

PRESS RELEASE

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Eurofins Biomnis offers analysis of gene panels by Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) to meet the fast-growing demand for personalised therapies in solid oncology

Eurofins Biomnis, European leader in specialised medical pathology, has been offering its expertise in Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) for solid oncology, drawing on its wide experience for more than a year now in malignant hemopathies. To provide clinicians with ever faster, ever more precise and more personalised information concerning solid tumours in their patients, the laboratory offers gene analyses by means of NGS panels specific to the affected organ (lung, colon, etc.). Knowledge of specific molecular abnormalities in a tumour often means that the patient can benefit from targeted therapy at a far earlier stage in the course of treatment.

New biological tests for targeted treatments

For many years, Eurofins Biomnis has been analysing tumour-causing mutations of genes such as EGFR, BRAF, NRAS, KRAS etc. using unit tests, implemented with a high-throughput sequencing approach. In order to save precious time in choosing the optimum treatment, the laboratory has developed panels of genes for different solid tumours (lung cancer, colorectal, GIST - gastrointestinal stromal tumours, melanoma and multi-organ tumours). These provide as much information as possible before the clinician makes any therapeutic decision.

For the effective treatment of these cancers, the clinician needs very precise information:

- Presence or absence of an “actionable” mutation (i.e. a mutation for which targeted therapy may be prescribed)
- Presence or absence of a mutation associated with a prognostic value
- Presence or absence of a mutation resistant to treatments (thus contraindicating the prescription of targeted therapy).

These three objectives can be met by the simultaneous analysis of several oncology-related genes (3 to 24 depending on the prescribed panel). Eurofins Biomnis clinical pathologists can thus often quickly provide the clinician with key information in relation to any mutation identified, such as its sensitivity, its resistance to targeted therapy or its prognostic value. On this basis, the clinician can offer personalised treatment that will match the respective molecular “profile” of the tumour.

As a result, these NGS panels save precious time in the therapeutic and prognostic approaches to certain cancers. Once the tumour sample is received at the laboratory, the results will be sent out within a maximum of ten days.

This new NGS service is completed by other molecular analyses (such as targeted FISH test, MSI test, ...) to provide clinicians with a comprehensive and personalised offer in solid oncology with results that comply with national and international recommendations.

Advances in the biological treatment of cancers: the example of lung cancer

Once the diagnosis of lung cancer has been made, the analysis of a panel of genes supplemented by a targeted FISH technique (e.g. ALK, ROS1) provide the clinician with theranostic and prognostic data. Eurofins Biomnis offers two NGS panels:

- The “LUNG1” panel (4 genes) guides the clinicians in their choice of a targeted treatment;
- The “LUNG2” panel (19 genes) expands the range of tested mutations to genes implicated in resistance mechanisms to targeted therapies, emerging markers for targeted therapies as well as in a response to immunotherapy.

To track the development of the disease and identify possible resistance mechanisms, Eurofins Biomnis then offers analysis of the EGFR gene by liquid biopsy, a non-invasive technique which avoids the need to perform multiple biopsies which are invasive and painful operations on often fragile patients. By performing liquid biopsy, genomic alteration of the EGFR gene can be detected through a simple blood sample, as DNA from tumour cells circulates freely in the bloodstream. Lung cancer is the first cancer for which an EGFR liquid biopsy test can be routinely prescribed to optimise the care of patients treated.

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About Eurofins Biomnis

European leader in the sector of specialised clinical pathology, Eurofins Biomnis carries out over 32,000 analyses per day from a range of over 2,500 available tests, including specialised tests for which the company has the appropriate authorisations. Founded in 1897 by Marcel Mérieux, Eurofins Biomnis is the leader in specialised clinical pathology in France. It has maintained this leading position through continuous technological innovation and investment, particularly in areas such as female biology, oncology and personalised medicine, as well as chromosomal and molecular genetics. With 120 years of expertise and innovation in the service of clinical pathology, Eurofins Biomnis forms the core of the Clinical Diagnostics division of the Eurofins Group in Europe and is actively expanding in worldwide markets. www.eurofins-biomnis.com

About Eurofins – the global leader in bio-analysis

Eurofins is Testing for Life. With over 50,000 staff across a network of more than 800 laboratories in over 50 countries, Eurofins' companies offer a portfolio of over 200,000 analytical methods.

Eurofins Shares are listed on Euronext Paris Stock Exchange.