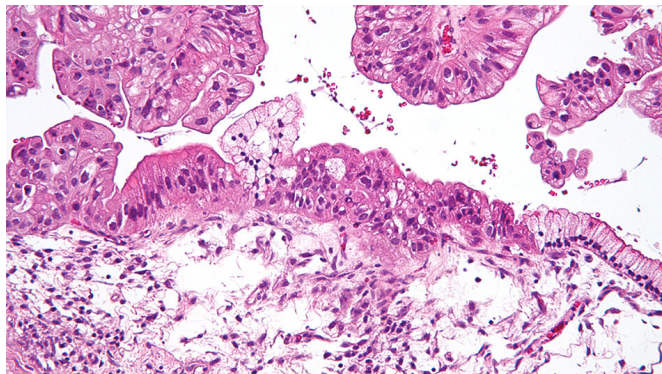


Step forward in treatment for patients with newly diagnosed advanced ovarian cancer

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Intermediate magnification micrograph of an ovarian tumour. Credit: Michael Bonert, CC BY-SA 3.0

Almost half of patients who received a targeted drug during treatment for newly diagnosed BRCA-mutated advanced ovarian cancer remain disease free after five years, a new study shows.

Patients treated with [olaparib](#), a PARP inhibitor drug that targets inherited genetic faults in tumors, continued to benefit substantially beyond the end of treatment. Scientists at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, were the first to discover how olaparib could be targeted at tumors with faults in their ability to repair DNA and led on the development of this PARP inhibitor.

The SOLO-1 trial

The SOLO-1 Phase III trial, led by The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, is the first to report long term follow up for patients with newly diagnosed [advanced ovarian cancer](#). Data from the trial was presented by Dr. Susana Banerjee at the European Society for Medical Oncology Virtual Congress (ESMO).

The randomized trial tested if patients benefited from taking olaparib for two years of maintenance

treatment following standard treatment in comparison to patients who were given placebo. After five years, 48.3 percent of patients treated with olaparib had not progressed and were still living with stable disease in comparison to 20.5 percent on placebo.

The results showed that the women treated with olaparib for two years following standard treatment had 56 months where the cancer didn't progress, compared with 13.8 for those who had [standard treatment](#) only.

A significant step forward

Dr. Susana Banerjee, Consultant Medical Oncologist at The Royal Marsden and Reader at The Institute of Cancer Research, London, one of the investigators of the trial, said:

"These results represent a significant step forward in the treatment of newly diagnosed advanced [ovarian cancer](#) and give us real hope for more long term survivors. Previous research in PARP inhibitors in ovarian cancer has only been in patients with relapsed disease so SOLO-1 has given us the evidence to show that as a first line therapy it can have substantial benefit for patients earlier in the cancer pathway."

Findings will benefit patients for years to come

Preeti Dudakia, 53, was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer six years ago. She had a full abdominal hysterectomy, followed by six cycles of chemotherapy. She said:

"My mum was diagnosed with ovarian cancer at the age of 60 and because of my [family history](#), the team at The Royal Marsden recommended I try the SOLO-1 trial. I had monthly treatment for two years and now I'm in remission. Since my diagnosis there have been some really rapid advances in treatment for ovarian [cancer](#), and clinical [trials](#) like SOLO-1

are a crucial part of this. The trial gave me a sense of purpose and I know the findings will benefit patients for years to come."

Provided by Institute of Cancer Research

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