PARP inhibitors are a group of pharmacological inhibitors of the enzyme poly ADP ribose polymerase (PARP). They are developed for multiple indications; the most important is the treatment of cancer.

Several forms of cancer are more dependent on PARP than regular cells, making PARP an attractive target for cancer therapy.

PARP inhibitors appear to improve progression-free survival in women with recurrent platinumsensitive ovarian cancer, as evidenced mainly by olaparib added to conventional treatment.

In addition to their use in cancer therapy, PARP inhibitors are considered a potential treatment for acute life-threatening diseases, such as stroke and myocardial infarction, as well as for long-term neurodegenerative diseases.

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