Baljit Kaur 17th January 2021

DESKTOP III Lay Summary of results

Introduction

Deciding which treatments work best for patients almost always takes results from several trials. This summary shows only the main results from the DESKTOP III trial, which was sponsored by AGO Study Group Ovarian Cancer (AGO-OVAR) and supported by GlaxoSmithKline GmbH & Co. KG and Medac GmbH. Other studies may provide new information or different results. We want to thank all the participants of this trial and their caregivers who helped the researchers learn more about the benefits and risks of offering surgery to patients with relapsed ovarian cancer before starting chemotherapy. We hope this summary will help them understand and feel proud of their important role in medical research. This summary is for informational purposes only. If you need medical advice, please contact your doctor. If you participated in this trial and have questions about the results, please speak with a doctor or other staff member at the trial site.

Why was this research needed?

Before a treatment is available to all patients, researchers do clinical trials to get information about how well the treatment works and about how safe it is.

In most cases, the standard treatment for relapsed ovarian cancer is chemotherapy alone. The researchers in this trial wanted to find out whether surgery to remove the cancer before chemotherapy would benefit patients.

What were the main questions studied?

The main questions the researchers wanted to answer in this trial were:

- If having surgery prior to chemotherapy for relapsed ovarian cancer could increase the length of time patients live
- If having surgery prior to chemotherapy for relapsed ovarian cancer could increase the length of time a patient is cancer-free
- If having surgery prior to chemotherapy for relapsed ovarian cancer could improve patients' quality of life
- How safe it is to have surgery prior to chemotherapy for relapsed ovarian cancer

Who participated in the trial?

Patients with ovarian cancer that had previously received treatment with a platinum chemotherapy drug (such as carboplatin). The trial was for patients who were at least 18 years old, who had otherwise generally good health and whose cancer had started to grow again.

What treatments did the participants take?

DESKTOP III was a randomised trial. The patients taking part were put into one of two treatment groups randomly chosen by a computer. This helped make sure the treatments were chosen fairly and that comparing the results of the treatments was as accurate as possible.

The two treatment groups were:

- Chemotherapy alone

- Surgery followed by chemotherapy

What happened during the trial?

Before deciding to take part in the trial, all the patients were provided with detailed information about it. They could also discuss it with their families and clinical team. This is called "informed consent." Then the doctors and nurses asked the patients about their medical history and checked their health to make sure they could join the trial. Patients had to have some tests done before taking part in the trial. These tests included:

- A doctor completed assessment of the cancer
- Physical examination
- CT or MRI scan
- Blood test
- Pregnancy test (where applicable)

Patients were interviewed 3 months after the start of their treatment to report any side effects. Patients also attended follow up visits every 3 months for the first 2 years, then every 6 months until year 5 and then every year.

Patients were asked to fill out a questionnaire before starting treatment and at the 6 and 12 month follow up visits. The questionnaire asked about side effects and how they were feeling. This is called a quality of life study.

What were the results of the trial?

A total of 407 patients were enrolled in this trial from September 2010 until March 2015.

There were:

- 201 in the chemotherapy group
- 206 in the surgery and chemotherapy group

Of the 206 patients enrolled into the surgery group, 192 (93.2%) actually received surgery. A total of 8 patients in the no-surgery group received surgery, and another 6 patients in this group withdrew consent or declined further treatment. A total of 32 of 201 patients (15.9%) in the no-surgery group crossed over to surgery because the cancer relapsed again.

The research team looked at how long it was before the cancer started to grow again. They found it was:

- 1 year and 2 months for those who had chemotherapy
- Just over 1 year and 6 months for those who had surgery and chemotherapy

And when they looked at how long women in each group lived for, they found it was:

- Three years and 10 months for those who had chemotherapy
- Just under 4 years and 6 months for those who had surgery and chemotherapy

When researchers looked at the side effects and quality of life study, they did not find any significant difference between the two groups.

How has this trial helped patients and researchers?

The research team concluded that women who had surgery and chemotherapy lived longer than those who had chemotherapy alone. And that consideration should always be made to offer this combination to women whose ovarian cancer has come back after treatment.

Where can I learn more about the trial?

You can find more information about this study at the websites listed below:

- https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/find-a-clinical-trial/a-trial-looking-surgery-ovarian-cancer-that-come-back-desktop-3

- https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN39361386?q=39361386&filters=&sort=&offset=1&totalResults=1&page=1&pageSize=10&searchType=basic-search

- https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/crctu/trials/desktop-iii/index.aspx

If you have questions about this study, you can also contact the trial team by email @ desktopiii@trials.bham.ac.uk

Trial information

Acronym	DESKTOP III
Full title of study:	A randomized multicenter study to compare the efficacy of additional tumor debulking surgery versus chemotherapy alone for recurrent platinum sensitive ovarian cancer AGO OVAR ID: AGO OVAR OP.4
Research sponsor:	AGO Studiengruppe
Name of REC:	NRES Committee West Midlands: Birmingham South
REC reference number:	11/WM/0287

Date study commenced in UK:	24-Aug-2012
Date study ended:	17-Sep-2020