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**Interviews conducted at the European Society of
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 Fellows Initiative**

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46 **TEXT**

47
48 During the 23rd Congress on Gynaecological Oncology held in Berlin in October 2022,
49 eight interviews on relevant and up-to-date topics in gynecologic oncology with leading speakers
50 were conducted by current and former Editorial Fellows of the IJGC endorsed by the ENYGO.

51
52 **New ESGO-ESTRO-SIOPe Guidelines on Vaginal Cancer: Surgical Aspects**

53
54 Interviewee: Professor Christina Fotopoulou from West London Gynecological Cancer Centre;
55 Hammersmith Hospital, Imperial College, London, UK.

56 Interviewer: Dr. Martina A. Angeles, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

57
58 Primary vaginal cancer is a rare malignancy, less common than cervical cancer [1]. It
59 may be associated with human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and the most common histologic
60 type is squamous cell carcinoma [2,3]. Given the low incidence and complexity of care of
61 vaginal cancer, ESGO in collaboration with ESTRO and SIOPe developed the new guidelines to
62 ensure a standardization of management of these patients.

63 During the interview with Prof. Fotopoulou, we discussed important surgical aspects of
64 the recent guidelines on vaginal cancer. Regarding the role of sentinel lymph node (SLN), she
65 stated that *"there is currently no data assessing the oncologic safety of the use of this procedure*
66 *alone in vaginal cancer and it is not part of the standard oncologic treatment"*, but of course
67 clinical trials and the use of the SLN concept in conjunction with standard lymphadenectomy is
68 encouraged to enrich experience and evidence in this rare disease. According to the embryologic
69 development of the vagina, the lymphatic drainage of tumors located at the upper two thirds is
70 equivalent to the cervix and therefore pelvic lymphadenectomy should be performed in these
71 cases. An inguinofemoral lymphadenectomy is recommended for tumors located at the lower

72 third of the vagina. However, it is not advocated to routinely perform both pelvic and
73 inguinofemoral lymph node dissection in tumors located at the junction in order to avoid
74 unnecessary morbidity. In these cases, the treating expert clinician should decide at physical
75 examination which is the most likely lymphatic pathway, and it could be helpful to perform SLN
76 procedure, in addition to the lymphadenectomy, to define the lymphatic drainage of the tumor.
77 We also discussed the role of surgery in upper-third vaginal tumors below 2 cm. *"Uterine*
78 *preservation can be considered in patients wishing a fertility-sparing treatment if free margins*
79 *can be obtained"*, Prof. Fotopoulou explained. However, she highlighted that *"it is mandatory to*
80 *reconstruct the vaginal defect in a way to avoid stenosis or obstruction which could lead to*
81 *recurring hematometra through impaired uterine drainage"*. Also access to the cervix should
82 always be ensured to enable cervical screening. Regarding the surgical approach in upper-third
83 tumors, it would be possible to combine a minimal invasive with a vaginal approach, to dissect
84 the uterus abdominally and then remove the tumor vaginally, as long as the oncologic principles
85 of avoiding tumor exposure in the peritoneal cavity are followed.

86 Concerning the follow-up, Prof. Fotopoulou mentioned that: *"There is no data regarding*
87 *the oncologic safety of patient-initiated follow-up alone without clinical examination, and these*
88 *patients should be seen and followed-up with standard principles of face-to-face attendance"*,
89 she stated. She also emphasized the importance of cervical cancer screening in patients with
90 uterine preservation, especially in HPV-related vaginal cancers. *"In patients treated by surgery*
91 *alone, both cervical cytology and HPV testing are recommended. However, in patients treated*
92 *with radiotherapy, the cytology is not reliable because it has a high rate of false-positive results.*
93 *HPV testing is recommended in these patients as its results are not influenced by radiotherapy"*.
94 At the end of the interview, she highlighted the importance of specialized and multidisciplinary
95 care for this rare disease and participation to clinical trials and large databases when possible to
96 enrich evidence.

97

98 **Surgery of the Vulva and Plastic Reconstruction**

99
100 Interviewee: Professor Sven Mahner from Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Munich,
101 Germany.

102 Interviewer: Dr. Felix Boria, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

103
104 Vulvar cancer is a rare disease with an annual incidence of two to three per 100,000
105 women [4]. Last years, treatment for early-stage disease has undergone major advances [4–7]. In
106 patients with unifocal tumors, less than 4 cm and non-suspicious groin nodes, SLN biopsy has
107 become the standard of care over systematic inguofemoral lymphadenectomy [4,5].

108 The GROINSS-V I study showed that omission of inguofemoral lymphadenectomy is
109 safe in patients with a negative SLN with an isolated groin recurrence rate after SLN biopsy of
110 2.3% [95% CI 0.6% - 5.0%] [6]. Later, the GROINSS-V II study showed that inguofemoral
111 radiotherapy for vulvar cancer patients with SLN micrometastasis is a safe alternative for
112 inguofemoral lymphadenectomy. The toxicity of radiotherapy is acceptable, and treatment-
113 related morbidity is less frequent compared with inguofemoral lymphadenectomy. However,
114 for patients with SLN macrometastasis, radiotherapy with a total dose of 50 Gy showed more
115 isolated groin recurrences than inguofemoral lymphadenectomy, therefore surgery is
116 recommended in these cases [7].

117 Our discussion with Prof. Mahner started emphasizing the importance of centralization of
118 surgery in this type of cancer. *"Vulvar cancer is a rare disease that should be treated only in*
119 *specialized centers with high volume whenever possible"*, he stated. Regarding the SLN mapping
120 in vulvar cancer, Prof. Mahner usually employs technetium as standard radiotracer and combines
121 it occasionally with indocyanine green or blue dye. We discussed the benefits of sending the
122 lymph nodes for frozen section vs. performing a delayed histological analysis. At this point,
123 Prof. Mahner explained the need of individualizing each case. *"If a macrometastasis is found in*

124 *a lymph node, an inguinofemoral lymphadenectomy is mandatory. Therefore, frozen section will*
125 *avoid a second surgery",* he explained. However, as ultrastaging has a better sensitivity to detect
126 lymph node metastasis, Prof. Mahner recommends doing a two-step procedure for almost all
127 cases, unless the patient has comorbidities and will benefit from only one surgery, assuming the
128 higher risk of false-negative results with frozen section. Moreover, based on GROINSS-V II
129 data, full groin lymph node resection can be omitted in some patients with only micrometastasis.

130 As many vulvar cancer patients present with comorbidities that can compromise the
131 surgery, he advocates to adjust the anesthetic procedure to the patient. Surgical morbidity related
132 to anesthesia can be decreased with a regional anesthesia or even with local anesthesia in
133 selected cases. When talking about the reconstruction of the vulva, Prof. Mahner considers that
134 there is no "one fit for all" in vulvar cancer, and *"we have to tailor our reconstruction technique*
135 *to the tumor and patient characteristics"*. He suggested to perform a flap in almost all cases and
136 try to avoid primary closure, as this latter has poorer aesthetic and functional results. Regarding
137 clitoris preservation, he recommended to always try to preserve this organ, as quality of life will
138 be dramatically decreased in those patients in whom it has been resected.

139 Finally, we discussed the need of working within a multidisciplinary team with plastic
140 surgeons for vulvar reconstruction. In Prof. Mahner's opinion, they are required in selected cases
141 and most of the routine vulvar reconstructive procedures can be safely performed by skilled
142 gynecological oncologists.

143

144 **HPV Vaccines: Current State of the Art and Future Prospects**

145

146 Interviewee: Professor Murat Gültekin from Hacettepe University Faculty of Medicine, Ankara,
147 Turkey. ESGO Prevention Committee Chair,

148 Interviewer: Dr. Alexander Shushkevich, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

149

150 Cervical cancer is the fourth most common female malignancy worldwide, with 604,127
151 new cases in 2020 [8]. It is well known that the cause of invasive cervical cancer is HPV
152 infection [9] and 13 types of HPV have been classified as carcinogenic for humans [10]. The
153 most common genotypes of HPV associated with invasive cervical cancer are HPV 16 and 18,
154 and genotypes 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52, and 58 cause approximately 90% of HPV-positive
155 squamous cell carcinoma of the cervix [11].

156 During 2022 ESGO Congress, we interviewed Prof. Gültekin and discussed topics of
157 HPV prevention. We started by focusing on the human body's natural immunity. Prof. Gültekin
158 stated that, nowadays, HPV infection appears to be the most common sexually transmitted
159 infection in the world. *"The risk of HPV infection is around 80% throughout life"*, he mentioned.
160 In 95% of cases, natural immunity clears out the virus infection. However, the risk of reinfection
161 and reactivation of the viruses in the unvaccinated population is high. *"Unfortunately, in many
162 cases, we do not see proper antibody response after HPV infection"*, Prof. Gültekin concluded.
163 Vaccination is the way to resolve cervical cancer issue worldwide.

164 The first vaccine against HPV infection came out in 2006. Long-term clinical data, as
165 well as long-term real-life data, are available today. *"If we look within all clinical trials, HPV
166 vaccination is extremely safe and effective. After the vaccination, women have nearly ten times
167 higher antibodies level compared to natural immunity"*, Prof. Gültekin explained. More than 160
168 trials have shown that HPV vaccines have an encouraging safety profile [12]. At the end of our
169 discussion, we focused on dose variations. WHO suggested a 2-dose schedule (0, 6 months) for
170 all females below 15 years at the time of the first dose. For women aged 15 years or older, a 3-
171 dose schedule (0, 2, 6 months) is recommended. However, recent data from several randomized
172 controlled trials showed that a single dose of HPV vaccine has a similar protection rate in
173 infection persistence [13,14]. *"However, we do not have enough data about the single-dose
174 schedule, which means that we cannot immediately implement this schedule, but it could be an
175 option for low-income countries"*, stated Prof. Gültekin.

176

177 **2022 Update of the ESGO-ESTRO-ESP Cervical Cancer Guidelines**

178

179 Interviewee: Professor David Cibula from the Gynecologic Oncology Center, Department of
180 Obstetrics and Gynecology, First Faculty of Medicine, Charles University and General
181 University Hospital, Prague, Czech Republic.

182 Interviewer: Dr. Nicolò Bizzarri, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

183

184 One of the most attended sessions at ESGO 2022 Congress was the update of the ESGO-
185 ESTRO-ESP Cervical Cancer Guidelines presented by Prof. David Cibula. The first edition was
186 published in 2018 [15] and represented a landmark work originating from the collaboration of
187 international key opinion leaders gynecologic oncologists, radiation oncologists and
188 pathologists. The interview started with a discussion of the main updates of the 2022 version.
189 There are new components which include: surgical management of FIGO 2018 stage IB3 and
190 IIA2 N0, quality of life and palliative care, and rare tumors. In addition, the most recent evidence
191 in cervical cancer literature led to the need of updating topics such as SLN biopsy, surgical
192 approach, fertility-sparing treatment, systemic treatment, and recurrent disease. Moreover, some
193 previous recommendations were improved, and several algorithms were restructured.

194 Since the last edition, the publication of the Laparoscopic Approach to Cervical Cancer
195 (LACC) Trial in 2018 [16] led to the change of recommendation on surgical approach to radical
196 hysterectomy, with laparotomy as standard of care. In the current updated guidelines, minimally
197 invasive surgery is proposed as an acceptable approach for lymph node staging, meaning that the
198 first step could be performed by minimal access, perform the frozen section of the (sentinel)
199 lymph node and if negative then convert to open surgery to complete the radical hysterectomy.
200 Guidelines committee also opened the window to minimally invasive surgery in the group of
201 “low-risk” tumors (defined as tumors with diameter <2 cm after cone biopsy with free margins)

202 if operated in high-volume centers experienced in performing radical hysterectomy with
203 minimally invasive surgery, which meet the ESGO quality criteria for surgery, using protective
204 maneuvers and if patient agrees after comprehensive counseling on current evidence.

205 The discussion then moved to the potential future indication for radical hysterectomy in
206 early-stage disease, as the gynecologic oncology community is gradually moving toward a less
207 radical approach (SLN only and non-radical hysterectomy). Prof. Cibula strongly believes in the
208 SLN concept in view of the step-by-step lymphatic spread of cervical cancer, also recently
209 demonstrated by the results of the SENTIX study [17]. Regarding radical hysterectomy, *"the new
210 challenge is represented by the role of radical surgery alone in the "intermediate-risk" disease
211 and the ongoing CERVANTES trial [18] is aiming to assess the role of adjuvant
212 (chemo)radiotherapy in this setting"*, he stated. *"We are also awaiting the results of the SHAPE
213 trial to understand the role of radical surgery in low risk disease"*, he added.

214 Lastly the interview briefly touched on the fields that deserve further research in cervical
215 cancer. In early stage, there are different developments aiming to de-escalate the treatments in a
216 trend toward less radical management. *"However, one has to be cautious with the final survival
217 outcomes"*, he underlined. LACC trial showed us that we are currently reaching very high
218 survival rates (laparotomy arm of the trial) and we could not aim for more, but we could risk
219 worsening them, so it will be important to focus on improving quality of life maintaining such
220 high oncological outcomes. *"Of course, improvement in survival rates and quality of life of
221 locally advanced and metastatic disease is one of the priorities for future research"*, Prof. Cibula
222 concluded at the end of the interview.

223

224 **Fertility-sparing Treatment in Endometrial Cancer**

225

226 Interviewee: Professor Alexandros Rodolakis, from the 1st Department of Obstetrics and
227 Gynaecology, Alexandra Hospital, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece.

228 Interviewer: Dr. Charalampos Theofanakis, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

229
230 Fertility-sparing treatment for young patients with endometrial cancer is a contemporary
231 clinical problem. Since delayed childbearing is increasingly more common among women,
232 diagnosing an endometrial cancer in nulliparous young patients is becoming more frequent [19].

233 At the beginning of the interview, we asked Prof. Rodolakis about the selection of
234 patients diagnosed with endometrial cancer eligible for fertility-sparing treatment. He explained
235 that it is crucial to evaluate if the patient fulfills the selection criteria. *"Well differentiated tumors
236 without myometrial invasion is mandatory to offer fertility-sparing treatment"*, he stated [20].
237 However, prior to performing a conservative approach, we must evaluate the reproductive
238 potential of each patient, to be sure there is no previous history of infertility. As well, it is
239 recommended that an experienced pathologist reviews the pathology report to confirm grade 1
240 endometrioid subtype. Thereafter, the patient is offered progesterone treatment with oral
241 progestin, an intrauterine device, or a combination of both.

242 We also discussed the role of hysteroscopy in patients referred with a histologically
243 confirmed endometrial cancer. *"There is strong evidence showing that blind techniques alone -
244 such as curettage or Pipelle endometrial biopsy- should be avoided and supporting to perform
245 an additional hysteroscopy"*. It is necessary to resect focal lesions and to assess the extent of the
246 disease in the endometrial cavity [21].

247 Once the conservative treatment is considered successful, patients should be referred to
248 female reproductive health specialists in order to conceive as soon as possible. Regarding
249 delayed childbearing, we asked Prof. Rodolakis about the management of young patients willing
250 to delay childbearing after a successful conservative treatment and he mentioned that this is a
251 major issue. A maintenance treatment is required to prolong the complete remission of the
252 disease, which is usually succeeded with a levonorgestrel-intrauterine device. However, it is

253 crucial to counsel these patients regarding the high rate of recurrence, which is close to 40%.
254 Therefore, pregnancy should be planned as soon as possible [22].

255 At the end of the interview, Prof. Rololakis gave us the following take-home message: "*A*
256 *young patient with grade 1 endometrioid stage IA endometrial cancer without myometrial*
257 *invasion with a strong desire for childbearing is the definitive indication for fertility-sparing*
258 *treatment. However, we need to individualize each case to offer our patients the best possible*
259 *management*".

260

261 **Molecular Analysis in Endometrial Cancer**

262

263 Interviewee: Professor Domenica Lorusso from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at
264 the Catholic University of Rome and responsible for clinical research at Fondazione Policlinico
265 Gemelli Rome, Italy.

266 Interviewer: Dr. Gabriella Schivardi, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

267

268 Historically adjuvant treatment of endometrial cancer was based exclusively on
269 clinicopathological parameters. In the last decade, starting from the publication in 2013 of the
270 "Integrated genomic characterization of endometrial carcinoma" by The Cancer Genome Atlas
271 (TCGA), a new prognostic classification has been proposed that integrates molecular and
272 clinicopathological factors [23–25]. Indeed, the last ESGO/ESTRO/ESP guidelines, published in
273 2020 have combined the molecular categories with the histological features for endometrial
274 cancer risk classification and adjuvant treatment recommendations [21]. Since then, different
275 progress on the role of the molecular classes in adjuvant treatment has been made and various
276 trials are ongoing.

277 During the ESGO 2022 Congress, we discussed with Prof. Lorusso some of the most
278 relevant aspects of the molecular evaluation. We started by discussing the need of performing a

279 complete molecular analysis in all endometrial cancer patients. Prof. Lorusso stated that ideally,
280 all endometrial cancer patients should undergo a complete molecular analysis, including POLE,
281 however in a low-resource setting the POLE test could be limited to high-intermediate and high-
282 risk patients where this information could change the choice of adjuvant treatment. Considering
283 that the primary issue of the cost is related to POLE, we asked if there is any way to assess
284 POLE mutation besides next-generation sequencing. Prof. Lorusso underlined the option to limit
285 the analysis to the exons that contain the 11 hotspot mutations or even to limit the test to the 5
286 most frequent mutations, which represents the minimal requirement for the POLE mutation
287 diagnosis. Our discussion continued on the POLE category, asking Prof. Lorusso how she would
288 manage adjuvant treatment in POLE mutated tumors stage III, she explained that *"to date there*
289 *is no sufficient data to omit adjuvant treatment in these tumors. However, the RAINBO umbrella*
290 *program currently ongoing will be able to answer this issue"*. Later, Prof. Lorusso summarized
291 the design of the RAINBO program: *"p53abn tumors will receive chemotherapy and then will be*
292 *randomized to receive PARP inhibitor or placebo for two years, MMRd tumors will receive*
293 *radiation therapy or chemoradiation therapy and then will be randomized to receive one year of*
294 *immunotherapy or placebo, no specific molecular profile (NSMP) tumors will receive*
295 *radiotherapy and then will be randomized to receive hormonal treatment or placebo for two*
296 *years, and finally POLE tumors will not receive any adjuvant treatment regardless of the stage"*.

297 Prof. Lorusso also talked about the role of immunotherapy in first-line treatment of
298 endometrial cancer patients among MMRd category. Besides the RAINBO trial, there are several
299 ongoing trials evaluating immunotherapy in first-line treatment for MMRd tumors in
300 combination with chemotherapy but also as an alternative to chemotherapy. Prof. Lorusso
301 believes that in the next two to three years the results of those trials will provide us with the
302 knowledge to define the role of immunotherapy in this setting. Finally, we asked her if she
303 believes that molecular analysis performed on the preoperative biopsy will be able to tailor the
304 surgical management in the near future. She mentioned that either medical or surgical treatment

305 is moving forward with more tailored treatment, and she seemed convinced that *"what we are*
306 *discovering on the prognostic role of molecular classification will impact the radicality of*
307 *surgery"*.

308
309 **Major Achievements in the Management of Ovarian Cancer (SOLO1, PAOLA1, PRIMA,**
310 **ATHENAmo, Atalante)**

311
312 Interviewee: Professor Mansoor Raza Mirza from the Department of Oncology of the Finsen
313 Centre, Rigshospitalet - Copenhagen University Hospital, Denmark.

314 Interviewer: Dr. Joanna Kacperczyk-Bartnik, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

315
316 Introduction of PARP inhibitors (PARPi) in ovarian cancer management protocols has
317 significantly improved patients' prognosis and outcome during the last decade. Numerous
318 clinical trials have been performed since the publication of the first phase 2 trial evaluating
319 PARPi in maintenance therapy in platinum-sensitive relapsed ovarian cancer in 2012
320 (NCT00753545) and the announcement of the phase 3 NOVA trial results in 2016
321 (NCT02655016) [26,27]. Positive results of SOLO-1 (NCT01844986) and PAOLA-1
322 (NCT02477644) trials published in 2018 and 2019 showed that PARPi can be used not only as
323 the maintenance therapy in patients with relapsed ovarian cancer, but also after first-line
324 treatment of newly diagnosed disease [28,29]. Similarly, favorable results were confirmed in the
325 PRIMA trial (NCT02655016) and data from recently presented phase 3 ATHENA MONO trial
326 (NCT03522246) and phase 3 PRIME trial (NCT03709316). Based on the aforementioned
327 studies, we know that PARPi significantly prolong median progression-free survival in patients
328 with ovarian cancer as half of the patients with maintenance therapy after first-line treatment
329 have no progression after 5 years compared to 20% 5-year survival before PARPi era.

330 During the ESGO meeting, we interviewed Prof. Mirza in this interesting topic. The
331 molecular mechanism of how PARPi work in the biomarker positive population is well known.
332 However, we still need to understand why PARPi can also be effective in the biomarker negative
333 population. High efficacy was confirmed in BRCA mutated cases and in patients with mutations
334 detected in homologous recombination–deficiency (HRD) tests. However, based on the cut-off
335 in HRD tests, it is not possible to predict which patients will respond to PARPi treatment.
336 Therefore, Prof. Mirza would recommend using PARPi maintenance therapy after first-line
337 treatment in most patients with ovarian cancer until a more sensitive test is available.

338 Prof. Mirza also discussed the role of immunotherapy in ovarian cancer. Currently, data
339 available from four phase 3 randomized clinical trials examining immunotherapy in first line, in
340 platinum-sensitive relapse and in platinum-resistant relapse showed negative results
341 (NCT02718417, NCT02580058, NCT03038100, NCT02891824). *"In order to change this, we
342 need to find a specific biomarker for ovarian cancer, other than PD-L1"*, he stated. Prof. Mirza
343 continued explaining that *"another point to examine is the regimens of immune checkpoint
344 inhibitors administration as they were found ineffective in single agent therapy"*. Two trials
345 exploring the combination of immunotherapy with bevacizumab were also negative
346 (NCT03038100, NCT02891824). Both treatment mechanisms and selection of patients need to
347 be further investigated before introducing immunotherapy in routine clinical practice. Data from
348 trials examining the combination of checkpoint inhibitors, PARPi and bevacizumab will be soon
349 available and will help us learn more about the role of immunotherapy in ovarian cancer.

350 Regarding the future of ovarian cancer research, *"it should focus on treatment protocols
351 for relapsed patients with previous PARPi maintenance therapy"*, he mentioned. Another area to
352 explore is therapy options for HRD proficient patients with moderate response to PARPi. *"More
353 strictly selected populations with already predicted positive response based on patients'
354 molecular characteristics should be a priority when planning future trials"*, he added.

355 Prof. Mirza explained that both patients and centers can enroll into ENGOT clinical trials
356 by contacting national clinical trials groups. There are currently 21 ENGOT groups active in 32
357 European countries. During the initiation process of every new trial, all groups associated with
358 ENGOT are invited to participate.

359

360 **ESMO-ESGO-ESP Guidelines on Ovarian Cancer: Surgical and Medical Implications**

361

362 Interviewee: Professor Anna Fagotti from the Fondazione Policlinico A. Gemelli, Catholic
363 University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, Italy; and Professor Jonathan A. Ledermann from the
364 Department of Oncology, UCL Cancer Institute and UCL Hospitals, London, UK.

365 Interviewer: Dr. Aleksandra Strojna, IJGC Editorial Fellow.

366

367 The first ESMO–ESGO consensus conference manuscript on ovarian cancer was
368 published in 2019, since then the evidence on the standards of care for ovarian cancer patients
369 has evolved. During the interview, Prof. Fagotti and Prof. Ledermann focused on the main
370 medical and surgical highlights of the 2022 ESMO-ESGO-ESP guidelines.

371 We started the interview discussing some important medical aspects with Prof.
372 Ledermann. He highlighted that *"the introduction of front-line use of PARP inhibitors (PARPi) is*
373 *a new milestone in treatment of ovarian cancer"*. Both olaparib and niraparib have led to
374 significant improvements in progression-free survival [27,30]. Patients with a BRCA mutation
375 have the greatest benefit from PARPi maintenance therapy. *"Standard treatment for BRCA-*
376 *mutated patients should include either olaparib, olaparib plus bevacizumab or niraparib"*
377 [27,29,30], he explained. *"Similarly, patients with HRD-positive tumors may benefit from the*
378 *combination of olaparib and bevacizumab, or from niraparib monotherapy, so for these patients,*
379 *maintenance therapy with a PARPi should be given"*, he added. In HRD-negative patients, the
380 evidence supporting the use of niraparib as maintenance therapy is not as strong and it is not

381 clear how great is the clinical benefit. At diagnosis, it is important to perform BRCA and HRD
382 testing to optimize the use of maintenance therapy in an individual patient.

383 Regarding the use of bevacizumab in ovarian cancer, we discussed the reintroduction of
384 bevacizumab in recurrent disease, he said *"a randomized phase 3 trial (NCT01802749) showed*
385 *that re-introducing or continuing bevacizumab beyond progression after first-line treatment with*
386 *the same drug improved progression-free survival compared to standard chemotherapy alone"*
387 [31]. Whilst bevacizumab is continued to progression for recurrent ovarian cancer, recent data
388 have demonstrated that prolonging therapy in the first line setting does not improve outcome. He
389 mentioned that *"The BOOST" trial (NCT01462890) showed that there was no difference in*
390 *progression-free survival in patients receiving 15 or 30 months of bevacizumab, so the standard*
391 *length of treatment remains as 15 months"*.

392 Regarding low-grade ovarian cancer, Prof. Ledermann explained that it is a disease with
393 a different biology, in which we need to improve treatment options. There is an ongoing clinical
394 trial, NRG-019 (NCT04095364), to see whether letrozole alone is non-inferior to adding
395 letrozole to chemotherapy in stage II-IV low grade serous ovarian cancer. Another important
396 study (NCT02101788) in recurrent low-grade disease has shown that trametinib (MEK inhibitor)
397 improves progression-free survival compared with physician choice, and although it is not
398 licensed for use in ovarian cancer, it has become an option of the treatment of this rare cancer
399 [32].

400 We also discussed with Prof. Fagotti the surgical aspects of the guidelines. She explained
401 that *"the treatment of serous tubal intraepithelial carcinoma (STIC) has been updated"*. Patients
402 with BRCA mutation diagnosed with STIC after undergoing a prophylactic bilateral salpingo-
403 oophorectomy have a 30%-risk of developing peritoneal carcinomatosis over 10 years.
404 Therefore, it is recommended to perform peritoneal biopsies by minimally invasive surgery.
405 There is no supporting evidence to perform a staging lymphadenectomy but performing a

406 hysterectomy in BRCA-mutated patients should be considered due to the increased risk of
407 uterine serous carcinoma.

408 Regarding the role of secondary cytoreductive surgery for recurrent ovarian cancer, Prof.
409 Fagotti highlighted that *"DESKTOP III and SOC-1 trials have shown that complete gross*
410 *resection at the time of recurrent disease followed by adjuvant chemotherapy offers an improved*
411 *survival compared to chemotherapy alone"* [33,34]. *"The main issue is to define the patients that*
412 *should undergo this surgery, and in this purpose, we should use prospectively validated*
413 *algorithms"*, she added. It is currently recommended to evaluate the possibility of performing a
414 secondary cytoreductive surgery in all patients presenting with a platinum-sensitive recurrence.

415 At the end of the interview, we focused on the management of oligometastatic
416 recurrences which occur more often since the introduction of PARPi maintenance therapy. This
417 is probably due to the appearance of PARPi-resistant clones. Prof. Fagotti concluded that,
418 regardless of BRCA status, these patients should be treated with surgery or chemotherapy to
419 clear the PARPi-resistant clones and reintroduce a maintenance therapy with PARPi.

420

421 **Conclusion:**

422 In this meeting summary we include eight interviews that were conducted during the 23rd
423 Congress on Gynaecological Oncology, which was held in Berlin in October 2022. These
424 interviews were recorded, and the videos are available online in the following link
425 <https://tinyurl.com/9dv289s8>.

426

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