

Title: Patient-Reported Outcomes of Maintenance Rucaparib in Patients With Recurrent Ovarian Carcinoma in ARIEL3, a Phase III, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial

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Funding/Support: This study was sponsored by Clovis Oncology.

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Running Head: NFOSI-18 Outcomes of Rucaparib

Previous Presentations: This work has not been previously presented or published in any form.

Acknowledgements: We express our sincere appreciation to the patients, clinicians, and researchers who made these data available through their participation in the ARIEL3 trial.

Word Count: 2934

Number of Figures: 4 main, 40 supplemental

Number of Tables: 1 main

1 **Abstract (264/275 words)**

2 Purpose: To compare NFOSI-18 Disease Related Symptoms – Physical (DRS-P), Total score,
3 and side effect bother between maintenance rucaparib (600 mg twice daily) vs. placebo in the
4 phase III ARIEL3 trial.

5 Methods: ARIEL3 (NCT01968213) included patients with ovarian carcinoma who responded to
6 second-line or later platinum-based chemotherapy. The NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scales were
7 secondary endpoints. The NFOSI-18 contains a side effect impact item (GP5): “I am bothered by
8 side effects of treatment.” We compared treatment arms on change from baseline of DRS-P and
9 Total scores using mixed models with repeated measures (MRMM). Time to first and confirmed
10 deterioration of NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scales were analyzed using Cox regression. We also
11 calculated the proportion of patients reporting moderate to high side effect bother on GP5.

12 Results: In the intention-to-treat (ITT) cohort, mean change from baseline favored the placebo.
13 Compared to placebo, rucaparib was associated with higher risk of deterioration [e.g., 4-point
14 deteriorator definition hazard ratio (HR): 1.85; 95% CI: 1.46, 2.36; median time to first
15 deterioration on DRS-P: 1.9 vs. 7.0 months]. Confirmed deterioration results resembled those for
16 first deterioration. Proportions of patients reporting moderate/high side effect bother on GP5
17 fluctuated around 20% across treatment cycles. Results in BRCA mutant and homologous
18 recombination deficient cohorts were generally similar to those from the ITT cohort.

19 Conclusion: This placebo-controlled study in the maintenance therapy setting provides a unique
20 view of the impact of PARP inhibition on the patient-reported outcomes that are commonly used
21 in ovarian cancer clinical trials. Information regarding the adverse side effect impact of PARP
22 inhibitors should be weighed against their clinical benefit.

23 **Introduction**

24 In 2020, over 300,000 new cases of primary ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal
25 cancers were recorded globally and over 200,000 died of the disease.¹ Though many patients
26 respond to first line treatment, which often includes surgery and platinum-based chemotherapy,
27 relapses are common.² Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) enzyme inhibitors represent an
28 important second-line, maintenance therapy among patients who respond to platinum. Recent
29 trials of PARP inhibitors have demonstrated their efficacy in ovarian cancer, extending PFS for
30 patients in comparison to placebo.³ Based on this evidence, several PARP inhibitors were
31 approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European
32 Medicines Agency (EMA) in ovarian cancer as a maintenance therapy for patients with
33 platinum-sensitive relapsed disease, including rucaparib, which is approved for second-line
34 maintenance. Based on the progression-free survival (PFS) results from the ATHENA-MONO
35 trial,⁴ a supplemental New Drug Application has been submitted for rucaparib as first-line
36 maintenance in newly-diagnosed, advanced ovarian cancer, regardless of biomarker status.

37 In the ARIEL3 trial (NCT01968213), rucaparib demonstrated 11.2 months PFS benefit (at
38 the median) in the BRCA mutant cohort, 8.2 months in the homologous recombination
39 deficiency (HRD) cohort, and 5.4 months in the overall intention to treat (ITT) cohort.⁵
40 Rucaparib's quality-adjusted PFS benefit and quality-adjusted time without symptoms or toxicity
41 (TWiST) estimates were also superior to placebo in ARIEL3 (e.g., quality-adjusted PFS
42 difference between rucaparib and placebo for BRCA mutant patients was 9.4 months vs. non-
43 quality adjusted PFS of 11.2 months).⁶ The analysis of the National Comprehensive Cancer
44 Network/Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy Ovarian Cancer Symptom Index - 18 Item
45 Version (NFOSI-18), used for a secondary endpoint in ARIEL3, has not yet been presented and

46 can add useful additional insight on the patient experience with rucaparib. Though initial
47 analyses were conducted for time to deterioration on the NFOSI-18’s Disease-Related Symptoms
48 – Physical (DRS-P) scale, these were not carried out on all study cohorts due to the pre-specified
49 hierarchical analysis plan, nor were they carried out for the NFOSI-18 Total score, which
50 includes additional aspects of health-related quality of life (HRQoL). Finally, the NFOSI-18
51 includes the FACT GP5 item (“I am bothered by side effects of treatment”), creating an
52 opportunity to capture a more direct patient report of tolerability of rucaparib. The GP5 item has
53 recently been identified as among the most promising approaches for patient-reported tolerability
54 assessment in cancer trials.⁷ The objectives of this study were to conduct a post-hoc comparison
55 of the following between patients randomized to receive rucaparib and placebo in ARIEL3: 1)
56 change in the NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scores; 2) time to first and confirmed deterioration on
57 NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scales; 3) responses to the GP5 item.

58 **Methods**

59 *Participants and Data*

60 The ARIEL3 trial (NCT01968213) is a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3
61 trial designed to assess the efficacy and safety of rucaparib in comparison to placebo after
62 response to second-line or later platinum based chemotherapy in patients with high-grade,
63 platinum-sensitive ovarian carcinoma.⁵ Details of the trial design and analytical plan have been
64 previously reported.^{5,8} Briefly, patients were randomized 2:1 to receive rucaparib at 600 mg
65 twice daily or placebo. Patients were eligible if they: 1) were aged ≥ 18 years; 2) had platinum-
66 sensitive, high-grade serous or endometrioid ovarian, primary peritoneal, or fallopian tube
67 carcinoma; 3) had received at least two previous platinum-based chemotherapy regimens (later
68 amended to require that most recent platinum-based regimen was to be administered as a

69 chemotherapy doublet for at least 4 cycles); 4) achieved complete or partial response to last
70 platinum-based therapy; 5) had an ECOG performance status rating of 0 or 1; and 6) had
71 adequate organ function. Individuals were excluded if they had symptomatic or untreated central
72 nervous system metastases, received anticancer therapy 14 days or fewer before starting the
73 study, or received previous treatment with a PARP inhibitor. As this was a maintenance trial, the
74 duration of follow-up varied by patient. Patient reported outcome measures, including the
75 NFOSI-18, were assessed at multiple time points, including a pre-randomization time point (1 to
76 28 days before randomization), day 1 of treatment cycles 1 through to end of treatment (EOT;
77 maximum cycle is 39), at the time of treatment discontinuation, and 28 days post- treatment
78 discontinuation.

79 ***NFOSI-18***

80 The NFOSI-18 is an ovarian cancer-specific symptom index comprised of 18 items that can
81 be summed into a Total score ranging from 0-72^{9,10} In addition, a 9-item subscale assesses
82 physical symptoms, the NFOSI-18 Disease-Related Symptoms – Physical (DRS-P; score range
83 0-36). Scores are created using a prorated sum wherein scores are calculated for patients with at
84 least 50% of completed items on the DRS-P. Higher scores indicate better HRQoL or lower
85 symptom burden. An item in the NFOSI-18 [“I am bothered by side effects of treatment” (GP5)]
86 was used to capture patient-reported impact of side effects. This item has demonstrated
87 association with adverse event severity and duration, and it has predicted early treatment
88 discontinuation.^{11,12}

89 ***Patient Characteristics***

90 Demographic and clinical characteristics of the patients included age, ECOG Performance
91 Status Rating (PSR), number of prior therapies, and tumor response to last platinum therapy,
92 categorized by Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors version 1.1 (RECIST) criteria, and
93 serologic response per Gynecologic Cancer InterGroup (GCIG) cancer antigen 125 (GCIG CA-
94 125) criteria.

95 *Statistical Analyses*

96 As with the primary efficacy analyses of ARIEL3,⁵ analyses were conducted on 3 study
97 cohorts, including: 1) a *BRCA* mutant subset; 2) an HRD carcinoma (*BRCA* mutation plus
98 *BRCA* wild type/high loss of heterozygosity [LOH]) subset; and 3) the ITT cohort, which
99 included all randomized patients. Baseline was defined as either randomization date or, where no
100 NFOSI assessment was made at randomization, cycle 1, day 1. Per trial protocol, cycle 1, day 1
101 NFOSI-18 scores were obtained prior to dosing and other study procedures. Missing baseline
102 scores were imputed with any available score prior to cycle 2, day 1. All analyses were
103 conducted separately for these cohorts. We summarized key patient demographic and clinical
104 characteristics using means and standard deviations for continuous variables and frequencies and
105 proportions for categorical variables.

106 We used mixed-model repeated measures (MMRM) analysis to compare change from
107 baseline in NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scores. Each MMRM model included the change from
108 baseline on each NFOSI score as the dependent variable and the following fixed effects as
109 independent variables: study arm (rucaparib vs. placebo), timepoint (cycle), the baseline NFOSI
110 score, the interaction between study arm and timepoint, and the interaction between the baseline
111 NFOSI score and timepoint. A random intercept was included, as well as the timepoint as a
112 repeated factor. An autoregressive covariance matrix was used. Least squares means for change

113 from baseline to each post-baseline timepoint with at least 10 patients with NFOSI data in each
114 study arm were calculated. The MMRM models assumed missing data were missing at random.
115 We compared trends of patients reporting high side effect bother between the treatment arms
116 across all cycles. To do so, we calculated the proportion of patients reporting moderate/high side
117 effect bother (“Very much,” “Quite a bit,” or “Somewhat”) at each cycle stratified by study arm.
118 This dichotomy of the GP5 item has been used in previous research.¹¹ We visualized these
119 results using bar charts.

120 We conducted time to first deterioration and time to confirmed deterioration analyses. Time
121 to first deterioration was defined as the time from baseline to the date of a reduction in the
122 NFOSI-18 score equal to or exceeding individual-patient level change thresholds calculated
123 using the reliable change index (RCI) and likely change (index). Details of this method are given
124 in the Supplemental Materials. For the DRS-P, the RCI generated a deteriorator definition of 7
125 points and the LCI generated a deteriorator definition of 3 points. In addition, we included a
126 deteriorator definition of 4 points for the DRS-P since it was pre-specified in the trial protocol.
127 For the Total, the RCI generated a deteriorator definition of 10 points and the LCI generated a
128 deteriorator definition of 4 points. In addition, we included a deteriorator definition of 8 points
129 for the Total since it was pre-specified in the trial protocol. Confirmed deterioration was defined
130 as a second deterioration event following first deterioration in the next consecutive assessment
131 timepoint, or a first deterioration followed by dropout. Patients without baseline or post-baseline
132 NFOSI scores were censored at baseline. Progression and death were not counted as
133 deterioration. Log-rank tests were used to test whether the survival curves were significantly
134 different between arms. Next, we derived hazard ratios for differences in time to deterioration of
135 each deteriorator definition specified above between arms using simple Cox regression models.

136 **Results**

137 In the ITT cohort of ARIEL3, 564 patients were randomized to treatment: 375 to rucaparib and
 138 189 to placebo. The maximum number of cycles at which NFOSI-18 was completed was 39.
 139 Demographic and clinical characteristics of the NFOSI sample are given in Table 1. At baseline,
 140 the mean NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scores were similar across study arms and reflected
 141 moderate symptom burden and HRQoL impairment. (Table 1)

Table 1. Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics among Intention to Treat Population		
Characteristic	Rucaparib (N=375)	Placebo (N=189)
Age (years), median (IQR)	61 (53-67)	62 (53-68)
ECOG Performance Stats, n (%)		
0	280 (75%)	136 (72%)
1	95 (25%)	53 (28%)
Diagnosis, n (%)		
Epithelial ovarian cancer	312 (83%)	159 (84%)
Fallopian tube cancer	32 (9%)	10 (5%)
Primary Peritoneal Cancer	31 (8%)	19 (10%)
Other	0 (0%)	1 (<1%)
Study Cohort		
BRCA Mutant	130 (35%)	66 (35%)
HRD	245 (65%)	123 (65%)
Number of Prior Therapies, n (%)		
2	229 (61%)	122 (65%)
≥3	146 (39%)	67 (35%)
Response to Last Platinum, n (%)		
Complete response per RECIST	126 (34%)	64 (34%)
Partial response per RECIST/ Serologic Response per Gynecologic Cancer InterGroup Cancer Antigen 125	249 (66%)	125 (66%)
Platinum-Free Months, n (%)		
6-12 Months	151 (40%)	76 (41%)
>12 Months	224 (60%)	113 (60%)
NFOSI-18 DRS-P score (mean, SD)	29.3 (4.4)	29.2 (4.7)
NFOSI-18 Total score (mean, SD)	58.4 (8.1)	57.9 (8.2)

142 NFOSI-18 data were available for at least 10 patients in each arm up to cycle 19. In the ITT
 143 cohort, least squares mean change from baseline favored the placebo for most cycles from 2 to
 144 19 on both the DRS-P and Total scales. For both scales, change from baseline was typically

145 approximately 1 point in either direction for placebo patients, but was higher magnitude and
146 negative for rucaparib, indicating deterioration. Statistically significant differences between arms
147 were observed at several cycles. There was a consistent trend of significant differences between
148 arms in cycles 1-6 and intermittently afterward. [Figures 1 (DRS-P) and 2 (Total)] Similar results
149 were observed in the BRCA mutant and HRD cohorts (Figures S1-S4).

150 Kaplan Meier curves for time to first deterioration stratified by treatment arm in the ITT
151 cohort are presented in Figures 3 (4-point deterioration on DRS-P), S5-S6 (7 and 3 points on
152 DRS-P, respectively), 4 (8-point deterioration on Total), and S7-S8 (10 and 4 points on Total,
153 respectively). Overall, for each DRS-P deteriorator definition in the ITT cohort, patients
154 receiving rucaparib had a higher risk of deterioration than those receiving the placebo. Time to
155 first deterioration analyses among the BRCA mutant and HRD cohorts are shown in Tables S9-
156 S20. Results of these analyses largely resembled those from the ITT cohort with a few notable
157 exceptions. For the 4- and 3-point deteriorator definitions on the DRS-P, study arms did not
158 differ for the BRCA mutant cohort. In addition, for the 4-point deteriorator definition on the
159 NFOSI-18 Total, study arms did not differ for the BRCA mutant cohort. Results of time to
160 confirmed deterioration analyses followed a similar pattern, though median times to confirmed
161 deteriorator tended to be longer for both arms (where estimable), and differences between
162 treatment arms were smaller than those observed for time to first deterioration, with a few
163 exceptions (Figures S21-S38). For the 7-point confirmed deterioration definition on the DRS-P,
164 there were no differences between arms in any cohort. On the other hand, in the BRCA mutant
165 cohort, the difference between arms for the 3-point confirmed deterioration definition was
166 significant.

Figure 1. Mixed Model Repeated Measures Analysis of Change from Baseline in NFOSI-18 DRS-P Score

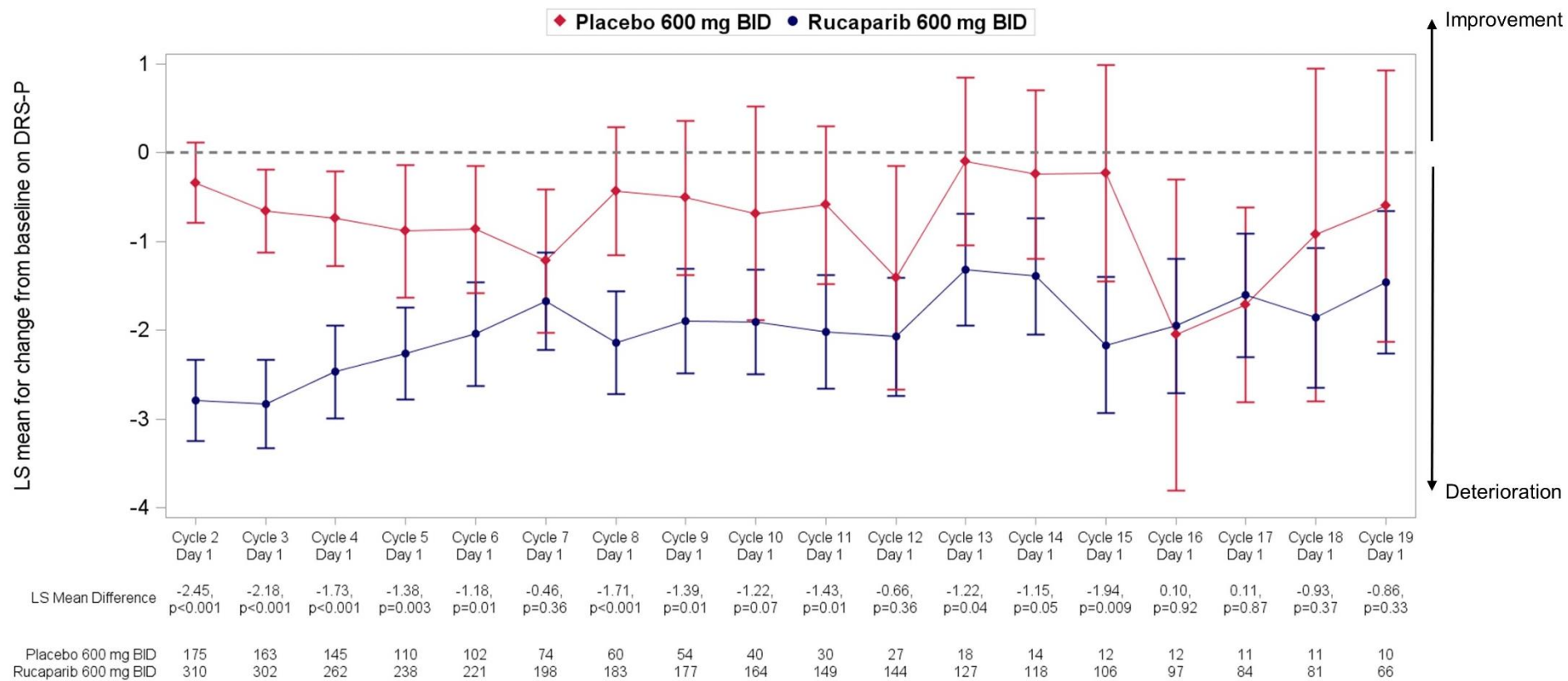


Figure 2. Mixed Model Repeated Measures Analysis of Change from Baseline in NFOSI-18 Total Score in the Intention to Treat Cohort

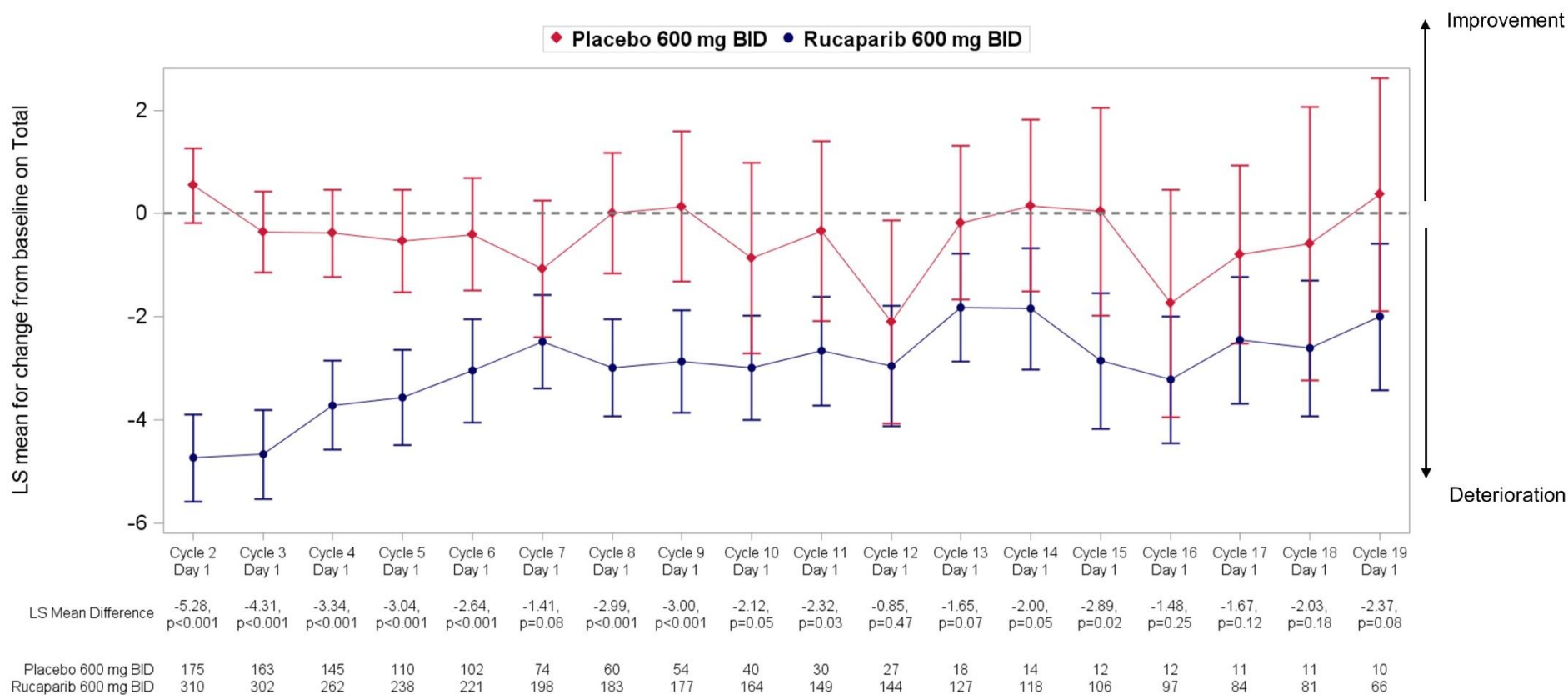
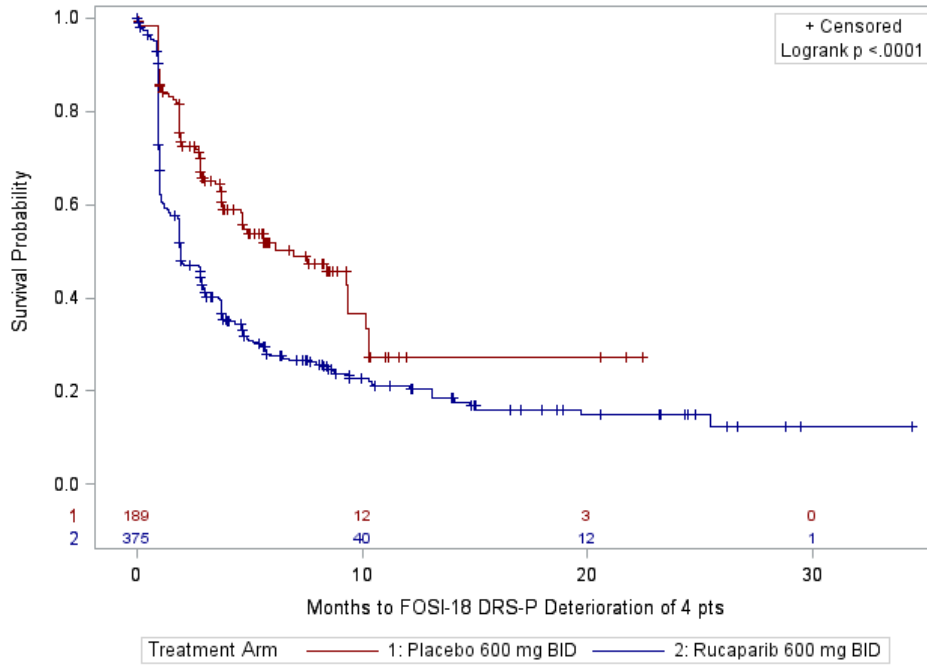
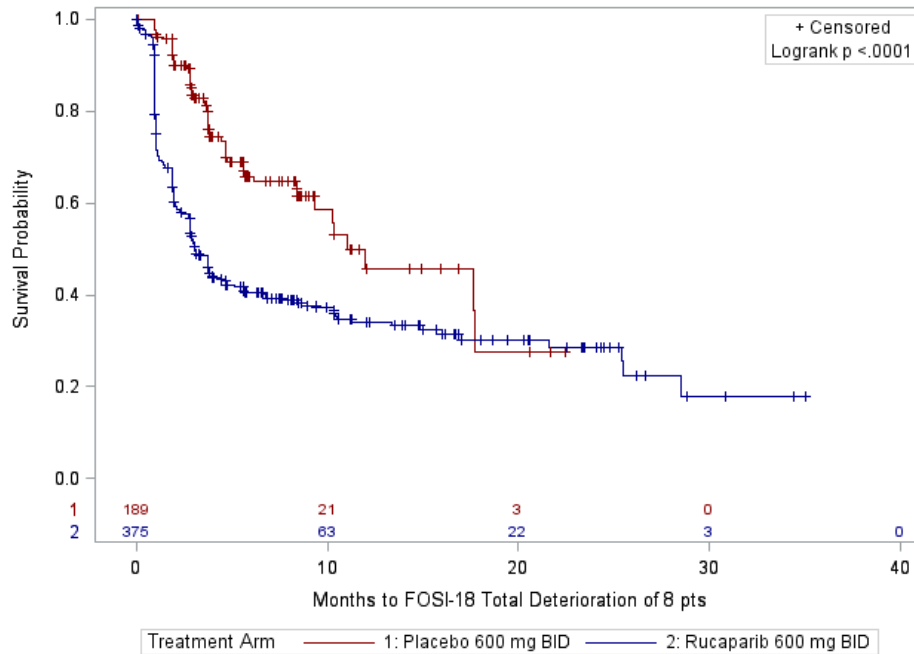


Figure 3. Kaplan Meier Curves for Time to First Deterioration of 4 points on NFOSI-18 DRS-P Stratified by Treatment Arm in the Intention to Treat Cohort



Hazard ratio: 1.85 (95% confidence interval: 1.46, 2.36). Median time to first deterioration: rucaparib = 1.9 months (95% CI: 1.9, 2.8); placebo = 7.0 months (95% CI: 4.7, 9.4).

Figure 4. Kaplan Meier Curves for Time to First Deterioration of 8 points on NFOSI-18 Total Stratified by Treatment Arm in the Intention to Treat Cohort



Hazard ratio: 2.31 (95% confidence interval: 1.73, 3.09). Median time to first deterioration: rucaparib = 3.1 months (95% CI: 2.8, 3.8); placebo = 11.0 months (95% CI: 9.4, 17.7).

167 ***Side Effect Bother***

168 Figure 5 shows the proportions of patients reporting moderate/high side effect bother on GP5
169 at each cycle by study arm. Relatively low proportions of patients reported clinically-significant
170 bother in either arm. As expected, the proportions were very low in the placebo arm. In the
171 rucaparib arm, the proportion of patients reporting moderate/high side effect bother between
172 cycles 2 and 21 was approximately 20% (+/- 1-3%). This proportion increased to 27 and 29% in
173 cycles 22 and 23, respectively, and declined thereafter. Notably, 15% and 6% of patients in the
174 rucaparib and placebo arms, respectively, reported moderate/high side effect bother at cycle 1.
175 Similar results were observed in the BRCA mutant cohort (Figure S39) and HRD cohort (Figure
176 S40).

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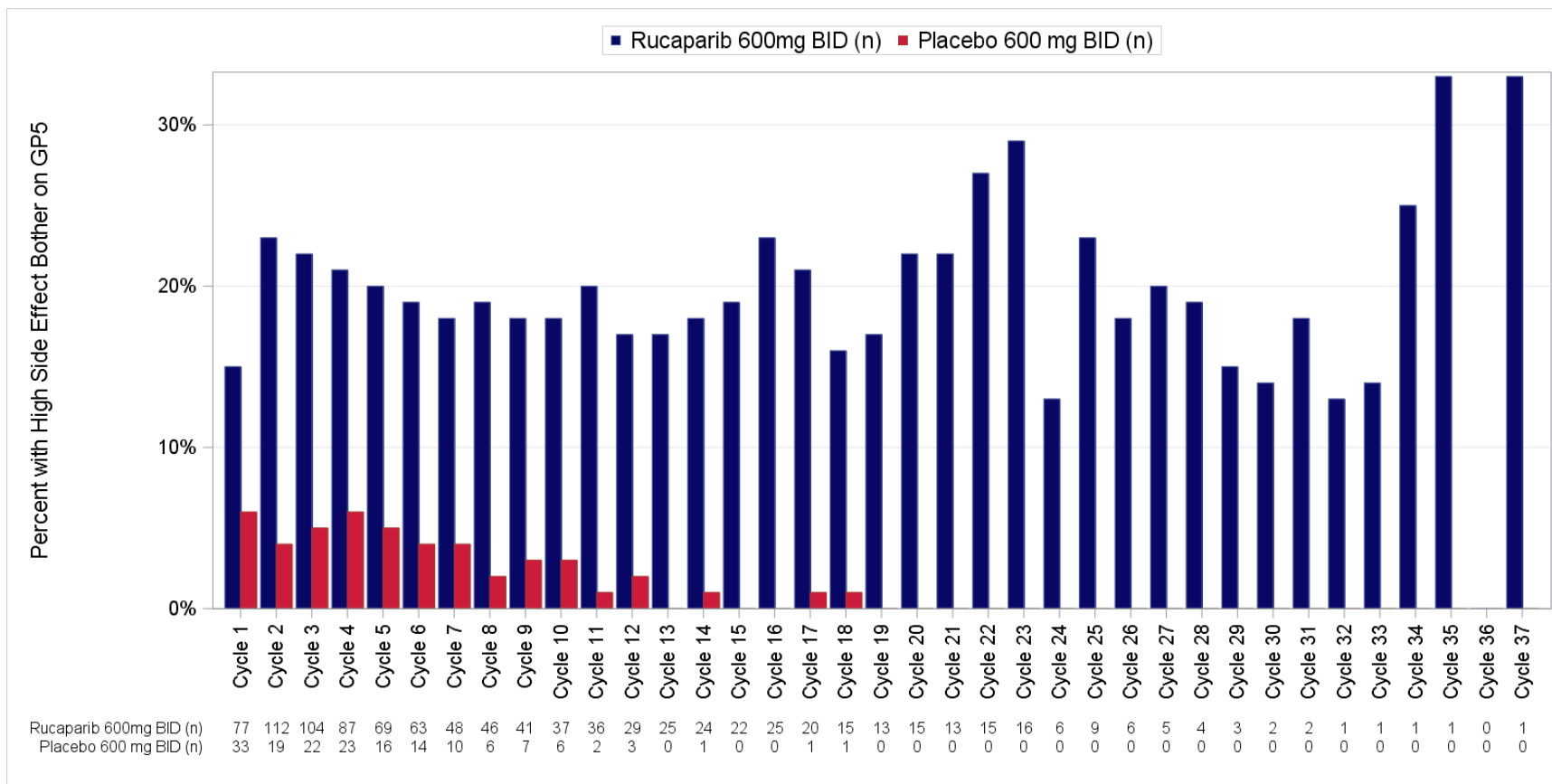
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Figure 5. Percentages of Patients Reporting High Side Effect Bother on GP5 Item Stratified by Treatment Arm in Intention to Treat Cohort



High side effect bother was defined as a response of “Very much,” “Quite a bit,” or “Somewhat” to the GP5 item (“I am bothered by side effects of treatment”).

186 **Discussion**

187 PARP inhibitors, including rucaparib, have demonstrated significant clinical benefit in
188 comparison to placebos in the setting of maintenance therapy for ovarian cancer, offering for the
189 first time an effective treatment option for this clinical population. Yet, the known treatment
190 benefits of PARP inhibitors must be evaluated alongside their side effects, which affect patients'
191 HRQoL and have implications for treatment decisions. Using data from the ARIEL3 trial, we
192 found that patients' experience on rucaparib as measured by the NFOSI DRS-P and Total scores,
193 were routinely worse in comparison to placebo. In addition, higher proportions of rucaparib
194 patients reported high/moderate side effect bother on FACT item GP5. These results highlight
195 the importance of the patient experience with treatment and provide a unique opportunity to
196 understand the impact of PARP inhibition using patient-reported outcome measures that are
197 commonly used in ovarian cancer clinical trials. It is critical to highlight the large PFS benefit
198 associated with rucaparib when interpreting the NFOSI-18 results. Though, like many active
199 treatments in oncology, rucaparib was associated with an HRQoL deficit due to side effects, the
200 PFS benefit will likely drive decisions to adopt PARP inhibitor therapy. Nonetheless,
201 information regarding the side effect impact of PARP inhibitors may be useful to clinicians and
202 their patients who are embarking on treatment.

203 Two previous studies have examined HRQoL in ARIEL3 using quality-adjusted PFS and Q-
204 TWiST approaches.^{6,13} While helpful for quantifying trade-offs between PFS and HRQoL, both of

205 these approaches summarize the patient’s experience in terms of HRQoL at a very high level and
206 employ only the EQ-5D-3L. The current study expands on these previous investigations with the
207 NFOSI-18, which contains a rich set of questions on ovarian cancer specific symptoms and
208 functional concerns. In addition, previous analyses have yielded mixed results around the impact
209 of other PARP inhibitors on HRQoL. For example, in the SOLO2 trial, mean changes on FACT
210 – Ovarian Trial Outcome Index over the first 12 months of the study were similar (difference =
211 0.03, $p=0.98$).¹⁴ Similarly, in the ENGOT-OV16/NOVA trial, changes in score of the 8 item
212 version of the FOSI (FOSI-8) from baseline to cycles 2-14 were very similar between patients
213 randomized to receive niraparib and placebo (all differences < 2 points and 95% confidence
214 intervals included 0).¹⁵ Critically, the FOSI-8 does not include questions on a few symptomatic
215 side effects that are captured in the NFOSI-18 and that are very relevant to experience with
216 rucaparib, including constipation, sleep disturbance, and skin problems. Moreover, the NFOSI-
217 18 includes the GP5 item, which captures overall side effect bother. For this reason, the NFOSI-
218 18 is better positioned to capture the side effect experience of PARP inhibitors. In addition, both
219 the SOLO2 and ENGOT-OV16/NOVA analyses included patients who remained in the trial after
220 multiple cycles and, therefore, were more likely to have stable or improved FOSI scores relative
221 to those who discontinued study treatment. In our analysis, we addressed this potential bias with
222 time to deterioration analyses. Additional analyses of ENGOT-OV16/NOVA and SOLO2 trials

223 to include time to deterioration analyses would help make comparisons of PARP inhibitors in
224 ovarian cancer more easily comparable.¹⁶

225 We point out that interpretation of the TTD analyses comparing the rucaparib and placebo
226 arms must take into consideration that after a very short period of follow-up, typically far shorter
227 than the median TTD regardless of deterioration threshold, the number of patients at risk tends to
228 be small and reflects only those patients whose disease has not progressed despite not being on
229 treatment. This likely contributes to the precision of effects for the between arm TTD
230 comparisons. Further, we note that, in many cases, the median TTD for patients on placebo was
231 somewhat close to the median PFS in the ITT population for this arm (5.4 months), giving rise to
232 the plausible hypothesis that deterioration among these patients reflects symptoms of disease.
233 This hypothesis could be tested in future studies.

234 Our analyses further articulated the impact of treatment intolerance by examining patient-
235 reported side effect bother on the GP5 item (“I am bothered by side effects of treatment”).
236 Recent interest in patient-centeredness has led to the addition of patient report to standard,
237 clinician-reported adverse events in cancer trials.^{17,18} The GP5 item is among the leading options
238 for capturing overall side effect impact.^{11,12,19-21} In the current study, GP5 responses indicated a
239 consistent pattern of high side effect bother among a small but appreciable proportion of patients
240 assigned to receive rucaparib throughout the trial, showing that more patients on rucaparib

241 experienced bothersome side effects than would be indicated only by the standard common
242 terminology criteria for adverse events (CTCAE). Toxicities associated with rucaparib in ovarian
243 cancer are known, and the need to manage these toxicities has been emphasized in previous
244 research,²² with multiple promising approaches described.²³ The results of our GP5 analyses
245 reinforce the need for close monitoring of AEs among patients on rucaparib and indicate
246 potential benefit of toxicity management. Doing so may help more patients benefit from the PFS
247 offered by rucaparib and reduce the number of patients discontinuing treatment completely due
248 to toxicity, which has exceeded 15% across trials.⁸

249 This study has important limitations to consider when interpreting our results. As a
250 secondary, post-hoc analysis, the study design did not account for the statistical power needed to
251 detect effects. In addition, since our statistical tests were exploratory, we did not adjust for
252 multiple comparisons. Next, it is possible that dose modifications made in response to toxicity
253 are associated with HRQoL, but this analysis is beyond the scope of the current study and will be
254 investigated in future analyses. Finally, since the ARIEL3 trial compared maintenance rucaparib
255 to a placebo, results PROs asking about treatment toxicities are somewhat more difficult to
256 interpret than comparison to an active control. Despite these limitations, we consider our results
257 to be robust.

258 In conclusion, in a post-hoc analysis of the NFOSI-18 DRS-P and Total scales in the
259 ARIEL3 trial, we found that patients randomized to receive rucaparib had decreased HRQoL in
260 comparison to the placebo. These differences were observed for the ITT cohort, as well as the
261 BRCA mutant and HRD cohorts. It is important to consider these results along with the
262 impressive PFS benefit observed for rucaparib in the same trial, as well as the poor prognosis
263 associated with ovarian cancer. Though rucaparib is still an excellent treatment choice for many
264 patients, having information available about potential impacts on quality of life is critical to
265 enhance patient-centered care.

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290 **Author Contributions**

- 291 • John Devin Peipert: Conceptualization, formal analysis, roles/writing - original draft,
- 292 project administration, writing - review & editing
- 293 • Sandra Goble: Data curation, methodology, project administration, writing - review &
- 294 editing
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- 296 • Xiaodan Tang: Formal analysis, writing - review & editing
- 297 • Katrine Wallace: Writing - review & editing
- 298 • Robert L. Coleman: Investigation, methodology, writing - review & editing
- 299 • Jonathan A. Ledermann: Investigation, methodology, writing - review & editing
- 300 • David Cella: Funding acquisition, conceptualization, investigation, methodology,
- 301 roles/writing - original draft, supervision

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