

UFT and leucovorin in metastatic colorectal cancer: clinical insights

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Intravenous (IV) fluorouracil has been one of the most widely used drugs for the systemic treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer. Recent research has focused on the development of an orally administered fluorouracil prodrug that can offer equivalent efficacy and improved tolerability compared with IV fluorouracil. This may offer patients a more convenient and preferential mode of administration and the opportunity to continue a more normal lifestyle while receiving treatment.

A roundtable expert meeting in Nice, France gave delegates an opportunity to discuss their experiences of oral tegafur-uracil (UFT), a prodrug of fluorouracil, and leucovorin (LV) in clinical practice. A number of case studies were presented describing the successful use of UFT/LV in the treatment of advanced colorectal cancer. These included experiences of UFT/LV as maintenance therapy in a first-line setting; UFT/LV in combination therapy; combination

UFT/LV with radiotherapy; and UFT/LV in heavily pretreated patients.

As the role of chemotherapy in the management of metastatic colorectal cancer is developed, UFT/LV offers a promising alternative to IV fluoropyrimidines with a high level of patient acceptance in a variety of clinical settings. *Anti-Cancer Drugs* 14 (suppl 2):S1 © 2003 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

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