

# Colon Cancer: Are We Making Progress?

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# **Historic debates on best first-line therapy**

- 1990s:
  - Best modulator of 5-FU? (MTX, IFN, folinic acid...)
  - Infusional vs bolus 5-FU

#### **REVIEW ARTICLE**

#### Fluorouracil in Colorectal Cancer—A Tale of Two Drugs: Implications for Biochemical Modulation

By Alberto F. Sobrero, Carlo Aschele, and Joseph R. Bertino

J Clin Oncol 1997

# **Historic debates on best first-line therapy**

#### • 1990s:

- Best modulator of 5-FU? (MTX, IFN, folinic acid...)
- Infusional vs bolus 5-FU
- Early 2000s:
  - Oxaliplatin vs Irinotecan
- Mid-2000s-2010:
  - Bevacizumab vs Cetuximab/ Panitumumab

## The Luxury of So Many Options . . . How Do We Personalize?



# **Goal of medical therapy in mCRC**

# Finding the right treatment for the right patient at the right time

Individualized therapy in CRC did not start with KRAS



# What influences treatment choices in mCRC?



Therapy tailored according to individual patient needs



**Genomic Markers in CRC** 

Dienstmann. ASCO Ed Book. 2018.

# **Current Treatment Pattern in the US**

- FOLFOX + BEV undisputedly most commonly used first-line therapy in mCRC regardless of sidedness and RAS/ BRAF mutation status
- FOLFIRI + BEV mainly in academic centers
- Use of EGFR mAbs slowly increasing in left-sided RAS/ BRAF wild-type cancers
  - SOC in Europe and elsewhere (rightfully so)
- For BRAF V600E mutated cancers, FOLFOXIRI + BEV recognized as an option, but not commonly used
- In MSI-H/ MMR-D cancers, IO tested in first-line trials but also used in front-line outside of trials
- No HER-2 targeting first-line approaches

# **Treatment Options in First-line**

Regimen	Sidedness restriction	Molecular restriction	Preferred indication
Cape + BEV	None	None	Elderly patients, low-volume disease
FOLFOX/ CAPOX/ FOLFIRI + BEV	None	None	
FOLFOXIRI + BEV	None	None	Aggressive cancers (w.g. BRAF mut, R-sided)
FOLFOX/ FOLFIRI + EGFR mAb	Left-sided*	RAS/ BRAF wt (HER-2 neg?)	SOC left-sided cancers
FOLFOXIRI + EGFR mAb	Left-sided*	RAS/ BRAF wt (HER-2 neg?)	Left-sided cancers with high tumor load
PD-1 antibody/ IO combo	None	MSI-H/ MMR-D	Pts with MSI-H cancers not considered for chemo
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\*ESMO guidelines allow EGFR mAbs in R-sided cancers

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## **AVEX - Study design**



- Key inclusion criteria
  - ECOG PS 0–2
  - Prior adjuvant chemotherapy allowed if completed >6 month before inclusion
  - Not optimal candidates for a combination chemotherapy with irinotecan or oxaliplatin

#### Key exclusion criteria

- Prior chemotherapy for mCRC or prior adjuvant anti-VEGF treatment
- Clinically significant cardiovascular disease
- Current or recent use of aspirin (>325 mg/day) or other NSAID
- Use of full-dose anticoagulants or thrombolytic agents

Cunningham et al, Lancet Oncol 2013

### **AVEX – PFS (Primary Endpoint)**



Cunningham et al, Lancet Oncol 2013

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### **CRYSTAL: FOLFIRI +/- Cetuximab**



Cetuximab + FOLFIRI

FOLFIRI

FOLFIRI



Cetuximab + FOLFIRI 33 



### OS and PFS by Sidedness in PRIME (FOLFOX +/- Pmab)



Boeck, et al. Ann Oncol 2017

# CALGB/SWOG 80405: OS by Tumor Location (*RAS* WT)



\*Adjusted for biologic, protocol CT, prior adjuvant therapy, prior RT, age, sex, synchronous disease, in place primary, liver metastases. Venook A, et al. Presented at: ESMO. 2016.

## **ESMO Guidelines: Sidedness and Tumor Response**

	Category	No. response CT ± bevacizumab	e / No. entered CT + anti-EGFR	Odds Ratio	OR interaction [95% CI]
	FIRE3 - Left	92/149	108/157		0.81 [0.31–2.13] ; <i>P</i> = 0.67
Ba nc M	ased on ot individ ix of firs	publishe dual pat	ed / pres ient dat econd-li	sented re a. ne trials	esults, 0.26 0.67
					0.06
wi	Ith or wi	thout B 82/156	EV		0.06
Wi	PRIME - Left PRIME - Right	82/156 16/46	EV 114/168 16/38		0.06 0.72 [0.29–1.74] ; <i>P</i> = 0.46
Wi	PRIME - Left PRIME - Right 20050181 - Left 20050181 - Right	82/156 16/46 19/144 1/38	EV 114/168 16/38 73/147 4/30		0.06 0.72 [0.29–1.74] ; <i>P</i> = 0.46 0.88 [0.09–8.84] ; <i>P</i> = 0.91 (0.69 [0.46–1.04]; <i>P</i> = 0.07)
W	PRIME - Left PRIME - Right 20050181 - Left 20050181 - Right	thout B 82/156 16/46 19/144 1/38 368/793	EV 114/168 16/38 73/147 4/30 552/840		0.06 0.72 [0.29–1.74] ; <i>P</i> = 0.46 0.88 [0.09–8.84] ; <i>P</i> = 0.91 (0.69 [0.46–1.04]; <i>P</i> = 0.07) [1.77–2.55]; <i>P</i> < 0.001

Between HR interaction heterogeneity: P = 0.77 CT ± bevacizumab better | CT + anti-EGFR better

Arnold et al., Ann Oncol 2017

### The "Perfect" Candidate for First-Line EGFR mAbs

#### **Negative selection (mutually exclusive)**

- KRAS/ NRAS/ HRAS exon 2, 3, 4 wild-type 55%
- No BRAF V600E mutation 8%
- (No HER-2 amplification -2.5%)

#### Further exclusion criteria (not mutually exclusive)

• Right-sided cancers 30%

# **Treatment Options in First-line**

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# **TRIBE-2 Sequencing trial**





### **TRIBE-2 Sequencing trial: Primary EP**

### **TRIBE-2: Second PFS**



## **OS and PFS by Sidedness in TRIBE** (FOLFIRI+ BEV vs FOLFOXIRI + BEV)



Triplet improved outcome (only) in right-sided cancers! Cremolini, et al. Ann Oncol 2018



### **VISNU-1: Study Design**

• Open, multicenter phase III trial in mCRC patients with > 3 CTCs at baseline.



Primary endpoint: efficacy in terms of PFS.

Secondary endpoints: OS; ORR; Resection rate and safety analysis.

Sastre, et al. ASCO 2019



### **PFS by treatment arm**



\* Cox model proportional hazard assumption is not met

Sastre, et al. ASCO 2019

# **VOLFI: Phase II trial design**



\*Amendment in 11/2013 to include all RAS wild-type only. 'Trial started with irinotecan 165 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (n = 2), first amendment to 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (n = 9), and final amendment to 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (n = 52).

Geissler et al., ASCO 2019

#### **VOLFI - Primary endpoint: objective response rate**



Geissler et al., ASCO 2019

# **Best Conversion Therapy**

	Sidedness				
wolecular status	Right (30%)	Left (70%)			
RAS/BRAF wt	FOLFOXIRI +/- BEV	FOLFOX + EGFR mAb			
(35-40%)	(FOLFOX +/- BEV)	(FOLFOXIRI + EGFR mAb)			
RAS mut	FOLFOXIRI +/- BEV	FOLFOXIRI +/- BEV			
(50-55%)	(FOLFOX +/- BEV)	(FOLFOX +/- BEV)			
BRAF V600E mut (8-10%)	FOLFOXIRI + BEV	FOLFOXIRI + BEV			
BRAF non-V600E mut	FOLFOXIRI +/- BEV	FOLFOX + EGFR mAb			
(2%)	(FOLFOX +/- BEV)	(FOLFOXIRI + EGFR mAb)			

# **Treatment Options in First-line**

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#### Mismatch Repair Deficiency (MMR-D): Unique Biological Subgroup of Colon Cancer



#### BEV-containing first-line therapy active in MSI-H mCRC Data from CALGB/ SWOG 80405



80405: mOS Chemo+BEV: 30 mos

Innocenti et al., JCO 2019

#### **MSI-high CRCs are responsive to PD-1 inhibitors**



 \*Lynch Syndrome (yes/no/unknown): MMR-deficient CRC = 54/7/39; MMR-proficient CRC = 0/100/0

1. Le et al. ASCO 2016; 2. Overman et al. ASCO 2016

# **CheckMate-142 Study Design**

• CheckMate-142 is an ongoing, multi-cohort, nonrandomized phase 2 study evaluating the efficacy and safety of nivolumab-based therapies in patients with mCRC (NCT02060188)



<sup>a</sup>Until disease progression or discontinuation in patients receiving study therapy beyond progression, discontinuation due to toxicity, withdrawal of consent, or the study end; <sup>b</sup>Patients with a CR, PR, or SD for ≥12 weeks divided by the number of treated patients; <sup>c</sup>Time from first dose to data cutoff BICR = blinded independent central review

Lenz et al., ESMO 2018



# **Best Reduction in Target Lesions**

• 84% of patients had a reduction in tumor burden from baseline

\*Confirmed response per investigator assessment <sup>a</sup>Evaluable patients per investigator assessment Lenz et al., ESMO 2018

## **Characterization of Response**



- Median time to response was 2.6 months (range, 1.2–13.8 months)
- Responses were durable:
  - Median DOR was not reached
  - 82% of responders had ongoing responses at data cutoff
  - 74% of responders have already had responses lasting ≥6 months
  - Most responders (96%) were alive at data cutoff

Lenz et al., ESMO 2018

<sup>a</sup>Response per investigator assessment

# **Progression-Free and Overall Survival**



<sup>a</sup>Per investigator assessment.

mo = month; NE = not estimable; NR = not reached

Lenz et al., ESMO 2018

### **Evaluation of First-Line IO in MSI-H mCRC is Ongoing**



#### Pls: James Lee, Mike Overman

# Not yet reported first-line phase III IO trial

#### • KEYNOTE-177 (NCT02563002)

- Pembrolizumab (200 mg IV q3w) vs SOC choice (FOLFOX or FOLFIRI +/- BEV or cetuximab)
- 308 patients in 21 countries
- Co-primary EP: PFS and OS
- Accrual completed, results expected later this year (?)

# Preclinical evidence demonstrates anti-tumor activity of Regorafenib in combination with I/O

Antitumor activity of regorafenib and anti–PD-1 alone and in combination in a syngeneic murine MC38 CRC MSI model



\*P <.05, \*\*P <.01, \*\*\*P <.001, \*\*\*\*P <.0001.

IP, intraperitoneally; PO, orally; Q3D every third day; QD, once daily; SEM, standard error of mean. For simplicity, the statistical analysis on Day 21 only is shown. Hoff S. et al. ESMO 2017. Poster 1198.

# **REGONIVO:** A phase 1/2 study of regorafenib plus nivolumab in advanced gastric cancer and CRC (EPOC1603/NCT03406871)



# **REGONIVO: All patients, except one with CRC, were MSS, and 56% had liver metastasis**

Characteristics	Total (N=50)	Dose escalation (n=14)	Dose expansion (n=36)
Median age, years (range)	60.5 (31–80)	60.5 (31–77)	60.5 (41–80)
Male sex, n (%)	40 (80)	12 (86)	28 (78)
ECOG PS 0, n (%)	49 (98)	14 (100)	35 (97)
Cancer type, n (%) Gastric cancer Colorectal cancer	25 (50) 25 (50)	9 (64) 5 (36)	16 (44) 20 (56)
Site of metastases, n (%) Lymph node Liver Lung Peritoneum	35 (70) 28 (56) 22 (44) 10 (18)	12 (85) 10 (71) 5 (36) 0	23 (64) 18 (50) 17 (47) 10 (28)
Number of prior regimens, median (range) Angiogenesis inhibitors, n (%) Anti-PD-1/PD-L1, n (%)	3 (2–8) 48 (96) 7 (14)	3 (2–8) 13 (93) 4 (29)	3 (2–8) 35 (97) 3 (9)
HER2-positive in gastric cancer, n (%)	6 (24)	2 (22)	4 (25)
MSI status, n (%) MSI-H MSS	1 (2) 49 (98)	1 (7) 13 (93)	0 36 (100)
PD-L1 CPS, n (%) Positive (CPS ≥1) Negative (CPS <1)	18 (41)* 26 (59)*	3 (25)* 9 (75)*	15 (47)* 17 (53)*

\*Percentage among evaluable patients. Fukuoka S, et al. ASCO 2019:Poster 2522.

# **REGONIVO: Grade ≥3 treatment-related adverse events** occurred in 40% of patients

Treatment-related AEs (≥10%),	All Regorat (N=50)		Regorafenil (n=	Regorafenib 80 mg/day Regorafenib 1 (n=22) (n=2		120 mg/day Regorafenib 160 mg/day 25) (n=3)		160 mg/day =3)
11 (70)	All grades	Grade ≥3	All grades	Grade ≥3	All grades	Grade ≥3	All grades	Grade ≥3
All events	50 (100)	20 (40)	22 (100)	6 (27)	25 (100)	11 (44)	3 (100)	3 (100)
Palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia	35 (70)	5 (10)	13 (59)	0 (0)	20 (80)	5 (20)	2 (67)	0
Hypertension	24 (48)	2 (4)	10 (46)	2 (9)	14 (56)	0	0	0
Fatigue	23 (46)	0	10 (46)	0	12 (48)	0	1 (33)	0
Rash	21 (42)	6 (12)	8 (36)	0	11 (44)	5 (20)	2 (66)	1 (33)
Fever	20 (40)	0	8 (36)	0	11 (44)	0	1 (33)	0
Proteinuria	15 (30)	6 (12)	5 (23)	2 (9)	8 (32)	3 (12)	2 (67)	1 (33)
Liver dysfunction	14 (28)	3 (6)	5 (23)	2 (9)	8 (32)	1 (4)	1 (33)	0
Oral mucositis	11 (22)	0	3 (14)	0	6 (24)	0	2 (67)	0
Diarrhea	11 (22)	1 (2)	5 (23)	0	4 (16)	1 (4)	2 (67)	0
Decreased appetite	11 (22)	0	6 (27)	0	5 (20)	0	0	0
Hyperthyroidism	6 (12)	0	4 (18)	0	2 (8)	0	0	0
Hypothyroidism	6 (12)	0	4 (18)	0	2 (8)	0	0	0
Hoarseness	5 (10)	0	4 (18)	0	1 (4)	0	0	0
Platelet count decreased	5 (10)	1 (2)	0	0	4 (16)	1 (4)	1 (33)	0

One treatment-related death was observed due to diabetic ketoacidosis. Fukuoka S, et al. ASCO 2019:Poster 2522.

# **REGONIVO:** Median duration of treatment was 6.1 months, with study treatment ongoing in 21 patients



#### **REGONIVO: The overall ORR was 40% and DCR was 88%**



Fukuoka S, et al. ASCO 2019:Poster 2522.

#### **REGONIVO: The ORR was 36% in CRC and 44% in gastric cancer**



# **REGONIVO:** The majority of patients experienced PR and SD, with a DCR of 88%



# **REGONIVO: Median PFS was 6.3 and 5.8 months in CRC and gastric cancer, respectively**



• Median follow-up: 8.0 months; date cut-off: April 23, 2019

# **REGONIVO:** Patients with objective response showed a trend of Treg decrease in TILs

Pre-and post-treatment biopsied samples in 9 patients were analyzed using flow cytometry

CD45RA

#### Fraction of Tregs within TILs



PR cases showed decrease in CD45RA<sup>-</sup>FoxP3<sup>hi</sup> effector Tregs

Fukuoka S, et al. ASCO 2019:Poster 2522.



CD45RA<sup>-</sup>FoxP3<sup>hi</sup> effector Tregs increased at PD state after NIVO, then decreased after REGO + NIVO

67-year-old male with HER2-negative gastric cancer Disease progression after nivolumab monotherapy

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# **BEACON CRC:**

A Randomized, 3-Arm, Phase 3 Study of Encorafenib and Cetuximab With or Without Binimetinib vs. Choice of Either Irinotecan or FOLFIRI, plus Cetuximab in *BRAF* V600E Mutant Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

Scott Kopetz, Axel Grothey, Eric Van Cutsem, Rona Yaeger, Harpreet Wasan, Takayuki Yoshino, Jayesh Desai, Fortunato Ciardiello, Fotios Loupakis, Yong Sang Hong, Neeltje Steeghs, Tormod Kyrre Guren, Hendrik-Tobias Arkenau, Pilar Garcia-Alfonso, Ashwin Gollerkeri, Kati Maharry, Janna Christy-Bittel, Lisa Anderson, Victor Sandor and Josep Tabernero

BEACON CRC: <u>B</u>inimetinib, <u>E</u>ncorafenib, <u>A</u>nd <u>C</u>etuximab C<u>O</u>mbi<u>N</u>ed to Treat BRAF-mutant <u>C</u>olo<u>R</u>ectal <u>C</u>ancer

### **Final Study Design**

## Results of Safety Lead-In led to the introduction of an additional primary endpoint of ORR and an interim OS analysis to allow for early assessment

Patients with *BRAF* V600E–mutant mCRC with disease progression after 1 or 2 prior regimens; ECOG PS of 0 or 1; and no prior treatment with any RAF inhibitor, MEK inhibitor, or EGFR inhibitor



Secondary Endpoints: Doublet vs Control OS & ORR, PFS, Safety

Randomization was stratified by ECOG PS (0 vs. 1), prior use of irinotecan (yes vs. no), and cetuximab source (US-licensed vs. EU-approved).

#### **Baseline Patient Characteristics**

CHARACTERISTIC	Triplet N=224	Doublet N=220	Control N=221
Female	53%	48%	57%
Age, median (range), years	62 (26, 85)	61 (30, 91)	60 (27, 91)
ECOG PS 0	52%	51%	49%
Location of primary tumor*			
Left colon (includes rectum)	35%	38%	31%
Right colon	56%	50%	54%
≥3 organs involved	49%	47%	44%
Presence of liver metastases	64%	61%	58%
Prior lines of therapy			
1	65%	66%	66%
>1	35%	34%	34%
MSI-H <sup>†</sup>	10%	9%	5%
CEA Baseline Value > 5 ug/L	80%	70%	81%
CRP Baseline Value > 10mg/L	42%	37%	41%

Abbreviations: CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; CRP, c-reactive protein; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Performance Status; MSI-H, microsatellite instability high (abnormal high).

Baseline characteristics are summarized for all 665 randomized patients. †Based on assessment by polymerase chain reaction. MSI status is missing in 23% of patients.

\*Remaining patients had primary tumor in both left and right sides of colon and those with unknown location of primary tumor.

#### **1º Endpoint Overall Survival: Triplet vs Control** (all randomized patients)



#### **Overall Survival: Subgroup Analysis** (all randomized patients)

Subgroup	No. (	of Events/Patient	s	Hazard Ratio (95%CI)
All patients		204/445		0.52 (0.39, 0.70)
ECOG	PS=0 PS=1	85/227 119/218		0.63 (0.41, 0.96) 0.48 (0.33, 0.70)
Prior Irinotecan	No Yes	99/219 105/226		0.53 (0.35, 0.79) 0.55 (0.37, 0.80)
Number of Prior Regimens for Metastatic Disease	1 2+	123/291 81/154		0.54 (0.38, 0.77) 0.53 (0.34, 0.82)
Age	<65 ≥65	130/290 74/155		0.58 (0.41, 0.82) 0.48 (0.30, 0.76)
Gender	Male Female	100/199 104/246		0.53 (0.36, 0.79) 0.54 (0.36, 0.80)
Number of Organs Involved	≤2 3+	104/237 100/208		0.54 (0.37, 0.80) 0.50 (0.34, 0.75)
MSI Status	Abnormal High Normal	18/34 140/200		0.67 (0.26, 1.76) 0.44 (0.31, 0.62)
Baseline CEA	> Upper Limit of Normal ≤ Upper Limit of Normal	180/257 23/87		0.54 (0.40, 0.72) 0.42 (0.18, 0.99)
Baseline CRP	> Upper Limit of Normal ≤ Upper Limit of Normal	114/183 83/247		0.63 (0.43, 0.91) 0.46 (0.29, 0.71)
Side of Tumor	Left Colon Right Colon	53/147 117/245		0.43 (0.26, 0.72) 0.63 (0.44, 0.90)
			0.1 0.2 0.5 1.0	2.0
			Inplet Better	Control Detter

Study not powered to formally compare subgroup results.

#### **Overall Survival: Doublet vs Control** (all randomized patients)



### **Overall Survival: Triplet vs Doublet**

Study not powered to formally compare the results of the triplet combination to the doublet combination



\*Post-hoc descriptive analysis.

Additional OS analysis to be presented at a later date

#### **Objective Response Rate** (first 331 randomized patients)

Confirmed Response by BICR	Triplet N=111	Doublet N=113	Control N=107
Objective Response Rate	26%	20%	2%
95% (CI)	(18, 35)	(13, 29)	(<1, 7)
p-value vs. Control	<0.0001	<0.0001	
Objective Response Rate			
1 prior line of therapy	34%	22%	2%
>1 prior line of therapy	14%	16%	2%
Best Overall Response			
Complete Response	4%	5%	0
Partial Response	23%	15%	2%
Stable Disease	42%	54%	29%
Progressive Disease	10%	7%	34%
Non Evaluable by RECIST	22%	19%	36%
Clinical progression or adverse event <sup>a</sup>	14%	17%	16%
Insufficient information to assess response <sup>b</sup>	8%	2%	20%

BICR=blinded independent central review.

a. Includes patients considered not evaluable by central assessment with clinical progression or radiological progression by local assessment or discontinuation due to adverse event.

b. Includes patients who were untreated, withdrew consent, had stable disease < 42 days, had no baseline scans, or had no post-baseline scans without evidence of clinical progression or adverse event as the reason for missing scans.

#### Waterfall Plots of Best Change in Sum of Diameters (based on central review)



\*Patients whose SoD was contraindicated by assessment of PD. SoD=sum of longest diameter. Includes patients with measurable disease with a baseline and at least one post-baseline scan

#### Waterfall Plots of Best Change in Sum of Diameters (first 331 randomized patients)



\*Patients whose SoD was contraindicated by assessment of PD. SoD=sum of longest diameter. p-value is descriptive only for this analysis. Comparison of the two waterfall plots is suggestive of a shift towards greater tumor reduction from baseline in the Triplet.

Kopetz et al, ESMO GI 2019

#### **Progression Free Survival** (all randomized patients)\*



\*PFS by BICR (blinded independent central review).

#### **Adverse Events and Laboratory Abnormalities\***

Event	Triplet N=222	Doublet N=216	Control N=193
	Grade ≥3	Grade ≥3	Grade ≥3
Diarrhea	10%	2%	10%
Abdominal pain	6%	2%	5%
Nausea	5%	<1%	1%
Vomiting	4%	1%	3%
Pulmonary embolism	4%	1%	4%
Intestinal obstruction	3%	4%	3%
Asthenia	3%	3%	5%
Acute kidney injury	3%	2%	<1%
Fatigue	2%	4%	4%
Dermatitis acneiform	2%	<1%	3%
lleus	2%	1%	2%
Urinary tract infection	1%	2%	1%
Cancer pain	<1%	2%	<1%
Laboratory Abnormality	Grade ≥3	Grade ≥3	Grade ≥3
Hemoglobin (g/L), hypo	10%	5%	4%
Creatinine (umol/L), hyper	4%	2%	1%
Bilirubin (umol/L), hyper	2%	2%	3%
Creatine Kinase (IU/L), hyper	2%	0	0

### **Conclusions**

- BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mutant metastatic colorectal cancer has historically dismal outcomes
- Encorafenib, binimetinib and cetuximab (triplet), and encorafenib and cetuximab (doublet), significantly improved OS and ORR relative to the current standard of care (control) in patients with BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mutant metastatic CRC
  - The control arm results were consistent with previous reported studies
  - Results suggest increased efficacy in earlier lines of therapy
- The safety and tolerability profile of both combinations allow maintenance of high dose intensity for most patients and are consistent with the known profiles of the component agents
- Data suggest that the triplet combination offers improved efficacy relative to the doublet with the addition of some manageable toxicity

First evidence of survival benefit for a chemotherapy-free targeted treatment regimen in prospective biomarker-defined patients with metastatic CRC, defining a new standard of care

## **ANCHOR: Single Arm Phase II Study of** *First-line* **Encorafenib + Binimetinib + Cetuximab**

#### **CLINICAL STUDY PROTOCOL**

The ANCHOR CRC Study : encorAfenib, biNimetinib and Cetuximab in subjects witH previOusly untreated BRAF-mutant ColoRectal Cancer

Phase II, open-label, single arm, multicenter study of encorafenib, binimetinib plus cetuximab in subjects with previously untreated *BRAF* V<sup>600E</sup> -mutant Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

N = 90, Primary Endpoint: ORR (Goal > 41%)

NCT03693170.

Grothey et al., TIP ESMO GI 2019

# **Tropomyosin Receptor Kinase (TRK): Role in Normal Biology and Cancer**

- TRK receptors<sup>[1]</sup>:
  - In normal biology, expressed in neuronal tissue; roles in development, nervous system function via activation by neurotrophins
  - Rarely expressed in normal

- TRK fusions<sup>[1]</sup>:
  - Rearrangement of NTRK gene couples tyrosine kinase domain with a 5' fusion partner to generate a chimeric TRK protein lacking ligand binding domain
  - Leads to overexpression or constitutive activation of TRK receptor kinase domain



1. Amatu A, et al. ESMO Open. 2016;1:e000023. 2. Loewenthal N, et al. Pediatr Res. 2005;57:587-590.

3. Razzoli M, et al. Genes Brain Behav. 2011;10:424-433. 4. Inoue K, et al. Blood Cells Mol Dis. 2003;30:157-160.

5. Hyman DM, et al. ASCO 2017. Abstract LBA2501.

#### **Tropomyosin Receptor Kinase (TRK) Fusions Observed Across Diverse Cancer Types in Both Adults and Children**



# **Multiple TRK Inhibitors in Advanced Stages of Development**

Target(s)	Agent
TRK-specific inhibitors	Larotrectinib – FDA approved Nov 2018 LOXO-195 PLX7486*
TRK/ALK/ROS1-specific inhibitors	Entrectinib – FDA Breakthrough Designation TPX-0005 DS-6051b
Nonspecific TKIs that may also cover TRK	Cabozantinib <sup>+</sup> Sitravatinib (MGCD516) Merestinib (LY2801653)

\*Also selectively inhibits colony-stimulating factor-1 receptor.

<sup>+</sup>Approved by FDA for advanced RCC (in tablet form) or for progressive, metastatic medullary thyroid cancer (in capsule form).

Khotskaya YB, et al. Pharmacol Ther. 2017;173:58-66. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT03215511. NCT01804530. NCT03093116. NCT02279433. NCT02219711.





# **Conclusions**

- Individualization of first-line chemotherapy plus biologics is warranted based on mutational status, sidedness, treatment goals, prognosis, patient disposition
  - Triplet chemotherapy approaches (+/- biologics) are likely underutilized
- Targeted agents, beyond EGFRi and VEGFi, are moving into first-line therapy
  - IO and IO combos for MSI-H/ MMR-D cancers
  - Combination of MAPK inhibitors in BRAF V600E mutated mCRC
  - NTRK inhibitors for mCRC with NTRK fusion (<0.5%)
  - Potentially HER-2 targeted agents (no trials in first-line yet)