

Technology Offer

Candidate for a novel HCV-Vaccine

Reference Number
TO 01-00303

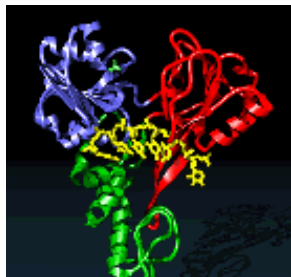
The Challenge

WHO estimates that about 200 Mio. people, 3% of the world's population, are infected with hepatitis C virus (HCV) and 3 to 4 Mio. persons are newly infected each year. HCV is responsible for 50-76% of all liver cancer cases, and two thirds of all liver transplants in the developed world. 85% of those infected develop persistent infection and are at risk of serious complications such as liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. 90% of HCV patients who are in need of treatment against HCV today cannot afford it.

Hepatitis C will lead to a substantial health and economic burden over the next 10 to 20 years. Some models predict that in 2008 there will be an increase of 61 % in cirrhosis, of 279 % in decompensations and of 68 % in hepatocellular cancer. The need for liver transplants will increase 5 fold in the next 10 years. Direct medical expenditures for HCV within the European Union alone will be over €10 billion from the year 2010 through 2019 without specific effort to limit this impact.

Although preliminary vaccine research in primates appears promising, to date no vaccines exist for preventing hepatitis C in humans.

The Technology



Structured HCV
Source: Prometeusze, Poland

The invention relates to recombinant MVA which is capable of expressing structural HCV antigens, functional parts or epitopes thereof. Using this recombinant virus a vaccine for therapy and prophylaxis of HCV infections and diseases can be developed. Preclinical testing in animal models (mice and primates) already showed promising results.

Commercial Opportunity

Neither effective preventive measures prophylaxis nor working therapies for the bigger part of HCV patients exist. An HCV-vaccine for prophylactic and therapeutic purposes would cover a major share of the HCV-market of approximately 800 Mio. € per year.

Patent situation

A German application DE 101 43 490 and a PCT application WO 030 23 042 are pending.

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