

# DiaTech Oncology

Patient Specific Cancer Testing

## **DiaTech Oncology MiCK Chemotherapy Induced Apoptosis Assay Shown to Predict Increased Response and Survival in Ovarian Cancer Patients**

### **Findings Published at the ASCO Conference Provide a New Treatment Strategy for Patients and Support Favorable Reimbursement Coverage Policies**

Nashville, TN - May 20, 2010 – DiaTech Oncology announced today that the American Society of Cancer Oncology (ASCO) has published the results of a comprehensive study to determine the effectiveness of the MiCK assay in predicting increased response and survival rates for ovarian cancer patients.

DiaTech utilizes a proprietary technology called [Microculture Kinetic \(MiCK\) assay for apoptosis](#). In the MiCK assay, the tumor cells of an individual patient are exposed to multiple doses of several chemotherapeutic drugs either as single drugs or in combinations. A sophisticated algorithm is used to monitor and compute the amounts of apoptosis caused by each of the drugs to establish a *drug sensitivity profile* of the patient's tumor cells. Knowledge of a patient's drug sensitivity profile allows the treating oncologists to prescribe chemotherapy that would be the most effective against the tumor cells of that patient.

The study objectives were to determine if the MiCK assay can predict overall survival and response of patients with ovarian cancer. In addition the study focused on the comparative effectiveness of single agent drug treatment vs combination chemotherapy and the effectiveness of generic vs proprietary drugs. A total of 128 patients were involved in the study which included oncologists from multiple centers across the US with physicians choosing chemotherapy within traditional guidelines and being blinded as the data was collected.

The results showed overall survival significantly better in 92% of patients who received the best chemotherapy as predicted by the MiCK assay compared to only 76% of patients who received treatment not recommended by the assay. There was also a significantly higher overall response rate (82% vs 54%) for patients who received a treatment the assay showed would be preferred. Ovarian cancer patients in stage 3 or 4 and treated with a highly active assay score had significantly increased survival rates (94% vs 77% alive at 24 months). The clinical benefit rate was 85% for patients with chemotherapy that was highly active in the assay, compared to only 57% for those patients receiving less active chemotherapy.

In addition to response and survival rates the study showed that single drug therapy produced better results than combination chemotherapy drug treatments in approximately 30% of patients. Less expensive generic drug therapy was at least equally effective compared to more expensive proprietary drugs in 75% of patients.

“The impressive and statistically significant survival and response data in this study show that the DiaTech MiCK assay can be an effective tool for oncologists in determining the best chemotherapy treatment for a cancer patient,” said Dr Emery Salom, Chief Dept of OB/GYN Palmetto General Hospital, Assistant Professor Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

“It is also important to note the data provided guidance on generic drug use and single vs combination therapies,” said Dr Cary Presant, Medical Director DiaTech Oncology, Professor of Medicine, University of Southern California, “This is good news for ovarian cancer patients and is clearly a major step to provide more effective personalized care, and often less expensive and less toxic treatment of cancer patients.”

“We are working to arm the physician with effective tools capable of eliminating a patient’s cancer cells or keeping tumor cells under effective control. Ultimately, the DiaTech Oncology goal is to help physicians prolong their patient’s life and improve its quality. Other studies we have completed clearly demonstrate the MiCK assay works in all cancers and we are in discussion with several large insurers to obtain reimbursement approvals and make sure this technology available to patients”, said Garry Latimer, DiaTech CEO and Founder.

DiaTech Oncology is a privately held clinical pathology laboratory whose knowledgeable physicians, technical staff and experienced management team are working to help oncologists and their patients deal with the devastating effects of cancer. DiaTech utilizes a proprietary and patented technology called the Microculture Kinetic (MiCK) assay. In the MiCK test, the tumor cells of an individual patient are exposed to multiple doses of several chemotherapeutic drugs and drug combinations. A sophisticated lab analysis of the cancer cells is used to establish a *drug sensitivity profile* of the patient's tumor cells. Knowledge of a patient's drug sensitivity profile allows the treating oncologists to prescribe chemotherapy that is the most effective against the tumor cells of that patient. This helps the patient to receive the drugs most likely to produce a remission, keep the patient cured, and avoid unnecessary toxicity or side effects. This can also reduce the cost of a patient’s treatments by avoiding drugs that are unlikely to work or by indicating when generic drugs are as likely to work as more expensive alternatives. The MiCK assay is the only test available that measures the chemotherapeutic drug effect for a specific patient kinetically and accurately. All other tests in the market only measure the potential that a drug may not work with a specific patient. The test has also been used to determine new drugs effectiveness in preclinical trials for the pharmaceutical industry.

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