



DR SAFUAN
INTERNATIONAL

A novel biomarker reveals lung cancer by using a simple and non-invasive blood test

Over half of people with lung cancer die within one year from being diagnosed. Cancer mortality can be reduced if cases are detected and treated earlier.

To face the global health and social problem, a novel biomarker, which specifically and selectively reveals lung cancer, was discovered by an academic spin-off at the University of Salerno, Italy.

«Most patients with lung cancer are diagnosed at late stages, and despite recent advances in multi-modality therapy, the overall 5-year survival rate is less than 10%. It is estimated that over 80% of lung cancer could be cured if detected at an early stage» says Claudio Donner, president of Fondazione Mondo Respiro. «Though, lung cancer symptoms only occur at late stages. A significant minority of patients (25–30%) with lung cancer have stage I disease and receive surgical intervention alone».

Although 35–50% of patients with stage I disease will relapse within 5 years, it is not currently possible to identify specific high-risk patients with the current, available diagnostic tools, mainly because no specific biomarkers have so far been identified for this type of neoplasm. «This implies that CT scan and surgical resection, accompanied by chemo- and radiotherapy, are the sole medical options impacting health care of patients and the health system» says Paolo Zamparelli, president of Fondazione Giuseppe Moscati Sorrento Onlus. «The critical need for an early and specific diagnostic solution is therefore evident. Moreover, the current diagnostic solutions are invasive for patients and very expensive because of reliance on high cost instruments».

To face the global health and social problem, a novel biomarker, which specifically and selectively reveals lung cancer, was discovered by ImmunePharma srl, an academic spin-off at the University of Salerno, Italy. «Based on this extraordinary scientific discovery, our team developed a precise, novel and innovative diagnostic molecular assay, which demonstrated sensitivity and specificity of the biomarker, as compared to the existing tools» says Rosalinda Sorrentino, researcher and CEO of ImmunePharma. Moreover, ImmunePharma's product accurately determines if the malignancy is already present or is starting to develop by using a simple and non-invasive blood test. «This important discovery and its translation into a diagnostic tool will be a revolution in the lung cancer field, impacting both patient health care and the health care system. It will noticeably

increase early detection and prevention of lung cancer, thus avoiding the dire consequences of late diagnosis».

An estimation of the potential cost savings to the global healthcare systems with the use of this revolutionary early detection *biomarker* test could exceed several billion US dollars. A large part of these savings will be related to the significant reduction of expensive diagnostic tests (i.e. MRI) and of long term hospitalization due to either lack of timely surgery or late surgery.

The importance of early surgery is in the invaluable reduction in mortality and improvement in quality of life, that would impact millions of families.

The product is expected to be available in the European market in 2018. The International department of Dr Safuan srl, exclusive partner of ImmunePharma for the commercial development of the product worldwide, is in advanced stage of negotiation for the US and Canadian markets with InspiRx® Inc.

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