

REVIEW

# The systemic treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer revisited

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Treatment approaches for relapsed ovarian cancer have evolved over the past decade from a calendar-based decision tree to a patient-oriented biologically driven algorithm. Nowadays, platinum-based chemotherapy should be offered to all patients with a reasonable chance of responding to this therapy. The treatment-free interval for platinum is only one of many factors affecting patients' eligibility for platinum re-treatment. Bevacizumab increases the response to chemotherapy irrespective of the cytotoxic regimen and can be valuable in patients with an urgent need for symptom relief (e.g. pleural effusion, ascites). For patients with recurrent high-grade ovarian cancer, which responds to platinum-based treatment, maintenance therapy with a poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase inhibitor can be offered, regardless of the *BRCA* mutation status. Here we review contemporary decision-making processes in the systemic treatment of relapsed ovarian cancer.

**Key words:** recurrent ovarian cancer, platinum-based chemotherapy, platinum re-treatment, poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor

## INTRODUCTION

Platinum-based compounds are the most effective chemotherapy drugs for epithelial ovarian cancer. In relapsed epithelial ovarian cancer, the decision to use platinum-based chemotherapy has evolved into a restricted and somewhat arbitrary calendar-based method. Patients are considered eligible for further platinum-based chemotherapy and assumed to be 'platinum sensitive' if relapse occurs >6 months after the end of the previous platinum-based treatment. They are classified as 'platinum resistant' and deemed not eligible for platinum-based treatment if the interval is <6 months. In the latter situation, they are usually offered non-platinum drug regimens. We review the history of these definitions and propose an alternative systemic treatment

algorithm for relapsed ovarian cancer and therapy-oriented nomenclature based on discussions of the working group on relapsed ovarian cancer during the 2018 ESMO—ESGO Consensus Conference on Ovarian Cancer.<sup>1</sup> The benefit of secondary cytoreductive surgery is increasingly recognised<sup>2</sup>; supporting evidence and patient selection for such surgery is beyond the scope of this review.

## HISTORY OF PLATINUM RE-TREATMENT

The concept of re-challenge with platinum-based chemotherapy was introduced in the late 1980s, which was a time when few drugs were available for patients with recurrent ovarian cancer. A study by Blackledge et al. observed the highest response rates in patients who received combinations including cisplatin as a second-line chemotherapy.<sup>3</sup> In an exploratory multivariate analysis, the treatment-free interval was the most important variable predicting response to second-line chemotherapy.<sup>3</sup> Retrospective observations from Gore et al. and Markman et al. described frequent secondary responses to platinum-based chemotherapy in patients previously treated with cisplatin or carboplatin.<sup>4,5</sup>

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In both studies, response rates were highest in patients with the longest treatment-free interval for platinum-based chemotherapy (TFIp).<sup>4,5</sup> Later, Markman and Hoskins proposed that trials of new chemotherapy agents include a stratification according to the response to prior platinum-based chemotherapy. They proposed four categories: primary platinum resistant, secondary platinum resistant, potentially platinum sensitive and indeterminate platinum sensitive.<sup>6</sup> That definition underwent further changes, with variation in the 'cut-offs' of 4-12 months to define intermediate platinum-sensitive disease<sup>7</sup> and a 6-month cut-off for platinum sensitivity that has been in widespread use for the past 30 years.<sup>8</sup> This was first questioned a decade ago at the 2010 Gynecologic Cancer InterGroup (GCIg) ovarian cancer consensus meeting. The use of a cut-off was criticized, as the tumor response to platinum-based chemotherapy increases gradually with TFIp in a non-categorical fashion (Figure 1).<sup>9</sup> During the fifth GCIg consensus meeting in 2015, the terminology platinum-sensitive and platinum-resistant disease in clinical trials was abandoned. It was proposed that patients with relapsed ovarian cancer should be stratified in clinical trials using TFIp as a continuous variable among others such as histological subtype and prior therapies.<sup>10</sup>

#### EVIDENCE FOR PLATINUM RE-TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH A TFIp <6 MONTHS

Abandoning this strict definition of platinum resistance is important as patients with a TFIp <6 months still have a reasonable chance to respond to further platinum-based chemotherapy. A retrospective analysis of the Australian Ovarian Cancer Study reported an improved overall survival (OS) after platinum-based chemotherapy even in patients with a TFIp of only 3-6 months (median OS 17.7 months after platinum-based chemotherapy versus 10.6 months after a non-platinum regimen,  $P = 0.022$ ).<sup>11</sup> In addition, Alsop et al. described the chances of response to therapy in patients experiencing first relapse. Platinum-based chemotherapy

produced the highest response rates, both in *BRCA* mutation carriers and *BRCA* wild-type patients, irrespective of TFIp.<sup>12</sup> Clear evidence of the activity of platinum-based combination chemotherapy in patients with a TFIp of <6 months has been demonstrated in multiple (non-randomized) phase II trials with cisplatin–etoposide, cisplatin–gemcitabine, carboplatin–gemcitabine and carboplatin–paclitaxel.<sup>13–22</sup> Overall response rates varied between 16% and 58% as shown in Table 1.<sup>13–22</sup> Conversely, a TFIp >6 months does not guarantee a response to future platinum-based chemotherapy,<sup>4,5</sup> although the proportion of patients who respond is higher.

Response rates to a re-challenge with a platinum-based doublet chemotherapy vary between 47.2% and 66% (Table 2).<sup>4,23–27</sup> Non-platinum-based chemotherapy can be divided into monotherapy, which was tested in patients with a TFIp shorter than 6 months, and combination therapy [pegylated liposomal doxorubicin (PLD)–trabectedin], which was studied in a broader population with an exploratory subgroup analysis of patients with a TFIp of 6–12 months.<sup>22,28–34</sup> As described in Table 3, response rates of non-platinum-based monotherapy vary between 16.3% and 35%.<sup>22,28–34</sup> It should be noted that none of the drugs listed in Table 3 and licensed for use in this definition of platinum resistance were compared to platinum therapy in phase III trials. Figure 2 is a graphical representation of the available data on platinum- and non-platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with a TFIp <6 months. Prolongation of the TFIp by the interposition of a non-platinum-based chemotherapy has been proposed as a possible strategy to improve the response to subsequent platinum-based therapy, but has so far not been proven to be beneficial. The MITO-8 study showed that treating patients with a TFIp of 6–12 months at first or second relapse with a non-platinum-based regimen before re-introducing platinum at the subsequent relapse did not improve survival. In contrast, median progression-free survival (PFS) was significantly shorter in patients who were first treated with a non-platinum-based regimen [12.8 versus 16.4 months, hazard ratio (HR) 1.41; 95%

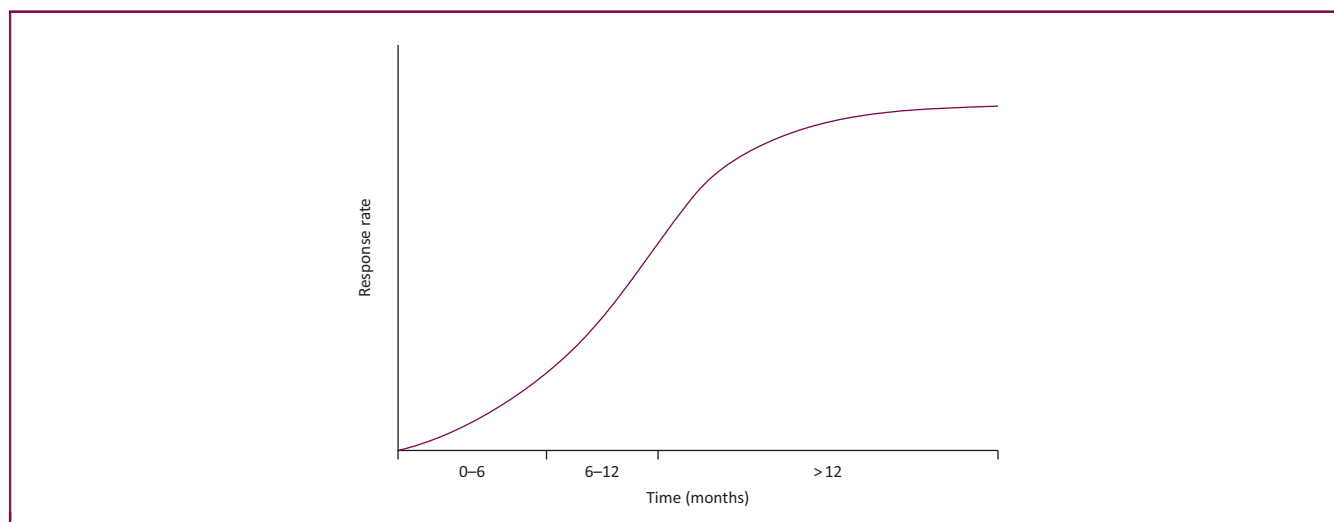


Figure 1. Schematic representation of response rate to platinum-based chemotherapy based on treatment-free interval for platinum (TFIp).

**Table 1. Overview of available phase II trials on platinum-based chemotherapy in ROC with a TFIp <6 months**

Drug	Regimen	Phase	N	Inclusion	ORR	PFS	OS	Ref
Cisplatin–etoposide	Cisplatin 70 mg/m <sup>2</sup> infusions on days 1, 8, 15 and days 29, 36, 43, combined with daily oral etoposide 50 mg on days 1-15 and days 29-43 of each 6-week cycle	Non-randomized phase II	28 patients (TFIp < 4 months)	ROC	46%	5 months	13 months	<sup>15</sup>
Cisplatin–gemcitabine	Cisplatin 30 mg/m <sup>2</sup> plus gemcitabine (600-750 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) on days 1 and 8 of each 21-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	14 patients (TFIp < 6 months)	ROC, no prior cisplatin–gemcitabine combination therapy	57%	8 months (range 3-16 months)	NA	<sup>16</sup>
	Cisplatin 30 mg/m <sup>2</sup> plus gemcitabine 750 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1 and 8 of each 21-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	36 patients	ROC, platinum and paclitaxel resistant	42.9% (95% CI, 28.0-59.1)	6 months (range 1-14 months)	12 months	<sup>17</sup>
	Cisplatin 30 mg/m <sup>2</sup> plus gemcitabine 600-750 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1 and 8 of each 21-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	57 patients	ROC, TFIp <6 months	16% (+54% stable disease)	5.4 months	14.9 months	<sup>18</sup>
	Cisplatin 40 mg/m <sup>2</sup> plus gemcitabine 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1 and 15 of each 28-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	50 patients	ROC, TFIp <6 months, prior paclitaxel treatment	31.5%	4.9 months (95% CI, 3.5-6.4)	13.2 months (95% CI, 10.2-16.2)	<sup>19</sup>
Carboplatin–gemcitabine	Carboplatin AUC 4 plus gemcitabine 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on day 1, followed by a second dose of gemcitabine on day 8 of each 21-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	40 patients	ROC, TFIp <6 months	47%	6.9 months (95% CI, 3.7-8.8)	11.7 months (95% CI, 9.0-18.4)	<sup>14</sup>
Carboplatin–paclitaxel	Paclitaxel 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> plus carboplatin AUC 2 on days 1, 8 and 15 of each 28-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	8 patients (TFIp <6 months)	ROC	37.5%	3.2 months	11.4 months	<sup>20</sup>
	Six weekly induction cycles paclitaxel 90 mg/m <sup>2</sup> and carboplatin AUC 2.7, patients with clinical continued treatment with six maintenance cycles of paclitaxel 175 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , and carboplatin AUC 6 on day 1 of each 21-day cycle	Non-randomized phase II	43 patients (TFIp <6 months)	ROC and prior treatment with paclitaxel and carboplatin	51% (induction phase)-58% best response	8 months (95% CI, 6.7-9.9)	15 months (95% CI, 11.7-17.5)	<sup>21</sup>
	wP (paclitaxel 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1, 8 and 15 of a 28-day cycle) or wP + C (wP plus carboplatin AUC 5 on day 1 of a 28-day cycle) or wP + wT (wP plus topotecan 3 mg/m <sup>2</sup> days 1, 8 and 15 of a 28-day cycle) for six to nine cycles or until progression	Randomized phase II	51 patients treated with wP + C	ROC, TFIp <6 months, prior treatment with paclitaxel and carboplatin	37%	4.8 months	15.2 months	<sup>22</sup>
	18 cycles of paclitaxel 60 mg/m <sup>2</sup> and carboplatin at an AUC 2.7 in a weekly schedule, all patients received G-CSF (filgrastim) on day 5 (and if needed on day 6)	Non-randomized phase II	35 patients	ROC, TFIp <6 months	48%	7 months (95% CI, 6-8)	13 months (95% CI, 8-19)	<sup>13</sup>

CI, confidence interval; G-CSF, granulocyte colony-stimulating factor; NA, not available; ORR, overall response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; ROC, relapsed ovarian cancer; TFIp, treatment-free interval for platinum; wP, paclitaxel 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on days 1, 8 and 15 of a 28-day cycle; wP + C, wP plus carboplatin AUC 5 on day 1 of a 4-week cycle; wP + wT, wP plus topotecan 3 mg/m<sup>2</sup> on days 1, 8 and 15 of a 28-day cycle.

**Table 2.** Overview of platinum-based chemotherapy in relapsed ovarian cancer

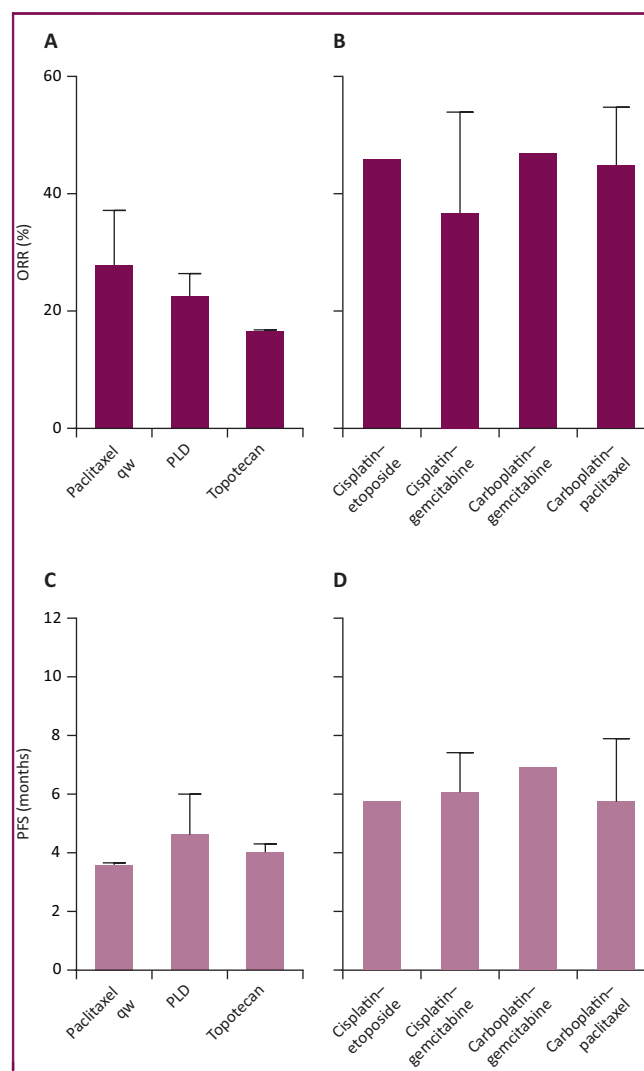
	ORR	PFS	Refs
Carboplatin monotherapy	29.6%-54.0%	7.3-10.0 months	4,23,25
Carboplatin–paclitaxel	66%	9.4-13.0 months	23,24
Carboplatin–gemcitabine	47.2%-62.5%	8.4-10.0 months	25,27
Carboplatin–PLD	63%	11.3 months	24,26

ORR, overall response rate; PFS, progression-free survival; PLD, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin.

confidence interval (CI), 1.04-1.92;  $P = 0.025$ ].<sup>35</sup> The INOVATYON trial comparing carboplatin/PLD with trabectedin/PLD followed by platinum-based therapy in patients relapsing with a TFIp of 6-12 months showed no improvement in OS (HR 1.10, 95% CI: 0.92-1.32,  $P = 0.284$ ) and PFS was longer after treatment with carboplatin–PLD compared to trabectedin–PLD (9.0 versus 7.5 months; HR 1.26; 95% CI, 1.07-1.49;  $P = 0.005$ ).<sup>36</sup> The above data suggest that platinum-based chemotherapy should always be considered as a treatment option for patients with recurrent ovarian cancer, unless there is a clear contraindication (Figure 3).

## NOMENCLATURE

As we move beyond the definitions of platinum resistance and platinum sensitivity based on TFIp, an update of the nomenclature is required. Such definitions should avoid a mixture of observed ('real') platinum sensitivity in patients with a response to platinum re-challenge and expected ('potential') platinum sensitivity based on TFI. A more practical approach should be therapy-oriented and therefore classified as platinum eligible or platinum non-eligible. Platinum-non-eligible ovarian cancer (PNEOC) patients are those with progression on or immediately after their last line of platinum-based chemotherapy or who have contraindications for further platinum-based chemotherapy, such as severe platinum allergy which cannot be managed by a desensitization regimen.<sup>37</sup> All other cases of relapse should be considered as platinum-eligible ovarian cancer (PEOC). One should also clearly distinguish between expected and observed responses to platinum-based chemotherapy. Patients without evaluable disease after primary cytoreductive surgery to no residual disease, or who have relapsed following International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) stage I disease should be considered



**Figure 2.** Graphical representation of the reported overall response rates (ORRs) and progression-free survival (PFS) for platinum-based and non-platinum-based chemotherapy in relapsed ovarian cancer with a treatment-free interval for platinum shorter than 6 months.<sup>13-22,30-34</sup> (A) ORR in % of non-platinum based regimens. (B) ORR in % of platinum based regimens. (C) PFS after non-platinum based regimens. (D) PFS after platinum based regimens.

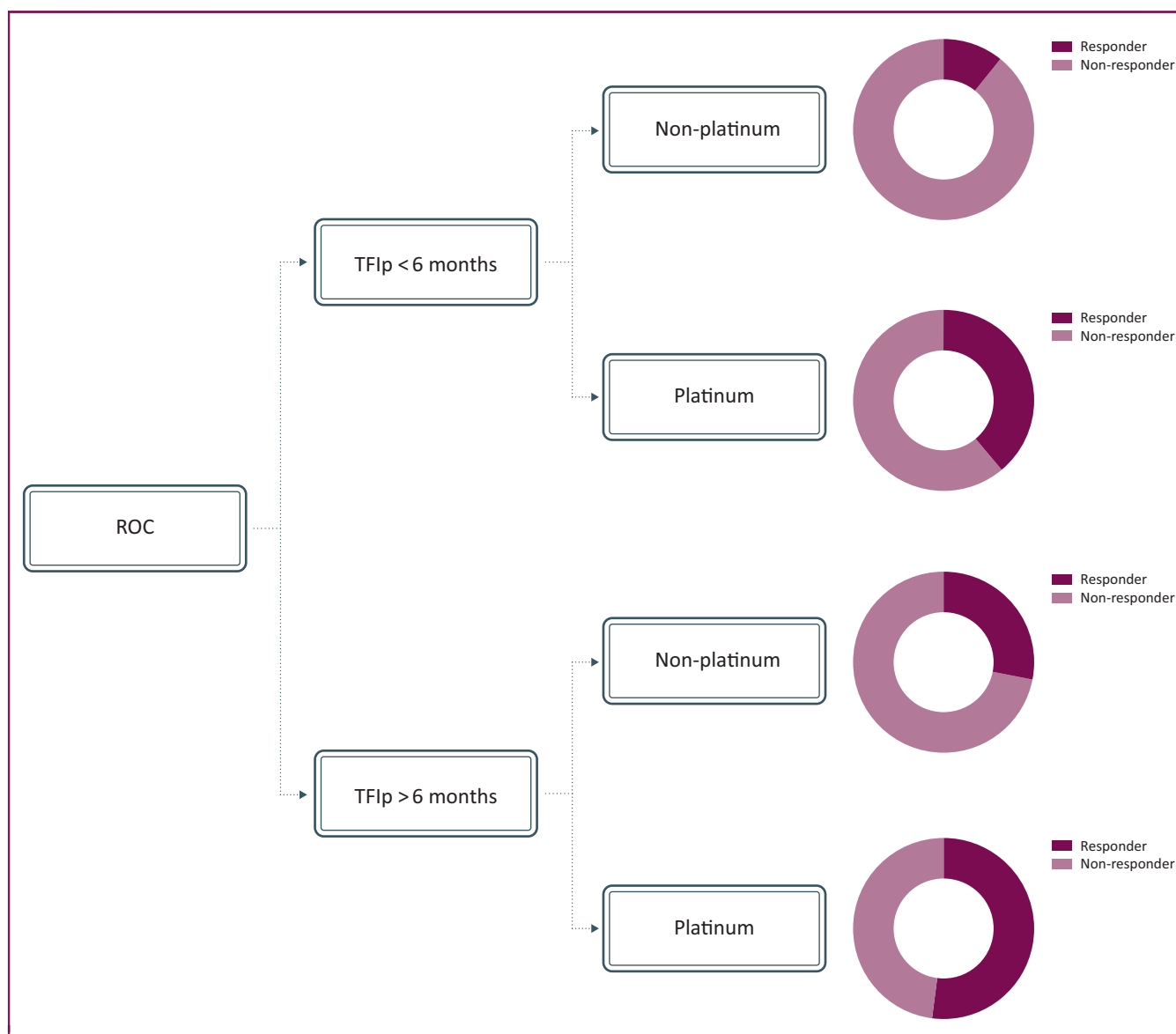
Care should be taken in the interpretation of these figures as cross-trial comparison is not appropriate. PLD, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin.

platinum eligible, although they have not had an observed response to platinum-based chemotherapy. Patients who did not respond to platinum re-challenge in second- or

**Table 3.** Overview of non-platinum-based chemotherapy in relapsed ovarian cancer

	ORR	PFS	TFIp	Refs
Paclitaxel weekly	20.9%-35%	3.6-3.7 months	<6 months	22,30
PLD	19.7%-25.7%	3.7-5.7 months	Muggia et al. 29 pt <6 months-6 ≥6 months Gordon et al. 130 pt <6 months-109 ≥6 months	31,32
Topotecan	16.3%-17%	3.9-4.3 months	Gordon et al. 124 pt <6 months-111 ≥6 months Creemers et al. 62 pt <6 months-30 ≥6 months ten Bokkel Huinink et al. 60 pt <6 months-52 ≥6 months	32-34
PLD–trabectedin	27.6%	7.3-9.2 months	Poveda et al. 6-12 months Monk et al. 115 pt <6 months-218 ≥6 months	28,29

ORR, overall response rate; PFS, progression-free survival; PLD, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin; pt, patients; TFIp, treatment-free interval for platinum.



**Figure 3.** Schematic overview of representing the responders and non-responders to platinum- and non-platinum-based chemotherapy categorized by treatment free-interval for platinum (TFIp) shorter or longer than 6 months.<sup>13-22,28-34</sup>

ROC, recurrent epithelial ovarian cancer.

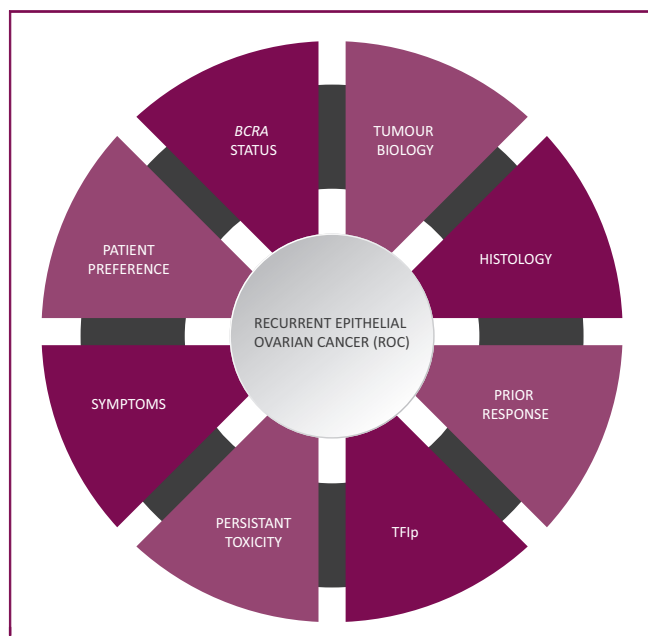
later-line relapse should not be exposed to further platinum-based chemotherapy.

### CONSIDERATIONS BEYOND TFIp

Factors other than TFIp and prior response to platinum-based chemotherapy need to be taken into account when considering the options for further systemic therapy and the possibility of platinum re-challenge (Figure 4). These should include persistent toxicity, current symptoms and patient preference. Following second or later relapse, the number of prior lines of treatment, the response to those individual treatments and life expectancy should also be taken into account. A prognostic nomogram using six variables (TFIp, performance status, size of the largest tumor, cancer antigen-125, hemoglobin and the number of organ sites of metastasis) has been proposed to provide an objective method of predicting survival after platinum-

based therapy.<sup>38</sup> Another important variable is tumor biology and histology, as knowledge of this will assist in assessing the chance of response to platinum-based chemotherapy. Response to platinum-based chemotherapy is lower in patients with low-grade serous, clear cell and mucinous ovarian cancers.<sup>39-41</sup> Alternative treatment strategies should be considered in patients with these histotypes, specifically whether there is an option to evaluate the response to targeted agents.

Molecular changes in tumors, such as the presence of homologous recombination deficiency, also increase the likelihood of a response to platinum-based chemotherapy.<sup>42</sup> Genomic abnormalities, such as a deleterious mutation in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2*, are associated with a high probability of response to platinum-based chemotherapy.<sup>43</sup> Other genetic alteration genes that play a role in homologous recombination, such as *ATM*, *BARD1*, *BRIP1*, *CHEK1*, *CHEK2*,



**Figure 4. Important variables for the treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer.** ROC, recurrent epithelial ovarian cancer; TFIp, treatment-free interval for platinum-based chemotherapy.

*FAM175A*, *MRE11A*, *NBN*, *PALB2*, *RAD51C* and *RAD51D*, are also linked to a higher response to platinum-based chemotherapy.<sup>44</sup> In contrast, genetic alterations that lead to inactivation of *RB1*, *NF1*, *RAD51B* and *PTEN*, reversal of deleterious mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* or amplification of *MDR1*, *BRD4* or *CNNE1* are associated with a reduced likelihood of response to platinum-based chemotherapy.<sup>45,46</sup> In addition, transcription factors such as *RELA* (NF- $\kappa$ B p65-reticuloendotheliosis viral oncogene homolog A) and *STAT5B* (signal transducer and activator of transcription 5B) are overexpressed in platinum-resistant ovarian cancer.<sup>47</sup> These are considered as associations and there are currently no validated molecular predictive biomarkers that identify PNEOC. Therefore, biomarkers should be evaluated further as potential PNEOC predictors, but so far they cannot be used to withhold platinum-based chemotherapy from a patient with relapsed ovarian cancer.

### CHEMOTHERAPY IN RELAPSED OVARIAN CANCER

There are several chemotherapy options with or without platinum-based drugs available for relapsed ovarian cancer. The most commonly used regimens are listed in Tables 2 and 3.<sup>4,22-26,28,31-34</sup> The choice of chemotherapy should be based on the toxicity spectrum and patient preferences. For later-line platinum-based chemotherapy, there is no level 1 evidence available to show a benefit of combination chemotherapy versus single-agent carboplatin. However, a meta-analysis of individual patient data has shown a significant improvement in PFS and OS with platinum combination therapy in recurrent disease.<sup>48</sup>

Response rates and PFS observed with platinum-based chemotherapy in clinical trials are shown in Figure 2B and D, respectively. Patients who are not eligible for further platinum-based chemotherapy (PNEOC) are typically offered single-agent non-platinum-based chemotherapy such as paclitaxel weekly, PLD or topotecan.<sup>49,50</sup> One exception to this may be patients who are unable to receive further platinum-based chemotherapy but have a TFIp >6 months. One study supports the use of the combination of PLD and trabectedin in these patients. In an exploratory subgroup analysis of patients with a TFIp of 6-12 months in the OVA-301 trial, the PLD–trabectedin combination led to an improved OS (22.4 months; 95% CI, 19.4-25.1) compared to PLD alone (19.5 months; 95% CI, 17.4-22.1).<sup>28</sup> Newer drugs such as lurbinectedin have not been shown to be superior. In a phase III trial comparing lurbinectedin to PLD or topotecan in patients with a TFIp <6 months, the median PFS for lurbinectedin was 3.5 months versus 3.6 months in the standard chemotherapy arm (HR 1.04; 95% CI, 0.84-1.29).<sup>51</sup> Alternative non-platinum options for the PNEOC group include oral etoposide, tamoxifen, gemcitabine and treosulfan, though the expected benefit of these agents is small.<sup>8,52</sup>

### ANTI-ANGIOGENIC TREATMENT IN RELAPSED OVARIAN CANCER

Angiogenesis is one of the hallmarks of cancer, and neo-angiogenesis is abundantly present in ovarian cancer.<sup>53,54</sup> Enhancement of tumor responses has been seen when cytotoxic drugs are combined with bevacizumab, a widely used anti-angiogenic in ovarian cancer.<sup>55,56</sup> Combining anti-angiogenic therapy with chemotherapy followed by maintenance post-chemotherapy has consistently shown an improvement in response rates and PFS (cf. Table 4).<sup>55-65</sup> Currently, bevacizumab is the only one of these drugs approved for the treatment of ovarian cancer.<sup>39</sup> Recently, the AGO-OVAR 2.21/ENGOT-ov 18 study showed that in recurrent ovarian cancer the combination of carboplatin area under the curve (AUC) 5–PLD 30 mg/m<sup>2</sup> q4w with bevacizumab 10 mg/kg q2w (CD-bev) is superior to the combination of carboplatin AUC 4–gemcitabine 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> d1,d8 q3w with bevacizumab 15 mg/kg q3w (CG-bev) used in the OCEANS trial at first relapse after platinum-based chemotherapy (TFIp >6 months). Patients in the experimental arm (CD-bev) had a median PFS of 13.3 compared to 11.7 (HR 0.807; 95% CI, 0.681-0.956; *P* = 0.01 in the control arm) (CG-bev). CD-bev also induced an advantage in OS compared to CG-bev (HR 0.810; 95% CI, 0.668-0.983; *P* = 0.03) and this advantage was shown in both patients with and without prior bevacizumab therapy.<sup>66</sup> The MITO16B/MANGO-OV2b/ENGOT Ov-17 trial investigated if patients who had relapsed during or after first-line treatment with bevacizumab (TFIp >6 months) had a benefit from further treatment with bevacizumab in combination with second-line platinum-based chemotherapy. The addition of bevacizumab led to a median improvement in PFS of 3 months (HR 0.51; 95% CI, 0.41-



**Table 4.** Overview of studies on anti-angiogenic drugs in relapsed ovarian cancer

Anti-angiogenic mechanism		Drug	Clinical trial name	N	Inclusion criteria	Regimen	PFS	OS	Ref
Inhibition of VEGF-A		Bevacizumab	OCEANS	484	Recurrence $\geq 6$ months after front-line platinum-based therapy	Carboplatin—gemcitabine [G (1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , days 1 and 8) and C (AUC 4, day 1), q 21 days for 6-10 cycles] + concurrent placebo or bevacizumab (BV 15 mg/kg q 21 days), followed by BV until progression or unacceptable toxicity	HR 0.484 (95% CI, 0.388-0.605) $P < 0.0001$ —12.3 versus 8.6 months	HR 0.952 (95% CI, 0.771-1.176)—ns —32.9 versus 33.6 months	<a href="#">55,65</a>
			GOG-213	674	Recurrence $\geq 6$ months after front-line platinum-based therapy	Six 3-weekly cycles of paclitaxel (175 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) and carboplatin (AUC5) $\pm$ bevacizumab (15 mg/kg of bodyweight) every 3 weeks and continued as maintenance every 3 weeks until progression or unacceptable toxicity	HR 0.628 (95% CI, 0.534-0.739) $P < 0.0001$ —13.8 versus 10.4 months	HR 0.829 (95% CI, 0.683-1.005) $P = 0.056$ —42.4 versus 37.3 months	<a href="#">57</a>
			AURELIA	361	First and second recurrence $< 6$ months after last platinum-based therapy	Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin, weekly paclitaxel or topotecan as single-agent chemotherapy alone or with bevacizumab (10 mg/kg every 2 weeks or 15 mg/kg every 3 weeks) until progression, unacceptable toxicity or consent withdrawal	HR 0.48 (95% CI, 0.38-0.60) $P < 0.001$ —6.7 versus 3.4 months	HR 0.85 (95% CI, 0.66-1.08) $P < 0.174$ —16.6 versus 13.3 months	<a href="#">56</a>
Inhibition of the VEGF-R tyrosine kinase	Multi-target	Sorafenib	TRIAS	174	Recurrence $< 6$ months after last platinum-based therapy (max. three prior lines)	Topotecan 1.25 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1-5 followed by either oral sorafenib 400 mg or placebo twice daily on days 6-15, repeated every 21 days for up to six cycles. After completing six cycles patients could continue allocated study therapy (sorafenib or placebo) for up to 1 year or until disease progression, unacceptable toxicity or consent withdrawal	HR 0.60 (95% CI, 0.43-0.83) $P = 0.0018$ —6.7 versus 4.4 months	HR 0.65 (95% CI, 0.45-0.93) $P = 0.017$ —17.1 versus 10.1 months	<a href="#">58</a>
		Pazopanib	MITO-11	74	Recurrence $< 6$ months after last platinum-based therapy (max. two prior lines)	Paclitaxel 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1, 8 and 15 in a 28-day cycle plus pazopanib 800 mg/placebo given daily until disease progression, patient withdrawal or prolonged or unacceptable toxic effects	HR 0.42 (95% CI, 0.25-0.69) $P = 0.0002$ —6.35 versus 3.49 months	HR 0.60 (95% CI, 0.32-1.13) $P = 0.056$ —19.1 versus 13.7 months	<a href="#">59</a>
			Richardson et al. <i>JAMA Oncol</i> 2018	106	Recurrence $< 6$ months after last platinum-based therapy (max. three prior lines (one non-platinum line)	Paclitaxel 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> on days 1, 8 and 15 in a 28-day cycle plus pazopanib 800 mg/placebo given daily until disease progression, patient withdrawal or prolonged or unacceptable toxic effects	HR 0.84 (90% CI, 0.57-1.22) $P = 0.20$ —7.5 versus 6.2 months	HR 1.04 (90% CI, 0.60-1.79) $P = 0.90$ —20.7 versus 23.3 months	<a href="#">60</a>
	VEGF-R, FGF-R and PDGF-R	Nintedanib BIBF 1120	Ledermann et al. <i>JCO</i> 2011	83	Partial or complete remission after last line of chemotherapy for relapsed serous ovarian cancer, with a TFI of $\leq 12$ months immediately preceding the chemotherapy	BIBF 1120 250 mg/placebo twice daily maintenance starting 4-8 weeks after completion of chemotherapy	HR 0.65 (95% CI, 0.42-1.02) $P = 0.06$ —36-week PFS rate 16.3% versus 5.0%	HR 0.84 (95% CI, 0.51-1.39) $P = 0.51$	<a href="#">64</a>
	VEGF-R	Cediranib	ICON6	456	Recurrence $\geq 6$ months after front-line platinum-based therapy	In arm A (reference) patients received six cycles of platinum-based chemotherapy plus once-daily oral placebo tablets during the chemotherapy phase, and then received placebo alone during the maintenance phase; in arm B	HR 0.56 (95% CI, 0.44-0.72) $P < 0.0001$ —11.0 versus 8.7 months (arm C versus arm A). Arm B PFS 9.9 months (95% CI, 9.4-10.5)	Immature HR 0.77 (95% CI, 0.55-1.07) $P = 0.11$ —26.3 versus 21 months (arm C versus arm A)	<a href="#">61</a>

Continued

Continued

Table 4. Continued						
Anti-angiogenic mechanism	Drug	Clinical trial name	N	Inclusion criteria	Regimen	PFS OS Ref
Inhibition of the interaction of ANG-1 and ANG-2 to the TIE2-receptor	Trebananib	Karlan et al. JCO 2012	161	Recurrent ovarian cancer with maximum three prior lines of chemotherapy, including at least one platinum-based regimen	(concurrent), patients received six cycles of platinum-based chemotherapy plus once-daily oral cediranib 20 mg, and then switched to placebo during the maintenance phase; in arm C (concurrent plus maintenance), patients received once-daily oral cediranib 20 mg during both phases	HR 0.76 (95% CI, 0.52-1.12) P = 0.165 (arm A + B versus arm C) 7.2 (arm A) versus 5.7 (arm B) versus 4.6 months (arm C)
	AMG 386	TRINOVA-1	919	Recurrence $\leq 12$ months after last platinum-based therapy (max. three prior lines)	Pacitaxel 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> once weekly (3 weeks on/1 week off) plus either intravenous trebananib 15 mg/kg or placebo once weekly	HR 0.60 (95% CI, 0.34-1.06) P = 0.081-22.5 versus 20.9 months (arm A versus arm C) 63 HR 0.95 (95% CI, 0.81-1.11) P = 0.52-19.3 versus 18.3 months 62

ANG, angiopoietin; AUC, area under the curve; BV, bevacizumab; C, carboplatin; CI, confidence interval; FGF-R, fibroblast growth factor receptor; G, gemcitabine; HR, hazard ratio; ns, non-significant; PD, progressive disease; PDGF-R, platelet-derived growth factor receptor; QW, weekly; TIE, tyrosine kinase with immunoglobulin-like and endothelial growth factor-like domain; TFI, treatment-free interval; VEGF-A, vascular endothelial growth factor A; VEGF-R, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor.

0.65; 11.8 versus 8.8 months;  $P < 0.01$ ) in patients who were previously treated with bevacizumab.<sup>67</sup>

### POLY(ADP-RIBOSE) POLYMERASE INHIBITOR IN RELAPSED OVARIAN CANCER

Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) is a key enzyme involved in the repair of single-stranded breaks in DNA. Inhibition of PARP leads to the accumulation of double-stranded DNA breaks, which are then repaired by homologous recombination. In the presence of homologous recombination deficiency, PARP inhibitors (PARPi) can lead to a process sometimes called synthetic lethality, through the generation of unrepaired double-stranded DNA breaks.<sup>68,69</sup> Homologous recombination deficiency is common in ovarian cancer, especially in high-grade serous ovarian cancer, which accounts for the benefit of PARPi therapy in a large proportion of patients with ovarian cancer.<sup>70</sup> Currently, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have approved the use of three different PARPi in ovarian cancer: olaparib, niraparib and rucaparib.<sup>71</sup> PARPi are mainly used as maintenance therapy, which is initiated after a response to platinum-based chemotherapy has been documented. In this context, all three PARPi are effective in high-grade ovarian cancers, irrespective of the *BRCA* mutational status of the tumor, and are approved as maintenance following a response to platinum-based therapy for recurrent disease (see Table 5).<sup>72-77</sup> It is worth noting that although a TFI of at least 6 months was an eligibility criterion for these trials, and as we move beyond the definitions of platinum resistance and platinum sensitivity based on TFI, there are anecdotal data to suggest that patients with short TFI recurrent disease who subsequently respond to platinum-based chemotherapy may also derive benefit from maintenance PARPi therapy.<sup>78</sup>

The effect of maintenance therapy with PARPi on PFS is most pronounced in patients with a deleterious *BRCA* mutation, followed by patients with homologous recombination deficiency (HRD)-positive (based on Myriad myChoice or Foundation loss-of-heterozygosity HRD score) tumors.<sup>72-74,76</sup> Recently, the SOLO-2/ENGOT-Ov21 trial of olaparib maintenance in this group of patients has shown a 12.9-month increase in median OS. The OS HR of 0.74, unadjusted for the 38% of placebo patients who received a PARPi at a later date, was in favor of olaparib but was of borderline statistical significance. Importantly, 22% of patients remain on olaparib with continuing benefit for >5 years.<sup>77</sup> The EMA has approved rucaparib as monotherapy in patients with a deleterious *BRCA* mutation, who have received at least two prior lines of platinum-based chemotherapy and are unable to receive further platinum-based chemotherapy. Treatment with rucaparib led to an objective response rate of 54% (95% CI, 44-64) and a duration of response of 9.2 months (95% CI, 6.6-11.7 months) in patients with a deleterious *BRCA1/2* mutation and at least two prior lines of chemotherapy in ARIEL2 and Study 10.<sup>79</sup> Olaparib and niraparib have also been approved



**Table 5. Overview of studies on poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor maintenance therapy in relapsed ovarian cancer**

Drug	Trial	N	Inclusion	Regimen	PFS overall	PFS <i>BRCA</i> mut	PFS <i>BRCA</i> wt	OS overall	Refs
Olaparib	Study 19	265	Maintenance treatment in patients with platinum-sensitive, relapsed, high-grade serous ovarian cancer who had received two or more platinum-based regimens and had a partial or complete response to their most recent platinum-based regimen	Olaparib capsules 400 mg twice daily versus placebo	8.4 versus 4.8 months; HR* 0.35 (95% CI, 0.25-0.49) <i>P</i> < 0.001	11.2 versus 4.3 months; HR 0.18 (95% CI, 0.10-0.31) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	7.4 versus 5.5 months; HR 0.54 (95% CI, 0.34-0.85) <i>P</i> = 0.0075	NS; HR 0.88 (95% CI, 0.64-1.21) <i>P</i> = 0.44	72,75
	SOLO-2/ENGOT-Ov21	295	Maintenance treatment in platinum-sensitive, relapsed, high-grade serous ovarian cancer or high-grade endometrioid ovarian cancer patients with a <i>BRCA</i> 1/2 mutation who had received at least two lines of previous chemotherapy and had a partial or complete response to their most recent platinum-based regimen	Olaparib tablets 300 mg twice daily versus placebo	NA	19.1 versus 5.5 months; HR* 0.30 (95% CI, 0.22-0.41) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	NA	51.7 versus 38.8 months; HR 0.74 (95% CI, 0.54-1.00) <i>P</i> = 0.0537 - Myriad g <i>BRCA</i> subset 52.4 versus 37.4 months; HR 0.71 (95% CI, 0.5-0.97) <i>P</i> = 0.0306	73,77
Niraparib	NOVA/ENGOT-OV16	553	Maintenance treatment in platinum-sensitive (>6 months between penultimate platinum regimen and progression of disease), relapsed high-grade serous ovarian cancer who had received at least two lines of previous platinum-based chemotherapy and had a partial or complete response to their most recent platinum-based regimen	Niraparib 300 mg once daily versus placebo	NA	21 versus 5.5 months; HR 0.27 (95% CI, 0.173-0.410) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	9.3 versus 3.9 months; HR 0.45 (95% CI 0.338-0.607) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	NA	76
Rucaparib	ARIEL-3	564	Maintenance treatment in platinum-sensitive, relapsed, high-grade serous ovarian cancer or high-grade endometrioid ovarian cancer patients who had received at least two lines of previous chemotherapy and had a radiological partial or complete response and a serological complete response to their most recent platinum-based regimen	Rucaparib 600 mg twice daily versus placebo	13.7 versus 5.4 months; HR 0.35 (95% CI, 0.28-0.45) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	16.6 versus 5.4 months; HR 0.23 (95% CI, 0.16-0.34) <i>P</i> < 0.0001	High LOH 9.7 versus 5.4 months; HR 0.44 (95% CI, 0.29-0.66) <i>P</i> < 0.0001-low LOH 6.7 versus 5.4 months; HR 0.58 (95% CI, 0.40-0.85) <i>P</i> = 0.0049	NA	74

*BRCA*mut, pathogenic *BRCA* mutation; *BRCA*wt, *BRCA* wild type; CI, confidence interval; g*BRCA*, germline pathogenic *BRCA* mutation; HR, hazard ratio; HR\*, for progression or death; LOH, loss of heterozygosity; NA, not available; NS, non-significant.

**Table 6.** Overview of studies on poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitor treatment in relapsed ovarian cancer

Drug	Trial	N	Inclusion	Regimen	PFS overall	PFS BRCAmut	PFS BRCAwt	OS overall	Refs
Olaparib	SOLO-3/NRG GY004	266	Single-agent olaparib versus standard of care, based on physician's choice of single-agent chemotherapy (i.e. paclitaxel, or topotecan, or pegylated liposomal doxorubicin, or gemcitabine) in platinum-sensitive or partially platinum-sensitive relapsed ovarian cancer patients who carry germline deleterious or suspected deleterious <i>BRCA</i> mutation and who have received at least two prior lines of platinum-based chemotherapy	Olaparib 300 mg twice daily versus single-agent physician's choice chemotherapy	NA	13.4 versus 9.2 months; HR <sup>a</sup> 0.62 (95% CI, 0.43-0.91) <i>P</i> = 0.013	NA	NA	<sup>82</sup>
	CLIO	160	Single-agent olaparib versus standard of care (i.e. paclitaxel, or topotecan, or pegylated liposomal doxorubicin, or gemcitabine if TFIp <6 months, <i>n</i> = 100, or carboplatin AUC 5 pegylated liposomal doxorubicin 30 mg/m <sup>2</sup> q4w or carboplatin AUC 4 d1 gemcitabine 1000 mg/m <sup>2</sup> days 1 and 8 q3w if TFIp >6 months and BRCAwt, <i>n</i> = 60)	Olaparib 300 mg twice daily versus physician's choice chemotherapy	TFIp <6 months: NS-2.9 versus 3.4 months TFIp >6 months: 6.4 versus 8.5 months	TFIp <6 months: ORR 38%	TFIp <6 months: ORR 13%	TFIp >6 months: 23.9 versus 27.7-HR 1.01 (95% CI, 0.40-2.51), NS	<sup>83,89</sup>
	Study 42	193	Single-agent olaparib in platinum-resistant (recurrence within 6 months after last platinum) relapsed ovarian cancer patients who carry germline deleterious or suspected deleterious <i>BRCA</i> mutation	Olaparib capsules 400 mg twice daily	NA	7.03 months (IQR: 3.65-11.24)	NA	16.62 months (IQR: 9.43-NA <sup>b</sup> )	<sup>84</sup>
Niraparib	QUADRA	463	Single-agent niraparib in patients with relapsed high-grade serous ovarian cancer who had been treated with three or more previous lines of chemotherapy	Niraparib 300 mg once daily	NA	NA	NA	12.2 months (IQR 3.7-22.1)-BRCAmut 19.0 months (IQR: 14.5-24.6)	<sup>85</sup>
Rucaparib	Study 10	42	Single-agent rucaparib in gBRCA-mutated high-grade serous ovarian cancer patients, with two to four previous lines of chemotherapy, who had progressed 6 months or more after their most recent platinum-based treatment	Rucaparib 600 mg twice daily	NA	Median DOR 6.6 months (95% CI, 5.1-11.3)	NA	NA	<sup>86</sup>
	ARIEL-2, Part 1	206	Single-agent rucaparib in patients who had progressed 6 months or more after their most recent platinum-based treatment	Rucaparib 600 mg twice daily	Median DOR 5.7 months (IQR: 2.8-10.1)	12.8 months (95% CI, 9.0-14.7)	High LOH 5.7 months (95% CI, 5.3-7.6)-Low LOH 5.2 months (95% CI, 3.6-5.5)	NA	<sup>87</sup>
Veliparib	GOG-280	52	Single-agent veliparib in gBRCA-mutated platinum-resistant or -sensitive (not refractory) ovarian cancer patients, who had received one to three prior chemotherapy regimens	Veliparib 400 mg twice daily	NA	8.18 months	NA	NA	<sup>88</sup>

AUC, area under the curve; BRCAmut, pathogenic BRCA mutation; CI, confidence interval; DOR, duration of response; gBRCA, pathogenic germline BRCA mutation; HR, hazard ratio; IQR, interquartile range; LOH, loss of heterozygosity; NA, not available; ORR, overall response rate.

<sup>a</sup> HR in accordance with blinded independent central review.

<sup>b</sup> Not enough data to calculate upper limit of IQR.

by the FDA based on phase II data.<sup>80,81</sup> The benefit of monotherapy has been supported by the result of the SOLO-3/NRG GY004 trial that included germline *BRCA*-mutated patients who relapsed after at least two prior lines of platinum-based chemotherapy and had a TFIp of >6 months. These patients were randomized to receive either olaparib 300 mg twice daily or single-agent non-platinum chemotherapy (PLD, paclitaxel weekly, gemcitabine or topotecan). The overall response rate in the olaparib group was 72.2% versus 51.4% in the chemotherapy group (odds ratio 2.53; 95% CI, 1.40-4.58;  $P = 0.002$ ).<sup>82</sup> The incidence of treatment-related side effects was similar in both treatment groups; serious adverse events were more common in the olaparib group (24% versus 18%), but did not lead to treatment discontinuation in most patients (7% in the olaparib group versus 20% in the chemotherapy group).<sup>82</sup> The available evidence for PARPi monotherapy derived from phase II and III trials is listed in Table 6.<sup>82-89</sup>

Currently, olaparib is being used in the first-line setting in patients with a known deleterious *BRCA* mutation, based on SOLO-1.<sup>90</sup> Recently, the FDA approved the use of niraparib maintenance therapy in all patients with advanced epithelial ovarian cancer without progression after platinum-based chemotherapy based on the results of PRIMA/ENGOT-OV26/GOG-3012.<sup>91</sup> In addition, the FDA approved the combination of olaparib and bevacizumab in patients with HRD-positive or *BRCA*-mutated advanced epithelial ovarian cancer.<sup>92</sup> No license is available for re-treatment with PARPis and it is currently unclear whether PARPi re-treatment is beneficial, as PARPi re-treatment was not allowed in most studies. Currently, the OReO/ENGOT Ov-38 study (NCT03106987) which is recruiting patients will help to answer this question.<sup>93</sup> This study is for patients who were previously successfully treated with a PARPi and who after disease progression responded to their most recent line of platinum-based chemotherapy.

The therapeutic effect of PARPi treatment might be enhanced through a combination with an anti-angiogenic drug, as hypoxia increases the sensitivity of cancer cells to PARPis due to reduced efficacy of homologous recombination repair mechanism.<sup>94</sup> The combination of olaparib and cediranib is especially interesting. Cediranib impairs homologous recombination repair by induction of hypoxia and consequently suppresses the expression of homologous recombination repair genes, and also exerts a direct effect on DNA repair via platelet-derived growth factor receptor inhibition.<sup>94</sup> The combination of cediranib and olaparib has also clinically proven to be effective in a randomized phase II trial.<sup>95</sup> A retrospective subgroup analysis showed that the improvement in efficacy of olaparib in combination with cediranib was most pronounced for patients without a deleterious germline *BRCA* mutation.<sup>96</sup> The recently published results of the NRG GY004 trial comparing the combination of cediranib and olaparib with chemotherapy or olaparib showed again that cediranib added to the effect of olaparib, and this was seen in both *gBRCA*<sup>mut</sup> and *BRCA*<sup>wt</sup> groups. However, the study was negative as the chemotherapy-free regimen was not superior to

chemotherapy.<sup>97</sup> Additive effects were also seen in the NSGO-AVANOVA2/ENGOT-ov24 study, evaluating the combination of niraparib and bevacizumab versus niraparib monotherapy.<sup>98</sup> Results of the BAROCCO and OCTOVA studies comparing weekly paclitaxel and the combination of olaparib and/or cediranib are awaited.<sup>99,100</sup> Currently, a phase III trial (ICON9) is investigating the addition of cediranib to olaparib maintenance in patients who responded to platinum-based chemotherapy for relapsed ovarian cancer (NCT03278717).

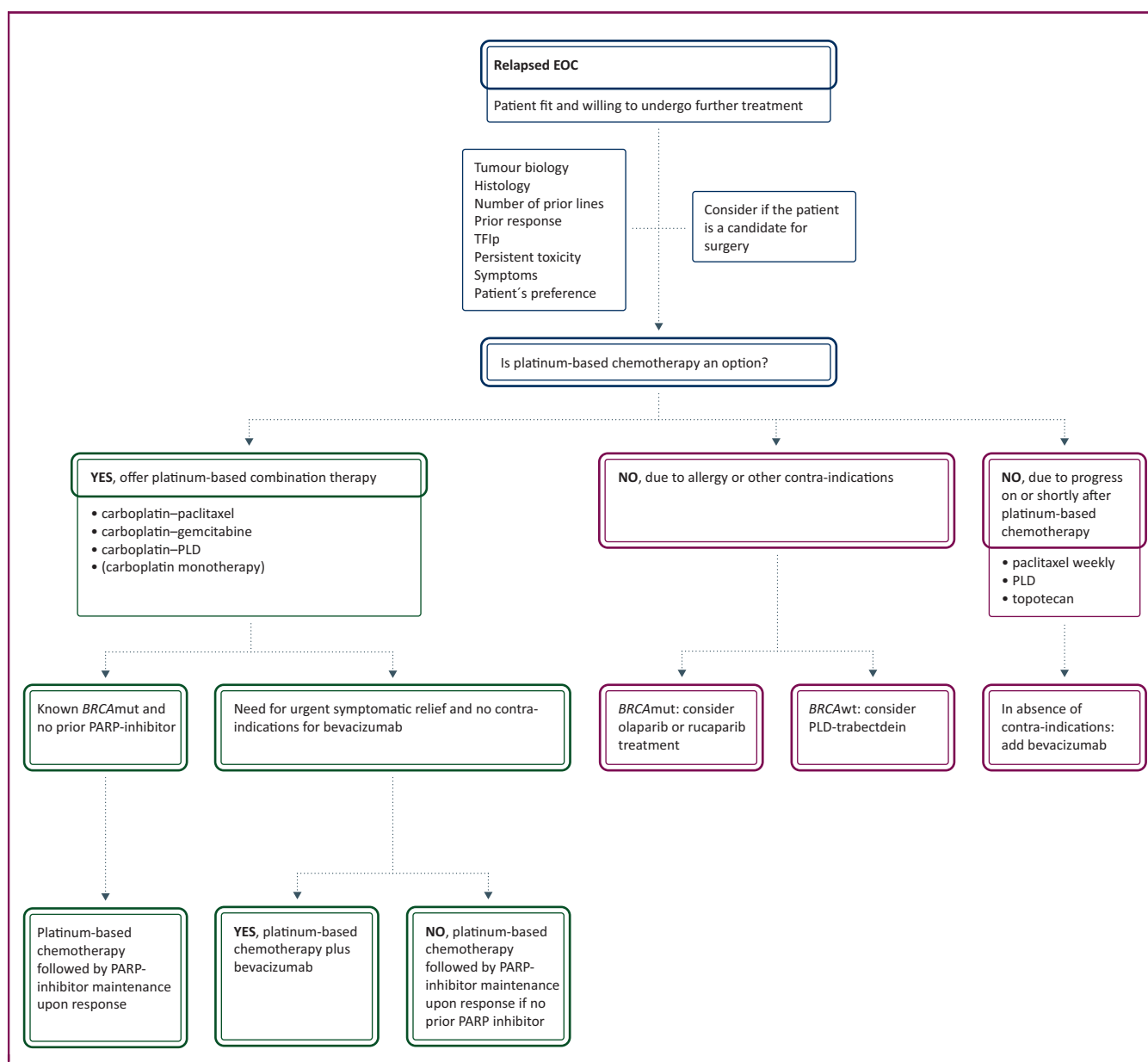
## IMMUNE-ONCOLOGY STRATEGIES IN RELAPSED OVARIAN CANCER

Immunotherapy is an emerging therapeutic field in ovarian cancer and there is significant interest in evaluating checkpoint inhibitors in this disease. The immune system is thought to play an important role in ovarian cancer, but the results of trials of immune checkpoint inhibitor monotherapy have shown little activity.<sup>101-104</sup> Combining PLD with the programmed death-ligand 1 inhibitor avelumab in the JAVELIN Ovarian 200 trial showed no added benefit of addition of avelumab to PLD alone.<sup>105</sup> Similarly, in the first-line setting in the JAVELIN Ovarian 100 trial, adding avelumab to carboplatin and paclitaxel and continuing the drug as maintenance failed to show any benefit compared to chemotherapy alone. The HR for PFS was 1.14 (95% CI, 0.832-1.565) in favor of chemotherapy.<sup>106</sup> Combining two immunomodulatory agents, such as anti-programmed cell death protein 1 and anti-cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4 agents may be more active, but also more toxic.<sup>107</sup> An additional strategy is the combination of an immune checkpoint inhibitor with a PARPi; PARPis can activate STING (stimulator of interferon genes) pathway to increase T-cell infiltration in the tumor.<sup>108-110</sup> Results of the TOPACIO/KEYNOTE-162 (phase I-II) and MEDIOLA trials show that this combination is feasible and the response rates in these studies were encouraging.<sup>111,112</sup> A subgroup analysis of TOPACIO/KEYNOTE-162 suggested that the combination of niraparib and pembrolizumab was especially promising for patients without deleterious *BRCA* mutations or homologous recombination deficiency.<sup>111</sup> The current ANITA/ENGOT ov-41/GEICO 69-O trial is comparing platinum-based chemotherapy for recurrent ovarian cancer followed by niraparib maintenance to platinum-based chemotherapy with atezolizumab followed by maintenance niraparib in combination with atezolizumab.<sup>113</sup> An alternative strategy, which has shown promising results in other cancer types, is the combination of an immune checkpoint inhibitor and an anti-angiogenic agent.<sup>114,115</sup> Results from a phase I study in ovarian cancer show that the administration of both durvalumab and cediranib is feasible and can lead to a partial response in heavily pre-treated patients.<sup>116</sup> The AGO-OVAR 2.29/ENGOT OV-34 and ATALANTE/ENGOT OV-29 studies combining chemotherapy, bevacizumab and atezolizumab in patients with relapsed ovarian cancer are ongoing.<sup>117,118</sup> However, currently no immunotherapeutic agent has been approved for the treatment of recurrent ovarian cancer, nor included in any current treatment guideline.

## CONCLUSIONS

A variety of therapeutic options are available for women with recurrent ovarian cancer. Survival can be prolonged by selective sequential use of these existing treatments. Platinum-based chemotherapy continues to be the backbone of chemotherapy; platinum is the most active chemotherapy drug and has established new standards of care, together with bevacizumab and PARPis. Maintenance therapy with PARPis after platinum should now be considered a standard approach after response to platinum, if the patient is not receiving bevacizumab and has not previously

been treated with a PARPi. In addition to significant prolongation in median PFS, a proportion of patients are 'super responders' who experience disease control for many years. Olaparib maintenance prolongs OS in patients with and without a *BRCA* mutation.<sup>77,119</sup> Therefore, using platinum-based therapy to its maximum effect allows patients to access maintenance treatment that can further extend disease control. In the absence of prospectively validated tests that can accurately predict response to platinum compounds, platinum-based chemotherapy should not be withheld simply based on a TFIp of <6 months. Currently, platinum resistance can only be diagnosed confidently in



**Figure 5. Decision-tree for relapsed epithelial ovarian cancer (EOC).<sup>1</sup>**

First evaluate if the patient is fit and willing to undergo further treatment. The different variables important in the decision-making process, such as tumor biology, histology, number of prior lines, treatment-free interval for platinum-based chemotherapy (TFIp), persistent toxicity, patient's symptoms and preferences should be taken into account. In patients with first relapse, the option of surgery should be considered and discussed with the patient. Next, the main question should be answered: is platinum-based chemotherapy an option for the patient. Depending on the answer to this question, the patient can be treated in accordance with this flow chart. Adapted with permission from Colombo et al.<sup>1</sup> *BRCAmut*, pathogenic *BRCA* mutation; *BRCAwt*, absence of a pathogenic *BRCA* mutation; PARP, poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase; PEOC, platinum-eligible ovarian cancer; PLD, pegylated liposomal doxorubicin; PNEOC, platinum-non-eligible ovarian cancer.

patients whose cancer progresses during platinum-based therapy, or in those with symptomatic relapse occurring very soon after finishing platinum. We propose the algorithm in Figure 5 for the treatment of patients with recurrent epithelial ovarian cancer, based on the current available literature and therapeutic options.<sup>1</sup> In patients with significant symptoms, especially those presenting with pleural effusion and/or ascites, the combination of platinum-based chemotherapy with bevacizumab has the highest probability of response and is therefore likely to control symptoms more quickly, thus improving quality of life, and prolong PFS.<sup>56,120</sup> For patients not on bevacizumab, chemotherapy followed by a PARPi, irrespective of the BRCA or HRD status,<sup>74,76</sup> is the treatment of choice. There is no evidence to support an order of sequencing platinum combinations. The decision is often based on prior toxicity, patient choice and the anticipation of what drugs could be used later in the course of the disease. For PNEOC patients, monotherapy with a non-platinum-based drug with or without bevacizumab should be used. This review is based on the ESMO–ESGO Ovarian Cancer Consensus Conference (2018)<sup>1</sup> and updated with the most recent published data. It provides a detailed discussion of a rapidly changing field that will continue to evolve as the results of new major trials appear. However, platinum-based chemotherapy remains the cornerstone of systemic treatment in ovarian cancer and should be used in all patients until disease progression or intolerable adverse events such as severe allergy to platinum are observed.

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