



Press release

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Blood test for diagnosing cancers linked to Human Papillomavirus (HPV): launch of a clinical study in Senegal

The Lorraine Institute of Oncology (ICL) and Laboratoire CERBA, supported by the National Cancer Institute (INCa), are launching a study with the team of Prof Mamadou Diop, Director of the Joliot Curie Cancer Institute at the Aristide Le Dantec university hospital in Dakar.

The Lorraine Institute of Oncology in Nancy and the CERBA laboratory began joint research in January 2017 with the aim of approving a blood test to diagnose cancers linked to HPV. This test, using innovative high-throughput sequencing techniques, has been used at the Lorraine Institute of Oncology at the behest of Dr Sastre-Garau and pathologists, biologists and technicians from the Biopathology department, in close collaboration with the clinical teams and in partnership with the Institut Curie Research Centre.

The ICL and the CERBA laboratory have joined forces to approve this test through a prospective study. It is aiming to demonstrate that a tumour's viral characteristics are also found in a patient's blood. This would mean that cancer could be diagnosed by analysing a single blood sample, even in cases of a small tumour. The study, the results of which are expected in 2017, will also focus on people with cancer potentially associated with all types of HPV, ENT cancers and those of the ano-genital region. It will help to precisely establish the sensitivity and specificity of this new test which is key in order to be able to advocate its use in routine clinical practice.

Furthermore, in order to broaden the expertise to population types other than just patients living in France, the ICL and Laboratoire CERBA teams began collaboration with the team of Prof Mamadou Diop, Director of the Joliot Curie Cancer Institute at the Aristide Le Dantec university hospital in Dakar. This project, supported by the National Cancer Institute and coordinated by Prof Diop, aims to assess the detection sensitivity of serum screening for biological diagnosis of invasive cervical cancer in Senegalese women. Enrolment will begin in the coming weeks and the study should be complete by the end of 2018.

This collaboration is an example of a successful national and international public-private partnership for the benefit of public health.

About the Lorraine Institute of Oncology (ICL)

All of the ICL's medical and paramedical activity is devoted to the diagnosis and treatment of cancers. It is a private health establishment that participates in public hospital service and is a member of UNICANCER. It is a recognised public utility and does not operate in the private sector or charge additional fees.

The Lorraine Institute of Oncology treats nearly 15,000 patients annually.

As a Clinical Research Centre, the ICL is very active in the field of research and participates in numerous projects. It promotes clinical trials and collaborates with several teams from the National Scientific Research Centre and the National Institute of Health and Medical Research. In 2016 the Institute published over 100 referenced research papers.

The ICL's Biopathology Department incorporates pathological anatomy and cytology as well as tumour genetics for which it has been accredited since 2014 (ISO15189). As such, it carries out analysis of tumour genetics for the public and private sector from all over Lorraine as part of its activity as a National Cancer Institute platform.

The Institute relies on donations and bequests to fund its research, innovation projects and patient care. The ICL is very active in the teaching of oncology in Lorraine and delivers nearly 5,800 hours of teaching annually, part of which is accredited 'Continuing Professional Development'.

<http://www.icl-lorraine.fr>

About Laboratoire CERBA

Created in 1967 and accredited in compliance with the NF ISO 15189 standard since 1999, Laboratoire Cerba is the European leader in specialist medical biology.

Integrating more than 40 medical specialities and employing over 600 highly qualified staff on a single site located to the north-west of Paris, on average Laboratoire Cerba handles 40,000 samples daily.

With a state-of-the-art technological platform it is able to offer private and hospital laboratories in over 50 countries a wide range of specialised biological tests in fields such as molecular biology, oncology, allergology, toxicology, hormonology, and infectious and metabolic diseases together with diagnostic analyses for genetic diseases in cytogenetics and molecular genomics as well as cytology and anatomic pathology tests.

Laboratoire Cerba constantly works to develop its technological and human potential and has launched numerous collaborative projects with both public and private establishments to ensure it always remains at the forefront of innovation.

Since 1998, Laboratoire Cerba's teams have contributed to over 500 scientific publications.

It is also a founding member of the Cerba HealthCare group, an international medical biology group.

<http://www.lab-cerba.com>

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