Healthcare Improvement Scotland | SMC Advice on new medicines

www.scottishmedicines.org.uk

Decision Explained

Medicine: olaparib (brand name: Lynparza®)

AstraZeneca UK Ltd

The Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) has assessed olaparib for the treatment of ovarian cancer that is advanced and fast growing (described as high grade), where the cancer cells have particular genetic changes (known as homologous recombination deficiency positive; HRD). Olarapib is given together with bevacizumab to adults as a maintenance (continuing) treatment, after they have responded to their first treatment with platinum-based chemotherapy and bevacizumab. This document summarises the SMC decision and what it means for patients.

What has SMC said?

After careful consideration, SMC has accepted olaparib given together with bevacizumab for the treatment of ovarian cancer as described above.

This SMC advice takes into account a confidential discount offered by the pharmaceutical company that improves the cost-effectiveness of olaparib. In addition, SMC was able to apply a more flexible approach* in the assessment, as it is for a rare condition.

What does SMC's decision mean for patients?

If your healthcare professional thinks that olaparib 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 olaparib used for?

Olaparib is used to treat advanced (stage III or IV) and fast growing ovarian cancer. This includes cancer of the ovaries, the fallopian tubes (that connect the ovaries to the uterus) or the peritoneum (the lining around the abdomen). Olaparib is used together with another medicine called bevacizumab when the patient's cancer cells are HRD-positive. In HRD-positive cancers, proteins that help repair damaged DNA don't work properly. This can be because the cancer cells have faulty copies of the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* genes or other genetic changes.

How does olaparib work?

Olaparib stops an enzyme called PARP from working. PARP helps to repair damaged DNA. Cancer cells that are HRD-positive rely heavily on PARP to repair their damaged DNA, so that they can keep dividing. By blocking PARP, olaparib makes it difficult for the cancer cells to repair their damaged DNA and so they are more likely to die.

*https://www.scottishmedicines.org.uk/how-we-decide/pace/

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 considers 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 only those who may be treated with the medicine under consideration.

You can find more detailed information about the SMC assessment of olaparib by looking at the SMC Detailed Advice Document (SMC2368).

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

https://www.ovacome.org.uk 0800 008 7054

Ovarian Cancer Action

https://ovarian.org.uk 0207 380 1730

Target Ovarian Cancer

https://targetovariancancer.org.uk 0207 923 5475

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

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en