“Novel Diagnostic And Prognostic Marker for Metastatic Cancer”

VCU #11-006

Applications

- Diagnostic test for metastatic cancer
- Prognostic marker for monitoring cancer progression
- Marker for the response to therapeutic treatment

Advantages

- Novel biomarker
- Cost-effective
- Personalized medicine approach
- Improved tumor staging
- Simple, non-invasive blood test

Inventors

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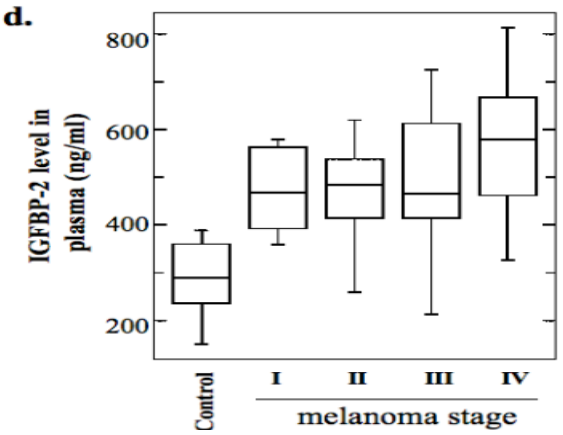
Market Need

Tumor metastasis is the leading cause of death in cancer. Metastases are often not detected until later disease stages, partially because no reliable early-stage detection markers exist. The current diagnostic efforts, which rely largely on histological and morphological variables, are not very accurate and often fail to identify early-stage disease states that will eventually progress and metastasize. Moreover, once a patient is diagnosed, there are no accurate, non-invasive methods for monitoring cancer progression and response to therapy. Therefore, new diagnostic and prognostic markers for metastasis are needed.

Technology Summary

This is a novel biomarker to detect and track the progression of melanoma metastases using a simple blood test. This discovery constitutes a first line diagnostic test for metastatic melanoma and will help identify patients with early-stage melanoma who may benefit from additional therapies. This biomarker may also be important for identifying metastases in other cancers such as breast, prostate and malignant glioma. The major advantage of this technology is that it permits non-invasive monitoring of cancer progression. This cost-effective approach permits modifications in clinical therapies that are patient-personalized. Thus, this could become a routine clinical test to monitor cancer progression and non-invasively follow therapy to define tumor burden.



Insulin Growth Factor Binding Protein-2 (IGFBP-2) is dramatically elevated in melanoma patient plasma.

Technology Status

Patent pending: U.S. and foreign rights are available.

This technology is available for licensing to industry for further development and commercialization.