An Oncology Nurses’ Guide to New Targeted Agents for Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

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Objectives: This article reviews factors that guide the development of a nursing plan for monitoring and managing patients who are receiving antiangiogenic therapies.

Methods: Regorafenib and ziv-aflibercept, two newer agents that nurses and other healthcare professionals may have had less experience with, were reviewed.

Findings: The key to maximizing the potential benefit of these agents is understanding where these new therapies fit in the overall scheme of treatment options and how to help patients tolerate treatment.

Background: Colorectal cancer (CRC) that has metastasized before being discovered, or reoccurs following surgery, remains a major treatment challenge. Trials have established the usefulness of antiangiogenic agents and new regimens in prolonging survival in patients with advanced disease. In the United States, the antiangiogenic agents approved for treating metastatic CRC often are combined with traditional chemotherapeutic agents and include bevacizumab (Avastin®), ziv-aflibercept (Zaltrap®), and regorafenib (Stivarga®).

Newer agents, such as regorafenib, ziv-aflibercept, and other antiangiogenic agents, are available for patients with CRC who have had less experience with, were reviewed.

Monitoring, Side-Effect Prevention, and Patient Education

When managing patients with mCRC who are being treated with any of the antiangiogenic targeted therapies, creating a nursing plan to assess for adverse events (AEs), minimize the occurrence and severity of side effects, and provide management...