

MOLECULAR TOOLS FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS OF SPITZOID MELANOCYTIC TUMOURS

DESCRIPTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY

Melanoma accounts for 5% of skin tumours and is responsible for 80% of deaths from skin cancer. At the time of diagnosis, 90% of them are localised skin tumours with no evidence of metastasis, known as spitzoid skin tumours.

Current diagnostic methods are insufficient to assess the biological aggressiveness of spitzoid skin tumours of uncertain malignant potential, making it impossible to predict their clinical course. Currently, there is a discrepancy between their morphological appearance and their clinical behaviour together with high interobserver variability by expert pathologists, which determines the diagnosis and therefore affects the success of treatments.

Therefore, it is essential to identify new markers that allow for reliable and reproducible diagnostic assessment, and as a predictive tool to anticipate the individualised metastatic potential of each patient, leading to individualised therapy.

Researchers from INCLIVA and the University of Valencia have developed a molecular signature based on epigenetic markers, which, by means of an algorithm, allows a reliable and reproducible diagnosis of uncertain malignant potential spitzoid skin tumours, distinguishing not only between benign Spitz nevi and spitzoid melanoma, but also subclassifying PMI according to the associated risk of metastasis and its evolution.

COLLABORATION SOUGHT

Available for licensing or collaboration for further development.. The invention may result in a customised diagnostic kit

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT

Validation with an external cohort to determine whether the positions are relevant and extendable to other patients with this type of tumour.

ADVANTAGES

- ✓ It allows risk-based follow-up planning for each patient. It avoids the anxiety and the discomfort of constant medical check-ups for patients and their families by scheduling medical visits according to the degree of malignancy of each patient.
- ✓ In many cases, it avoids invasive surgical techniques such as sentinel lymph node biopsy or regional lymphadenectomy, which are expensive and resource-intensive in terms of equipment and staff.
- ✓ It optimises the healthcare system by eliminating the need for constant patient appointments, reducing medical and surgical waiting lists. Reliable support is provided to dermatologists, oncologists and pathologists to diagnose and prognosticate patients.

APPLICATION SECTOR

Skin cancer diagnosis and prognosis.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

European patent application (EP22738431) and United States patent (US8574568). Shared ownership with the University of Valencia.

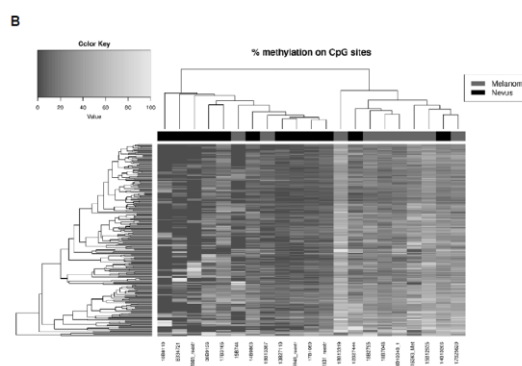


Figure 2

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