

Medicine: rucaparib (brand name: Rubraca®)

Clovis Oncology UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed rucaparib for the treatment of ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal cancers. It was assessed for use as a maintenance treatment for adult patients with relapsed, high grade cancer who have responded to platinum-based chemotherapy. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted rucaparib for use in certain patients (restricted use).

The restriction means that rucaparib may be used in patients with ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer who do not have a BRCA mutation (an alteration in a particular gene that increases the chance of developing ovarian cancer).

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of rucaparib. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more [flexible approach*](#) in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition where patients are likely to have a life expectancy of less than three years with currently available treatments.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

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



What is rucaparib used for?

Rucaparib is used to treat patients with cancer of the ovaries, the fallopian tubes (part of the female reproductive system connecting 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), fast growing (described as high grade) and has come back after previous treatment (relapsed). Rucaparib is a maintenance treatment, which is given to patients who have responded to standard platinum-based chemotherapy to help maintain the response.

*<https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/media/4731/pace-overview-document.pdf>

How does rucaparib work?

Rucaparib stops a protein called PARP from working. PARP helps to repair damaged DNA. Healthy cells have another way of repairing damaged DNA, but the cancer cells do not. By blocking PARP, the damaged DNA in cancer cells can't be repaired and as a result the cancer cells die.

How does SMC make its decision?

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.

To do this SMC consider the following:

- Evidence from the company about how well the medicine works compared with current treatments available in Scotland, in relation to how much they will cost to buy and administer.
- Information from patient groups about the potential impact of the medicine on patients and carers.
- 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.

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.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of rucaparib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2224).

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.

Ovarian Cancer Action



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



0207 380 1744

Ovacom Ovarian Cancer Charity



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



0800 008 7054

Target Ovarian Cancer



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



0207 923 5475

You can find out more about rucaparib 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>