

The Montpellier Cancer Institute du Cancer and Acobiom announce the signature of a partnership agreement for a clinical trial in pancreatic cancer

Pancreatic cancer is an aggressive cancer. According to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO, Globocan data), the number of new cases of this cancer in 2022 has been estimated at 146,477 in Europe and 510,992 worldwide, rising steadily by 2 to 3% a year. In France, 15,991 new cases per year (FRANCIM network (1990-2018)), of which 50% are diagnosed at the metastatic stage.

Pancreatic cancer is particularly insidious, it's a "silent" disease with few symptoms, often diagnosed at a late stage.

Its overall 5-year survival rate, all stages combined, is between 5 and 10%, placing it among cancers with a poor prognosis. Validated therapeutic options are limited to surgery and/or chemotherapy.

Apart from resectable situations, for which surgery is the main treatment option; for unresectable and/or metastatic cancer, chemotherapy is the only treatment option, based on platinum salts, Irinotecan, 5Fluorouracil (FOLFIRINOX, FOLFIRI) or gemcitabine as monotherapy or in combination with taxanes.

The ICM (Montpellier Regional Cancer Institute) is the sponsor of the GABRINOX-2 clinical trial, a randomized phase 2 study evaluating the efficacy of sequential treatment with two of the most effective compounds currently available, gemcitabine plus nab-paclitaxel (GEMBRAX) followed by FOLFIRINOX, compared with the reference treatment, FOLFIRINOX, in patients receiving 1st-line metastatic pancreatic cancer treatment.

Currently, there are no predictive factors for treatment response in clinical routine.

In practice, therapeutic decisions are based essentially on a combination of arguments:

- **Clinical:** the patient's general condition (ECOG PS); pain regression, age; liver function (by total bilirubin level) and carbohydrate antigen 19-9 (Ca19-9).
- **Morphological:** assessment of treatment response by TAP scan after 2 months of treatment.

Identifying factors predictive of response to treatment is a major challenge in order to adapt the therapeutic management of patients at an early stage.

To this end, ACOBIOM has developed two predictive RNA signatures, associated with two PCR tests, for response to treatment with FOLFIRINOX and gemcitabine respectively, in first-line metastatic treatment of patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma. Moreover, because of the problems involved in biopsying this type of tumor (heterogeneity, accessibility), the approach proposed by the company is based on a simple 2.5 ml whole blood sample, taken as part of a visit already scheduled as part of the patient's standard clinical follow-up.

The aim of this partnership is to confirm the predictive value of the two RNA therapeutic response signatures identified and patented by Acobiom.

The two associated PCR tests, Gemcitest and Folfitest, will be evaluated using blood samples obtained as part of the GABRINOX-2 clinical trial.

The partners will be looking in particular at the overall survival of patients in relation to the predictive value estimated by these two tests, and at the sensitivity and specificity of these two diagnostics.

About Montpellier Cancer Institute

Founded in 1923, the ICM (Montpellier Cancer Institute) is the Languedoc-Roussillon region's Cancer Research Center (CLCC). It is nationally recognized for its expertise and innovation in cancer care. The ICM is one of the 18 CLCC members of the UNICANCER network, the 1st hospital group exclusively dedicated to cancer.

It is one of the only establishments in France to bring together on the same site care, prevention, clinical, translational and fundamental cancer research units.

The ICM is authorized to receive gifts, bequests and donations to fund research.

The ICM in figures: more than 35,036 patients seen and 62,234 consultations in 2022, 161 beds in full hospitalization, 30 beds in day hospitalization, 6 beds in unscheduled admission, 12 beds in outpatient surgery. 1,028 employees, including 126 physicians and more than 88 people dedicated to clinical and translational research, 17 joint research teams (Inserm/ICM/UM). 705 patients included in 163 clinical trials.

www.icm.unicancer.fr

About Acobiom

Acobiom is a biotechnology company specializing in the discovery of biological markers (biomarkers) and the development of innovative molecular diagnostics for applications in personalized medicine or precision medicine. The aim of precision medicine is to personalize treatments on the basis of certain biomarkers, in order to achieve greater therapeutic efficacy, limit treatment side-effects and ensure a better quality of life for the patient. The diagnostics developed by ACOBIOM meet these needs, helping medical teams to choose the most effective treatment best suited to each patient's transcriptomic profile (RNA profile). These diagnostics are developed from RNA biomarkers, identified upstream by the company's scientific team, which has 25 years' expertise in the study of gene expression and a technological platform combining genomics, transcriptomics, bioinformatics, biostatistics (data science) and machine learning (artificial intelligence). Founded in 1999, Acobiom is located in the Euromedicine Biopole in Montpellier (France), and is a member of the regional health clusters.

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