

Quality of life in patients with metastatic prostate cancer following treatment with cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or enzalutamide (CARD): an analysis of a randomised, multicentre, open-label, phase 4 study

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Quality of life in patients with metastatic prostate cancer following treatment with cabazitaxel vs abiraterone or enzalutamide: An analysis of the Phase 4 CARD randomized study

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1 Abstract (342/300)

- 2 Background: In the CARD study, cabazitaxel significantly improved radiographic progression-
- 3 free survival (rPFS) and overall survival versus abiraterone or enzalutamide in patients with
- 4 metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer (mCRPC) previously treated with docetaxel
- 5 and the alternative androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor.
- 6 Methods: Patients (≥18 years, ECOG PS ≤2) with confirmed mCRPC were randomized 1:1
- 7 using an interactive voice/Web response system to receive cabazitaxel (25 mg/m²
- 8 intravenously every 3 weeks, 10 mg daily prednisone, and granulocyte colony-stimulating
- 9 factor) versus abiraterone (1000 mg plus 5 mg prednisone twice daily) or enzalutamide (160
- mg daily). Stratification factors were ECOG PS, time to progression on, and timing of the
- prior androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor. The primary endpoint was rPFS; here, we
- 12 present more detailed analyses of pain and symptomatic skeletal events (SSEs), alongside
- pre-planned patient reported outcomes (PROs). CARD was open label (NCT02485691).
- 14 Findings: Between 17 Nov 2015 and 28 Nov 2018, 255 patients were randomly assigned to
- 15 cabazitaxel (n=129) or abiraterone or enzalutamide (n=126). Median follow-up was 9.2
- months (IQR: 5·6–13·1). Pain response was observed in 51/111 patients (46%) with
- cabazitaxel and 21/109 (19%) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (p<0.0001). Median time to
- pain progression was not reached (NE; 95% CI: NE–NE) with cabazitaxel and 8.5 months
- 19 (95% CI: 4.9–NE) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (HR: 0.55; 95% CI: 0.32–0.97; log-rank
- p=0.035). Median time to SSEs was NE (95% CI: 20.0–NE) with cabazitaxel and 16.7 months
- 21 (95% CI: 10.8–NE) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (HR: 0.59, 95% CI: 0.35–1.01; log-rank
- 22 p=0.050). Median time to Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Prostate (FACT-P) total
- 23 score deterioration was 14·8 months (95% CI: 6·3–NE) with cabazitaxel and 8·9 months (95%
- 24 CI: 6.3–NE) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (HR: 0.72, 95% CI: 0.44–1.20; log-rank p=0.21).
- 25 There was a significant treatment effect seen in changes from baseline in EQ-5D-5L utility
- index score in favor of cabazitaxel over abiraterone or enzalutamide (p=0.030).
- 27 **Interpretation**: As cabazitaxel improved pain response, time to pain progression, time to
- 28 SSEs and EQ5D-5L utility index, clinicians and patients with mCRPC can be reassured that
- 29 cabazitaxel will not reduce quality of life when compared with a second androgen-signaling-
- 30 targeted inhibitor.

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32 Research in context 33 Evidence before this study 34 Results from the CARD study demonstrated improved overall survival with cabazitaxel 35 versus abiraterone or enzalutamide in patients with mCRPC previously treated with 36 docetaxel and who failed within 12 months on the alternative androgen-signaling-targeted 37 inhibitors. Many patients with advanced mCRPC have bone metastases, which can cause 38 pain and deterioration of quality of life. Therefore, it is crucial to balance clinical activity and 39 adverse events of therapies administered with their impact on patient quality of life. We searched PubMed using the terms "metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer", 40 "quality of life", "pain", "skeletal-related events", "cabazitaxel", "abiraterone," and 41 42 "enzalutamide" for studies published before January 1st, 2020. We identified two Phase 3 studies showing that both abiraterone and enzalutamide improve pain, delay pain 43 44 progression and skeletal-related events, and improve PROs (as assessed by FACT-P) versus 45 placebo in mCRPC patients previously treated with docetaxel. Our search did not identify 46 any randomized studies directly comparing abiraterone or enzalutamide with cabazitaxel, 47 which strengthened the rationale for reporting these preplanned secondary endpoints of 48 the CARD study related to patient quality of life. 49 Added value of this study 50 CARD compared the impact of cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or enzalutamide on measures 51 of PROs (as assessed by FACT-P and EQ-5D-5L), pain, and SSEs. Results demonstrate that, in 52 addition to the previously reported survival benefits, cabazitaxel improves pain response, 53 delays time to pain progression and time to SSEs, and has no deleterious impact on PROs. 54 The study provides reassurance that cabazitaxel 25 mg/m² administered with systematic 55 granulocyte colony-stimulating factor (G-CSF) prophylaxis is a relevant treatment option for 56 mCRPC patients previously treated with one androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor and 57 docetaxel. 58 Implications of all the available evidence 59

This analysis further clarifies the optimal treatment sequence in mCRPC by highlighting the value of cabazitaxel in patients previously treated with docetaxel and an androgen-signaling—targeted inhibitor and who progressed within 12 months with the alternative

- 63 cabazitaxel over abiraterone or enzalutamide as a standard of care in this patient population
- 64 in terms of both clinical outcomes and quality of life.

Introduction

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Several new therapies have been shown to improve survival for patients with mCRPC during the past few years, including taxanes (docetaxel, cabazitaxel), androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitors (abiraterone, enzalutamide), a radiopharmaceutical (radium-223), and an immunotherapy (sipuleucel-T). Bone-targeted agents have demonstrated activity in preventing skeletal-related events in patients with mCRPC. Many studies have evaluated treatment sequencing, however these were small retrospective studies, carried out using different inclusion, exclusion and outcome criteria.² Although survival increases with the number of life-extending therapies received, the optimal treatment sequence is unclear. ² In daily practice, many patients receive both abiraterone and enzalutamide before taxanes, mostly due to age, patient choice, and because these agents are considered less toxic than chemotherapy.^{3,4} However, many studies suggest there is cross-resistance between these novel androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitors.^{2,3,5} Since cabazitaxel retains activity in patients progressing on docetaxel, abiraterone, or enzalutamide,⁶ the CARD study evaluated cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or enzalutamide in patients who had received prior docetaxel and progressed within 12 months on an alternative androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor. ⁷ Cabazitaxel was associated with improved radiographic progression-free survival (rPFS) and overall survival compared with abiraterone or enzalutamide.⁷ As the prognosis for mCRPC has improved, treatment goals have broadened from merely prolonging survival to minimizing symptoms and enabling patients to live fulfilled lives.⁸ Maintaining or improving quality of life has become increasingly important when selecting treatment regimens, due to high symptom and treatment burdens associated with mCRPC. The value of patient-reported outcomes (PROs) is well established in prostate cancer, with several validated prostate cancer-specific questionnaires available to assess physical and psychologic symptoms. Pain, symptomatic skeletal events (SSEs), and physical and functional well-being have been shown to predict overall survival and other clinical outcomes in patients with mCRPC.¹⁰⁻¹³ This underscores the importance of evaluating such parameters during interventional studies in order to determine optimal patient-centered care.

- 95 In this analysis of CARD, we describe the impact of cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or
- 96 enzalutamide on pre-planned endpoints associated with quality of life.

Methods

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Study design and participants CARD was a randomized, multicenter, open-label study involving 62 sites across 13 European countries. It was designed to compare cabazitaxel with abiraterone and enzalutamide in patients with mCRPC who had received prior docetaxel and progressed within 12 months on the alternative androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor. The full study design and eligibility criteria have been described previously. Briefly, patients with prostate cancer were eligible if they had castrate levels of testosterone (<0.5 ng/mL), had disease progression per Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors version 1.1 (RECIST 1.1), or had ≥2 new bone lesions or rising prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level per Prostate Cancer Working Group 2 (PCWG2) criteria, had received ≥3 docetaxel cycles and progressed within 12 months of androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor treatment. Docetaxel or abiraterone was allowed for metastatic hormone-sensitive disease. Exclusion criteria included age <18 years, ECOG PS >2, prior chemotherapy (except docetaxel), history of seizure, inadequate organ or bone marrow function, history of prior malignancy within 5 years, history of mineralocorticoid excess or deficiency and uncontrolled severe illness or medical condition. The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and Good Clinical Practice guidelines. Patients provided written informed consent before participation and the study received ethics approval from the relevant bodies. Randomization and masking Eligible patients were allocated through a centralized, stratified randomization process to receive either cabazitaxel or abiraterone or enzalutamide in a 1:1 ratio by an interactive voice/Web response system. Stratifying criteria at randomization included ECOG PS (0-1 versus 2), time to disease progression on prior androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor (≤6 versus 6–12 months), and timing of the prior androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor (before versus after docetaxel). An independent organization was responsible for generating the allocation sequence, enrolling participants and assigning trial groups that had no other involvement in the trial. The study was open label and participants and investigators were not masked to treatment allocation. However the study team, excluding individuals who had access to patient

128 documents (e.g. monitoring team, auditors), remained blinded to the treatment arm of 129 individual patients until the database lock. 130 **Procedures** 131 Patients were screened 4 weeks before randomization for eligibility and baseline measurements. Cabazitaxel 25 mg/m² was administered intravenously over 1 hour every 3 132 133 weeks with prophylactic G-CSF at each cycle and prednisone 10 mg daily. Abiraterone 1000 134 mg was given orally once daily with prednisone 5 mg twice daily. Enzalutamide 160 mg was 135 given orally once daily. A treatment cycle was 3 weeks. Patients who had previously 136 received enzalutamide received abiraterone, and vice versa. Two dose reductions were 137 permitted before treatment discontinuation (cabazitaxel to 20 mg/m², then 15 mg/m²; 138 abiraterone to 750 mg, then 500 mg; enzalutamide to 120 mg, then 80 mg). The 750 mg 139 abiraterone dose reduction level was discontinued on 14 March 2018 to align with updated 140 European labelling. Treatment interruptions of <2 weeks were permitted to allow acute 141 toxicity recovery. Treatment continued until criteria for permanent discontinuation were 142 reached: imaging-based progression, unacceptable toxicity, investigator decision (including 143 non-compliance) or patient request to stop the study, or loss to follow-up. 144 No blinded central review was performed on standard imaging (bone scans, CT and MRI of 145 pelvis, abdomen, and chest). Adverse events were monitored every 3 weeks during 146 treatment, at the end of treatment visit and every 12 weeks during follow-up until disease 147 progression, start of other anticancer treatment or study cut-off, and reported in compliance with regulations. Laboratory tests were obtained prior to treatment 148 149 administration, at every cycle and up to 30 days after the last study treatment 150 administration. Study protocol and all amendments affecting recruitment to or conduct of 151 the study were approved by review boards of participating institutions. 152 Pain, and PRO assessments were carried out at baseline, every 3 weeks at each visit before 153 treatment administration and at the end of treatment visit, then every 12 weeks until 154 disease progression, start of subsequent cancer therapy, or study cut-off date, whichever 155 came first. SSEs were evaluated at baseline, each visit, end of treatment, and every 12 156 weeks during follow-up. Standard imaging was scheduled at baseline and every 12 weeks

until imaging-based disease progression. Pathologic fractures and spinal cord compression

were assessed by imaging as needed throughout the study.

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Each PRO questionnaire was conducted using paper/pencil versions and no assistance was given to patients whilst they were completing the forms. Patients were not advised on a specific order to complete the forms. **Outcomes** The primary endpoint was imaging-based progression-free survival (rPFS), as reported previously. 7 Key secondary endpoints tested hierarchically were overall survival, progression-free survival, PSA response, and objective tumor response. Pain response and SSEs were partially described in the primary CARD publication. Here, we report more detailed analyses of pre-planned endpoints affecting quality of life. Pain intensity was defined using item 3 of the validated Brief Pain Inventory-Short Form (BPI-SF), which rates pain at its worst in the last 24 hours on a scale of 0 (no pain) to 10 (worst imaginable pain).¹⁴ Analgesic consumption was reported by local investigators and coded by the World Health Organization's analgesic ladder (0 = no analgesic; 1 = non-opioid analgesics; 2 = opioid analgesics for moderate pain; 3 = opioids for severe pain). 15 Pain response was defined as a ≥30% decrease from baseline in average BPI-SF pain intensity score observed at two consecutive evaluations at least 3 weeks apart without an increased analgesic usage score. Pain progression was defined as a ≥30% increase from baseline in BPI-SF pain intensity score (item 3) observed at two consecutive evaluations at least 3 weeks apart without a ≥30% increase or decrease in analgesic usage score. Time to pain progression was defined as time from randomization until first documented pain progression. SSEs were defined as either the use of external beam radiation to relieve bone pain, occurrence of new symptomatic pathologic fractures, occurrence of spinal cord compression, or tumor-related orthopedic surgical intervention. Time to SSE was defined as time from randomization until first documented SSE. PROs were assessed using the Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Prostate (FACT-P) questionnaire (version 4) and the generic health status/utility instrument EQ-5D-5L. We used these instruments because they were standard tools to measure quality of life in prostate cancer at the time the CARD protocol was developed and have been shown to be

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reliable and valid in this patient population. 16,17 FACT-P is a 39-item self-report tool designed

to evaluate quality of life in patients with prostate cancer. ¹⁸ Full ranges and definitions for FACT-P subscales can be found in **Supp Table 1**. A higher FACT-P score indicates better quality of life. A deterioration in HRQL was defined as a ≥10-point change in FACT-P total or a specified change in subscale score (as described in **Supp Table 2**) on two consecutive evaluations, >3 weeks apart. EQ-5D-5L describes five health dimensions: mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression. Patients rate each domain on a 1–5 Likert-type scale (1=no problems, 2=slight problems, 3=moderate problems, 4=severe problems, 5=extreme problems). ¹⁹ The minimally important difference for EQ-5D-5L utility index was 0.14 and 11 for VAS. To ensure we did not overestimate the clinically meaningful effect of treatment, we used the upper values of the established range for both utility index and VAS, which are 0.04–0.14 and 7–11, respectively. ¹⁷

Statistical analysis

The statistical analysis plan for the assessment of PROs is available in the appendix (p143). The study was designed to have 80% power to detect a HR of 0.67 (cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or enzalutamide) in the analysis of the primary endpoint (rPFS), with the use of a stratified log-rank test at a two-sided alpha level of 5%. Approximately 234 patients needed to be randomized to collect data on 196 events (achieved at the cut-off date of March 27, 2019). There was no interim analysis. The study was not powered for the secondary endpoints reported here. All analyses reported were obtained at the cut-off date, as planned in the protocol (Appendix p23).

Efficacy analyses were conducted in the intention-to-treat (ITT) population, defined as all patients who underwent randomization. Pain response was analyzed in the ITT population with baseline and at least one post-baseline assessment of BPI-SF item 3. PROs were analyzed in the ITT population with baseline and at least one post-baseline assessment of either FACT-P or EQ-5D-5L (PRO population). P values of <0.05 were deemed significant for the primary analysis and all analyses presented.

Stratified log-rank tests were used to analyze time to event and time to progression data.

Hazard ratios (HR) and associated 95% confidence intervals (CIs) were estimated using a stratified Cox proportional hazards model. Proportional hazards assumptions were checked

by visual inspection of negative log graphs (Appendix p12). Patients with no progression or deterioration at the time of the analysis were censored on the last date they were known to have not progressed or deteriorated. Descriptive statistics for FACT-P and EQ-5D-5L scores were provided for all cycles for which the number of evaluable patients reached ≥20% in each treatment group in the PRO population, and for the end-of-treatment visit. For qualitative parameters, proportions of patients with deterioration, no change, and improvement were provided. PRO changes from baseline were analyzed using a mixed linear repeated measures model where treatment is a fixed effect variable and subject is a random effect variable. Stratification variables were included in the model as covariates as well as the interaction treatment visit. The least square means by treatment group with corresponding 95% CI obtained from the mixed model were presented graphically. No adjustments for multiplicity were made. Compliance with the planned assessment schedule was calculated at baseline and for each cycle as the proportion of patients receiving study treatment at this time point. No formal imputation for missing data was carried out and reasons for missing data were not centrally recorded. FACT-P total score was evaluable when >80% of questions were answered. For FACT-P subscales, a score was evaluable when >50% of the questions in the subscale domain were answered. If <50% of the questions were missing in any FACT-P subscale, the score could be imputed using the following formula: Prorated subscale score=[Sum of question scores]x[N of questions in subscale]÷[N of questions answered]. Data were analyzed with SAS version 9.2. The study is registered with Clinicaltrials.gov (NCT02485691). Role of the funding source Sanofi Genzyme funded the CARD study, provided the study treatments, and collaborated with the co-authors on study design, data analysis, data interpretation, and writing of the report. The sponsor had no role in data collection. The manuscript was written with editorial

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support from medical writers, funded by the sponsor. The corresponding author (KF) had

- full access to the data and had the final responsibility for the decision to submit for
- 249 publication. Authors received no honoraria for development of this manuscript.

Results

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251 Between 17 Nov 2015 and 28 Nov 2018, 255 patients with mCRPC were randomized (129 to 252 cabazitaxel, 126 to abiraterone or enzalutamide) and 250/255 were treated (126/129 with 253 cabazitaxel, 124/126 with abiraterone or enzalutamide) (Figure 1). The 255 patients 254 randomized constituted the intention-to-treat population. At the cut-off date, median 255 follow-up was 9·2 months (IQR: $5\cdot6-13\cdot1$). Median duration of treatment was $22\cdot0$ weeks 256 with cabazitaxel (IQR: 13·1–30·4) versus 12·5 weeks (IQR: 9·9–23·4) with abiraterone or 257 enzalutamide. The median number of cycles received was 7 (IQR: 4–10) with cabazitaxel 258 versus 4 (IQR: 3-8) with abiraterone or enzalutamide. More patients discontinued 259 abiraterone or enzalutamide early due to disease progression compared with cabazitaxel. 260 Patient demographics and clinical characteristics at baseline have been reported previously⁷ 261 and are shown in Table 1. At least one dose reduction was required as per labelling 262 recommendations for 27/126 patients (21%) receiving cabazitaxel and 47/124 patients 263 (38%) receiving an androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor (17/58 [29%] patients with 264 abiraterone and 30/66 [46%] patients with enzalutamide). The significant number of patients in the androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor group requiring a dose reduction is in 265 266 line with clinical experience in mCRPC.²⁰ 267 Pain response was evaluable in 220/255 patients (111/129 with cabazitaxel and 109/126 268 with abiraterone or enzalutamide), 35/255 patients (18/129 with cabazitaxel and 17/126 269 with abiraterone or enzalutamide) were not evaluable due to incomplete BPI-SF 270 questionnaires. As previously reported, confirmed pain response was observed in 51/111 271 patients (46%) receiving cabazitaxel and 21/109 patients (19%) receiving abiraterone or 272 enzalutamide (p<0.0001). At the cut-off date, 25/111 (23%) patients receiving cabazitaxel 273 had pain progression, compared with 27/109 (25%) with abiraterone or enzalutamide. The 274 median time to pain progression was NE with cabazitaxel (95% CI: NE-NE) and 8.5 months 275 (95% CI: 4·9–NE) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (HR: 0·55; 95% CI: 0·32–0·97; log-rank 276 p=0.035). The Kaplan-Meier estimates of not having pain progression with cabazitaxel 277 versus abiraterone or enzalutamide are shown in Table 2.

279 SSEs were observed in 24/129 patients (19%) in the cabazitaxel arm and 35/126 patients 280 (28%) in the abiraterone or enzalutamide arm (**Table 3**), which were the numbers with an 281 event included in analyses of time to SSEs. Despite a lower use of denosumab or 282 bisphosphonates in patients treated with cabazitaxel (27/129 [21%]) versus abiraterone or 283 enzalutamide (46/126 [37%]), the median time to SSEs was NE (95% CI: 20·0–NE) with 284 cabazitaxel and 16·7 months (95% CI: 10·8–NE) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (HR: 0·59, 285 95% CI: 0·35–1·01; log-rank p=0·050). The Kaplan-Meier estimates of not having SSEs with 286 cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or enzalutamide are shown in **Table 3**. 287 FACT-P was evaluable in 108/129 patients (84%) receiving cabazitaxel and 114/126 patients 288 (91%) receiving abiraterone or enzalutamide, with 21/129 and 12/129 patients excluded 289 due to incomplete FACT-P questionnaires in each arm, respectively. At the cut-off date, 290 FACT-P deterioration was recorded in 32/108 (30%) patients receiving cabazitaxel and 291 33/114 (29%) patients receiving abiraterone or enzalutamide. Data are shown for up to 292 eight cycles and end of treatment due to small patient numbers for later cycles. At least one 293 item in the FACT-P questionnaire was completed by ≥ 88% of patients in each treatment 294 arm at each visit (Appendix p5, p7). 295 Mean FACT-P total scores at baseline were 104 and 105 for patients who received 296 cabazitaxel versus abiraterone or enzalutamide, respectively (Table 1). The median time to 297 FACT-P total score deterioration was 14.8 months (95% CI: 6.3–NE) with cabazitaxel and 8.9 298 months (95% CI: 6·3–NE) with abiraterone or enzalutamide (HR: 0·72; 95% CI: 0·44–1·20; 299 log-rank p=0·21). In repeated-analysis measures using a mixed-effect model, no significant 300 differences between arms were observed (Figure 2; Appendix p9). Mean changes from 301 baseline at end of treatment in FACT-P total score were -6·33 (SE: 2·81) with cabazitaxel and 302 -10.91 (SE: 3.13) with an androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor (LS mean difference: 4.58; 303 95% CI: -1.36 to +10.52; p=0.13). For FACT-P subscale scores, time to deterioration was 304 numerically longer in patients receiving cabazitaxel compared with patients receiving 305 abiraterone or enzalutamide, although significance was reached only for the emotional well-306 being subscale (HR=0·46 [95% CI 0·25–0·87], p=0·015) (**Table 2; Figure 3**). There was a 307 significant difference between arms (p<0.001) favoring cabazitaxel for the pain-related 308 subscale (referred to as "pain-PCS") with least squares mean difference ranging from +1·12 309 (95% CI: -0.38 to +2.61) to +2.26 (95% CI: +1.06 to +3.47); there were also numerical

between group differences in the percentage of patients with improved pain-related subscale, although tests for significance were not conducted (Appendix p1). Conversely, changes in social or family well-being significantly favored abiraterone or enzalutamide (p=0.02). For the other dimensions (FACT-P total score, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-General (FACT-G), trial outcome index, physical, emotional and functional wellbeing, and prostate-specific concerns) no significant between-group differences were observed. Post hoc exploratory analyses to determine whether these results were related to the prolonged overall survival or greater pain relief associated with cabazitaxel were conducted. Overall survival estimates, estimates of experiencing pain progression, and FACT-P deterioration at 3 and 9 months are shown in **Table 2**. The differences in FACT-P values between the cabazitaxel and abiraterone or enzalutamide arms appeared more closely related to pain relief than overall survival. Median time from FACT-P definitive deterioration to death was 7.5 months (IQR 0-10.2) with cabazitaxel versus 4.8 months (IQR 0-8.7) with abiraterone or enzalutamide. Median time from confirmed pain progression to death was 8.6 months (IQR 6.7-14.2) with cabazitaxel versus 7.0 months (IQR 5.2-12.0) with abiraterone or enzalutamide.

EQ-5D-5L was evaluable in 115/129 patients (89%) receiving cabazitaxel and 115/126 patients (91%) receiving abiraterone or enzalutamide, with 14/129 (11%) and 11/126 (9%) patients excluded due to missing EQ-5D-5L questionnaires, respectively. Data are shown for up to 8 cycles and end of treatment because the number of patients receiving subsequent cycles in the control arm was too small. At least one item in the EQ-5D-5L questionnaire was completed by \geq 82% of patients in each treatment arm at each visit (**Appendix p6, p8**). Mean values for EQ-5D-5L health status (visual analogue score; VAS) at baseline were 65·8 (SD: 20·4) for cabazitaxel and 66·3 (SD: 18·5) for abiraterone or enzalutamide (**Table 1**). There was a non-significant treatment effect seen in changes from baseline in VAS (p=0·060), with least squares mean difference between cabazitaxel and abiraterone or enzalutamide ranging from +1·6 (95% CI: -3·65 to +6·85) to +6·4 (95% CI: +1·49 to +11·25). (**Figure 2**).

At baseline, mean values for utility index were 0.70 (SD: 0.26) in the cabazitaxel arm and 0.70 (SD: 0.22) in the abiraterone or enzalutamide arm (**Table 1**). There was a significant treatment effect seen in changes from baseline in EQ-5D-5L utility index score in favor of cabazitaxel over abiraterone or enzalutamide (p=0.030), with least squares mean difference ranging from +0.03 (95% CI: -0.04 to +0.11) to +0.08 (95% CI: +0.02 to +0.14) during treatment and +0.05 (95% CI: -0.02 to +0.11) at end of treatment in favor of cabazitaxel (**Figure 2**).

Moderate, severe, or extreme pain/discomfort per EQ-5D-5L was reported by 45 of 115 patients (39%) receiving cabazitaxel and 47 of 115 patients (41%) receiving abiraterone or enzalutamide at baseline. There were numerical between-group differences in the number of patients reporting improvement in pain/discomfort from baseline in favor of cabazitaxel (**Appendix p2**); however, tests for significance were not conducted.

Discussion

To our knowledge, this prospective, randomized study is the first to directly compare cabazitaxel and abiraterone or enzalutamide in patients with mCRPC previously treated with docetaxel and the alternative androgen-signaling—targeted inhibitor. In these pre-planned analyses, cabazitaxel significantly improved pain response and prolonged time to pain progression versus abiraterone or enzalutamide. Cabazitaxel also reduced the probability of developing SSEs despite lower use of denosumab or bisphosphonates compared with patients receiving abiraterone or enzalutamide. Lastly, cabazitaxel had no deleterious impact on PROs compared with a second androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor. In the recent past, many patients received back-to-back androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitors in daily practice due to concerns surrounding the toxicity of chemotherapy. This analysis can provide reassurance to physicians and patients that receiving cabazitaxel chemotherapy will not reduce HRQL or induce additional toxicity when compared with oral androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitors.

Since it is known that HRQL deteriorates close to death, we attempted to determine whether numerically longer time to deterioration in FACT-P total score and subscale scores with cabazitaxel were related to the greater pain relief or longer survival also seen in

patients receiving cabazitaxel. Post hoc exploratory landmark analyses at 3 and 9 months suggest that estimates of FACT-P deterioration were comparable to those of pain deterioration, with the probability of disease-related death being relatively small during the initial months. Nevertheless, it is difficult to ascertain whether the numerical differences in HRQL reflect the impact of cabazitaxel on symptoms, overall survival, or both. In mCRPC, metastases are frequently located in the bone, resulting in significant pain and fractures that contribute to HRQL deterioration and increased mortality. 13,21 Androgen suppression is associated with loss of bone mineral density and increased risk of fracture.²² In CARD, concomitant use of bisphosphonates or denosumab was lower in the cabazitaxel arm at baseline versus the abiraterone or enzalutamide arm, underlining the significant under-usage of these medications by treating physicians. International guidelines and consensus conferences consistently provide recommendations for monitoring and maintaining bone health, including baseline evaluation of bone mineral density, supplementation with calcium and vitamin D, and use of denosumab or bisphosphonates in patients with mCRPC and bone metastases at high risk of fracture. ²³⁻²⁵ A Phase 3 study combining abiraterone and radium-223 observed a decreased risk of fractures and mortality with the addition of bone-health agents, highlighting the importance of these prophylactic measures in daily practice.²⁶ In addition, a decreased fracture rate by mandating boneprotecting agents was observed in the EORTC 1333/PEACEIII trial combining radium-223 with enzalutamide versus enzalutamide alone.²⁷ Despite the imbalance between arms in bone-targeted agents in CARD, cabazitaxel decreased the probability of developing SSEs versus abiraterone or enzalutamide. In the CARD study, most patients had pain progression at randomization. Similar findings were reported in a large retrospective registry of 661 patients with mCRPC treated in clinical practice.²⁸ This possibly reflects recommendations of international guidelines and consensus conferences to continue androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitors until unequivocal signs of progression (i.e. imaging-based and/or clinical progression) before switching therapy.^{23,24} Since pain progression is consistently associated with aggressive disease and worse overall survival, it is important to adequately manage such patients. 12,28 The present results demonstrate that patients receiving cabazitaxel have a greater pain response and longer

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401 targeted inhibitor. 402 Patients in the CARD study had advanced metastatic disease, which may contribute to their 403 lower baseline FACT-P scores and shorter treatment durations compared with studies of patients with less advanced prostate cancer. 16,17,29 In the Phase 3 PREVAIL study, which 404 405 evaluated enzalutamide in asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic chemotherapy-naïve 406 patients with mCRPC, mean FACT-P total score at baseline was 119.59 (SD: 17.78) in patients 407 receiving enzalutamide and 119.41 (SD: 17.92) in patients receiving placebo. By end of 408 treatment, mean changes from baseline were -5.08 (95% CI: -6.87 to -3.28) in the 409 enzalutamide arm and -10.87 (95% CI: -13·49 to -8·25) in the placebo arm. ¹⁷ Similarly, in the 410 Phase 3 COU-AA-302 study of abiraterone in chemotherapy-naïve patients with mCRPC, 411 baseline FACT-P scores were 122·1 (SD: 17·0) in the abiraterone arm and 122·6 (SD: 17·7) in the placebo arm. Mean changes from baseline were not reported. ¹⁶ In comparison, patients 412 413 in CARD had lower FACT-P scores at baseline with mean changes from baseline at end of 414 treatment comparable to those of PREVAIL. This shows that despite worse HRQL at 415 baseline, based on FACT-P total baseline scores, changes at end of treatment in patients 416 receiving cabazitaxel were comparable with those observed at earlier disease stages with a 417 first androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor. 418 There are several limitations that must be considered. CARD was open label with a relatively 419 small number of patients (n=255) and not powered for the secondary analyses presented 420 here. Despite this, the primary endpoint (rPFS) and the main secondary end-point (overall 421 survival) were significantly improved with cabazitaxel, reinforcing the validity of our 422 findings. Furthermore, CARD enrolled patients who had progressed within 12 months on 423 the alternative androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor, which may limit the generalizability of 424 the data in the era of combination systemic therapy in metastatic hormone-sensitive and 425 nonmetastatic castration resistant prostate cancer. Importantly, patients with PSA 426 progression within 12 months were eligible, even if treatment continued for a longer period. 427 In Phase 3 studies of abiraterone and enzalutamide in patients with asymptomatic 428 chemotherapy-naive mCRPC, median time to PSA progression was <12 months.^{30,31} 429 Additionally, in the PROfound study of olaparib versus abiraterone or enzalutamide in 430 mCRPC patients with DNA repair abnormalities, a second androgen-signaling-targeted

time to pain progression compared with patients receiving a second androgen-signaling-

inhibitor was associated with a short rPFS of 3.55 months (compared with 3.7 months in CARD), despite no eligibility restrictions in relation to time to progression with the first androgen-signaling-targeted inhibitor.³² There are also inherent multiplicity issues with recording outcomes at multiple time points throughout treatment, and issues relating to lower patient numbers at the end of the study. The mixed linear repeated measures model that was used attempted to reduce the probability of type 1 errors introduced as the result of dropout bias. However, there are two issues that may introduce bias in either direction: reasons for missing data were not centrally recorded and therefore not well characterized, and there was an imbalance between arms in FACT-P and EQ-5D-5L completion rates during treatment. Lastly, as with any PRO analysis, it is not possible to isolate the effects of treatment and disease burden from other factors influencing patients' lives. One strength of this analysis is the use of validated and reliable PRO questionnaires (FACT-P and EQ-5D-5L). Adherence to each of the BPI-SF, FACT-P, and EQ-5D-5L questionnaires was quite high at baseline and during treatment. Although the CARD study was conducted in accordance with the appropriate guidelines when it was designed, it also satisfies several recommendations of the SISAQOL consortium for the analysis of PROs in cancer trials.³³ Specifically, CARD used valid within-group PRO objectives, predefined PRO analysis populations, and clearly defined criteria for improvement/stable/deterioration based on predefined threshold levels. Additionally, overall effect endpoints were used with caution, and Cox proportional hazard and linear mixed model tests were chosen where appropriate. In the field of medical oncology, it is often the case that effective interventions may not be the best choice from the patient's perspective due to adverse events impacting HRQL. Here, we demonstrate that cabazitaxel significantly improves pain response and time to pain progression reduces the risk of developing SSEs compared with abiraterone or enzalutamide, and is not associated with a detrimental impact on HRQL in patients with mCRPC who have received prior docetaxel and progressed on the alternative androgensignaling-targeted inhibitor within a year. These findings, combined with the overall survival benefit previously published, should help to guide treatment decisions and reassure patients and treating physicians that they should not be reluctant to receive or prescribe chemotherapy.⁷

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Declaration of interests

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KF has received honoraria and provided an advisory role for Astellas, AAA, Bayer, Essa, 462 463 Janssen, Orion, CureVac, Clovis, Sanofi, and Endocyte. GK received personal fees from 464 Sanofi, Astellas, Takeda, Bayer, Janssen, Novartis, Ipsen, and AstraZeneca, and has received 465 grants from Sanofi and Bayer. J-CE has received honoraria from and provided an advisory 466 role for Astellas, BMS, Ipsen, Janssen, Pfizer and Sanofi Aventis, and has received travel and 467 accommodation fees from Pfizer and BMS. CNS has received honoraria from Janssen, AstraZeneca, Sanofi, and Astellas, received consultancy fees from Sanofi, Bayer, and Pfizer, 468 and received institutional funding from Genentech/Roche, Bayer, Sanofi Genzyme, Janssen, 470 Medivation, Merck Sharp & Dohme, and Exelixis. JdB has received honoraria from AstraZeneca, Sanofi, Astellas Pharma, Pfizer, Genentech/Roche, Janssen Oncology, Menarini 471 472 Silicon Biosystems, Daiichi Sankyo, Sierra Oncology, and BioXcel Therapeutics, and provided 473 an advisory role for AstraZeneca, Sanofi, Genentech/Roche, Astellas Pharma, Bayer, Pfizer, 474 Merck Sharp & Dohme, Merck Serono, Boehringer Ingelheim, Sierra Oncology, Menarini 475 Silicon Biosystems, Celgene, Taiho Pharmaceutical, Daiichi Sankyo, Janssen Oncology, 476 Genmab, GlaxoSmithKline, Orion Pharma GmbH, Eisai, and BioXCel Therapeutics. DC 477 received personal fees from Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi, Janssen, Astellas, Bayer, Bristol Myers 478 Squibb, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Merck Serono, Pierre Fabre, AstraZeneca, and Lilly. BT has 479 received personal fees and research grants from Astellas, Janssen, Sanofi Genzyme, Amgen, 480 and Ferring, and received non-financial support from Sanofi Genzyme. ML has received personal fees from Sanofi, Janssen, Amgen, BMS, MSD, AstraZeneca, GSK, and Roche. JC has 482 provided an advisory role for Astellas, AstraZeneca, Bayer, BMS, MSD Oncology, Johnson & Johnson, Sanofi, Roche and Pfizer and has attended speaker bureaus for Asofarma, Astellas, 483 484 Bayer, and Johnson & Johnson. RI received honoraria and provided an advisory role for Sanofi, Janssen, Pfizer, IPSEN, Novartis, Bristol Myers Squibb, and Merck Sharp & Dohme. 485 486 BM received travel fees, honoraria and provided an advisory role for Bristol Myers Squibb 487 and Merck Serono, and received honoraria and provided an advisory role for MSD, Sanofi, 488 Roche, Janssen, Bayer, Astellas, Amgen, Novartis, Servier, AstraZeneca, Eisai, E. Lilly, Ipsen, 489 Pierre Fabre, and Pfizer. CH received consultancy fees for Sanofi, Janssen and Astellas. SO 490 has received honoraria for Astellas, Bayer, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, and Sanofi. AO and SB are employees and stock holders of Sanofi. CW, JC, AS, CT, SF 492 and GF report no conflicts of interest. CGR and EMP are employees of Sanofi. RdW provided

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619 Figures and Tables

Figure 1. CONSORT diagram

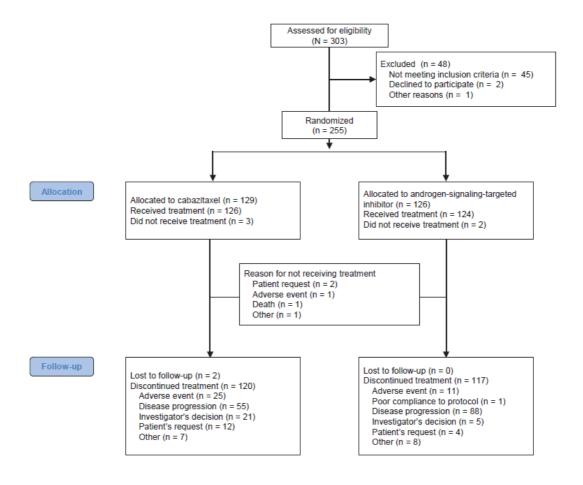
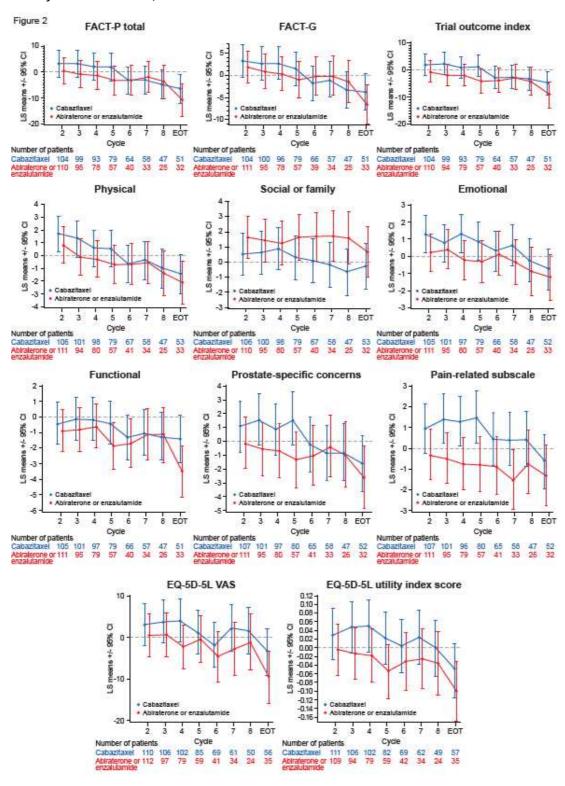
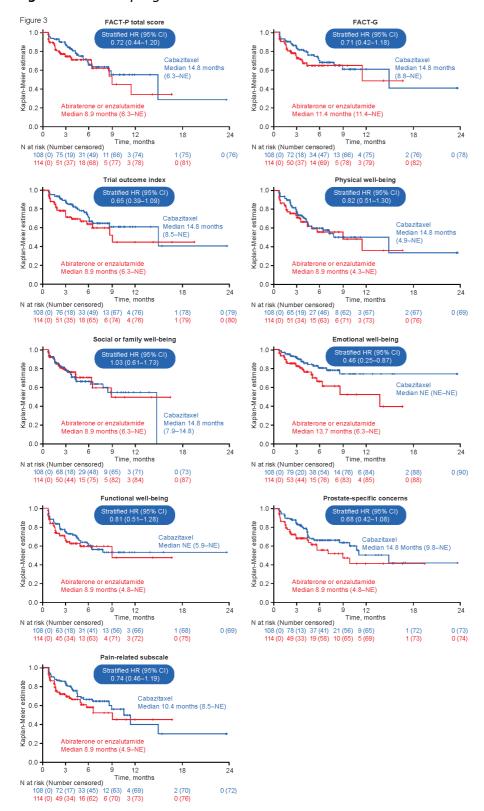


Figure 2. Adjusted mean (95% CI) change from baseline in FACT-P total and subscale scores. Mean changes from baseline were assessed using a mixed linear repeated measures model adjusted for baseline stratification variables as well as the interaction treatment*visit. Only results for cycles where $n \ge 20\%$ in each treatment group in the PRO population, and for the end-of-treatment visit, are shown.



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630	Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; EOT, end of treatment; FACT-G, Functional
631	Assessment of Cancer Therapy-General; FACT-P, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy
632	Prostate; LS, least squares.
633	

Figure 3. Time to progression in FACT-P total score and subscales



Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; FACT-G, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-General; FACT-P, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Prostate; HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reached.

Table 1. Baseline demographics and clinical characteristics

Total population	Cabazitaxel (n=129)	Abiraterone or enzalutamide (n=126)	
Median age, years (range)	70.0 (46–85)	71.0 (45–88)	
≥75 years, n/N (%)	45 (35)	34 (27)	
Total Gleason score ≥8 at diagnosis,	73/129 (57)	81/126 (64)	
n/N (%)			
ECOG performance status at baseline, n/N (%)	123/129 (95)	119/126 (94)	
0 or 1	6/129 (5)	7/126 (6)	
2			
Patients with M1 disease at diagnosis, n/N (%)	49/129 (38)	60/126 (48)	
Disease location at baseline, n/N (%)			
Bone ^a	105/126 (83)	110/125 (88)	
Lymph nodes ^b	8/129 (6)	6/126 (5)	
Visceral metastases ^c	21/129 (16)	25/126 (20)	
Prior life-extending therapy, n/N (%)			
Docetaxel	129/129 (100)	126/126 (100)	
Abiraterone	56/129 (43)	67/126 (53)	
Enzalutamide	72/129 (56)	59/126 (47)	
Bisphosphonate or denosumab use at baseline,	27/129 (21)	46/126 (37)	
n/N (%)			
Type of progression at randomization, n/N (%)			
PSA only	11/129 (9)	10/126 (8)	
Imaging-based ^d	23/129 (18)	15/126 (12)	
Pain ^e	86/129 (67)	90/126 (71)	
Missing	9/129 (7)	11/126 (9)	
Pain intensity at randomization (BPI-SF, item 3),			
n/N (%)			
0 or 1	36/129 (28)	28/126 (22)	
2 or 3	28/129 (22)	32/126 (25)	
≥ 4	56/129 (43)	56/126 (44)	
Missing	9/129 (7)	10/126 (8)	
Analgesics consumption for cancer pain at			
randomization, n/N (%)			
No analgesics	57/129 (44)	53/126 (42)	
Non-opioid analgesics (mild pain)	24/129 (19)	30/126 (24)	
Opioids for moderate pain	16/129 (12)	15/126 (12)	
Opioids for severe pain	31/129 (24)	27/126 (21)	
Missing	1/129 (1)	1/126 (1)	
Baseline FACT-P scores			
Number of patients, n/N (%)	108/129 (84)	114/126 (91)	
Total FACT-P, mean (SD)	104 (22.0)	105 (21.2)	
Total FACT-G, mean (SD)	73.7 (16.5)	75.1 (16.6)	

Total population	Cabazitaxel (n=129)	Abiraterone or enzalutamide (n=126)	
Trial outcome index, mean (SD)	66.5 (16.7)	68·1 (15·7)	
Prostate-specific concerns, mean (SD)	30.0 (7.1)	30·1 (6·9)	
Pain-related subscale, mean (SD)	9.8 (4.4)	10.2 (3.9)	
Emotional well-being, mean (SD)	16·2 (4·5)	16.8 (4.7)	
Functional well-being, mean (SD)	15.6 (6.1)	16.9 (6.0)	
Physical well-being, mean (SD)	20.9 (5.6)	21.0 (5.3)	
Social and family well-being, mean (SD)	21.1 (4.8)	20.6 (5.2)	
Baseline EQ-5D-5L scores			
Number of patients, n/N (%)	113/129 (88)	112/126 (89)	
Health status score (VAS), mean (SD)	65.8 (20.4)	66.3 (18.5)	
Number of patients, n/N (%)	112/129 (87)	115/126 (91)	
Health utility index, mean (SD)	0.7 (0.26)	0.7 (0.22)	

^aBone metastases (+/- lymph nodes, +/- visceral metastases).; ^blymph node only – no bone

- Abbreviations: BPI-SF, Brief Pain Inventory-Short Form, ECOG, Eastern Cooperative
- Oncology Group; FACT-G, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-General; FACT-P,
- 646 Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Prostate; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; SD,
- standard deviation; VAS, visual analogue score.

or visceral metastases; clung and/or liver metastases (+/- lymph nodes, +/- bone metastasis);

⁶⁴³ d+/- PSA, no pain; e+/- PSA, +/- imaging-based.

Table 2. Median time to pain progression and deterioration of FACT-P total and subscale scores

	Median time to deterioration, months (95% CI) n/nT events, (%)			Kaplan-Meier probability of no deterioration		Kaplan-Meier probability of no deterioration	
				at 3 months (95% CI)		at 9 months (95% CI)	
	Cabazitaxel	Abiraterone or	HR	Cabazitaxel	Abiraterone or	Cabazitaxel	Abiraterone or
		enzalutamide	(95% CI)		Enzalutamide		Enzalutamide
Overall	13.6 (11.5–17.5)	11.0 (9.2–12.9)	0.64*	0.976	0.936	0.748	0.646
survival	70/129 (54.3)	83/126 (65.9)	(0.46-0.89)	(0.950–1.00)	(0.893–0.979)	(0.668–0.828)	(0.556–0.735)
Pain	NE (NE-NE)	8·5 (4·9–NE)	0.55*	0.878	0.746	0.662	0.453
progression	25/111 (22·5)	27/109 (24·8)	(0.32-0.97)	(0.813-0.943)	(0.649–0.843)	(0.546–0.779)	(0.221–0.686)
(BPI-SF)							
FACT-P questi	FACT-P questionnaire						
FACT-P total	14·8 (6·3–NE)	8·9 (6·3–NE)	0.72	0.862	0.740	0.542	0.437
	32/108 (29·6)	33/114 (28·9)	(0.44–1.20)	(0.795–0.930)	(0.652–0.827)	(0.395–0.690)	(0.208–0.667)
FACT-G total	14·8 (8·8–NE)	11·4 (11·4–NE)	0.71	0.823	0.723	0.607	0.644
	30/108 (27·8)	32/114 (28·1)	(0.42-1.18)	(0.749–0.898)	(0.632–0.814)	(0.471–0.742)	(0.533–0.755)
Trial	14·8 (8·5–NE)	8·9 (6·3–NE)	0.65	0.861	0.714	0.610	0.447
outcome	29/108 (26·9)	34/114 (29·8)	(0.39–1.09)	(0.793–0.929)	(0.662–0.806)	(0.47.9–0.74.0)	(0.241–0.652)
index							

Physical well-	14·8 (4·9–NE)	8·9 (4·3–NE)	0.82	0.760	0.714	0.501	0.480
being	39/108 (36·1)	38/114 (33·3)	(0.51–1.30)	(0.675–0.844)	(0.624–0.804)	(0.363–0.640)	(0.298–0.661)
Social or	14.8 (7.9–14.8)	8·9 (6·3–NE)	1.03	0.787	0.794	0.547	0.494
family	35/108 (32·4)	27/114 (23·7)	(0.61–1.73)	(0.708–0.867)	(0.712–0.876)	(0.398–0.695)	(0.266–0.721)
well-being							
Emotional	NE (NE-NE)	13·7 (6·3–NE)	0.46**	0.91·1	0.826	0.741	0.525
well-being	18/108 (16·7)	26/114 (22·8)	(0·25–0·87)	(0.855–0.967)	(0.749–0.903)	(0.619–0.863)	(0.317–0.733)
Functional	NE (5·9–NE)	8·9 (4·8–NE)	0.81	0.737	0.653	0.530	0.474
well-being	39/108 (36·1)	39/114 (34·2)	(0.51–1.28)	(0.652–0.823)	(0.557–0.749)	(0.409–0.652)	(0.248–0.700)
Prostate-	14·8 (9·8–NE)	8·9 (4·8–NE)	0.68	0.836	0.684	0.636	0.473
specific	35/108 (32·4)	40/114 (35·1)	(0.42–1.08)	(0.764–0.907)	(0.591–0.776)	(0.525–0.747)	(0.320–0.626)
concerns							
(PCS)							
Pain-related	10·4 (8·5–NE)	8·9 (4·9–NE)	0.74	0.816	0.696	0.562	0.451
subscale	36/108 (33·3)	38/114 (33·3)	(0.46–1.19)	(0.741–0.891)	(0.605–0.787)	(0.422–0.702)	(0.264–0.638)

Stratified log rank test: *p=0.03; **p=0.015

Abbreviations: BPI-SF, Brief Pain Inventory-Short Form, CI, confidence interval; FACT-G, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-General;

⁶⁵¹ FACT-P, Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Prostate; HR, hazard ratio; NE, not estimable.

Table 3. Distribution of first symptomatic skeletal events and probability of not having symptomatic skeletal events in the intention to treat population

	Cabazitaxel (n=129)	Abiraterone or enzalutamide (n=126)
Any symptomatic skeletal event, n (%)	24/129 (19)	35/126 (28)
Radiation to relieve bone pain, n (%)	14/129 (11)	23/126 (18)
Spinal cord compression, n (%)	4/129 (3)	4/126 (3)
New symptomatic pathologic fracture, n (%)	6/129 (5)	8/126 (6)
Surgery to the bone, n (%)	0/129 (0)	0/126 (0)
Kaplan–Meier probability of not having symptomatic skeletal events, % (95% CI)		
- At 3 months	0.926 (0.880–0.973)	0.814 (0.744–0.885)
- At 6 months	0.858 (0.792–0.923)	0.771 (0.693–0.849)
- At 12 months	0.794 (0.709–0.880)	0.629 (0.511–0.748)
- At 18 months	0.712 (0.594–0.830)	0.486 (0.286–0.685)

Abbreviation: CI, confidence interval.