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ASIA EDITION

Novel CELLSEARCH platform performs circulating Multiple Myeloma cells assay

31 March 2021 | News

CELLSEARCH platform a new non-invasive test to enumerates MM cells from blood and monitor disease status in clinical research studies available as a lab service throughout Europe and US

Menarini Silicon Biosystems, a pioneer of liquid biopsy and single-cell technologies, announced the launch of a new assay to meet the needs of pharma companies, CROs, clinicians and research scientists working on multiple myeloma (MM). This new CELLSEARCH® Circulating Multiple Myeloma Cells (CMMCs) Assay* captures and enumerates CMMCs from peripheral blood. It has the potential to reduce invasive, often painful, and costly bone marrow (BM) biopsies to monitor in real-time MM evolution and study disease biology. Its availability across Europe and the US will allow for increased data consistency during international multicenter MM trials.

MM is the second most common blood cancer. Throughout their clinical journey, patients are subject to repeat BM biopsies, to diagnose and monitor disease status. An unmet medical need in all MM stages is to have a non-invasive modality for diagnosis and monitoring of disease progression, providing the overall actionable information currently available from BM biopsies.

CMMCs are increased in the peripheral blood of patients with MM and in patients with two precursor diseases: monoclonal gammopathy of unknown significance (MGUS) and smoldering multiple myeloma (SMM). Moreover, a high degree of correlation between CELLSEARCH CMMC counts and disease burden in myeloma patients has been shown, raising the possibility of using CMMC counts as a metric for minimal residual disease or relapse in clinical trials.

According to Ana Slipicevic, Translational Research Director at Oncopeptides AB, "the CMMC test, with a non-invasive sampling procedure, for which peripheral blood drawn can be stored for up to 96 hours at room temperature, has shown to be a reliable and reproducible assay to monitor disease status. It has allowed us to save time in gaining rapid access to high-quality study data". The new assay offers significant standardization and sensitivity to monitor and understand MM disease.

"We are excited to present to industry researchers, academia and organizations, our new CMMC Assay that is showing great promise to monitor MM disease and precursor states through a non-invasive liquid biopsy," said Fabio Piazzalunga, President and CEO of Menarini Silicon Biosystems. "The possibility, to further isolate these cells with the DEPArray platform and perform molecular analyses, allows detecting the specific molecular changes that occur throughout the disease progression, which will likely have therapeutic implications for this dynamic hematological disorder."