



The Royal College of Pathologists

NICE HTA - Bevacizumab and cetuximab for the treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer

Comments on the Appraisal Consultation Document and Evaluation Report

I have read through the NICE Appraisal Consultation Document on use of Bevacizumab and Cetuximab for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer and my comments on the document are as follows:

1) I would like to confirm that as far as I can judge all the relevant evidence has been taken into account to prepare the report.

2) The summaries of clinical and cost effectiveness provided in the report are reasonable interpretations of the evidence and that the preliminary views on the overall resources impact and implications for the NHS are appropriate. In case of bevacizumab it is to be noted however, that the statistically proven clinical effectiveness of the drug is unfortunately not balanced by its cost effectiveness due to its costliness. For cetuximab it is paramount that if the drug is to have any continued scientifically meaningful clinical use then more reliable clinically validated methods and criteria for identifying EGFR positive colorectal cancer are introduced to select patients compared to the current approach.

3) The provisional recommendations of the Appraisal Committee are sound and constitute a suitable basis for the preparation of the guidance to the NHS.

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