Original Study

Understanding the Prognostic Value of Primary Tumor Location and *KRAS* in Metastatic Colorectal Cancer: A Post Hoc Analysis of the OPTIMOX3 DREAM Phase III Study

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Abstract

This is the first report showing that the better prognosis of patients with mCRC with left-sided tumors is driven more strongly by post-progression survival than by progression-free survival when compared with right-sided tumors, whatever KRAS mutation status. This phenomenon was independent from the exposure to poststudy anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody.

Introduction: We evaluated the prognostic value of KRAS and primary tumor location (PTL) for overall survival (OS), progression-free survival (PFS), and post-progression survival (PPS) in metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC). **Material and Methods:** Individual patient data from the DREAM phase III study were retrospectively analyzed. PTL was defined as right-sided or left-sided if tumor arising from the cecum to transverse colon or from the splenic flexure to the rectum, respectively. OS, PFS, and PPS were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method and compared using log-rank test. **Results:** Among 700 patients included in the DREAM study, both PTL and KRAS were available for 536 (76.6%) patients. PTL showed stronger prognostic impact than KRAS status for OS (HR_{PTL}, 1.62 vs. HR_{KRAS}, 1.37), PFS (HR_{PTL}, 1.27 vs. HR_{KRAS}, 1.15) and PPS (HR_{PTL}, 1.54 vs. HR_{KRAS}, 1.33). Interaction between PTL and *KRAS* was significant ($P_{interaction}$ = .003). A negative impact of *KRAS* mutation was observed for OS and PPS, but not for PFS. Right-sided tumor was associated with poorer Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, anemia, and *KRAS* mutation, whereas left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumor was associated with an increased lactate dehydrogenase. In patients with *KRAS* mutant mCRC, alkaline phosphatase was the main prognostic factor whatever the tumor site, whereas in those with *KRAS* wild-type tumors, prognostic factors varied according to PTL. The exposition to the anti-epidermal growth factor receptor (anti-EGFR) agents during and after study was similar in patients with left-sided and right-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors. **Conclusion:** Our findings suggest that a better prognosis of patients with mCRC with left-sided tumors is driven more strongly by PPS than by PFS when compared with patients with right-sided tumors, whatever the *KRAS* mutation status. This phenomenon was independent from the exposition to poststudy anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody.

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Introduction

Approximately half of the patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) harbor a Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog (*KRAS*) or neuroblastoma N-Ras (*NRAS*) tumor gene mutation; both are considered negative predictive biomarkers for anti-epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) monoclonal antibodies (MoAbs).[1] Thus, only patients with *KRAS* wild-type mCRC are eligible to EGFR MoAbs.

The DREAM study demonstrated that adding an oral EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor to bevacizumab during maintenance therapy improves clinical outcomes (response rate, progression-free survival [PFS] and overall survival [OS]) in patients with mCRC, whatever *KRAS* status.[2] Despite those positive results, erlotinib is not approved for treating patients with advanced CRC. Primary tumor location (PTL) might be a novel predictive marker for the treatment efficacy of EGFR-targeted MoAbs in patients with wild-type *KRAS* mCRC that led to new treatment recommendations.[3-7]

The aim of this study was to evaluate the predictive value of *KRAS* and PTL for OS, PFS, and post-progression survival (PPS) in mCRC.

Patients and Methods

Patients and Treatment

Individual patient data from the DREAM trial[2] were analyzed. PTL was retrospectively collected and defined right-sided if tumor was located in the cecum to transverse colon and left-sided if primary tumor was located from the splenic flexure to rectum. The *KRAS* tumor gene (exon 2) mutation status was collected from the DREAM study retrospectively between January 2007 and January 2009 and prospectively between January 2009 and October 2011.

Patients were treated with 3 or 6 months bevacizumab and chemotherapy (modified FOLFOX7, modified XELOX, or FOLFIRI) and then randomized, in absence of disease progression, to receive maintenance therapy with bevacizumab alone or bevacizumab plus erlotinib.

Endpoints

OS was defined as the time interval from the date of randomization to death from any cause, or to the last date known to be alive. PFS was estimated from the date of randomization to the first disease progression (PD) or death from any cause. Patients without documented PD at the cutoff point were censored at their last objective tumor assessment. Patients who died with unknown progression status were censored 4 months after their last tumor evaluation. PPS was defined as the time interval from the first PD or censoring (no PD) during first-line therapy to death from any cause, or to the last date known to be alive.

Statistical Analysis

Baseline comparisons of the demographic, clinical, and mutational characteristics were performed across the groups. OS, PFS, and PPS were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method and compared using log-rank test. Univariate and multivariate Cox regression analyses were performed to estimate hazard ratios (HRs) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs). The rates were compared using a χ^2 test, or Fisher's exact test if too few events occurred. Analyses were conducted using MedCalc Statistical Software version 16.2.1 (MedCalc Software bvba, Ostend, Belgium).

Results

Patient Characteristics

Among 700 patients included in the DREAM study, the KRAS ascertainment rate was 86.8% (n = 608). Tumor location was evaluable in 604 (86.3%) patients (missing data, n = 80; unknown primary site, n = 12; double localization, n = 4; Figure 1).

Of the 536 patients (76.6%) with both PTL and *KRAS* mutation status, 227 (42.4%) had left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors, 155 (28.9%) left-sided *KRAS* mutant tumors, 84 (15.7%) right-sided *KRAS* mutant tumors, and 70 (13.0%) right-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors (Figure 1). The demographic and clinical characteristics are presented in Table 1. Poor Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status (ECOG PS) and anemia were more frequently observed in patients with right-sided tumors than in those with left-sided, whatever the *KRAS* mutation status. An increased level of lactate dehydrogenase (LDH) was more common in patients with left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors. The other patient and tumor characteristics were well balanced among 4 subgroups.

Treatment

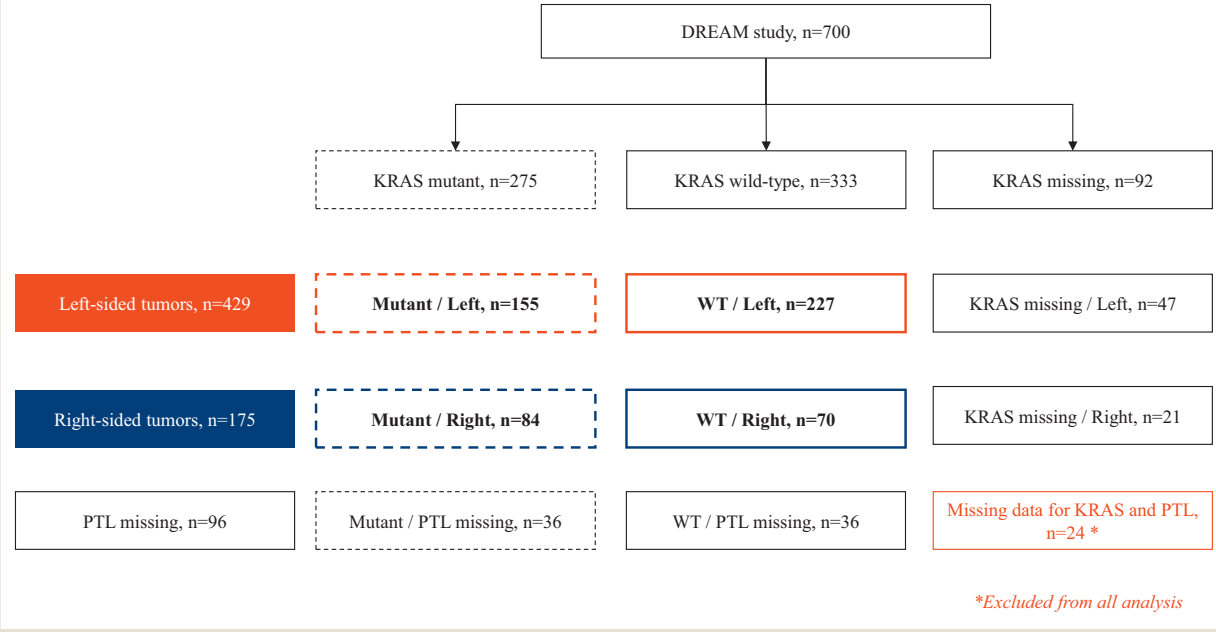
In patients with left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors, 164 patients (72.2%) received an anti-EGFR therapy that could be on study erlotinib maintenance therapy (n = 90, 39.6%) and/or EGFR MoAb as poststudy treatment (n = 125, 55.1%; Supplemental Table 1 in the online version). A total of 55 patients (22.5%) received both erlotinib as maintenance first-line therapy and EGFR MoAb as subsequent line of therapy.

In patients with right-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors, 48 patients (68.6%) received an anti-EGFR therapy, which could be on study erlotinib maintenance therapy (n = 31, 44.3%) and/or EGFR MoAb as poststudy treatment (n = 30, 42.8%; Supplemental Table 1 in the online version). Thirteen patients (18.6%) received both erlotinib as maintenance first-line therapy and EGFR MoAb as subsequent line of therapy. Thus, the exposition to the EGFR agents was similar in patients with *KRAS* wild-type tumors whatever PTL ($P = .552$) and drug type (erlotinib, $P = .491$; EGFR MoAb, $P = .074$).

KRAS

A negative impact of *KRAS* mutation was observed on OS and PPS, but not on PFS (Figure 2). The median OS was 30.2 months (95% CI, 27.5-32.3) and 22.7 months (95% CI, 21.3-25.5) for patients with *KRAS* wild-type and mutant tumors, respectively (HR 1.37; 95% CI, 1.13-1.65; $P < .001$). The median PFS was 9.7 months (95% CI, 8.9-10.5) and 9.2 months (95% CI, 8.1-10.1) for patients with *KRAS* wild-type and mutant tumors, respectively (HR 1.15; 95% CI, 0.96-1.38; $P = .120$). The median PPS was 17.5 months (95% CI, 13.8-19.7) and 13.0 months (95% CI, 10.9-15.6) in patients with *KRAS* wild-type and mutant tumors, respectively (HR 1.33; 95% CI, 1.10-1.60; $P = .002$).

Figure 1 Flow Diagram (n = 700)



Abbreviations: WT = wild-type; PTL = primary tumor location.

Primary Tumor Location

Left-Colon versus Rectal Tumors. Of the 429 patients with left-sided tumors, 265 (61.8%) had left-colon cancer and 164 (38.2%) rectal cancer. When excluding 47 patients (10.9%) with missing data for *KRAS*, a *KRAS* mutation was observed in 93 (38.8%) and 62 (43.7%) patients with left-colon and rectal tumors, respectively (P = .048). The median OS was 29.4 months (95% CI, 25.0-32.8) and 28.0 months (95% CI, 24.2-31.5) for patients with left-colon and rectal tumors, respectively (HR 1.09; 95% CI, 0.88-1.38; P = .425; Figure 2). The median PFS was 9.8 months (95% CI, 8.9-10.8) and 9.6 months (95% CI, 8.5-10.8) for patients with left-colon and rectal tumors, respectively (HR 1.02; 95% CI, 0.83-1.27; P = .811; Figure 2). Based on these results, left-colon and rectal tumors were merged into one group, left-sided CRCs, for further analysis.

Left-sided CRC Versus Right-Sided Colon Tumors. KRAS mutation was less common in patients with left-sided tumors (n = 155, 40.6%) than in those with right-sided tumors (n = 84, 54.5%; P < .001). The median OS was 28.8 months (95% CI, 25.4-31.4) and 19.5 months (95% CI, 16.5-21.3) for patients with left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.62; 95% CI, 1.29-2.01). The median PFS was 9.7 months (95% CI, 8.9-10.5) and 8.3 months (95% CI, 7.7-9.4) for patients with left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.27; 95% CI, 1.03-1.56). The median PPS was 16.1 months (95% CI, 13.4-17.9) and 9.8 months (95% CI, 7.4-12.2) for patients with left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.54; 95% CI, 1.24-1.91; P < .001).

KRAS *and* PTL

There was no difference between the analyzed (n = 536) and excluded (n = 164) populations in terms of PFS and PPS, but there was a slight difference in terms of OS in favor of analyzed patients in terms of OS (HR 0.82; 95% CI 0.66-1.01, P = .048)

Interaction. Interaction between PTL and *KRAS* was significant ($P_{interaction}$ = .003).

OS. In patients with *KRAS* wild-type tumors, the median OS was 32.3 months (95% CI, 29.5-35.5) and 20.3 months (95% CI, 18.0-27.5) for left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.52; 95% CI, 1.10-2.10; Table 2). OS did not differ between patients who received and those who did not receive EGFR MoAb as poststudy treatment, whatever PTL (left-sided *KRAS* wild-type, HR_{OS} 0.94; 95% CI, 0.68-1.30, P = .731; right-sided *KRAS* wild-type, HR_{OS} 1.27; 95% CI, 0.74-2.18, P = .365; Supplemental Table 2 in the online version).

In patients with *KRAS* mutant tumors, the median OS was 24.9 months (95% CI, 22.5-30.0) and 19.4 months (95% CI, 15.8-22.0) for left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.56; 95% CI, 1.10-2.21; Figure 3).

PFS. In patients with *KRAS* wild-type tumors, the median PFS was 9.9 months (95% CI, 8.9-10.8) and 9.4 months (95% CI, 8.1-11.0) for left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.07; 95% CI, 0.80-1.45; Table 2).

Table 1 Patient Characteristics According to *KRAS* Mutation Status and Primary Tumor Location (n = 536)

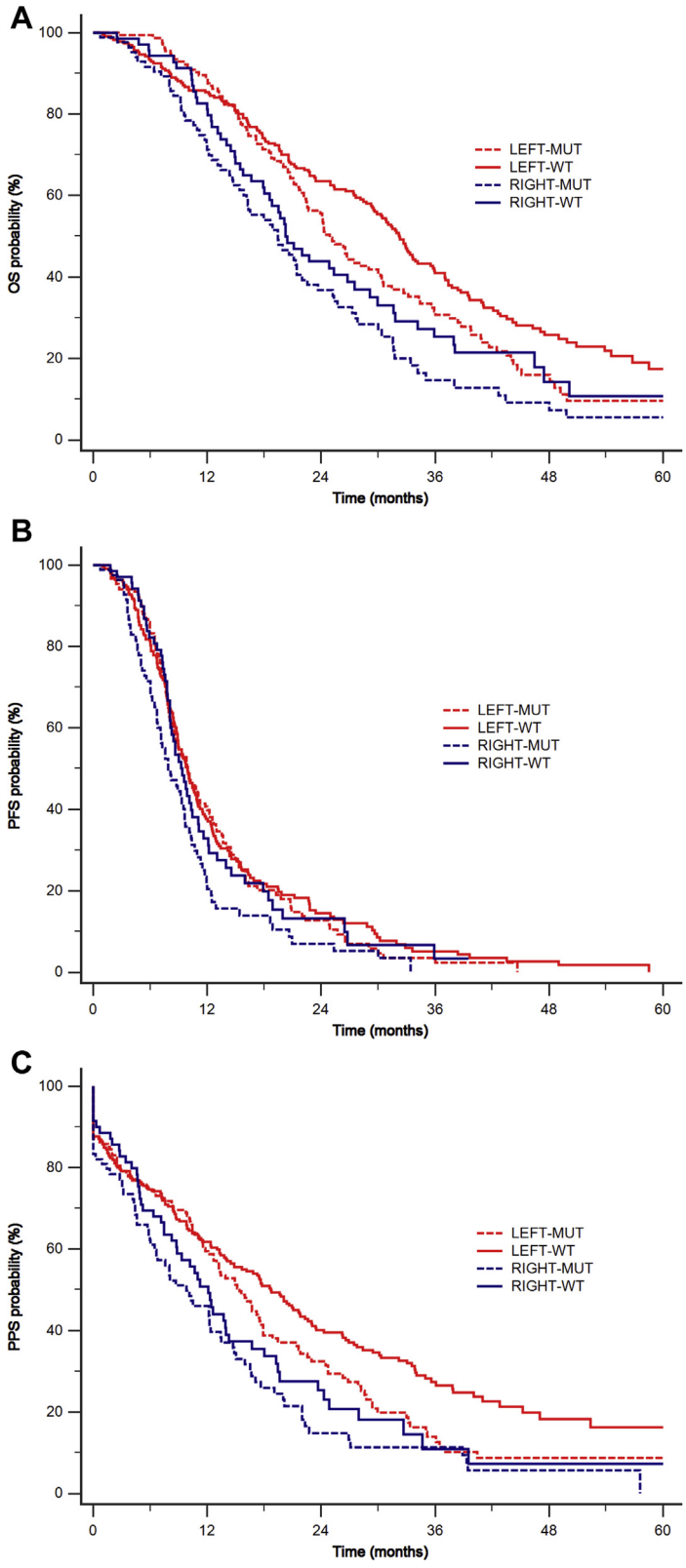
	Left-Sided *KRAS* Wild-Type n (%)	Right-Sided *KRAS* Wild-Type n (%)	Left-Sided *KRAS* Mutant n (%)	Right-Sided *KRAS* Mutant n (%)	*P* Value
Total no. of patients	227	70	155	84	
Age, y					.159
<70	177 (78.0)	49 (70.0)	106 (68.4)	64 (76.2)	
≥70	50 (22.0)	21 (30.0)	49 (31.6)	20 (23.8)	
Gender					.570
Male	140 (61.7)	48 (68.6)	91 (58.7)	51 (60.7)	
Female	87 (38.3)	22 (31.4)	64 (41.3)	33 (39.3)	
ECOG PS					.037
0	132 (58.1)	34 (48.6)	98 (63.2)	38 (45.2)	
1	83 (36.6)	35 (50.0)	50 (32.3)	43 (51.2)	
2	12 (5.3)	1 (1.4)	7 (4.5)	3 (3.6)	
BMI					.605
<30	192 (84.6)	61 (87.1)	125 (80.6)	71 (84.5)	
≥30	35 (15.4)	9 (12.9)	30 (19.4)	13 (15.5)	
Time to metastasis					.283
Metachronous	36 (15.9)	8 (11.4)	25 (16.1)	7 (8.3)	
Synchronous	191 (84.1)	62 (88.6)	130 (83.9)	77 (91.7)	
No. of metastatic sites					.998
1	111 (48.9)	34 (48.6)	77 (49.7)	41 (48.8)	
>1	116 (51.1)	36 (51.4)	78 (50.3)	43 (51.2)	
WBC					.668
<10,000	193 (85.0)	60 (85.7)	126 (81.3)	68 (81.0)	
≥10,000	34 (15.0)	10 (14.3)	29 (18.7)	16 (19.0)	
Hemoglobin (g/dL)					<.001
>12	155 (68.9)	36 (52.2)	103 (67.8)	38 (45.2)	
<12	70 (31.1)	33 (47.8)	49 (32.2)	46 (54.8)	
LDH					.015
≤1 × ULN	84 (37.3)	35 (50.0)	76 (49.4)	45 (54.9)	
>1 × ULN	141 (62.7)	35 (50.0)	78 (50.6)	37 (45.1)	
ALP					.401
<3 × ULN	201 (88.9)	64 (91.4)	145 (93.5)	74 (88.1)	
≥3 × ULN	25 (11.1)	6 (8.6)	10 (6.5)	10 (11.9)	
CEA					.425
<5 × ULN	80 (36.5)	33 (48.5)	57 (38.3)	33 (41.2)	
5-100 × ULN	97 (44.3)	24 (35.3)	60 (40.3)	37 (46.2)	
>100 × ULN	42 (19.2)	11 (16.2)	32 (21.5)	10 (12.5)	
EGFR therapy					
No	63	22	110	59	WT, $P = .552$
Yes	164 (72.2)	48 (68.6)	45 (29.0)	25 (29.8)	Mut, $P = .906$
Erlotinib (on study)	90 (39.6)	31 (44.3)	45 (29.0)	23 (27.4)	
EGFR MoAb (poststudy)	125 (55.1)	30 (42.8)	1 (0.6)	2 (2.4)	

Abbreviations: ALP = alkaline phosphatase; BMI = body mass index; CEA = carcinoembryonic antigen; ECOG PS = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EGFR = epidermal growth factor receptor; LDH; lactate hydrogenase; MoAb = monoclonal antibody; Mut = mutant; ULN = upper limit of normal; WBC = white blood cells; WT = wild-type.

In patients with *KRAS* mutant tumors, the median PFS was 9.9 months (95% CI, 8.6-11.3) and 7.9 months (95% CI, 6.8-9.6) for left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.45; 95% CI, 1.05-2.00; Figure 3).

PPS. In patients with *KRAS* wild-type tumors, the median PPS was 18.7 months (95% CI, 14.5-22.3) and 12.1 months (95% CI, 8.7-14.3) for left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.50; 95% CI, 1.06-2.13; $P = .008$, Table 2).

Figure 2 Overall survival (OS) (A), progression-free survival (PFS) (B), and post-progression survival (PPS) (C) according to primary tumor location and *KRAS* mutation status



Abbreviations: WT = wild-type; MUT = mutant.

Table 2 Summary of Clinical Outcomes

	KRAS Wild-Type		*KRAS* Mutant	
	Left-Sided	Right-Sided	Left-Sided	Right-Sided
Total, n	227	70	155	84
OS, mo, median (95% CI)	32.3 (29.5-35.5)	20.3 (18.0-27.5)	24.9 (22.5-30.0)	19.4 (15.8-22.0)
	HR 1.52 (1.10-2.10)		HR 1.56 (1.10-2.21)	
PFS, mo, median (95% CI)	9.9 (8.9-10.8)	9.4 (8.1-11.0)	9.9 (8.6-11.3)	7.9 (6.8-9.6)
	HR 1.07 (0.80-1.45)		HR 1.45 (1.05-2.00)	
PPS, mo, median (95% CI)	18.7 (14.5-22.3)	12.1 (8.7-14.3)	15.4 (12.6-17.6)	9.8 (6.4-13.4)
	HR 1.50 (1.06-2.13)		HR 1.44 (1.15-1.97)	

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; HR = hazard ratio; OS = overall survival; PFS = progression-free survival; PPS = post-progression survival.

In patients with *KRAS* mutant tumors, the median PPS was 15.4 months (95% CI, 12.6-17.6) and 9.8 months (95% CI, 6.4-13.4) for left-sided and right-sided tumors, respectively (HR 1.44; 95% CI, 1.05-1.97; $P = .013$; Figure 3).

Prognostic Factors

Prognostic factors for OS vary according to PTL and *KRAS* status.

In univariate analysis, 3 variables, white blood cell count (WBC), LDH, and alkaline phosphatase (APL), were ubiquitarious prognostic factors across 4 subgroups according to PTL and *KRAS* (Table 3). Hemoglobin level was a prognostic factor for patients with *KRAS* wild-type tumors, whatever PTL. ECOG PS and the number of metastatic sites were prognostic factors only in patients with left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors.

In multivariate analysis, APL, the number of metastatic sites, ECOG PS, and LDH level were independent prognostic factors for OS in patients with left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors, whereas WBC and LDH level were factors in those with right-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors (Table 4). In left-sided *KRAS* mutant tumors, APL and LDH level were 2 independent prognostic factors for OS, and in those with right-sided *KRAS* mutant tumors, APL was the only independent prognostic factor.

Discussion

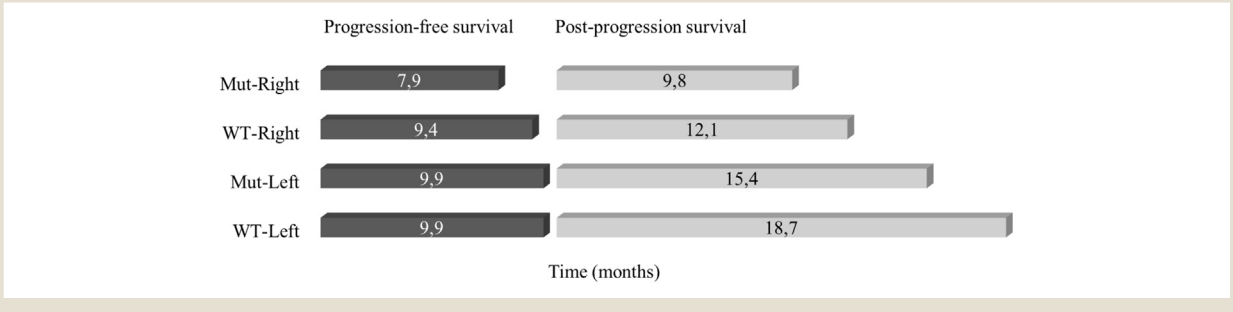
The prognostic value of PTL was stronger than *KRAS* status in mCRC for OS ($HR_{PTL,}$ 1.62 vs. $HR_{KRAS,}$ 1.37), PFS ($HR_{PTL,}$ 1.27 vs. $HR_{KRAS,}$ 1.15), and PPS ($HR_{PTL,}$ 1.54 vs. $HR_{KRAS,}$ 1.33).

The poor prognostic value of right-sided tumors was in the same range as that previously observed in first-line studies.[1,8,9] In our study, right-sided tumors were associated with poorer ECOG PS, anemia, and *KRAS* mutation, whereas left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors were associated with an increased level of LDH.

Our data show that *KRAS* mutation was slightly more frequent in rectal tumors than in left-colon, but similar results for PFS and OS were observed between these 2 cancer groups in agreement with previous reports.[10] Nevertheless, it could be helpful to keep subgrouping based on different molecular profiles (eg, *HER2* genetic alterations in rectal tumors, *PI3KCA* mutation in left-colon cancers) for the future therapeutic management and further targeted trials.[11]

In patients with *KRAS* mutant tumors, APL was the main prognostic factor whatever the tumor site, whereas prognostic factors vary according to PTL in patients with *KRAS* wild-type tumors (APL, the number of sites, ECOG PS, and LDH in left-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors, and WBC and LDH in right-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors). Thus, general prognostic models for OS should not be applied to the clinical dataset without weighted rules according to PTL and *KRAS* status in patients with mCRC.

Figure 3 Median progression-free survival and post-progression survival according to primary tumor location and *KRAS* mutation status



Abbreviations: WT = wild-type; Mut = mutant.

Table 3 Univariate Analysis of Prognostic Factors for Overall Survival According to Post-Progression Survival and *KRAS* Mutation Status

	Left-Sided *KRAS* Wild-Type		Right-Sided *KRAS* Wild-Type		Left-Sided *KRAS* Mutant		Right-Sided *KRAS* Mutant	
	HR (95% CI)	*P* Value	HR (95% CI)	*P* Value	HR (95% CI)	*P* Value	HR (95% CI)	*P* Value
Age, y, <70 vs.≥70	1.20 (0.81-1.79)	.332	0.97 (0.53-1.76)	.931	0.95 (0.64-1.39)	.778	0.96 (0.56-1.65)	.893
Gender, male vs. female	0.88 (0.64-1.21)	.430	1.24 (0.68-2.26)	.456	0.93 (0.64-1.35)	.711	0.93 (0.58-1.48)	.752
ECOG PS, 0 vs. 1-2	1.77 (1.26-2.49)	< .001	1.52 (0.88-2.61)	.112	1.27 (0.85-1.88)	.221	1.18 (0.74-1.88)	.477
BMI, <30 vs. ≥30	0.70 (0.47-1.04)	.115	0.61 (0.31-1.20)	.213	0.76 (0.50-1.16)	.235	0.66 (0.37-1.17)	.210
Metachronous vs. synchronous	1.29 (0.87-1.93)	.242	1.49 (0.67-3.27)	.393	1.29 (0.81-2.05)	.318	1.96 (0.98-3.91)	.130
No. of metastatic sites, 1 vs. >1	1.48 (1.08-2.03)	.014	0.97 (0.57-1.66)	.914	1.09 (0.76-1.58)	.631	1.96 (0.98-3.91)	.130
WBC, <10,000 vs. ≥10,000	1.66 (0.99-2.75)	.016	3.36 (1.05-10.68)	< .001	1.49 (0.88-2.51)	.083	1.84 (0.93-3.64)	.025
Hemoglobin, >12 vs. <12	1.94 (1.32-2.84)	< .001	2.19 (1.25-3.84)	.002	0.94 (0.63-1.41)	.777	0.99 (0.63-1.59)	.994
LDH, ≤1 × ULN vs. >1 × ULN	1.56 (1.14-2.15)	.008	2.46 (1.41-4.29)	< .001	2.01 (1.38-2.93)	.0001	1.71 (1.04-2.79)	.019
APL, <3 × ULN vs. ≥3 × ULN	2.92 (1.50-5.71)	< .001	4.36 (0.73-25.95)	< .001	6.63 (1.29-34.05)	< .001	3.73 (1.17-11.87)	< .001
CEA, <10 × ULN vs. >10 × ULN	1.26 (0.91-1.75)	.155	1.20 (0.68-2.10)	.510	1.32 (0.91-1.92)	.146	1.41 (0.85-2.35)	.154

Abbreviations: ALP = alkaline phosphatase; BMI = body mass index; CEA = carcinoembryonic antigen; CI = confidence interval; ECOG PS = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HR = hazard ratio; LDH; lactate hydrogenase; ULN = upper limit of normal; WBC = white blood cells.

Table 4 Multivariate Analysis of Prognostic Factors for Overall Survival According to Primary Tumor Location and *KRAS* Mutation Status

Variables	HR	95% CI	*P* Value
Left-sided *KRAS* wild-type			
ECOG PS	1.45	1.03-2.04	.035
No. of metastatic sites	1.84	1.30-2.60	< .001
WBC	1.28	0.81-2.01	.287
Hemoglobin	1.49	1.04-2.13	.030
LDH	1.22	0.85-1.77	.280
APL	2.76	1.66-4.61	< .001
Right-sided *KRAS* wild-type			
WBC	2.60	1.09-6.18	.031
Hemoglobin	1.75	0.94-3.24	.076
LDH	2.44	1.28-4.63	.006
APL	2.98	0.85-10.37	.086
Left-sided *KRAS* mutant			
WBC	1.50	0.94-2.41	.089
LDH	1.90	1.29-2.82	.001
APL	5.41	2.49-11.80	< .001
Right-sided *KRAS* mutant			
WBC	1.20	0.61-2.35	.592
LDH	1.46	0.83-2.55	.189
APL	3.01	1.40-6.44	.005

Abbreviations: ALP = alkaline phosphatase; CI = confidence interval; ECOG PS = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HR = hazard ratio; LDH; lactate hydrogenase; WBC = white blood cells.

Interestingly, the prognostic impact of PTL and *KRAS* is more pronounced after progression than during the first-line treatment period. In our study, this phenomenon was independent of the EGFR treatment effect. Indeed, the exposition to the EGFR agents was similar in left-sided and right-sided tumors and there was no difference between these 2 tumor groups in terms of clinical outcomes (OS, PPS), regardless of which patients received anti-EGFR MoAb or did not receive after study treatment.

This post hoc analysis has inherent limitations, although the data ascertainment of PTL was high (89%). Other shortcomings of this study are the restriction of *KRAS* mutation analysis to only exon 2, lack of analysis of the "rare mutations" status at other locations of *KRAS*, *NRAS*, and *BRAF* tumors genes, as well as the limited number of patients in each subgroup. *BRAF* and *NRAS* mutations are present in roughly 10% and 4% of advanced CRC, respectively, but are overrepresented in right-sided *KRAS* wild-type tumors. This work will be proposed to the ARCAD Advanced Colorectal Cancer database program for further analysis based on extended molecular profile, including *KRAS*, *NRAS* and *BRAF* genes.[12]

Conclusion

Good prognosis of patients with mCRC with left-sided tumors is driven more strongly by PPS than by PFS when compared with patients with right-sided tumors, whatever the *KRAS* mutation status. This phenomenon was independent of the exposition to poststudy anti-EGFR MoAb.

Clinical Practice Points

- This is the first report showing that the better prognosis of patients with mCRC patients with left-sided tumors is driven more strongly by post-progression survival than by progression-free survival when compared with right-sided tumors, whatever the KRAS mutation status and further exposure to poststudy anti-EGFR monoclonal antibody.
- These results should be confirmed and extend to full RAS and BRAF molecular profiles.
- If confirmed, primary tumor sidedness could be helpful not only for drug selection but also for treatment sequencing.

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Disclosure

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Supplemental data

Supplemental tables accompanying this article can be found in the online version at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clcc.2020.02.012.

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Supplementary Data

Supplemental Table 1 Treatment With EGFR Inhibitors (On Study, Erlotinib; Poststudy, EGFR Monoclonal Antibodies)

	KRAS Wild-Type		*KRAS* Mutant	
	Left-Sided	Right-Sided	Left-Sided	Right-Sided
Total, n	227	70	155	84
EGFR, all types	164 (72.2)	48 (68.6)	45 (29.0)	25 (29.8)
Erlotinib	90 (39.6)	31 (44.3)	45 (29.0)	23 (27.4)
EGFR MoAb (poststudy treatment)	125 (55.1)	30 (42.8)	1 (0.6)	2 (2.4)
Erlotinib followed by EGFR MoAb	51 (22.5)	13 (18.6)	1 (0.6)	0 (0.0)

Abbreviations: EGFR = epidermal growth factor receptor; MoAb = monoclonal antibody.

Supplemental Table 2 Overall Survival and Post-Progression Survival According to Poststudy Exposition to EGFR Monoclonal Antibodies

	No EGFR MoAb	EGFR MoAb		
	Median (95% CI)	Median (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	*P* Value
OS				
Left-sided *KRAS* wild-type	31.5 (23.3-37.8)	32.8 (30.3-37.0)	0.94 (0.68-1.30)	.731
Right-sided *KRAS* wild-type	22.0 (15.4-29.9)	20.1 (15.8-29.1)	1.27 (0.74-2.18)	.365
PPS				
Left-sided *KRAS* mutant	17.6 (7.6-23.0)	19.6 (14.8-26.2)	0.97 (0.70-1.33)	.841
Right-sided *KRAS* mutant	10.2 (5.2-24.8)	12.1 (8.3-18.0)	1.16 (0.68-1.98)	.580

Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; EGFR =, epidermal growth factor receptor; MoAb = monoclonal antibody; OS = overall survival; PPS, post-progression survival.