

## Technology Offer

# ELISA for the presymptomatic detection of inflammatory processes and sepsis

Reference Number  
TO 01-00330

## The Challenge

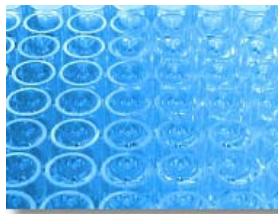
In many conditions diagnosis as early as possible is important for the outcome of the disease by helping to take appropriate measures very early, e.g. determining a therapy regimen in disease progression. In some cases early diagnosis is essential for survival of the patient. Especially sepsis and other inflammatory processes have to be diagnosed as early as possible, best before onset of clinical symptoms to achieve successful treatment.

Monitoring AIDS progression and thus detecting the development of resistances against the prescribed drugs is important to define a therapy procedure that will prolong the patients live expectancy and quality as much as possible.

Early diagnosis also is essential in possible bioterrorism attacks to determine the infectious agent or toxin and to take appropriate countermeasures.

## The Technology

The invention discloses an ELISA specific for a protein which expression is early and tightly regulated exclusively through specific inflammatory parameters. Inflammatory processes, sepsis and intoxication with bioterrorism agents like Staphylococcus Enterotoxin B cause upregulation, AIDS-progression causes downregulation of this protein. Changes in the protein's expression pattern allow early diagnosis of the conditions mentioned.



Description of illustration  
Source: <http://www.medizin.fu-berlin.de>

## Commercial Opportunity

The world market for in vitro diagnostics is one of the fastest growing markets and is estimated to reach a volume of 25 billion € in 2004. ELISA based kits alone currently have a market size of about 3 billion €.

Advantages of the invention are:

- novel diagnostic tool: quantitative ELISA specific for severe and/or life threatening conditions
- fast and early diagnosis, ideally before the appearance of first clinical symptoms
- cost effective compared to other methods, e.g. RT-PCR

## Patent situation

A German application and a PCT application PCT/EP03/14678 (confidential) are pending.

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