Late Stage MSS-CRC Trial Finder
A Curated List Powered by Patients

The Late Stage MSS-CRC Trial Finder was originally created by stage IV survivor Tom Marsilje, Ph.D. It first began as a simple spreadsheet shared with late-stage patients Tom met online. In 2017, Tom partnered with Fight Colorectal Cancer to expand the tool’s reach and get support for its curation. The tool is programmed to automatically search the National Institutes of Health (NIH) ClinicalTrials.gov public database each day for new and existing trial updates. Once trials are imported, the curation process begins. This fact sheet illustrates the systematic approach taken to review, add and remove clinical trials listed in the tool.

Guiding Principles & Definitions

Curation: The act of sorting through clinical trials in an organized way. The goal is to provide a filtered list. The list is not comprehensive.

Patient point of view: Our way of considering clinical trials curation; anchored on patient values and considerations. For example, “What do I, as a Stage IV patient, want in a trial? I may only have one shot.”

Safety: Intensity of side effects.

Efficacy: If the trial is “working” or impact of the trial.

Durable Response: In cancer care, a long-lasting positive reaction to therapy, usually lasting at least a year.

Explaining the Curation Process

For our curation process we anchor on two key values & considerations:

Highest "potential" benefit: Chance for a durable response, even if it’s a small chance. Immunotherapy trials* are characterized as highest “potential.”

Lowest “potential” chance or trial failure: Trial can fail due to either safety or lack of efficacy. CRC trials that have advanced to Phase 2 or Phase 3* are characterized as lowest “potential.”

• Ideally a trial matches both highest “potential” benefit and lowest “potential” chance of failure but being realistic – either/or is acceptable

• We deemphasize trials that have both the highest risk of failure and lower chance of durable response

Daily Search of ClinicalTrials.gov of Every New Registered Trial

Q: Is the new trial an immunotherapy trial that accepts MSS-CRC patients?
If yes, add to curated list.
If no, move on.

Q: Is the new trial both:
1.) Enrolling MSS-CRC patients?
2.) Phase 2 or 3 Trial??***

If yes, move on.
If no, remove from curated list.

* As research progresses, the curation process will be updated and surrogates may be updated based on patient values and considerations.

** Prioritizing non-Phase 1 CRC-directed trials which exclusively involve novel therapeutics and/or techniques. (Phase 1 trials currently are not included)

*** High-impact trials or breaking news on clinical trials will be included on a case-by-case basis.