

The clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of cetuximab (review of technology appraisal no. 176) and panitumumab (partial review of technology appraisal no. 240) for previously untreated metastatic colorectal cancer: a systematic review and economic evaluation

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Plain English summary

Effectiveness of cetuximab and panitumumab for previously untreated mCRC

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Plain English summary

Colorectal cancer is any cancer that affects the large bowel or rectum. Metastatic colorectal cancer occurs when this cancer spreads to other parts of the body. This type of cancer most often spreads first to the liver, but may also spread to other parts of the body including the lungs, brain and bones.

Metastatic colorectal cancer is often treated with chemotherapy and, when possible, surgery is performed to remove cancerous tumour tissue.

It has been suggested that targeted therapies such as cetuximab and panitumumab, used in combination with chemotherapies, may improve health outcomes for some people. These people are selected through genetic testing; people can receive treatment with these targeted therapies if they do not have specific mutations.

This study considered the costs and benefits of these targeted therapies when they are added to standard chemotherapy treatment.

The study found some benefit with regard to health outcomes when using these targeted therapies in addition to chemotherapy compared with chemotherapy alone. However, the costs of these therapies are very high.

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