



## EGFR AND VEGF INHIBITORS IN THE THERAPY OF GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS

Enrico Mini

Department of Pharmacology, University of Florence

There have been notable results from pharmacological therapy of gastrointestinal cancers in recent years, allowing significantly prolonged survival, especially in patients with colorectal tumors. These improved results have been made possible by the introduction into clinical practice of efficacious combination therapy using classic chemotherapeutic agents.

The more recent introduction of target-specific drugs has provided even better results based on employment of antitumor compounds with high therapeutic index which can be easily combined with classic cytotoxic agents.

Monoclonal antibodies directed against the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) have been a positive addition to the pharmacological armamentarium for gastrointestinal tumors. Chemical compounds which are inhibitors of protein kinases involved in signal transduction relative to tumor proliferation and neoangiogenesis are currently in experimental clinical trials.