ACD feedback from Target Ovarian Cancer

Bevacizumab in combination with paclitaxel and carboplatin for the first-line treatment of ovarian cancer [ID435]

The committee reviewed evidence from two major phase III studies which evaluate the benefits of including bevacizumab in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel for the first-line treatment of ovarian cancer, these are GOG-0218 and ICON7. To our knowledge these studies are the most relevant in the context of this appraisal.

While we agree with the committee's conclusion that evidence from the GOG-0218 trial supports:

- the clinical effectiveness of bevacizumab in first-line treatment of ovarian cancer
- patient population in the trial generally represents those treated in secondary care in the UK

While we understand that NICE can only appraise drugs within their marketing authorisation, we don't agree that bevacizumab is only clinically effective when given within its marketing authorisation. Data from ICON7 supports the clinical effectiveness for bevacizumab at a lower dose (7mg/kg), and highlights a group of high-risk patients who are likely to derive greater benefit from bevacizumab. Also, the ICON7 data is valuable in reflecting how bevacizumab is currently used in clinical practice in the UK. Given recent economic analysis by Scottish Medicines Consortium, there is also the potential that bevacizumab could be cost effective at the lower dose.

Women will feel quite rightly that they have been served a great injustice, especially knowing that evidence exists to support that bevacizumab can be given at an effective and tolerable dose which is likely to be cost effective. Overall we are very disappointed with the committee's verdict not to recommend bevacizumab for first-line treatment of ovarian cancer. Sadly there have been no new drugs that extend the progression free survival interval following first-line treatment since the early 1990s. We believe that it is imperative that both NICE and the manufacturer Roche, work together to resolve the issues that have led to this decision.