

## **Progenika launches new personalised medicine tools to help avoid diseases in newborn children, pregnant women and cancer patients**

- **Progenika presents two new tools to help in the correct identification of blood groups, so avoiding diseases and complications in newborn children, pregnant women and people who need multiple blood transfusions**
- **The presentation took place at the Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion being held in Berlin**
- **With the presentation of these two new products, Progenika becomes the undisputed leading international company in the development of tools for molecular diagnosis in transfusion medicine**
- **Progenika specialises in personalised medicine and develops DNA biochips for diagnosis, prognosis and prediction of response to treatment of diseases in humans**
- **The new tools will be marketed by Grifols under an agreement signed by the two companies last week**

**Bilbao, 28 June 2010.** Progenika, which specialises in personalised medicine, today presented two new tools to identify blood groups, based on the most advanced technologies in the market. These new developments will help the following groups avoid diseases and complications: newborn children, pregnant women and people such as cancer patients who require multiple blood transfusions.

These new developments can help avoid diseases such as neonatal thrombocytopenia, haemolytic disease or foetal anaemia in newborn children. Also, they help to avoid alloimmunisation in pregnant women. That is the generation and passing on of maternal antibodies to the foetus which lead to the destruction of foetal blood cells. Moreover, these new techniques avoid adverse reactions in patients who need multiple blood transfusions.



It should be mentioned that there is currently no alternative technique for some of the blood groups analysed.

The company has developed a new family of tools which offer the definitive solution to the genotyping of blood groups. These new tools are based on Luminex technology, which has many advantages. One of these is that it is a very rapid technique, as only 5 hours are needed from DNA extraction to the observation of results. Moreover, it permits the analysis of a high number of samples in the same process, so optimising resources and costs. Also this technique is adapted to the requirements of blood banks, meaning that they do not have to invest or change their *modus operandi*. This new technology, together with DNAchips, which are already available, make Progenika the leading international company in the development of tools for molecular diagnosis in transfusion medicine.

The presentation took place today in the setting of the International ISBT (International Society of Blood Transfusion) Congress being held in Berlin.

### **The newly developed tools**

The new Progenika tools, known as IDHPA and Idcore, form part of the BLOODchip<sup>ID</sup> family and carry the CE trademark. This means they are approved by the European Union and have its marketing authorisation.

The **IDHPA** test is based on DNA analysis and permits the identification of 12 platelet antigens, so guaranteeing compatibility between donor and recipient during platelet transfusions.

Meanwhile, the **IDCore** permits the identification of 23 erythrocyte antigens and is also based on DNA analysis. The objective is to facilitate the handling of multi-transfused patients during treatment, helping to select donors who are compatible with them.

These new tools, which relations of the BLOODchip<sup>ID</sup> family, are included in the distribution agreement signed by Grifols and Progenika last week. With these launches Progenika and Grifols become the two leading companies in terms of safety in all aspects of blood transfusions.



## **About Progenika**

Progenika is the leading Spanish biotechnology company in personalised medicine. It develops DNA biochips for diagnosis, prognosis of evolution, and prediction of response to treatment in complex human diseases. Progenika offers a series of molecular diagnosis tools in areas such as oncology, lipids, and disorders of the nervous system or the optimisation of their treatment. Among their leading products, in addition to the BLOODchip there are the LIPOchip, PHARMAchip, Promonitor and BRAINchip. Progenika was founded in 2000 and has research, development and production centres in the Vizcaya Technological Park (Zamudio-Biscay, Spain) and in Cambridge (Massachusetts-USA). It also has sales and intellectual property management offices in Madrid and London. More than 140 scientists currently work in the company facilities and its products are sold in America, Europe and the Middle East.

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