

## Fluorouracil + calcium folinate enhances QOL in colorectal cancer

Fluorouracil plus calcium folinate [folinic acid] leads to a significant improvement in quality of life (QOL), compared with fluorouracil plus interferon- $\alpha$ -2b (INF- $\alpha$ -2b), in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer, indicate German study findings.

142 patients with this condition were randomised to receive an IV infusion of fluorouracil 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> for 2 hours/week plus either calcium folinate 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as a bolus dose or SC INF- $\alpha$ -2b 5 × 10<sup>6</sup> units thrice weekly. QOL was assessed using the EORTC-QLQ-C 30 questionnaire\*. Median survival was 308 days for recipients of fluorouracil plus calcium folinate and 189 days for recipients of fluorouracil plus INF- $\alpha$ -2b. There were also significantly more flu-like symptoms in recipients of INF- $\alpha$ -2b than those who received calcium folinate. QOL improved with regard to most of the EORTC-QLQ-C 30 subscales for patients receiving fluorouracil plus calcium folinate. [Summarised from an abstract]

\* This questionnaire, which is a valid and reliable measure of QOL, comprises 5 functional subscales (physical, role, cognitive, emotional and social), 3 symptoms subscales (fatigue, pain, and nausea and vomiting) and 1 global QOL subscale.

Kreuser ED, et al. A multicenter randomized trial with the assessment of the quality of life in patients with metastatic colorectal carcinoma given either folinic acid or interferon  $\alpha$ -2b as a modulator of 5-fluorouracil. 31st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology 14: 202, Mar 1995 800359629