

Japanese P2 study shows potential of combined vaccine and steroid drug in castration resistant PCa

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Multi-peptide vaccination therapy combined with the low-dose steroid drug dexamethasone shows promise in treating chemotherapy-naive castration resistant prostate cancer (CRPC) patients.

The study, which won the third prize for best abstract in oncology at the 28th European Association of Urology Congress held in Milan, Italy from 15 to 19 March, showed the promising benefit of this [combination therapy](#) in patients who are chemotherapy-naive or those not yet exposed to specific antigens.

"Results of our randomized prospective study suggest that multi-peptide vaccination therapy in combination with low dose [dexamethasone](#) has the therapeutic potential as a safe and efficient option for chemotherapy-naïve CRPC patients," said lead study author Dr. Takahiro Kimura, of the Jikei University School of Medicine, Dept. of Urology, Tokyo, Japan.

Since immunotherapy does not have a strong ability to decrease tumour burden, it is considerably difficult to evaluate the full extent of a significant [therapeutic effect](#) with peptide vaccines, explained Kimura. "Taking this into consideration, the present evidence is promising," he said.

The researchers have previously developed MHC class-I restricted

peptide vaccines for [prostate cancer](#) and carried out a phase 1 trial to assess safety and immunological evaluation. In the present study, Kimura and his colleagues conducted a randomized phase 2 study to evaluate the efficacy of peptide [vaccine therapy](#) for chemotherapy naïve CRPC patients.

Early stage CRPC (PSA

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