



Early Prostate Cancer Biomarker

Description

There is a critical need for novel approaches to early diagnosis of prostate cancer. Researchers at the University of Minnesota and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis have identified a sensitive biomarker for prostate cancer. This biomarker is expressed early in the course of the disease when the tumor volume is small, and is detectable in prostate cancer patients even when PSA levels appear normal. Additionally, it is detectable in urine, creating the opportunity for a simple, non-invasive screening method. This invention has the potential to improve early detection and treatment of this cancer, as well as avoid unnecessary prostate biopsies in those men whose PSA levels are elevated for other reasons (approximately 800,000 per year).

Features/Benefits

- Dipeptidylpeptidase IV [DP IV] is a glycoprotein that is a sensitive biomarker.
- This biomarker may especially be suitable for diagnosing of CaP when serum PSA does not show a critical increase in its level, and the total prostate volume is still small.
- When measured in EPS, the subject marker provides a higher level of sensitivity over serum PSA while preserving the specificity of the test.
- This biomarker is detectable in urine, providing the basis for a simple yet effective diagnostic for prostate cancer.

Technology Status

Identification of the glycoprotein Dipeptidylpeptidase IV in expressed prostate secretions and assay characterization have been completed. Validation of the assay in urine will be completed early in 2008.

IP Status

PCT patent PCT/US2006/021118 has been filed.

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