HER 2 – Positive Breast Cancer

The Invention

HER-2 is a gene involved in how breast cells grow, divide and repeat themselves. When the HER-2 gene is abnormal, breast cancers tend to grow faster, are more likely to spread and tend to recur (very aggressive). HER-2 positive breast cancers can be treated with specific medicines so detecting them accurately ensures the best treatment for the patient.

Novelty

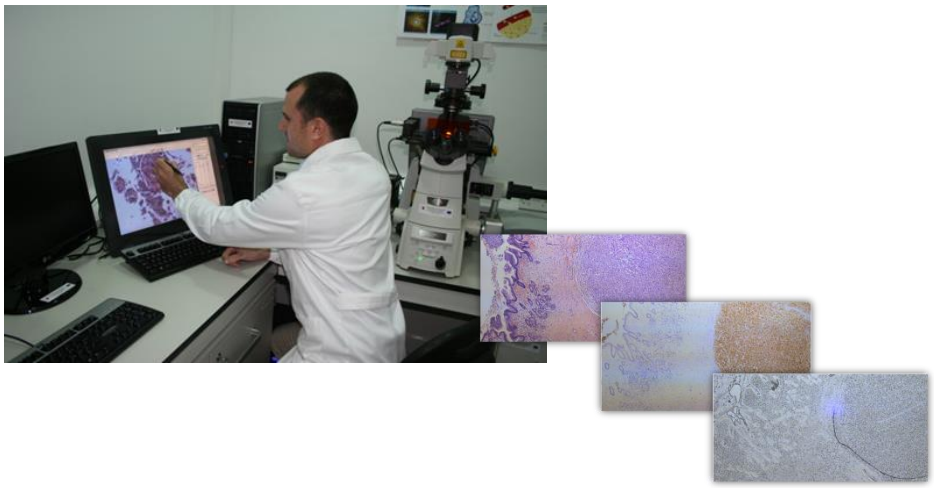
The test has the following advantages when compared to the state of the art:

- Elimination of ambiguous results - 100% certainty of detecting the biomarkers
- Minimal biopsy material needed (50ng)
- Ability to analyse degraded material
- Faster processing time
- Final test can be priced at same or lower price as current tests

Application Fields

The test can be used to determine the presence of HER-2 Positive breast cancer. This may either replace or complement the current gold standard FISH test.

The technology can also be used to analyse archival patient material for research purposes.



IP Status

Patent protection in the process of being sought. The detection method also depends on a proprietary algorithm.

Commercial Interest

A spin-out company has been set up to commercialise this technology - Biotech Innovations Ltd. (C76539). Biotech Innovations intends to carry out research to develop more kits and to offer testing services around its technologies.

We are looking for a manufacturing partner who would be interested in producing and distributing test kits to be used on the Luminex xmap platform.

Lead Inventor

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The development was executed at and supported by the University of Malta, sole owner of the rights. The university's IP is managed by its Knowledge Transfer Office. Inquiries shall be submitted to knowledgetransfer@um.edu.mt, or further information may be obtained on +356 2340 3887.