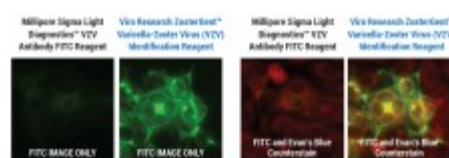


Inventor of Shingrix™ Develops New Chickenpox and Shingles Virus Detection Test

Abbas Vafai, Ph.D. inventor of shingles vaccine, Shingrix™, develops ZosterGent™ VZV Identification Reagent, a more sensitive test in detecting the shingles virus.

SNELLVILLE, Ga., June 9, 2020 (Newswire.com) -

Viro Research, developer of high quality biologics and reagents, announced today the launch of ZosterGent™ for lesion testing of at-risk patients suspected of having chickenpox or shingles, such as immunosuppressed populations like pregnant women or those with HIV, cancer, or organ transplants. Viro Research was co-founded by father and son team, Dr. Abbas Vafai, microbiologist, and his son, Dr. Nicholas Vafai, cellular biologist.



“The marketing success of the recently released shingles vaccine, Shingrix™, has increased interest in detecting and preventing Varicella-Zoster Virus (VZV) infections,” states David R. Kilpatrick, Ph.D., microbiologist formerly of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “A simple, highly specific and rapid assay such as ZosterGent™ is desirable and fills the clinical need to detect VZV antigens in skin lesions and cell cultures.”

Herpes zoster, commonly referred to as shingles, is caused by the reactivation of the VZV, the same virus that causes varicella (chickenpox) typically in childhood. After chickenpox resolves, the VZV still remains in the body but lies dormant, often reactivating in the elderly and immunocompromised individuals as shingles, causing a painful rash with open sores.

Having HIV or cancer can increase a person’s risk, as the immune system is compromised and more receptive to disease. Radiation or chemotherapy can also lower one’s resistance and could be a catalyst for shingles. Certain medications such as prednisone (steroids) or those that prevent rejection of transplanted organs can also increase the risk of contracting shingles.

“Other tests – including PCR and ELISA – exist today for detection of VZV. Many are time-consuming and need to be sent to testing facilities but can be processed in larger batches which can be attractive for high-volume reference labs,” remarks Nicholas Vafai, PhD, MBA, CEO and co-founder of Viro Research. “However, pathologists may be required to directly detect and observe the infected cells in skin lesions and in the patient’s tissue under the microscope, which is why they would prefer ZosterGent™, an immunofluorescent assay (IFA) approach.”

About ZosterGent™

The ZosterGent™ Reagent is a fast (20-30 minutes), simple (one-step, one-solution) fluorescent antibody test for the detection and confirmation of chickenpox (varicella) and shingles (zoster) in clinical specimens and inoculated cell cultures. Under a fluorescent microscope samples will appear with bright green intensity making the specimen easy to see and recognize.

About Viro Research

Viro Research provides high quality biological products and reagents for research and in vitro diagnosis of human viruses, enabling an early, accurate patient diagnosis and effective treatment pathway for the physician. For more information visit www.viroresearch.com.

Media Contact

Lisa Bichsel
Bichsel Medical Marketing Group
lisa.bichsel@bichselgroup.com
719-487-9558

All product names, logos, and brands are property of their respective owners. All company, product, and service names used in this advertisement are for identification purposes only. Use of these names, logos, and brands does not imply endorsement. The respective views and comments are that of the individual making the statement and in no way reflect the views and opinions of an organization.

Source: Viro Research

Related Files

- [TFP488_ViroResearch_Final Cut.V4 9MB](#)

About Bichsel Medical Marketing Group

Commercialization strategy and execution for medical device and biotech start-ups.
<http://www.bichselgroup.com>

Company Address

Bichsel Medical Marketing Group
480 E. Stirrup Trail
Monument, CO 80132
United States