

LY75 methylation for predicting disease outcome in melanoma

Background Information

Cutaneous melanoma is a highly aggressive skin cancer. While it only accounts for 4% of all skin cancer, it is responsible for more than 75% of skin cancer-related deaths.

Melanoma patients are treated based on their prognosis. However, currently prognosis is not assessed accurately enough and some patients might not receive the best treatment.

Researchers from Maastricht University have described a new method for determining whether a patient having a melanoma has a poor prognosis.

Market Potential

About 232,000 new cases of melanoma are diagnosed worldwide each year

Over the last 30 years there has been a dramatic increase in incidence among Caucasian populations as exposure to risk factors has risen. Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of melanoma in the world

Current method using LY75 methylation allows unique positioning to address the \$100 million market for next generation melanoma tests

The market for next generation colorectal cancer tests is expected to increase at a CAGR of 50.7% to reach \$365.7 million in 2019

Outstanding Opportunity

The patent application has been filed by Maastricht University and is available for licensing.

Maastricht University is searching for partner(s) to complete development and commercialization.

Key Features and Advantages

Methylation of LY75 is independent of Breslow thickness and other prognostic markers and useful among all cancer stages

This will enable the identification of patients who require more extensive surgery, adjuvant treatment, and closer follow-up which could ultimately lead to improved clinical outcomes

The developed method relates to a molecular DNA-based methylation test (methylation-specific PCR) that is cheap and easy to introduce in the clinic

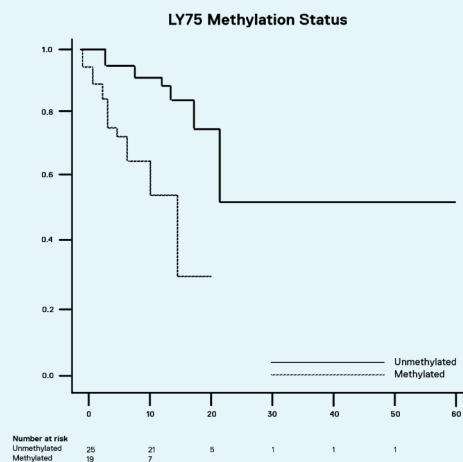
Up to now no molecular markers have been included to the staging system to improve the assessment of prognosis

The diagnostic method is protected by a patent and a strong IP position extending to at least 2034

Compelling clinical results

Validation of LY75 methylation as a biomarker of melanoma was done in large, prospective cohort study (~200 samples)

As shown by survival curve (see figure), LY75 methylation was identified as a strong predictor of poor melanoma prognosis and identified patients with aggressive disease at diagnosis independent of current prognostic parameters.



Further Information

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