‘Can you spell that?’: CRC Chemo Cheat Sheet for most Standard of Care (SOC) Chemotherapy
For COLONTOWN members to make sense of the long drug names, long alternative names, and combination abbreviations

**Common 1st Line/2nd Line Drugs**

- **FOLinic Acid**
  - AKA: Leucovorin
  - Purpose: enhances 5FU

- **Fluorouracil**
  - AKA: 5FU
  - ‘The 46 hr pump’

- **IRInotecan**
  - AKA: Camptosar
  - Noted side effect: diarrhea

- **XEloda**
  - AKA: Capecitabine
  - ‘pills’ or ‘oral 5FU’
  - Noted side effect: hand foot syndrome (HFS)

- **OXaliplatin**
  - AKA: Eloxatin
  - Noted side effect: neuropathy

- **FOLFOXIRI**
  - These two can be combined for regimen called OXIRI

**‘Boosts’ to chemo**

Biologics added to increase chemo efficacy typically for Stage IV active disease; Also used on their own for maintenance

- **Avastin**
  - AKA: bevacizumab
  - Biosimilar called Mvasi
  - Type of agent: Anti-VEGF
  - Noted side effect: bleeding/clotting

- **Erbitux**
  - AKA: cetuximab
  - OR

- **Vectibix**
  - AKA: panitumumab
  - Type of agent: Anti-EGFR
  - Noted side effect: Rash

**Common 3rd Line Drugs**

- **Lonsurf**
  - AKA: TAS-102, FTD/TPI
  - Combo of trifluridine & tipiracil

- **Stivarga**
  - AKA: regorafenib

**Chemo Regimens**

**Combinations of abbreviations of the drugs**

- **FOLFIRI**
- **FOLFOX**
- **FOLFOXIRI/ FOLFIRINOX**
- **XELOX/CAPOX**
- **XELIRI**

**Chemo Related Terms as related to CRC**

- **Standard of Care (SOC)** - Consensus of best approved treatments based on scientific evidence
- **Line of Treatment** - a specific regimen used, 1st line (1L) would be the first line of therapy, 2nd (2L) the next and so forth
- **Neoadjuvant** - Treatment before curative intent surgery
- **Adjuvant** - Treatment after curative intent surgery
- **Infusion** - drugs given intravenously usually via port
- **Oral** - drugs taken in pill form
- **‘Pump’** - in this context the ‘pump’ usually means a pump which administers 5FU for 46 hours; it is attached via one port and when it is removed it is referred to as ‘disconnect’
- **‘Bolus’** - also called a ‘push’ is a dose of a drug given quickly (usually via a syringe into one’s IV line). Sometimes 5FU is given via bolus or the ‘pump’ and some premeds or Leucovorin may be given by bolus too
- **Port or PICC** - these are semi-permanent access to your vein so that chemo can be given this way or blood drawn versus new needle access every time; a port is placed under the skin on the chest and PICC is in the arm with access point outside the skin

Updated: 2/1/21