

Safety Across Subgroups in NAPOLI-1: a Phase 3 Study of nal-IRI (MM-398) ± 5-Fluorouracil and Leucovorin Versus 5-Fluorouracil and Leucovorin in Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer Previously Treated With Gemcitabine-Based Therapy

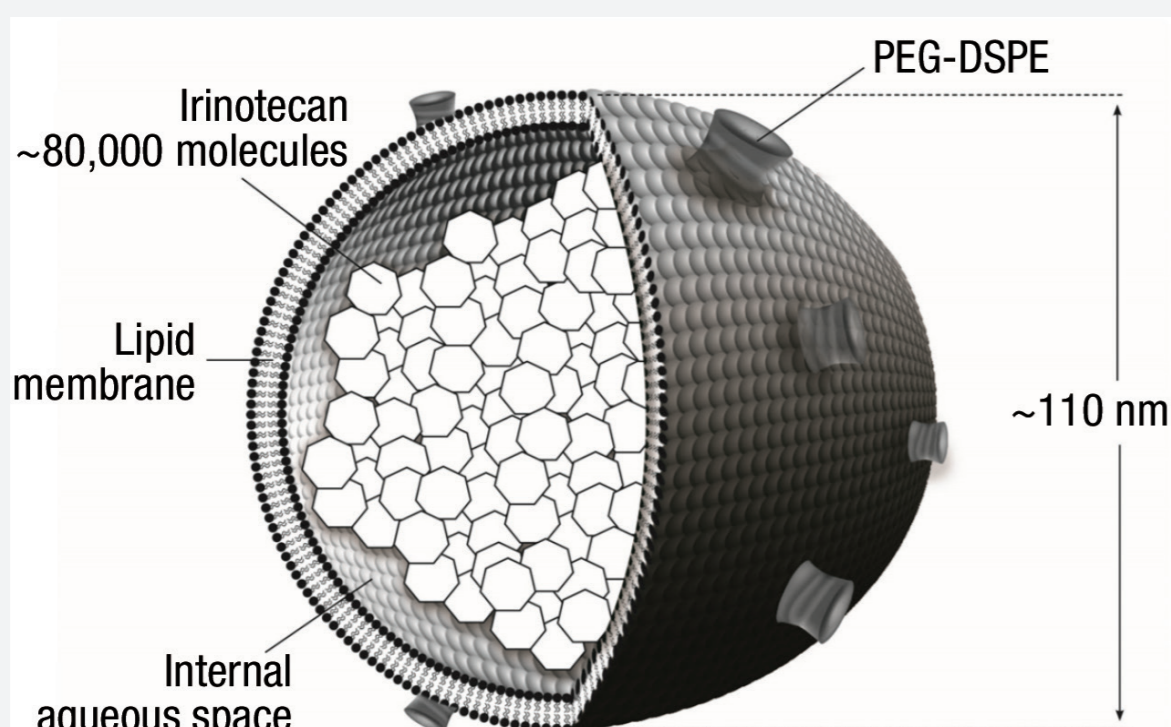
Li-Tzong Chen,¹ Jens T Siveke,² Andrea Wang-Gillam,³ Richard Hubner,⁴ Shubham Pant,⁵ Tomislav Dragovich,⁶ Vincent M Chung,⁷ David Z Chang,⁸ Paul J Ross,⁹ Prasad Cooray,¹⁰ Niall C Tebbutt,¹¹ Fabio A Franke,¹² Bruce Belanger,¹³ Navreet Dhindsa,¹³ Floris de Jong,¹⁴ Khalid Mamlouk,¹³ Daniel D Von Hoff¹⁵

¹National Health Research Institutes – National Institute of Cancer Research, Tainan, Taiwan; ²West German Cancer Center, University Hospital Essen, Essen, Germany; ³Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA; ⁴Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, UK; ⁵OU Medical Center, Oklahoma City, OK, USA; ⁶Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center, Gilbert, AZ, USA; ⁷City of Hope, Duarte, CA, USA; ⁸Virginia Oncology Associates, Newport News, VA, USA; ⁹Guy's Hospital, London, UK; ¹⁰Box Hill Hospital, Box Hill, VIC, Australia; ¹¹Olivia Newton John Cancer & Wellness Centre, Austin Health, Heidelberg, VIC, Australia; ¹²Hospital de Caridade de Ijuí, Ijuí, RS, Brazil; ¹³Merrimack Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Cambridge, MA, USA; ¹⁴Shire, Glattpark (Opfikon), Switzerland; ¹⁵TGen and HonorHealth, Phoenix/Scottsdale, AZ, USA

BACKGROUND

- Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Europe and the seventh leading cause worldwide.^{1,2}
- Metastatic pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (mPDAC) represents a significant unmet need, with approximately 80% of patients dying within 12 months.³
- nal-IRI (MM-398) is a novel liposomal formulation of irinotecan that exhibits extended circulation and facilitates intratumoral drug deposition when compared with nonliposomal (ie, conventional) irinotecan (Figure 1).^{4,5}
- nal-IRI is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, in combination with 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) and leucovorin (LV), for use following disease progression in patients with mPDAC previously treated with gemcitabine-based therapy.⁶

Figure 1. nal-IRI design.



nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan; PEG-DSPE, poly(ethylene glycol)-distearylphosphatidylcholate nanoliposome.

- NAPOLI-1 was a phase 3 trial evaluating the efficacy and safety of nal-IRI, as monotherapy and in combination with 5-FU/LV, compared with 5-FU/LV alone, in patients with mPDAC previously treated with gemcitabine-based therapy.⁷
- As of the data cutoff of February 14, 2014, median overall survival (OS) increased significantly with nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV relative to 5-FU/LV (6.1 vs 4.2 months; unstratified hazard ratio [HR], 0.67 [95% confidence interval (CI), 0.49-0.92]; $P = 0.012$), but did not differ significantly between nal-IRI monotherapy and 5-FU/LV (4.9 vs 4.2 months; unstratified HR, 0.99 [95% CI, 0.77-1.28]; $P = 0.94$).⁷
- The most common treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) of all grades in patients whose treatment included nal-IRI were diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting (Table 1).⁷
- Adverse events that resulted in a dose reduction occurred in 39 (33%) patients in the nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV arm, 46 (31%) patients in the nal-IRI monotherapy arm, and 5 (4%) patients in the 5-FU/LV arm.
- Adverse events leading to treatment discontinuation occurred in 13 (11%) patients in the nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV arm, 17 (12%) patients in the nal-IRI monotherapy arm, and 10 (7%) patients in the 5-FU/LV arm.

Table 1. Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events From the Primary Analysis of the NAPOLI-1 Trial⁷

	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV n = 117		5-FU/LV n = 134	
	Any Grade	Grades 3/4	Any Grade	Grades 3/4
Diarrhea	69 (59)	15 (13)	35 (26)	6 (4)
Vomiting	61 (52)	13 (11)	35 (26)	4 (3)
Nausea	60 (51)	9 (8)	46 (34)	4 (3)
Decreased appetite	52 (44)	5 (4)	43 (32)	3 (2)
Fatigue	47 (40)	16 (14)	37 (28)	5 (4)
Neutropenia ^a	46 (39)	32 (27)	7 (5)	2 (1)
Anemia	44 (38)	11 (9)	31 (23)	9 (7)

5-FU, 5-fluorouracil; LV, leucovorin; nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan.

Data are number of patients (%). The table shows grade 3 and 4 adverse events reported in >5% of patients with >2% incidence versus 5-FU/LV.
^aIncludes agranulocytosis, febrile neutropenia, granulocytopenia, neutropenia, neutropenic sepsis, decreased neutrophil count, and pancytopenia.

OBJECTIVES

- To evaluate the safety of nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV and 5-FU/LV in the following subgroups:
 - Age (≥65 years vs <65 years)
 - Ethnicity (white vs east Asian)
 - UGT1A1*28 allele (TA7/TA7 genotype; yes vs no)
 - Albumin level (≥4.0 g/dL vs <4.0 g/dL)
 - Karnofsky performance status (KPS) score (≥90 vs <90)

METHODS

Study Design

- NAPOLI-1 was an international, open-label, randomized, phase 3 trial

- Patients were initially randomized to nal-IRI monotherapy (120 mg/m² irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate salt equivalent to 100 mg/m² irinotecan free base every 3 weeks) or 5-FU/LV (200 mg/m² LV and 2000 mg/m² 5-FU, every week for the first 4 weeks of each 6-week cycle)
- Once safety data for the combination regimen became available from a concurrent study in metastatic colorectal cancer, the protocol was amended to include a third arm, nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV (80 mg/m² irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate salt [equivalent to 70 mg/m² irinotecan free base], 400 mg/m² LV, and 2400 mg/m² 5-FU over 46 hours, every 2 weeks)
 - The initial nal-IRI dose in the nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV arm was 60 mg/m² for patients homozygous for the UGT1A1*28 allele (TA7/TA7 genotype) and could be increased to the standard dose (80 mg/m²) in the absence of drug-related toxic effects
- Randomization was stratified by baseline albumin levels (≥4.0 g/dL vs <4.0 g/dL), KPS (70 and 80 vs ≥90), and ethnicity (white vs east Asian vs all others)
- TEAEs were graded by National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.0, and coded by Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities, version 14.1
- All TEAEs were followed until resolution or patient discontinuation
- The safety analysis population included all patients who received ≥1 dose of study drug
- The presence of the UGT1A1*28 allele was determined by genotype testing, and homozygous patients were identified (TA7/TA7 genotype)
 - The UGT1A1 gene codes an enzyme responsible for glucuronidation of the active metabolite of irinotecan, SN-38
 - Patients homozygous for the UGT1A1*28 allele may be at increased risk for neutropenia, diarrhea, and other SN-38 exposure related side-effects during irinotecan treatment because of reduced glucuronidation of SN-38
- Data from the nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV arm (nal-IRI combination arm) and the 5-FU/LV arm (control arm) are presented herein (data cutoff of February 14, 2014)

Eligibility Criteria

Key Inclusion Criteria

- Adults ≥18 years of age
- Histologically or cytologically confirmed PDAC
- Documented measurable or nonmeasurable distant metastatic disease (as defined by Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors, version 1.1)
- Disease progression after prior gemcitabine or gemcitabine-containing therapy in a neoadjuvant, adjuvant (only if distant metastases occurred within 6 months of completing adjuvant therapy), locally advanced, or metastatic setting
- KPS score ≥70
- Adequate hematologic (including absolute neutrophil count >1.5 × 10⁹ cells/L), hepatic (including normal serum total bilirubin and albumin levels ≥30 g/L), and renal function

Key Exclusion Criteria

- Active central nervous system metastasis
- Clinically significant gastrointestinal disorders
- Severe arterial thromboembolic events <6 months before inclusion
- New York Heart Association class III or IV congestive heart failure, ventricular arrhythmias, or uncontrolled blood pressure
- Active infection or uncontrolled fever

RESULTS

Patient Characteristics

- Of the 417 patients included in the intention-to-treat population, 398 (95%) received ≥1 dose of any study drug (safety analysis population)
- Patient demographics and baseline characteristics were well balanced between the nal-IRI combination and control arms (Table 2)

Table 2. Demographics and Baseline Characteristics (Safety Population)

Parameter	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV n = 117	5-FU/LV n = 134
Sex, n (%)		
Male	67 (57.3)	73 (54.5)
Female	50 (42.7)	61 (45.5)
Age, median (range), years	63 (41-81)	63 (39-83)
Ethnicity, n (%)		
White	73 (62.4)	85 (63.4)
East Asian	33 (28.2)	44 (32.8)
Other	11 (9.4)	5 (3.7)
KPS score, n (%)		
100	19 (16.2)	16 (11.9)
90	50 (42.7)	50 (37.3)
80	39 (33.3)	57 (42.5)
70	7 (6.0)	11 (8.2)
60	2 (1.7)	0
Previous lines of metastatic therapy, n (%)		
0 ^a	15 (12.8)	18 (13.4)
1	63 (53.8)	79 (59.0)
≥2	39 (33.3)	37 (27.6)
Previous anticancer therapy, ^b n (%)		
Gemcitabine alone	54 (46.2)	61 (45.5)
Gemcitabine combination	63 (53.8)	73 (54.5)
Fluorouracil	50 (42.7)	53 (39.6)
Irinotecan	12 (10.3)	14 (10.4)
Platinum	37 (31.6)	38 (28.4)

5-FU, 5-fluorouracil; KPS, Karnofsky performance status; LV, leucovorin; nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan.

^aPatients received neoadjuvant, adjuvant, or locally advanced treatment, but no previous therapy for metastatic disease.

^bColumns add to >100% because some patients received more than 1 line of therapy, and regimens may include multiple drug classes.

Treatment Exposure

- Median duration of exposure to nal-IRI in the nal-IRI combination arm was 8.7 weeks (interquartile range [IQR], 5.4-22.0 weeks); mean dose intensity of nal-IRI over 6 weeks was 167.5 mg/m² (standard deviation [SD], 52.05 mg/m²)
- Median duration of exposure to 5-FU was 8.7 weeks (IQR, 5.4-22.0 weeks) in the nal-IRI combination arm and 6.0 weeks (IQR, 5.9-12.1 weeks) in the control arm; mean dose intensities of 5-FU over 6 weeks were 5065.0 mg/m² (SD, 1539.1 mg/m²) and 6718.0 mg/m² (SD, 1770.18 mg/m²), respectively

Safety Subgroup Analysis

Age

- Incidence of any-grade and grade ≥3 TEAEs was similar between patients aged <65 years and those aged ≥65 years in each treatment arm (Table 3)
- Grade ≥3 TEAEs of note (difference of ≥5% between subgroups):
 - In the nal-IRI combination arm, incidence of vomiting (14.3% vs 7.4%) was higher in patients <65 years; incidence of nausea (11.1% vs 4.8%) was higher in patients ≥65 years

Table 3. TEAEs by Age

	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV				5-FU/LV			
	<65 Years n = 83	≥65 Years n = 54	<65 Years n = 78	≥65 Years n = 56				
Any TEAE	63 (100)	53 (98.1)	77 (98.7)	55 (98.2)				
Any TEAE, grade ≥3	53 (64.1)	37 (68.5)	44 (56.4)	31 (55.4)				
Any TEAE resulting in dose modification ^a	46 (73.0)	37 (68.5)	25 (32.1)	23 (41.1)				
TEAEs (reported in ≥30% of patients in any arm)								
Vomiting	41 (65.1)	9 (14.3)	20 (28.2)	2 (3.6)				
Diarrhea	39 (61.9)	9 (14.3)	22 (28.2)	5 (8.4)				
Nausea	38 (60.3)	3 (4.8)	22 (28.2)	1 (1.8)				
Decreased appetite	30 (47.9)	2 (3.2)	22 (28.2)	1 (1.8)				
Neutropenia ^a	24 (38.1)	17 (27.0)	22 (28.2)	3 (3.5)				
Fatigue	23 (36.5)	8 (12.7)	21 (26.9)	2 (3.6)				
Anemia	19 (30.2)	5 (7.9)	13 (16.7)	6 (10.2)				
Abdominal pain	17 (27.0)	5 (7.9)	23 (29.5)	6 (7.7)				

5-FU, 5-fluorouracil; LV, leucovorin; nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

^aDose modification included dose reduction, dose delay, and dose discontinuation.

^bIncludes agranulocytosis, febrile neutropenia, granulocytopenia, neutropenia, neutropenic sepsis, neutrophil count decreased, and pancytopenia.

Ethnicity

- Incidence of any-grade TEAEs was similar between white and east Asian patients in each treatment arm, with the exception of diarrhea, which occurred less frequently in east Asians (Table 4)
- Incidence of grade ≥3 TEAEs in the control arm was similar between white and east Asian patients (56.5% vs 54.5%), whereas the incidence of grade ≥3 TEAEs in the nal-IRI combination arm was higher for east Asians compared with whites (87.9% vs 69.9%)
- Grade ≥3 TEAEs of note (difference of ≥5% between subgroups):
 - In the nal-IRI combination arm, incidence of diarrhea (19.2% vs 3.0%), fatigue (19.2% vs 0%), and vomiting (13.7% vs 6.1%) was higher in white patients; incidence of anemia (21.2% vs 5.5%), neutropenia (54.5% vs 17.8%), and white blood cell decrease (21.2% vs 2.7%) was higher in east Asian patients
 - In the control arm, incidence of abdominal pain (8.2% vs 2.3%) was higher in white patients; incidence of anemia (13.6% vs 3.5%) was higher in east Asian patients

Table 4. TEAEs by Ethnicity

	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV				5-FU/LV			
	White n = 73	East Asian n = 33	White n = 85	East Asian n = 44				
Any TEAE	72 (98.6)	33 (100)	84 (98.8)	43 (97.7)				
Any TEAE, grade ≥3	51 (69.9)	29 (87.9)	48 (56.5)	24 (54.5)				
Any TEAE resulting in dose modification ^a	48 (65.8)	28 (84.8)	33 (38.8)	13 (29.5)				
TEAEs (reported in ≥30% of patients in any arm)								
Diarrhea	45 (61.6)	14 (19.2)	24 (28.2)	4 (4.7)				
Nausea	37 (60.7)	6 (8.2)	28 (32.9)	3 (3.5)				
Fatigue	35 (47.9)	14 (19.2)	8 (24.2)	3 (3.5)				
Vomiting	34 (46.6)	10 (13.7)	23 (27.1)	4 (4.7)				
Anemia	29 (39.7)	4 (5.5)	16 (18.8)	3 (3.5)				
Decreased appetite	24 (32.9)	2 (2.7)	24 (28.2)	1 (1.2)				
Neutropenia ^a	21 (28.8)	13 (17.8)	4 (4.7)	0				
Abdominal pain	20 (27.4)	6 (8.2)	30 (35.3)	7 (8.2)				
White blood cell count decreased	4 (5.5)	2 (2.7)	1 (1.2)	0				

5-FU, 5-fluorouracil; LV, leucovorin; nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

^aDose modification included dose reduction, dose delay, and dose discontinuation.

^bIncludes agranulocytosis, febrile neutropenia, granulocytopenia, neutropenia, neutropenic sepsis, neutrophil count decreased, and pancytopenia.

UGT1A1*28 Allele (TA7/TA7 Genotype)

- Although the low number of patients with the TA7/TA7 genotype makes comparison difficult, the incidence of any-grade and grade ≥3 TEAEs appeared to be similar between patients with or without the TA7/TA7 genotype (Table 5)
- In the nal-IRI combination arm, 3 of the 7 patients with the TA7/TA7 genotype were able to escalate the nal-IRI dose to 80 mg/m² without needing dose reduction
 - 1 patient escalated but required dose reduction back to 60 mg/m²
 - 2 patients maintained the initial dose
 - 1 patient required dose reduction to 40 mg/m²
- 1 additional patient in the nal-IRI combination arm with the TA7/TA7 genotype discontinued treatment (without dose reduction) because of grade 3 vomiting

1 patient escalated but required dose reduction back to 60 mg/m²

2 patients maintained the initial dose

1 patient required dose reduction to 40 mg/m²

1 additional patient in the nal-IRI combination arm with the TA7/TA7 genotype discontinued treatment (without dose reduction) because of grade 3 vomiting

Table 5. TEAEs by UGT1A1*28 Allele (TA7/TA7 Genotype)

	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV				5-FU/LV			
	TA7/TA7 Genotype n = 7	No TA7/TA7 Genotype n = 110	TA7/TA7 Genotype n = 13	No TA7/TA7 Genotype n = 121				
Any TEAE	7 (100)	109 (99.1)	13 (100)	119 (98.3)				
Any TEAE, grade ≥3	5 (71.4)	85 (77.3)	8 (61.5)	67 (55.4)				
Any TEAE resulting in dose modification ^a	4 (57.1)	79 (71.8)	5 (38.5)	43 (35.5)				
TEAEs (reported in ≥30% of patients in any arm)								
Anemia	5 (71.4)	0	39 (35.5)	11 (10.0)				
Nausea	3 (42.9)	0	57 (51.8)	9 (8.2)				
Vomiting	3 (42.9)	1 (14.3)	58 (52.7)	12 (10.0)				
Abdominal pain	2 (28.6)	0	25 (22.7)	8 (7.3)				
Decreased appetite	2 (28.6)	0	50 (45.5)	5 (4.5)				
Diarrhea	2 (28.6)	1 (14.3)	67 (60.9)	14 (12.7)				
Neutropenia ^a	2 (28.6)	2 (28.6)	44 (40.0)	30 (27.3)				
Constipation	1 (14.3)	0	25 (22.7)	0				
Fatigue	1 (14.3)	0	46 (41.8)	16 (14.5)				

5-FU, 5-fluorouracil; LV, leucovorin; nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

^aDose modification included dose reduction, dose delay, and dose discontinuation.

^bIncludes agranulocytosis, febrile neutropenia, granulocytopenia, neutropenia, neutropenic sepsis, neutrophil count decreased, and pancytopenia.

Albumin

- Incidence of any-grade and grade ≥3 TEAEs was similar between patients with albumin levels ≥4.0 g/dL or <4.0 g/dL (Table 6)
- Grade ≥3 TEAEs of note (difference of ≥5% between subgroups):
 - In the nal-IRI combination arm, incidence of diarrhea (17.6% vs 6.4%) and fatigue (16.2% vs 10.6%) was higher in patients with albumin levels ≥4.0 g/dL
 - In the control arm, incidence of diarrhea (8.1% vs 1.4%) was higher in patients with albumin levels <4.0 g/dL

Table 6. TEAEs by Albumin Level

	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV				5-FU/LV			
	Albumin ≥4.0 g/dL n = 68	Albumin <4.0 g/dL n = 47	Albumin ≥4.0 g/dL n = 70	Albumin <4.0 g/dL n = 62				
Any TEAE	69 (100)	46 (97.9)	70 (100)	60 (96.8)				
Any TEAE, grade ≥3	55 (80.9)	33 (70.2)	32 (45.7)	42 (67.7)				
Any TEAE resulting in dose modification ^a	48 (70.6)	33 (70.2)	21 (30.0)	26 (41.9)				
TEAEs (reported in ≥30% of patients in any arm)								
Diarrhea	41 (60.3)	12 (17.6)	27 (57.4)	3 (6.4)				
Nausea	38 (55.9)	4 (5.9)	20 (42.6)	4 (8.3)				
Vomiting	38 (55.9)	8 (11.8)	23 (48.9)	5 (10.6)				
Decreased appetite	33 (48.5)	2 (2.9)	19 (40.4)	3 (6.4)				
Fatigue	31 (45.6)	11 (16.2)	16 (34.0)	5 (10.6)				
Neutropenia ^a	29 (42.6)	20 (29.4)	17 (36.2)	12 (25.5)				
Anemia	24 (35.3)	6 (8.9)	20 (42.6)	5 (10.6)				
Abdominal pain	19 (27.9)	6 (8.9)	7 (14.9)	2 (4.3)				
Constipation	16 (23.5)	0	9 (19.1)	0				

5-FU, 5-fluorouracil; LV, leucovorin; nal-IRI, liposomal irinotecan; TEAE, treatment-emergent adverse event.

^aDose modification included dose reduction, dose delay, and dose discontinuation.

^bIncludes agranulocytosis, febrile neutropenia, granulocytopenia, neutropenia, neutropenic sepsis, neutrophil count decreased, and pancytopenia.

Karnofsky Performance Status

- Incidence of any-grade TEAEs was similar between patients with KPS score of ≥90 or <90 (Table 7)
- Incidence of grade ≥3 TEAEs was similar between patients with KPS score of ≥90 or <90 in the nal-IRI combination arm; incidence of grade ≥3 TEAEs was lower in patients with KPS score of ≥90 vs patients with KPS score of <90 in the control arm (40.9% vs 70.6%)
- Grade ≥3 TEAEs of note (difference of ≥5% between subgroups):
 - In the nal-IRI combination arm, incidence of decreased appetite (8.3% vs 1.4%) and abdominal pain (10.4% vs 4.3%) was higher in patients with KPS score <90
 - In the control arm, incidence of abdominal pain (8.8% vs 3.0%) was higher in patients with KPS score <90

Table 7. TEAEs by KPS Score

	nal-IRI + 5-FU/LV				5-FU/LV			
	KPS Score ≥90 n = 69	KPS Score <90 n = 48	KPS Score ≥90 n = 66	KPS Score <90 n = 68				
Any TEAE	69 (100)	47 (97.9)	65 (98.5)	67 (98.5)				
Any TEAE, grade ≥3	52 (75.4)	38 (79.2)	27 (40.9)	48 (70.6)				
Any TEAE resulting in dose modification ^a	48 (69.6)	33 (72.9)	19 (28.8)	29 (42.6)				
TEAEs (reported in ≥30% of patients in any arm)								
Diarrhea	40 (58.0)	8 (11.6)	29 (60.4)	7 (14.5)				
Nausea	37 (53.6)	4 (5.8)	23 (47.9)	5 (10.6)				
Vomiting	36 (52.2)	8 (11.6)	25 (52					