Supplementary Online Content

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This supplementary material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eMethods 1. Trial search strategy from PubMed

The search strategy was performed for the period 1993-June 2013 using PubMed (see below), the Cochrane library, hand and internet searching of review articles, meeting proceedings (the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), the European CanCer Organisation (ECCO), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO), the European Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), The European association of nuclear medicine (EANM), the European Association of Urology (EAU), the American Urological Association (AUA)), and one trials' register (clinicaltrials.gov with such terms: Type of Cancer: "Prostate cancer"; Type of Trial: "Treatment"; Drug: "Radiopharmaceutical", "radio-isotope", "strontium", "samarium", "radium"," rhenium").

Key search PubMed terms included: "prostate cancer", "castration-resistant prostate cancer", "hormone-refractory prostate cancer", "bone metastasis", "radiopharmaceuticals", "radioisotopes", "samarium", "strontium", "radium-223", "rhenium", "randomized" in Title and/or in Abstract.

Trialists have been asked to review. Differences between investigators were resolved through consensus.

eMethods 2. Statistical methods

Evaluation of the between-trial heterogeneity

The between trials heterogeneity of the treatment effect was tested by Q-Cochran¹, quantified by I^2 index² considered as small: <30%, moderate: 30-60% and substantial:>60%³ and the between-study variance (tau²) estimated by a random effect model (RE)⁴. In presence of significant heterogeneity (p<0.10), any trials with a 95% CI that did not overlap with that of the overall treatment effect were excluded in a sensitivity analysis. If heterogeneity was still significant, we used a RE model.

Subgroup analyses

To estimate the interaction between treatment effect and patients' subgroups (age, performance status, serum prostatic specific antigen, hemoglobin level, alkaline phosphatase level and number of bone metastases at baseline), we used the pooling of within trial covariate interaction (PWT)⁵. The PWT's approach consists firstly in estimating the interaction term between treatment effect and a patient subgroup within each trial, separately, by a Cox model. We also estimate the treatment effect for each category of the patient subgroup. Secondly, the treatment-covariate interaction effects are then pooled using the inverse-variance meta-analysis. The treatment effects of a category of a patient subgroup are also pooled. If between-trial heterogeneity of treatment-covariate interaction was observed (p<0.10) then the overall interaction was also estimated by a random approach (DerSimonian and Laird approach)⁴. If the treatment-covariate interaction remains significant by using a random approach (p<0.10) then the result of the subgroup analysis is reported through a forest plot. We then reported both the treatment effect in each category and the interaction term for each trial, and the overall treatment-covariate interaction. Some sensitivity analyses may be performed by excluding some trials in order to have homogeneous treatment effect in each category of the subgroup analysis.

Continuous covariates were categorized into 2 classes based on the median which was estimated from individual patient data of all trials (including the 2 trials for which individual patient data was not available for the different endpoints).

eMethods 3. Unplanned sensitivity analysis

Although all data comparing RI versus no RI arms (ratio 1:1) from the 2x2 randomized TRAPEZE trial were considered, i.e. including patients treated or not by zoledronic acid (ZA) because there is no known interaction between Sr-89 and ZA (p=0.40), we performed, as suggested by a reviewer, an unplanned sensitivity analysis including only no-ZA patients from TRAPEZE trial in the meta-analysis. Considering the high impact of this trial (one of the two largest trials) and the possible marginal effect of ZA it might be useful to examine whether this may affect the final conclusions. The only major change was the significant overall benefit of RI on SSE with an overall treatment effect of 0.74 95% CI [0.62-0.88] ($p_{heterogeneity}=0.29$, $I^2=20\%$) (RE HR= 0.74, 95%CI [0.60-0.91]). This is explained by a larger effect size of TRAPEZE trial on SSE moving from 0.95 95% CI [0.78-1.16] to 0.90 [0.69-1.18] after excluding ZA-patients.

eMethods 4. Unplanned post hoc analysis

This analysis showed that RI was associated with a significant OS benefit compared with no RI (FE: HR=0.91, 95% CI [0.83,1.00]; p=0.05) but with a significant (p<0.001) and substantial (I²=81%) heterogeneity between trials. A random effect (RE) model showed no significant treatment effect (HR=0.86 95% CI [0.67;1.10], p=0.24, (tau²=0.08)). For the sensitivity analysis (excluding two trials^{25,27}), fixed effect (FE) HR was 0.89 (95% CI [0.80;0.98], p=0.02) (I²=73%) (RE HR=0.88, 95% CI [0.70;1.10], p=0.26 (tau²=0.04)). In α -emitter subset, RI was associated with a significant OS benefit compared with no RI (FE: HR=0.85, 95% CI [0.74;0.98], p=0.026) but with a significant (p<0.001) and substantial (I²=86%) heterogeneity. RE yields an HR=0.82 (95% CI [0.53;1.25], p=0.35).

eMethods 5. Unplanned sensitivity analysis

As suggested by a reviewer, we examined whether summary statistics extracted from published data of the three trials (See eReferences¹²⁻¹⁴) excluded due to the non-availability of individual patient data (no response to exchange or no possibility to access to the data) may have cause a availability bias and thus affect the conclusions (unplanned analysis). From these three trials all belong to β -emitter subset, only two HRs (HR=1.00, n=162 and 1.34, n=131) for OS could be estimated without precision from medians and assuming an exponential distribution. Regarding these point estimates higher or equal to the null value of 1, their combination in the current meta-analysis assuming a range of precision associated to these point estimates does not change the overall HR toward the null value and thus does not change the findings of non-significant difference between RI and no RI both for overall and in β -emitter subset.

Trial	Nb. of patients	Inclusion period	Arm without RI	Arm with RI	Description of RI	Trial design	Cross over
			Strontium-89 g	groups			
EORTC 309216	203	1993-2000	Local ERT: usual radiotherapy regimen used at the study centre	Sr-89: 150 MBq (4mCi)	Single dose	Phase III	No
MDA 1996 ⁷	72*	1996-1999	Doxorubicine 8020 mg/m2 once a week x 6 weeks	Sr-89:2.035 MBq/kg + doxorubicine	Single dose	Randomized phase II	No
Norway 1997 ⁸	64	1997-2000	Local ERT: 3 Gy/fraction in 10 fractions or 8 Gy in one fraction. +Placebo	Sr-89:150 MBq at J1 of ERT + local ERT	Single dose	Phase III	No
TRAPEZE ⁹	757	2005-2012	2 groups: A: Docetaxel 75mg/m²/3w+prednisolone 10mg od (ST**). B: ST+ zoledronic Acid 4 mg (Cycle 1-10)	2 groups C: ST+ Sr-89 150 MBq D: ST+ Zoledronic Acid 4 mg +Sr-89 150 MBq (Cycle 1-10)	Single dose day 28 cycle 6	Phase III	No
			Radium-223 g	roups			
Bayer 15280 ¹⁰	64	2004-2005	SOC***	Ra-223: 50 kBq/kg/4weeks	4 IV administrations	Randomized phase II	No
ALSYMPCA 11 \$	921	2008-2011	Placebo	Ra-223:50 kBq/kg/4weeks	6 IV administrations	Phase III	Yes

eTable 1. Description of the 6 randomized clinical trials included for the meta-analysis

ERT: external radiotherapy for bone metastases; Gy: Gray; MBq: Megabecquerel; od: once day; RI: radio-isotopes; Ra: radium, Sr: strontium, NA: Not available ; *: responders or stable after induction chemotherapy (maintenance treatment); ** ST: standard treatment, trial with a 2x2 design, the second randomization was zoledronic acid yes/no. ^{\$} Randomization 1:2 ***SOC: Standard Of Care

EORTC= European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, MDA= M D Anderson Cancer Center, TRAPEZE= Taxane RAdioisotoPE ZolEdronic acid, ALSYMPCA= ALpharadin in SYMptomatic Prostate CAncer patients

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Study	Type of RI	Type of radiation emitted from RI	Type of comparison	CT in both arms	RT in both arms	Cross-over
EORTC 30921 ⁶	Sr-89	β	RI vs ERT	No	No	No
MDA 1996 ¹⁰ **	Sr-89	β	RI + CT vs CT	Yes	No	No
Norway 1997 ⁸	Sr-89	β	RI + local ERT vs ERT	No	Yes	No
TRAPEZE ⁹	Sr -89	β	RI + CT vs CT	Yes	No	No
Bayer 15280 ¹⁰	Ra-223	α	RI vs SOC***	No	No	No
ALSYMPCA 11	Ra-233	α	RI vs Placebo	No	No	Yes

eTable 2. Distribution of the potenti	al confounding factors	in the eligible trials
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Ra: radium, Sr: Strontium, RI: radio-isotope, ERT: external radiotherapy, CT: chemotherapy, ** responders or stable after induction chemotherapy, β: beta emitted radiation from RI, α: alpha emitted radiation from RI, *** SOC: Standard Of Care see eTable 1 for other abbreviations

Characteristics ⁺	EORTC30921 ⁶ (n=203) (6·8%)	MDA 1996 ⁷ (n=72) (3·5%)	Norway 1997 ⁸ (n=64) (3:1%)	Bayer 15280 ¹⁰ (n=64) (3·1%)	TRAPEZE ⁹ (n=757) (36·4%)	ALSYMPCA ¹¹ (n=921) (44·3%)	Overall (n=2081) (100%)
Age (years) Median [IQR] <70 ≥70 missing	70·0 [65·0-75·0] 88 (43·4) 115 (56·6)	67·0[60·2- 70·9] 47 (65·3) 25 (34·7)	70·9[63·8-75·9] 30 (46·9) 34 (53·1)	72·5[68·0- 78·0] 23 (35·9) 41 (64·1)	68·9 [63·9-73·4] 415 (54·8) 342 (45·2)	71·0 [64·0-76·0] 395 (42·9) 526 (57·1)	70·0[64·0-75·0] 998 (48·0) 1083(52·0)
Performance status 0,1 ≥2 missing	122 (60·4) 80 (39·6) 1	65 (90·3) 7 (9·7)	39 (60·9) 25 (39·1)	53 (82·8) 11 (17·2)	694 (91·7) 63 (8·3)	801 (87·2) 118 (12·8) 2	1774 (85·4) 304 (14·6) 3
Serum PSA <143 ≥143 missing	110 (56·1) 86 (43·9) 7	48 (66·7) 24 (33·3)	36 (56·2) 28 (43·8)	29 (45·3) 35 (54·7)	362 (49∙6) 368 (50∙4) 27	433 (47∙6) 477 (52∙4) 11	1018 (50∙0) 1018 (50∙0) 45
Hemoglobin <12·4 ≥12·4 missing	102 (52·8) 91 (47·2) 10	22 (30·6) 50 (69·4)	26 (40·6) 38 (59·4)	24 (37·5) 40 (62·5)	360 (48·1) 388 (51·9) 9	498 (54·1) 423 (45·9)	1032 (50∙0) 1030 (50∙0) 19
Alkaline Phosphatases <248·5 ≥248·5 missing	83 (43·0) 110 (57·0) 10	44 (61·1) 28 (38·9)	11 (17·2) 53 (82·8)	31 (48·4) 33 (51·6)	341 (46∙0) 401 (54∙0) 15	518 (56·2) 403 (43·8)	1028 (50∙0) 1028 (50∙0) 25
Number of bone metastases** ≤6 >6 missing	65 (32·8) 133 (67·2) 5	15 (20∙8) 57 (79∙2)	9 (14·1) 55 (85·9)	19 (29·7) 45 (70·3)	NA	138 (15∙0) 779 (85∙0) 4	246 (18·7) 1069 (81·3) 9
Median follow-up (min- max) (months)	62·7 (1·8-62·7)	$ \begin{array}{c} 22 \cdot 3 \\ 32 \cdot 3) \\ 41 (56 \cdot 0) \end{array} $	NE (2·6,188·1)	$ \begin{array}{c} 12.1 & (0.5-\\ 25.6) \\ 50.(78.1) \end{array} $	39·2 (0·4-75·1)	10·0 (0·4-36·6)	26·7 (0·4- 188·1) 1405 (71·8)
Number of symptomatic skeletal events Spinal cord compression	NA	NA	20 (31·3) 4 (6·3) 0	5 (7·8) 2 (3·1)	58 (7·7) 25 (3·3)	23 (2·5) 34 (3·7)	90 (5·0) 61 (3·4)

eTable 3. Patient characteristics, median follow-up, and number of events by trial and overall

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Pathologic bone fracture	0	0	1 (0·1)	2 (0·2)	3 (0·2)
Surgical intervention	16 (25·0)	26 (40·6)	312 (41·2)	259 (28·1)	613 (33·9)
External radiatherapy					

External radiotherapy⁺

NA= not available, NE=Not estimable,⁺ Continuous characteristics will be divided into 2 classes using the median ** For the Bayer152850 ¹⁰ and ALSYMPCA¹¹ trials, superscan was considered as higher than 6 bone metastases. For TRAPEZE trial⁹, NA means that the number of bone metastases at baseline was not collected /available in this trial

⁺ This category contains both external beam radiotherapy and use of radioisotope for TRAPEZE trial⁹

see eTable 1 for other abbreviations

Characteristics [‡]	EORTC: (n=2 (6·8	30921 ⁶ 03) %)	MDA (n= (3·{	1996 ⁷ :72) 5%)	Norway (n= (3·1	y 1997 ⁸ 64) I <i>%</i>)	Bayer (n= (3·	15280 ¹⁰ :64) 1%)	TRAF (n=) (36-	PEZE ⁹ 757) 4%)	ALSYI (n=9 (44)	ИРСА ⁹ 921) 3%)	Ove (n=2 (10	erall 2081) 0%)
	RI (n=101)	no RI (n=102)	RI (n=36)	no RI (n=36)	RI (n=30)	no RI (n=34)	RI (n=33)	no RI (n=31)	RI (n=378)	no RI (n=379)	RI (n=614)	no RI (n=307)	RI (n=1192)	no RI (n=889)
Age (years) Median [IQR] <70 ≥70	70 [66-77] 43 (42·6) 58 (57·4)	70 [65-75] 45 (44·1) 57 (55·9)	67·0 [59·0-71·6] 24 (66·7) 12 (33·3)	67·1 [61·9-70·7] 23 (63·9) 13 (36·1)	70·7 [65·5-73·6] 14 (46·7) 16 (53·3)	71·7 [62·5-76·3] 16 (47·1) 18 (52·9)	73·0 [68·0-79·0] 11 (33·3) 22 (66·7)	72·0 [67·0-78·0] 12 (38·7) 19 (61·3)	68·6 [63·2-73·1] 209 (55·3) 169 (44·7)	68·9 [64·3-73·8] 206 (54·4) 173 (45·6)	71·0 [64·0-76·0] 263 (42·8) 351 (57·2)	71·0 [65·0-77·0] 132 (43·0) 175 (57·0)	NE NE 564 (47·3) 628 (52·7)	NE NE 434 (48·8) 455 (51·2)
Performance status 0,1 ≥2 missing	67 (66·3) 34 (33·7)	55 (54∙5) 46 (45∙5) 1	35 (97·2) 1 (2·8)	30 (83·3) 6 (16·7)	20 (66·7) 10 (33·3)	19 (55·9) 15 (44·1)	27 (81·8) 6 (18·2)	26 (83·9) 5 (16·1)	346 (91·5) 32 (8·5)	348 (91·8) 31 (8·2)	536 (87·4) 77 (12·6) 1	265 (86∙6) 41 (13∙4) 1	1031 (86·6) 160 (13·4) 1	743 (83·8) 144 (16·2) 2
Serum PSA <143 ≥143 missing	48 (49∙0) 50 (51∙0) 3	62 (63·3) 36 (36·7) 4	23 (63·9) 13 (36·1)	25 (69·4) 11 (30·6)	15 (50∙0) 15 (50∙0)	21 (61·8) 13 (38·2)	15 (45·5) 18 (54·5)	14 (45·2) 17 (54·8)	180 (49∙5) 184 (50∙5) 14	182 (49·7) 184 (50·3) 13	298 (49·3) 307 (50·7) 9	135 (44·3) 170 (55·7) 2	579 (49·7) 587 (50·3) 26	439 (50∙5) 431 (49∙5) 19
Hemoglobin <12·4 ≥12·4 missing	46 (47·9) 50 (52·1) 5	56 (57·7) 41 (42·3) 5	8 (22·2) 28 (77·8)	14 (38·9) 22 (61·1)	15 (50∙0) 15 (50∙0)	11 (32·3) 23 (67·7)	12 (36·4) 21 (63·6)	12 (38·7) 19 (61·3)	174 (46·8) 198 (53·2) 6	186 (49∙5) 190 (50∙5) 3	329 (53·6) 285 (46·4)	169 (55∙0) 138 (45∙0)	584 (49∙4) 597 (50∙6) 11	448 (50∙9) 433 (49∙1) 8
Alkaline Phosphatases <248⋅5 ≥248⋅5 missing	48 (49∙0) 50 (51∙0) 3	35 (36∙8) 60 (63∙2) 7	24 (66·7) 12 (33·3)	20 (55·6) 16 (44·4)	4 (13·3) 26 (86·7)	7 (20·6) 27 (79·4)	17 (51·5) 16 (48·5)	14 (45·2) 17 (54·8)	171 (46·5) 197 (53·5) 10	170 (45·5) 204 (54·5) 5	345 (56·2) 269 (43·8)	173 (56·4) 134 (43·6)	609 (51·7) 570 (48·3) 13	419 (47·8) 458 (52·2) 12
Number of bone metastases** ≤6 >6 missing	28 (28·6) 70 (71·4) 3	37 (37∙0) 63 (63∙0) 2	7 (19·4) 29 (80·6)	8 (22·2) 28 (77·8)	5 (16·7) 25 (83·3)	4 (11·8) 30 (88·2)	12 (36·4) 21 (63·6)	7 (22·6) 24 (77·4)	NA	NA	100 (16·4) 511 (83·6) 3	38 (12·4) 268 (87·6) 1	152 (18∙8) 656 (81∙2) 6	94 (18·5) 413 (81·5) 3
Median follow-up (min-max) (months) Number of deaths	62·7 (12·0-62·7) 97 (96·0)	50·3 (1·8-52·3) 97 (95·1)	22·0 (1·0-32·3) 14 (38·9)	22·3 (1·7-28·6) 27 (75·0)	NE (2·9-112·3) 30 (100)	NE (2·6-188·1) 34 (100)	15·0 (0·7-25·6) 23 (69·7)	9·8 (0·5-24·5) 27 (87·1)	38·4 (1·7-75·1) 308 (81·5)	39·1 (0·4-59·3) 310 (81·8)	10·8 (0·4-33·8) 333 (54 2)	9·1 (0·7-36·6) 195 (63·5)	NE (0·4-112·3) 805 (67·5)	NE (0·4- 188·1) 690 (77·6)
Number of symptomatic skeletal events Spinal cord compression Pathologic bone fracture Surgical intervention External radiotherapy [‡]	NA	NA	NA	NA	8 (26·7) 1(3·3) 0 0 7 (23·3)	12 (35·3) 3(8·8) 0 9 (26·5)	16 (48·5) 2 (6·1) 1 (3·0) 0 13 (39·4)	17 (54·8) 3 (9·7) 1 (3·2) 0 13 (41·9)	199 (52·6) 31 (8·2) 14 (3·7) 0 154 (40·7)	197 (52·0) 27 (7·1) 11 (2·9) 1 (0·3) 158 (41·7)	202 (32·9) 14 (2·3) 22 (3·6) 2 (0·3) 164 (26·7)	116 (37·8) 9 (2·9) 12 (3·9) 0 95 (30·9)	425 (35·6) 48 (4·0) 37 (3·1) 2 (0·2) 338 (28·4)	342 (38·5) 42 (4·7) 24 (2·7) 1 (0·1) 275 (30·9)

eTable 4. Patient characteristics, median follow-up, and number of events by trial and by arm

NE= not estimable, NA= not available; IQR= Interquartile Range; RI= radio-isotopes, ⁺ Continuous characteristics will be divided into 2 classes using the median, ** For the Bayer152850¹⁰ and ALSYMPCA¹¹ trials, superscan was considered as higher than 6 bone metastases. ⁺ This category contains both external beam radiotherapy and use of radioisotope for TRAPEZE trial⁹, see eTable 1 for other abbreviations

Items	EORTC30921	MDA 1996	Norway 1997	Bayer 15280	TRAPEZE	ALSYMPCA
Random sequence generation (selection bias)	-	+	-	-	?	-
Allocation concealment (selection bias)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Follow-up quality (Kaplan-Meier inversed)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blinding of participants and personnel	-	?	-	-	?	-
(performance bias)						
Blinding of outcome assessment (detection bias)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Incomplete outcome data (attrition bias)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Selective reporting (reporting bias)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other bias	?	?	?	?	?	?

Each domain was judged as 'low risk of bias' (-), 'high risk of bias' (+), or 'unclear risk of bias' (?) in each study according to the Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions (Higgins JPT, Green S. Cochrane Handbook for Systematic Reviews of Interventions. The Cochrane Collaboration; 2011).

Trials	Hematologica	al toxicity [⊥]	Nausea and/o	or vomiting	Febrile neutropenia		
	# of toxicities / n	# of toxicities / n	# of toxicities / n	# of toxicities / n	# of toxicities / n	# of toxicities / n	
	in experimental arm	in control arm	in experimental arm	in control arm	in experimental arm	in control arm	
	Missing: n	Missing: n	Missing: n	Missing: n	Missing: n	Missing: n	
EORTC 309216 *	41/81	40/89	13/94	7/85	NA	NA	
	20	13	7	17			
MDA 1996 ⁷	18/36	12/36	3/36	6/36	0/36	2/36	
ŧ	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Norway 1997 ⁸	3/28	2/ 31	6/26	6/27	0/30	0/34	
-	2	3	4	7	0	0	
Bayer15280 ¹⁰	2/33	2/31	1/9	0/10	0/33	0/31	
+	0	0	24	21	0	0	
TRAPEZE ⁹ T	54/ 378	47/ 379	11/378	7/379	28/ 378	26/ 379	
	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ALSYMPCA ¹¹	122/ 606	35/ 301	16/ 259	10/120	1/ 614	1/307	
++	8	6	355	187	0	0	

eTable 6. Description of selected toxic effects of grade ≥3 per trial and per arm

NA: not available, [⊥] hematological toxicity includes hemoglobin, white blood cells and platelets † information related to the occurrence of febrile neutropenia was not available for EORTC 30921's trial ⁶ because not in the database

⁺ As MDA 1996⁷

is an old trial, individual data were available provided to go back in patient records and thus only some information was extracted from investigator for this meta-analysis. This excluded toxicities data. So, information from toxicity data was extracted from the publication doing some hypotheses. We considered (i) patients with a specific toxicity as different to patients with another toxicity and (ii) nausea and vomiting toxicity as toxicities of grade ≥3 although specified as grade ≥2 in the paper. A sensitivity analysis for nausea and/or vomiting was performed after excluding this trial

+ for hematological toxicities, information was extracted from the publication

[⊤] only events which were grade ≥3 were reported. So, missing data were considered as no toxicity or toxicity with grade <3

++ febrile neutropenia was extracted from the paper

see eTable 1 for other abbreviations



eFigure 1. Flow diagram of studies inclusion and exclusion

*Such as preclinical, biomarker, cost and epidemiological studies, **The sample size of these trials ranges from 80 to 152 patients. The only information we could extract from the published data is an estimation of overall survival hazard ratio without precision for 2 trials using the medians and assuming an exponential distribution (See eReferences¹²⁻¹⁴).

eFigure 2. Overall survival for trials comparing radioisotopes (RIs) with no RIs according to the type of radiation emitted from RIs after excluding the MDA 1996 and EORTC trials

Category N Trial	o. Deaths / RI	No. Enter no RI	ed O-E	Variance	Hazard Ratio	HR [95% CI]
(a) Alpha emitt	ers					
Bayer 15280	23/33	27/31	-6.6	11.9		0.57[0.33;1.01]
ALSYMPCA	333/614	195/307	-37.6	110.0		0.71 [0.59;0.86]
Subtotal (a)	356/647	222/338	- 44·2	121.9	\bigcirc	0.70 [0.58;0.83]
(b) Beta emitte	rs					
Norway 1997	30/30	34/34	-0.0	15.5		1.00 [0.61;1.64]
TRAPEZE	308/378	310/379	-12.3	153.1	Ē	0.92 [0.79;1.08]
Subtotal (b)	338/408	344/413	-12.3	168.6		0.93 [0.80;1.08]
Total (a ; b)	694/1055	566/751	-56.5	290.5		0.82 [0.73;0.92]
for heterogeneity:	$x_3^2 = 6.51$	$\mathbf{p} = 0.0894$	$I^2 = 54$	%		7
for interaction: χ_1^2	$= 5.94 \mathrm{p} =$	= 0.0148		0.2	RI better no RI bett	3.0 er
dual heterogeneity:	$\chi_2^2 = 0.52$	7 p = 0.752	201		RI effect: $\mathbf{p} = 0 \cdot 000$	9
lom effect: HR: 0·	80 [0.65;0	·99], p = 0·	038,τ²=	= 0.02		

ALSYMPCA= ALpharadin in SYMptomatic Prostate CAncer patients, TRAPEZE= Taxane RAdioisotoPE ZolEdronic acid, RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of deaths in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, τ^2 estimated by DerSimonian and Laird method, Test for heterogeneity: p=0.47, I²=0% and p=0.75, I²=0% for alpha emitters and beta emitters, respectively

Category N Trial	o. Deaths / RI	No. Entered no RI	O-E	Variance	e Hazard Ratio	HR [95% CI]
(a) RI + CT vs	СТ					
MDA 1996	14/36	27/36	-10.4	9.8 ←		0.34 [0.18;0.65]
TRAPEZE	308/378	310/379	-12.3	153.1	a	0.92 [0.79;1.08]
Subtotal (a)	322/414	337/415	-22.7	162.8		0.87 [0.75;1.01]
(b) RI + ERT v	s ERT					
Norway 1997	7 30/30	34/34	-0.0	15.5		1.00 [0.61;1.64]
(c) RI vs ERT						
EORTC 309	21 97/101	97/102	13.7	47.0		1.34 [1.01;1.78]
(d) RI vs Place	bo					
Bayer 15280	23/33	27/31	-6.6	11.9		0.57 [0.33;1.01]
ALSYMPCA	333/614	195/307	-37.6	110.0		0.71 [0.59;0.86]
Subtotal (d)	356/647	222/338	-44.2	121.9	\Diamond	0.70 [0.58;0.83]
Total (a ; d)	805/1192	690/889	-53.2	347.2	•	0.86 [0.77;0.95]
Test for heterogen	eity: $\chi_5^2 = 24$	4.46 p= 0.000	$1^2 = 8$	80 % 0.2	1.0	3.0
Test for interaction	n: $\chi_2^2 = 15.0$	7 p=0.002			RI better no RI b	etter
Residual heterogen	neity: $\chi_2^2 = 9$	$0.39 \mathrm{p} = 0.009$	9		RI effect: $\mathbf{p} = 0.0$	004
andom effect: H	R: 0.80 [0.6	1;1.06], p = 0).12, τ ²	= 0.08		

eFigure 3. Forest plot for subset analysis of overall survival according to the type of comparison

CT: Chemotherapy, ERT: External radiotherapy, RI: radio-isotope ALSYMPCA= ALpharadin in SYMptomatic Prostate CAncer patients, EORTC= European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer, MDA= M D Anderson Cancer Center, TRAPEZE= Taxane RAdioisotoPE ZoIEdronic acid, O-E: observed minus expected number of deaths in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, r² estimated by DerSimonian and Laird method

eFigure 4. Forest plots for serum prostate-specific antigen subgroup analysis for overall survival

A. PSA subgroup analysis after excluding MDA 1996 7 and EORTC 30921 6



RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of deaths in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, FE: fixed effect model, RE: random effect model see eFigure 3 for other abbreviations

B. PSA subgroup analysis after excluding MDA 1996⁷, EORTC 30921⁶ and Bayer 15280¹⁰: Sensitivity analysis

Category Trial	No. Deaths / RI	No. Enter no RI	^{ed} O-E	Variance	Hazard Ratio	HR [95% CI]	Interaction HR [95% CI]	p-value
Norman 100	7							
Norway 199	· /							
<143	15/15	21/21	0.1	8.3		- 1.01 [0.51;1.99]	FE: 0.84[0.30;2.34]	p=0.74
>=143	15/15	13/13	-1.2	6.7		- 0.84 [0.40;1.79]		
TRAPEZE								
<143	135/180	140/182	-13.6	67.5		0.82 [0.64;1.04]	FE: 1.28[0.92;1.77]	p=0.14
>=143	161/184	158/184	3.4	79.7	+	1.04 [0.84;1.30]		
ALSYMPC	A							
<143	118/298	73/135	-22.5	45.0	-8	0.61 [0.45;0.81]	FE: 1.38[0.96;2.00]	p=0.08
>=143	210/307	120/170	-13.2	75.6	-0-	0.84 [0.67;1.05]		
						_		
				0.1	1.0	2.0		
					KI better no R	d better		
						Overall: 1	FE: 1.29 [1.02;1.64]	p = 0.03 (heterogeneity: p

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of deaths in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, FE: fixed effect model

eFigure 5. Forest plot for subset analysis according to the type of comparison for symptomatic skeletal event (SSE)–free survival^{\perp}



[⊥] MDA 1996 ⁷ and EORTC 30921's⁶ trials were excluded for this analysis since no available information for the former and not reliability data from the latter

SEE: symptomatic skeletal event, CT: Chemotherapy, ERT: External radiotherapy, RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of SSE in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, r² estimated by DerSimonian and Laird method

eFigure 6. Forest plots of alkaline phosphatase level subgroup analysis for symptomatic skeletal event (SSE)–free survival^{\perp}

A. Alkaline Phosphatase Level (ALP) after excluding MDA 1996 ⁷ and EORTC 30921⁶

Trial Category	No. SSE / N RI	o. Entered no RI	O-E	Variance	Hazard Ratio	HR [95% CI]	Interaction HR [95% CI]	p-value
Norway 199	97							
<248.5	1/4	1/7	0.5	0.5		→ 2·84 [0·17;48·4]	FE: 0.12[0.01;2.61]	p=0.18
>=248.5	7/26	11/27	-3.9	3.6		0.34 [0.12;0.94]		
Bayer 1528	0							
<248.5	6/17	8/14	-2.9	3.4		0.42[0.15;1.22]	FE: 3.69[0.90;15.12	2] p=0.07
>=248.5	10/16	9/17	2.0	4.6		1.56[0.62;3.90]		
TRAPEZE								
<248.5	80/171	99/170	-10.5	44.2		0.79[0.59;1.06]	FE: 1·43[0·96;2·13]	p=0.08
>=248.5	114/197	95/204	6.1	51.6		1.13 [0.86;1.48]		_
ALSYMPC	A							
<248.5	113/345	73/173	-21·0	43.9		0.62 [0.46;0.83]	FE: 1·16[0·73;1·86]	p=0.53
>=248.5	89/269	43/134	-9.5	28.9		0.72[0.50;1.04]		
						n		
				0.2	1.0	3.2 Overall: FE: 1.3	34 [1·00;1·80] p =	0.05 (heterogeneity
					RI better no RI be	tter		

[⊥] MDA 1996 ⁷ and EORTC 30921¹⁶ trials were excluded for this analysis since no available information (MDA 1996⁷) and not reliability data (EORTC 30921⁶)

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of SSE in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, FE: fixed effect model

see eFigure 3 for other abbreviations

B. Alkaline Phosphatase Level (ALP) after excluding MDA 1996⁷, EORTC 30921⁶ Norway⁸ and Bayer15280¹⁰ : Sensitivity analysis

	No. SSE / N	No. Enter	ed				Interaction	
Trial	RI	no RI	O-E	Variance	Hazard Ratio	HR [95% CI]	HR [95% CI]	p-value
TRAPEZE								
<248.5	80/171	99/170	-10.5	44.2		0.79 [0.59;1.06]	FE: 1·43[0·96;2·13]] p=0·08
>=248.5	114/197	7 95/204	6.1	51.6	+	1.13 [0.86;1.48]		
ALSYMPCA								
<248.5	113/345	5 73/173	-21.0	43.9		0.62 [0.46;0.83]	FE: 1.16[0.73;1.86] p=0.53
>=248.5	89/269	43/134	-9.5	28.9	-8-	0.72 [0.50;1.04]		
				0.2	RI better no RI l	3.2 better Overall: FE:1:3	31 [0·96;1·78] p =	0.08 (heterogeneity: p=0

^{\perp} MDA 1996 ⁷ and EORTC 30921^{$\cdot6$} trials were excluded for this analysis since no available information (MDA 1996⁷) and not reliability data (EORTC 30921 ⁶)

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of SSE in the experimental arm, HR: Hazard ratio, CI: confidence interval, FE: fixed effect model

eFigure 7. Hematological toxic effects analysis



A. Forest plot of hematological toxicity

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of hematological toxicity events in the experimental arm, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval

Category Trial	No. Events / 1 RI	No. Entered no RI	O-E	Variance	Odds Ratio	OR [95% CI]
(a) Alpha emit	ters					
Bayer 15280	2/33	2/31	-0.1	1.0 —		→ 0.94 [0.13;6.98]
ALSYMPCA	A 122/606	35/301	17.1	28.8		1.81 [1.26;2.61]
Subtotal (a)	124/639	37/332	17.0	29.8		1.77 [1.24;2.54]
(b) Beta emitte	ers					
EORTC 309	21 41/81	40/89	2.4	10.6		1.25 [0.69;2.29]
MDA 1996	18/36	12/36	3.0	4.4	++	1.97 [0.78;4.99]
Norway 199	7 3/28	2/31	0.6	1.2		→ 1.72 [0.28;10.6]
TRAPEZE	54/378	47/379	3.6	21.9		1.18 [0.77;1.79]
Subtotal (b)	116/523	101/535	9.6	38.1		1.29 [0.94;1.77]
Total	240/1162	138/867	26.6	67.9	•	1.48 [1.17;1.88]
Test for hete	rogeneity: $\chi_5^2 =$	= 3.20 p = 0.0	$67 I^2 = 0$	0%	10	
Test for inter	raction: $\chi_1^2 = 1$.72 p = 0.19		0.1	RI better no RI bette	4.U
					RI effect: p = 0.001	*

B. Forest plot of hematological toxicity according to the type of radiation emitted from radio-isotopes (RI) (unplanned analysis)

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of hematological toxicity events in the experimental arm, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval see eFigure 3 for other abbreviations

eFigure 8. Nausea and/or vomiting analysis



A. Forest plot of nausea and/or vomiting

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of nausea and/or vomiting events in the experimental arm, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval see eFigure 3 for other abbreviations

B. Forest plot of nausea and/or vomiting after excluding MDA 1996's trial ⁷ (sensitivity analysis)

Trial No	• Events/] RI	No [.] Entered no RI	O - E	Variance	Odds Ratio	OR [95% CI]
EORTC 30921	13/94	7/85	2.5	4.5		→ 1·75 [0·69;4·43]
Norway 1997	6/26	6/27	0.1	2.4		1.05 [0.29;3.75]
TRAPEZE	11/378	7/379	2.0	4.4		→ 1.58[0.62;4.02]
Total	30/498	20/491	4·6	11.2		1.51 [0.84;2.71]
est for heterogene	ity: $x_2^2 = 0$	42 p = 0.81	$I^{2} = 0$	% 0.3	1.0	3.0
				0.0	RI better no RI bette	er
					RI effect: $\mathbf{p} = 0.17$	

RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of nausea and/or vomiting events in the experimental arm, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval see eFigure 3 for other abbreviations

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eFigure 9. Febrile neutropenia toxic effects analysis*

A. Forest plot of febrile neutropenia



RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of febrile neutropenia events in the experimental arm, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval

* we imputed the value of 0.5 for trials with no event for the computation of the odds ratio and its confidence interval, febrile neutropenia is not available for EORTC 309216

B. Forest plot of febrile neutropenia according to the type of radiation emitted from radio-isotopes (RI)* (unplanned analysis)



RI: radio-isotope, O-E: observed minus expected number of febrile neutropenia events in the experimental arm, OR: Odds ratio, CI: confidence interval

* we imputed the value of 0.5 for trials with no event for the computation of the odds ratio and its confidence interval, febrile neutropenia is not available for EORTC 309216

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