

# JADPRO Clinical Case Series

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## Maintaining High Quality of Life, Good Performance Status in Refractory Colorectal Cancer

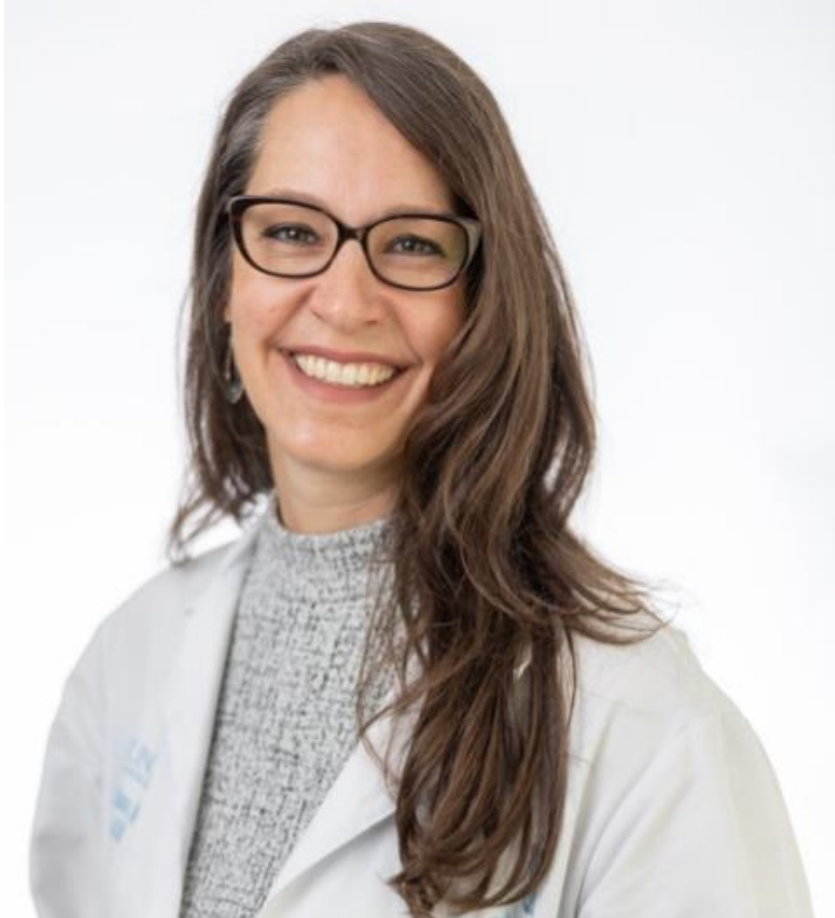
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## PRESENTER

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# Program Agenda

- Introduction: Colorectal cancer
- Overview of refractory colorectal cancer
- Principles of treatment
- SUNSHINE trial
- Clinical management and implications of treatment

# Introduction: Colorectal Cancer

- Third most common cancer diagnosed in men and women in the United States
- Second leading cause of cancer-related deaths
- Median age of onset is 66 (65-74 years)
- Increasing incidence in younger adults
- 5-year survival significantly lower for advanced stages (16%)
- Decline in mortality

American Cancer Society. <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/colon-rectal-cancer/about/key-statistics.html>. Colorectal Cancer Alliance. <https://www.ccalliance.org/colorectal-cancer-information/facts-and-statistics>. NCI SEER Program. <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/colorect.html>.

# Introduction: Refractory Colorectal Cancer

- Resistance to standard therapy
- Challenges: Genetic mutations, tumor heterogeneity, resistance mechanisms
- Limited life expectancy

# Case 1: Understanding Dosing

49-year-old man

## Initial Presentation

- Abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting

## Initial workup

- Hemoglobin 7.6 g/dL
- CT abdominal/pelvis: Right-sided bladder mass with extension into distal ileum, concern for small bowel obstruction



Diagnostic laparoscopy with diverting ileostomy  
**Findings:** Carcinomatosis



Moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma  
**Diagnosis:** Primary colorectal cancer



**Treatment:** FOLFOXIRI  
(folinic acid, fluorouracil, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan)

# Principles of Treatment

## Clinical Parameters

- Burden of metastatic disease
- Potential for curative resection
- Age
- Performance status
- Comorbidities

## Tumor/Molecular Parameters

- Extended RAS/RAF testing
- MSI status
- Sidedness of tumor (right vs left)
- Next-generation sequencing data

MSI, microsatellite instability

# Case 1: Understanding Dosing (cont.)

49-year-old man

Treated with FOLFOXIRI to maximum response → OR



Right hemicolectomy, partial cystectomy  
**Findings:** NO carcinomatosis



**Diagnosis:** Adenocarcinoma of cecum  
(ypT4bN2a)  
MSS, KRAS mutant



Progressed through  
first- and second-line therapy  
Determined to have **refractory disease**

OR, operating room; MSS, microsatellite stable.



## Polling Question: Case 1

**In your practice, which of the following is the treatment of choice for patients with refractory metastatic colorectal cancer?**

- A. Combination trifluridine and tipiracil alone **21%**
- B. Combination trifluridine and tipiracil with bevacizumab **57%****
- C. Regorafenib **0%**
- D. Rechallenge/recycle FOLFOX/FOLFIRI/FOLFOXIRI **14%**
- E. Clinical trial **17%**

# Principles of Treatment

## First Line

- FOLFOX + targeted therapy

OR

- FOLFIRI + targeted therapy

## Second Line

- FOLFIRI + targeted therapy

OR

- FOLFOX + targeted therapy

## Third Line

- Trifluridine and tipiracil +/- bevacizumab

OR

- Regorafenib

OR

- Best supportive care

FOLFIRI, folinic acid, fluorouracil, and irinotecan; FOLFOX, folinic acid, fluorouracil, and oxaliplatin.

# Trifluridine and Tipiracil

- Combination therapy of two agents (can be given with or without bevacizumab)
- Administered orally
  - 35 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 12 hours (1 hour after eating) on Days 1-5 and 8-12, every 28 days (max dose of 80 mg BID)
  - **Alternate dosing:** 35 mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 12 hours on Days 1–5, Days 15-19, every 28 days
- Initially approved as monotherapy
  - RECOURSE phase 3 trial

# Case 1: Understanding Dosing

## Patient Instructions for Combination Trifluridine and Tipiracil

BSA 2.0 = **70 mg** 2 times a day

- 15 mg: Take 2 tablets (30 mg total) by mouth 2 times a day with meals on Days 1-5 and Days 8-12 of each 28-day cycle.
- 20 mg: Take 2 tablets (40 mg total) by mouth 2 times a day with meals on Days 1-5 and Days 8-12 of each 28-day cycle.
- Take within 1 hour after completion of morning and evening meals.

BSA, body surface area.

# Overview of SUNLIGHT Trial

- Phase 3 trial
- Efficacy and safety of trifluridine/tipiracil + bevacizumab vs trifluridine/tipiracil alone
- Primary end point: Overall survival (time from randomization to death from any cause)
- Secondary end points: Progression-free survival, objective response, disease control, quality of life, safety

# Results of SUNLIGHT Trial



**Trifluridine/tipiracil + Bevacizumab**

10.8 mo

**Primary endpoint**  
Overall survival

5.6 mo

6.1%

9.3 mo

## **Secondary endpoints**

- Progression-free survival
- Objective response
- Median time to worsening ECOG status



**Trifluridine/tipiracil Alone**

7.5 mo

2.4 mo

1.2%

6.3 mo

# Results of SUNLIGHT Trial (cont.)

- Adverse events: 98% in each group
- Most commonly reported: Neutropenia, nausea, anemia
- Dose reductions: 16.3% in the trifluridine/tipiracil + bevacizumab group and 12.2% in the trifluridine/tipiracil alone group
- Dose delays 69.5% and 53.3%, respectively

# Case 2: Maintain Performance Status

62-year-old man

## Initial Presentation

- Cecal mass identified on colonoscopy screening
- Stage IIIB cecal adenocarcinoma (pT4aN1bM0)
- Adjuvant FOLFOX



Radiographic recurrence with new liver metastases



**Pathology:** Recurrent cecal adenocarcinoma  
MSS, KRAS wild type



Progressed through first- and second-line therapy + HIPEC  
Determined to have **refractory disease**



# Case 2: Maintain Performance Status (cont.)

62-year-old man

Recurrent, metastatic cecal  
adenocarcinoma  
MSS, KRAS wild type



BSA 1.6 m<sup>2</sup>

**Treatment:** Trifluridine/tipiracil 60 mg BID  
Days 1-5, 8-12 every 28 days  
+ bevacizumab

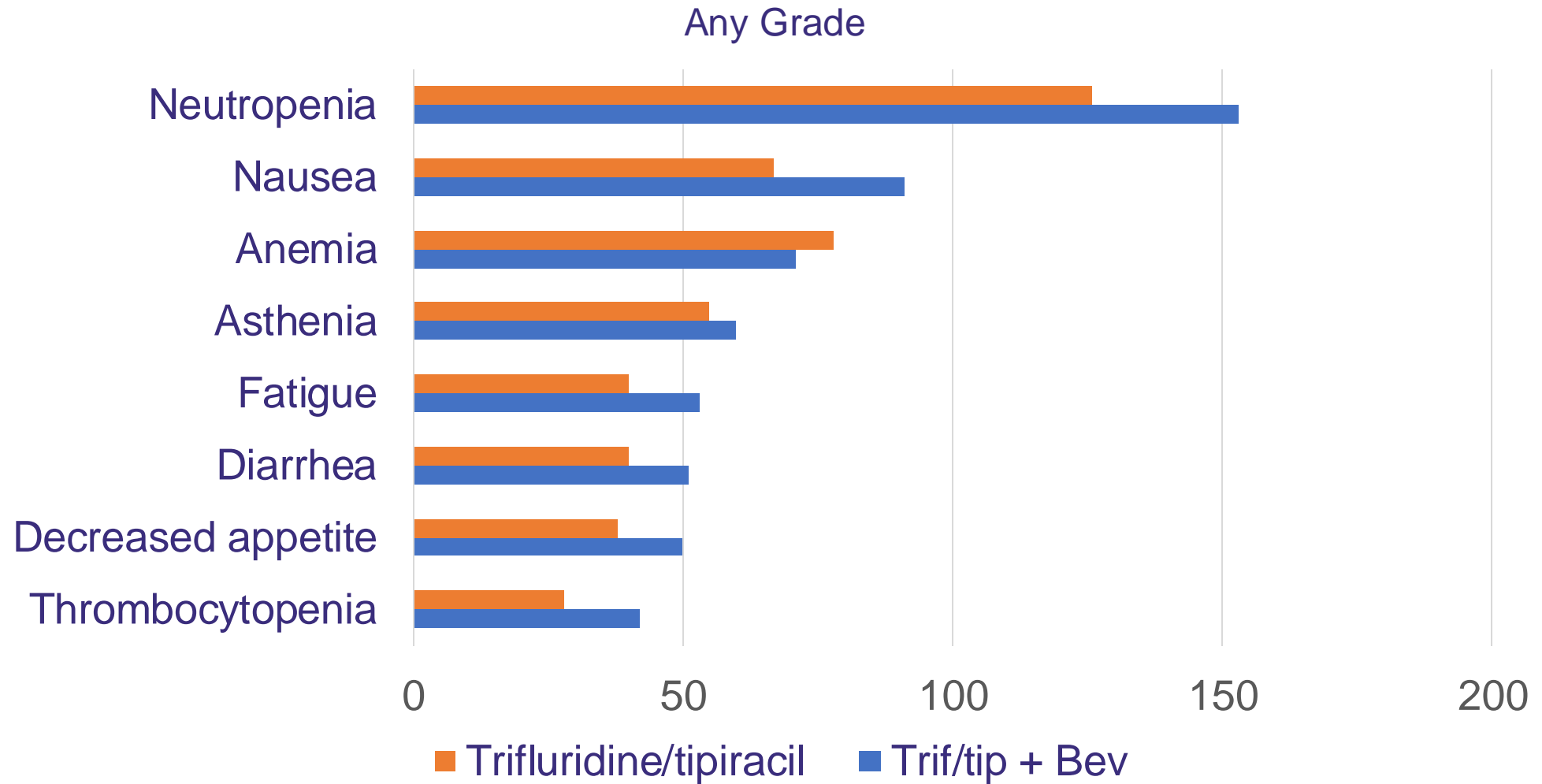


8 months of therapy, mild disease  
progression (< 20% RECIST)  
ECOG 0



Maintain trifluridine/tipiracil + bevacizumab

# SUNLIGHT: Adverse Events



# Trifluridine/Tipiracil Monitoring Parameters

- CBC with differential prior to and on Day 15
- Treatment parameters
  - ANC  $\geq 1,500/\text{mm}^3$
  - Platelets  $\geq 75,000/\text{mm}^3$
  - Any grade 3 or 4 non-hematologic adverse reaction resolved or grade 0 or 1
- Dose reduction (by  $5 \text{ mg}/\text{m}^2/\text{dose}$ )
  - Febrile neutropenia
  - More than 1 week delay start of next cycle

ANC, absolute neutrophil count

## Polling Question: Case 2

**In your practice, how do you help your patients with oral medication adherence?  
(Check all that apply.)**

- A. Provide a medication schedule calendar **31%**
- B. Schedule phone visits to assess adherence **22%**
- C. Refer to a clinical pharmacist practitioner **6%**
- D. Arrange for a nurse or nurse navigator to follow up with the patient by phone **16%**
- E. Engage with the patient's caregiver **25%**

# Bevacizumab

## Common

- Cardiovascular: Hypertension, nosebleeds
  - Should not be initiated in patients with uncontrolled hypertension
- Genitourinary: Proteinuria
- Skin: Wound dehiscence
  - Do not use for at least 28 days before or after surgery

## Rare

- Cardiovascular: Hemorrhage, thrombosis
- Gastrointestinal: GI perforation

# Hypertension Management

1	2	3	4	5
Pre-hypertension (systolic BP 120-139 mm Hg or diastolic BP 80-89 mm Hg)	Stage 1 hypertension (systolic BP 140-159 mm Hg or diastolic BP 90-99 mm Hg); medical intervention indicated; recurrent or persistent ( $\geq 24$ hours); symptomatic increase by $> 20$ mm Hg (diastolic) or to $> 140/90$ mm Hg if previously WNL; monotherapy indicated	Stage 2 hypertension (systolic BP $\geq 160$ mm Hg or diastolic BP $\geq 100$ mm Hg); medical intervention indicated; more than one drug or more intensive therapy than previously used indicated	Life-threatening consequences (e.g., malignant hypertension, transient or permanent neurologic deficit, hypertensive crisis); urgent intervention indicated	Death

## Medication Management

- Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor
- Angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB)
- Calcium channel blocker

# Proteinuria Management

- Measurement of urine protein is convenient and reliable
- Urine protein  $\geq 2$ : Further evaluate with 24-hour urine collection
- Suspend therapy for proteinuria  $\geq 2$  g/24 hours; may resume when it is  $< 2$  g/24 hours
- Clinical significance: Renal damage and cardiovascular risk
- Preventive measures
  - Optimal control of hypertension
  - Use of ACE inhibitors

# Case 3: Quality of Life

53-year-old woman

## Initial Presentation

- Iron deficiency anemia
- Stage IV ascending colon adenocarcinoma
- FOLFOXIRI + bevacizumab



Metastatic disease to liver and peritoneum



MSS, KRAS mutant



Progressed through first- and second-line therapy, declined HIPEC  
Determined to have **refractory disease**



# Case 3: Quality of Life (cont.)

53-year-old woman

Stage IV ascending colon  
adenocarcinoma

MSS, KRAS mutant



BSA 2.0 m<sup>2</sup>

**Treatment:** Trifluridine/tipiracil 70 mg BID  
Days 1-5, 8-12 every 28 days  
+ Bevacizumab



- Cycle 1: Grade 2 neutropenia
- Cycle 2: Grade 4 neutropenia, grade 2 thrombocytopenia, grade 3 anemia



Trifluridine/tipiracil 50 mg BID  
Days 1-5 every 14 days  
+ bevacizumab

Satake H, et al., 2020

## Polling Question: Case 3

**In your practice, which of the following is the most significant driving factor for therapeutic selection for a patient like the one in this case?**

A. Cost **10%**

**B. Quality of life 80%**

C. Extension of overall survival **10%**

D. Other **0%**

# Clinical Pearls

- The SUNLIGHT trial provides assurance that trifluridine/tipiracil + bevacizumab provides clinically meaningful benefit for refractory colorectal cancer, regardless of RAS status.
- Safety and tolerability of trifluridine/tipiracil + bevacizumab is manageable.
- Engagement of a multimodality approach can improve adherence given a complex dosing and treatment schedule.

# Q & A

Please type your questions for Tammy Triglianios  
into the **question box**.

**Thank You**