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### **Exiqon publishes clinical data on the stratification of colon cancer patients**

Exiqon A/S (NASDAQ OMX Copenhagen: "EXQ") today published data from a clinical study that stratifies colon cancer patients into groups of high, medium and low chances of survival which may prove useful for optimizing the treatment of each individual cancer patient.

Exiqon has analyzed 130 stage II colon cancer patients for the expression of microRNA-21 in the tumor tissue. The study was based on *in situ* hybridization enabled by Exiqon's proprietary LNA™ detection technology.

The study demonstrated that among the 33% of the patients with the highest microRNA-21 levels, only 73% survived two years after surgery, whereas the same rate was 98% among the 33% of the patients with the lowest microRNA-21 levels. For the medium group, 86% survived two years after surgery.

Data from the study suggests that it may be possible to clinically stratify colon cancer patients. This would potentially allow for optimization of the individual patient's treatment on the basis of an analysis of each patient's risk profile. Oncologist may want to offer adjuvant chemotherapy after surgery to high-risk group of patients in stage II which may today not be treated with adjuvant chemotherapy irrespective of recurrence rates of up to 25% of this patient population. Today, patients diagnosed with colon cancer stage III are already commonly offered adjuvant chemotherapy treatment after surgery.

Annually, colon cancer affects about 108,000 people in the U.S. with 25% of them diagnosed as stage II. Colon cancer is currently the third leading cause of cancer death in the U.S. In Denmark alone, approximately 2,450 patients are diagnosed with colon cancer annually, and approximately 900 of these are diagnosed stage II patients.

On the basis of the study results, Exiqon is planning to conduct additional validation studies and conclude a partnership agreement with a diagnostic or pharmaceutical company on the final development and marketing of a (companion) diagnostic kit for stratification of stage II colon cancer patients potentially eligible for adjuvant chemotherapy.

Exiqon already markets research reagents and kits that support this type of analyses.



The paper is freely available at:

<http://www.springerlink.com/content/b18587r00882m050/>

#### **Additional information**

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#### **About Exiqon**

Exiqon's products are based on the proprietary LNA™ technology. This technology offers unique advantages for detection of miRNA biomarkers for life science researchers, drug developers and cancer treating physicians working towards personalizing medicine. Exiqon operates in two business areas: Exiqon Life Sciences has established a position for itself as one of the market's leading providers of miRNA research products for miRNA analysis in cells. Our research products are used by academia, biotech and pharmaceutical companies around the world to make groundbreaking discoveries about the correlation between gene activity and the development of cancer and other diseases. Exiqon Life Sciences is also collaborating with pharmaceutical companies in their effort to develop new medicines based on miRNA as biological markers. Exiqon Diagnostics collaborates with pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies to develop novel molecular diagnostic tests for early detection of diseases which can help physicians make treatment decisions. Exiqon is listed on the NASDAQ OMX in Copenhagen. For more information about us, please visit [www.exiqon.com](http://www.exiqon.com).

