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MORE TIME, MORE OPTIONS

CLINICAL TRIALS NEWSLETTER

This month, we're spotlighting HER2-positive colorectal cancer (HER2+ CRC) and the critical role side effect management plays in staying on treatment—especially for early-onset patients using targeted therapies.

*If you're a CRC patient and/or survivor, has your care team discussed
HER2 testing for your colorectal cancer?*

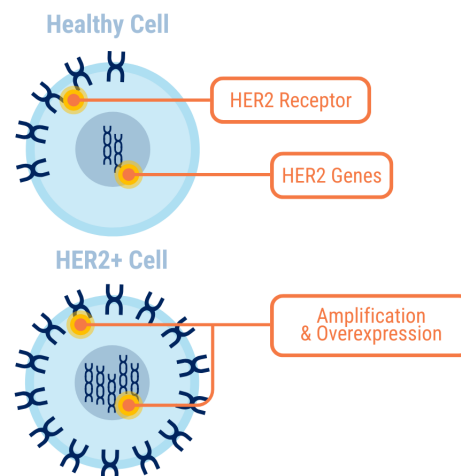
WE WANT TO KNOW

FEATURED STORY

HER2 AND COLORECTAL CANCER:

**WHAT YOU
NEED TO KNOW**

FIGHT CRC™



Targeted HER2 Therapies are Opening New Doors in CRC Care

HER2 (also called ERBB2) is a protein that can help some cancers grow. Doctors used to talk about it mostly in breast cancer, but it's now an important marker in some colorectal cancers (CRC) too. If your tumor tests "HER2-positive," there are targeted treatments, like tucatinib with trastuzumab, and trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd), that may help. These work best when your tumor's RAS gene test is "wild-type" (meaning no RAS mutations are found).

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[SEE THE RESEARCH](#)

CLINICAL TRIAL ROUNDUP

Supportive Care in Targeted Therapy Trials

These trials are actively exploring HER2-targeted therapies while also focusing on patient-reported outcomes, side effect management, and flexible dosing approaches.

[READ THE FULL LIST OF OCTOBER CLINICAL TRIALS](#)

Disclaimer: Inclusion in this list does not imply endorsement or a guaranteed benefit. Always consult your healthcare provider to determine whether a clinical trial is appropriate for you.

SPOTLIGHT

Hot Topic: Understanding HER2 Positivity in CRC

Testing helps identify patients who may benefit from these targeted treatments, such as tucatinib + trastuzumab or T-DXd.

- **Pathology reports** use two tests:
 - **IHC (immunohistochemistry)**: shows how much HER2 protein is present (scored 0–3+).
 - **ISH (in-situ hybridization)**: confirms if the HER2 gene is amplified.
- **RAS testing** checks for mutations in KRAS/NRAS genes.
 - **RAS wild-type** (no mutation) → HER2 drugs can work.
 - **RAS mutated** → HER2 drugs usually don't help because the pathway stays active downstream.

Test Result	What It Means	Why It Matters
IHC 3+	Strong HER2 expression	Eligible for HER2-targeted therapy
IHC 2+ and ISH+	Moderate HER2 with gene amplification	Eligible for HER2-targeted therapy
RAS <u>wild-type</u>	No KRAS/NRAS mutation	Needed for HER2 therapy to work

Bottom line: HER2-positive *and* RAS wild-type tumors may respond to HER2-targeted therapy, ask your oncologist if testing is complete and whether these treatments or trials could be options.

(For FDA and study details, see: [Strickler et al., 2023, Lancet Oncology](#); [Raghav et al., 2024, Lancet Oncology](#).)



Did you know? Fight CRC is also funding a first-of-its-kind precision medicine study with First Ascent Biomedical, using a patient's own tumor cells to test how they respond to different treatments. Like ctDNA testing, this approach helps move away from guesswork and toward tailored, data-driven care.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FIRST ASCENT PARTNERSHIP](#)

BEHIND THE RESEARCH

LIVE ONLINE WEBINAR**FIGHTCRC**

Understanding HER2: **What Patients** **Need to Know**

Fight Colorectal Cancer invites you to the launch of our [Clinical Trials Webinar Series](#) at 3 p.m. CST on Wednesday, Nov. 5! Our first session, “[Understanding HER2: What Patients Need to Know](#),” brings together top experts and patient advocates to discuss HER2-positive metastatic colorectal cancer (mCRC). You’ll also hear the latest insights from the [MOUNTAINEER clinical trial](#) and what they mean for patients.

[REGISTER & JOIN US ON NOVEMBER 5](#)

ACTION AND AWARENESS

Policy Update: Federal legislation is in development to improve patient access to side effect management during trials. These proposals aim to fund coverage for over-the-counter supportive medications and expand reimbursement programs. Contact your representatives. [Use Fight CRC’s advocacy tools →](#)

Take Action

- **Ask your doctor:** “Am I eligible for any HER2+ trials?”
- **Confirm** HER2 (IHC/ISH) and RAS (KRAS/NRAS) status
- **Search** clinical trials at [ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

- **Join** a patient advisory board or trial review panel
- **Subscribe & share this newsletter**

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