

CHFR methylation for predicting disease outcome in stage II colorectal cancer

Background Information

Colorectal cancer accounts for 10-15% and is the leading cause of all cancers in the western world.

In stage II colorectal cancer, there is tumor penetration through involvement of regional lymph nodes or distant metastases. Overall survival in stage II colorectal cancer patients is approximately 70-80% 5 years after surgery.

The majority of stage II colorectal cancer patients undergo surgery alone, despite the recognition that a subgroup with a poor prognosis would probably benefit from adjuvant chemotherapy.

Maastricht University Medical Center and John Hopkins University have described a new method for predicting poor prognosis in stage II colorectal cancer.

Key Features and Advantages

CHFR methylation can represent a promising biomarker for differentiating between subgroup that may benefit from surgery alone and subgroups that require adjuvant therapy is desired.

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

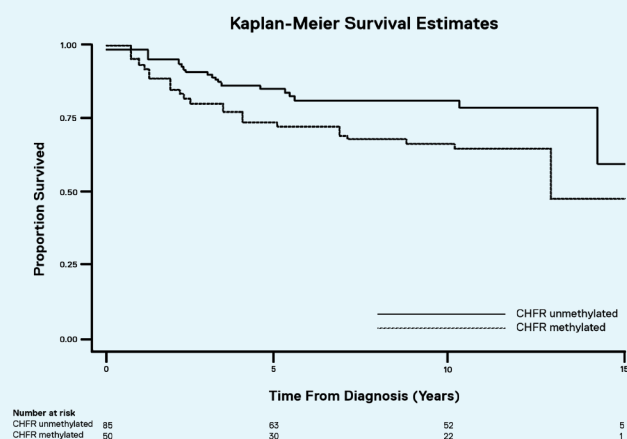
CHFR methylation can represent a reliable and superior diagnostic method (no inter-observer variability and reproducible scoring system) as compared to conventional clinico-pathological methods .

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

Compelling clinical results

Clinical validation of CHFR methylation as a biomarker for stage II colorectal cancer has been monitored in two independent population series.

As shown by survival estimates, patients diagnosed with stage II microsatellite stable colorectal cancer had a significantly poorer prognosis when CHFR gene is methylated.



Market Potential

Globally more than 1 million people are diagnosed with colorectal cancer every year.

Diagnostic method using CHFR methylation allows unique positioning to address the \$400 million market for next generation colorectal cancer tests.

The market for next generation colorectal cancer tests is forecasted to increase at a CAGR of 35.6% to reach \$1.7 billion by 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.

Further Information

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