

Covid-19 deals different fates in the Parp world for Glaxo and Astra

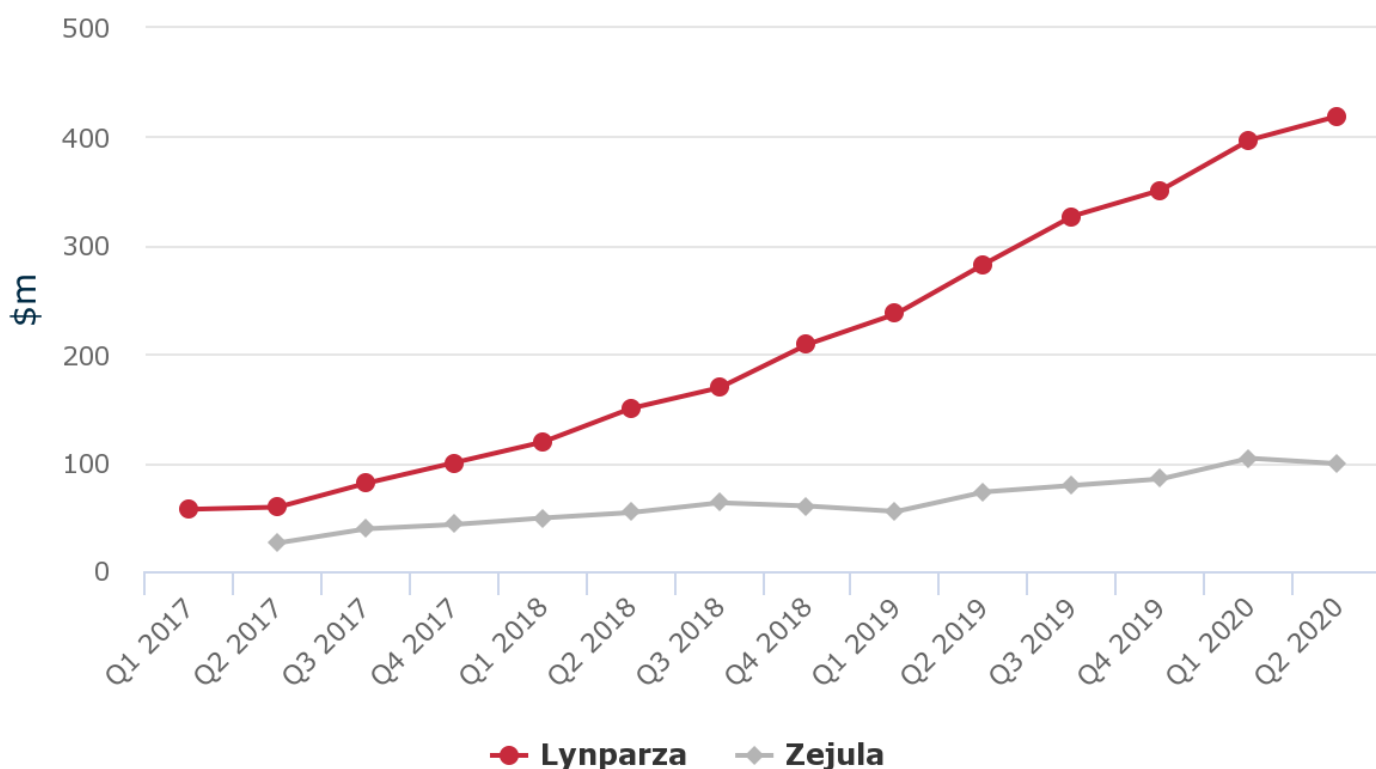


Amy Brown

Concerning news from one of Glaxosmithkline's biggest cancer hopes: second-quarter sales of the Parp inhibitor Zejula dipped 5% versus the previous three months, the company said yesterday. Executives blamed Covid-19, which has caused cancer diagnoses and debulking surgeries to decline. This seems plausible, although these issues did not hit Astrazeneca and Merck & Co's rival Parp inhibitor, Lynparza, which grew 6% quarter on quarter, it was announced today. More worrying is that Glaxo was expecting demand to rise on the back of a recent label expansion that saw Zejula approved in an all-comers, front-line maintenance setting. [This was viewed by analysts as an advantage over Lynparza](#), which is restricted to patients with a specific genetic signal in this use. True, these new approvals only happened in May so it is too early to draw firm conclusions: Glaxo said Zejula's share of first-line Parp sales jumped from 14% in April to 21% in May. It should be remembered that Lynparza is also approved in other tumour types. But Glaxo was always going to struggle to compete against a much bigger product backed by two pharma giants. Zejula's performance in the coming quarters will be scrutinised for further signs of distress.

An uphill battle for Glaxo and Zejula

Quarterly Parp inhibitor sales



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