E-cadherin as a Biomarker of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD)

Technology #09-0108

Screening methods for gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) using E-cadherin as a biomarker has been developed. Support for this method is provided by comparative analysis of clinical samples from patients with GERD and patients with a healthy esophagus. The product of E-cadherin cleavage is detectable in plasma and at higher levels in GERD patients than controls, thus yielding its possible use as a diagnostic or prognostic plasma marker in GERD. GERD is a condition commonly associated with the symptom of heartburn and with esophageal erosions on endoscopy. The diagnosis of GERD rests largely on clinical judgment and this results in over-treatment and undertreatment of many patients. This method is based upon the ability to detect active damage to the esophageal epithelium by measuring cleaved fragments of E-cadherin in refluxed gastric contents such as esophageal tissue or blood.

Advantages:

• Accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients with GERD
Inventors

Roy Orlando

For additional information, contact

Charlie Shaw
Commercialization Manager
charlie.shaw@unc.edu
919.966.3929