

To the Press:

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Exiqon Diagnostics Announces BRAF Mutation Analysis for Predicting Therapeutic Response in Colorectal Cancer Patients

Exiqon announced today that it now offers BRAF Mutation Analysis through its CLIA laboratory in California. Cancer treating physicians now have access to this critical test for their advanced stage colorectal cancer patients who are candidates for anti-EGFR targeted therapy. A recent clinical study correlates the presence of BRAF mutations in colorectal cancer tumors with lack of patient response to cetuximab and panitumumab therapy.¹

In the United States, there are approximately 150,000 new colorectal cancer cases diagnosed each year.² Many of these patients may present with advanced disease. In those cases, confirmed BRAF mutation status is important information for physicians to have when deciding on a treatment regimen. Results of the BRAF Mutation Analysis can help oncologists determine if their colorectal cancer patients are appropriate candidates for cetuximab or panitumumab therapy.

BRAF testing is important because it can identify the subset of colorectal cancer patients who do not have a mutated KRAS gene yet still do not respond to anti-EGFR therapy. Non-responsiveness in this subset of patients is most likely due to the V600E mutation in the BRAF gene. Testing patients for both KRAS and BRAF provides a more complete analysis of the patient's tumor when evaluating candidates for anti-EGFR therapy.

"We are pleased to offer both BRAF and KRAS mutation testing for our clients so that they may gain a more complete picture of the patient's tumor before targeted therapy is initiated," said Doug Harrington, M.D., Medical Director, Exiqon Diagnostics. "BRAF Mutation Analysis is an important new molecular diagnostic assay that can help physicians determine which advanced stage colorectal cancer patients are appropriate candidates for treatment with cetuximab or panitumumab. Those patients who have the BRAF mutation would most likely not respond and should not be treated with those ineffective and expensive anti-EGFR agents."

BRAF Mutation Analysis enhances the growing molecular diagnostics test menu available at Exiqon Diagnostics. Additional targeted molecular profiling assays are currently in development and will be launched later this year to help physicians more effectively guide treatment decisions. BRAF testing is just one of the many molecular biomarkers available to help physicians personalize therapeutic treatment plans.



To learn more about BRAF Mutation Analysis, please visit www.exiqondiagnosics.com.

Laboratory testing performed by Oncotech, Inc. (dba Exiqon Diagnostics) a wholly owned subsidiary of Exiqon A/S.

Additional information

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About Exiqon

Exiqon is a biotech company with activities in three business areas where the company's technologies provide a competitive advantage: Sale of diagnostic tests (Exiqon Diagnostics), sale of innovative research products for miRNA research (Exiqon Life Sciences), and in contract research together with pharmaceutical companies (Exiqon Pharma Services). Exiqon is dedicated to personalizing the treatment selection for cancer patients. The aim is to optimize the use of existing medicine and avoid unnecessary and non-effective treatment. By using molecular diagnostic tests that analyze the genetic profile of each patient's tumor, treatment selection can be optimized for individuals. Exiqon is uniquely positioned to develop such new diagnostic tests. Exiqon already markets diagnostic tests that based on fresh tumor tissue enable doctors to test whether their patients are resistant to one or more of the chemotherapies offered to treat these patients and help them select an efficacious treatment. Exiqon's new molecular diagnostic products are based on the LNA™ technology that enables testing on fixed tissue. Launch of the first molecular diagnostic product was announced in December 2008. A number of new products will follow in the years ahead. Using the LNA™ technology is what has allowed Exiqon to establish a position for itself as one of the market's leading providers of research products for gene expression analysis. These research products are used by university scientists and in the pharmaceutical industry around the world to make groundbreaking discoveries about the correlation between gene activity and the development various diseases. Exiqon is also collaborating with pharmaceutical companies in their effort to develop new medicines based on biomarkers (Personalized Medicine). Exiqon has more than 200 employees and is listed on the NASDAQ OMX in Copenhagen and categorized as a biotech company (Small Cap+). Exiqon is financed until expected breakeven in 2011.

Disclaimer

Forward-looking statements:

This announcement contains forward-looking statements regarding Exiqon's potential future development and financial performance and other statements which are not historical facts. Such statements are made on the basis of assumptions and expectations which, to the best of Exiqon's knowledge, are reasonable and well-founded at this time, but which may prove to be erroneous. Exiqon's operations are characterized by the fact that its actual results may deviate significantly from that described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected.

1. Di Nicolantonio et al. Wild-Type BRAF required for response to panitumumab or cetuximab in metastatic colorectal cancer. J Clin Oncol 26:5705-5712. 2008.

2. American Cancer Society: Facts and Figures, 2008.

