

# Cancer drug hope for terminal patients

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A targeted drug has shrunk ovary and lung tumours in terminal patients, "very exciting" early stage results show.

Patients with no other options had the growth of their cancer halted for six months by using the medicine to enhance the power of chemotherapy, the trial found.

While the combination treatment will need to go through at least two

stages of further testing before it is ready for routine use, trials have been fast tracked for what campaigners said could turn out to be a "landmark breakthrough in ovarian cancer treatment".

Vistusertib is a new medicine that blocks a compound known as p-S6K which helps cancers to grow and which has previously been found in high levels in cells of ovarian cancers that have been resistant to chemotherapy.

Scientists wanted to test whether this

meant the effects of chemotherapy could be boosted by combining it with vistusertib, recruiting 25 women with high-grade ovarian cancer and 40 patients with lung cancer. "What we saw was very exciting," said Professor Udai Banerji, of the Institute of Cancer Research in London, who led the study, published in the *Annals of Oncology*. "Over half the women with ovarian cancer and over a third of lung cancer patients saw their tumours shrink."

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