

Characterization and Management of Gastrointestinal Adverse Events With Zanidatamab + Chemotherapy ± Tislelizumab in First-Line HER2-Positive Locally Advanced or Metastatic Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinoma: Analysis From HERIZON-GEA-01

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Objective

To further characterize gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events (AEs) and management of diarrhea in the phase 3 HERIZON-GEA-01 trial of first-line (1L) zanidatamab + chemotherapy (CT) ± tislelizumab vs trastuzumab + CT in patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)-positive advanced or metastatic gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma (mGEA)

Conclusions

The safety profile of 1L zanidatamab-containing regimens for HER2-positive mGEA supports a favorable benefit-risk profile given the clinically significant survival benefits; diarrhea was more frequent in the zanidatamab-containing arms vs the trastuzumab + CT arm

In zanidatamab-treated patients, most diarrhea events were grade 1 or 2, consistent with findings from previous phase 2 trials,^{7,8} and first onset typically occurred within 2 weeks of starting treatment

Grade ≥3 diarrhea was rare after cycle 6 when patients could discontinue CT; recurrent grade ≥3 diarrhea was infrequent

Across treatment arms, diarrhea led to zanidatamab dose reductions in approximately 10% of patients and chemotherapy dose reductions in approximately 20%

The rate of constipation was similarly low across treatment arms, and antidiarrheal prophylaxis did not result in more constipation in the zanidatamab-containing arms

Diarrhea should be managed with prophylactic loperamide, close monitoring and treatment of symptoms when they occur, and CT dose modifications as needed

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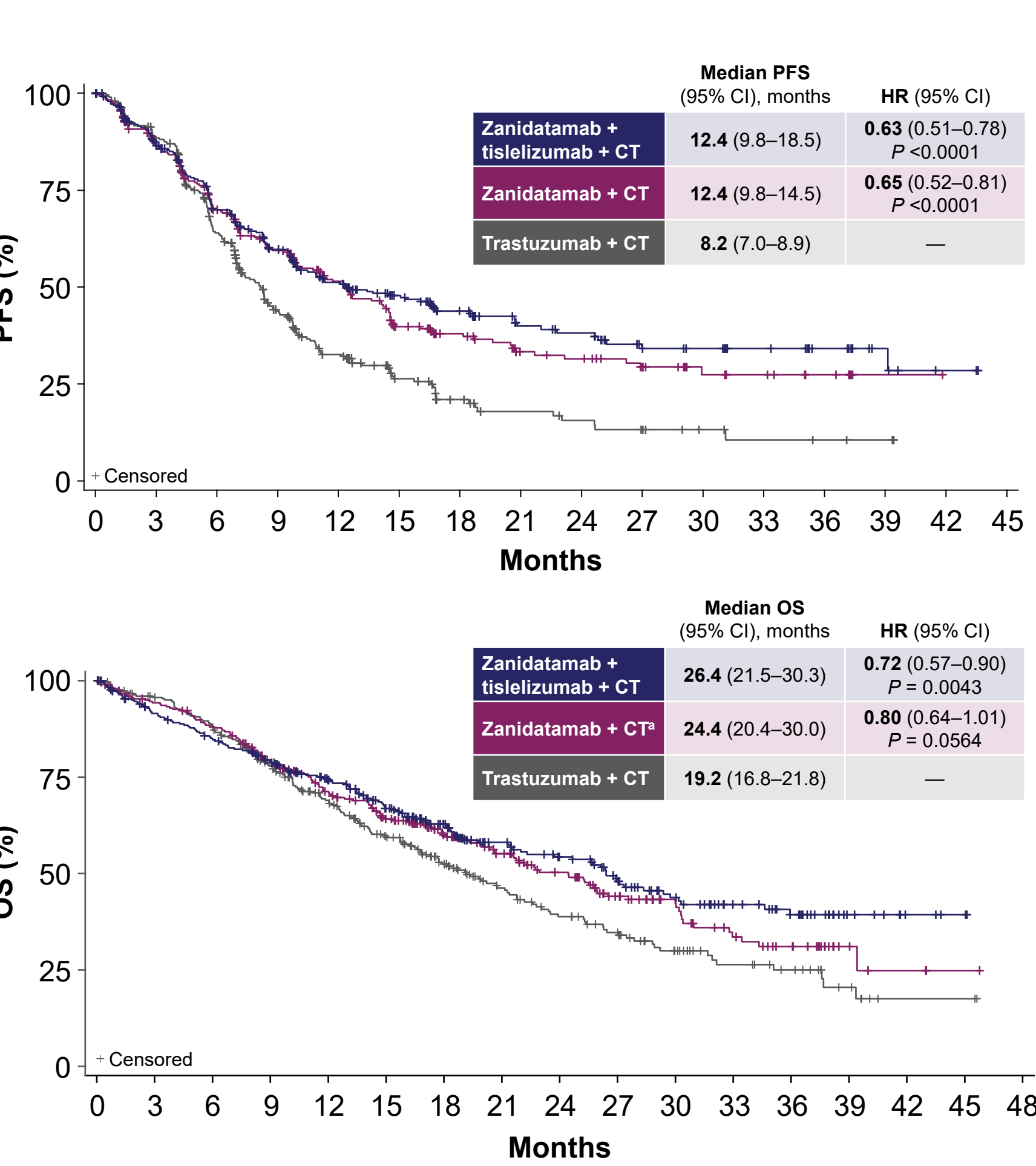
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A copy of this poster, the poster supplement, and an infographic summary of the results can be accessed via the QR code. Copies of this presentation obtained through QR code are for personal use only and may not be reproduced without written permission from the authors.

Introduction

- Survival outcomes with current 1L standard of care for HER2-positive mGEA remain modest, with a median overall survival (OS) of 14–20 months; there is an unmet need for effective HER2-targeted treatment options with manageable safety profiles^{1–3}
- Zanidatamab is a HER2-directed bispecific antibody that binds to the HER2 extracellular domains 2 and 4 in a *trans* configuration, facilitating the formation of distinct HER2 clusters on the cell surface. It has several key mechanisms of action:⁴
 - Increasing HER2 internalization
 - Reducing phosphorylation of EGFR, HER2, and HER3 and blocking downstream signaling
 - Inducing immune-mediated effects (complement-dependent cytotoxicity and antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity and phagocytosis)
- Tislelizumab is a high-affinity immune checkpoint inhibitor targeting programmed cell death protein 1 and is specifically engineered to minimize Fcγ receptor binding on macrophages^{5,6}
- A phase 2 trial of 1L zanidatamab + physician's choice CT and a phase 1b/2 trial of 1L zanidatamab + tislelizumab + capecitabine and oxaliplatin (CAPOX) both demonstrated promising activity with manageable safety profiles in patients with HER2-positive mGEA^{7,8}
 - Diarrhea, a common toxicity with HER2-targeted agents and CT,^{9,10} was the most common AE in both studies and was mitigated by prophylactic loperamide^{7,8}
- In the global phase 3 HERIZON-GEA-01 trial (NCT05152147), replacing trastuzumab + CT with zanidatamab + CT ± tislelizumab significantly improved progression-free survival and, with tislelizumab, yielded a statistically significant OS benefit, with a median OS >2 years, in patients with untreated HER2-positive mGEA (Figure 1)¹¹
- AEs were manageable and consistent with the known safety profiles of the individual agents; diarrhea was the most common AE across treatment arms

Figure 1. Primary PFS and first interim analysis of OS from HERIZON-GEA-01

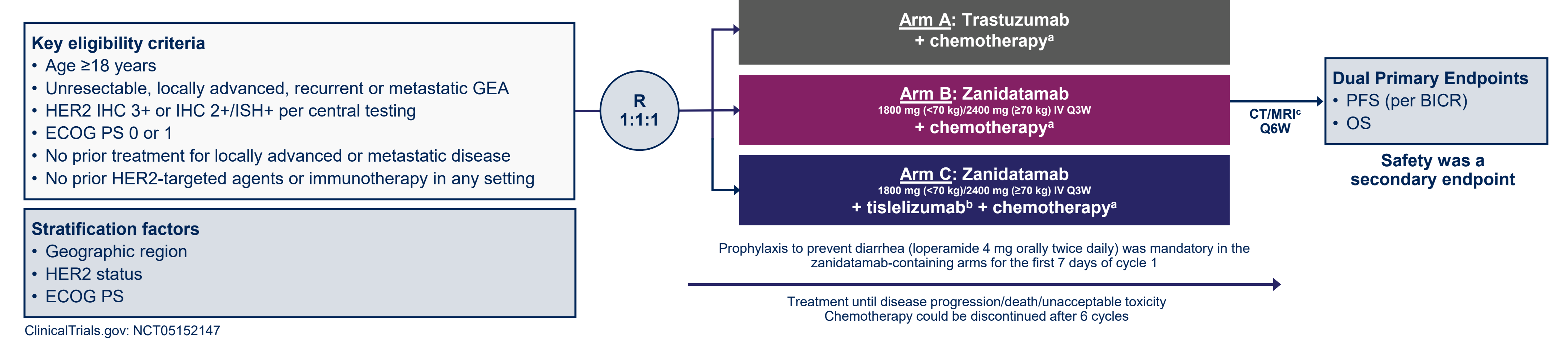


¹OS was not significant in the zanidatamab + CT arm vs the trastuzumab + CT arm at the first interim analysis, and additional OS analyses are planned. CT, chemotherapy; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival.

Methods

- HERIZON-GEA-01 is a global, randomized, open-label, phase 3 trial of zanidatamab + CT ± tislelizumab vs trastuzumab + CT in previously untreated patients with HER2-positive mGEA (Figure 2)
- Physician's choice of CT included CAPOX or 5-FU + cisplatin (FP) and could be discontinued after 6 cycles at the discretion of the treating physician; zanidatamab and tislelizumab could be continued until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity
- All patients in the zanidatamab-containing arms received mandatory prophylaxis for diarrhea (loperamide 4 mg orally twice daily for the first 7 days of cycle 1; each cycle was 21 days), which could be continued beyond the first week at the discretion of the treating physician
 - Grade ≥3 diarrhea was managed with fluid hydration, antidiarrheal medication, and zanidatamab dosing delays or CT dose modifications; zanidatamab dose reductions were required for recurrent grade ≥3 events (Supplemental Information)
- Frequency and severity of AEs were secondary endpoints; AEs were monitored throughout the study and reported from the start of dosing to 30 days after the last dose of study drug in all patients who received any amount of any study drug

Figure 2. HERIZON-GEA-01 study design



ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT05152147

^aPhysician's choice of capecitabine + oxaliplatin or 5-FU + cisplatin. Chemotherapy was administered for at least 6 cycles or until disease progression, unacceptable toxicity, or another criterion for treatment discontinuation was met. ^bTislelizumab 200 mg was administered IV Q3W. ^cCT/MRI scans were performed every 6 weeks for the first 54 weeks, then every 9 weeks. AE, adverse event; BICR, blinded independent central review; CT, computed tomography; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; GEA, gastroesophageal adenocarcinoma; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; IV, intravenously; MRI, magnetic resonance imaging; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; Q3W, every 3 weeks; Q6W, every 6 weeks; R, randomization.

Results

- Median duration of follow-up at data cutoff (October 1, 2025) was 25.9 months (range, 7.5–46.0)

Table 2. Overall GI AE and diarrhea safety summary (safety analysis set)

	Zanidatamab + tislelizumab + CT (n = 294)	Zanidatamab + CT (n = 305)	Trastuzumab + CT (n = 302)
Treatment duration, median (IQR), wk	43.1 (17.6–74.3)	31.0 (14.3–68.1)	30.0 (18.1–50.3)
Number of CT cycles, median (IQR)	6.0 (4.0–13.0)	6.0 (4.0–11.0)	7.0 (5.0–10.0)
CT >6 cycles	139 (47.3)	126 (41.3)	161 (53.3)
Any-grade GI AEs^a	276 (93.9)	285 (93.4)	254 (84.1)
Any-grade GI TRAEs^a	268 (91.2)	273 (89.5)	277 (75.2)
Occurring in >10% of patients in any arm			
Diarrhea	240 (81.6)	233 (76.4)	146 (48.3)
Nausea	151 (51.4)	153 (50.2)	128 (42.4)
Vomiting	112 (38.1)	120 (39.3)	84 (27.8)
Stomatitis	49 (16.7)	41 (13.4)	38 (12.6)
Any-grade AEs of constipation	48 (16.3)	50 (16.4)	49 (16.2)
Any-grade TRAEs of constipation	11 (3.7)	12 (3.9)	19 (6.3)
Grade ≥3 AEs of diarrhea	73 (24.8)	61 (20.0)	39 (12.9)
Grade ≥3 TRAEs of diarrhea	72 (24.5)	61 (20.0)	39 (12.9)
Zanidatamab- or trastuzumab-related diarrhea	192 (65.3)	204 (66.9)	40 (13.2)
Tislelizumab-related diarrhea	118 (40.1)	—	—
Serious diarrhea^b	45 (15.3)	31 (10.2)	12 (4.0)
Diarrhea leading to hospitalization	44 (15.0)	31 (10.2)	12 (4.0)
Immune-mediated AE of colitis^c	8 (2.7)	4 (1.3)	4 (1.3)

All data are shown as n (%) unless otherwise indicated.

^aCategorized as GI AEs per MedDRA system organ class. Patients with multiple GI AEs or multiple GI TRAEs were only counted once. A full table of GI AEs can be found in the Supplemental Information. ^bOne patient had grade 5 diarrhea in the zanidatamab + tislelizumab + CT arm. ^cCertain AEs were prospectively categorized as immune-mediated and were classified as immune-mediated in all treatment arms even if the AE was not related to immunotherapy treatment. Immune-mediated AEs were identified using a custom MedDRA query.

AE, adverse event; CT, chemotherapy; GI, gastrointestinal; IQR, interquartile range; MedDRA, Medical Dictionary for Regulatory Activities; TRAE, treatment-related AE.

- GI AEs occurred in >80% of patients in all treatment arms
- Diarrhea was the most common GI treatment-related AE, and most diarrhea events were grade 1/2
- Rates of any-grade constipation were similar across treatment arms
 - Most treatment-related constipation was grade 1/2; 1 patient in the trastuzumab + CT arm had grade ≥3 treatment-related constipation

Figure 3. First onset of diarrhea by cycle

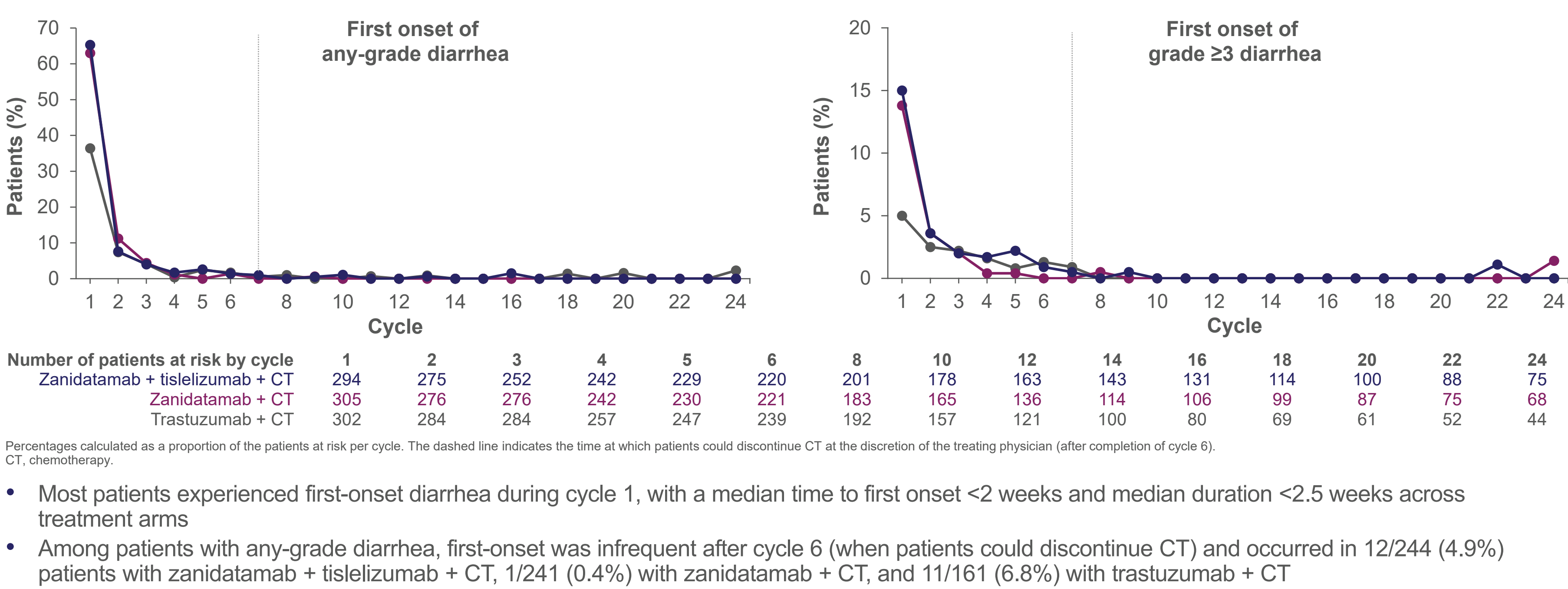


Figure 4. Overall diarrhea by cycle

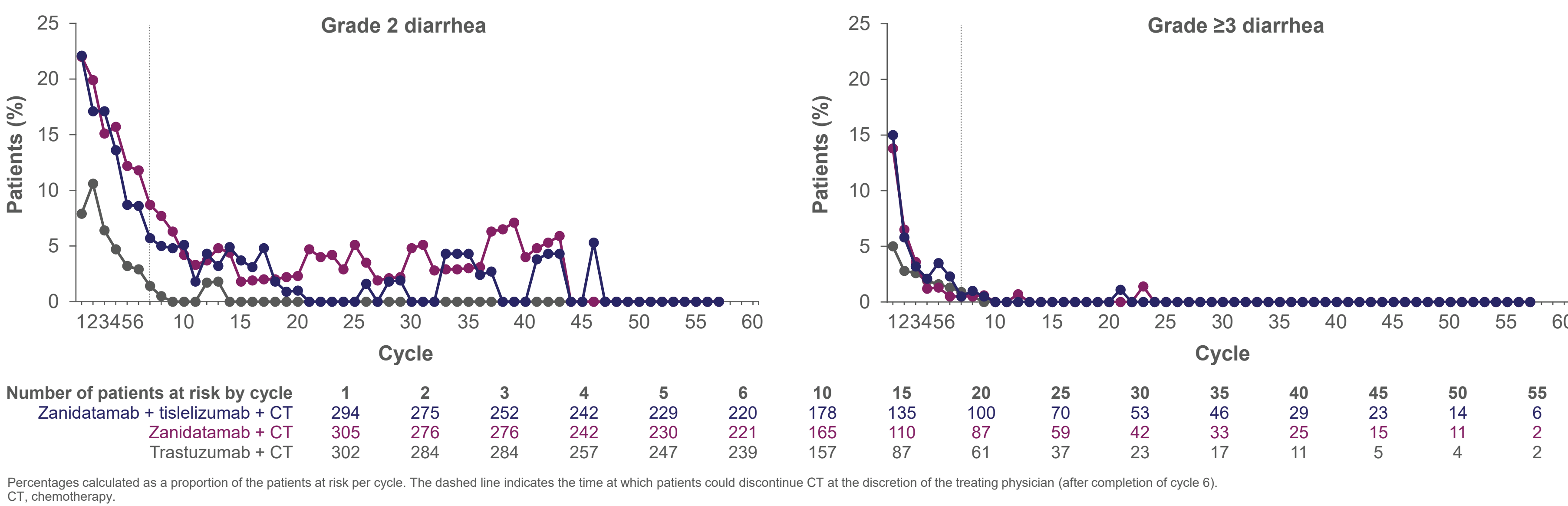


Table 1. Diarrhea grading per CTCAE v5.0¹²

Grade 1	Increase of <4 stools per day over baseline or mild increase in ostomy output compared to baseline
Grade 2	Increase of 4–6 stools per day over baseline, moderate increase in ostomy output compared to baseline, or diarrhea limiting instrumental ADL
Grade 3	Increase of ≥7 stools per day over baseline, hospitalization indicated, severe increase in ostomy output compared to baseline, or diarrhea limiting self-care ADL
Grade 4	Life-threatening consequences or urgent intervention indicated
Grade 5	Death

ADL, activities of daily living; CTCAE, Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events.

Table 3. Management of diarrhea

	Zanidatamab + tislelizumab + CT (n = 294)	Zanidatamab + CT (n = 305)	Trastuzumab + CT (n = 302)
Dose delays due to diarrhea	47 (16.0)	42 (13.8)	25 (8.3)
Zanidatamab or trastuzumab	40 (13.6)	41 (13.4)	23 (7.6)
Tislelizumab	37 (12.6)	—	—
CT	39 (13.3)	37 (12.1)	24 (7.9)
Dose reductions due to diarrhea^a	74 (25.2)	80 (26.2)	43 (14.2)
Zanidatamab	29 (9.9)	33 (10.8)	—
CT	64 (21.8)	72 (23.6)	43 (14.2)
Treatment discontinuations due to diarrhea	22 (7.5)	15 (4.9)	5 (1.7)
Zanidatamab or trastuzumab	12 (4.1)	4 (1.3)	1 (0.3)
Tislelizumab	8 (2.7)	—	—
CT	17 (5.8)	15 (4.9)	5 (1.7)
Any protocol-mandated loperamide prophylaxis^b	280 (95.2)	292 (95.7)	—
Concomitant medications for diarrhea	200 (68.0)	197 (64.6)	108 (35.8)
Received by >5% of patients in any arm			
Loperamide (excluding protocol-mandated prophylaxis) ^c	188 (63.9)	180 (59.0)	89 (29.5)
Montmorillonite	24 (8.2)	18 (5.9)	11 (3.6)
Diosmectite	17 (5.8)	24 (7.9)	10 (3.3)
Sodium chloride	18 (6.1)	7 (2.3)	6 (2.0)

All data are shown as n (%).

^aDose reductions of trastuzumab or tislelizumab were not permitted. ^bLoperamide prophylaxis was mandated for the first 7 days of cycle 1 in the zanidatamab-containing arms; prophylaxis was not given to all patients due to protocol-permitted withholding for constipation, early treatment discontinuations after infusion-related reactions, or isolated protocol deviations where patients were not administered loperamide. ^cIncludes loperamide and loperamide hydrochloride given for treatment purposes.

CT, chemotherapy.

- Dose delays, dose reductions, and discontinuations of zanidatamab and tislelizumab due to diarrhea were infrequent
- Diarrhea could typically be managed with loperamide and CT dose reductions
 - Otcotilde and lomotil were prescribed for diarrhea in <4% and <3% of patients across treatment arms, respectively

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Supplemental Information

Supplemental Table 1. Diarrhea management strategies for potential zanidatamab-related diarrhea

Diarrhea grade	Diarrhea management strategy
Grade 1/2	- Oral hydration with water, salt, and glucose - Suggest loperamide 4 mg orally followed by 2 mg every 4 hours or with each loose stool until diarrhea resolves - No dose modification of zanidatamab recommended
Grade 3	- Aggressive fluid hydration and clear liquid diet - Loperamide 4 mg orally followed by 4 mg every 2 hours with or without lomotil until diarrhea resolves - Consider octreotide 100 or 150 mcg subcutaneously every 8 hours for patients with persistent diarrhea after 48 hours of loperamide - Hold zanidatamab until severity is grade ≤1 or pretreatment level - Zanidatamab dose reduction required for recurrent grade ≥3 diarrhea - Discontinuation of zanidatamab required for recurrent grade ≥3 diarrhea persisting longer than 72 hours despite dose reduction and use of other management strategies
Grade 4	- Aggressive fluid hydration and clear liquid diet - Loperamide 4 mg orally followed by 4 mg every 2 hours with or without lomotil until diarrhea resolves - Consider octreotide 100 or 150 mcg subcutaneously every 8 hours for patients with persistent diarrhea after 48 hours of loperamide - Hold zanidatamab until severity is grade ≤1 or pretreatment level - For grade 4 diarrhea that improves to grade ≤2 within 72 hours with supportive management, resume zanidatamab upon improvement to grade ≤1 or pretreatment level and reduce the dose to 1400 mg (<70 kg) or 1800 mg (≥70 kg) every 3 weeks - Discontinuation of zanidatamab required for grade 4 diarrhea lasting longer than 72 hours or recurrent grade 4 diarrhea

Supplemental Table 2. Recommended chemotherapy dose modifications for diarrhea

Diarrhea grade	Recommended dose modification
Grade 1	No chemotherapy dose modifications recommended
Grade 2	CAPOX: If patients experience grade 2 diarrhea on day 1 of any cycle, hold CAPOX and perform weekly checks (maximum 2 times) - If diarrhea is grade <2 within 2 weeks, resume treatment at original dose level - If diarrhea remains grade ≥2 after 2 weeks, discontinue CAPOX FP: Decrease 1 infusion dose level
Grade 3	CAPOX: If patients experience grade 3 diarrhea on day 1 of any cycle, hold CAPOX and perform weekly checks (maximum 2 times) - If diarrhea is grade <2 within 2 weeks, resume treatment; decrease capecitabine by 1 dose level and maintain oxaliplatin dose^a - If diarrhea remains grade ≥2 after 2 weeks, discontinue CAPOX FP: Decrease 2 infusion dose levels
Grade 4	CAPOX: If patients experience grade 4 diarrhea on day 1 of any cycle, hold CAPOX and perform weekly checks (maximum 2 times) - If diarrhea is grade <2 within 2 weeks, resume treatment; decrease capecitabine by 2 dose levels and decrease oxaliplatin by 1 dose level^a - If diarrhea remains grade ≥2 after 2 weeks, discontinue CAPOX FP: Discontinue FP

^aIf treatment with capecitabine is discontinued, then oxaliplatin should also be discontinued. CAPOX, capecitabine + oxaliplatin; FP, fluorouracil + cisplatin.



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Supplemental Information

Supplemental Table 3. Any-grade GI AEs occurring in >1 patient in any treatment arm

	Zanidatamab + tislelizumab + CT (n = 294)	Zanidatamab + CT (n = 305)	Trastuzumab + CT (n = 302)		Zanidatamab + tislelizumab + CT (n = 294)	Zanidatamab + CT (n = 305)	Trastuzumab + CT (n = 302)
Diarrhea	244 (83.0)	241 (79.0)	161 (53.3)	Epigastric discomfort	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Nausea	164 (55.8)	166 (54.4)	144 (47.7)	Esophageal obstruction	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Vomiting	126 (42.9)	133 (43.6)	100 (33.1)	GI disorder	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	0
Constipation	48 (16.3)	50 (16.4)	49 (16.2)	Inguinal hernia	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	0
Stomatitis	53 (18.0)	43 (14.1)	42 (13.9)	Ileus	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	3 (1.0)
Abdominal pain	35 (11.9)	32 (10.5)	46 (15.2)	Periodontal disease	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	2 (0.7)
Dysphagia	21 (7.1)	28 (9.2)	25 (8.3)	Cheilitis	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Dyspepsia	15 (5.1)	21 (6.9)	19 (6.3)	Mouth hemorrhage	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Abdominal distension	12 (4.1)	15 (4.9)	12 (4.0)	Proctalgia	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Abdominal pain upper	19 (6.5)	14 (4.6)	22 (7.3)	Angular cheilitis	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Gastroesophageal reflux disease	17 (5.8)	12 (3.9)	9 (3.0)	Gastric stenosis	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Dry mouth	9 (3.1)	9 (3.0)	10 (3.3)	Gingival bleeding	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Hemorrhoids	3 (1.0)	7 (2.3)	3 (1.0)	Hypoesthesia oral	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Abdominal discomfort	2 (0.7)	5 (1.6)	2 (0.7)	Esophageal discomfort	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Colitis	7 (2.4)	4 (1.3)	1 (0.3)	Esophageal ulcer	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Ascites	4 (1.4)	4 (1.3)	11 (3.6)	Oral disorder	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)	0
Obstruction gastric	4 (1.4)	4 (1.3)	3 (1.0)	Enterocolitis	0	1 (0.3)	3 (1.0)
Mouth ulceration	2 (0.7)	4 (1.3)	3 (1.0)	GI pain	0	1 (0.3)	3 (1.0)
Intestinal obstruction	2 (0.7)	4 (1.3)	1 (0.3)	Oral dysesthesia	0	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Salivary hypersecretion	2 (0.7)	4 (1.3)	0	Retching	0	1 (0.3)	1 (0.3)
Toothache	8 (2.7)	3 (1.0)	4 (1.3)	Hematochezia	4 (1.4)	0	1 (0.3)
Melaena	4 (1.4)	3 (1.0)	2 (0.7)	Aphthous ulcer	3 (1.0)	0	3 (1.0)
Odynophagia	4 (1.4)	3 (1.0)	2 (0.7)	Impaired gastric emptying	3 (1.0)	0	3 (1.0)
Gastric hemorrhage	2 (0.7)	3 (1.0)	5 (1.7)	Esophageal pain	3 (1.0)	0	1 (0.3)
Gastritis	1 (0.3)	3 (1.0)	7 (2.3)	GI toxicity	2 (0.7)	0	1 (0.3)
Upper GI hemorrhage	6 (2.0)	2 (0.7)	9 (3.0)	Esophagitis	2 (0.7)	0	1 (0.3)
Dental caries	1 (0.3)	2 (0.7)	0	Gastric ulcer	2 (0.7)	0	0
Rectal hemorrhage	0	2 (0.7)	3 (1.0)	Abdominal pain lower	1 (0.3)	0	4 (1.3)
Enteritis	0	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	Eructation	1 (0.3)	0	2 (0.7)
Subileus	0	2 (0.7)	1 (0.3)	GI inflammation	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.3)
Gastric perforation	0	2 (0.7)	0	Gingival ulceration	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.3)
GI hemorrhage	7 (2.4)	1 (0.3)	4 (1.3)	Paresthesia oral	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.3)
Hematemesis	7 (2.4)	1 (0.3)	3 (1.0)	Rectal tenesmus	1 (0.3)	0	1 (0.3)
Flatulence	3 (1.0)	1 (0.3)	5 (1.7)	Feces discolored	0	0	2 (0.7)

AE, adverse event; CT, chemotherapy; GI, gastrointestinal.