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Stockholms läns landsting introduces diagnostic test for patients with inflammatory bowel disease

Stockholms läns landsting has as the first health care district in Sweden decided to introduce DiBiCol® on the list of reimbursed diagnostic tests.

Approximately 15 000 out of a 1.5 million population in the Stockholm area suffer from some kind of inflammatory disease in the gastrointestinal tract. The prevalence of ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease continue to increase and the development among children is especially worrying. This approval facilitates a faster and safer diagnosis for healthcare professionals.

The development of DiBiCol has been carried out by the Swedish research company InDex Pharmaceuticals AB at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm. The test is based on the latest molecular biological research techniques and is offered to the medical community in collaboration with Aleris Medilab.

- Starting six years ago, we have identified and tested a large number of different biomarkers that react differently in different diseases. In the DiBiCol test the change in expression is analyzed for seven carefully selected biomarkers. Three clinical studies including more than 300 patients have shown that the level of accuracy for the right diagnosis is over 90%, says Svante Rasmuson, CEO of InDex Pharmaceuticals.

- Its very rewarding to be able to offer an improved diagnosis for patients with inflammatory bowel diseases. Correct diagnosis and improved treatment reduces the suffering for the patients but also reduces the cost for the society, says Bo Wihlborg, Business area manager at Aleris Medilab.

Within inflammatory bowel disease up to 30% are difficult to diagnose and in some cases it can take several years to make a firm diagnosis. With the DiBiCol test the uncertainty and prolonged suffering for the patient can be avoided.

About Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)

IBD (Inflammatory Bowel Disease) is a group of chronic inflammatory diseases in the intestinal system that often affects younger people. There are some 3 million IBD patients in Europe and the US. In Sweden, the corresponding number is approximately 80,000, whereof 10% have an unclassified inflammatory disease. The two most common types of IBD are:

- Crohn's disease, an inflammatory disease in the digestive system that can be located anywhere from mouth to rectum.
- Ulcerative colitis, a chronic inflammatory disease located in the large intestine.

About InDex Pharmaceuticals' diagnostic technology

The InDex technology platform in diagnostics focuses on multi-gene analysis, which enables healthcare professionals to improve gastrointestinal disease classification. In addition to DiBiCol, InDex also develops DiaFeCol®, a feces based test for classification of IBD, as well as biomarkers that make it possible to individualize treatment with the company's DNA-based pharmaceuticals, so called "personalized medicine".

Company facts:

About InDex Pharmaceuticals AB

InDex Pharmaceuticals AB is a biopharmaceutical company that focuses on development and commercialization of new, improved immune therapies. It discovers and develops DIMS drugs (DNA-based pharmaceuticals that modulate the immune system) for the treatment within several different therapeutic areas, including inflammation and cancer.

The company has a number of proprietary DIMS compounds in different development stages, whereof Kappaproct[®] is developed for the treatment of steroid resistant/dependent ulcerative colitis. InDex was founded in year 2000 as a spin-out from Karolinska Institutet and is based in Stockholm. It is a privately owned company with approximately 100 shareholders, including SEB Venture Capital and Life Equity Sweden.

About Aleris Medilab

Aleris Medilab is a laboratory medical center for the Swedish health care sector and offers an effective service within clinical chemistry, microbiology and pathology/cytology. All laboratory activities are quality accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025 (Swedac) and encompasses also environmental certificate according to SS-EN 14001:2004. Aleris Medilab is a business area within Aleris Diagnostics AB which also includes Aleris FysilogiLab and Aleris Röntgen. Aleris Diagnostic AB is part of Aleris, one of the leading private health care providers in Scandinavia.

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