

## CETUXIMAB (Erbix) OXALIPLATIN modified de gramont

### INDICATION (ICD10) C18, C20

*Check the most recent Blumetq eligibility criteria before prescribing. Blumetq registration required for neoadjuvant and subsequent treatment.*

([www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-cancer-drugs-fund-list/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/national-cancer-drugs-fund-list/))

**For chemotherapy-naïve metastatic colorectal cancer where all the following criteria are met (TA439):**

2. This patient has RAS wild-type metastatic colorectal cancer.
3. This patient has not received previous cytotoxic chemotherapy for metastatic disease unless there has been use of previous neoadjuvant combination cytotoxic chemotherapy for potentially resectable metastatic colorectal cancer.
4. Cetuximab in this oxaliplatin-based combination is being used as either 1st line treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer or as 2nd line treatment if treated with 1st line pembrolizumab for MSI-H/dMMR disease.
5. The patient has not received prior treatment with cetuximab or panitumumab unless this was received as part of combination neoadjuvant chemotherapy for potentially resectable metastatic disease. Patients with potentially resectable metastatic disease who have received a neoadjuvant cetuximab/panitumumab-containing combination chemotherapy with the intention of resection if the metastases become resectable, and who do not progress while on treatment with cetuximab/panitumumab but who then become unsuitable for surgery or have unsuccessful surgery, may continue treatment with the same cetuximab/panitumumab-containing combination chemotherapy. Patients who have successful resection(s) after neoadjuvant cetuximab/panitumumab-containing combination chemotherapy for metastatic disease and who did not progress on such chemotherapy may receive cetuximab/panitumumab with subsequent first-line combination chemotherapy if they present later with progression of metastatic disease.
6. The prescribing clinician is aware that if this patient has BRAF V600 mutation-positive disease, the patient will be ineligible for encorafenib plus cetuximab as a subsequent line of therapy if they receive a cetuximab/panitumumab-containing regimen now as first-line therapy.
7. The prescribing clinician is aware that from 1st December 2020 an NHS England Best Value framework is in operation for cetuximab and panitumumab in first line colorectal cancer. The choice of this cetuximab-containing regimen is therefore in line with the local application of the Best Value framework for these drugs within my organisation.
8. Cetuximab will be given in combination with oxaliplatin-based combination chemotherapy.
9. Cetuximab will be given as a 2-weekly regimen at a dose of 500mg/m<sup>2</sup>
10. Trust policy regarding the use of unlicensed treatments has been followed as cetuximab is not licensed for 2-weekly administration.
11. Cetuximab in combination with oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy will be given until disease progression on this regimen and that cetuximab will be discontinued when this disease progression occurs. If the patient experiences excessive toxicity with oxaliplatin, cetuximab can be subsequently continued in combination with a fluoropyrimidine alone until disease progression and then will be discontinued. Note: continued use of cetuximab beyond 1st line therapy is not commissioned once disease progression has occurred with 1st line treatment.
12. When a treatment break of more than 6 weeks beyond the expected cycle length is needed, I will complete a treatment break form to restart treatment, including an indication as appropriate if the patient had an extended break because of COVID 19.
13. The use of cetuximab will be otherwise used as per its Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC).

Cetuximab Oxaliplatin Modified de gramont	Colorectal CAG approval	Page 1 of 4	Approved: July 2021 Review: July 2023	Version 5.0
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## REGIMEN

Day 1 Premedication: Chlorphenamine 10mg IV bolus (and dexamethasone antiemetic) 30-60 minutes prior to treatment  
 CETUXIMAB 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> in 500ml sodium chloride 0.9% IV infusion  
 Premedication: Atropine 250mcg subcutaneously 30 minutes prior to treatment  
 CALCIUM LEVOFOLINATE 175mg in glucose 5% infusion over 2 hours concurrently with oxaliplatin via a Y site placed immediately before the injection site  
 OXALIPLATIN 85mg/m<sup>2</sup> in 250ml\* glucose 5% IV infusion over 2 hours  
 FLUOROURACIL 400mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV bolus  
 FLUOROURACIL 2400mg/m<sup>2</sup> continuous IV infusion over 46 hours  
 \*oxaliplatin doses 225mg to 395mg in 500ml glucose 5%

NB Cetuximab administer first dose over 120 minutes. If tolerated the second dose and subsequent doses may be given at a rate that does not exceed the maximum rate of 10mg/min. Close monitoring is required during the cetuximab infusion and for at least 1 hour after the end of the infusion (from cycle 2 onwards the other infusions may be started during this observation time)

NB Calcium levofolinate is not the same as calcium folinate (calcium leucovorin). Calcium levofolinate is a single isomer of folinic acid and the dose is generally half that of calcium folinate. If calcium levofolinate is not available calcium folinate (leucovorin) may be used instead.

## CYCLE FREQUENCY AND NUMBER OF CYCLES

Every 14 days

## ANTI-EMETICS

Moderately emetogenic day 1

Low emetogenic risk day 2

## CONCURRENT MEDICATION REQUIRED

Cetuximab	Ensure premedication chlorphenamine (and dexamethasone from antiemetics) given 30-60 minutes prior to treatment
Fluorouracil	Mouth and bowel support eg Loperamide, benzydamine mouthwash
Oxaliplatin	Flush with glucose 5% before and after infusion

## EXTRAVASATION AND TYPE OF LINE / FILTERS

Cetuximab - neutral

Fluorouracil – inflammitant

Oxaliplatin – exfoliant

Filter not required

Central line (single lumen)

## INVESTIGATIONS

Blood results required before SACT administration

FBC, U&E and LFTs every cycle

Neutrophils x 10<sup>9</sup>/L ≥1.5

Platelets x 10<sup>9</sup>/L ≥100

Serum creatinine

ECG (possible ECHO) required if patient has preexisting cardiac disease

DPD test

Baseline weight and every cycle

## MAIN TOXICITIES AND ADVERSE REACTIONS

Cetuximab	<p>Dyspnoea - as part of a hypersensitivity reaction, or after several weeks of therapy. Older, poor PS or underlying pulmonary disorders may be at increased risk. May be severe and/or long-standing.</p> <p>Hypersensitivity - mild or moderate reaction infusion rate may be decreased. Maintain lower infusion rate for subsequent infusions. Severe - usually during the initial infusion and up to 1 hour after the end of infusion, but may occur after several hours. Requires immediate and permanent discontinuation of cetuximab and may necessitate emergency treatment.</p> <p>Infusion related reactions – If during the 1st infusion, an infusion-related reaction occurs within the first 15 minutes, the infusion should be stopped, risk assessment undertaken.</p> <p>If an infusion-related reaction develops later during the infusion or at a subsequent infusion further management will depend on its severity:</p> <p>Grade 1: continue slow infusion under close supervision.</p> <p>Grade 2: continue slow infusion and immediately administer treatment for symptoms.</p> <p>Grade 3 and 4: stop infusion immediately, treat symptoms vigorously and contraindicate further use of cetuximab.</p> <p>Skin reactions - severe skin reaction cetuximab must be interrupted. Treatment may only be resumed, if the reaction has resolved. With the 2nd occurrence of a severe reaction, treatment may be resumed at 75% after interruption. With the 3rd occurrence of a severe reaction, treatment may be resumed at 50% after interruption.</p> <p>If severe skin reactions occur a 4th time or do not resolve during treatment interruption, stop treatment permanently.</p>
Fluorouracil	<p>Palmar plantar (handfoot syndrome) causing red palms and soles – treat with pyridoxine 50mg tds</p> <p>Diarrhoea – treat with loperamide or codeine</p> <p>Cardiotoxicity – monitor cardiac function. Special attention is advisable in treating patients with a history of heart disease, arrhythmias or angina pectoris or those who develop chest pain during treatment with fluorouracil.</p> <p>Stomatitis</p>
Oxaliplatin	<p>Peripheral sensory neuropathy and laryngeal spasm – avoid cold drinks and touching cold items</p>

## INTERACTIONS WHICH MAY REQUIRE DOSE MODIFICATIONS

(not exhaustive list check SPC/BNF/Stockleys)

Fluorouracil	<p>Cimetidine slightly increases exposure to fluorouracil</p> <p>Metronidazole increased toxicity</p> <p>Phenytoin concentration increased</p> <p>Warfarin</p>
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## DOSE MODIFICATIONS

### Haematological

If neutrophils  $<1.5 \times 10^9/L$  or platelets  $<100 \times 10^9/L$  delay 1 week, only treat when neutrophils and platelets are above these limits.

If grade 4 neutropenia consider giving 50% oxaliplatin and fluorouracil in palliative disease or GCSF support for non-palliative disease.

If  $>1$  delay or 1 delay  $\geq 2$  weeks reduce all the oxaliplatin and fluorouracil doses to give 80% for future cycles. A further dose reduction may be made at the Clinician's discretion.

## Non-haematological

### Oxaliplatin

If patients develop acute laryngopharyngeal dysaesthesia infuse the next cycle over 4 hours.

If symptoms persist give 80% dose.

If persistent sensory symptoms occur, withdraw treatment

## Hepatic impairment

### Fluorouracil

Significantly impaired hepatic function eg bilirubin >50micromol/L may be a sign of disease progression and require cessation of, or change in, treatment. Always discuss deteriorating liver function with consultant.

Bilirubin >85micromol/L	not recommended
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## Renal impairment

### Fluorouracil

CrCl >30ml/min	give 100% dose
CrCl <30ml/min	consider dose reduction

### Oxaliplatin

CrCl >30ml/min	give 100% dose
CrCl <30ml/min	Dose reduce (consider 50% of original dose)

## REFERENCES

CDF list