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Combination of cetuximab and irinotecan in treatment of metastatic colorectal carcinoma. Slovak experience.

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POSTER

Purpose: Cetuximab is an EGFR-targeting IgG1 monoclonal antibody that is active against EGFR-expressing metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) refractory to irinotecan (mCRC). Here, we report efficacy and toxicity of combination of cetuximab and irinotecan (C + I) in patients (pts) with mCRC treated in 4 major cancer centers in Slovakia from 2003 to 2007.

Patients and Methods: One hundred and one consecutive pts (60F/41M) with EGFR expressing

mCRC pretreated with irinotecan (94 %) and oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy (38 %) were evaluated. Median age was 60 years (29 – 80), ECOG PS 1 (0 – 3). C + I was administered to 35 pts in second-line, 44 pts in third-line and 22 pts in forth-line treatment. The treatment schedule consisted of irinotecan 100 – 125 mg/m² (weekly x 4, every 6 weeks) and cetuximab 400 mg/m² (first dose) and than 250 mg/m² weekly.

Results: Median number of 3 cycles (range: 1 – 17) were administered. Relative dose intensity of cetuximab was 96 % (50 – 118 %). Two pts achieved

complete remission, 14 pts partial remission and 37 pts disease stabilization for more than 6 months. Median time to treatment failure was 4,4 months (95 % CI, 3,5 to 5,9 months), median overall survival was 9,6 months (95 % CI, 7,9 – 11,4 months). There was no significant difference in treatment results in 2nd,3rd and 4th-line therapy. The main Gr3–4 toxicity was skin rash and diarrhea observed in 29 pts and 16 pts.

Conclusion: Our experience confirm the efficacy and acceptable toxicity of irinotecan and cetuximab in pretreated mCRC.