

KRAS and BRAF Gene Subgroup Analysis in the Phase 3 RECURSE Trial of TAS-102 Versus Placebo in Patients With Metastatic Colorectal Cancer

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Introduction

- TAS-102 is an oral combination treatment comprised of an antineoplastic thymidine-based nucleoside analogue, trifluridine (FTD), and the thymidine phosphorylase inhibitor, tipiracil hydrochloride (TPI), at a molar ratio of 1:0.5 (Figure 1).^{1,2}
 - FTD is incorporated into DNA, causing DNA dysfunction^{3,4}
 - TPI improves the bioavailability of FTD³
- The mechanism of action (MOA) of TAS-102 is distinct from that of 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), a uracil analogue (Figure 2).
 - The primary MOA of 5-FU is believed to be the inhibition of thymidylate synthase (TS), which leads to depletion of deoxythymidine triphosphate and inhibition of DNA replication^{5,6}
 - The monophosphate form of FTD also inhibits TS, but this is not believed to be the primary MOA when dosed orally⁷
- In the phase 3 RECURSE trial in patients with metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC) refractory to standard therapies, TAS-102 demonstrated a significant improvement compared with placebo in median overall survival (OS) (7.1 vs 5.3 months; hazard ratio [HR]=0.68; P<0.0001) and progression-free survival (PFS) (2.0 vs 1.7 months; HR=0.48; P<0.0001).¹
- This analysis was performed to evaluate efficacy and safety in the RECURSE trial based on KRAS and BRAF mutation gene status as reported by investigators.

Figure 1. Components of TAS-102

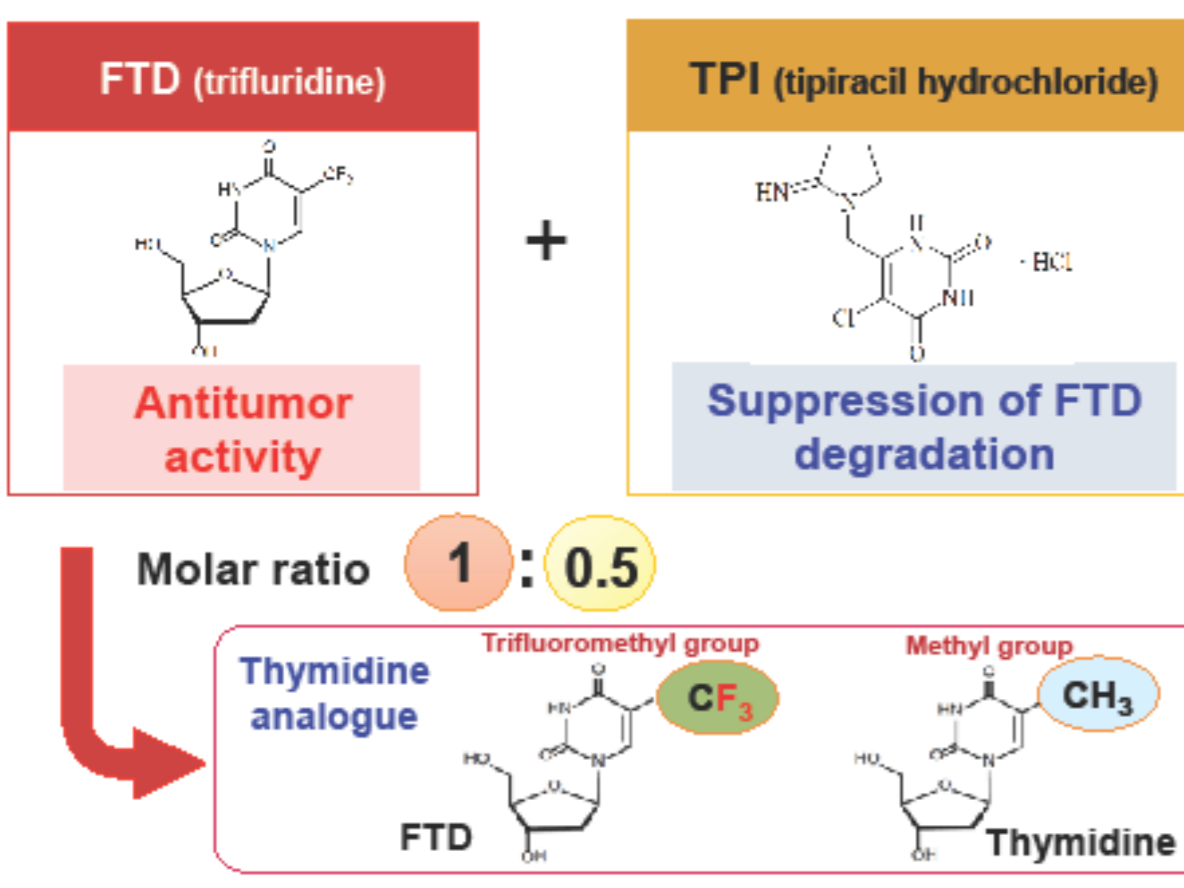
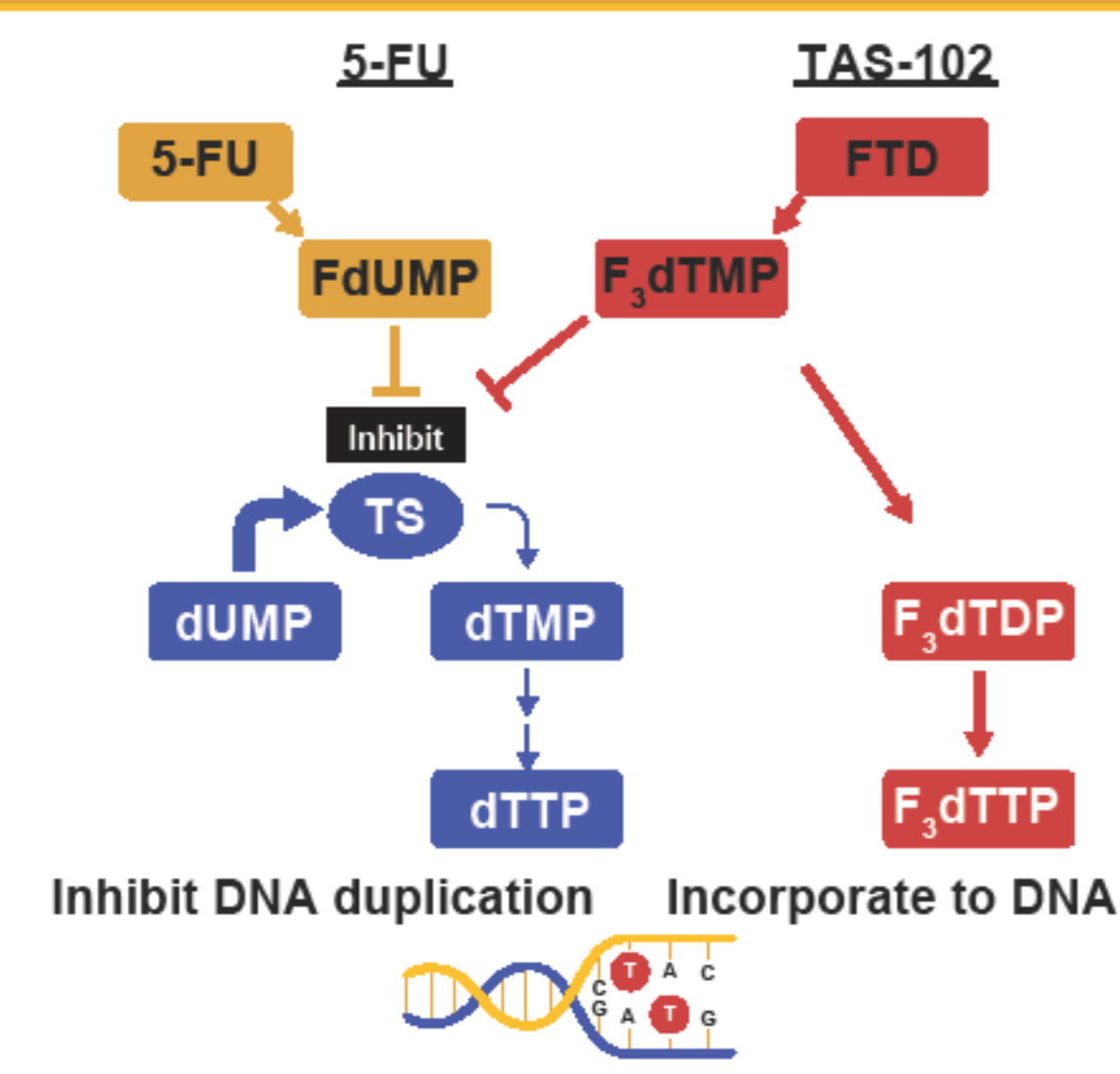


Figure 2. Differentiation of 5-Fluorouracil (5-FU) and TAS-102



Results (cont'd)

Table 2. Patient Demographics and Baseline Characteristics by KRAS Status (ITT Population)

	KRAS Wild Type		KRAS Mutant		Total
	TAS-102 (n=268)	Placebo (n=272)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=132)	
Gender, male, n (%)	188 (69.8)	81 (29.8)	261 (92.3)	92 (69.7)	240 (56.1)
Age, y, mean (SD)	62.1 (10.3)	61.6 (9.4)	62.0 (10.0)	60.9 (10.0)	61.4 (10.1)
Race, n (%)					
Caucasian	139 (51.9)	82 (30.1)	221 (80.6)	167 (60.9)	240 (55.1)
Black/African American	2 (0.8)	1 (0.4)	3 (1.1)	2 (1.5)	5 (1.1)
Asian	97 (37.2)	43 (15.8)	140 (51.8)	87 (65.3)	134 (31.0)
Not collected	22 (8.2)	9 (3.3)	30 (11.0)	19 (14.3)	22 (4.9)
ECOG PS, n (%)					
0	149 (55.6)	63 (23.1)	212 (77.6)	152 (55.5)	236 (54.1)
1	111 (41.7)	71 (26.1)	182 (66.8)	122 (44.5)	170 (39.1)
Time since diagnosis of first metastasis, n (%)					
<18 months	39 (14.6)	18 (6.6)	57 (20.9)	37 (27.8)	109 (26.6)
≥18 months	221 (83.3)	196 (72.3)	337 (123.9)	202 (72.0)	297 (72.2)
Baseline renal function, n (%)					
Normal (CrCL ≥90 mL/min)	153 (57.2)	73 (26.8)	226 (82.5)	154 (56.2)	228 (56.7)
Primary tumor site, n (%)					
Colon	156 (58.2)	80 (29.4)	236 (86.6)	183 (66.8)	244 (57.6)
Rectal	105 (39.3)	54 (19.8)	159 (58.4)	91 (33.2)	142 (34.8)
Number of prior regimens, n (%)					
1	0	0	0	0	0
2	25 (9.3)	18 (6.6)	33 (12.1)	27 (9.9)	37 (9.0)
3	80 (30.0)	23 (8.5)	71 (25.9)	69 (25.2)	101 (24.9)
4	185 (69.2)	104 (38.5)	289 (106.6)	135 (49.3)	198 (46.8)
All prior systemic cancer therapeutic agents, n (%)					
Bevacizumab	280 (105.2)	133 (48.9)	399 (145.9)	274 (100.0)	406 (100.0)
Cetuximab/panitumumab	282 (106.0)	131 (48.2)	393 (144.1)	18 (6.5)	29 (7.1)
Cetuximab	188 (70.5)	104 (38.2)	292 (107.7)	15 (5.3)	24 (5.9)
Panitumumab	115 (42.9)	52 (19.1)	167 (61.6)	4 (3.0)	10 (2.6)
Fluoropyrimidines*	280 (105.2)	134 (48.9)	394 (144.7)	274 (100.0)	406 (100.0)
Irinotecan	280 (105.2)	134 (48.9)	394 (144.7)	274 (100.0)	406 (100.0)
Oxaliplatin	280 (105.2)	134 (48.9)	394 (144.7)	274 (100.0)	406 (100.0)
Regorafenib	40 (15.0)	31 (11.4)	71 (26.0)	51 (18.0)	73 (17.9)
Other	228 (85.2)	116 (42.7)	344 (126.6)	243 (88.7)	364 (89.7)

CrCL, creatinine clearance; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; ITT, intention to treat. *All regimens. ¹CrCL based on Cockcroft-Gault using baseline creatinine. ²Includes all prior systemic therapies, including adjuvant, metastatic. ³Patients with multiple lines are counted in each applicable category. ⁴Fluoropyrimidines* include 5-FU-containing agents fluorouracil, capecitabine, doxifluridine, S-1, tegafur, and UFT.

Efficacy

- OS favored TAS-102 vs placebo across both KRAS subgroups (Table 3; Figure 4).
 - In the KRAS wild-type subgroup, median OS was 8.0 months with TAS-102 vs 5.7 months with placebo (HR=0.58, 95% CI, 0.45-0.75; P<0.0001).
 - In the KRAS mutant subgroup, median OS was 6.5 months with TAS-102 vs 4.9 months with placebo (HR=0.80, 95% CI, 0.63-1.02; P=0.0712).
- In an exploratory analysis of treatment factor interactions using a Cox proportional hazards (CPH) model, KRAS status was not predictive of treatment outcome, with an interaction P-value=0.4215.
 - P-value for interaction with treatment from full model plus the 2-way interaction with just the factor shown (ie, separate models including only 1 factor crossed with treatment).
 - The CPH model included the following factors identified using a stepwise selection process: KRAS status, time since diagnosis of first metastasis, region, primary tumor site, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status, and number of metastatic sites.
- Results for PFS also favored TAS-102 across KRAS subgroups (Table 3; Figure 5).
 - In the KRAS wild-type subgroup, median PFS was 2.1 months with TAS-102 vs 1.7 months with placebo (HR=0.48, 95% CI, 0.39-0.61; P<0.0001).
 - In the KRAS mutant subgroup, median PFS was 1.9 months with TAS-102 vs 1.8 months with placebo (HR=0.49, 95% CI, 0.39-0.61; P<0.0001).
- Disease control rate (complete response, partial response, or stable disease) was 45.8% with TAS-102 vs 21.4% with placebo in the KRAS wild-type subgroup, and 42.2% with TAS-102 vs 11.4% with placebo in the KRAS mutant subgroup (Table 4).

Table 3. Overall Survival and Progression-Free Survival: Overall RECURSE Population and by KRAS Status

	Overall RECURSE Population		KRAS Wild Type		KRAS Mutant	
	TAS-102 (n=534)	Placebo (n=268)	TAS-102 (n=262)	Placebo (n=131)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=135)
Median OS, months (95% CI)	7.1 (5.7-7.8)	5.3 (4.6-6.0)	8.0 (6.9-9.2)	5.7 (4.6-6.6)	6.5 (5.6-7.1)	4.9 (4.2-5.1)
HR (95% CI)			0.58 (0.45-0.81)	0.80 (0.63-1.02)	0.58 (0.45-0.75)	0.76 (0.63-0.92)
P-value			<0.0001	<0.0001	0.0712	<0.0001
Median PFS, months (95% CI)	2.0 (1.9-2.1)	1.7 (1.7-1.8)	2.1 (1.9-2.7)	1.7 (1.7-1.8)	1.9 (1.9-2.1)	1.8 (1.7-1.8)
HR (95% CI)			0.48 (0.41-0.57)	0.49 (0.39-0.61)	0.49 (0.39-0.61)	0.50 (0.41-0.61)
P-value			<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.0001

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

Figure 4. Kaplan-Meier Overall Survival by KRAS Status

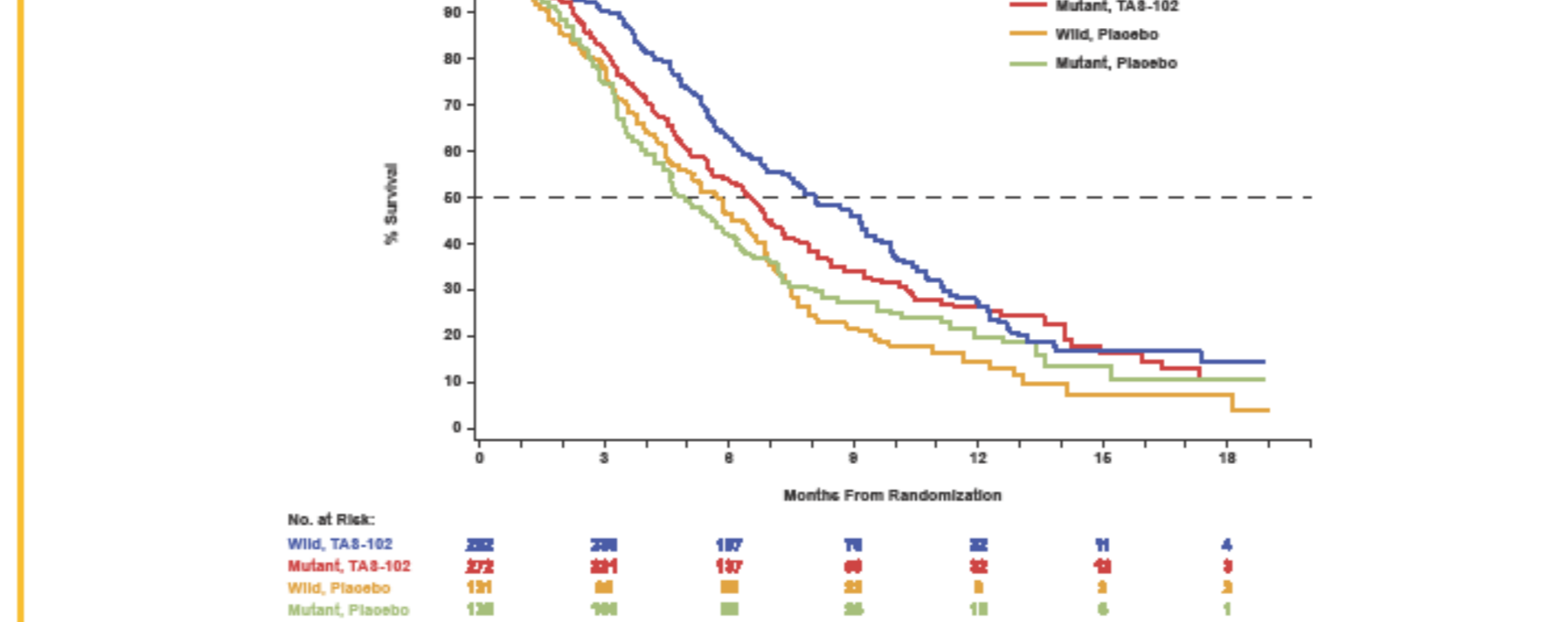


Figure 5. Kaplan-Meier Radiologic Progression-Free Survival by KRAS Status

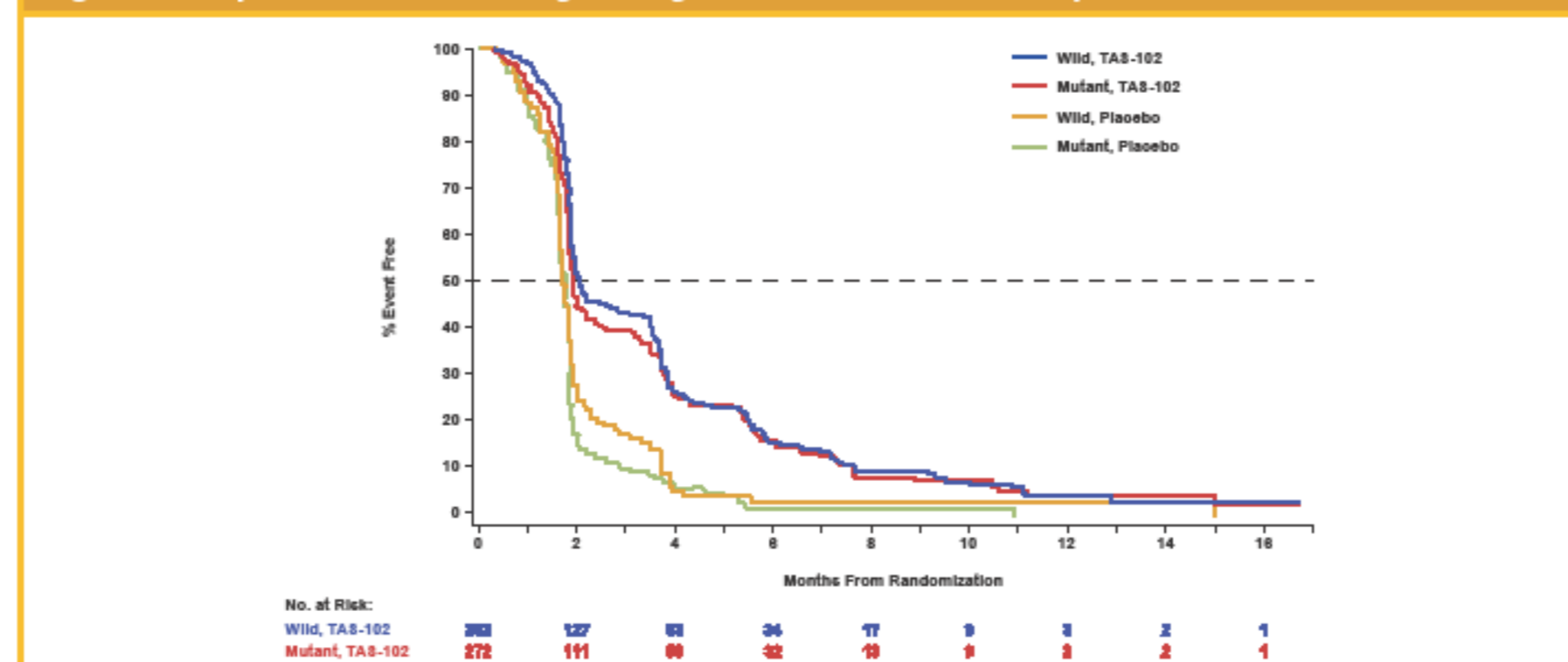


Table 4. Best Overall Response According to KRAS Status

	KRAS Wild Type		KRAS Mutant	
	TAS-102 (n=268)	Placebo (n=272)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=132)
Best overall response, n (%)				
Complete and partial response	7 (2.6)	1 (0.4)	1 (0.4)	0
Disease control rate*	116 (43.3)	27 (10.0)	105 (38.6)	15 (11.4)

*Disease control rate = complete response + partial response + stable disease.

Safety

- There were no overall differences in incidence of adverse events (AEs), grade ≥3 AEs, or serious AEs for patient subgroups based on KRAS status (Table 5).
- In the TAS-102 group, patients with KRAS mutant vs KRAS wild-type tumors had a higher incidence (≥5%) of diarrhea (35.2% vs 28.5%), asthenia (21.6% vs 14.8%), and decreased appetite (43.2% vs 34.6%); patients with KRAS wild-type vs KRAS mutant tumors had a higher incidence of neutropenia (41.7% vs 34.2%), leukopenia (24.3% vs 18.6%), and thrombocytopenia (7.7% vs 2.6%) (Table 6).
- In the TAS-102 group, there was an increase in hematologic AEs for patients with KRAS wild-type vs KRAS mutant tumors; the difference was significant for thrombocytopenia and borderline for febrile neutropenia, anemia, and neutropenia based on 95% CIs (Table 7).
- Dose intensity was similar for patients with KRAS wild-type and mutant tumors (Table 8).

Table 5. Adverse Events by KRAS Status (As-Treated Population)

	KRAS Wild Type		KRAS Mutant	
	TAS-102 (n=268)	Placebo (n=272)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=132)
Any AE, n (%)	259 (97.2)	134 (49.3)	266 (97.8)	123 (93.2)
Grade ≥3 AE, n (%)	177 (65.9)	69 (25.4)	193 (70.7)	68 (51.5)
Serious AEs, n (%)	84 (31.3)	42 (15.4)	76 (27.9)	47 (35.6)

Table 6. Adverse Events by KRAS Status

	KRAS Wild Type		KRAS Mutant	
	TAS-102 (n=268)	Placebo (n=272)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=132)
Most common AEs (≥15% in any TAS-102 group), n (%)				
Neutropenia	126 (47.2)	31 (11.4)	127 (46.7)	32 (24.2)
Fatigue	91 (33.9)	29 (10.7)	97 (35.7)	33 (25.0)
Decreased appetite	110 (41.1)	41 (15.1)	118 (43.4)	37 (28.0)
Diarrhea	78 (29.1)	19 (7.0)	95 (35.0)	14 (10.6)
Pyrexia	42 (15.7)	21 (7.7)	66 (24.3)	16 (12.1)
Anemia	38 (14.2)	17 (6.2)	59 (21.6)	13 (9.8)
Laboratory abnormalities, n (%)				
Neutropenia*	108 (40.3)	0	92 (33.8)	0
Leukopenia*	63 (23.5)	0	50 (18.4)	0
Lymphopenia*	59 (22.0)	11 (4.0)	63 (23.2)	15 (11.4)
Anemia*	55 (20.5)	6 (2.2)	41 (15.1)	2 (1.5)
Thrombocytopenia*	20 (7.5)	0	7 (2.6)	0

AEs, adverse events. *Selected grade ≥3 laboratory parameters that worsened from baseline by ≥1 grade at any cycle. ¹KRAS wild type: TAS-102 (n=268), placebo (n=272); KRAS mutant: TAS-102 (n=272), placebo (n=132). ²KRAS wild type: TAS-102 (n=268), placebo (n=272); KRAS mutant: TAS-102 (n=272), placebo (n=132).

Table 7. Relative Risk of Selected Adverse Events for KRAS Wild Type vs Mutant: TAS-102 Group (As-Treated Population; ≥3% in Either KRAS Group)*

	KRAS Wild Type (n=268)	KRAS Mutant (n=272)	RR Mutant vs Wild Type (95% CI)
Grade ≥3 hematologic events, n (%)			
Clinical findings			
Febrile neutropenia	14 (5.2)	6 (2.2)	0.41 (0.16-1.05)
Laboratory abnormalities			
Anemia	55 (20.5)	41 (15.1)	0.71 (0.49-1.02)
Neutropenia	108 (40.3)	92 (33.8)	0.81 (0.65-1.01)
Thrombocytopenia	20 (7.5)	7 (2.6)	0.33 (0.14-0.78)
Grade ≥3 nonhematologic events, n (%)			
Clinical findings			
Asthenia	6 (2.2)	12 (4.4)	1.90 (0.73-5.00)
Decreased appetite	9 (3.3)	10 (3.7)	1.06 (0.44-2.59)
Diarrhea	7 (2.6)	9 (3.3)	1.22 (0.48-3.14)
Fatigue	10 (3.7)	11 (4.0)	1.05 (0.48-2.43)
Vomiting	8 (3.0)	3 (1.1)	0.36 (0.10-1.33)
Laboratory investigations			
AST increased	10 (3.7)	13 (4.8)	1.24 (0.55-2.77)
Alkaline phosphatase increased	19 (7.1)	23 (8.5)	1.16 (0.64-2.07)
Bilirubin increased	26 (10.1)	19 (7.0)	0.70 (0.39-1.28)
Potassium decreased	10 (3.7)	5 (1.9)	0.48 (0.16-1.37)
Cardiac (arrhythmia)	8 (3.0)	7 (2.6)	0.83 (0.31-2.27)
Thromboembolic events (arterial and venous)	12 (4.5)	9 (3.3)	0.71 (0.31-1.67)

AST, aspartate aminotransferase; RR, relative risk. *KRAS status as per assignment on the case report form.

Table 8. Exposure to Study Medication by KRAS Status (As-Treated Population)*

	KRAS Wild Type		KRAS Mutant	
	TAS-102 (n=268)	Placebo (n=272)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=132)
Total dose administered, mg/h, mean (SD)	2355.1 (1744.88)	1585.5 (1120.38)	2162.3 (1800.64)	1448.4 (1074.64)
Dose intensity, mg/h/week, mean (SD)	155.36 (1782.09)	165.42 (182.48)	154.76 (2138.99)	165.09 (166.84)
Relative dose intensity (ratio to planned), mean (SD)	0.888 (0.1007)	0.945 (0.0928)	0.884 (0.1257)	0.943 (0.0862)

SD, standard deviation. *KRAS status as per assignment on the case report form. ¹Ratio 2.048 (8.60) comparing dose intensity (mg/h/week) of mutant and wild type.

BRAF Wild Type and Mutant

- BRAF status was provided for ~15% of intention-to-treat patients: 116 (14.5%) had BRAF wild-type tumors and 8 (1.0%) had BRAF mutant tumors (Tables 1 and 9).
- The small number of patients with BRAF status identified, especially BRAF mutant, precludes any meaningful analysis of OS or PFS (Table 10).
- The small BRAF status sample size makes it difficult to draw any conclusions regarding differences in incidence of AEs (Table 11) or clinical laboratory abnormalities.

Table 9. Patient Demographics and Baseline Characteristics by BRAF Status (ITT Population)

	BRAF Wild Type		BRAF Mutant	
	TAS-102 (n=534)	Placebo (n=268)	TAS-102 (n=272)	Placebo (n=132)
Gender, male, n (%)	52 (9.7)	26 (9.7)	2 (0.7)	2 (1.5)
Age, y, mean (SD)	60.7 (11.4)	60.3 (10.6)	60.5 (11.1)	60.0 (9.7)
Race, n (%)				
Caucasian	47 (87.7)	28 (10.4)	75 (27.6)	4 (3.0)
Black/African American	2 (3.7)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.7)	0
Asian	12 (22.5)	8 (3.0)	20 (7.4)	0
Not collected	14 (26.3)	11 (4.1)	19 (7.0)	0
ECOG PS, n (%)				
0	47 (87.7)	23 (8.6)	70 (25.8)	2 (1.5)
1	28 (52.3)	19 (7.1)	46 (16.9)	2 (1.5)
KRAS status, n (%)				
Wild type	42 (78.8)	26 (9.7)	68 (25.0)	2 (1.5)
Mutant	33 (61.2)	15 (5.6)	48 (17.6)	2 (1.5)
Time since diagnosis of first metastasis, n (%)				
<18 months	21 (39.3)	8 (3.0)	29 (10.7)	