

Phase III clinical trial of FOLFOX with or  
without cetuximab in resected  
*KRAS* wild type stage III colon cancer:

## The PETACC8 Cooperative Group Trial

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# Disclosures

- Grants to support the trial received from:
  - Merck Serono
  - Sanofi-Aventis
  
- Professor Julien Taïeb declares:
  - Consultancy/advisory role
    - Merck KGaA
  - Honoraria
    - Merck KGaA

# Background: standard adjuvant therapy

- Combination of 5-FU, oxaliplatin, and LV has been the standard adjuvant therapy for resected stage III colon cancer since 2004 with the communication of:
  - **MOSAIC** FOLFOX4 versus LV5FU2<sup>1,2</sup>
- And confirmed by:
  - **NSABP C-07** FLOX versus 5-FU/LV<sup>3,4</sup>

*3-year disease-free survival (DFS): ~70%*

<sup>1</sup>André T, et al., NEJM 2004; <sup>2</sup>André T, et al., JCO 2009;  
<sup>3</sup>Kuebler JP, et al., JCO 2007; <sup>4</sup>Yothers G, et al., JCO 2001

# Potential ‘added benefit’ of targeted therapy

- Limited ability of new chemotherapy drugs to improve outcomes
- Monoclonal antibodies against EGFR and VEGF demonstrate improved outcome in mCRC when combined with chemotherapy
- But failed to improve 3-year DFS in the adjuvant setting:
  - For anti VEGF in 2 trials (AVANT, NSABP-C08),<sup>1,2</sup>
  - For anti-EGFR in one (NCCTG N0147)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>De Gramont A, et al., ASCO GI 2011; <sup>2</sup>Allegria C, et al., JCO 2011;

<sup>3</sup>Alberts SR, et al., JAMA 2012

# Original 2-arm design for PETACC8

Fully resected  
stage III  
colon  
cancer  
(N = 2000)

R

## FOLFOX4 (12 cycles)

- Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- LV 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> & 5FU bolus 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
- 5-FU 2,400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> over 46 hrs every 2 weeks

## FOLFOX4 + cetuximab (12 cycles)

- FOLFOX4
- Cetuximab days 1,8
  - 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> initial dose
  - 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> weekly

Stratification factors:

- N-status (N1 vs N2)
- T-status (T1-3 vs T4)
- Obstruction/perforation status

# Role of *KRAS* mutation analysis

- Ability to select patients based on *KRAS* mutation status established in early 2008
  - Mutated *KRAS* (*KRAS* mut) predicts for a lack of response to cetuximab<sup>1,2</sup>
  - Patients with wild type *KRAS* (*KRAS* wt) tumors maintain ability to respond to cetuximab<sup>1,2</sup>
- Protocol was amended mid 2008 for the primary objective to be determined in *KRAS* wt patients and the sample size increased

<sup>1</sup>Bokemeyer C, et al., Annals Oncol 2009; 2011;

<sup>2</sup>Van Cutsem E, et al., NEJM 2009; JCO 2011

# *KRAS* mutation analysis

- *KRAS* analyses were possible for 92.3% of all randomized patients
- Centralized *KRAS* testing was performed in an approved lab at the Georges Pompidou European Hospital in Paris
  - An allelic discrimination technique was used
  - 99.3% of samples provided an interpretable result

# Study objectives

- Primary
  - To assess disease free survival (DFS) according to treatment in patients with resected stage III *KRAS* wt tumors
  - DFS = until recurrence, 2<sup>nd</sup> CRC or death
- Secondary
  - Overall survival (OS)
  - Treatment compliance and toxicity



# PETACC8 statistical analysis plan

- Planned accrual of 1,407 *KRAS* wt pts provides a 90% power to detect a hazard ratio (HR) of 0.75 with 2-sided  $\alpha=0.05$
- An interim analysis was planned after 65% of planned events
- Intent-to-treat analysis
- Planned subgroup analyses for main criteria

# Main inclusion criteria

- Completely resected pathologically confirmed stage III colon adenocarcinoma regardless of EGFR status
- KRAS wt (after amendment mid 2008)
- $\geq 1$  pathologically confirmed LN identified
- Age  $\geq 18$  and  $< 75$  years
- WHO PS 0 or 1
- Acceptable liver and kidney function
- Standard hematologic parameters
- Life expectancy  $\geq 5$  years

# Main exclusion criteria

- Evidence of metastatic disease
  - En bloc resection for locally advanced disease allowed
- Rectal cancer
- Prior chemo- or radiation therapy for colon cancer
- Prior or concurrent malignancies within 5 years
- Clinically significant peripheral neuropathy

# Study population at the interim analysis

- 2559 patients from 340 sites in Europe
  - 62.5% known to have *KRAS* wt tumors
- 1602 *KRAS* wt patients randomized to FOLFOX or FOLFOX + cetuximab
- Median follow-up for DFS:
  - FOLFOX 3.30 years
  - FOLFOX + cetuximab 3.33 years

# Baseline characteristics

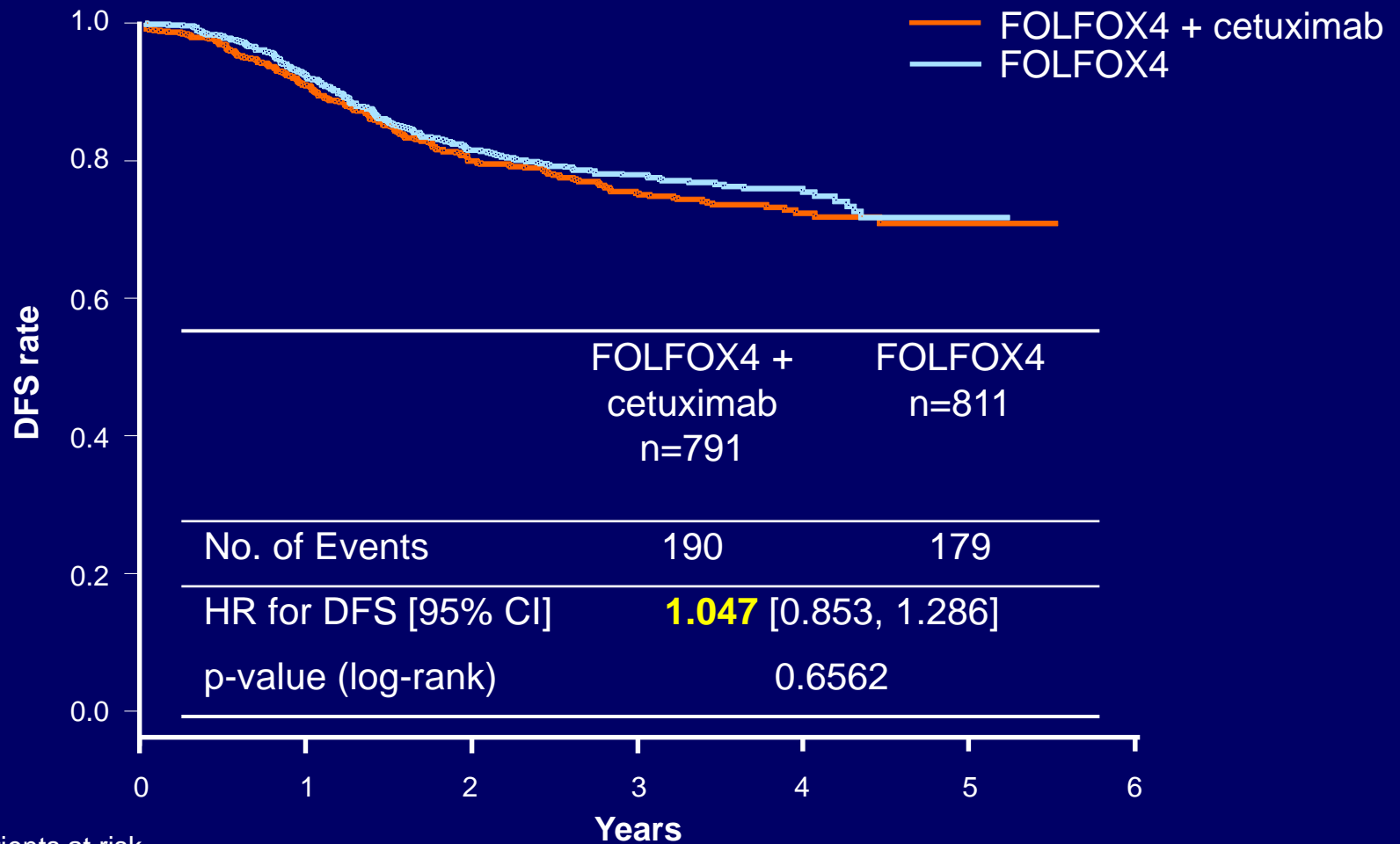
<b>Patient characteristics</b>	<b>FOLFOX + cetuximab (N=791)</b>	<b>FOLFOX (N=811)</b>
Male	59.2%	57.7%
Female	40.8%	42.3%
Age, years:		
Mean (SD)	58.5 (9.91)	58.9 (9.56)
Median (range)	60.0 (19–75)	60.0 (21–75)
Age ≤70 years	90.4%	91.0%
WHO performance status:		
0	78.5%	78.5%
1	17.6%	16.8%
2	0.1%	0.2%

# Baseline tumor characteristics

<b>Tumor characteristics</b>	<b>FOLFOX + cetuximab (N=791)</b>	<b>FOLFOX (N=811)</b>
pT4	20.4%	17.5%
pN2	38.6%	37.1%
Bowel obstruction and/or perforation	18.6%	18.0%
Vascular or Lymphatic invasion	58.5%	60.2%
Type of surgery:		
Open	68.3%	68.7%
Laparoscopic	31.7%	31.1%
Other	0	0.2%
Tumor Localization:		
Left	63.1%	63.7%
Right	36.2%	35.0%
Both	0.6%	0.5%
Histopathology grading:		
G1-2	79.9%	79.0%
G3-4	18.7%	19.7%

Outcomes of  
pre-planned interim analysis  
for *KRAS* wt patients

# Disease-free survival (DFS)(N=1602)



Number of patients at risk

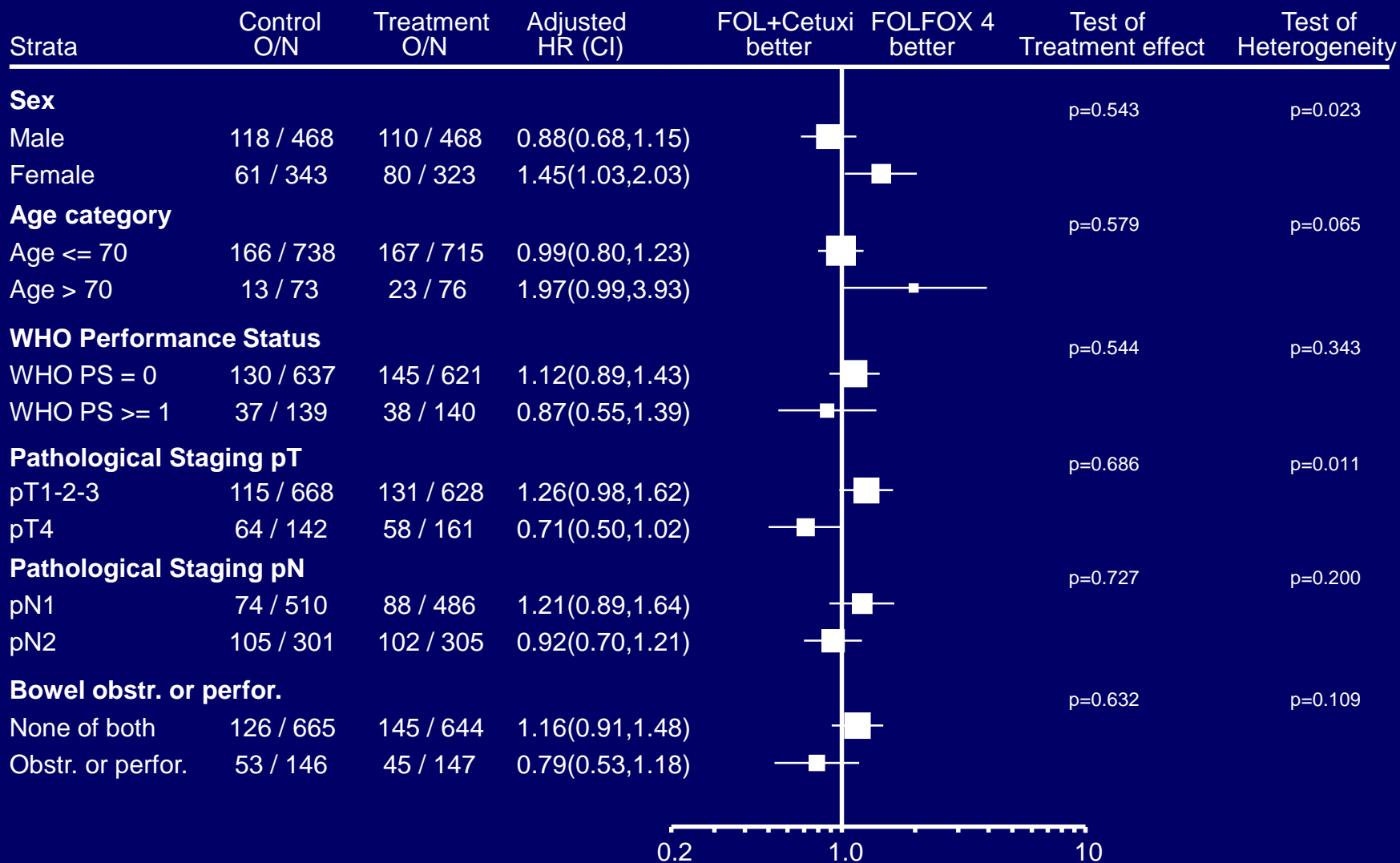
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
FOLFOX4 + cetuximab	791	699	505	356	132	2	0
FOLFOX4	811	732	527	381	131	4	0



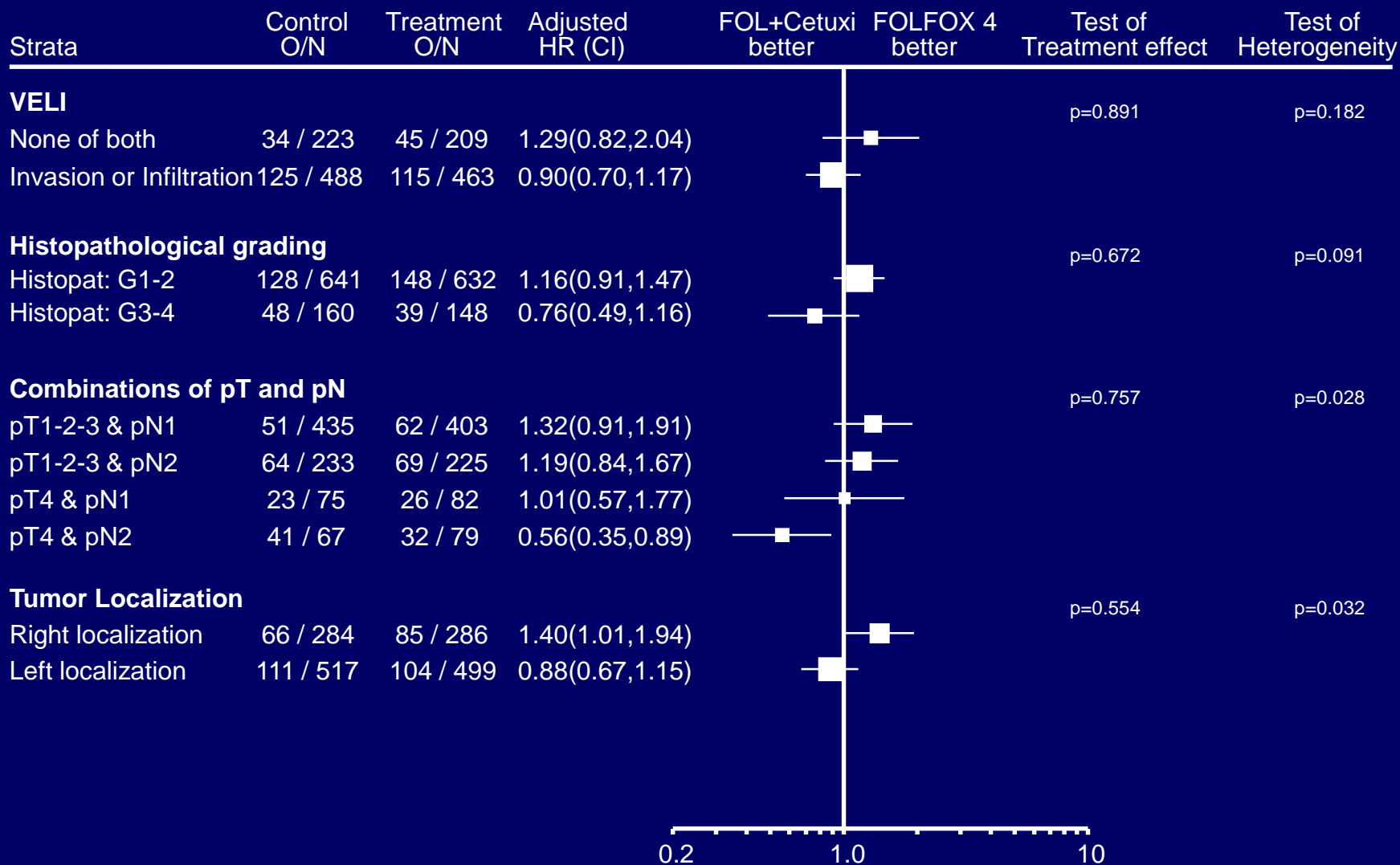
# Efficacy – DFS time

ITT <i>KRAS</i> wt population	<b>FOLFOX + cetuximab (N=791)</b>	<b>FOLFOX (N=811)</b>
Number of events, %	190 (24.0)	179 (22.1)
DFS -Year 1 [95% CI], %	90.4 [88.1-1.186]	92.0 [89.9-93.7]
DFS-Year2 [95% CI], %	79.7 [76.6-82.4]	81.5 [78.6-84.1]
<b>DFS-Year 3 [95% CI], %</b>	<b>75.1 [71.7-78.1]</b>	<b>78.0 [74.8-80.8]</b>
DFS- Year 4 [95% CI], %	72.4 [68.6-75.8]	75.5 [71.9-78.6]

# Forest plot for DFS



# Forest plot for DFS



# Scenarios for future observations

Scenarios for future observation	HR (interim analysis)	Conditional probability
HR=0.75 (optimistic one)	1.047	0.0078
HR=1.00	1.047	0.0007
HR=1.047 (realistic one)	1.047	0.0021

# Safety *KRAS* wt: Grade 3-4 AEs

Defined as special AE (MedRA)	FOLFOX + cetuximab (N=785)	FOLFOX (N=805)
Neutropenia	35.8%	36.8%
Febrile neutropenia	2.8%	2.0%
Hypersensitivity reactions	3.9%	1.7%
Acne like rash	26.6%	0.5%
Nausea	1.7%	2.2%
Diarrhea	15.4%	9.1%
Neurotoxicity	16.2%	18.9%
Mucositis	8.0%	1.2%
On-treatment deaths	<1%	<1%
Pts with at least one Gr 3-4 AE	80.9%	66.2%

# Treatment exposure and discontinuation

	<b>FOLFOX + cetuximab (N=785)</b>	<b>FOLFOX (N=805)</b>
≥10 cycles of FOLFOX, %	81.5	86.8
≥ 80% cetuximab, %	77.7	NA
Treatment discontinuation, %:	28.3	21.7
Reason:		
-Toxicity	12.1	11.8
-Refusal	7.8	4.1
-Other	8.4	5.8

# Conclusions

- No benefit of adding cetuximab to patients with resected stage III *KRAS* wt colon cancer is observed in this interim analysis
- Probability for a positive result in the final analysis is <1% (futility analysis)

# Potential explanations and next steps

- Decreased tolerability with cetuximab leading to differences in dose intensity
- Interaction with age, gender and tumor stage
- Cetuximab may have a different form of activity on micrometastatic disease compared to that observed in stage IV disease

*Currently the focus of correlative studies and collaborative works with N0147 trial team*



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