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Running title: Earlier indication of Ra-223 may improve survival in CRPC

6 Survival benefit of early radium-223 dichloride therapy in castration-resistant prostate 7 cancer patients with osteoblastic bone metastases

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The aim of the retrospective cohort study was to evaluate the overall survival of patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer and osteoblastic bone metastases without visceral metastases treated with 223Radium dichloride (223Ra). The cohort included 55 patients aged 48 to 86, with a median age of 71. Overall survival from the first administered cycle (from 7/2015 to 7/2019) was evaluated in 10/2024.

26 The median overall survival was, despite a smaller cohort, 16.27 months (CI: 11.87-20.98 months), comparable to other large real-world studies. Asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients with 27 good performance status (ECOG 0-1) at the start of therapy had a significantly higher median 28 survival than more symptomatic patients with ECOG 2 and 3 (22.42 vs. 8.06 and 3.28 months). The 29 number of completed cycles of 223Ra was inversely proportional to the patients' performance 30 status (ECOG) - Kendall's Tau-c = -0.625; p < 0.0001. Previous treatment with chemotherapy (41.2) 31 % of patients) was associated with significantly worse survival on multivariable analysis. A 32 decrease of serum PSA by more than 50% (12.7% of patients) was significantly associated with 33 longer survival (31 months; p = 0.0043). Severe (Grade 3) anemia, leukopenia, and 34 thrombocytopenia occurred in only 9.1%, 3.6%, and 3.6% of patients. 35

Earlier indication of 223Ra dichloride therapy in asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients with good performance status (ECOG 0-1) and without prior chemotherapy improved survival in our cohort. The decrease in serum PSA during treatment was a good prognostic factor associated with longer survival.

41 Key words: radium-223 dichloride; metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer; osteoblastic
 42 bone metastases

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Bone metastases affect approximately 90% of patients with metastatic prostate cancer [1] and significantly impact both the quality of life and overall survival [2]. In Slovakia, since 2015, patients with castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) exhibiting osteoblastic bone metastases confirmed via bone scintigraphy, and without visceral metastases, are eligible for radionuclide therapy using radioactive radium-223 (²²³Ra dichloride). Radium-223 is the first clinically approved alpha emitter that specifically targets bone metastases in CRPC, reduces pain, and can extendsurvival [3-5].

52 Radium-223 is chemically a calcium mimetic that is actively incorporated by osteoblasts and 53 passively into the hydroxyapatite of the bone matrix at sites of increased turnover [6], such as sites of osteoblastic bone metastases. The high energy of ²²³Ra alpha radiation (alpha particles represent 54 95.3% of the radiation energy of ²²³Ra), up to 80 kiloelectronvolts/micrometer, leads to a high 55 frequency of DNA double-strand breaks in surrounding cells, which disrupts the activity of both 56 bone cells and cancer cells [7, 8]. Therefore, ²²³Ra has, in addition to the analgesic, also a highly 57 58 localized cytotoxic effect in the target areas which leads to longer survival of patients compared to 59 the control group. The best-known multicenter study ALSYMPCA has shown prolongation of the 60 median overall survival by 3.6 months compared to the placebo control group (14.9 months vs. 11.3 months) [4]. The physical half-life of ²²³Ra is 11.43 days, and a short range of alpha particles (up to 61 100 micrometers or less than 10 cell diameters) reduces the risk of bone marrow suppression 62 63 compared to previously used osteotropic beta emitters [7, 9].

64 The aim of our retrospective analysis was to evaluate the effectiveness of ²²³Ra dichloride therapy 65 to prolong survival in patients with osteoblastic bone metastases in castration-resistant prostate 66 cancer.

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68 **Patients and methods**

69 Patients' characteristics. Between July 2015 and July 2019, we initiated treatment with ²²³Ra 70 dichloride in a cohort of 56 patients. Overall survival from the first administered cycle was evaluated in October 2024. The study cohort comprised 55 patients (one unclassified patient died of 71 a heart attack before receiving the second cycle of ²²³Ra). The ages of the participants ranged from 72 73 48 to 86 years, with a median age of 71. All patients had CRPC with osteoblastic bone metastases, 74 featuring three or more lesions; among them, 47 patients (85.5%) had 20 or more lesions confirmed through bone scintigraphy using ^{99m}Technetium-methylene diphosphonate. Patients with visceral 75 76 metastases were excluded following initial imaging examinations using positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) with ¹⁸Fluor-fluorocholine [10]. Based on their 77 performance status at the initiation of ²²³Ra therapy, patients were categorized into three groups 78 79 according to the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) scale: 0-1, 2, and 3 [11]. Out of the 55 included patients, 23 (41.8%) received cytotoxic chemotherapy (CHT)-docetaxel or also 80 cabazitaxel and 26 (47.3%) second-generation antiandrogens (AAs) - abiraterone and/or 81 enzalutamide before the first cycle of ²²³Ra. 82

Administration of ²²³Ra therapy. All patients underwent intravenous ²²³Ra treatment, administered at an activity level of 55 kilobecquerels (kBq) per kilogram of body weight at intervals of 4 to 6 weeks. Each patient received up to a maximum of 6 cycles of ²²³Ra, with a minimum of 1 cycle and a median of 6 cycles.

Laboratory tests. Before the first cycle of ²²³Ra, we excluded patients with leukocytes/neutrophils $< 1.5 \times 10^{9}$ /l, platelets $< 100 \times 10^{9}$ /l, hemoglobin < 90 g/l, and we discontinued ²²³Ra therapy in patients with decrease in leukocytes/neutrophils $< 1.0 \times 10^{9}$ /l, platelets $< 50 \times 10^{9}$ /l to exclude patients with impaired bone marrow reserve [12]. We used Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTAEC) [13] to asses hematotoxicity during therapy with ²²³Ra. We monitored blood counts, serum alkaline phosphatase (ALP) in µkat/l and prostate-specific antigen (PSA) level in ng/ml one week before each administration of ²²³Ra.

- 94 Statistical analysis. The collected demographic and clinical data were summarized using 95 descriptive statistics. Continuous variables are presented as the mean with standard deviation (SD) 96 for normally distributed variables or as median and interquartile range for data with departures from 97 normality. Categorical variables are presented as counts and relative frequencies. The primary outcome - overall survival (OS) - was defined as the interval between the first administration of the 98 first cycle of ²²³Ra dichloride and either death or last follow-up. Univariate and bivariate analyses 99 were performed to assess the associations between the explanatory variables and survival status. 100 101 Between-group differences in continuous variables were tested using the Mann-Whitney U test. The 102 association between each categorical variable and survival status was analyzed using the chi-square 103 test or Fisher's exact test. Survival curves were constructed using the Kaplan-Meier method and the 104 difference between the survival curves for each level of the selected categorical predictor was 105 evaluated using the log-rank test. Survival differences in the univariate analyses were confirmed using the Cox proportional hazards regression model. After analyzing simple relationships, 106 107 multivariable modeling was used to determine the unique relationship between patient 108 characteristics and outcome. We run multiple models with manually selected variables significant at the 0.15 level in the simple models. The effect size was expressed as hazard ratio (HR) and 109 110 presented along with 95% confidence intervals (95%CI) and the achieved significance level. The level of statistical significance was set at 5% (P < 0.05). Statistical analyses were performed using 111 112 StatsDirect 4.0.2 (Stats Direct Ltd., Cheshire, UK) and GraphPad Prism 9.0 (GraphPad Software 113 Inc., San Diego, CA, USA) software.
- 114 The study was approved by the local ethics committee (2-2025/EK OÚSA).
- 115
- 116 **Results**

- The median overall survival (from the start of ²²³Ra therapy) in the entire study group was 16.27 117
- months (95% confidence interval/95% CI: 11.87-20.98 months; Figure 1A). At the time of analysis 118 (October 2024), two (3.6%) patients survived with a median survival of 76 months, with maximum 119

survival being 78.2 months. 120

- 121 Age had no significant independent effect on survival on the univariate (p=0.3941) analysis (Table 122 1; Figure 1B).
- 123 There was a significant difference in survival between patients depending on the number of administered cycles of 223 Ra (p < 0.0001; Table 1; Figure 1C). 124
- The number of ²²³Ra cycles administered and survival decreased significantly with the deterioration 125 126 of the ECOG status of the patients (Table 2). The correlation between the ECOG category and the 127 number of completed cycles expressed as Kendall's Tau-c coefficient (-0.625; 95% CI -0.802 to -0.448) was highly significant (p < 0.0001). Kaplan-Meier curve showing survival depending on the 128 ECOG status in the beginning of ²²³Ra therapy is demonstrated in Figure 1D.
- Depending on the dynamics of serum PSA and ALP, we evaluated survival in all 55 patients. Three 130 patients, who received only one cycle of ²²³Ra due to their death, thus missing data on PSA and 131 ALP dynamics, were included in the category with PSA and ALP progression. If the PSA level 132 continued to rise during treatment, the median survival in 38 (69.1%) of 55 patients was 9.76 133 months (95% CI: 7.33-12.76, p=0.0013). If the PSA level decreased or remained unchanged (in 17 134 (30.9%) of 55 patients), the median survival improved significantly - 27.81 months (95% CI: 21.27-135
- 136 31.00).

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- Seven of these 17 patients experienced a PSA decline of more than 50% and their median survival 137 138 was the longest - 31.0 months (95% CI: 27.81-35.01; Table 1; Figure 2A).
- Furthermore, we found statistically significant differences in survival depending on the dynamics of 139 ALP (p=0.0129; Table 1; Figure 2B). 140
- Based on the dynamics of serum PSA and ALP, we divided the patients into three groups: group of 141
- responders (PSA and ALP stable or regression); non-responders I (PSA and ALP progression); non-142
- responders II (PSA progression and ALP stable or regression). We investigated their dynamics in 143
- 144 terms of median survival and occurrence of hematotoxicity (Table 3).
- The most common adverse event during ²²³Ra treatment was hematotoxicity occurring in 28 145 (50.9%) of 55 patients (Table 3), with most severe toxicity Grade 3 - in only 6 of 55 (10.9%) 146 patients. Of these 6 patients, 5 patients underwent cytotoxic chemotherapy prior to ²²³Ra therapy 147 (9.1% of cohort) and only 1 patient did not receive prior chemotherapy (1.8% of cohort). 148

- 149 Grade 2 and 3 thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, anemia occurred in 2 (3.6%) and 2 (3.6%); 7 (12.7%)
- and 2 (3.6%); 10 (18.2%) and 5 (9.1%) patients, respectively. Two of the 5 patients with severe anemia during treatment were already anemic (Grade 1) at the start of 223 Ra treatment.
- 152 Gastrointestinal side effects (nausea, diarrhea) were reported in 5 of 55 patients (9.1%).
- 153 Due to missing data in several patients from the cohort, we did not investigate the occurrence of a 154 bone event after discontinuation of ²²³Ra dichloride treatment.
- Before the first administration of 223 Ra, 23 of 55 (41.8%) patients underwent cytotoxic chemotherapy, with a median survival of 12.40 months (95% CI: 6.90-13.09). Without prior chemotherapy, 32 (58.2%) patients had a median survival of 20.98 months (95%CI: 13.81-23.70; p=0.0705; Table 1; Figure 2C). Even if this difference did not meet the predetermined level of significance on the univariate analysis, the overlap of the two 95% confidence intervals is negligible, so we consider this difference as clinically significant.
- Prior treatment with cytotoxic chemotherapy did not correlate with performance status, allowing us to test the effect of treatment on a multivariable analysis taking into account the effects of other relevant predictor variables (PSA levels and ECOG status) on the relationship between OS and ²²³Ra therapy. We found that prior chemotherapy was independently associated with worse survival (p=0.0101), therefore, we kept this variable in the model to adjust the effect of ²²³Ra therapy for differences in OS associated with CHT.
- 167 The final multivariable prediction model for the independent dose contribution of 223 Ra therapy, 168 adjusted for PSA, ECOG status and previously administered chemotherapy was statistically highly 169 significant (p < 0.001; Table 4).
- 170 In patients pretreated with second generation antiandrogens (AAs) and in patients without AAs 171 therapy was a statistically nonsignificant difference (p=0.0739; Table 1; Figure 2D) in both, 172 univariate and multivariable analysis (p=0.8065; HR=1.08, 95% CI: 0.57-2.05), therefore, the 173 variable was not included in the final prediction model.
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175 Discussion

Radium-223 dichloride therapy is now an integral component of standard care for patients with bone metastases in CRPC and is incorporated into all prostate cancer treatment guidelines [14-17]. Therapy is recommended for symptomatic patients (ECOG 0-2) with predominant bone metastatic disease and no visceral metastases [4, 18]. We incline to the view of the researchers who emphasize the importance of earlier use of 223Ra, even in asymptomatic patients, to enhance overall survival (OS) [19-23]. In our study cohort, patients who were asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic with a good performance status (ECOG 0-1) at the onset of therapy exhibited the highest median survival

- and significantly longer survival compared to patients with ECOG scores of 2 and 3 (23.8 vs. 8.1 and 3.3 months, respectively). All patients with ECOG 3 had advanced stage disease, were distinctly algic, and received 223Ra in prospect of analgesic effect.
- Presumably, earlier 223Ra therapy also increases the chance of completing all 6 cycles. In our cohort, the number of 223Ra cycles was inversely proportional to the level of performance status (ECOG) of the patients (Kendall's Tau-c=-0.63; p < 0.0001).
- 189 The rate of severe hematotoxicity in our cohort was low - Grade 3 thrombocytopenia, anemia, 190 leukopenia occurred in only 3.6%, 9.1%, and 3.6% of patients, respectively. Compared to the 191 literature, in the ALSYMPCA study [4], a similarly low rate of severe (Grade 3-4) thrombocytopenia, anemia, and neutropenia was reported in 6%, 13%, and 3% of patients, 192 respectively. The low rate of hematotoxicity after ²²³Ra therapy allows a combination with other 193 life-prolonging therapies. Subsequent radionuclide therapy with ¹⁷⁷Lutetium-prostate-specific 194 membrane antigen (177Lu-PSMA) in patients with PSMA-positive (also visceral) metastases [24, 195 25] is considered safe despite previous ²²³Ra treatment [26, 27]. While ²²³Ra treatment only affects 196 osteoblastic bone metastases, treatment with ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA (PSMA radioligands with high binding 197 strength to PSMA transmembrane glycoprotein on the surface of tumor cells) is also effective in 198 199 nodal and visceral PSMA-positive metastases [28]. Therefore, it can be also effective in patients 200 with more advanced disease.
- In contrast to ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA, ²²³Ra administration does not necessitate prior chemotherapy or the use of androgen receptor pathway inhibitors, allowing for its early utilization to maximize therapeutic benefits. Recent studies have demonstrated that patients who are docetaxel-naive exhibit significantly lower overall mortality rates and higher completion rates of treatment compared to those who have previously undergone docetaxel therapy [29-31].
- Pretreatment with second-generation AAs did not have significant impact on survival in our cohort.
 However, patients who received chemotherapy prior to ²²³Ra treatment exhibited significantly
 poorer survival outcomes on multivariable analysis.
- 209 Although in another analysis [32] authors found that chemotherapy pretreatment did not directly 210 cause shorter survival, it was associated with a higher incidence of severe hematotoxicity (Grade 3) 211 during ²²³Ra treatment, increasing from 3% to 9%. Our data corroborate this, showing an increase 212 in severe hematotoxicity (Grade 3) from 1 patient without prior chemotherapy to 5 patients among those who received cytotoxic chemotherapy before ²²³Ra therapy (1.8% vs. 9.1%). However, in 213 some patients with severe hematotoxicity, disease progression with bone marrow infiltration must 214 215 be considered as a contributing factor to the deterioration of hematological profiles. In our cohort, 216 five of six patients with severe hematotoxicity exhibited biochemical progression (PSA and/or

ALP) during ²²³Ra therapy (Table 3). In a smaller retrospective analysis [33] authors observed in patients treated with ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA, rather than ²²³Ra, that non-responders to therapy experienced high-grade hematological adverse events and a significant decline in hematological parameters. Conversely, in anemic patient from a cohort at the onset of ²²³Ra therapy who demonstrated regression of serum PSA and ALP during treatment (indicative of successful therapy), blood counts normalized by the conclusion of the treatment course (Figure 3).

223 Regarding serum biomarkers, we monitored the dynamics of serum PSA and ALP throughout therapy, although PSA is not deemed an optimal marker for assessing the efficacy of ²²³Ra 224 dichloride, as several patients also present with lymph node involvement or an active primary 225 prostate tumor that are not targeted by ²²³Ra. Additionally, serum PSA non-responsiveness despite 226 effective treatment may be partially attributed to the fact that ²²³Ra primarily targets the bone 227 microenvironment rather than prostate cancer cells directly [34]. However, in our cohort, PSA 228 dynamics were as significant a marker as serum ALP dynamics during therapy. A stationary or 229 decreased serum PSA level during ²²³Ra treatment correlated with longer survival, compared to 230 patients whose PSA levels increased during treatment (p=0.0007). In the ALSYMPCA trial, a PSA 231 decline of more than 30% from baseline was observed in 27% of patients treated with ²²³Ra [4]. In 232 contrast, in a cohort of 300 real-world patients treated with ²²³Ra, only 6.3% exhibited a PSA 233 decline of more than 30%, although this decline was associated with improved overall survival [35]. 234 235 In our study, a PSA decline or stable level was observed in 17 (30.9%) patients, with over 50% 236 decline in 7 (12.7%) patients, correlating with significantly better survival compared to patients with PSA progression, consistent with findings in a Finnish multicenter retrospective study [36]. 237 We concur with the opinion that an increase in serum PSA levels during ²²³Ra therapy may indicate 238 the emergence of soft tissue metastases not controlled by ²²³Ra, suggesting that PSA dynamics may 239 possess predictive and prognostic value in patients with metastatic castration-resistant prostate 240 cancer treated with ²²³Ra [34], as our results also demonstrated. 241

Since PSA may increase as a flare effect in some patients after the initiation of therapy, early 242 changes in PSA levels should not be a reason to discontinue treatment due to perceived progression 243 [34, 37]. Therefore, in patients experiencing biochemical progression, restaging is recommended 244 after the third or fourth cycle of ²²³Ra treatment to consider alternative, more effective therapies. In 245 patients (already pretreated with AAs and chemotherapy) with progression of PSMA-positive 246 metastases, ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA treatment is possible as soon as 8 weeks after failure of ²²³Ra [26]. In 247 addition, in a study where authors evaluated the safety of repeated ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617 they found that 248 in ¹⁷⁷Lu-PSMA-617 treated patients, who were pretreated with ²²³Ra, the median OS was prolonged 249

- [38]. This was most evident in the group of patients with 6-20 bone lesions (11 vs. 16 months) andwith diffuse bone involvement (7 vs. 11 months).
- We support the opinion that ²²³Ra appears to have comparable efficacy in older and younger patients [39].
- The limitation of our work was a retrospective review of a smaller group of patients from one center.
- According to our findings, asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic patients with good performance status (ECOG 0-1) at the start of ²²³Ra dichloride therapy had the longest survival. Since there is no requirement for prior chemotherapy or androgen receptor pathway inhibitors before initiation of ²²³Ra therapy, it is advisable to use ²²³Ra earlier to maximize its benefits. Stabilization or reduction of serum PSA and ALP levels during treatment were a good prognostic factors associated with longer survival in our cohort.
- 262
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- 264 265
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- 404 Figure Legends
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403

Figure 1. A) Kaplan-Meier curve showing overall survival from the first injection of ²²³Ra in the entire group of patients. The lower and upper bounds of the 95% confidence interval (95% CI) are displayed as dashed lines. B) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% CI as dashed lines showing survival depending on age during ²²³Ra therapy; p=0.3941 C) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% CI as dashed lines showing survival depending on the number of administered cycles of ²²³Ra (p < 0.0001). D) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% CI as dashed lines showing survival depending on ECOG status at the start of ²²³Ra therapy; two-sided p < 0.0001

413

Figure 2. A) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% confidence interval (95% CI) as dashed lines showing 414 survival depending on PSA dynamics during ²²³Ra therapy; p=0.0013 Abbreviations: P-progressed; 415 S/R-stable or regressed; R above 50%-regressed above 50% B) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% CI as 416 dashed lines showing survival depending on ALP dynamics during ²²³Ra therapy; Two-sided 417 p=0.0129 Abbreviations: P-progressed; S/R-stable or regressed C) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% 418 419 CI as dashed lines showing survival depending on prior chemotherapy treatment (CHT) before ²²³Ra therapy; p=0.0705 D) Kaplan-Meier curve with 95% CI as dashed lines showing survival 420 depending on pretreatment with second-generation antiandrogens (AA) before ²²³Ra therapy. The 421 422 result of long-rank test (p=0.0739) is not interpreted, because the observed survival curves cross, 423 implying nonproportional hazards

424

Figure 3. PET with 18F-fluorocholine (maximum intensity projection) and dynamics of PSA (prostate-specific antigen), ALP (alkaline phosphatase) and HGB (hemoglobin) before (left) and after 6 cycles of ²²³Ra dichloride therapy (right) in 70-year-old patient with a significant regression of bone lesions.

Characteristics	Categories	Ν	Median survival	95% CI (months)	p-value
Cycles	1-3	11	2.50	0.82-3.29	< 0.0001
	4-5	8	7.33	6.87-8.06	
	6	36	21.27	17.26-25.32	
ECOG	0-1	32	22.42	17.95-27.81	< 0.0001
	2	13	8.06	6.51-11.87	
	3	10	3.28	0.82-6.08	
PSA categories	Regressed above 50%	7	31.00	27.81-35.01	0.0013
	Stable or regressed	10	22.42	18.67-25.32	
	Progressed	38	9.76	7.33-12.76	
ALP categories	Stable or regressed	41	19.50	13.81-22.55	0.0129
e	Progressed	14	3.29	2.37-12.43	
Biochemical dynamics	Responders	17	27.81	21.27-31.00	0.0012
-	Non-responders I	14	3.29	2.37-12.43	
	Non-responders II	24	11.87	7.53-17.26	
Age groups (range in years)	48-60	8	11.87	6.90-17.95	0.3941
	61-70	17	13.81	6.87-29.26	
	71-86	30	18.67	7.96-22.55	
Pretreatment with CHT	yes	23	12.40	6.90-13.09	0.0705
	no	32	20.98	13.81-23.70	
Pretreatment with AA	yes	26	16.27	7.53-20.98	0.0739*
	no	-29	17.26	9.76-23.70	

Table 1. Kaplan-Meier univariate analysis of overall survival in the study population (N=55). 429

Notes: *in case of crossing survival curves the log-rank test has low power 430

Abbreviations: N-number of patients in the category; CI-confidence interval; P-log-rank probability value; ECOG-the Eastern Cooperative Oncology 431

432 Group performance status; PSA-prostate specific antigen; ALP-serum alkaline phosphatase, responders - PSA and ALP stable or regressed; Non-

responders I-PSA and ALP progressed; Non-responders II-PSA progressed but ALP remained stable or regressed 433

434 **Table 2.** Median survival time depending on the ECOG performance status and on the number of 435 administered cycles of 223 Ra.

ECOC	G N	Median survival time	95%CI (months)	No of cycles of ²²³ Ra median (min-max)
0-1	32	22.42	17.95-27.81	6 (5-6)
2	13	8.06	6.51-11.87	5 (3-6)
3	10	3.28	0.82-6.08	2 (1-6)

436 Notes: increased ECOG status at the beginning of treatment was negatively correlated with the 437 number of administered cycles of 223 Ra (Kendall tau-b = -0.74), which translated into significantly 438 worse overall survival (p < 0.0001)

Abbreviations: ECOG-the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; N-number of patients; CI-439 440 confidence interval

treatment.						
Dischamical dynamics	s N	Number of patients with hematotoxicity				
Diochemical dynamics		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3		
Responders	17	4	3	1		
Non-responders I	14	20	0	3		
Non-responders II	24	6	7	2		

Table 3. Hematologic toxicity in ²²³Ra treated patients grouped by biochemical response to 441 442 traatmont

Abbreviations: Responders-PSA and ALP stable or regressed; Non-responders I-PSA and ALP 443

444 progressed; Non-responders II-PSA progressed but ALP stable or regressed; N-number of patients Accepted manuscrit

445

Variable	Coefficient	Std. error	Ζ	p-value	HR	95% CI
log PSA	0.515	0.2057	2,504	0.0123	1.67	1.12-2.51
ECOG 0-1	-0.968	0.4679	-2,068	0.0387	0.38	0.15-0.95
ECOG 2-3	reference category				1	
CHT yes	0.796	0.3094	2,573	0.0101	2.22	1.21-4.07
CHT no	reference category				1	
#cycles 6	-1,055	0.4755	-2,218	0.0265	0.35	0.14-0.88
#cycles 1-5	reference category				1	

446 **Table 4.** Multivariable Cox regression analysis of overall survival based on treatment and 447 clinicopathological factors.

448 Notes: continuous variable PSA was log-transformed because of skewness, categorical variables 449 ECOG and CHT were expressed as binary variables. The variable No. of fractions was 450 dichotomized into the full number of fractions (6) or otherwise (1-5); p-values were calculated 451 based on Wald test; global statistical significance of the selected model: p < 0.0001; Chi² (null 452 model-final solution)=36.94; Hazard ratios represent change in hazard per unit increase in the 453 covariate (log PSA), or the probability of an event in the higher category relative to the reference 454 category

455 Abbreviations: Z-the Wald statistic value; P-probability; CI-confidence interval; #-the number of 456 cycles



Fig. 1 Download full resolution image



Fig. 2 Download full resolution image

Fig. 3 Download full resolution image



PSA 82.60 ng/ml ALP 12.98 µkat/l HGB 91.00 g/l



PSA 0.35 ng/ml ALP 1.95 µkat/l HGB 125.00 g/l