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| Title | Summary of Published Health Economic Studies of Cetuximab as Third-line Treatment for Patients with Metastatic Colorectal Cancer |
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Aim

To review the health economic literature on cetuximab as third-line treatment for metastatic colorectal cancer.

Conclusions and results

The evidence base regarding the cost effectiveness of cetuximab is weak, particularly with regard to relevant efficacy data. Treatment with cetuximab plus irinotecan as third-line therapy would not be cost effective in light of suggested cost thresholds for an extra quality-adjusted life-year (QALY)/year in good health. However, such a view would not account for the notion that societal preferences regarding treatment of this patient group might differ from preference for other interventions. The cost effectiveness of cetuximab as first- or second-line treatment was not considered since we found no health economic evaluations for these stages.

Methods

Systematic review of published economic evaluations.

Further research/reviews required

- Clinical trials relevant to health economic evaluations comparing cetuximab with the alternative of best supportive care, or no third-line therapy
- Effect of cetuximab on quality of life in metastatic colorectal cancer patients.