

To calculate the indirect comparison for cetuximab plus best supportive care compared with panitumumab plus best supportive care, the formulae reported in the appendix of the paper by Bucher and colleagues<sup>34</sup> were used (see below).

Let  $HR_{(CvB)}$  be the hazard ratio for the direct comparison between cetuximab plus best supportive care and best supportive care (from Karapetis and colleagues<sup>45</sup>), and let  $HR_{(PvB)}$  be the hazard ratio for the direct comparison between panitumumab plus best supportive care and best supportive care (from Amado and colleagues<sup>32</sup>). Then the hazard ratio for the indirect comparison between cetuximab plus best supportive care and panitumumab plus best supportive care,  $HR_{(CvP)}$ , can be calculated by:

$$\ln(HR_{(CvP)}) = \ln(HR_{(CvB)}) - \ln(HR_{(PvB)}) \quad [\text{Equation 10}]$$

The corresponding variance for  $HR_{(CvP)}$  is calculated by:

$$\text{var}(\ln HR_{(CvP)}) = \text{var}(\ln HR_{(CvB)}) + \text{var}(\ln HR_{(PvB)}) \quad [\text{Equation 11}]$$