

Next-level success in managing the world's most prevalent virus

The Danish Market Development Fund is supporting Copenhagen-based Immudex with DKK 3 million for testing its Dextramer CMV immune monitoring assay at leading transplant centres in the US and EU.

The assay can quantify immune responses and enable personalised prevention and treatment of cytomegalovirus in transplant patients. Costs of treatment will be reduced and quality of life improved. Cancer, HIV and other patient groups who suffer from compromised immune responses will also benefit from this assay.

The use of antiviral drugs for managing cytomegalovirus (CMV) in patients with reduced immune response has had a major positive impact on treatment success rates and life expectancy among transplant and HIV patients.

The incidence of CMV disease has significantly dropped in transplant recipients and the occurrence of CMV disease in HIV and AIDS patients is now only 5-10% of previous levels.

Like all successes, the success of these new antivirals comes at a price. The drugs are very expensive and are a cause of serious (and sometimes life-threatening) side effects.

The Immudex Dextramer CMV immune monitoring assay will provide doctors with the quantitative information needed for prescribing antiviral therapy to only those patients who actually need it, because their immune system is too weak to fight the virus on its own.

Both the cost of managing CMV and the incidence of serious side effects will be reduced.

Immudex will soon begin testing of its Dextramer CMV immune monitoring assay at the following transplant centres: Roswell Park Cancer Institute, US; US; San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Italy; and Hospital Universitario Central, Oviedo, Spain.

The objective of the tests is to establish baseline values for clinical use and prepare for FDA clearance.

If you like to know more about the Immudex Dextramer CMV-monitoring assay, please write to COO Liselotte Brix at lb@immudex.com. To receive updates and preliminary results from tests, follow Immudex on LinkedIn or subscribe to our newsletter at www.immudex.com.