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### Citation for published version:

Hollis, RL, Carmichael, J, Meynert, AM, Churchman, M, Hallas-Potts, A, Rye, T, MacKean, M, Nussey, F, Semple, CA, Herrington, CS & Gourley, C 2019, 'Clinical and molecular characterization of ovarian carcinoma displaying isolated lymph node relapse', *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2019.04.035>

### Digital Object Identifier (DOI):

[10.1016/j.ajog.2019.04.035](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2019.04.035)

### Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

### Document Version:

Peer reviewed version

### Published In:

American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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# Accepted Manuscript



Clinical and molecular characterization of ovarian carcinoma displaying isolated lymph node relapse

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PII: S0002-9378(19)30620-9

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2019.04.035>

Reference: YMOB 12664

To appear in: *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Received Date: 1 February 2019

Revised Date: 18 April 2019

Accepted Date: 26 April 2019

Please cite this article as: Hollis RL, Carmichael J, Meynert AM, Churchman M, Hallas-Potts A, Rye T, Mackean M, Nussey F, Semple CA, Herrington CS, Gourley C, Clinical and molecular characterization of ovarian carcinoma displaying isolated lymph node relapse, *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* (2019), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2019.04.035>.

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1 Clinical and molecular characterization of ovarian carcinoma displaying isolated lymph node relapse  
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14 **Counts:** Abstract 340 words. Main text 2720 words. 2 figures, 3 tables.

15 **Supplement material:** 9 pages; 3 supplementary figures; 6 supplementary tables.

16 **Funding:** This study was supported by an MRC PhD Studentship and MRC-funded Research  
17 Fellowship awarded to RLH, and by funding from The Nicola Murray Foundation.

18 **Conflicts of interest:** Conflicts of interest: RLH, none. JC, none. AMM, none. MC, none. AHP, none.  
19 TR, none. MM: honoraria from Tesaro, BristolMyersSquibb and Roche. FN: non-personal interests in  
20 AstraZeneca and Tesaro. CAS, none. CSH, none. CG discloses: research funding from AstraZeneca,  
21 Aprea, Nucana, Tesaro and Novartis; honoraria/consultancy fees from Roche, AstraZeneca, Tesaro,  
22 Nucana, Clovis, Foundation One, Cor2Ed and Sierra Oncology; named on issued/pending patents  
23 related to predicting treatment response in ovarian cancer outside the scope of the work described  
24 here.

25 **Authors' contributions:** Conceptualisation: RLH, JC, MC, CSH, CG. Data collection: RLH, JC, AHP, TR,  
26 MM, FN. Data analysis: RLH, AM, JC. Data interpretation: RLH, JC, MC, CAS, CSH, CG. Supervision: CG,  
27 CSH, CAS. Visualisation and original manuscript draft: RLH. Manuscript review and editing: RLH, JC,  
28 AMM, MC, AHP, TR, MM, FN, CAS, CSH, CG.

29

30 **Condensation:** Ovarian carcinoma patients demonstrating isolated lymph node relapse display  
31 favorable outcome and greater tumour-infiltrating T-cell burden at diagnosis compared to extra-  
32 nodal relapse cases

33 **Short Title:** Clinical and molecular characterisation of ILNR ovarian carcinoma

34 **AJOG at a glance:** A. A number of investigators have reported a relatively indolent disease course in  
35 ovarian carcinoma patients experiencing isolated lymph node relapse (ILNR). However, none have  
36 systematically compared these to extra-nodal relapse or performed molecular characterisation of  
37 cases that go on to experience this distinct pattern of recurrence.

38 B. ILNR patients demonstrated significantly prolonged overall and post-relapse survival compared to  
39 extra-nodal relapse cases. ILNR cases demonstrated greater tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte burden at  
40 diagnosis, but did not demonstrate significant enrichment or depletion of *BRCA1/2* mutation or gain  
41 of *CCNE1*, both known to be prognostic in OC.

42 C. This is the first report demonstrating significantly improved clinical outcome in ILNR ovarian  
43 carcinoma when compared directly to extra-nodal relapse, and represents the first study to perform  
44 molecular characterisation of cases that go on to experience ILNR.

45 **Key words:** cancer recurrence, isolated lymph node relapse, ovarian cancer, survival, tumor-  
46 infiltrating lymphocytes

47

48

49

50 **ABSTRACT**

51 **Background:** Disease relapse is the primary cause death from ovarian carcinoma (OC). Isolated  
52 lymph node relapse (ILNR) is a rare pattern of OC recurrence, with a reported median post-relapse  
53 survival (PRS) of 2.5-4 years. To date, investigations have not compared ILNR OC directly to a  
54 matched extra-nodal relapse (ENR) cohort or performed molecular characterization of cases that  
55 subsequently experience ILNR.

56 **Objective(s):** Here we seek to compare the clinical outcome, tumour-infiltrating lymphocyte burden  
57 and frequency of known prognostic genomic events in ILNR OC versus ENR OC.

58 **Study design:** 49 ILNR OC patients were identified and matched to 49 ENR cases using the Edinburgh  
59 Ovarian Cancer Database, from which the clinical data for identified patients were retrieved.  
60 Matching criteria were disease stage, histological subtype and grade, extent of residual disease  
61 following surgical debulking and age at diagnosis. Clinicopathological factors and survival data were  
62 compared between the ILNR and ENR cohorts. Genomic characterization of tumor material from  
63 diagnosis was performed using panel-based high throughput sequencing and tumor-infiltrating T-cell  
64 burden was assessed using immunohistochemistry for CD3+ and CD8+ cells.

65 **Results:** ILNR cases demonstrated significantly prolonged PRS and overall survival (OS) versus ENR  
66 upon multivariable analysis ( $HR^{multi}=0.52[0.33-0.84]$  and  $0.51[0.31-0.84]$ ). Diagnostic specimens from  
67 high grade serous (HGS) OCs that subsequently displayed ILNR harboured significantly greater CD3+  
68 and CD8+ cell infiltration compared to ENR cases ( $P=0.001$  and  $P=0.009$ , Bonferroni-adjusted  
69  $P=0.003$  and  $0.019$ ). ILNR HGS OC cases did not show marked enrichment or depletion of cases with  
70 *BRCA1/2* mutation or *CCNE1* copy number gain when compared to their ENR counterparts (24.4% vs  
71 19.4% and 18.2% vs 22.6%,  $P=0.865$  and  $P=0.900$ ).

72 **Conclusion(s):** ILNR OC represents a distinct clinical entity with favorable outcome compared to ENR.  
73 There was no clear enrichment or depletion of *BRCA1/2* mutation or *CCNE1* gain in the ILNR OC

74 cohort compared with ENR cases, suggesting that these known prognostic genomically-defined  
75 subtypes of disease do not display markedly altered propensity for ILNR. Diagnostic tumor material  
76 from ILNR patients demonstrated greater CD3+ and CD8+ cell infiltration, indicating stronger tumor  
77 engagement by T-cell populations, which may contribute to the more indolent disease course of  
78 ILNR.

79

80

81

82 **INTRODUCTION**

83 Ovarian carcinoma (OC) is the most lethal gynaecological malignancy, accounting for over 180,000  
84 deaths per year worldwide [1]. OC is now recognised to comprise five core histological subtypes:  
85 high grade serous (HGS), endometrioid, clear cell, low grade serous (LGS) and mucinous OC – each  
86 displaying distinct molecular landscapes and clinical behaviour [2]. Within HGS cases, homologous  
87 recombination deficiency by virtue of *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutation has been associated with favorable  
88 outcome, greater sensitivity to platinum-based chemotherapy and marked benefit from poly (ADP-  
89 ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors [3-6]. Conversely, *CCNE1* copy number gain has been  
90 associated with chemoresistance and poorer survival in this group [3, 7].

91 While most OC cases – particularly HGS OCs - are typically sensitive to chemotherapy in the first-line  
92 setting, the majority of patients will experience disease relapse which acquires resistance to  
93 chemotherapy [8, 9]. The most common sites of recurrence are the pelvis and peritoneum [10].  
94 Involvement of lymph nodes (LNs) at relapse is common; however, recurrence confined solely to LNs  
95 is a rare event, accounting for  $\leq 5\%$  of relapsed OCs [11, 12]. These isolated LN relapse (ILNR) cases  
96 have been described as a unique clinical disease entity and are thought to experience a relatively  
97 indolent disease course, with a reported median post-relapse survival (PRS) and overall survival (OS)  
98 of around 2.5-4 and  $>5$  years, respectively [11-18].

99 A number of previous studies have reported on the clinical outcome of apparent ILNR OC  
100 (summarised in Table 1) [11-18]. Many of these studies have reported only a small number of cases  
101 [11, 13, 17, 18], with a minority reporting larger numbers identified from multiple centres [14, 16].  
102 To our knowledge, none of these studies have compared outcome directly to a matched extra-nodal  
103 relapse (ENR) cohort. Furthermore, they have not performed contemporary histological subtyping or  
104 molecular characterization in order to identify potential subgroups of disease with a propensity to  
105 experience this distinct pattern of disease relapse.

106 Here, we report clinical and molecular characterization of a matched ILNR and ENR cohort with  
107 contemporary pathology review to compare the clinical outcome and molecular landscape of ILNR  
108 and ENR OC.

109

## 110 **METHODS**

### 111 *ILNR patient identification*

112 ILNR OC cases were identified from the Edinburgh Ovarian Cancer Database (Supplementary Figure  
113 S1), wherein the clinical variables, treatment details and follow-up data of OC patients treated  
114 within the Edinburgh Cancer Centre are collected prospectively as part of routine care. Potential  
115 ILNR cases were identified using the search terms “lymph node” or “groin node” as the dominant  
116 site of relapse, yielding 161 results. Non-epithelial tumors (n=1), tumors of borderline malignancy  
117 (n=1), and primary LN serous carcinomas (n=2) were excluded. Patients with concurrent extra-nodal  
118 disease (n=50), lack of cross-sectional imaging to confirm sole ILNR (n=13) or coexistence of other  
119 malignancies leading to uncertain origin of LN disease (n=2) were excluded. Patients with residual  
120 disease (RD) after completion of first-line treatment (n=19) or insufficient clinical data for eligibility  
121 assessment (n=24) were also excluded, leaving 49 ILNR cases.

122

### 123 *Matching of ILNR to ENR*

124 ILNR cases were electronically matched to ENR cases with complete response to first-line therapy  
125 using the Edinburgh Ovarian Cancer Database. Matching criteria were: (i) diagnostic histological  
126 subtype and grade, (ii) stage at diagnosis, (iii) extent of RD following debulking surgery and (iv)  
127 closest age at diagnosis following matching of (i)-(iii). Criteria were relaxed to facilitate matching of  
128 all ILNR cases as detailed in Supplementary Table S1.

129



130 *Ethical approval and tissue collection*

131 Clinical research access and ethical approval for correlation of molecular data to clinicopathological  
132 features and clinical outcome in OC was obtained via NHS Lothian Research and Development  
133 (reference ID 2007/W/ON/29). Ethical approval for the use of human tumor material in translational  
134 research was obtained from South East Scotland Human Annotated Bioresource (Lothian NRS  
135 Bioresource Ethics Reference 15/ES/0094-SR831). Tumor material was available for 75.5% (74 of 98)  
136 of cases (77.6%, 38 of 49 ILNR and 73.5%, 36 of 49 ENR).

137

138 *Histological subtyping of ovarian carcinomas*

139 Contemporary pathology review of ILNR and matched ENR cases was performed by an expert  
140 gynaecologic pathologist (CSH). Where appropriate (n=9), immunohistochemistry (IHC) for WT1 and  
141 P53 was performed to aid histological subtyping [19]. WT1 IHC was performed using 1:1000 dilutions  
142 of antibody M3561 clone 6F-H2 (Dako, Agilent Technologies). p53 staining was performed using 1:50  
143 dilutions of antibody M7001 clone DO-7 (Dako, Agilent Technologies). Both stains were performed  
144 using the Leica Bond III Autostainer (Leica Biosystems).

145

146 *Nucleic acid isolation*

147 Up to ten 10µm FFPE sections, macrodissected using marked H&E-stained slides as a guide to enrich  
148 for tumor purity (supplementary table S2), were used for DNA extraction. DNA was extracted using  
149 the QIAamp DNA FFPE Tissue Kit and Deparaffinization Solution (Qiagen).

150

151 *Panel-based sequencing of BRCA and non-BRCA homologous recombination deficiency genes*

152 High throughput sequencing was performed using an 83-gene custom Integrated DNA Technologies  
153 (IDT) gene capture panel with unique molecular indices (UMIs) as described in Appendix A. Gene  
154 targets, centred around the homologous recombination DNA repair pathway, are detailed in  
155 Supplementary Table S3. The median per-sample mean target coverage achieved was 386X.

156

#### 157 *Assessment of CCNE1 copy number*

158 Copy number variants in *CCNE1* were characterised by TaqMan Genotyping qPCR Copy Number  
159 Assays (Applied Biosystems, Thermo Fisher Scientific) as detailed in Appendix B.

160

#### 161 *Assessment of tumor infiltrating lymphocyte density*

162 Tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) were assessed using 4µm FFPE sections of diagnostic tumor  
163 material from first-line cytoreductive surgery. IHC for CD3 and CD8 was performed using Bond  
164 ready-to-use CD8-4B11 and CD3-LN10 antibodies (Leica Biosystems) on the Leica Bond III  
165 Autostainer. Human tonsil was used as a positive control for both markers. Stained slides were  
166 digitized and marker-positive cells were quantified using QuPath [20] in eight randomly selected  
167 tumor-containing 500µm by 500µm fields per sample. Tumor area was marked as a region of  
168 interest (supplementary figure S2) and marker-positive cells were quantified using the positive cell  
169 detection protocol as a percentage of the total cell number demonstrating marker positivity.

170 TIL scoring validation was performed by manual counting of marker-positive cells by two human  
171 observers (RLH and AHP), in a randomly selected validation cohort representing 15% of samples for  
172 each marker. The correlation of marker-positive cell counts (observer 1 vs observer 2 vs QuPath)  
173 demonstrated excellent agreement for both markers (Spearman's  $\rho > 0.95$ ,  $P < 0.0001$  for all  
174 comparisons).

175

176 *Statistical analyses*

177 Statistical analyses were performed using R version 3.5.1. Disease-free interval (DFI) was calculated  
178 as time from end of first-line chemotherapy to disease recurrence. Comparisons of OS and PRS were  
179 conducted using Cox proportional hazards regression models within the Survival R package [21] and  
180 presented as hazard ratios (HRs) alongside their 95% confidence intervals (CIs). Frequency  
181 comparisons were made using the Chi-squared test and Fisher's exact test as appropriate.  
182 Comparisons of TIL density were made using the Mann Whitney-U test. Analyses were adjusted for  
183 multiplicity of testing using the Bonferroni correction, where specified.

184

185 **RESULTS**186 *Cohort Characteristics*

187 Demographics of the ILNR and ENR cohorts are summarised in Table 2. There was no significant  
188 difference in age at diagnosis, RD following primary surgical debulking, histology or grade of disease  
189 at diagnosis, or disease stage at diagnosis between the ILNR and ENR groups. These data indicate  
190 good fidelity of the ILNR-ENR matching process. Patterns of ILNR are described in Table 3.

191

192 *Clinical outcome in ILNR versus ENR*

193 ILNR patients displayed prolonged OS and PRS compared to the ENR cohort (HR=0.55 [0.34-0.87],  
194 P=0.011 and HR=0.50 [0.31-0.80], P=0.004) (Figure 1A and Figure 1B). The median OS and PRS in the  
195 ILNR cohort was 72.9 (95% CI 62.2-96.5) and 32.0 (95% CI 23.3-53.3) months, compared to 41.1 (95%  
196 CI 30.0-58.8) and 14.9 (95% CI 12.9-23.7) months in the ENR cohort. The length of the disease-free  
197 interval (DFI) prior to ILNR or ENR was not significantly different between the two cohorts (HR=0.86  
198 [0.60-1.29], P=0.473).

199 Multivariable analysis for OS accounting for extent of RD following primary debulking, FIGO stage  
200 and age at diagnosis identified significantly prolonged OS in the ILNR cohort ( $HR^{\text{multi}}=0.51$  [0.31-0.84],  
201  $P=0.008$ ) (Supplementary Table S4). Multivariable analysis of PRS, accounting for DFI and age  
202 identified prolonged PRS in ILNR cases ( $HR^{\text{multi}}=0.52$  [0.33-0.84],  $P=0.007$ ) (Supplementary Table S5).  
203 Significantly prolonged OS ( $HR^{\text{multi}}$  for OS=0.53 [0.29-0.99],  $P=0.046$ ) and PRS ( $HR^{\text{multi}}$  for PRS=0.54  
204 [0.31-0.96],  $P=0.037$ ) was demonstrated for ILNR OC when considering HGS cases specifically (34  
205 ILNR HGS OCs, 31 ENR HGS OCs).

206

207 *Longer DFI is associated with prolonged PRS in ILNR OC*

208 The importance of DFI on clinical outcome in ILNR OC remains controversial, with some authors  
209 reporting no association between DFI length and PRS or OS in this setting [11, 16, 18] and others  
210 reporting significant associations [12, 14, 15]. Within the ILNR cohort, DFI  $\geq 12$  months was  
211 associated with markedly prolonged PRS when accounting for patient age ( $HR^{\text{multi}}=0.38$  [0.19-0.78],  
212  $P=0.008$ ), with median PRS of 47.3 versus 20.1 months in those with DFI  $\geq 12$  months and DFI  $< 12$   
213 months, respectively (Figure 1C).

214

215 *Impact of ILNR pattern on outcome*

216 There was no clear differential PRS between multi-region ILNR and single-region ILNR (2 regions  
217 versus single site  $HR=1.06$  [0.49-2.30],  $P=0.890$ ;  $\geq 3$  sites versus single site  $HR=0.94$  [0.36-1.43],  
218  $P=0.898$ ).

219 Six ILNR cases (12.2%) involved supraclavicular LN sites. While these cases demonstrated an  
220 apparent trend for inferior PRS ( $HR=2.52$  [0.95-6.69],  $P=0.064$ ) (Supplementary Figure S3), there was  
221 no significant difference after accounting for DFI and age ( $HR^{\text{multi}}=1.63$  [0.58-4.60],  $P=0.359$ ). Other  
222 specific LN sites were not associated with apparent differential PRS (Supplementary Table S6).

223

224 *Molecular landscape of ILNR HGS OC*

225 64 HGS OC cases (33 ILNR, 31 ENR) were successfully characterised for HR gene mutations and  
226 *CCNE1* copy number. Frequencies of genomic abnormalities are outlined in Figure 2A and  
227 Supplementary Table S3. Within HGS OC cases, there was no significant difference in the rate of  
228 *CCNE1* copy number gain (18.2%, 6/33 versus 22.6%, 7/31,  $P=0.900$ ) or *BRCA1/2* mutation (24.4%,  
229 8/33 vs 19.4%, 6/31,  $P=0.865$ ) between the ILNR and ENR cohorts (Figure 2A).

230 The CD3+ and CD8+ TIL burden was greater in diagnostic tumor specimens from HGS OC patients  
231 who went on to experience ILNR when compared to their ENR counterparts (median CD3+ cell  
232 density 1.94% vs 1.13%,  $P=0.001$  and median CD8+ cell density 0.90% vs 0.45%,  $P=0.009$ ; Bonferroni-  
233 adjusted  $P=0.003$  and  $P=0.019$ ) (Figure 2B).

234

235 **COMMENT**236 **Principle findings**

237 The principle findings of this study are: (i) ILNR represents a distinct pattern of OC relapse with  
238 prolonged survival versus ENR cases; (ii) longer DFI prior to ILNR is associated with prolonged PRS in  
239 ILNR; (iii) ILNR OC do not demonstrate significantly differential composition of known genomic  
240 subtypes associated with prognosis, namely *BRCA1/2* mutation or gain of *CCNE1*; (iv) cases that go  
241 on to experience ILNR demonstrate greater TIL burden at diagnosis compared to ENR cases.

242 **Study strengths and limitations**

243 A key strength of this study is the direct comparison of ILNR OC to matched ENR cases: a number of  
244 studies have reported ILNR as a distinct pattern of OC relapse with a relatively indolent disease  
245 course, but have not systematically compared ILNR cases directly to a matched ENR cohort [11-18].

246 Moreover, these studies did not perform pathology review of identified cases, precluding the ability  
247 to characterise ILNR outcome in the context of contemporary OC histotypes, which are now known  
248 to display markedly differential clinical outcome [22]. Critically, we characterise ILNR OC following  
249 contemporary histological subtyping to facilitate investigation of ILNR in a histotype-specific manner.

250 The majority of previous studies investigating ILNR have identified fewer than twenty OC cases of  
251 serous histology that go on to experience this rare relapse pattern; moreover, previous reports have  
252 not performed molecular characterisation of OC cases that demonstrate ILNR [11-18]. We identified  
253 49 ILNR OC patients treated within the Edinburgh Cancer Centre, including 34 cases reviewed as HGS  
254 OC. This study represents the largest ILNR OC series from a single centre and the only report  
255 investigating the molecular landscape of ILNR OC to date.

256 While this study does represent one of the largest reported ILNR OC cohorts, case numbers were still  
257 restricted due to the rarity of ILNR OC. In particular, power to detect differential outcome between  
258 distinct patterns of ILNR was limited, and we could not perform meaningful analysis comparing rates  
259 of rare genomic events present in both ILNR and ENR cohort, including mutational events in *RB1*,  
260 *NF1* and *PTEN*, as well as gene-specific analysis of *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*. Other limitations of this study  
261 include heterogeneous treatment of OC patients across the time period in which these cases were  
262 diagnosed, though diagnosis periods were comparable between the ILNR and ENR cohorts (Table 2).

### 263 **Clinical outcome in ILNR OC**

264 The median PRS and OS of ILNR cases was approximately 2.7 and 6 years, consistent with previous  
265 reports of ILNR OC [11-18]. ILNR cases displayed significantly prolonged OS and PRS compared to  
266 their ENR counterparts upon multivariable analysis ( $HR^{\text{multi}}=0.51$  and  $0.52$  for OS and PRS). Critically,  
267 this difference was maintained in a histotype-specific analysis of HGS cases, which account for the  
268 majority of OCs. To our knowledge, this is the first report directly demonstrating a significant  
269 difference in outcome between ILNR and ENR OC.

270 Only half of the reports investigating the impact of DFI length on ILNR outcome to date have  
271 identified associations with OS or PRS [12, 14, 15]. Here, we demonstrate that DFI  $\geq 12$  months is  
272 associated with a substantial PRS benefit (median PRS approximately 3.9 versus 1.7 years), largely  
273 reflective of established associations in unselected OC cases [23]. While this contradicts reports from  
274 some investigators [11, 16, 18], two of these studies reported specifically in the context of ILNR  
275 undergoing secondary debulking [16, 18] and the other compared cases using a cut-off DFI of 24  
276 months, rather than 12 months as described here [11], potentially explaining this discrepancy.  
277 Notably, the intervals considered in our study are akin to those used clinically to define platinum  
278 sensitivity in unselected relapsed OC [23].

279 We show no significant difference in clinical outcome between patients with ILNR at multiple sites  
280 versus those with single site ILNR, or between distinct patterns of ILNR. While univariable analysis  
281 suggested that supraclavicular LN involvement may confer inferior PRS, this trend was not apparent  
282 when accounting for DFI and patient age, suggesting that this is not a genuine phenomenon of  
283 supraclavicular ILNR. Notably, the number of patients with supraclavicular LN involvement was low  
284 ( $n=6$ ). Together, these data support the consideration of ILNR OC as a single disease entity,  
285 regardless of the number and location of involved sites.

#### 286 **The genomic landscape of ILNR OC**

287 Until now, the molecular landscape of ILNR has been completely uncharacterised. It has therefore  
288 been unclear as to whether OC cases that go on to experience ILNR demonstrate enrichment of  
289 tumors belonging to known favorable genomic subgroups. Within unselected cohorts of HGS OC,  
290 inactivation of *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* has been associated with favorable outcome [3, 4], while copy  
291 number gain of *CCNE1* has been associated with poor survival and chemoresistance [3, 7]. Genomic  
292 characterization of this cohort did not identify significant depletion or enrichment of these  
293 molecular events in ILNR HGS OC cases versus their ENR counterparts. These data suggest that the  
294 survival benefit of ILNR OC is not underpinned by large scale enrichment for *BRCA1/2*-mutant cases

295 with favourable prognosis or absence of *CCNE1*-gained cases which have poorer prognosis, and  
296 suggest that these genomic subgroups do not display markedly differential propensity for ILNR.

### 297 **Greater TIL burden at diagnosis in patients who subsequently experience ILNR**

298 Intriguingly, assessment of the CD3+ and CD8+ cell burden in ILNR and ENR tumor material –  
299 reflective of whole T-cell and cytotoxic T cell populations – uncovered significantly greater TIL  
300 burden in diagnostic tissue from patients who subsequently experienced ILNR (2-fold enrichment for  
301 CD8+ cells, approximately 1.7-fold enrichment for CD3+ cells). These data suggest that active  
302 engagement of the immune system at diagnosis impacts upon the nature of disease at relapse, and  
303 that immune-mediated control of cancer cells may contribute to the indolent disease course of ILNR  
304 OC. Indeed, these data may well be of interest in relation to the use of immune-directed therapies in  
305 cancer treatment [24, 25]. However, while many ILNR cases displayed high TIL burden, some cases  
306 demonstrated relatively low levels of TILs, alluding to mechanisms beyond effective T cell  
307 engagement at diagnosis underpinning some ILNR cases.

### 308 **Conclusion**

309 Collectively, the data presented here – supported by previous descriptions of apparent ILNR in the  
310 literature – demonstrate that ILNR represents a distinct pattern of OC with favourable clinical  
311 outcome when compared to ENR. Cases that go on to experience ILNR harbour greater TIL burden at  
312 diagnosis, but do not show marked enrichment or depletion of known genomic subgroups  
313 associated with differential outcome.

314

315

316



317 **Acknowledgements:** We extend our thanks to the patients who contributed to this study and to the  
318 Edinburgh Ovarian Cancer Database from which the clinical data reported here were retrieved. We  
319 are thankful to the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (Western General Hospital, Edinburgh,  
320 UK) for their support with the sequencing described here, and to the Nicola Murray Foundation for  
321 their generous support of the Nicola Murray Centre for Ovarian Cancer Research.

322 **Conflicts of interest:** RLH, none. JC, none. AMM, none. MC, none. AHP, none. TR, none. MM:  
323 honoraria from Tesaro, BristolMyersSquibb and Roche. FN: non-personal interests in AstraZeneca  
324 and Tesaro. CAS, none. CSH, none. CG discloses: research funding from AstraZeneca, Aprea, Nucana,  
325 Tesaro and Novartis; honoraria/consultancy fees from Roche, AstraZeneca, Tesaro, Nucana, Clovis,  
326 Foundation One, Cor2Ed and Sierra Oncology; named on issued/pending patents related to  
327 predicting treatment response in ovarian cancer outside the scope of the work described here.

328 **Authors' contributions:** Conceptualisation: RLH, JC, MC, CSH, CG. Data collection: RLH, JC, AHP, TR,  
329 MM, FN. Data analysis: RLH, AM, JC. Data interpretation: RLH, JC, MC, CAS, CSH, CG. Supervision: CG,  
330 CSH, CAS. Visualisation and original manuscript draft: RLH. Manuscript review and editing: RLH, JC,  
331 AMM, MC, AHP, TR, MM, FN, CAS, CSH, CG.

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404

**405 Figure legends**

406 Figure 1. Clinical outcome of ILNR OC. (A) OS in ILNR vs ENR OC; (B) PRS in ILNR vs ENR OC; (C) PRS in  
407 ILNR OC by DFI length.

408 Figure 2. Molecular landscape of ILNR and ENR OC. (A) Genomic events in ILNR and ENR cases; (B) TIL  
409 burden of ILNR and ENR HGS OCs.

410

**411 Supplementary figure legends**

412 Figure S1. ILNR cohort identification from the Edinburgh Ovarian Cancer Database.

413 Figure S2. Automated marker-positive cell quantification by QuPath

414 Figure S3. PRS of ILNR OC with and without supraclavicular LN involvement

415

**416 Supplementary table legends**

417 Table S1. Tolerances for electronic matching of ENR to ILNR

418 Table S2. Cellularity of specimens used for DNA extraction

419 Table S3. Frequency of patients with detrimental mutations in genes sequenced on IDT gene capture

420 NGS panel

421 Table S4. Multivariable analysis for OS in ILNR vs ENR in OC

422 Table S5. Multivariable analysis of time to ILNR as a predictor of PRS in ILNR OC

423 Table S6. Univariable analyses of specific LN site involvement and association with PRS

424

Table 1. Previous reports of ILNR OC.

		Ferrero (16)	Tu (15)	Gadducci (14)	Fotiou (18)	Legge (12)	Santillan (17)	Blanchard (11)	Uzan (13)	Summary
ILNR cases	N	73	38	69	21	32	25	27	12	Few reports of ≥40 cases
Age at diagnosis	Years	median 54	24 (63%) >50;	median 58	mean 50	median 60	mean 58	mean 59	median 51	Largely unremarkable compared to unselected OC cohorts
	Range	29-73	14 (37%) ≤ 50	34-78	36-67	45-76	41-82	41-85	42-71	
Stage at diagnosis	I	14 (19%)	0	11 (16%)	3 (14%)	0	2 (8%)	4 (15%)	5 (42%)	
	II	4 (6%)	15 (39%)	6 (9%)	3 (14%)	1 (3%)	5 (20%)	5 (18%)	1 (8%)	
	III	51 (70%)	23 (61%)	46 (67%)	14 (67%)	29 (91%)	15 (60%)	15 (56%)	6 (50%)	
	IV	4 (6%)	0	6 (9%)	1 (5%)	2 (6%)	3 (12%)	3 (11%)	0	
RD following first-line debulking	0cm / <0.5cm	57 (78%)	17 (45%)	22 (32%)	8 (38%)	14 (44%)	18 (72%)	NA	7 (58%)	
	≤1cm	10 (14%)	10 (26%)	11 (16%)	7 (33%)	6 (19%)	5 (20%)	NA	4 (33%)	
	<2cm	4 (6%)	11 (29%)	36 (52%)	4 (19%)		0	NA		
	>2cm	2 (3%)			2 (10%)	12 (38%)	2 (8%)	NA	1 (8%)	
Grade at diagnosis	I	4 (6%)	7 (18%)	3 (4%)	0	9 (32%)	25 (100%) high grade	NA	NA	
	II	5 (7%)	14 (37%)	13 (19%)	8 (38%)					
	III	64 (88%)	17 (45%)	54 (78%)	13 (62%)					19 (68%)
	NA	-	-	-	-	4				-
Reported histological subtype at diagnosis	Serous	53 (73%)	19 (50%)	52 (75%)	16 (76%)	26 (81%)	19 (76%)	17 (62%) <sup>a</sup>	8 (67%)	Predominantly serous / HGS cases, as with unselected OC cohorts
	Endometrioid	11 (15%)	9 (24%)	12 (17%)	5 (24%)	2 (6%)	2 (8%)	3 (11%)	3 (25%)	
	Clear Cell	0	0	1 (1%)		0	0	0	0	
	Mucinous	1 (1%)	1 (3%)	0		1 (3%)	0	3 (11%)	0	
	Other	8 (11%)	9 (24%)	4 (6%)		3 (9%)	4 (16%)	4 (15%)	1 (8%)	
DFI / time to ILNR <sup>b</sup>	Median months	18	18	44 (62%)		21	17.5	16	26 months from diagnosis	21
Range	6-192	9-96	>12 months	8-156	1-134	6-40	1-159	6-72		
ILNR site(s)	Para-aortic only	37 (51%)	10 (26%)	23 (33%)	8 (38%)	14 (44%)	15 (60%)	9(33%) retro. alone, 6(22%) retro. + other. Supraclavicular, mediastinal, iliac and inguinal involvement in 7(26%), 4(15%), 4(15%) and 3(11%) cases.	5 (42%)	Most commonly involves pelvic and/or para-aortic sites
	Pelvic only	21 (29%)	15 (39%)	12 (17%)	4 (19%)	1 (3%)	3 (12%)		4 (33%)	
	Para-aortic & pelvic	9 (12%)	7 (18%)	6 (9%)	4 (19%)	9 (28%)	1 (4%)		1 (8%)	
	Inguinal only	3 (4%)	2 (5%)	12 (17%)	4 (19%)	2 (6%)	5 (20%)		1 (8%)	
	Other combinations	3 (4%)	4 (11%)	16 (23%)	1 (5%)	6 (19%)	1 (4%)		1 (8%)	
ILNR pattern	Single region	61 (84%)	27 (71%)	47 (77%)	17 (81%)	20 (63%)	24 (96%)	17 (63%)	10 (83%)	Most commonly localised to a single region
	Multi-region	12 (16%)	11 (29%)	14 (23%)	4 (19%)	9 (28%)	1 (4%)	10 (37%)	2 (17%)	
	NA	-	-	8	-	3	-	-	-	
PRS	Median months	5-yr PRS 64%;	5-yr PRS 66.5%	32.1	47	37	37	26	5-yr PRS 71%	Median 2-4 years
OS	Median months	5-yr OS ~80%		62.9	66	109	61	68		Median >5 years
Surgery for ILNR	Yes	73 (100%)	19 (50%)	24 (35%)	21 (100%)	12 (38%)	25 (100%)	8 (30%)	12 (100%)	Heterogeneous management, typically involving chemotherapy
	No	0	19 (50%)	45 (65%)	0	20 (63%)	0	19 (70%)	0	
ILNR	Chemo alone	0	5 (13%)	44 (64%)	0	19 (59%)	0	8 (30%)	0	

<b>intervention: regime</b>	<b>Surgery alone</b>	3 (4%)	0	1 (1%)	0	1 (3%)	2 (8%)	2 (7%)	0
	<b>Surgery-chemo combination</b>	70 (96%)	19 (50%)	22 (32%)	17 (81%)	11 (34%)	15 (60%)	5 (19%)	10 (83%)
	<b>Radio alone</b>	0	0	1 (1%)	0	0	0	2 (7%)	0
	<b>No intervention</b>	0	0	0	0	1 (3%)	0	7 (26%)	0
	<b>Other</b>	0	14 (37%)	1 (1%)	4 (19%)	0	8 (32%)	3 (11%)	2 (17%)

Chemo, chemotherapy; DFI, disease-free interval; ENR, extra-nodal relapse; ILNR, isolated lymph node relapse; OS, overall survival; PRS, post-relapse survival; radio, radiotherapy; RD, residual disease; retro, retroperitoneal; 5-yr, 5-year; NA, not available. <sup>a</sup>Includes 5 cases described as papillary; <sup>b</sup>from end of first-line chemotherapy

**Table 2. Demographics of ILNR and ENR OC cohorts.**

Factor	Class	ILNR, n=49		ENR, n=49		ILNR vs ENR
		N	%/range	N	%/range	P-value
Stage at Diagnosis	I	5	10.6	5	10.2	1.000 <sup>a</sup>
	II	10	21.3	11	22.4	
	III	27	57.4	28	57.1	
	IV	5	10.6	5	10.2	
	NA	2		0		
Histology at Diagnosis	Serous	25	51.0	33	67.3	.502 <sup>b</sup>
	Endometrioid	12	24.5	11	22.5	
	Clear Cell	1	2.0	1	2.0	
	Mixed histology	8	16.3	4	8.2	
	Unclassified Adenocarcinoma	3	6.1	0	0.0	
Grade at Diagnosis	I	0	0.0	1	2.0	1.000 <sup>c</sup>
	II	6	13.0	6	12.2	
	III	40	87.0	42	75.7	
	NA	3		0		
Contemporary Histological Classification	HGS	34	89.5	31	86.1	.733 <sup>d</sup>
	Endometrioid	2	5.3	3	8.3	
	LGS	2	5.3	1	2.8	
	Mixed HGS /endometrioid	0	0.0	1*	2.8	
	No specimen available	11		13		
Surgical debulking status	RD <2cm	34	75.6	33	70.2	.733 <sup>e</sup>
	RD 2-5cm	7	15.6	8	17.0	
	RD ≥5cm	4	8.9	6	12.8	
	NA	4		2		
First-line chemotherapy	Platinum	21	42.9	17	34.7	.693 <sup>f</sup>
	Platinum combination	25	51.0	28	57.1	
	Other	3	6.1	4	8.2	
Neoadjuvant first-line chemotherapy	Yes	2	4.1	1	2.0	1.000 <sup>g</sup>
	No	47	95.9	48	98.0	
Decade of Diagnosis	≤1999	23	46.9	21	42.9	.667 <sup>f</sup>
	2000-2005	19	38.8	23	46.9	
	2006-2010	7	14.3	5	10.2	
Age at Diagnosis	Median years	61	41-80	62	41-80	.339 <sup>h</sup>
Specimen from diagnosis	Primary site	33	91.7	29	80.6	.307 <sup>i</sup>
	Omentum	2	5.6	6	16.7	
	Other	1	2.8	1	2.8	
	NA	2		0		

	No specimen available	11		13		
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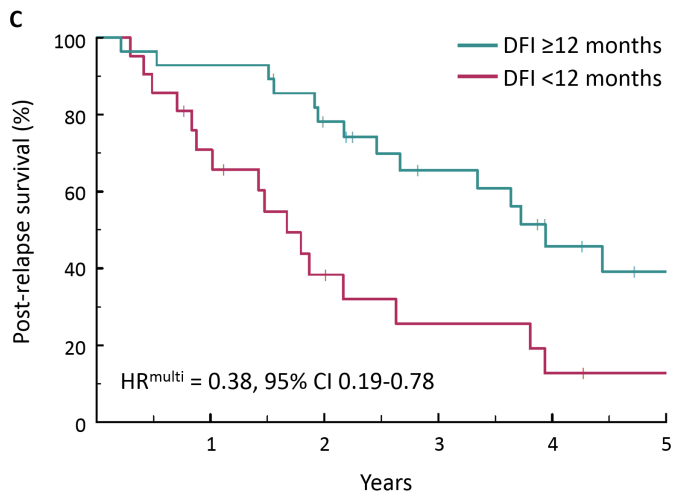
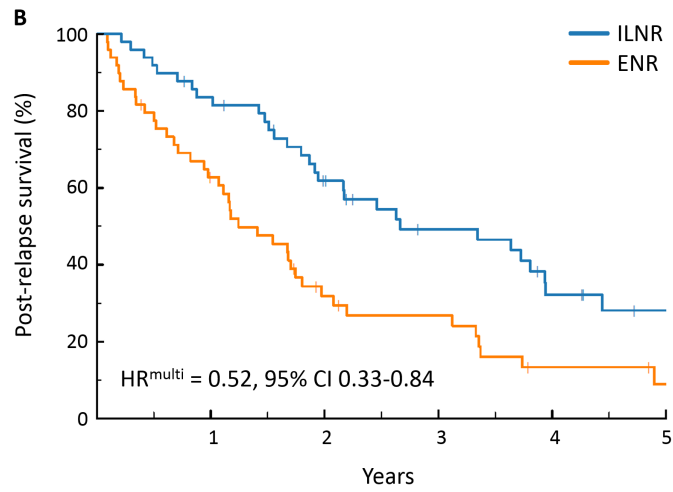
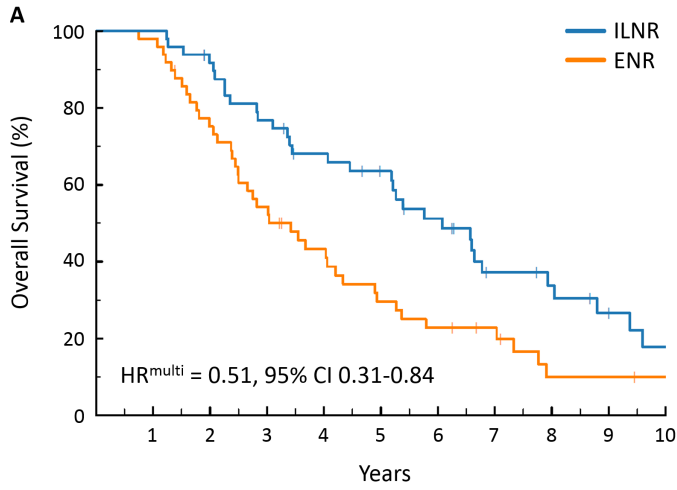
NA, not available; RD, residual disease. <sup>a</sup>Chi-squared test, stage I/II vs stage III/IV; <sup>b</sup>Chi-squared test, Serous/mixed versus other; <sup>c</sup>Chi-squared test, grade I/II vs grade III; <sup>d</sup>Fisher's exact test, HGS versus non-HGS; <sup>e</sup>Chi-squared test, RD <2cm vs ≥2cm; <sup>f</sup>Chi-squared test; <sup>g</sup>Fisher's exact test; <sup>h</sup>Welch two-sample T test; <sup>i</sup>Fisher's exact test, primary site vs omentum/other. \*This tumour had two morphologically distinct components with different immunophenotypes

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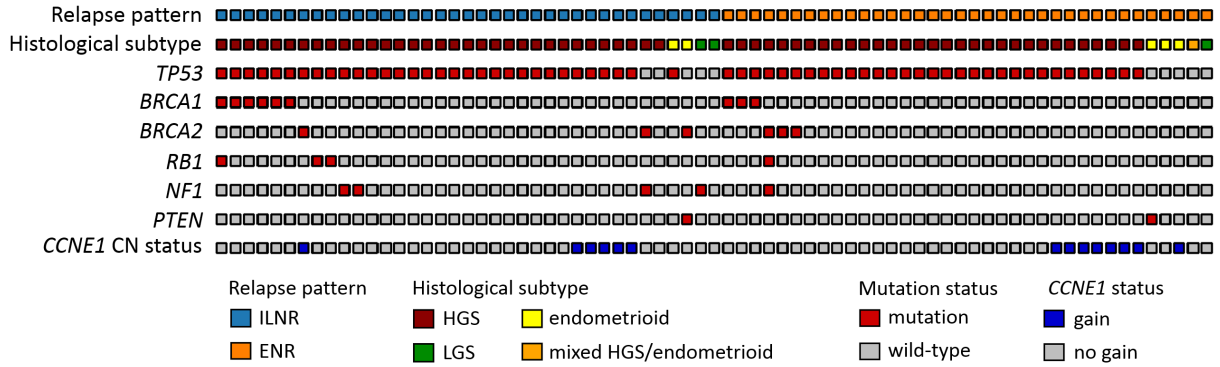


**Table 3. Patterns of ILNR OC**

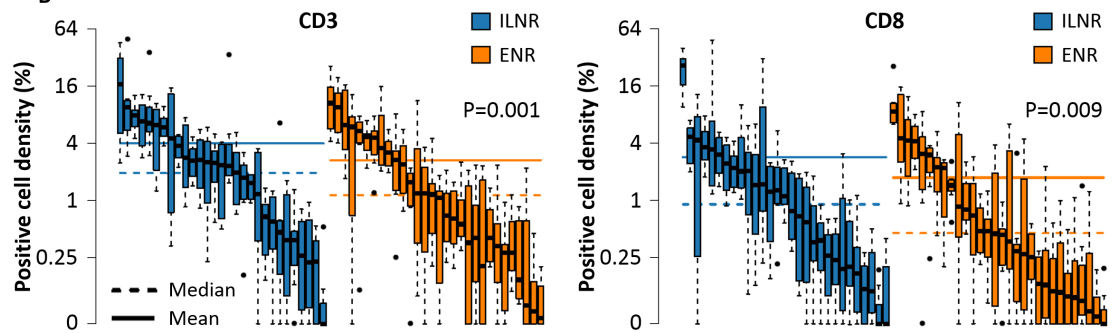
	<b>Cases</b>	<b>Proportion of cases (%)</b>
<b>ILNR Pattern</b>		
Single site	22	44.9
Multi-regional		
2	17	34.7
3	8	16.3
4	2	4.1
<b>ILNR Sites</b>		
Para-aortic only	16	32.7
Pelvic only	4	8.2
Inguinal only	2	4.1
Pelvic & para-aortic	6	12.2
Supraclavicular & other sites	6	12.2
Pelvic, para-aortic & other(s)	6	12.2
Other combinations	9	18.4



A



B



**1 APPENDIX A – high throughput sequencing of FFPE DNA**

2 Whole genome libraries were generated using 200ng input DNA as determined by Qubit Fluorimetry  
3 (Invitrogen, ThermoFisher Scientific). One sample failed library preparation. Libraries were pooled in  
4 groups of 16 (100ng generated library per sample) for gene capture and sequenced by the Wellcome  
5 Trust Clinical Research Facility (Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, UK) using an Illumina NextSeq.  
6 Following alignment and consensus read generation using UMIs (as detailed below), the median per-  
7 sample mean target coverage achieved was 386X (range 102X – 970X).

8 Sequence reads were processed using the bcbio v1.0.6 pipeline  
9 (<https://github.com/chapmanb/bcbio-nextgen>) and reads aligned against hg38 with bwa v0.7.17,  
10 sorted, then duplicate-marked with bamsormadup (biobambam v2.0.79) (1, 2). UMIs were added as  
11 tags by umis v0.9.0b0, and files were indexed after conversion to BAM format using samtools v1.6  
12 (3). Consensus reads were called and filtered with fgbio v0.4.0  
13 (<https://github.com/fulcrumgenomics/fgbio>) following read grouping by UMIs, then extracted with  
14 bamtofastq (biobambam), re-aligned, sorted and indexed. The aligned consensus reads underwent  
15 base quality score recalibration with the GATK v3.8 (4).

16 Variant calling was performed using a multicaller approach: variants were called with GATK Mutect2,  
17 Freebayes (v1.1.0.46) (<https://github.com/ekg/freebayes>) and VarDict (Java v1.5.1) (5), then  
18 decomposed and normalized with vt v2015.11.10 (<https://github.com/atks/vt>). VarDict variants  
19 were annotated with vcfanno and bcftools v1.6 (6, 7). Freebayes variants were annotated with GATK  
20 VariantAnnotator. A majority vote system was used for curating high confidence calls with minimum  
21 10% variant allele frequency, with a 2/3 caller majority needed for inclusion in the final callset.

22 Called variants were annotated using the Ensembl Variant Effect Predictor v90.9 against Ensembl  
23 release 90 (8). Variants documented as benign (as annotated by Ensembl VEP) were discarded, while  
24 documented pathogenic were retained. Remaining nonsense mutations, frameshifting indels and  
25 splice site variants were retained as likely function variants. Remaining synonymous variants, non-

26 coding variants and missense variants of undocumented significance were discarded as variants of  
27 uncertain significance.

28 *TP53* mutations were classified independently with additional reference to the UMD *TP53* variation  
29 database (9). Manual review of aligned sequence read for the supposed *TP53* wild-type OCs (6 HGS,  
30 4 endometrioid, 3 LGS, 1 mixed serous/endometrioid) was performed owing to the known high *TP53*  
31 mutation rate in OC (particularly in HGS OCs). These analyses revealed further high confidence  
32 pathogenic mutations affecting splice sites in 4 HGS OC cases, two of which were present in the  
33 callset from a single caller and hence didn't qualify for the ensemble callset. The apparent poorer  
34 sensitivity to splice site events was attributed to the proximity of these variants to read ends,  
35 compounded by the relatively reduced coverage at exon-intron boundaries owing to the capture  
36 design being targeted toward coding regions.

37

38

**39 APPENDIX B – CCNE1 copy number assays**

40 Copy number (CN) variants in *CCNE1* were identified by TaqMan Genotyping qPCR Copy Number  
41 Assays using the StepOne Plus Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems, Thermo Fisher Scientific,  
42 Waltham, MA, USA) and StepOne Software Version 2.3 (Life Technologies, Thermo Fisher Scientific,  
43 Waltham, MA, USA). VIC dye-labelled RNaseP TaqMan™ Copy Number Reference Assay was used as  
44 a reference assay, alongside FAM dye-labelled Hs07158517\_cn targeting *CCNE1*. Target amplicons  
45 were chosen to ensure FFPE compatibility (87bp product for *RNaseP*, 91bp product for *CCNE1*).

46 Amplification efficiency was assessed using serial dilutions of NA12878 genome in a bottle DNA (10)  
47 in triplicate. Efficiency was calculated using the gradient of the line of best fit for Ct value against the  
48 logarithm (base 10) of ng DNA input (efficiency =  $-1 + 10^{-1/\text{slope}}$  of Ct versus log<sub>10</sub> of input DNA)  
49 (11), yielding assay efficiencies of 103.4%, 97.0% and 103.3% for *CCNE1*, *EMSY* and RNaseP (*RPPH1*),  
50 respectively. These data indicate excellent amplification efficiency in all assays.

51 CN assays for FFPE-derived DNA were performed alongside NA12878 DNA and FUV01 cell line DNA  
52 controls, representing DNA with normal CN and *CCNE1* CN gain, respectively (10, 12). CN variants  
53 were called using CopyCaller v2.0 (Life Technologies, Applied Biosystems, Thermo Fisher Scientific,  
54 Waltham, MA, USA) using NA12878 as calibrator sample (CN=2). *CCNE1* CN  $\geq 4$  was considered CN  
55 gain.

**56 Supplementary references**

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85

**Supplementary Table S1. Tolerances for electronic matching of ENR to ILNR**

Feature	ILNR OC case documented diagnostic characteristic	Matched ENR OC case documented diagnostic characteristic	Patients
Stage at Diagnosis	Inadequate information to stage	Stage II, n=1 Stage IIIC, n=1	3
	Stage IIB	Stage IIA, n=1	
Documented Histology at Diagnosis	Adenocarcinoma	Serous papillary, n=3	9
	Endometrioid	Mixed serous/endometrioid, n=1	
	Mixed histology	Serous papillary, n=5	
Grade at Diagnosis	NA	Grade I, n=1 Grade III, n=2	3
RD following debulking	<2cm	NA, n=1	4
	NA	2-5cm, n=1 >5cm, n=2	

Note: The matching criteria were relaxed for 2 fields for 2 patients and 3 fields for 1 patient\*. NA, not available; RD, residual disease

\*1 x stage IIB grade III mixed histology carcinoma with RD <2cm matched to stage IIA grade III serous carcinoma with RD <2cm

1 x stage IV unclassified adenocarcinoma of unknown grade and RD <2cm matched to stage IV grade III serous carcinoma with RD <2cm

1 x stage IV unclassified adenocarcinoma of unknown grade and RD not available matched to stage IV grade III serous carcinoma with RD >5cm



**Supplementary Table S2. Cellularity of specimens used for DNA extraction**

Tumour cellularity of macrodissected area	Number of cases
<20%	3 (4.1%)
20-39%	7 (9.5%)
40-59%	9 (12.2%)
60-79%	26 (35.1%)
≥80%	29 (39.2%)

**Supplementary Table S3. Frequency of patients with detrimental mutations in genes sequenced on IDT gene capture NGS panel**

Gene	ILNR OC with mutation	ENR OC with mutation
<i>ABCB1</i>	1	0
<i>ARID1A</i>	1	2
<i>ATM</i>	2	0
<i>ATR</i>	1	0
<i>BRCA1</i>	6	3
<i>BRCA2</i>	3	3
<i>CTNNB1</i>	1	1
<i>FANCC</i>	0	1
<i>KRAS</i>	1	1
<i>MSH2</i>	1	1
<i>NF1</i>	4	1
<i>PIK3CA</i>	2	1
<i>PRKDC</i>	1	0
<i>PTEN</i>	1	1
<i>RB1</i>	3	1
<i>SLX4</i>	0	1
<i>TP53</i>	32	31
Genes with no detected mutations: <i>ATRX, BAP1, BARD1, BCL2L1, BLM, BRAF, BRIP1, C11orf65, CCNE1, CDK12, CHD4, CHEK1, CHEK2, EGFR, EMSY, ERBB2, ERCC4, EZH2, FANCA, FANCB, FANCD2, FANCE, FANCF, FANCG, FANCI, FANCL, FANCM, GNAS, KIT, MAD2L2, MDM2, MLH1, MRE11, MSH6, MUS81, MUTYH, NBN, NDUFB2, NF2, NRAS, PALB2, PARP1, PARP2, PAXIP1, PDGFRA, PER3, PMS2, PPP2R1A, PPP2R2A, RAD50, RAD51, RAD51B, RAD51C, RAD54L, RNASEH2A, RNASEH2B, RNASEH2C, RPA1, RUNDC3B, SHFM1, SLC25A40, SLFN11, TOE1, TP53BP1, UBE2T, VRK2</i>		

OC, ovarian carcinoma

**Supplementary Table S4. Multivariable analysis for OS in ILNR vs ENR in OC**

Factor	Class	N	HR <sup>multi</sup>	Low 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P
Relapse type	ILNR	49	0.51	0.31	0.84	0.008
	ENR	49	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Stage at Diagnosis	Early (I/II)	31	0.41	0.17	1.02	0.055
	III	55	0.45	0.19	1.03	0.060
	IV	10	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
	NA	2	-	-	-	-
Surgical debulking status	RD < 2cm	67	0.60	0.32	1.12	0.109
	RD ≥ 2cm	25	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
	NA	6	-	-	-	-
Age at Diagnosis	Years		1.03	1.00	1.05	0.050

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval.

**Supplementary Table S5. Multivariable analysis of time to ILNR as a predictor of PRS in ILNR OC**

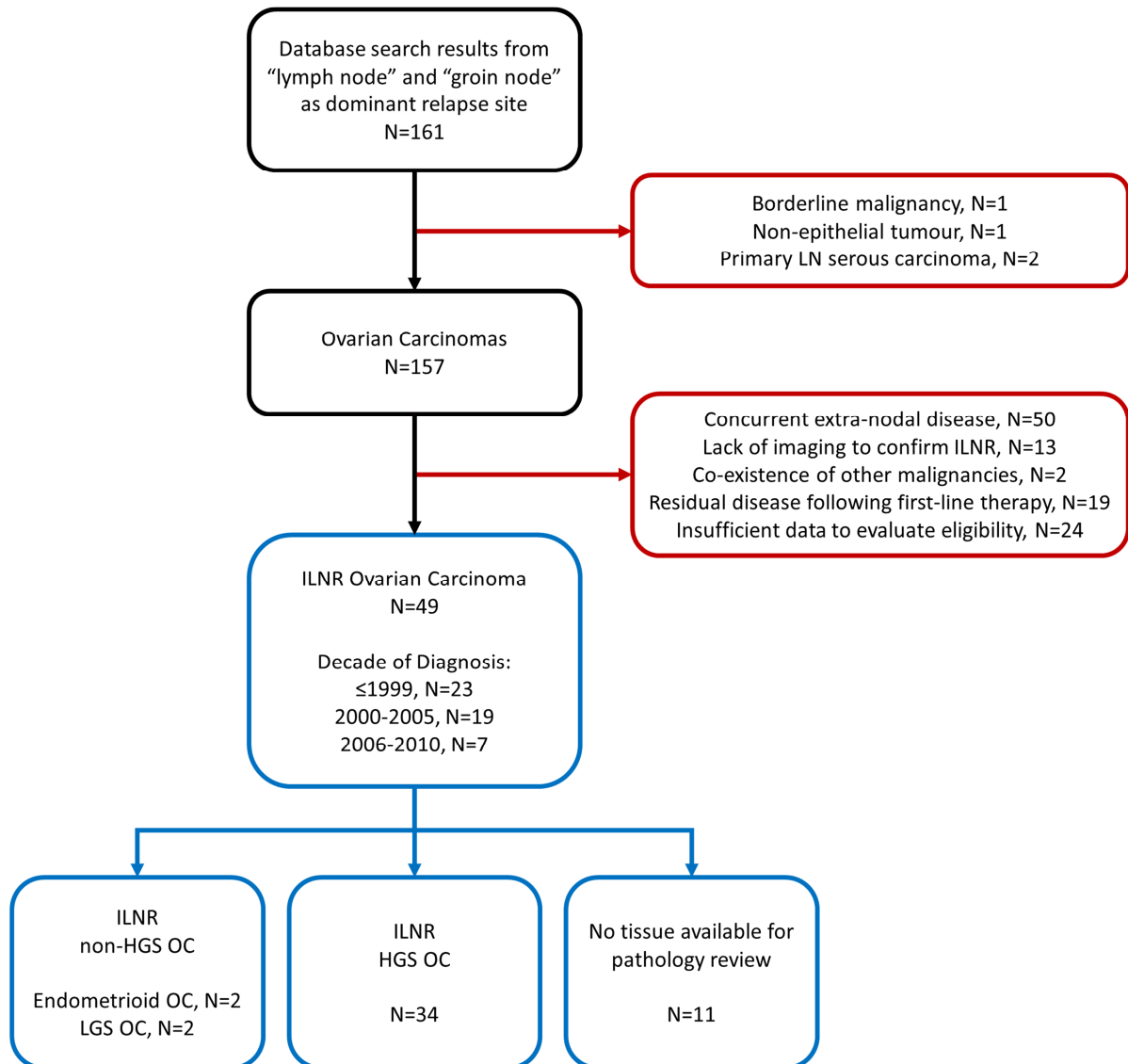
Factor	Class	N	HR <sup>multi</sup>	Low 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P
Relapse type	ILNR	49	0.53	0.33	0.84	0.007
	ENR	49	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
DFI	≥12 months	46	0.47	0.29	0.75	0.006
	<12 months	52	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Age	Years		1.03	1.01	1.06	0.006

HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; DFI, disease-free interval.

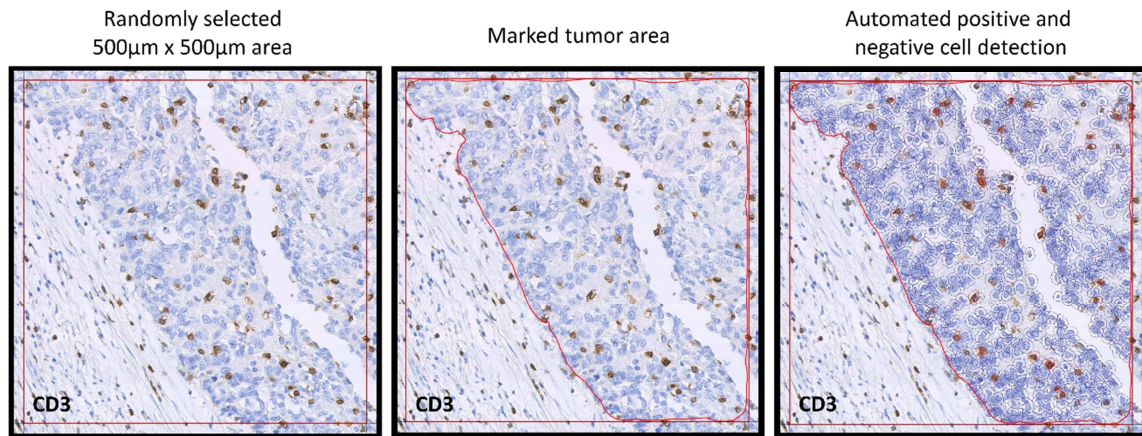
**Supplementary Table S6. Univariable analyses of specific LN site involvement and association with PRS**

Factor	Class	N	HR	Low 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P
Supraclavicular LN involvement	Yes	6	2.52	0.95	6.69	0.064
	No	43	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Pelvic LN involvement	Yes	20	0.73	0.35	1.51	0.393
	No	29	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Inguinal LN involvement	Yes	9	0.72	0.28	1.87	0.502
	No	40	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref
Para-aortic LN involvement	Yes	36	1.10	0.48	2.56	0.818
	No	13	Ref	Ref	Ref	Ref

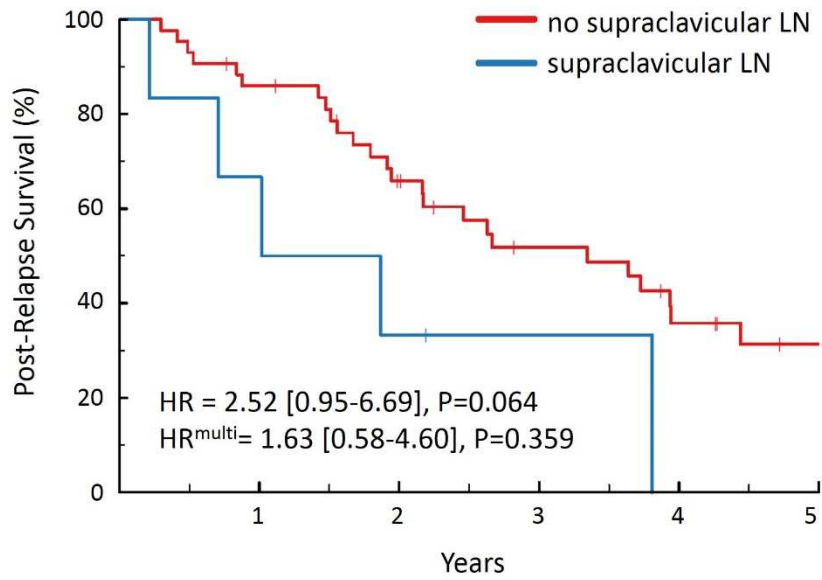
HR, hazard ratio; CI, confidence interval; LN, lymph node



Supplementary Figure S1 ILNR cohort identification from the Edinburgh Ovarian Cancer Database.



Supplementary Figure S2. Automated marker-positive cell quantification by QuPath.



Supplementary Figure S3. PRS of ILNR OC with and without supraclavicular LN involvement