

Aflibercept in the 2nd-/3rd-line therapy of the colorectal carcinoma

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Purpose:

Aflibercept in combination with FOLFIRI is approved for patients with a metastatic colorectal carcinoma that had progressed during or after an oxaliplatin-based regimen. In a phase III study (Van Cutsem et al.), 612 patients received FOLFIRI + aflibercept. The median age was 61 years, the duration of therapy was 150 days. The combination therapy was significantly superior to an exclusive FOLFIRI therapy (objective remission rate 19.8%, progression-free survival 6.9, overall survival 13.5 months).

Methods:

Since 2003, 125 oncology practices nationwide have been documenting 9,965 disease histories of patients with a colorectal carcinoma (CRC) as part of the Project team of Internal Oncology (PIO). 9,477 cases thereof with a total of 21,710 therapies were analysed in the registry ONCOReg. 6,197 patients received 15,763 palliative therapies, of them, 338 patients received aflibercept; 283 (83.7%) FOLFIRI + aflibercept.

Results:

120 (35.5%) patients received aflibercept in 2nd, 102 (30.2%) patients in 3rd line. The age at the start of therapy was 66 years.

The objective remission rate is 13.5% for the 2nd line and 5.4% for the 3rd line therapy. The disease was brought to a standstill for 38.5% and 36.4%, and progression had to be noticed for 33.7% and 44.1%, respectively.

The median progression-free survival is at 6.2 and 4.9 months respectively, the overall survival at 13.0 and 9.3 months, respectively.

Conclusions:

Under 2nd line therapy with aflibercept, patients reach comparable survival rates in clinical practice as in the registration trial. If aflibercept is used only in 3rd line therapy, the remission rate, the progression-free survival, and the overall survival are significantly lower.

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