



News Release

For Immediate Release
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Streck Laboratories' Preservative Tube Instrumental in Development of New Veridex Test to Predict Progression and Survival of Breast Cancer Patients

Omaha, NE (August 20, 2004) - Streck Laboratories in Omaha, Nebraska, is the developer of the cell preservative technology that enabled a new, simple blood test for metastatic breast cancer.

Yesterday, the New England Journal of Medicine published results of a prospective study showing that the number of circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in 7.5 ml. of blood taken from women with metastatic breast cancer can predict progression and survival. CTCs are cancer cells that detach from solid tumors and enter the blood stream. It is believed that knowing the number of CTCs in the blood may pave the way for oncologists to make critical decisions about patients' treatment earlier than previously possible.

The study used the Veridex CellSearch System, a diagnostic technology developed by Veridex, LLC, a Johnson & Johnson company. The technology is the first of its class to automate the detection of enumeration of CTCs. The CellSearch System is the first platform to be designed to automate and standardize the capture, enrichment, identification and enumeration of rare circulating tumor cells (CTC) of epithelial origin in peripheral blood.

CTCs are fragile and tend to disintegrate in just a few hours when collected in standard evacuated blood collection tubes. This disintegration can adversely affect the reproducibility and reliability to CTC analysis and does not allow overnight shipment of samples for testing. Veridex needed a way to preserve these blood samples for longer periods. They turned to Streck Laboratories.

Streck developed the CellSave Preservative Tube which is, itself, a breakthrough in CTC analysis. Containing an optimized cell preservative, licensed from Streck Laboratories, the CellSave Preservative Tube stabilizes CTCs for up to 72 hours at room temperature thus improving assay reproducibility and allowing shipment of samples from remote sites for analysis.

About Streck Laboratories, Inc.

Streck Laboratories is a leading independent developer and manufacturer of hematology and flow cytometry controls for the clinical laboratory. The company owns many patents related to cell stabilization for the clinical laboratory.