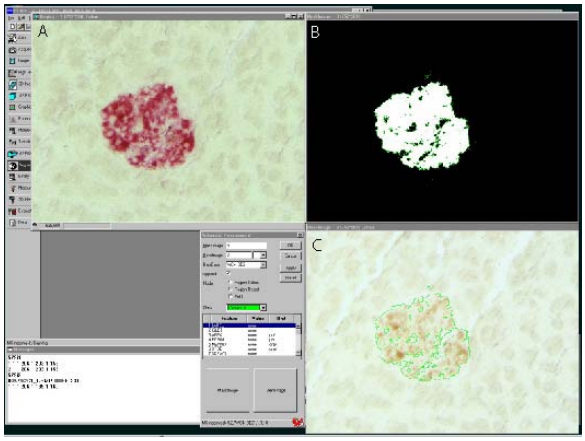
SOPARTEC
Technology Transfer Company of the Université catholique de Louvain

IMPROVED METHOD FOR QUANTIFICATION OF BIOMARKERS ON HISTOPATHOLOGICAL SLIDES

Sopartec, the technology transfer company of the Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), presents a new methodology for determining antigen content in a histological sample.



Technology Keywords

- Immunohistochemistry
- Immunohistodensitometry
- Antigen quantification
- Digitized Image analysis

Technology Market : Histopathology – assessment of biomarker

Immunohistochemistry is commonly used for detecting molecular changes in tissues. Up to now, the evaluation of an immunohistochemical signal is performed by a pathologist who generates a qualitative assessment. This is therefore subjective and often presents considerable variability. Over the past decade, there has been a growing interest for quantitation of immunoistochemical signals but the human eye is still required to precise the cell populations be assessed. Therefore subjectivity remains and obtaining unbiased quantitative data from histological sections represents a formidable opportunity to streamline the evaluation process.

The UCL invention

Researchers from the Unit of Pathology have developed a new method to evaluate the intensity of a biomarker on tissues sections containing a variable amount of relevant cell populations.

The method implements a standardization of the area of reference used to compute optical density of any biomarker detected on a tissue section. This is achieved by using concurrent immunohistochemical detection of the relevant tissue and sequential processing of co-registered digital images of both reference and biomarker.

Applications :

- Semi-quantitative biomarker assessment on routinely processed histopathological material;
- Using routine staining procedures;
- Assessment of coexpression/colocalization without the need of a confocal microscope;

Technology Status

This work is the subject of a patent application : PCT patent application filed on 24/08/2007 and published under No. WO 2008/023055.
(internal file reference number : SOP-200)

Sopartec would like to talk to companies interested in developing and commercializing this opportunity.

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