

# A study to characterise mechanisms of resistance to PARP inhibitors by analysing samples from women with ovarian cancer

<b>Submission date</b> 04/04/2022	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 21/04/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 13/05/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

<https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/a-study-of-parp-inhibitors-for-ovarian-cancer-pairs>

### Background and study aims

PARP inhibitors are a type of targeted cancer drug. The aim of this study is to collect tumour samples from women who are treated with PARP inhibitors and then analyse them to help us understand why some women benefit from PARP inhibitor therapy while others do not. This would enable us to use PARP inhibitors in the future in a more personalised way, sparing patients unlikely to benefit from the side effects of PARP inhibitors while ensuring those who will benefit receive PARP inhibition therapy.

### Who can participate?

Patients aged 16 years and over with a diagnosis of high-grade serous, high-grade endometrioid or carcinosarcoma of the ovary, primary peritoneum or fallopian tube. Trial participants must have an available archival tissue sample from the time of their original diagnosis. They must have had prior treatment with a PARP inhibitor or be about to start maintenance treatment with a PARP inhibitor.

### What does the study involve?

This is a sample collection study. Access to participants' archival pre-PARP inhibitor tumour sample will be requested. Blood samples will be taken from participants, alongside their routine blood tests. A biopsy (sample) will be taken if a participant's cancer gets worse during treatment with a PARP inhibitor. Clinical information about participants' cancer will be recorded. The samples will be examined in the laboratory to learn more about markers that predict sensitivity and resistance to PARP inhibitor treatment.

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

There is no direct medical benefit to participants. Women diagnosed with ovarian cancer in the future will benefit from an increased understanding of sensitivity and resistance to PARP inhibitors. This increased understanding should spare women who are unlikely to benefit from

PARP inhibitor treatment from the side effects of a PARP inhibitor and develop alternative treatments for those unlikely to benefit and for those who develop resistance to PARP inhibitors.

Participants having a biopsy may suffer from side effects. In general they may have bruising, pain and/or infection at the biopsy site. In order to minimise pain, local anaesthetic may be given prior to the biopsy procedure and painkillers may be prescribed afterwards. If an infection develops, it may require treatment with antibiotics. The risk of infection is estimated to be less than 1 in 100. In very rare cases, biopsy-associated bleeding may require a blood transfusion and /or intervention (radiological or surgical). Other adverse events due to a biopsy will depend on the location the biopsy is taken from. For example, if a lung biopsy is undertaken there would be a risk of pneumothorax (air around the outside of the lung which can sometimes cause shortness of breath). If CT guidance is used, there is a risk of allergic reaction to the contrast given to a patient before the CT to achieve good quality images. In rare cases, patients can suffer from renal impairment as a result of contrast. This CT would be extra to those that participants would have if they did not take part in this study. This procedure uses ionising radiation to form images of the body to aid biopsy. Ionising radiation can cause cell damage that may after many years or decades turn cancerous. In patients with the clinical condition being investigated, the chance of this happening is extremely small.

Where is the study run from?

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

February 2021 to May 2026

Who is funding the study?

1. Wellbeing of Women (UK)
2. Artios Pharma Limited (UK)

Who is the main contact?

1. Dr Patricia Roxburgh, [patricia.roxburgh@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:patricia.roxburgh@glasgow.ac.uk)
2. Karen Allan, [Karen.Allan.3@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Karen.Allan.3@glasgow.ac.uk)

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Principal investigator

### Contact name

Dr Patricia Roxburgh

### Contact details

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[Patricia.Roxburgh@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Patricia.Roxburgh@glasgow.ac.uk)

### Type(s)

Scientific

**Contact name**

Ms Karen Allan

**Contact details**

Glasgow Oncology Clinical Trials Unit (GO CTU)  
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## **Additional identifiers**

**Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)**

Nil known

**Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)**

297051

**Protocol serial number**

PAIRS-2021, IRAS 297051, CPMS 51118

## **Study information**

**Scientific Title**

PARP Inhibitor Resistance Study

**Acronym**

PAIRS

**Study objectives**

This study aims to build a cohort of paired tumour samples (pre-PARP inhibitor [PARPi] and post-PARPi) to allow comprehensively assess the mechanisms of PARPi resistance, many of which have only been reported in in vitro studies and report their relative frequencies.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 03/12/2021, West of Scotland REC 5 (West of Scotland Research Ethics Service, Ward 11, Dykebar Hospital, Grahamston Road, Paisley, PA2 7DE, UK; +44 (0)141 314 0213; WoSREC5@ggc.scot.nhs.uk), ref: 21/WS/0128

**Study design**

Multi-centre non-randomized sample collection study

## **Primary study design**

Observational

## **Study type(s)**

Treatment

## **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

High-grade ovarian cancer

## **Interventions**

Cohort A and B:

Imaging-guided (ultrasound or CT), intra-operative or other suitable biopsies will be taken for research purposes from women who have a tumour progressing on PARPi, meet the eligibility criteria and who give written, informed consent.

Cohorts A, B and C:

Blood will be taken to examine circulating markers of PARPi resistance.

1. Serially (3-4 monthly) for cohort A
  2. At progression for cohort B
  3. At recruitment for cohort C if the patient is surviving
- Archival tissue will be accessed. Associated clinical data will be recorded.

## **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Primary outcome(s)**

Number of PARPi resistant tumours (collected at progression) and matched pre-PARPi tumour samples (collected at baseline) obtained during the recruitment period

## **Key secondary outcome(s)**

- 1.1. Homologous recombination repair (HRR) gene aberration status using whole exome sequencing (WES) and RNAseq in pre-PARPi tumour samples collected at baseline.
- 1.2. Homologous recombination (HR) status in pre-PARPi tumour samples collected at baseline, assessed by sequencing of homologous recombinational repair genes
- 1.3. Status of methylation of HRR genes, assessed by EPIC array in pre-PARPi tumour samples collected at baseline
- 1.4. HRR gene aberration status in post-PARPi tumour sample collected at progression using WES and RNAseq (where relevant)
- 1.5. HR status in post-PARPi tumour samples collected at progression for cases previously found to have HRD disease, assessed by sequencing of homologous recombinational repair genes
- 1.6. Methylation status, assessed by EPIC array in post-PARPi tumour samples collected at progression for cases previously found to have a methylation event in their pre-PARPi tumour.
- 1.7. Status of other pathways implicated in PARPi resistance as determined by proteomic and other analysis in pre and post-PARPi tumour samples, collected at baseline and progression respectively.
- 1.8. Proportion of tumours with each resistance mechanism, determined by statistical analysis at the end of the study
2. Proportion of patients where resistance mechanism can be identified in ctDNA, determined by statistical analysis at the end of the study

3. Proportion of patients where resistance mechanism can be identified in ctDNA prior to detection of disease progression by standard clinical assessments (treatment visits), determined by statistical analysis at the end of the study

### **Completion date**

01/05/2026

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

Current inclusion criteria as of 07/04/2025:

All patients:

1. Age  $\geq$ 16 years
2. Histological diagnosis of high-grade serous, high-grade endometrioid or carcinosarcoma of the ovary, primary peritoneum or fallopian tube
3. Availability of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue taken at the time of original diagnosis of high-grade serous ovarian cancer. This may be primary surgical debulking specimen OR core biopsy. For those with only a core biopsy from time of diagnosis, availability of specimen taken at interval debulking surgery is also requested.
4. Prior treatment with a PARP inhibitor or about to commence maintenance PARPi therapy (cohort A). PARPi can be single agent or in combination with bevacizumab. If PARPi is in combination with a different agent as part of a clinical trial, the patient may still be eligible but this should be confirmed with the Cancer Research UK Glasgow Clinical Trials Unit prior to patient registration.

Cohort A:

1. Patients need to be progression-free (defined by no evidence of GCIG Ca125 progression or radiological progression)
2. No contraindication to biopsy
3. Ability to provide written informed consent prior to participating in the study and any study-related procedures being performed
4. Willingness to comply with trial procedures
5. Life expectancy  $>$ 3 months
6. About to commence, currently receiving PARPi as maintenance therapy or completed PARPi maintenance with no intervening treatment before study entry.

Cohort B:

1. Patients need to have radiologically defined progressive disease on PARPi
2. Patients must have disease deemed suitable for imaging-guided biopsy (ultrasound or CT) by an experienced radiologist or suitable for intra-operative biopsy during secondary debulking surgery as determined by an experienced gynaecological oncology surgeon. Other biopsies, such as skin deposits, are also acceptable. However, this must be confirmed with the Cancer Research UK Glasgow Clinical Trials Unit prior to patient registration (for cohort B).
3. No contraindication to biopsy
4. No systemic anti-cancer treatment (SACT) commenced post PARPi (patients continuing PARPi after surgical resection of a progressing lesion can be included). Patients who have received 1-2 cycles of SACT whilst awaiting surgery may still be eligible for the study, please contact CTU to discuss prior to registration.
5. Ability to provide written informed consent prior to participating in the study and any study-

- related procedures being performed
6. Willingness to comply with trial procedures
  7. Life expectancy >3 months

Cohort C:

1. Patients need to have had a lesion which radiologically progressed on PARPi
2. Archival tumour of a lesion progressing post PARPi must be available
3. Ability to provide written informed consent prior to participating in the study and any study-related procedures being performed. Patients with available archival pre and post-PARPi tumour samples, who are no longer living may be identified by their clinical team and registered for the study if samples were collected under generic research consent (or equivalent).

Previous inclusion criteria:

All patients:

1. Age  $\geq$ 16 years
2. Histological diagnosis of high-grade serous, high-grade endometrioid or carcinosarcoma of the ovary, primary peritoneum or fallopian tube
3. Availability of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue taken at the time of original diagnosis of high-grade serous ovarian cancer. This may be primary surgical debulking specimen OR core biopsy. For those with only a core biopsy from time of diagnosis, availability of specimen taken at interval debulking surgery is also requested.
4. Prior treatment with a PARP inhibitor or about to commence maintenance PARPi therapy (cohort A). PARPi can be single agent or in combination with bevacizumab. If PARPi is in combination with a different agent as part of a clinical trial, the patient may still be eligible but this should be confirmed with the Cancer Research UK Glasgow Clinical Trials Unit prior to patient registration.

Cohort A:

1. Patients need to be progression-free (defined by no evidence of GCIG Ca125 progression or radiological progression)
2. No contraindication to biopsy
3. Ability to provide written informed consent prior to participating in the study and any study-related procedures being performed
4. Willingness to comply with trial procedures
5. Life expectancy >3 months

Cohort B:

1. Patients need to have radiologically defined progressive disease on PARPi
2. Patients must have disease deemed suitable for imaging-guided biopsy (ultrasound or CT) by an experienced radiologist or suitable for intra-operative biopsy during secondary debulking surgery as determined by an experienced gynaecological oncology surgeon. Other biopsies, such as skin deposits, are also acceptable. However, this must be confirmed with the Cancer Research UK Glasgow Clinical Trials Unit prior to patient registration (for cohort B).
3. No contraindication to biopsy
4. No systemic anti-cancer treatment (SACT) commenced post-PARPi (patients continuing PARPi after surgical resection of a progressing lesion can be included)
5. Ability to provide written informed consent prior to participating in the study and any study-related procedures being performed
6. Willingness to comply with trial procedures
7. Life expectancy >3 months

#### Cohort C:

1. Patients need to have had a lesion which radiologically progressed on PARPi
2. Archival tumour of a lesion progressing post PARPi must be available
3. Ability to provide written informed consent prior to participating in the study and any study-related procedures being performed. Patients with available archival pre and post-PARPi tumour samples, who are no longer living may be identified by their clinical team and registered for the study if samples were collected under generic research consent (or equivalent).

#### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

#### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

#### **Age group**

Adult

#### **Lower age limit**

16 years

#### **Sex**

Female

#### **Key exclusion criteria**

Current exclusion criteria as of 07/04/2025:

1. Ovarian, primary peritoneal or fallopian tube cancer of low-grade serous, grades 1 or 2 endometrioid, clear cell or mucinous subtypes
2. Borderline/low malignant potential tumours
3. Any non-epithelial ovarian malignancy
4. Original diagnosis of high-grade serous cancer made on cytology only
5. Discontinued PARPi for toxicity within 3 months of starting PARPi. (exclusion applies to cohorts B & C only). Patients who are recruited to cohort A at initiation of PARPi and subsequently discontinue within 3 months for toxicity will be replaced. Cohort A patients who progress and discontinue PARPi within 3 months will be included in the analysis and will not be replaced
6. Any other severe concurrent disease which may increase the risk associated with trial participation
7. Any psychological, familial, sociological or geographical considerations potentially hampering compliance with the trial and follow-up schedule

Previous exclusion criteria:

1. Ovarian, primary peritoneal or fallopian tube cancer of low-grade serous, grades 1 or 2 endometrioid, clear cell or mucinous subtypes
2. Borderline/low malignant potential tumours
3. Any non-epithelial ovarian malignancy
4. Original diagnosis of high-grade serous cancer made on cytology only
5. Discontinued PARPi for toxicity within 3 months of starting PARPi
6. Any other severe concurrent disease which may increase the risk associated with trial

participation

7. Any psychological, familial, sociological or geographical considerations potentially hampering compliance with the trial and follow-up schedule

**Date of first enrolment**

26/07/2022

**Date of final enrolment**

01/07/2025

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Scotland

**Study participating centre**

**Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre**

1053 Great Western Road

Glasgow

United Kingdom

G12 0YN

**Study participating centre**

**Western General Hospital**

Crewe Road South

Edinburgh

Lothian

United Kingdom

EH4 2XU

**Study participating centre**

**Hammersmith Hospital**

Du Cane Road

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London

United Kingdom

W12 0HS

**Study participating centre**

**Christie Hospital**  
Wilmslow Road  
Manchester  
United Kingdom  
M20 4BX

**Study participating centre**  
**University College Hospital London**  
235 Euston Road  
London  
United Kingdom  
NW1 2BU

**Study participating centre**  
**St. James's University Hospital**  
Beckett Street, Harehills  
Leeds  
United Kingdom  
LS9 7TF

**Study participating centre**  
**Royal Marsden Hospital**  
Downs Road  
Sutton  
United Kingdom  
SM2 5PT

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**  
NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde

**ROR**  
<https://ror.org/05kdz4d87>

## **Funder(s)**

**Funder type**  
Charity

**Funder Name**

Wellbeing of Women

**Alternative Name(s)****Funding Body Type**

Private sector organisation

**Funding Body Subtype**

Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

**Location**

United Kingdom

**Funder Name**

Artios Pharma Company Ltd

## Results and Publications

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study during this study will be included in the subsequent results publication

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Published as a supplement to the results publication

**Study outputs**

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Cohort A version 1.1	04/11/2021	13/04/2022	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Cohort B version 1.1	04/11/2021	13/04/2022	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Cohort C version 1.1	04/11/2021	13/04/2022	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	version 2.0	23/11/2023	07/04/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	version 2.1	12/01/2024	07/04/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	version 2.1	12/01/2024	07/04/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	version 1	17/09/2021	13/04/2022	No	No
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	version 2.1	24/05/2024	07/04/2025	No	No

