Available For Licensing: Detection of Activating Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 2 (FGFR2) Mutations in Endometrial Cancer

MolecularMD is the exclusive licensee of certain pending US and foreign patent claims related to the detection of activating FGFR2 mutations for diagnostic, prognostic and predictive uses in endometrial cancer. The technology is licensed from Translational Genomics Research Institute. This technology was developed in the laboratories of Pamela M. Pollock at Translational Genomics Research Institute, Phoenix, Arizona and Paul J. Goodfellow of the Siteman Cancer Center and Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri.

Endometrial Cancer: Activating FGFR2 Mutations

Endometrial carcinoma is the second leading cause of gynecologic cancer mortality in developed countries with an estimated 47,000 new cases and 8,000 deaths in the United States in 2012. In recent years, better understanding of the molecular biology of cancer has led to the investigation of new targeted therapies that inhibit the cellular signaling pathways involved in cell growth and proliferation. Regarding the FGF pathway, FGF receptor 2 activating mutations have been identified in 10% of the primary uterine tumors studied. The most common mutations occur within the extracellular ligand-binding domain of FGFR2 and account for 47% of mutations identified thus far.

Activating FGFR2 Mutations: Clinically Significant Information

The occurrence of these somatic activating FGFR2 mutations in endometrial cancer and our understanding of the mechanisms by which they drive oncogenesis provide strong justification for developing targeted FGFR inhibitors and testing them in this tumor type. Several promising therapies targeting mutant FGFR2 are currently in development for multiple types of epithelial cancers. Knowledge of patient FGFR2 mutation status should help identify new therapies and result in significant improvement in the survival of endometrial cancer patients. MolecularMD is developing diagnostic assays for FGFR2 mutation status in support of FGFR inhibitor clinical trials. MolecularMD provides comprehensive clinical trial support through its CLIA-certified and CAP-accredited Clinical Reference Laboratory. In addition, MolecularMD provides IVD development and manufacturing capability to support companion diagnostic device commercialization.

Patent-pending Technology: Available for Licensing

Technology associated with the detection of FGFR2 activating mutations in endometrial cancer is described in application WO2008118877 and associated patents world-wide entitled “Method of Diagnosing, Classifying and Treating Endometrial Cancer and Precancer.” MolecularMD will also support further commercialization of FGFR2 activating mutation detection technology through sublicensing to Clinical Reference Laboratories and diagnostic assay developers and manufacturers.

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References