Products evaluated during the previous year in the New Products section of our French edition are eligible for the Prescrire Awards for new drugs and indications (in 2012: issues 339 to 350).

**Pilule d’Or/Golden Pill Award**

Not attributed for 2012

The “Golden Pill” award is granted to drugs that provide a major therapeutic advance for patients and healthcare professionals in a field in which no treatment was previously available.

**Honours List**

No inclusions for 2012

Drugs included on the Honours List provide a clear advantage for some patients in comparison to existing therapeutic options, albeit with certain limitations.

**Noteworthy**

The following drugs provided a modest improvement in patient care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Indication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>abiraterone</td>
<td>ZYTIGA® tablets</td>
<td>Metastatic prostate cancer following failure of castration and chemotherapy; in combination with a corticosteroid (Prescrire Int n° 128)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boceprevir</td>
<td>VICTRELIS® capsules</td>
<td>Chronic hepatitis C due to a genotype 1 virus, previously untreated or after failure of the peginterferon alfa + ribavirin combination (Prescrire Int n° 126)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A continuing lack of therapeutic advance. 2012 was another disappointing year for patients and healthcare professionals, as the pharmaceutical industry failed to provide new drugs with tangible therapeutic advantages.

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Noteworthy:

1. **Boceprevir** is an antiviral agent that inhibits NS3/4A serine protease (a). In patients with chronic hepatitis C due to a genotype 1 virus, who had never been treated or in whom the peginterferon alfa + ribavirin combination had failed, oral boceprevir add-on therapy increased the rate of sustained virological responses by 30% to 40%, although follow-up is too short to judge the efficacy of boceprevir on clinical outcomes (mortality, liver transplantation, cirrhosis). Its main adverse effects are potentially severe haematological disorders, which can be anticipated and possibly corrected.

2. **Abiraterone** is an antiandrogen with a mechanism of action different from that of cyproterone. A good-quality trial, in men with metastatic prostate cancer in whom androgen suppression followed by chemotherapy had failed, showed that abiraterone prolonged overall survival by about 4 months (to 15 months, versus 11 months in the placebo group). Adverse effects, including hepatic and cardiac disorders are sometimes severe but are acceptable if patients are closely monitored. It is given orally.

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The rules governing the Drug Awards are available online, at english.prescrire.org.

“Therapeutic advance” is defined as better efficacy, fewer or less severe adverse effects (for similar efficacy), or safer or more convenient administration.

**2012: two minor advances.** Once again, the Golden Pill Award was not attributed this year (see above and page 79). In addition, no new drugs and no new indications for existing drugs were deemed worthy of inscription on the Honours List for 2012.

Two new drugs marketed in 2012 provided a slight advantage for certain patients.

Abiraterone is an antiandrogen with a mechanism of action different from that of cyproterone. A good-quality trial, in men with metastatic prostate cancer...