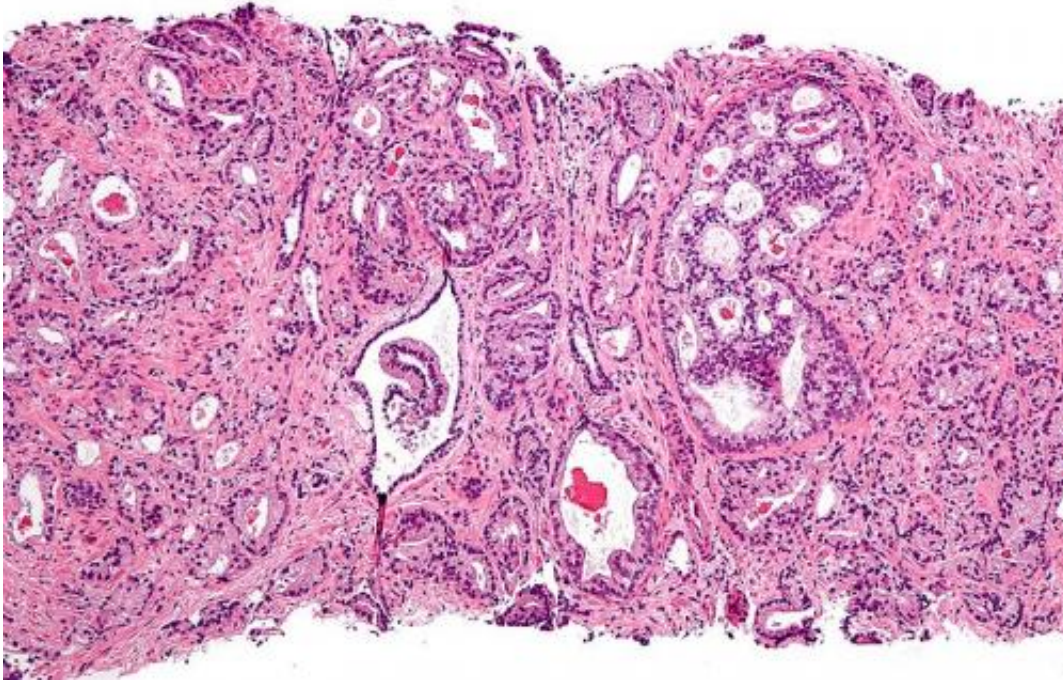


# ALS drug may help treat prostate cancer

October 3 2018

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Micrograph showing prostatic acinar adenocarcinoma (the most common form of prostate cancer) Credit: Wikipedia, [CC BY-SA 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/)

Researchers have discovered a new use for an old drug as a potential treatment for prostate cancer. The findings are published in the journal *The Prostate*.

Since the 1940s, androgens have been linked to [prostate cancer](#), and decades of work since have focused on [androgen receptor](#) (AR), a nuclear receptor transcription factor. Although AR drives prostate

cancer, inhibiting it induces remission for only a short time. Investigators have found that a drug approved for the treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis—called riluzole—promotes the degradation of AR through a distinct pathway.

The findings suggest that riluzole should be investigated clinically for prostate cancer and predict that it may be effective for both [early stage](#) and advanced disease," said senior author Dr. Shahriar Koochekpour, of Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center.

**More information:** Kristine M. Wadosky et al, Riluzole induces AR degradation via endoplasmic reticulum stress pathway in androgen-dependent and castration-resistant prostate cancer cells, *The Prostate* (2018). [DOI: 10.1002/pros.23719](https://doi.org/10.1002/pros.23719)

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