Press Release

Gene expression profile determines prognosis of stage II colon cancer patients

An abstract presented by Dr. Laura van 't Veer from the Dutch genomic profiling company Agendia on the recent 9th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer in Barcelona revealed a new genomic profile to predict the risk of recurrence in colon cancer patients. "ColoPrint" will become one of the next commercial prognostic tests from Agendia and follows the successful lead of the breast cancer prognosis test MammaPrint® that recently gained FDA clearance.

Amsterdam, The Netherlands [July 10th, 2007] Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer worldwide. As with all cancers, chances of survival are good for patients when the cancer is detected at an early stage. More than 85% of patients with stage I can be cured by surgery alone. In patients with stage II and III, adjuvant chemotherapy in addition to surgery can improve the chance to survive without disease recurrence.
However, the use of adjuvant treatment for stage II colon cancer patients is under constant debate and the official guidelines give no clear recommendation. The 5-year survival rate is around 70 – 80 % for stage II patients and data from randomized trials are inconclusive as to whether this patient group would benefit from chemotherapy or not. At the same time, all stage III patients are treated with chemotherapy although many patients would survive without. Physicians therefore acknowledge that innovations are needed to identify patients at risk of developing recurrent disease to be able to identify the patients who are mostly likely to benefit from chemotherapy.

In the study presented at the 9th World Congress on Gastrointestinal Cancer in Barcelona by Dr. Laura van 't Veer, Agendia developed a robust gene expression signature that can predict the risk of disease relapse and colon cancer recurrence. The prognostic profile outperforms traditional clinicopathological risk assessment factors currently used by physicians to make treatment decisions. The promising results of the study have been achieved in cooperation with several European cancer centers e.g. Institut Català d'Oncologia, Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI), the Slotervaart General Hospital and University of Oxford, United Kingdom and the Medical Center of Leiden University (LUMC).

Dr. Laura van 't Veer, Chief Research Officer, Agendia, notes: "Our results show that the microarray gene expression profile we are now developing for colon cancer is able to identify stage II colon cancer patients who have a high risk of experiencing a recurrence of their disease within the next years. This may facilitate the identification of patients who would benefit most from adjuvant chemotherapy. The gene expression profile is currently being tested on further validation samples for translation into a high-throughput diagnostic test readily available for clinical practice."

ColoPrint will follow Agendia's commercial prognostic test MammaPrint and is principally based on the same technology. MammaPrint measures the activity of 70 genes providing information about the likelihood of tumour recurrence in breast cancer. Results of the prognosis may help oncologists in planning appropriate follow-up for a patient when used with other clinical

information and laboratory tests. MammaPrint was the world's first In Vitro Diagnostic Multivariate Index Assay (IVDMIA) to acquire market clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

About Agendia
Agendia is world leader in gene expression analysis-based diagnostics. The company focuses on the development and commercialization of diagnostic tests using tumour gene expression profiling. Agendia was the first to commercialize a prognostic test - MammaPrint® - that predicts the chance of breast cancer recurrence. Agendia maintains close ties with NKI/AVL, ensuring access to the latest developments in cancer research. Apart from the development of new cancer diagnostics, Agendia offers its expertise in finding new predictive gene expression profiles to companies focusing on new drug development in the area of oncology.

More information about Agendia BV is available at www.agendia.com

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