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Capecitabine and Oxaliplatin (CAPOX) Plus Cetuximab in Patients With Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma Who Progressed After Oxaliplatin-Based Chemotherapy

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Purpose: This phase II study was undertaken to define the safety and efficacy of cetuximab in combination with CAPOX in the treatment of patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) progressing after oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy.

Patients and Methods: Forty-five patients with mCRC received cetuximab (loading dose, 400 mg/m² on day 1, then 250 mg/m² weekly intravenously [IV]) and oxaliplatin 85 mg/m² IV on days 1 and 22. Capecitabine 1,000 mg/m² was administered on days 1 to 14 until disease progression or unaccepted toxicity occurred.

Results: The partial response rate was 20.5%, and 27% of patients had stable disease. Median time to tumor progression was 4 months. Median survival was 10.4 months with a 1-year survival rate of 54.5%. The most common treatment-related grade 3/4 toxicities included leukopenia/neutropenia in five patients, diarrhea in three patients, and grade 2 neurotoxicity in 23% of patients.

Conclusion: The combination of cetuximab plus CAPOX can be administered safely and has promising antitumor activity in patients with mCRC refractory to oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy.