

Circulating Tumor Cell Tests (CTC's) and Chemosensitivity Testing

A new way to detect if cancer is spreading (metastisizing) is now available using blood instead of biopsies and lymph node removal. Noninvasive testing is now available in the US – from Quest and Life Extension with a test called the Circulating Tumor Cells test – for breast, prostate and colon cancer. In Europe, there is the German and Greek testing labs that do the CTC tests and chemo-sensitivity testing. Chemo-sensitivity testing isolates the CTC's and tests them in a test tube with chemo drugs and anti-cancer agents. It looks for which drugs and agents kill the CTC's. It also compares chemo drugs to see which ones work best.

Video on how CTC testing is used to show disease progression and regression:

<http://www.veridex.com/media/CellSearchCSFlash/CellSearchCSFlash.aspx>

This site has sample results from the Greek Lab chemo-sensitivity testing:

<http://www.atmctx.com/cancer-test/>

Here is a basic article from Life Extension:

http://www.lef.org/magazine/mag2010/apr2010_Cancer-Treatment-Utilizing-Advanced-CTC-Molecular-Analysis_01.htm

German testing: (has lots of details on CTC's)

<http://www.naturalhealthcare.org/cancer-chemosensitivity-testing.php>

Costs (these are my general knowledge – don't hold me to these numbers - thanks):

Chemosensitivity testing from Greek Lab 1300 Eurodollars, \$700 for CTC test

CTC testing: \$999.00 from Life Extension for Life Extension members

Quest \$600 for CTC testing

FDA approval: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/98810.php>

New info on CTC's evading detection:

<http://www.ecancermedicalscience.com/news-insider-news.asp?itemId=848>

New version of the CTC tests are being developed:

<http://www.electronicweekly.com/Articles/2009/10/07/47131/micro-fluidics-cut-cancer-test-from-a-day-to-an-hour-imec-tech-forum.htm>

link from Julie:

<http://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/701687>

Detection of Stem cells:

<http://breast-cancer-research.com/content/11/4/R46>