

# Abiraterone for treating metastatic hormone-relapsed prostate cancer before chemotherapy is indicated

Information for the public

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## What has NICE said?

Abiraterone (Zytiga), given with prednisone or prednisolone, is recommended as a possible treatment for people with metastatic hormone-relapsed prostate cancer who have no or mild symptoms after androgen deprivation therapy has stopped working, and before chemotherapy is needed.

## What does this mean for me?

If you have metastatic hormone-relapsed prostate cancer, and your doctor thinks that abiraterone is the right treatment, you should be able to have the treatment on the NHS.

Abiraterone should be available on the NHS within 3 months of the guidance being issued.

## Why has NICE said this?

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS.

Abiraterone was recommended because the benefits to patients justify its cost.

## The condition and the treatment

When prostate cancer has spread to another part of the body, it is called advanced or metastatic prostate cancer. In most men with prostate cancer, the hormone testosterone makes the cancer grow faster. So, prostate cancer can be treated with drugs that make the body produce less testosterone, or react to it in a different way. This is called androgen deprivation treatment.

After a time, the cancer stops responding to such treatments – this is known as 'hormone-relapsed' cancer.

Abiraterone (Zytiga) can block the production of androgen, a different hormone linked to prostate cancer.

[NHS Choices](#) may be a good place to find out more.

## Sources of advice and support

- [Prostate Cancer UK](#), 0800 074 8383
- [Tackle Prostate Cancer](#), 0845 601 0766
- [PCaSO Prostate Cancer Support Organisation](#), 0845 650 2555
- [Orchid](#), 0808 802 0010
- [Macmillan Cancer Support](#), 0808 808 0000

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## Accreditation

