UFT/LV: future directions

Eric Van Cutsem

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Internal Medicine, University Hospital, Gasthuisberg, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

Two large phase III studies in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer have shown that oral tegafur-uracil/ leucovorin (UFT/LV) has equivalent antitumour efficacy and a significantly more favourable safety profile to intravenous (IV) 5-FU/LV. As the role of chemotherapy is developed in the management of metastatic colorectal cancer, it is anticipated that UFT may provide a convenient oral alternative to IV fluoropyrimidines in a variety of clinical settings. The use of UFT/LV in combination chemotherapy regimens with irinotecan or oxaliplatin, its combination with radiotherapy, and its potential benefits as an oral therapy offer insights for its future clinical development.