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13 November 2007

Dear Mr Feinmann

**Re: Cetuximab for Locally Advanced Squamous Cell Cancer of the Head and Neck –
Appeal Panel decision**

I write on behalf of the NCRI Head & Neck Clinical Studies Group/Royal College of Physicians/Royal College of Radiologists/Joint Collegiate Council for Oncology/Association of Cancer Physicians. We are grateful for the opportunity to respond to the request for information that relates to the efficacy of carboplatin alone, and to the safety or toxicity of carboplatin plus fluorouracil, in patients with locally advanced squamous cell cancer of the head and neck.

In regards to carboplatin as a single agent - there are no randomised trials to suggest that carboplatin concomitant to radiation is better than radiation alone. The trials have not been carried out. It is not known if it is as effective as cisplatin in this context.

There has been a GORTEC trial which showed that carboplatin + 5FU was beneficial when given concomitant to radiation. The size of the benefit was similar to that seen with cisplatin.

I trust these comments will be of use.

Yours sincerely

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