MEDCO FORUM®

PRESENTING INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS & SERVICES TO HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

VOLUME 11 NUMBER 28 JUNE 2004

REPRINT

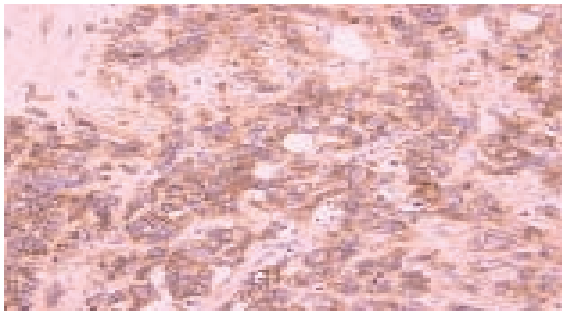
AMERIPATH IS DEDICATED TO SERVING THE SPECIALIZED REQUIREMENTS OF THE ONCOLOGY COMMUNITY

AmeriPath (Orlando, FL), is a full-service, anatomic and esoteric testing provider serving the specific needs of oncologists, pathologists and hospitals. AmeriPath combines the power of its local pathology presence with the national expertise provided by its Centers for Advanced Diagnostics. This unique structure provides the advantages of a local service—convenience, security, accessibility and personalized physician consultations—supported and enhanced by a nationwide laboratory network and a multidisciplinary team of board-certified hemato-pathologists, specialized pathologists and PhD-level scientists, all of whom possess extensive experience and credentials in their respective fields.

AmeriPath is focused on providing comprehensive diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic information on hematopoietic and solid tissue malignancies. It offers a full array of traditional and molecular technologies, including immunohistochemistry, flow cytometry, cytogenetics, fluorescence in situ hybridization and polymerase chain reaction. AmeriPath's professional oncology team has carefully designed an integrated approach that combines the team's expertise with the application of available technologies to provide the most appropriate testing of and clinically relevant information on individual patients. AmeriPath is dedicated to the delivery of timely, accurate, integrated and clinically relevant results to assist clinicians in providing optimal and cost-effective patient care.

AmeriPath has Validated the EGFR pharmDx™ Assay to Help Identify Colorectal Cancer Patients Who are Eligible for Erbitux™ Targeted Therapy

AmeriPath has validated DakoCytomation's FDA-approved EGFR pharmDx™ assay, in accordance with CLIA (*1*) and CAP(*2*) guidelines, to help identify those colorectal cancer patients who are eligible for Erbitux™ targeted therapy. EGFR pharmDx is a qualitative immunohistochemistry kit system used to identify epidermal growth factor receptor expression in normal and neoplastic tissues. Standardized IHC staining is performed on routinely fixed, processed, paraffin-embedded specimens, thereby permitting the direct visualization of the EGFR protein expressed on the surface of tumor cells.



EGFR Positive—Strong, Diffuse Membranous Staining

AmeriPath routinely utilizes several controls to ensure that every assay is performed according to specifications. These include control cell lines and tissue sections that are tested alongside each patient's tissue sample. In addition, AmeriPath utilizes an automated platform that increases the staining consistency and reproducibility.

Experienced pathologists assess IHC staining in the tumor region of each patient's specimen, and EGFR pharmDx results are reported as either positive or negative. A tumor is positive for EGFR if there is any IHC staining of tumor cell membranes above the background level. A negative result is indicated by the absence of specific membrane staining within the tumor. Results are available within twenty-four hours of specimen receipt. Upon release, reports are immediately available via fax, remote printing or the Physician WebPortal.

AmeriPath® ONCOLOGY DIAGNOSTICS

For more information concerning AmeriPath, call 1-877-223-PATH; contact an AmeriPath representative at ASCO, booth #719; visit the company's Web site at www.ameripath.com or email to apoclientservices@ameripath.com.

References:

1. Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments.
2. College of American Pathologists.