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Serum-Based Diagnostic To Detect Malignant Pancreatic Carcinomas

TECH ID #: 696.8

Background

Current approaches to diagnosing suspected cases of pancreatic cancer are severely limited in that they are both invasive and delay treatment. Furthermore, the results of these extensive diagnostic investigations can only distinguish malignant and benign lesions with ~60% - 90% accuracy. The poor prognosis of pancreatic cancer demands diagnostic tests that are able to quickly and accurately determine if a patient will need surgical intervention.

Researchers at the University of Calgary have devised a method to distinguish between malignant pancreatic and periampullary cancer and benign growths. The method relies on examining the relative abundance of metabolic markers in the serum using mass spectrometry, and analyzing the information to make a decision on surgical intervention.

Competitive Advantages

- Non-invasive
- High sensitivity and specificity
- Shortens time before intervention

Stage of Development

- Profile generated using 157 patient samples
- Currently seeking to perform analysis on an external validation cohort

Intellectual Property Status

US provisional application – Filed December 29, 2014