

Drug-induced gynecomastia: A systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials

Alberto Trinchieri¹, Gianpaolo Perletti^{2,3}, Vittorio Magri⁴, Konstantinos Stamatou⁵, Margherita Trinchieri⁶, Emanuele Montanari⁷

¹ School of Urology, University of Milan, Milan, Italy;

² Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Section of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy;

³ Faculty of Medicine and Medical Sciences, Ghent University, Belgium;

⁴ Urology Secondary Care Clinic, ASST-Nord, Milan, Italy;

⁵ Department of Urology, Tzaneio Hospital, Pireus, Greece;

⁶ Department of Neuroscience, Psychiatric Unit, University of Parma, Parma, Italy;

⁷ Department of Urology, IRCCS Ca' Granda Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico - University of Milan, Milan, Italy.

List of papers included in the metanalysis

1. Schröder FH, Whelan P, de Reijke TM, Kurth KH, Pavone-Macaluso M, Mattelaer J, van Velthoven RF, Debois M, Collette L; Members of the EORTC Genito-Urinary Group. Metastatic prostate cancer treated by flutamide versus cyproterone acetate. Final analysis of the "European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer" (EORTC) Protocol 30892. *Eur Urol*. 2004; 45:457-64.
2. Iversen P, McLeod DG, See WA, Morris T, Armstrong J, Wirth MP; Casodex Early Prostate Cancer Trialists' Group. Antiandrogen monotherapy in patients with localized or locally advanced prostate cancer: final results from the bicalutamide Early Prostate Cancer programme at a median follow-up of 9.7 years. *BJU Int*. 2010; 105:1074-81.
3. Shipley WU, Seiferheld W, Lukka HR, Major PP, Heney NM, Grignon DJ, Sartor O, Patel MP, Bahary JP, Zietman AL, Pisansky TM, Zeitzer KL, Lawton CA, Feng FY, Lovett RD, Balogh AG, Souhami L, Rosenthal SA, Kerlin KJ, Dignam JJ, Pugh SL, Sandler HM; NRG Oncology RTOG. Radiation with or without Antiandrogen Therapy in Recurrent Prostate Cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2017; 376:417-428.
4. Zanardi S, Puntoni M, Maffezzini M, Bandelloni R, Mori M, Argusti A, Campodonico F, Turbino L, Branchi D, Montironi R, Decensi A. Phase I-II trial of weekly bicalutamide in men with elevated prostate-specific antigen and negative prostate biopsies. *Cancer Prev Res (Phila)*. 2009; 2:377-84.
5. Alberts SR, Novotny PJ, Sloan JA, Danella J, Bostwick DG, Sebo TJ, Blute ML, Fitch TR, Levitt R, Lieberman R, Loprinzi CL. Flutamide in men with prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia: A randomized, placebo-controlled chemoprevention trial. *American Journal of Therapeutics* 2006; 13: 291-297.
6. Narayan P, Trachtenberg J, Lepor H, Debruyne FM, Tewari A, Stone N, Das S, Jimenez-Cruz JF, Shearer R, Klimberg I, Schellhammer PF, Costello AJ. A dose-response study of the effect of flutamide on benign prostatic hyperplasia: results of a multicenter study. *Urology*. 1996; 47:497-504.
7. Berger BM, Naadimuthu A, Boddy A, Fisher HA, McConnell JD, Milam D, Mobley D, Rajfer J. The effect of zanoterone, a steroidol androgen receptor antagonist, in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia. *The Zanoterone Study Group*. *J Urol*. 1995; 154:1060-4.
8. Andriole GL, Bostwick DG, Brawley OW et al. REDUCE Study Group Effect of dutasteride on the risk of prostate cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2010; 362:1192-202.
9. Na Y, Ye Z, Zhang S. Efficacy and Safety of Dutasteride in Chinese Adults with Symptomatic Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Parallel-Group, Placebo-Controlled Study with an Open-Label Extension. *Clin Drug Investig*. 2012; 32:29-39.
10. Roehrborn CG, Boyle P, Nickel J, Curtis, Hoefner K, Andriole G. Efficacy and safety of a dual inhibitor of 5-alpha-reductase types 1 and 2 (dutasteride) in men with benign prostatic hyperplasia *Urology* 2002; 60:34-441.
11. McConnell JD, Bruskewitz R, Walsh P, Andriole G, Lieber M, Holtgrewe HL, et al. The effect of finasteride on the risk of acute urinary retention and the need for surgical treatment among men with benign prostatic hyperplasia. *Finasteride Long-Term Efficacy and Safety Study Group*. *N Engl J Med*. 1998; 338:557-63. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJM199802263380901> PMID: 9475762.
12. Thompson IM, Goodman PJ, Tangen CM, Lucia MS, Miller GJ, Ford LG, Lieber MM, Cespedes RD, Atkins JN, Lippman SM, Carlin SM, Ryan A, Szczepanek CM, Crowley JJ, Coltman CA Jr. The influence of finasteride on the development of prostate cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2003; 349:215-24.
13. Amory JK, Wang C, Swerdloff RS, Anawalt BD, Matsumoto AM, Bremner WJ, Walker SE, Haberer LJ, Clark RV. The effect of 5α-reductase inhibition with dutasteride and finasteride on semen parameters and serum hormones in healthy men. *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* 2007; 92:1659-1665.
14. Nickel JC, Gilling P, Tammela TL, Morrill B, Wilson TH, Rittmaster RS. Comparison of dutasteride and finasteride for treating benign prostatic hyperplasia: the Enlarged Prostate International Comparator Study (EPICS). *BJU Int*. 2011; 108:388-94.
15. Bianchi S., Bigazzi R., Campese VM. Long-term effects of

No conflict of interest declared.

- spironolactone on proteinuria and kidney function in patients with chronic kidney disease *Kidney International* 2006; 70:2116-2123.
16. Charytan DM, Himmelfarb J, Ikizler TA, Raj DS, Hsu JY, Landis JR, Anderson AH, Hung AM, Mehrotra R, Sharma S, Weiner DE, Williams M, DiCarli M, Skali H, Kimmel PL, Kliger AS, Dember LM; Hemodialysis Novel Therapies Consortium. Safety and cardiovascular efficacy of spironolactone in dialysis-dependent ESRD (SPin-D): a randomized, placebo-controlled, multiple dosage trial. *Kidney Int.* 2019; 95:973-982.
17. Edelmann F, Wachter R, Schmidt AG, Kraigher-Krainer E, Colantonio C, Kamke W, Duvinage A, Stahrenberg R, Durstewitz K, Löffler M, Düngen H-D, Tschöpe C, Herrmann-Lingen C, Halle M, Hasenfuss G, Gelbrich G, Pieske B. Effect of spironolactone on diastolic function and exercise capacity in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction: The Aldo-DHF randomized controlled trial *JAMA - Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2013; 309:781-791.
18. Gao X, Peng L, Adhikari CM, Lin J, Zuo Z. Spironolactone Reduced Arrhythmia and Maintained Magnesium Homeostasis in Patients With Congestive Heart Failure *Journal of Cardiac Failure*, 2007; 13:170-177
19. Ito Y, Mizuno M, Suzuki Y, Tamai H, Hiramatsu T, Ohashi H, Ito I, Kasuga H, Horie M, Maruyama S, Yuzawa Y, Matsubara T, Matsuo S, Watanabe M, Nishimura H, Mizutani M, Kinashi H, Dambara A, Saka Y, Toda S, Kimu S, Minoshima K, Yamaha M, Takahashi R, Kimura K, Naruse T, Matsuoka T, Inaguma D, Kurata K. Long-term effects of spironolactone in peritoneal dialysis patients *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* 2014; 25:1094-1102.
20. Kayrak M, Bacaksiz A, Vatankulu MA, Ayhan SS, Ari H, Kaya Z, Ozdemir K. The effects of spironolactone on atrial remodeling in patients with preserved left ventricular function after an acute myocardial infarction: A randomized follow-up study *Coronary Artery Disease* 2010; 21:477-485.
21. Matsumoto Y, Mori Y, Kageyama S, Arihara K, Sugiyama T, Ohmura H, Yakushigawa T, Sugiyama H, Shimada Y, Nojima Y, Shio N. Spironolactone reduces cardiovascular and cerebrovascular morbidity and mortality in hemodialysis patients. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2014; 63:528-36.
22. Ni X, Zhang J, Zhang P, Wu F, Xia M, Ying G, Chen J. Effects of spironolactone on dialysis patients with refractory hypertension: A randomized controlled study *Journal of Clinical Hypertension* 2014; 16:658-663.
23. Pitt B, Zannad F, Remme WJ, Cody R, Castaigne A, Perez A, Palensky J, Wittes J. The effect of spironolactone on morbidity and mortality in patients with severe heart failure. Randomized Aldactone Evaluation Study Investigators. *N Engl J Med*. 1999; 341:709-17.
24. Skvortsov AA, Mareev VY, Chelmakina SM, Baklanova NA, Belenkov IuN. [Efficacy and safety of long-term application of spironolactone in patients with moderate and severe chronic heart failure receiving optimal therapy]. *Kardiologija*. 2007; 47:12-23.
25. Tofte N, Lindhardt M, Adamova K, Bakker SJL, Beige J, Beulens JWJ, Birkenfeld AL, Currie G, Delles C, Dimos I, Francová L, Frimodt-Møller M, Girman P, Göke R, Havrdova T, Heerspink HJJ, Kooy A, Laverman GD, Mischak H, Navis G, Nijpels G, Noutsou M, Ortiz A, Parvanova A, Persson F, Petrie JR, Ruggenenti PL, Rutters F, Rychlik I, Siwy J, Spasovski G, Speeckaert M, Trillini M, Zürbig P, von der Leyen H, Rossing P; PRIORITY investigators. Early detection of diabetic kidney disease by urinary proteomics and subsequent intervention with spironolactone to delay progression (PRIORITY): a prospective observational study and embedded randomised placebo-controlled trial. *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol*. 2020; 8:301-312.
26. Vatankulu MA, Bacaksiz A, Sonmez O, Alihanoglu Y, Koc F, Demir K, Gul EE, Turfan M, Tasal A, Kayrak M, Yazici M, Ozdemir K. Does spironolactone have a dose-dependent effect on left ventricular remodeling in patients with preserved left ventricular function after an acute myocardial infarction? *Cardiovascular Therapeutics* 2013; 31:224-229.
27. Vizzardi E, Pina PD, Caretta G, Bonadei I, Sciatti E, Lombardi C, D'Aloia A, Curnis A, Metra M. The effect of aldosterone-antagonist therapy on aortic elastic properties in patients with nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy *Journal of Cardiovascular Medicine*. 2015; 16:597-602.
28. Zarraga IGE, Dougherty CM, MacMurdy KS, Raith MH. Tachyarrhythmias the effect of spironolactone on ventricular tachyarrhythmias in patients with implantable cardioverter-defibrillators *Circulation: Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology*. 2012; 5:739-747.
29. Kelly DL, Conley RR. A randomized double-blind 12-week study of quetiapine, risperidone or fluphenazine on sexual functioning in people with schizophrenia *Psychoneuroendocrinology*. 2006; 31:340-346.
30. McEvoy JP, Lieberman JA, Stroup TS, Davis SM, Meltzer HY, Rosenheck RA, Swartz MS, Perkins DO, Keefe RS, Davis CE, Severe J, Hsiao JK; CATIE Investigators. Effectiveness of clozapine versus olanzapine, quetiapine, and risperidone in patients with chronic schizophrenia who did not respond to prior atypical antipsychotic treatment. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2006; 163:600-10.
31. McEvoy JP, Lieberman JA, Perkins DO, Hamer RM, Gu H, Lazarus A, Sweitzer D, Olexy C, Weiden P, Strakowski SD. Efficacy and tolerability of olanzapine, quetiapine, and risperidone in the treatment of early psychosis: A randomized, double-blind 52-week comparison *American Journal of Psychiatry*. 2007; 164:1050-1060.
32. McEvoy JP, Byerly M, Hamer RM, Dominik R, Swartz MS, Rosenheck RA, Ray N, Lamberti JS, Buckley PF, Wilkins TM, Stroup TS. Effectiveness of paliperidone palmitate vs haloperidol decanoate for maintenance treatment of schizophrenia: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA*. 2014; 311:1978-87.

ANTIANDROGENS

Author/Year	Population	Intervention	Follow-up	Gynecomastia/ Painful gynecomastia
Cyproterone vs Flutamide				
Schröder 2004	Metastatic prostate cancer and favourable prognostic factors	Flutamide (250 mg t.i.d. p.o.) Cyproterone (100 mg t.i.d. p.o.)	8.6 yrs	Without pain 34 (22.5) 35 (23.0) Painful 65 (43.0) 11 (7.2)
Bicalutamide				
Iversen 2010	Localized (T1-2, N0/Nx) or locally advanced (T3-4, any N; or any T, N+) prostate cancer (all M0)	Bicalutamide 150 mg daily vs placebo three double-blind, placebo-controlled trials 8113 pts 4052+4061	9.7 yrs	Breast pain Gynaecomastia Bicalutamide 2766 (68.8) 2963 (73.7) Placebo 334 (8.3) 308 (7.6)
Shipley 2017	Prostate-cancer recurrence after radical prostatectomy (elevated PSA)	Radiation therapy Plus Bicalutamide 150 mg daily Vs Radiation therapy alone Plus placebo 258+258	24 months	Gynecomastia Bicalutamide Grade 1 42.4% Grade 2 23.6% Grade 3 3.7% Total 69.7% Placebo 8.8% 2.1% 0% 10.9%
Zanardi 2009	Phase I-II trial men with PSA > 4 ng/mL and negative biopsies	Nonrandomly assigned three-arm trial bicalutamide 50 mg/wk (n = 26) 100 mg/wk (n = 28) no treatment (n = 26)	6 months	Gynaecomastia Grade 2 6 (23%) 50 mg/wk 12 (43%) 100 mg/wk 0 (0%)
Flutamide				
Alberts 2006	Men with biopsy proven HGPIN	Flutamide 250 mg/d = 30 placebo = 30 randomized in a double-blind	1 yr	Slight/moderate Flutamide 11/4 Placebo 1/0
Narayan 1996	benign prostatic hyperplasia 372 patients	Flutamide 125 mg twice daily = 75 Flutamide 250 mg once daily = 69 Flutamide 250 mg twice daily = 74 Flutamide 250 mg three times daily = 75 Placebo = 74	24 weeks	Breast tenderness (42% to 52%) 38 36 31 32 4 gynecomastia (14% to 19%) 12 10 14 11 2



Zanoteronone					
<i>Berger 1995</i>	Benign prostatic hyperplasia 463 patients	Zanoteronone 100 mg. = 89 200 mg. = 92 400 mg. = 95 800 mg. = 94 Placebo = 93 double-blind randomized treatment	6 months	Breast pain 36 (40) 51 (55) 52 (55) 70 (74) 4 (4) Gynecomastia 16 (18) 16 (17) 19 (20) 32 (34) 1 (1)	

5-ALPHA-REDUCTASE INHIBITORS

Author/Year	Population	Intervention	Follow-up	Gynecomastia Intervention/Control	Notes
Dutasteride					
<i>Andriole 2010</i>	REDUCE 50 to 75 years PSA 2.5-10.0 negative prostate biopsy	Dutasteride = 4105 Placebo = 4126	4 yrs	76 43	
<i>Na 2012</i>	253	Dutasteride 126 PBO 127	12 mo	1/126 0/127	
<i>Roehrborn 2004</i>	ARIA 3001 ARIA 3002 2802	Dutasteride PBO	1 yr 1397+1405 2 yr 1128+1123	1.1 vs 0.5% 1.6 vs 0.2%	
Finasteride					
<i>McConnell 1998</i>	3040	Finasteride = 1524 Placebo = 1516	2-4 yrs	1.8% 1.1%	
<i>Thompson 2003</i>	PCPT	Finasteride = 9423 Placebo = 9457	7 yrs	426 261	
Durasteride vs Finasteride					
<i>Amory 2007</i>	99 healthy men	Finasteride = 34 Dutasteride = 33 Placebo = 32 double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial	8/34 3/33 2/32	1 yr	D and F significantly ($P < 0.001$) suppressed serum DHT transiently increased serum T.
<i>Nickel 2011</i>	BPH patients = 1630	Dutasteride 813 Finasteride 817	48 wks	9/813 10/817	

SPIRONOLACTONE

Author/Year	Population	Intervention	Follow-up	Gynecomastia Intervention/Control
<i>Bianchi 2006</i>	Patients with chronic kidney disease	Spironolactone 25 mg/day randomized open-label study	1 yr	6/83 0/82
<i>Charytan 2019</i>	Hemodialysis patients	Spironolactone 12.5-50 mg/day placebo a double-blind, placebo-controlled	36 wks	3/76 2/51
<i>Edelmann 2013</i>	Chronic heart failure	Spironolactone 25 mg placebo	12 mo	9/213 0/209
<i>Gao 2007</i>	Congestive heart failure (CHF)	Spironolactone 20 mg placebo	6 mo	3/58 0/58
<i>Ito 2014</i>	ESRD undergoing peritoneal dialysis	Spironolactone control group	2 yrs	11/78 2/80
<i>Kayrak 2010</i>	Revascularized with percutaneous coronary intervention	Spironolactone 25 mg/day standard conventional therapy	6 mo	3/55 0/55
<i>Matsumoto 2014</i>	Oligoanuric hemodialysis patients	Spironolactone controls randomized, controlled, open-label trial	36 wks	16/157 0/152
<i>Ni 2014</i>	Dialysis patients with refractory hypertension	Spironolactone 25 mg/day placebo	12 wks	1/40 0/36
<i>Pitt 1999</i>	Severe heart failure left ventricular ejection fraction < 35%	Spironolactone 25 mg placebo	24 mo	61 of 614 men 9 of 604 men
<i>Skvortsov 2013</i>	Chronic heart failure (CHF) 25 - 75 mg	Group 1 - 19 patients receiving spironolactone in a 24 hour dose 25 - 75 mg, group 2 - control group - 30 patients	12 mo	Gynecomastia or pain in the region of mammary glands were fixed in 26,3% of patients in 12 months of treatment
<i>Tofte 2020</i>	Type 2 diabetes	Spironolactone 25 mg placebo 102 vs 107	2-51 years	Gynecomastisa 3/102 vs 0/107
<i>Vatankulu 2013</i>	Revascularized patients with acute ST elevation MI (STEMI)	Spironolactone 12.5 25 mg none	6 mo	0/50 4/54 0/56
<i>Vizzardi 2015</i>	Nonischemic dilated cardiomyopathy	Spironolactone 25 mg/day (up to 100 mg/day) placebo	6 mo	1/51 0/51
<i>Zarraga 2012</i>	Patients with implantable cardioverter-defibrillators (ICDs)	Spironolactone 25 mg placebo double-blind fashion	35 mo	4/44 0/46

ANTIPSYCHOTICS

Author/Year	Population	Intervention	Follow-up	Gynecomastia/galactorrhea Intervention/Control
<i>Kelly 2006</i>	Schizophrenia (males)	Risperidone (4 mg/day), quetiapine (400 mg/day) fluphenazine (12.5 mg/day) randomized double-blind	12-week	risperidone 1/9 males (11%) fluphenazine 0/8 quetiapine 0/6
<i>Mc Evoy 2006</i>	Schizophrenia with inadequate response to treatment	Clozapine (N=49) olanzapine (N=19) quetiapine (N=15) risperidone (N=16) randomly assigned to open-label treatment	3 mo	1/49 1/19 0/15 0/16
<i>Mc Evoy 2007</i>	Early psychotic illness	Olanzapine quetiapine risperidone randomized, double-blind	52-week	9/133 3/134 13/133
<i>McEvoy 2014</i>	Schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder	Paliperidone Palmitate 39 to 234 mg Haloperidol Decanoate 25 to 200 mg Intramuscular monthly double-blind, randomized clinical trial	24 months	4 /147 (2.7%) 5/ 147 (3.4%)

Risk of Bias assessment

	Random sequence generation	Allocation concealment	Blinding of participants and personnel	Blinding of outcome assessment	Incomplete outcome data	Selective reporting	Other biases
Antiandrogens							
Cyproterone vs flutamide							
Schröder 2000-2004	?	?	?	?	?	L	L
Bicalutamide vs placebo							
Iversen 2010 Bicalutamide	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Shipley 2017 Bicalutamide	?	?	?	?	H	L	L
Zanardi 2009 Bicalutamide	?	H	H	H	L	L	L
Flutamide vs placebo							
Alberts 2006 Flutamide	L	L	L	?	?	L	L
Narayan 1996 Flutamide	?	?	?	?	?	L	L
Zanoterm vs placebo							
Berger 1995 Zanoterm	?	?	?	L	L	L	L
5-alpha-reductase							
Dutasteride							
Andriole 2010	?	?	L	?	L	L	L
Na 2012	L	?	?	?	L	L	L
Roehrborn 2002	?	?	?	?	?	L	L
Finasteride							
McConnell 1998	?	L	?	?	?	L	L
Thompson 2004	L	?	?	?	L	L	L
Dutasteride vs finasteride							
Amory 2007	L	L	L	?	L	L	L
Nickel 2011	?	?	?	?	L	L	L
Spironolactone							
Bianchi 2006	L	H	H	H	?	L	?
Charytan 2019	L	L	L	?	L	L	?
Edelmann 2013	L	L	L	L	L	L	?
Gao 2007	?	?	?	L	L	L	?
Ito 2014	?	H	H	L	?	L	?
Kayrak 2010	?	H	H	H	?	L	?
Matsumoto 2014	?	H	H	H	H	L	?
Ni 2014	?	?	?	?	?	L	?
Pitt 1999	?	?	?	L	?	L	L
Skvortsov 2013	?	H	H	H	?	L	?
Tofte 2020	L	L	L	L	?	L	?
Vatankulu 2013	?	H	H	L	?	L	?
Vizzardi 2015	?	?	?	?	?	L	?
Zarraga 2012	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
Antipsychotics							
Kelly 2006	?	?	?	?	H	L	L
McEvoy 2006	?	?	?	?	L	L	L
McEvoy 2007	?	?	L	?	L	L	L
McEvoy 2014	?	?	L	L	L	L	L