



Medicine: olaparib (brand name: Lynparza®) for ovarian cancer

AstraZeneca UK Ltd

What is olaparib for?

Olaparib is used to treat patients with cancer of the ovaries, the fallopian tubes (part of the female reproductive system that connects the ovaries to the uterus), or the peritoneum (the membrane lining the abdomen). It is used to treat cancer that is advanced (stage 3 or 4) and fast growing (described as high grade) in patients who have a BRCA1 and/or a BRCA2 mutation (an alteration in particular genes that increases the chance of developing breast and ovarian cancer). Olaparib is a maintenance treatment, which is given to patients who have responded to an initial course of standard platinum-based chemotherapy to help maintain the response.

How does olaparib work?

Olaparib stops a protein called PARP from working. PARP helps to repair damaged DNA. By blocking PARP, the damaged DNA in cancer cells can't be repaired and as a result the cancer cells die.

What has SMC said?

SMC has accepted olaparib for the treatment of adult patients with platinum-sensitive advanced high grade ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer as described above.



Why has SMC said this?

SMC looks at how well new medicines work compared with current treatments available in Scotland and in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer (for example, if the medicine has to be given at a clinic or side effects have to be monitored).

SMC carefully considers every new medicine to make sure it benefits patients and is considered to be an acceptable use of the limited resources in NHSScotland. When SMC assesses a medicine it takes account of the needs of all patients in NHSScotland, not just those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Clinical trial and economic evidence from the company that makes the medicine.

- Advice from healthcare professionals about any benefits of the new medicine compared to current treatment, along with how the new medicine is likely to be used.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.

After careful consideration, applying extra flexibility because olaparib is a medicine for a rare condition and after receiving a confidential discount from the company, SMC was able to accept it as a possible treatment within NHSScotland.

What does SMC's decision mean for me?

If your healthcare professional thinks that olaparib for use as described above is the right medicine for you, you should be able to have your treatment on the NHS in Scotland. For further information see:

Medicines in Scotland: What's the right treatment for me?

www.healthcareimprovementscotland.org/medicinesbooklet.aspx



More information

The organisations below can provide more information and support for people with ovarian cancer and their families. SMC is not responsible for the content of any information provided by external organisations.

Ovacome Ovarian Cancer Charity

 <http://www.ovacome.org.uk/>

 0800 008 7054

Ovarian Cancer Action

 <https://ovarian.org.uk/>

 0207 380 1730

Target Ovarian Cancer

 <https://www.targetovariancancer.org.uk>

 0207 923 5475

You can find out more about olaparib in the European public assessment report (EPAR) summary for the public by searching for the medicine name on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) website.

 <http://www.ema.europa.eu>

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