

Oral relugolix for androgen deprivation therapy in advanced prostate cancer: Detailed safety analysis from the randomized phase 3 HERO study

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Introduction & Objectives: In the HERO study in men with advanced prostate cancer, relugolix, a highly selective nonpeptide oral GnRH antagonist, was well tolerated, with hot flash and fatigue as the most frequently reported adverse events (AE) for men in both relugolix and leuprolide groups. A 54% lower risk of major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE) was observed for men on relugolix vs leuprolide. Herein, we provide a detailed analysis of the safety results from the HERO study, including reviewing AE onset and duration data.

Materials & Methods: The phase 3 HERO study evaluated 930 men with advanced prostate cancer who were randomized 2:1 and treated with relugolix 120 mg orally once daily (after a 360 mg day 1 loading dose) or leuprolide injections every 12 weeks for 48 weeks. Safety assessments included AEs (assessed according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for AEs, version 4.03), MACE (defined as nonfatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, and death from any cause), as well as onset (median days from the date of first dose to the initial event) and duration (median days from start to end date of the event) of the most common events.

Results: AEs were reported in 92.9% of men in relugolix group and 93.5% in the leuprolide group, with hot flash, fatigue, constipation, diarrhea, and arthralgia occurring most frequently (table). Grade ≥ 3 AEs were reported in 18.0% in the relugolix group and 20.5% men in the leuprolide group. The most frequently reported ($\geq 1\%$) grade ≥ 3 AEs in any treatment group included hypertension, diabetes mellitus, and syncope. All other grade ≥ 3 AEs were reported with similar incidence in both treatment groups. MACE occurred in 2.9% and 6.2% of patients on relugolix and leuprolide, respectively. For AEs occurring in $\geq 10\%$ patients, median time to onset was 19.0-142.0 days in the relugolix group and 41.0-188.5 days in the leuprolide group. Duration varied among the AEs (table).

Table. Onset and Duration of Adverse Events

	Relugolix (N = 622)			Leuprolide (N = 308)		
	AE n (%)	Onset (Days) ^a Median (min, max)	Duration (Days) ^b Median (min, max)	AE n (%)	Onset (Days) ^a Median (min, max)	Duration (Days) ^b Median (min, max)
MACE^c	18 (2.9)	176.5 (38, 343)	N/A	19 (6.2)	132.0 (8, 352)	N/A
AEs occurring in ≥ 10% of patients						
Hot flash	338 (54.3)	19.0 (1, 343)	342.0 (15, 477)	159 (51.6)	33.0 (1, 200)	331.0 (1, 428)
Fatigue	134 (21.5)	45.5 (1, 342)	289.0 (2, 429)	57 (18.5)	41.0 (1, 326)	274.0 (3, 426)
Constipation	76 (12.2)	128.0 (1, 359)	66.5 (2, 409)	30 (9.7)	61.0 (1, 273)	92.5 (3, 410)
Diarrhea ^d	76 (12.2)	75.5 (1, 338)	9.0 (1, 370)	21 (6.8)	133.0 (2, 313)	3.0 (1, 224)
Arthralgia	75 (12.1)	142.0 (1, 355)	160.0 (1, 495)	28 (9.1)	188.5 (1, 370)	129.5 (2, 589)
Grade ≥ 3 AEs in ≥ 1% patients						
Hypertension ^e	10 (1.6)	206.0 (15, 334)	14.5 (1, 328)	2 (0.6)	55.0 (21, 89)	26.5 (2, 51)
Diabetes	6 (1.0)	202.5 (85, 338)	117.5 (1, 204)	2 (0.6)	31.5 (29, 34)	191.5 (53, 330)
Syncope	6 (1.0)	163.0 (79, 315)	N/A	3 (1.0)	83.0 (45, 214)	N/A

Abbreviations: AE, adverse event; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; N/A, not applicable.

^aTime to event is defined as the time from the date of first dose to the initial event (median days).

^bDuration of AE defined as end date of the event – start date of the event + 1 (median days). Duration is not applicable to point in time events (ie, MACE and syncope).

^cSearch criteria included Myocardial Infarction SMQ (broad), Central Nervous System Hemorrhages and Cerebrovascular Conditions SMQ (broad), and deaths due to all causes.

^dAll diarrhea events were mild or moderate (grade 1 or grade 2) and no patient was withdrawn due to diarrhea.

^eGrade ≥ 3 hypertension were reported in a higher proportion of patients in the relugolix group (1.6%) than the leuprolide group (0.6%); however, no meaningful differences were observed between groups in the mean changes from baseline over time in systolic or diastolic blood pressure

Adverse event grades are evaluated based on National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events Version 4.03. MedDRA Version 22.0.

Conclusions: Relugolix, an oral nonpeptide GnRH receptor antagonist, was generally well tolerated in the phase 3 HERO study. Results for AE onset and duration suggest AEs occur early during treatment with varying duration depending on the type of event.

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