NOVEL COMBINATION THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF CANCER

The present invention relates to a combination therapy for treating a patient suffering from a proliferative disorder, in particular a solid tumor, for example, colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer, comprising administering to the patient propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl-2,4-difluoro-phenyl]-amide} and a topoisomerase inhibitor.

Normally functioning b-Raf is a kinase which is involved in the relay of signals from the cell membrane to the nucleus and is active only when it is needed to relay such signals. Mutant b-Raf having the V600E mutation, however, is constantly active and thus plays a role in tumor development. Such mutant b-Raf has been implicated in various tumors, for example, colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer.

Propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chloro-phenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl-2,4-difluoro-phenyl]-amide} (hereafter also referred to as "Compound I") is a b-raf kinase inhibitor that specifically targets mutant b-Raf having the V600E mutation. This compound is described in WO 2007/002325. Accordingly, such an inhibitor is used in the inhibition of tumors, particularly solid tumors, for example, colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer, which comprise b-Raf having the V600E mutation.

Topoisomerase is an enzyme that functions in the unwinding of DNA, allowing for its transcription and replication. As such, the inhibition of toposiomerase has antiproliferative effects. Tumors containing the V600E mutation, however, have also been known to be resilient to treatment with topoisomerase inhibtors. See Prewett et al., *Clin. Cancer Res.* (2002), 8:994-1003 and Abal et al., *Oncogene* (2004), 23:1737-44. Applicants have unexpectedly found, however, that the combination of Compound I with a topoisomerase inhibitor not only is capable of reducing such resilience but also results in improved antineoplastic effects that are significantly superior to the results obtained with each compound alone without a significant increase in toxicity.

In addition to the above, applicants have further found that the combination of Compound I with a topoisomerase inhibitor and an EGFR inhibitor provided further improved antineoplastic effects.

Summary of the Invention

In one embodiment, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical product comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder. The amount of said active agents being such that the combination thereof is therapeutically-effective, in the treatment of said proliferative disorder.

The present invention also relates to a kit comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor.

In addition, the present invention relates to the use of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and a topoisomerase inhibitor for the treatment of a proliferative disorder.

A yet further aspect of the present invention is the use of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and a topoisomerase inhibitor for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a proliferative disorder.

In yet a further embodiment, the present invention relates to a method of treating a patient suffering from a proliferative disorder, comprising administering to the patient: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor; the amount of said active agents being such that the combination thereof is therapeutically-effective in the treatment of said proliferative disorder.

Brief Description of the Drawings

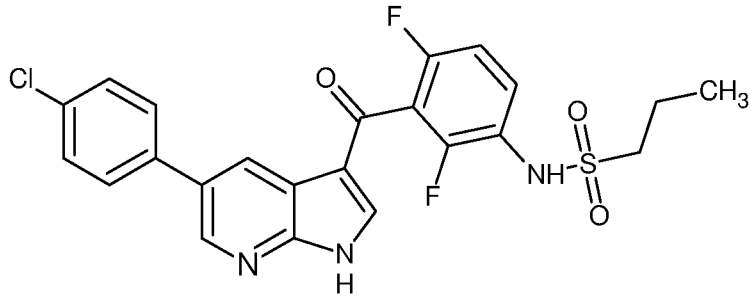
Figure 1 illustrates the tolerability, as demonstrated by % body weight change, of Compound I monotherapy at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab monotherapy at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, irinotecan HCl monotherapy at 40 mg/kg q4dx5, Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy, Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk combination therapy, and Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy.

Figure 2 illustrates the antitumor activity, as demonstrated by the change in mean tumor volume over time, of Compound I monotherapy at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab monotherapy at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, irinotecan HCl monotherapy at 40 mg/kg q4dx5, Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy, Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk combination therapy, and Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy.

Figure 3 illustrates the effect on survival, as demonstrated by percentage of surviving mice over time, of Compound I monotherapy at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab monotherapy at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, irinotecan HCl monotherapy at 40 mg/kg q4dx5, Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy, Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk combination therapy, and Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy.

Detailed Description of the Invention

As sated above, "Compound I" shall herein refer to propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl]-2,4-difluoro-phenyl}-amide. This is a compound having the following structure.



Compound I is a b-Raf kinase inhibitor that specifically targets b-Raf having the V600E mutation.

The "V600E" mutation of b-Raf, as used herein, refers to a mutation in the b-Raf protein wherein the valine residue at residue position 600 of b-Raf is replaced by glutamic acid.

As used herein, when referring to the receptor tyrosine kinases of the HER-family like HER-2 and EGFR (HER-1), the acronym "HER" refers to human epidermal receptor and the acronym "EGFR" refers to epidermal growth factor receptor.

As used herein, the term “pharmaceutically acceptable carrier” indicates that the indicated carrier does not have properties that would cause a reasonably prudent medical practitioner to avoid administration thereof to a patient, taking into consideration the disease or conditions to be treated and the respective route of administration.

As used herein, the term "pharmaceutically acceptable salt" of a compound refers to any conventional salt or base addition salt that retains the biological effectiveness and properties of the compound and which is formed from a suitable non-toxic organic or inorganic acid or organic or inorganic base.

As used herein, the term "therapeutically effective" means an amount of drug, or combination or composition, which is effective for producing a desired therapeutic effect upon administration to a patient, for example, to stem the growth, or result in the shrinkage, of a cancerous tumor or to increase the patient's life span.

The terms "cell proliferative disorder" and "proliferative disorder" refer to disorders that are associated with some degree of abnormal cell proliferation. In one embodiment, the proliferative disorder is cancer.

The terms "cancer" and "cancerous" refer to or describe the physiological condition in mammals that is typically characterized by unregulated cell growth/proliferation. Examples of cancer include, but are not limited to, colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer.

The term "colorectal tumor" or "colorectal cancer" refers to any tumor or cancer of the large bowel, which includes the colon (the large intestine from the cecum to the rectum) and the rectum, including, e.g., adenocarcinomas and less prevalent forms, such as lymphomas and squamous cell carcinomas.

"Inhibiting cell growth or proliferation" means decreasing a cell's growth or proliferation by at least 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, 95%, or 100%, and includes inducing cell death.

The phrase "substantially reduced" or "substantially different," as used herein, refers to a sufficiently high degree of difference between two numeric values (generally one associated with a molecule and the other associated with a reference/comparator molecule) such that one of skill in the art would consider the difference between the two values to be of statistical significance within the context of the biological characteristic measured by said values.

The term "tumor" refers to all neoplastic cell growth and proliferation, whether malignant or benign, and all pre-cancerous and cancerous cells and tissues. The terms "cancer," "cancerous," "cell proliferative disorder," "proliferative disorder," and "tumor" are not mutually exclusive as referred to herein.

"Regression" of a tumor is said to occur following treatment when the volume of said tumor is reduced. If the tumor remains present (tumor volume > 0 mm^3) but its volume is reduced from what it was at the initiation of treatment, "partial regression" (PR) is said to have occurred. If the tumor is palpably absent following treatment, "complete regression" (CR) is said to have occurred.

The present invention relates to a pharmaceutical product comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder, the amount of said active agents being such that the combination thereof is therapeutically-effective in the treatment of said proliferative disorder

Treatment of a proliferative disorder shall be understood to include maintaining or decreasing tumor size, inducing tumor regression (either partial or complete), inhibiting tumor growth, and/or increasing the life span of a patient suffering from said disorder. In certain embodiments, the present combinations, i.e. (A) and (B) or (A), (B) and (C), show a more than additive effect (synergistic effect) in the treatment of said proliferative disorder.

The present invention also relates to a kit or a composition comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor. The kit or composition may be used, for example, in the treatment of a proliferative disorder.

In an embodiment of the invention, the proliferative disorder is a solid tumor.

In another embodiment of the invention, the proliferative disorder is a tumor comprising b-Raf having a V600 mutation, preferably the V600E mutation.

In a further embodiment of the invention, the proliferative disorder is selected from the group consisting of colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer and the cancer involves a tumor comprising b-Raf having a V600 mutation, preferably the V600E mutation.

In yet a further embodiment of the invention, the proliferative disorder is a solid tumor comprising b-Raf having a V600 mutation, preferably the V600E mutation.

In yet a further embodiment of the invention, the proliferative disorder is colorectal cancer.

In yet a further embodiment of the invention, the proliferative disorder is colorectal cancer involving a tumor comprising b-Raf having a V600 mutation, preferably the V600E mutation.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the topoisomerase inhibitor is a type I topoisomerase inhibitor.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the topoisomerase inhibitor is a type II topoisomerase inhibitor.

In yet a further embodiment of the invention, the topoisomerase inhibitor is irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. The inhibitor may, for example, be irinotecan hydrochloride (irinotecan HCl) which is sold as Camptosar® by Pfizer Inc., New York, U.S.A.

In yet a further embodiment, the present invention relates to a pharmaceutical product for the treatment of colorectal cancer involving a tumor comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation, wherein said product comprises: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of said colorectal cancer, the amount of said active agents being such that the combination thereof is therapeutically-effective in the treatment of said colorectal cancer.

The amount of each component administered according to the present method may, but does not have to be therapeutically effective by itself. That is, this invention specifically contemplates combinations wherein the amount of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and/or the amount of topoisomerase inhibitor, in the combination may be less than the amount that is therapeutically-effective for each active agent when said agent is administered in monotherapy.

Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, may, for example, be administered orally. Irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, may, for example, be administered intraperitoneally or intravenously.

The first component and the second component of the present invention are administered in any amount and for any duration that the combined amounts thereof are therapeutically effective in treating a proliferative disorder.

In certain embodiments of the present invention, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a dosage amount of from about 200 mg/day to about 3000 mg/day, from about 1000 mg/day to about 2500 mg/day, or from about 1700 mg/day to about 2100 mg/day. In yet another embodiment, the dosage amount is about 1920 mg/day.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the foregoing amounts of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, may be administered as a single dose daily or divided, for example into equal doses (though this is not required), and administered twice daily (bid). For example, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, may be administered in a dosage amount of from about 100 mg to about 1500 mg bid, from about 500 mg to about 1250 mg bid, from about 850 mg to about 1050 mg bid, or about 960 mg bid.

In an embodiment of the present invention, the administration of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, occurs until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

In an embodiment of the present invention, irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a dosage amount of from about 1 to about 400 mg/m^2/week, or from about 1 to about 250 mg/m^2/week. In another embodiment, irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a dosage amount of from about 50 to about 200 mg/m^2/week. In yet another embodiment, irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is administered at a dosage amount of about 125 mg/m^2/week.

In another embodiment, dosing of irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, is with a six week cycle at about 75 to about 175 mg/m^2 weekly, for example about 125 mg/m^2 weekly, for the first four weeks, for example on days 1, 8, 15, and 22. In another embodiment, dosing is with a six week cycle at about 130 to about 230 mg/m^2 weekly, for example about 180 mg/m^2 weekly, every two weeks starting on the first week, for example on days 1, 15, and 29. In a further embodiment, dosing is a once every three weeks at about from 300 to about 400 mg/m^2, for example about 350 mg/m^2. In yet another embodiment, dosing is a once every two weeks at about 130 to about 230 mg/m^2, for example about 180 mg/m^2. Dosing may be by infusion, for example, over about 90 minutes. Treatment may be until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

The present invention also provides a pharmaceutical product comprising (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder, wherein

(A) is administered in an amount of from about 200 mg/day to about 3000 mg/day, from about 1000 mg/day to about 2500 mg/day, from about 1700 mg/day to about 2100 mg/day or about 1920 mg/day; and

(B) is administered in an amount of from about 1 to about 250 mg/m^2/week, about 50 to about 200 mg/m^2/week, or about 125 mg/m^2/week.

Within this embodiment, the proliferative disorder is a solid tumor, in particular a tumor selected from the group consisting of colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer involving a tumor comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation, especially colorectal cancer involving a tumor comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation.

The present invention also further provides a kit or a composition comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

In another aspect of this invention, the pharmaceutical products herein described above are administered in conjunction with radiotherapy and/or in conjunction with another active agent.

In another embodiment of the present invention, the pharmaceutical products herein described above are administered together with a third component (C) which comprises, as an active agent, an EGFR inhibitor. As previously stated, the amount of each component administered by the present combinations, or according to the present method may, but does not have to be therapeutically effective by itself and this invention specifically contemplates combinations wherein the amount of each of the active agents in the combination may be less than the amount that is therapeutically-effective for each active agent when said agent is administered in monotherapy.

In one embodiment of the invention, the EGFR inhibitor (i.e. component (C)) is cetuximab.

In another embodiment the present invention provides the pharmaceutical product comprising components (A), (B) and (C) as defined above, wherein cetuximab is administered at a dosage amount of from about 50 mg/m^2/week to about 700 mg/m^2/week, from about 100 mg/m^2/week to about 600 mg/m^2/week, or from about 200 mg/m^2/week to about 500 mg/m^2/week.

In still another embodiment, the present invention provides the pharmaceutical product comprising components (A), (B) and (C) as defined above, wherein cetuximab is administered weekly, with the first administration being in an amount of from about 400 mg/m^2 to about 500 mg/m^2 and each subsequent administration being in an amount of from about 200 mg/m^2 to about 300 mg/m^2.

In yet another embodiment, the pharmaceutical product comprising components (A), (B) and (C) as defined above may comprise cetuximab for weekly administration, with the first administration being in an amount of about 450 mg/m^2 and each subsequent administration being in an amount of about 250 mg/m^2.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the administration of cetuximab occurs until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity.

The dosage levels of each of the components may be modified by the physician to be lower or higher than that stated herein depending on the needs of the patient, and the reaction of the patient to the treatment. The dosages may be administered according to any dosage schedule determined by the physician in accordance with the requirements of the patient. For example, the dosages of each of the two components may be administered in single or in divided doses over a period of several days, or alternating daily schedules.

The present invention also provides a pharmaceutical product comprising (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (C) a third component which comprises, as an active agent, cetuximab; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of said proliferative disorder, wherein

(A) is administered in an amount of from about 200 mg/day to about 3000 mg/day, from about 1000 mg/day to about 2500 mg/day, from about 1700 mg/day to about 2100 mg/day or about 1920 mg/day;

(B) is administered in an amount of from about 1 to about 250 mg/m^2/week, about 50 to about 200 mg/m^2/week, or about 125 mg/m^2/week; and

(C) is administered in an amount of from about 50 mg/m^2/week to about 700 mg/m^2/week, from about 100 mg/m^2/week to about 600 mg/m^2/week, or from about 200 mg/m^2/week to about 500 mg/m^2/week.

Within this embodiment, the proliferative disorder is a solid tumor, in particular a tumor selected from the group consisting of colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer involving a tumor comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation, especially colorectal cancer involving a tumor comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation.

The present invention also further provides a kit or a composition comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (C) a third component which comprises, as an active agent, cetuximab.

Compound I as disclosed above exists in its natural state in a crystalline form. However, the amorphous form of the compound has greater solubility in water as compared with the crystalline form and thus has an improved dissolution rate and, therefore, improved bioavailability as compared to the crystalline form. As such, the amorphous form of the compound is preferred. Accordingly, in preferred embodiments of the method and kit of the present invention, Compound I is in substantially amorphous form and, more preferably, in amorphous form. As used herein, the term “substantially amorphous” material embraces material which has no more than about 10% crystallinity; and “amorphous” material embraces material which has no more than about 2% crystallinity.

The amorphous form Compound I, however, is not stable as the compound has a tendency to crystallize. Accordingly, in an embodiment of the present invention, Compound I is contained in a solid molecular complex formed with hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate (HPMC-AS). As used herein, the term “solid molecular complex” means a composition wherein Compound I is randomly distributed ("molecularly dispersed") within a matrix formed by HPMC-AS. Preferably such composition of compound I and HPMC-AS form a one phase system, which can be characterized by X-ray powder diffraction patterns which are substantially free, or free, of crystalline signals related to crystalline form of compound I. In certain

embodiments Compound I is present in the polymer in a final state of subdivision. In certain embodiments, Compound I is molecularly dispersed within the HPMC-AS matrix such that it is immobilized in its amorphous form. By "immobilized", it is meant that the molecules of Compound I interact with molecules of HPMC-AS in such a way that they are held in the aforementioned matrix and prevented from crystal nucleation due to lack of mobility. In some embodiments the polymer may prevent intramolecular hydrogen bonding or weak dispersion forces between two or more molecules of Compound I.

In some embodiments the ratio of the amount by weight of Compound I within the solid molecular complex to the amount by weight of HPMC-AS therein is from about 1:9 to about 5:5. In an embodiment, said ratio is from about 2:8 to about 4:6. In another embodiment, said ratio is about 3:7.

In certain embodiments of the method and kit of the present invention, the first component comprises the aforementioned solid molecular complex of Compound I and HPMC-AS blended with colloidal silicon dioxide. In certain embodiments, the blend is at least 0.5% by weight silicon dioxide. In an embodiment of the present invention, the blend is about 97% complex and about 3% silicon dioxide.

In another embodiment, the first component includes a composition comprising the aforementioned solid molecular complex, either blended or not blended with silicon dioxide as described above, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In certain embodiments, the aforementioned complex or blend comprising the same is suspended in the carrier. An example of a carrier is hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC). In an embodiment, the vehicle contains about 2% by weight HPC.

Each component may also contain additional agents such as preserving agents, solubilizing agents, stabilizing agents, wetting agents, emulsifying agents, sweetening agents, coloring agents, flavoring agents, salts for varying the osmotic pressure, buffers, coating agents and antioxidants.

In certain embodiments, the first component may comprise a solid molecular complex of Compound I and HPMC-AS blended with colloidal silicon dioxide, hydroxypropylcellulose, Crospovidone (a disintegrating agent), magnesium stearate (a lubricant that may be used in tablet and capsulation operations), and/or croscarmellose sodium (a disintegrating agent).

In an embodiment, the first component is a hard gelatin capsule comprising a solid molecular complex of Compound I and HPMC-AS blended with colloidal silicon dioxide, hydroxypropylcellulose, magnesium stearate, and croscarmellose sodium.

In an embodiment, the first component is a tablet comprising Compound I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof. In an embodiment, the tablet comprises a solid molecular complex of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and HPMC-AS. The complex may, for example, be blended with colloidal silicon dioxide, hydroxypropylcellulose, magnesium stearate, and croscarmellose sodium. The tablet may, for example, be coated with a film coating. The film coating may, for example, comprise polyvinyl alcohol, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 3350, talc, and iron oxide red.

In certain embodiments, the second component may comprise cetuximab in solution. In an embodiment, the solution is about 2 mg/ml cetuximab.

In certain embodiments, the second component may comprise a solution comprising irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for example irinotecan hydrochloride. In an embodiment, the solution is an about 5% dextrose solution. In an embodiment, each ml of the solution contains about 20 mg irinotecan hydrochloride, about 45 mg sorbitol, and about 0.9 mg lactic acid. In an embodiment, the solution has a pH of from about 3.0 to about 3.8, for example, about 3.5.

In certain embodiments, the third component may comprise a tablet comprising erlotinib, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for example erlotinib hydrochloride.

In addition, the present invention provides the use of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and an topoisomerase inhibitor for the treatment of a proliferative disorder.

The invention further provides the use of Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, and a topoisomerase inhibitor for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a proliferative disorder.

The present invention also provides a method of treating a patient suffering from a proliferative disorder, comprising administering to the patient any of the pharmaceutical products in the dosages and treatment scheduled described herein before.

Applicants have conducted studies using mice containing a human colorectal cancer xenograft.

Applicants found that the combination of Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan hydrochloride at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 produced tumor growth inhibition (TGI) and increased life span (ILS) results that were significantly better than correlative monotherapy results at $p<0.05$. In addition, 4 out of the 10 mice subjected to the combination therapy had partial regressions whereas no regressions (partial or complete) were observed with the monotherapy groups. In addition to the above, applicants found that the combination of Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, and irinotecan hydrochloride at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 produced tumor growth inhibition (TGI) and increased life span (ILS) results that were significantly better than correlative monotherapy results at $p<0.05$ and also better than the results achieved with Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan hydrochloride at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 combination therapy. The Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, and irinotecan hydrochloride at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 therapy produced 10 out of 10 regressions with 9 being partial and one being complete.

These studies indicate that treating patients with a combination of Compound I and irinotecan is superior to treatment with either agent alone. In addition, the studies indicate that treating patients with a combination of Compound I, cetuximab, and irinotecan hydrochloride produces even more superior results.

Examples

The invention will be more fully understood by reference to the following examples. They should not, however, be construed as limiting the scope of the invention.

Abbreviations used herein are as follows:

q.s.	as much as needed
x	times
po	orally
ip	intraperitoneally
bid	twice daily
wk	week
qd	once daily
q4d x5	every 4 days for a total of 5 administrations
BWL	body weight loss

Example 1

This example describes the formation of a suspension comprising Compound I.

A solid molecular complex comprising Compound I and hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate (HPMC-AS) was first formed.

Compound I and HPMC-AS in a ratio of approximately 3:7, respectively, were dissolved in dimethylacetamide (DMA). The resulting solution was then added with stirring to very cold dilute hydrochloric acid resulting in the co-precipitation of Compound I and HPMC-AS as a solid molecular complex wherein Compound I was present in a nanoparticulate size range. The ratio of DMA to acid was in the range of 1:5 to 1:10.

The co-precipitate was then washed with water to remove DMA, filtered, dried to < 2% moisture content and passed through a # 30 mesh screen prior to evaluation. The resulting solid molecular complex was 30% by weight Compound I and 70% by weight HPMC.

The complex was then blended with colloidal silicon dioxide (available as Aerosil® 200 from Evonik Industries AG, Essen, Germany) such that, per 100g of the blend, 97g was the complex and 3g was colloidal silicon dioxide.

An aqueous vehicle containing 2% hydroxypropylcellulose (available as Klucel® LF from Aqualon, Wilmington, Delaware, USA) and 1N HCL at Qs to pH4 for the purpose of pH adjustment was then prepared.

39.6 mL of the vehicle was equilibrated to room temperature and slowly transferred into 429.6 mg of the aforementioned blend and slowly mixed with the blend until a homogenous suspension was obtained. This resulted in a suspension that contained 3.125 mg/mL of Compound I.

The suspensions were stored at 2-8ºC and protected from light.

Example 2

Mice were implanted with human HT-29 cell xenografts. The mice, cell line used, and implantation are described below.

Female athymic Crl:NU-Foxn1nu mice were used for efficacy testing (Charles River, Wilmington, MA, USA). Mice were 10–12 weeks of age and weighed 23–25 grams. The health of the mice was assessed daily by observation and analysis of blood samples taken from sentinel animals on shared shelf racks. All animals were allowed to acclimate and recover from shipping-related stress for one week. Autoclaved water and irradiated food (5058-ms Pico Lab mouse chow, Purina Mills, Richmond, IN, USA) were provided *ad libitum*, and the animals were kept in a 12 hour light and dark cycle. Cages, bedding and water bottles were autoclaved before use and changed weekly. All animal experiments were conducted in accordance with the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, local regulations, and protocols approved by the Roche Animal Care and Use Committee in our AAALAC accredited facility.

HT-29 cells (American Type Culture Collection, Rockville, MD) were grown in McCoy-5 medium supplemented with 10% Fetal Bovine Serum (FBS) and 1% of 200 nM L-glutamine, scaled up, harvested, and prepared so that each mouse received 3×10^6 cells in 0.2 ml calcium and magnesium free phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). Cells were implanted subcutaneously in the right flank of each of the mice.

Mice implanted with human xenografts were randomized into groups of 10 mice each according to tumor volume so that all groups had similar starting mean tumor volumes. The approximate starting mean tumor volume for this study was 135 mm^3.

Example 3

Compound I was formulated as a suspension as described in example 1. Cetuximab was purchased from ImClone Systems, Inc. (available as Erbitux®) as a 2 mg/ml solution. Irinotecan HCl hydrochloride was purchased from Pfizer Inc. (available as Camptosar®) as a stock sterile solution of 20 mg/ml, which was diluted as required with sterile saline to 2 mg/ml.

Treatment began on day 11 post-cell implant and ended at day 32 post cell implant. Eight groups of mice developed in Example 2 were used. Each group was subjected to a different therapy as follows:

(1) mice receiving Compound I vehicle bid po, cetuximab vehicle 2x/wk ip, and irinotecan HCl vehicle q4d x5 ip;

(2) mice receiving irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4d x5 ip;

(3) mice receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid po;

(4) mice receiving cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk ip;

(5) mice receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid po and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4d x5 ip;

(6) mice receiving cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk ip and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4d x5 ip;

(7) mice receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid po and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk ip;

(8) mice receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid po, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk ip, and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4d x5 ip.

The Compound I suspension and its corresponding vehicle were dosed using a sterile 1cc syringe and 18-gauge gavage needle (0.2 ml/animal) twice daily. Cetuximab and its corresponding vehicle were dosed intraperitoneally using a sterile 1cc syringe and 26-gauge needle (0.2 ml/animal) twice a week on a Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday schedule. Irinotecan HCl and its corresponding vehicle were dosed intraperitoneally using a sterile 1cc syringe and 26-gauge needle (0/2 ml/animal) on a q4d x5 schedule. All dosing was based on an average mouse weight of 25 grams.

Tumor measurements were taken once or twice per week. All animals were individually followed throughout the experiment.

Weight loss was graphically represented as percent change in mean group body weight, using the formula: $((W - W_0)/W_0) \times 100$, where 'W' represents mean body weight of the treated group at a particular day, and 'W_0' represents mean body weight of the same treated group at initiation of treatment. Maximum weight loss was also represented using the above formula, and indicated the maximum percent body weight loss that was observed at any time during the entire experiment for a particular group.

Efficacy data was graphically represented as the mean tumor volume ± standard error of the mean (SEM). In addition, tumor volumes of treated groups were presented as percentages of tumor volumes of the control groups (%T/C), using the formula: $100 \times ((T - T_0)/(C - C_0))$, where T represented mean tumor volume of a treated group on a specific day during the experiment, T_0 represented mean tumor volume of the same treated group on the first day of treatment; C represented mean tumor volume of a control group on the specific day during the experiment, and C_0 represented mean tumor volume of the same treated group on the first day of treatment.

Tumor volume (in cubic millimeters) was calculated using the ellipsoid formula: $(D \times (d^2))/2$, where "D" represents the large diameter of the tumor and "d" represents the small diameter.

Also, tumor regression and/or percent change in tumor volume was calculated using the formula: $((T- T_0)/ T_0) \times 100$, where 'T' represents mean tumor volume of the treated group at a particular day, and 'T_0' represents mean tumor volume of the same treated group at initiation of treatment.

Statistical analysis was determined by the rank sum test and One Way Anova and a post-hoc Bonferroni t-test (SigmaStat, version 2.0, Jandel Scientific, San Francisco, CA, USA). Differences between groups were considered to be significant when the probability value (p) was ≤ 0.05.

For survival assessment, the percent of increased life space (ILS) was calculated as: 100 x [(median survival day of treated group - median survival day of control group)/median survival day of control group]. Median survival was determined utilizing Kaplan Meier survival analysis. Survival in treated groups was statistically compared with the vehicle group and survival comparisons were done between groups using the log-rank test (Graph Pad Prism, La Jolla, CA, USA). Differences between groups were considered significant when the probability value (p) was ≤ 0.05.

Toxicity

In general, no major signs of toxicity were noted in any dose group in this study described as assessed by measuring changes in body weight and gross observation of individual animals. See Table 1 and Figure 1. EGFR inhibitor related skin rash was common in cetuximab treated mice with a self-limiting nature even under continuous treatment.

Table 1

Group	Frequency	Route	% Change in Body Weight at end of Study Day 32	Max % Weight Loss	Max % Weight Gain	# animals ≥ 20% BWL	Mortality
Combo Vehicle	bid, 2x/wk, q4d x5	po, ip, ip	3.2	1.3	4.4	0	0
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	q4d x5	ip	2.7	0.1	2.8	0	0
Compound I 25 mg/kg	bid	po	2.9	-0.6	3.8	0	0
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg	2x/wk	ip	4.0	0.1	4.0	0	0
Compound I 25 mg/kg + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	bid, q4d x5	po, ip	1.2	-0.1	2.3	0	0
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	2x/wk, q4d x5	ip, ip	2.8	0.2	3.2	0	0
Compound I 40 mg/kg + cetuximab 40 mg/kg	bid, 2x/wk	po, ip	0.8	0.3	2.6	0	0
Compound I 25 mg/kg + cetuximab 40 mg/kg + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	bid, 2x/wk, q4d x5	po, ip, ip	0.8	-0.7	2.4	0	0

Tumor Growth Inhibition (TGI)

The group receiving Compound I monotherapy at 25 mg/kg bid exhibited 76 %TGI. The group receiving cetuximab monotherapy at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk exhibited 58 %TGI. The group receiving irinotecan HCl monotherapy at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 59 %TGI. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 98 %TGI. The group receiving cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 92 %TGI. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk exhibited >100 %TGI. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited >100 %TGI. No tumor regression was observed with any of the monotherapy groups. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk exhibited 5 out of 10 partial regressions (PRs) but no complete regressions (CRs). The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk, and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 9 out of 10 PRs and 1 out of 10 CRs.

See Tables 2 and 3 and Figure 2.

Table 2

Group	Frequency	Route	Mean Tumor Volume (mm^3) Start Study	SEM	SD	Mean Tumor Volume (mm^3) End Study	SD	SEM
Combo Vehicle	bid, 2x/wk, q4d x5	po, ip, ip	133.61	±5.44	±17.20	1920.46	±395.43	±125.05
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	q4d x5	ip	127.56	±4.44	±14.03	862.41	±321.20	±101.57
Compound I 25 mg/kg	bid	po	136.24	±6.05	±19.13	563.72	±140.24	±44.35
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg	2x/wk	ip	132.09	±5.80	±18.33	885.00	±406.03	±128.40
Compound I 25 mg/kg + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	bid, q4d x5	po, ip	144.93	±5.35	±16.93	182.76	±69.45	±21.96
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg +	2x/wk, q4d x5	ip, ip	148.52	±6.75	±21.34	295.26	±113.09	±35.76

Group	Frequency	Route	Mean Tumor Volume (mm^3) Start Study	SEM	SD	Mean Tumor Volume (mm^3) End Study	SD	SEM
irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg								
Compound I 25 mg/kg + cetuximab 40 mg/kg	bid, 2x/wk	po, ip	132.52	±6.39	±20.22	122.05	±35.99	±11.38
Compound I 25 mg/kg + cetuximab 40 mg/kg + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg	bid, 2x/wk, q4d x5	po, ip, ip	134.61	±6.88	±21.74	40.67	±23.89	±7.55

Table 3

Group	% T/C end of study Day: 32	% Inhibition end of study Day: 32	p value End of study Day: 32	Average % Regression per Group	Partial Regression	Complete Regression	Animals per Group	% Tumor Growth Inhibition
Combo Vehicle	---	---	---	---	0	0	10	---
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	41	59	<0.001	---	0	0	10	59
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid	24	76	<0.001	---	0	0	10	76
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	42	58	<0.001	---	0	0	10	58
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + irinotecan HCl	2	98	<0.001	---	4	0	10	98

Group	% T/C end of study Day: 32	% Inhibition end of study Day: 32	p value End of study Day: 32	Average % Regression per Group	Partial Regression	Complete Regression	Animals per Group	% Tumor Growth Inhibition
40 mg/kg q4d x5								
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	8	92	<0.001	---	0	0	10	92
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	-1	regression	<0.001	8	5	0	10	>100
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	-5	regression	<0.001	70	9	1	10	>100

Assessment of Survival

The group receiving Compound I monotherapy at 25 mg/kg bid exhibited 80 % ILS. The group receiving cetuximab monotherapy at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk exhibited 27 % ILS. The group receiving irinotecan HCl monotherapy at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 17 % ILS. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 163 % ILS. The group receiving cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 80 % ILS. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid and cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk exhibited 127 % ILS. The group receiving Compound I at 25 mg/kg bid, cetuximab at 40 mg/kg 2x/wk and irinotecan HCl at 40 mg/kg q4dx5 exhibited 259 %ILS. See Table 4 and Figure 3.

Table 4

ILS Calculations

Group	50% Treatment Days	50% Vehicle Days	% ILS	p value
Combo Vehicle	---	---	---	---
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	35	30	17	< 0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid	54	30	80	< 0.0001
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	38	30	27	< 0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	79	30	163	< 0.0001
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	54	30	80	< 0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	68	30	127	< 0.0001

ILS Calculations

Group	50% Treatment Days	50% Vehicle Days	% ILS	p value
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	105	30	250	< 0.0001

Statistical Analysis

The %TGIs of the Compound I/cetuximab, the Compound I/irinotecan HCl, and the Compound I/cetuximab/irinotecan HCl combination therapies were statistically superior to that of all monotherapy arms ($p<0.05$). The %TGI of the Compound I/cetuximab/irinotecan HCl combination therapy was also statistically superior to that of the Compound I/irinotecan HCl and cetuximab/irinotecan HCl combination therapies ($p<0.05$).

The %ILSs of the Compound I/cetuximab, the Compound I/irinotecan HCl, and the Compound I/cetuximab/irinotecan HCl combination therapies were statistically superior to that of all monotherapy arms ($p<0.05$ for all comparisons). The %ILS of the Compound I/cetuximab/irinotecan HCl combination therapy was also statistically superior to that of the Compound I/irinotecan HCl and Compound I/cetuximab combination therapies.

See Table 5.

Table 5

Treatment	versus	Treatment	TGI p value*	ILS p value **
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid	>0.05	<0.0001
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	>0.05	0.5370
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	<0.0001
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5 + Compound I 25 mg/kg bid	<0.05	<0.0001
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	<0.05	<0.0001
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	<0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid		Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	>0.05	<0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	0.0004
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid		Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5 + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	>0.05	0.3457
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	<0.05	0.0004
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	<0.0001
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	<0.0001
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5 + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	<0.05	<0.0001
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	<0.05	<0.0001

Treatment	versus	Treatment	TGI p value*	ILS p value **
Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	<0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5 + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	<0.05	0.0006
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	>0.05	0.0030
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	0.0420
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5 + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk	<0.05	0.0862
Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5 + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	<0.05	<0.0001
Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk		Compound I 25 mg/kg bid + Cetuximab 40 mg/kg 2x/wk + Irinotecan HCl 40 mg/kg q4d x5	>0.05	<0.0001

**One-Way ANOVA, post-hoc Bonferroni*

*** Breslow-Gehan-Wilcoxon*

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Claims

1. A pharmaceutical product comprising (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl]-2,4-difluoro-phenyl}-amide, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor; as a combined preparation for simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder, in particular cancer, more particularly colorectal cancer, melanoma, and thyroid cancer comprising b-Raf having a V600 mutation.

2. The pharmaceutical product according to claim 1 wherein said proliferative disorder is a tumor comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation.

3. The pharmaceutical product according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said topoisomerase inhibitor is irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

4. The pharmaceutical product according to any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising a third component (C) which comprises, as an active agent, an EGFR inhibitor.

5. The pharmaceutical product according to claim 4, wherein said EGFR inhibitor is cetuximab.

6. The pharmaceutical product according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl]-2,4-difluoro-phenyl}-amide, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, is in amorphous form.

7. The pharmaceutical product according to any one of claims 1 to 6, comprising propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl]-2,4-difluoro-phenyl}-amide, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, contained in a solid molecular complex formed with hydroxypropyl methyl cellulose acetate succinate such that it is immobilized in its amorphous form.

8. A kit comprising: (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl]-2,4-difluoro-

phenyl}-amide, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, a topoisomerase inhibitor.

9. A kit according to claim 8 further comprising a third component which comprises, as an active agent, an EGFR inhibitor.

10. A kit according to claims 8 or 9, for use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder, in particular cancer, more particularly colorectal cancer, melanoma and thyroid cancer comprising b-Raf having the V600E mutation.

11. A pharmaceutical product according to claim 1 or 2, comprising (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder, wherein
(A) is administered in an amount of from about 200 mg/day to about 3000 mg/day, from about 1000 mg/day to about 2500 mg/day, from about 1700 mg/day to about 2100 mg/day or about 1920 mg/day; and
(B) is administered in an amount of from about 1 to about 250 mg/m^2/week, about 50 to about 200 mg/m^2/week, or about 125 mg/m^2/week.

12. A pharmaceutical product according to claim 11, further comprising, as a third component, a solution comprising cetuximab as an active agent.

13. The pharmaceutical product according to claim 12, wherein cetuximab is administered weekly with the first administration being in an amount of from about 400 mg/m^2 to about 500 mg/m^2 and each subsequent administration being in an amount of from about 200 mg/m^2 to about 300 mg/m^2.

14. A pharmaceutical product according to claim 4, comprising (A) a first component which comprises, as an active agent, Compound I or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; (B) a second component which comprises, as an active agent, irinotecan or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and (C) a third component which comprises, as an active agent, cetuximab; as a combined preparation for the simultaneous or sequential use in the treatment of said proliferative disorder, wherein

(A) is administered in an amount of from about 200 mg/day to about 3000 mg/day, from about 1000 mg/day to about 2500 mg/day, from about 1700 mg/day to about 2100 mg/day or about 1920 mg/day;

(B) is administered in an amount of from about 1 to about 250 mg/m^2/week, about 50 to about 200 mg/m^2/week, or about 125 mg/m^2/week; and

(C) is administered in an amount of from about 50 mg/m^2/week to about 700 mg/m^2/week, from about 100 mg/m^2/week to about 600 mg/m^2/week, or from about 200 mg/m^2/week to about 500 mg/m^2/week.

15. The use of propane-1-sulfonic acid {3-[5-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-pyrrolo [2,3-b] pyridine-3-carbonyl]-2,4-difluoro-phenyl}-amide, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof; and irinotecan, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of medicaments for the treatment of a proliferative disorder such as cancer, more particularly colorectal cancer, melanoma and thyroid cancer which all comprise b-Raf having a V600 mutation, in particular the V600E mutation.

16. The novel preparations, kits and uses substantially as described herein.

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