



*Market Sector:
Pharmaceutical, Biomedical/Clinical diagnostics*

New gene-based diagnostic assay to identify individuals at risk for depressions (recurrence)

Market

The current invention is related to a diagnostic method for Major Depressive Disorders (MDD). MDD is estimated to affect over 34 million individuals yearly across the seven major markets. In the Western world, 4-10% of the population suffers from depressive disorders, and 15-17% of the population suffers from this disease once in their life. In the Netherlands, 1 out of 7 people gets depression. The effectiveness of medication in depression is limited: only a fraction of the patient population is treated effectively, resulting in a loss of productivity. The market for anti-depressive drugs is the largest segment of the CNS sector with global sales of US\$16.2 billion in 2005, with only ten drugs on the market. The global antidepressant market has seen extraordinary growth over the last decade. No gene-based diagnostic assay for depression diagnosis is currently being commercialized.

Summary of invention

The invention describes an assay that enables the clinicians to identify individuals at risk for depression (recurrence), using gene-expression profiles as endophenotypes. The intra- and inter-individual variation in gene-expression profiles and individual RNA values before and after immune (lipopolysaccharide; LPS) challenge has been investigated. Furthermore, associations between gene-expression profiles or individual RNA values with a) syndrome severity; b) individual symptom severity; c) previous course have been elucidated. These determinants seem to be able to predict a) syndrome severity; b) individual symptom severity; c) previous course of depressive disorders.

KEYWORDS

Diagnostic assay, gene, depression

KEY BENEFITS

The invention is in early development, but may develop into a novel gene-based diagnostic tool which rationalises the current diagnostic approach for depression

PATENT / IP STATUS

The invention has been claimed in a patent application that was filed December 19th, 2007.

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Applications

- Opens new market. The invention is in early development, but may develop into a novel gene-based diagnostic tool which rationalises the current diagnostic approach for depression.

Commercial partner

- VU University is owner of the patent application and is offering the technology and associated IP for collaboration and licensing.

Remarks

Further information will be provided on the basis of a Non Disclosure Agreement

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