Lack of response of cetuximab plus oxaliplatin in advanced colorectal cancer patients resistant to both oxaliplatin and cetuximab plus irinotecan

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the USA, with ~145,000 new cases expected in 2005 [1]. New agents have significantly increased the median overall survival in patients with advanced colorectal cancer and survival times of 21 months have been reported in randomized trials with 5-fluorouracil, irinotecan and oxaliplatin [2]; moreover, the promising initial results of targeted therapy will surely lead to the development of many related compounds in this disease [3]. Cetuximab is a chimeric IgG1 monoclonal antibody that binds to epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) with high specificity and with a higher affinity than either epidermal growth factor, thus
The present trial is the first to investigate the efficacy of adding cetuximab to oxaliplatin in patients having progressed on oxaliplatin as well as on cetuximab plus irinotecan. The lack of response in our trial does not warrant further testing of this combination in this setting.

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references

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