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## **Management of Newly Diagnosed CRC**

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What are the alternatives and barriers to FOLFOX+B? How are biomarkers being integrated into 1<sup>st</sup> line? What are the implications of combination targeted + cytotoxic therapies?

## MD Anderson TRIBE2: FOLFOXIRI+Bevacizumab vs FOLFOX+B>FOLFIRI+B





### FOLFOXIRI+Bevacizumab Provides Survival Benefit

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**Progression Free Survival 2** 



**Overall Survival** 

Take away: Triplet cytotoxics can be used in selective patients, esp RAS mutated and/or Right<br/>sided tumors. But not a required approach.Cremolini et al Lancet Oncol '20

# CALGB/SWOG 80405: Bevacizumab vs Cetuximab in First-line KRAS WT mCRC



#### • Primary endpoint: OS

- Superiority trial with 90% power to detect an OS HR of 1.25 (2-sided  $\alpha$ =0.05)
- Secondary endpoints: ORR, PFS, TTF, DOR, and safety



## ... but also predictive for EGFR inhibition.

Loree, et al CCR, 2018

# 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.

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



Take Away: Left sided tumors have better prognosis and benefit from cetuximab more than bevacizumab

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



Take Away: Right sided tumors have better prognosis and benefit from bevacizumab

## PARADIGM TRIAL DESIGN

Phase 3, randomized, open-label, multicenter study (NCT02394795)



#### **Stratification factors**

- Institution
- Age: 20–64 vs 65–79 years
- Liver metastases: present vs absent

mCRC, metastatic colorectal cancer; WT, wild type; Mono, monotherapy; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression free survival; RR, response rate; DOR; duration of response; R0, curative resection; ETS, early tumor shrinkage; DCR, disease control rate.

<sup>a</sup>Adjuvant fluoropyrimidine monotherapy allowed if completed >6 months before enrollment. <sup>b</sup>Until disease progression, unacceptable toxicity, withdrawal of consent or investigator's judgement or curative intent resection. <sup>c</sup>Primary tumor in descending colon, sigmoid colon, rectosigmoid, and rectum.

#### Watanabe J et al. JAMA 2023

## MD Anderson First Prospective Phase III of L-sided RAS WT mCRC: FOLFOX + bevacizumab or panitumumab (PARADIGM)

Primary Endpoint-1; Overall Survival in Left-sided Population



Take Away: Prospective confirmation that EGFRi is better than VEGFi for left-sided, RAS wt pts.

Watanabe et al JAMA '23

## Microsatellite Instability High: PD1 + CTLA4 Blockade

• CheckMate 8HW is a randomized, multicenter, open-label phase 3 study<sup>a</sup>



#### • At data cutoff (August 28, 2024), the median follow-up<sup>f</sup> was 47.0 months (range, 16.7-60.5)

<sup>a</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT04008030. <sup>b</sup>Patients with  $\geq$  2 prior lines are randomized only to the NIVO or NIVO + IPI arms. <sup>c</sup>Patients receiving investigator's choice of chemo are eligible to receive NIVO + IPI upon progression (crossover treatment). <sup>d</sup>Confirmed using either IHC and/or polymerase chain reaction-based tests. <sup>e</sup>Evaluated using RECIST v1.1. <sup>f</sup>Time between randomization and data cutoff among all randomized patients across all 3 treatment arms.

Andre et al GI ASCO '25 Abstract number LBA143; Andre TA, et al. Lancet. 2025;405:383-395.

#### CheckMate 8HW

## Progression-free survival favors the doublet of PD1/CTLA4



• NIVO + IPI demonstrated statistically significant and clinically meaningful PFS benefit vs NIVO in patients with centrally confirmed MSI-H/dMMR mCRC across all lines of therapy

- PFS benefit with NIVO + IPI vs NIVO was consistent in all randomized patients (median PFS: 54.1 vs 18.4 months; HR, 0.64 [95% CI, 0.52-0.79])

<sup>a</sup>Per BICR. <sup>b</sup>Boundary for statistical significance, p < 0.0095.

Andre et al GI ASCO '25 Abstract number LBA143; Andre TA, et al. Lancet. 2025;405:383-395.

### **BREAKWATER**: First-line Encorafenib + Cetuximab ± Chemotherapy Versus SOC in Patients With BRAF V600E–Mutant mCRC

Cohort 1

(n=30)

Encorafenib + cetuximab

FOLFIRI

Safety Lead-In

#### **Key Eligibility Criteria** (N=930)

Patients aged ≥16 (phase 3)

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- · Measurable, histologically or cytologically confirmed CRC adenocarcinoma (phase 3)
- Presence of metastatic disease
- BRAF V600E mutation present in tumor tissue or blood
- No dMMR/MSI-H disease
- Participants who received ≤1 (safety lead-in) or no (phase 3) prior systemic regimens for metastatic disease; No previous treatment with BRAFi or EGFRi
- ECOG PS of 0 or 1



Patients who have received

up to one prior treatment regimen for mCRC

#### **Primary Endpoints**

- Safety lead-in: Incidence of doselimiting toxicities
- Phase 3: PFS by BICR of Arm A vs Arm C and Arm B vs Arm C

#### NCT04607421

A multicenter, open-label, randomized, interventional study to determine the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of encorafenib + cetuximab with or without chemotherapy versus standard of care chemotherapy in patients with previously untreated BRAF V600E-mutant mCRC. Prior to the phase 3 portion, a safety lead-in will be conducted to evaluate the safety/tolerability and PK of encorafenib + cetuximab in combination with either mFOLFOX6 or FOLFIRI

Cohort 2

(n=30)

Encorafenib + cetuximab

Importante

1. ClinicalTrials.gov https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04607421. Accessed October 29, 2020...

## **Overall Survival EC+FOLFOX vs SOC**



Data cutoff: December 22, 2023.

<sup>a</sup>OS was tested following the prespecified plan with one-sided alpha of 0.000000083, calculated as a portion of the nominal one-sided alpha of 0.001. Statistical significance was not achieved at this time.

EC, encorafenib plus cetuximab; mFOLFOX6, modified fluorouracil/leucovorin/oxaliplatin; NE, not estimable; SOC, standard of care.

#GI25



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Kopetz S, et al. Nature Med. JAN 2025.



## MOUNTAINEER-03: Global, Randomised, Open-Label, Phase 3 Trial



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### AtezoTRIBE study in 1<sup>st</sup> line MSS mCRC



Subgroup analysis based on Immunoscore Immune-Checkpoint (IIC) status (high [IIClow: low density and proximity of CD8 and PD-L1 cells] vs low)

Immunoscore IIC: PD-L1 expression + CD8 cell densities + proximity analysis Ghiringhelli F et al. EBioMedicine 2023

Antoniotti C et al. J Clin Oncol 2024

## Barriers to uptake of alternatives to FOLFOX + B

Molecular testing is not routinely available in the US in a timely manner

• Medical oncology services are administered in a different health care system than diagnostic tissue collection in 70% of US patients

Toxicity vs benefit discussions differ in US and ROW

• Skin rash tolerance and perception of FOLFOXIRI risks

Applicability of non-US studies are also raised as practice drivers (?)

FOLFIRI has advantages; due to historic reasons, have had little change in use

#### Practice change in this space remains a challenge but data supports it



What are key treatment options to review for later line therapy?

Molecularly defined subsets of KRAS, HER2 All-comer therapies

# Adagrasib + Cetuximab for KRAS<sup>G12C</sup> CRC

#### **KRYSTAL-1 Study**



**Take Away**: Rationale for EGRFi + KRASi is the same as for BRAF tumors.... Adaptive resistance.

Kopetz et al AACR '24, Yaeger et al Can Disc '24

## Adagrasib + Cetuximab: Accelerated Approval



- Confirmed objective response rate was 34.0%<sup>a</sup>
- Disease control was observed in 80/94 patients (85.1%)

Median PFS was 6.9 months (95% Cl, 5.7–7.4)

**Take Away**: Adagrasib + Cetuximab is FDA approved for 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> line mCRC with KRAS G12C Similar data supported more recent approval for sotorasib + panitumumab

Kopetz et al AACR '24, Yaeger et al Can Disc '24

# Trastuzumab + Tucatinib – HER2:



Take Away: T+T is FDA approved for RAS wild type, HER2 amplified patients

Stickler et al. Lancet Oncology 2023

# Trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-dx): Topoisomerase payload with HER2 antibody



## **DESTINY-CRC01 Study Design**

An open-label, multicenter, phase 2 study (NCT03384940)



# Trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) in HER2 3+, or 2+ with ISH amplification



Take Away: Approved for all HER2 amplified solid tumors (including CRC)

Yoshino et al Lancet Onc 2021

# AEs of Special Interest: Interstitial Lung Disease

All Patients (N=86)	n (%)
Grade 1	0
Grade 2	4 (4.7)
Grade 3	1 (1.2)
Grade 4	0
Grade 5	3 (3.5)ª
Any Grade/Total	8 (9.3) <sup>b,c</sup>

#### Adjudicated drug-related ILDs:

- Median time to adjudicated onset was 61.0 days (range, 9-165 days)
- 8 of 8 patients received corticosteroids
- 4 patients with grade 2 recovered and 1 patient with grade 3 did not recover (later died due to disease progression)
- Median time from adjudicated onset date to initiation of steroid treatment in the 8 ILD cases was 3.5 days, (range 0-50)

#### Grade 5 ILDs:

 In the 3 fatal cases adjudicated as drug-related ILD, onset was from 9 days to 120 days (median: 22 days); and death occurred 6-19 days after diagnosis (median: 6 days)

Updated ILD/pneumonitis guidelines recommend to monitor for symptoms, interrupt or discontinue T-DXd, conduct imaging (as clinically indicated), and start steroids as soon as ILD is suspected.

# SUNLIGHT study of TAS102 +/- Bevacizumab



\* Prior treatment must have included a fluoropyrimidine, irinotecan, oxaliplatin, an anti-VEGF monoclonal antibody (not necessarily bevacizumab), and/or an anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody for patients with RAS wild-type and could have included (neo)adjuvant therapy. BID, twice daily: DCR, disease had recurred during treatment or within 6 months of the last administration of (neo)adjuvant therapy. BID, twice daily: DCR, disease control rate; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EFGR, epidermal growth factor receptor; FTD/TPI, trifluridine/tipiracii; HR, hazard ratio; IV, intravenous; mCRC, metastatic colorectal cancer; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; p.o., orally; QoL, quality of life; R, randomization; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor.

Prager et al NEJM '23

#### Take Away: Bevacizumab beyond progression works in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> line

# **SUNLIGHT Study: TAS102 + Bev**



Take Away: Bevacizumab + TAS102 meaningfully improved PFS and OS and is considered the preferred regimen

Prager GW, et al.<sup>1</sup> N Engl J Med. 2023;388:1657-1667.

# Fruquitinib, VEGFR TKI, improves OS



Take Away: Fruquitinib is FDA approved for 3+ line patients

Dasari A, et al. Lancet. 2023;402:41-53.

## **Conclusions:** Therapy for advanced mCRC

- Multiple treatment options available, with heterogeneous treatment patterns
- Biomarkers being integrated, with logistic difficulties
- Active area of development for clinical development
- Rationale exists for combination therapy to constrain mechanisms of resistance More to come on this!

# **Thank You!**