Diagnostic Test for Malignant Cutaneous Melanoma

Technology #17-0137

We have developed a novel diagnostic test for the presence of malignant melanoma based on DNA methylation. The current standard for melanoma diagnosis, histopathologic review, is complicated by the similarities in melanoma’s histologic profile to that of benign melanocytic nevi. The result is inaccurate results that often lead to over and/or under treatment of patients. Our diagnostic test is based on differences at the molecular level between melanomas and benign nuclei. Studies indicate that this test can detect melanoma in FFPE specimens with a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 100%. In contrast, currently available genetic tests for melanoma have a sensitivity and specificity of 90% and 91% respectively.

Advantages:
- Analysis of DNA methylation allows for early detection of malignant melanoma, avoiding complications arising from histopathologic analysis.
- Can be applied to standard FFPE specimens
- Has a sensitivity of 96% and a specificity of 100%

Related Publications:

- Identification of a Robust Methylation Classifier for Cutaneous Melanoma Diagnosis

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