

Aflibercept with chemotherapy for previously treated metastatic colorectal cancer

Information for the public

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www.nice.org.uk

What has NICE said?

Aflibercept taken with FOLFIRI (a chemotherapy combination made up of 3 drugs) is not recommended for metastatic colorectal cancer that has got worse after taking chemotherapy that includes oxaliplatin.

What does this mean for me?

Aflibercept should not normally be prescribed on the NHS for metastatic colorectal cancer. Your doctor should talk to you about other treatment options available to you.

If you are already taking aflibercept for colorectal cancer, you should be able to continue taking it until you and your healthcare professional decide it is the right time to stop.

Why has NICE said this?

Aflibercept does not provide enough benefit to patients compared with current treatment to justify its additional cost and did not qualify for special consideration, so it was not recommended.

NICE looks at how well treatments work in relation to how much they cost compared with other treatments available on the NHS. NICE applies special considerations to treatments that can extend the lives of people who are nearing the end of their life.

The condition and the treatment

Colorectal cancer, also known as bowel cancer, affects parts of the bowel called the colon or rectum. It is described as metastatic if it has spread from the colon or rectum to other parts of the body.

Aflibercept (also known as Zaltrap) is a drug that can slow down cancer growth.

NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk) may be a good place to find out more.

Sources of advice and support

- Bowel Cancer UK, 020 7940 1760 www.bowelcanceruk.org.uk
- Beating Bowel Cancer, 08450 719300 www.beatingbowelcancer.org
- CancerHelp UK (the patient information website of Cancer Research UK), 0808 800 4040 www.cancerhelp.org.uk
- Macmillan Cancer Support, 0808 808 0000 www.macmillan.org.uk

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Accreditation

