NCCN Guidelines on mCRC in an Era of Tumor Sidedness

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This is ReachMD, and you’re listening to Conversations on Colorectal Cancer, sponsored by Lilly. On this episode, titled The Tumor Sidedness in Relation to the NCCN Guidelines, we will hear from Dr. Benjamin Weinberg from Georgetown University in Washington, DC.

Dr. Weinberg:
The NCCN guidelines now incorporate tumor sidedness into treatment selection for patients with advanced colorectal cancer. Previously, we knew that patients with RAS wild-type tumors were the ones who benefitted from the EGFR therapies, cetuximab and panitumumab. We know that patients with RAS mutated tumors really do not respond, and in some instances do worse with the addition of those drugs. Through large prospective studies, we know that the cetuximab and panitumumab benefit seems to be mostly with patients with left-sided colon cancer primary tumors, and now we know that for those with right-sided RAS wild-type tumors, cetuximab/panitumumab really don’t add much and will be relegated to a later line of therapy. So that distinction of how to incorporate biologics in combination with standard chemotherapy is now incorporated well into the NCCN guidelines, and this is important, because previously, patients with right-sided RAS wild-type tumors would commonly be exposed to the EGFR-targeting drugs earlier on, and maybe they shouldn’t be based on some new analyses.
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