	0 3 ERBT 4 BT	4 ω 4	18.5 (MD) 60 75	0 0 NS	0 0 NS	All patients achieved unde- tectable serum PSA levels; no recurrence	All patients had stable post EBRT PSA levels; no recurrence. No major complications. Post BT: 2/4 serum PSA of < 0.1 mg/ml 1/4 host as table PSA level of 3.56 mg/ml 1/4 host to follow-un no recurrences
Ng et al. [16]	o	0	4 BT 8 ERBT & BT 2 EBRT (± ADT)	14	26	o	1/14		13/14 pts PSA decline to 1.1 ng/ml or below. 1/14 PSA elevation and suspicious bone le- sion Acute GU toxicity: 6 Grade 2 Late GU toxicity: 2 Grade 2

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	ramative treatment	Curative tre RP	Curative treatment modality used RP Non-RP	Mean follow-up Total	dn-woll	BCF RP positive	BCF Non-RP positive	ne RP	Non-RP
									Acute GI toxicity: 6 Grade 2 Late GI toxicity: 2 Grade 2 7/14 teported ED
Pantanowitz ] et al. [5]	_	с С	7 ADT & EBRT 2 ADT 3 BT	16	NS	0	0	Complete response in all patients treated. Undetect- able PSA and the absence of tumour recurrence.	Hot flushes reported in four men after hor- monal therapy.
Walters et al. ( [17]	0	0	1 ADT	1	34	0	0		Patient was initially managed conservatively. The PSA rose to 24 ng/ml over the next 6 months. Therefore, he was commenced on bi- calutamide in July 2005, resulting in a fall in his PSA to 0.46 ng/ml.
Huang et al. ( [18]	0	S	o	Ś	26	0	0	1/5 positive lymph node and extracapsular extension 0/5 BCF at follow-up. 2/5 Wound infections	
O'Connor et ( al. [19]	0	0	2 EBRT 1 EBRT & ADT	ю	1	0	0		Limited follow-up duration. 3/3 experienced PSA decline at 1 month
Quatan et al. ] [20]	_	0	1 EBRT & ADT	1	36	0	0		In the patient with localized disease the PSA remained stable at 1.1 ng/ml, patient had CVA.
J	0	0	0	1	NS				One patient had metastatic disease at presen- tation.
Levinson et al. [21]		1 MIRP	1 CRY 1 ADT 3 EBRT 1 BT 2 WW 2 WW	10	27.6	0	0	0/1 BCF at follow-up	1/1 gynecomastia due to ADT

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	Question	Ong et Ric al. [11] al.	Riedel et al. [4]	Murphy et al. [11]	Schreiber et al. [12]	Kahn et al. [13]	Silberstein et al. [14]	Wosnitzer et al. [15]	Ng et al. [16]	Pantanowitz et al. [5]	Walters et al. [17]	Huang et al. [18]	O'Connor et al. [19]	Quatan et al. [20]	Levinson et al. [21]
	Did the study address a clearly focused issue?	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	z	Y	Y	Y	۲	Y	Y	z
	Was the cohort recruited in an acceptable way?	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	z	Y	Y	Y	Υ	Y	z	z
	Was the exposure accurately measured to minimize bias?	Y	Y	Y	Y		z	z	Y	z	z	Y	z	z	z
	Was the outcome accurately measured to minimize bias?	¥	Y	Y	Y	1	1	z	z	z	z	Z	Z	Z	z
B	Have the authors listed all confounding factors?	Υ	Y	Y	Y	z	z	z	Y	Y	z	Υ	Y	z	z
<b>P</b>	5b Have the authors taken account of all the con- founding factors?	z	z	z	z		z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z	z
æ	Was the follow-up complete enough?	Y	Y	Y	Y		z	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	z	z	Y
9	Was the follow-up long enough*?	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Z	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Υ
	Do you believe the results?	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	Can the results be applied to a local population?	z	z	z	z		Z	z	Z	z	z	Z	z	z	z
	Do the results of the study fit with other avail- able evidence?	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

# HIV-Positive Men with Localized Prostate Cancer

Table 2. The outcomes within the studies reviewed

consensus. For ease of reference, results of the quality appraisal have been tabulated (table 3).

## Patient Demographics and HIV/AIDS Status

Of the included 14 studies, the respective mean ages of the cohort ranged between 52 and 65 years. Regarding the patient's HIV/AIDS status, mean CD4 count of the included studies ranged between 300 and 1,417 cells/ml. Of the included 202 patients, the proportion of patients actively receiving HAART was 89.1%. Mean duration of HAART was poorly reported across all studies. These findings are summarized in table 1.

# PCa Characteristics

Of the included studies, mean serum prostate-specific antigen ranged between 5.1 and 82 ng/ml. PCa risk stratification was heterogeneous and poorly reported across the studies, with several publications utilizing the National Comprehensive Cancer Network risk tool [11] or D'Amico scoring system [10, 12, 14].

Including the demographic data from Riedel et al. [4], of the 202 patients, histopathologically, a vast majority represented pT1 disease (54.5%) with the remainder pT2 (30.2%), pT3 (7.9%), pT4 (4.0%) or unknown (3.4%). Of the included patients, tumors were characterized as Gleason < 7 in 17.3%, Gleason 7 in 17.8%, Gleason > 7 in 5.4% and unknown in 59.9%. These findings are summarized in table 1.

# PCa Treatment and Oncological Outcomes

Regarding treatment, 40/153 underwent radical prostatectomy with curative attempt. Studies reported this as being performed as robotic-assisted laparoscopic prostatectomy (RALP), minimally-invasive radical prostatectomy or otherwise unspecified. The remainder of the patients received either external beam radiotherapy, brachytherapy or active surveillance.

Mean follow-up ranged 1–90 months post-operatively. During this follow-up period, 7 patients experienced BCF. Of these 1/40 was from the prostatectomy group and 6/109 were from patients that underwent other forms of curative treatment for PCa. A lack of comparative series precluded the calculation of pooled hazards ratios.

# Discussion

Recent therapeutic advancements in the management of HIV/AIDs has resulted in a significant improvement in life expectancy in these patients. As a result of less toxic antiretroviral drugs, improved adherence and management of comorbid disease, it is thought that previously described prognostic models and life expectancy estimates for HIV+ patients should be revised [22]. Accordingly, treatment of relatively indolent cancers, such as low and intermediate risk PCa are becoming more relevant. In addition, the increased use of prebiopsy multiparametric magnetic resonance imaging is resulting in more clinically relevant PCa in newly diagnosed patients [23, 24] and thus possibly more HIV+ patients requiring intervention. Our systematic review has highlighted the fact that such patients may exhibit acceptable oncological outcomes when treated with curative measures.

Traditionally, curative treatment for PCa is reserved for patient with a life expectancy of greater than 10 years [25]. The rapid improvement in HAART has improved the life expectancy of HIV+ patients, to the point where they may be considered for curative treatment for PCa. Indeed, the current review identified that of the treated patients, a majority were clinically low-to-intermediate risk. Specifically, of the reporting studies, patients were predominantly D'Amico or NCCN low or intermediate risk. Similarly, a majority of the patients were clinically stage T1. Such patient demographics highlight the nature of early intervention for HIV-infected patients with concurrent PCa.

The incidence of PCa is increasing globally and there is increased PCa mortality in all but the higher resource countries [26, 27]. With this fact in mind it is important to critically assess the available treatment options available for localized PCa in the growing number of HIV-infected men with PCa. Our study has highlighted that, while there is limited data to date, surgical and non-surgical treatment of PCa in this cohort results in acceptable oncological outcomes. This empiric data does not deter the surgical option in this select cohort of patients, as short-term data have not shown a significant difference in outcome based on HIV status. The data, although not reaching statistical significance, does seem to suggest a lower rate of radical prostatectomies being performed in the HIV+ population. The paucity of available evidence also suggests the dire need for further research into this population subgroup, which will increase in number and significance due to the efficacy of HAART therapy.

The differences in the management of PCa in HIV+ infected men when compared to HIV- men may indicate treatment disparities, although some studies have shown most HIV+ men were in fact treated in accordance with guidelines[11]. Some factors that may influence the decision to perform prostatectomy may include risk to the surgical team and risk of operative complications. Furthermore, it is known that PCa decision aids may shift patients' preference from prostatectomy to radiotherapy [28]. Despite the low risk of HIV transmission with needle stick injuries (< 0.09%) [29], it remains a concern for the treating clinicians. Some studies have suggested that RALP may limit the surgical teams exposure to blood and needle stick injury [18, 21]. It has also been shown that RALP has comparable oncological outcomes when compared to open surgery [30].

Silberstein et al. [14] found that HIV-infected individuals had a higher rate of peri-operative transfusion and ileus/small bowel obstruction, but had similar oncological outcomes and other peri-operative complications when compared to non-infected patients. Careful patient selection and assessment is suggested for this patient group including CD4+ counts, viral load, albumin levels, and clinical HIV staging [18]. Furthermore, focal therapy of PCa may be beneficial in this population of patients given the potential increased risk of more invasive treatment modalities, as it may be associated with reduced morbidity [24].

Patient anxiety based on the severity grade of the underlying cancer has been proven to increase in men with more severe PCa [31], however, the impact of concurrent HIV infection within this cohort corrected for grade, has not yet been specifically explored.

Our literature review does not support or refute the surgical treatment of localized PCa within HIV+ men. This is further confounded by the ongoing debate in the literature regarding the best practice in the treatment of high risk PCa in HIV- men [32]. However, an individual-ized treatment approach seems logical, with the follow-

ing factors and risks taken into consideration; the CD4 count, viral load, presence of AIDS defining disease, cancer factors and histological subtype, patient comorbid status, patient life expectancy, the surgeon experience and hazardous risk exposure and the availability of (equally effective) alternative therapeutic options. With the improvements in HAART, urologists may find themselves managing HIV+ patients with concurrent PCa more frequently. Further advances in the management of PCa, such as focal therapies [33], may further add to the armamentarium of treating clinicians within the near future.

#### Conclusion

The current available data reviewed does not support or discourage a particular treatment arm in localized PCa amongst HIV+ men, thus an optimal treatment modality can not be supported within this cohort of patients. Until better more defining studies are published, an individualized approach seems logical.

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