



PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF OVARIAN CANCER OFTEN OVERLOOKED, BUT CAN HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON PATIENTS – NEW EUROPEAN LITERATURE REVIEW REVEALS

May 8, 2018

- **79% of patients felt uncomfortable raising psychological and emotional concerns during their consultations¹**
- **Disease recurrence is of greatest concern for ovarian cancer patients, but poorly addressed, with 53% of patients saying symptoms of recurrence have not been discussed with them²**
- **TESARO-sponsored literature review unveiled on World Ovarian Cancer Day as part of the expansion of TESARO's *Our Way Forward* program from U.S. to Europe, backed by committed patient advocacy organization partners**

ZUG, Switzerland, May 08, 2018 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- TESARO, Inc., an oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company, today announced results from a TESARO-sponsored Europe-wide literature review examining the views of both patients and physicians on the communication and treatment needs in the care of women with ovarian cancer. The comprehensive review confirms that the psychosocial effects of ovarian cancer play a significant part in a woman's quality of life. The review, '*Our Way Forward – Ovarian Cancer in Europe*' draws data from approximately 65 publications and patient surveys, spanning the last 15 years.

The '*Our Way Forward – Ovarian Cancer in Europe*' literature review is part of TESARO's commitment to ovarian cancer as exemplified by the *Our Way Forward* program, an initiative that was launched in the U.S. last year. The review is the first step towards supporting the development of patient-focused information tools and bringing the debate in ovarian cancer higher up the medical and political agenda. The review was conducted with guidance and input from European and global patient advocacy organizations, with support by TESARO, under its *Our Way Forward* program. *Our Way Forward* was created by TESARO, Inc. with input from the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) and the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance (OCRFA). The program was launched in June of 2017 and is a call-to-action for ovarian cancer patients, their loved ones and healthcare providers to rethink how they talk about advanced ovarian cancer and ways to partner together to navigate the physical and emotional challenges that the disease brings.

Orlando Oliveira, Senior Vice President and General Manager, TESARO International, explains "TESARO is committed to offering resources to educate, empower and support those affected by ovarian cancer. There is clearly a need for better information and enhanced dialogue around the care of women with ovarian cancer in Europe, as well as new treatments that don't impair quality of life. Through *Our Way Forward* and strong collaboration with the patient advocacy community, we aim to help support women with ovarian cancer to speak out and bring their needs to the attention of those that can make a difference, so both their psychological and physical needs can be met, every step of the way."

According to the findings from the literature review, ovarian cancer is frequently diagnosed late,³ leading to urgency in treatment and little time for healthcare professionals (HCPs) to consider the psychological aspects of care.⁴ The psychological impact of cancer can have a significant impact on treatment outcomes as 80% of women experienced poor mental health² and patients with depression and anxiety are at a significantly greater risk of mortality, hospitalization and poorer treatment outcomes.⁵

Despite this, women feel they receive information about the tangible and practical aspects of treatment, but much less so for the psychosocial aspects of the disease and how to cope.⁴ Women are also less likely to bring the topic up with their HCPs as most women feel uncomfortable raising psychological and emotional concerns during their appointment as they are concerned about taking up too much time.¹ As a result, women with ovarian cancer feel isolated, with little support, and feel the need for more information.⁴

Elisabeth Baugh, Chair, World Ovarian Cancer Coalition, explains that "As the leading global ovarian cancer patient advocacy organization, the World Ovarian Cancer Coalition is pleased to support the release today of this important research undertaken as part of TESARO's *Our Way Forward* program. The focus of this work on improving both physical and psychological outcomes for women with ovarian cancer, in Europe and around the world is welcomed, especially as it complements our own World Ovarian Cancer Coalition's Every Woman Study findings. As we celebrate World Ovarian Cancer Day 2018, the Coalition is pleased to work with all partners on this important day to highlight the struggles that ovarian cancer patients face."

The review also revealed that the ovarian cancer patient journey is fragmented and unpredictable, leading to considerable fear for disease recurrence. Ovarian cancer recurs in approximately 85% of women with advanced ovarian cancer⁶ and this is at the very top of mind for ovarian cancer survivors. The review also revealed women with recurrent ovarian cancer are not receiving the same level of support as those who are newly diagnosed, with one study showing that for 53% of patients, no one had discussed symptoms of recurrence, and 63% of nurses claim they don't have the time to do so.²

Recurrence of ovarian cancer also takes a psychological toll with 60% of women with recurrence reporting they can do less than they wanted to do because of their emotional status (versus 16% of women without recurrence) and 66% of women with recurrence reporting having trouble concentrating (versus 26% of women without recurrence).⁷

An important psychological aspect of treatment in relation to allaying fears of recurrence is a discussion around treatment options. Patients need to make a critical trade-off between efficacy and quality of life. This, however, is often under-addressed by their healthcare team. The review revealed that 86% of patients said they would be willing to try a drug that could improve the quality of their life even if it may not prolong it.⁸

This is the first phase of the '*Our Way Forward – Ovarian Cancer in Europe*' review, with a second-phase review of the literature planned with healthcare providers to provide a 360-degree picture of the current treatment journey. The full review will offer fresh insights that will support advocacy groups in amplifying the voice of women with ovarian cancer by helping in the development of resources and tools for these women.

About TESARO

TESARO is an oncology-focused biopharmaceutical company dedicated to improving the lives of cancer patients by acquiring, developing and commercializing safer and more effective therapeutics. For more information, visit www.tesarobio.com, and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About Our Way Forward

Our Way Forward was created by TESARO, Inc. with input from the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition (NOCC) and the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance (OCRFA). The program was launched in June of 2017 and is a call-to-action for ovarian cancer patients, their loved ones and healthcare providers to rethink how they talk about advanced ovarian cancer and ways to partner together to navigate the physical and emotional challenges that the disease brings: ourwayforward-oc.com

About Ovarian Cancer

Europe has one of the highest incidences of ovarian cancer in the world with approximately 45,000 women diagnosed each year.^{9,[10]} Different types of ovarian cancer are classified according to the type of cell from which they start (surface epithelium – cells covering the outer lining of the ovaries; germ cells – cells that are destined to form eggs; or stromal cells – cells that release hormones and connect the different structures of the ovaries).

The most common symptoms of ovarian cancer include abdominal or pelvic pain, bloating, difficulty eating, and urinary urgency, all of which are commonly associated with less serious conditions. 60% of women with ovarian cancer are diagnosed in an advanced stage,¹¹ when prognosis is poor. Although significant progress has been made in treatment of ovarian cancer, the disease recurs in approximately 85% of women with advanced ovarian cancer,⁶ at which point it may be incurable.^{12,[13]} Recurrent ovarian cancer is the sixth most common cause of cancer death among women¹⁴ and has the highest mortality rate of all gynecological cancers.¹⁵

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¹ Donovan HS, Hartenbach EM, & Method MW. Patient-provider communication and perceived control for women experiencing multiple symptoms associated with ovarian cancer. *Gynecol Oncol* 2005;99(2):404-11.

² Target Ovarian Cancer. *Pathfinder 2016: Transforming futures for women with ovarian cancer*. Pamphlet, United Kingdom. Available at: <https://www.targetovariancancer.org.uk/our-campaigns/pathfinder-2016/pathfinder-transforming-futures-women-ovarian-cancer>. Accessed April 2018.

³ Ferrell B, Smith SL, Cullinane CA, & Melancon C. Psychological well-being and quality of life in ovarian cancer survivors. *Cancer* 2003;98(5):1061-71.

⁴ Committee on the State of the Science in Ovarian Cancer Research; Board on Health Care Services; Institute of Medicine; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2016. *Ovarian Cancers: Evolving Paradigms in Research and Care*. National Academies Press. Washington, DC. Available at: <https://www.nap.edu/read/21841/chapter/1>. Accessed April 2018.

⁵ Watts S, Prescott P, Mason J, McLeod N, & Lewith G. Depression and anxiety in ovarian cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis of prevalence rates. *BMJ Open* 2015;5(11).

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⁷ Colombo, N, Lorusso, D, & Scollo, P. Impact of Recurrence of Ovarian Cancer on Quality of Life and Outlook for the Future. *Int J Gynecol Cancer* 2017; 27(6): 1134-40.

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⁹ World Cancer Research Fund International. Ovarian cancer statistics. Available at: <http://www.wcrf.org/int/cancer-facts-figures/data-specific-cancers/ovarian-cancer-statistics>. Accessed April 2018.

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¹¹ ENGAGE. ESGO. Ovarian cancer factsheet. what is ovarian cancer? Available at: https://engage.esgo.org/media/2017/08/ENGAGE_What_is_ovarian_cancer_en_V01.pdf. Accessed April 2018.

¹² Chien J, Kuang R, Landen C, et al. Platinum-sensitive recurrence in ovarian cancer: the role of tumor microenvironment. *frontiers in oncology*. 2013;3:article 251.

¹³ Birrer M, Fujiwara K. Medical treatment for relapsed epithelial ovarian, fallopian tubal, or peritoneal cancer: platinum-resistant disease. 2016. Available at: <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/medical-treatment-for-relapsed-epithelial-ovarian-fallopian-tubal-or-peritoneal-cancer-platinum-resistant-disease>. Accessed April 2018.

¹⁴ EUCAN (EU 27 and Switzerland). Available at: <http://eco.iarc.fr/eucan/Country.aspx?ISOCountryCd=930>. Accessed April 2018.

¹⁵ Permeth-Wey J, Sellers TA. Epidemiology of ovarian cancer. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2009;472:413-37. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19107446>. Accessed April 2018.