Pink October: ImmunID Enters Into The Battle Against Breast Cancer

Chemotherapy is usually the first-line treatment after a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer. However, women do not all have the same capacity to respond to the disease and its treatment. So, how should the therapy best be adapted to each patient? Divpenia, a biomarker developed by ImmunID, measures the fragility of the adaptive immune system. Ongoing clinical research at the Centre Léon Bérard in Lyon shows that divpenia could provide doctors with relevant information to help them choose the appropriate therapy for each patient. The hope that one day this biomarker will become part of the arsenal of predictive tools used in the fight against this dreadful disease seems justified. During Pink October, ImmunID is taking a stand against breast cancer along with everyone in the healthcare sector.

"When I treat a patient I need to be able to assess their risk of toxicity. This risk can be related to tumor progression, the patient's general state of health, the treatment, or other factors." indicates **Prof. Jean-Yves Blay**, Oncologist at the **Centre Léon Bérard (CLB)**.

Today ImmunID has justified hopes that its biomarker, Divpenia, will become a tool providing clinical teams with **information enabling them to predict the efficacy of therapy**. ImmunID has been working on immune repertoires since 2005 with the aim of using this immunological parameter to develop diagnostic, or even prognostic, tools for serious diseases, including cancer and infectious diseases. The company strategy is simple: to offer tests to measure a patient's immune status, and reflect this as an "image" which can be used in the clinic. Whatever the disease or stage of treatment, the aim is the same: to help doctors choose the appropriate therapeutic strategy, based not only on the severity of the disease, but also taking the fragility of the patient's immune system into account. Divpenia was developed in 2010 based on these foundations, with the aim of evaluating a patient's immune defenses and their "immune shield" at a given time. Thanks to a collaboration with Roche Diagnostics France, the technical aspects of the tests were also optimized to include the best technology, and to best meet clinical needs.

To use the measurement described by Divpenia as a biomarker in the clinical setting, ImmunID is working with world-ranking top-level medical centers (CLB and the Hospices Civils de Lyon). "Sharing expertise between clinical practitioners and scientists – immunologists, biostatisticians and bioinformatics experts – significantly contributed to the rapid development of these tools and their practical validation." indicates **Dr. Nicolas Pasqual**, CEO and co-founder of ImmunID. He continues: "Meeting **Prof. Jean-Yves Blay** and **Dr. Christophe Caux** allowed us to engage strongly with this work on breast cancer. We are all affected by this disease and we are delighted that we will soon be able to contribute to how doctors help the women who suffer from breast cancer, while preserving their quality of life."

Results from the Divpenia clinical trials were shared with the medical community in April 2011 at the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), one of the major international cancer meetings. They will also be presented in December 2011 at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium. The selection of ImmunID's work at these world conferences indicates recognition of its importance, consolidating the company's position in the fight against breast cancer.