

Nintedanib improves progression-free survival in metastatic colorectal cancer

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Nintedanib improves progression-free survival but not overall survival in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer who are not responding to standard therapies, according to results of the phase III LUME-colon 1 trial presented at the ESMO 2016 Congress in Copenhagen.

"Colorectal cancer is a frequent disease and a large proportion of patients have metastases," said lead author Professor Eric Van Cutsem, head of Clinical Digestive Oncology at University Hospitals Leuven, Belgium. "Many patients progress to several different lines of treatment and then stop responding. There is a need to find new therapies for this big group of patients."

Nintedanib is a multiple [tyrosine kinase inhibitor](#) with anti-angiogenic activity. LUME-colon 1 was the first phase III trial of nintedanib in patients with [metastatic colorectal cancer](#) refractory to all available treatments including chemotherapy and biological therapies. Patients had to be in good general condition (defined as performance status 0 and 1) and have good organ function.

The trial included 768 patients who were randomised 1:1 to nintedanib or placebo. All patients received best supportive care. The co-primary endpoints were progression-free survival and overall survival.

Nintedanib significantly improved median progression-free survival compared to placebo (1.5 vs 1.4 months, hazard ratio 0.58, 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.49-0.69, p

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