IBScheck™ for post-infectious Irritable Bowel Syndrome

TIMEFRAME: Estimated earliest commercial availability in the UK

TECHNOLOGY

IBScheck™ is a blood test developed by Commonwealth Diagnostics International, Inc., for the identification of post-infectious irritable bowel syndrome (IBS).

IBScheck™ is an ELISA blood test that detects the presence of two antibodies to Vinculin and cytolethal distending toxin B (CdtB). The former is a protein which is required for intestinal motility. The latter is a toxin produced by certain gram-negative bacteria.

The test is suitable for use on males and females aged 18-62 years, with symptoms of IBS. It is planned that blood samples will be sent to UK based laboratories for testing, with results being available within 24-48 hours of specimen receipt. The company state that a positive test result can differentiate post-infectious IBS from inflammatory bowel disorder (IBD) and help with the management of the condition.

The company anticipate IBScheck™ to be CE marked in mid-2016, with UK NHS launch planned straight after.

POTENTIAL FOR IMPACT

IBS is a common, long-term gastrointestinal disorder and is thought to affect up to one in five

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people at some point in their life. It usually first develops when a person is between 20 and 30 years of age, with twice as many women being affected as men. IBS can cause bouts of stomach cramps, bloating, diarrhoea and/or constipation. The symptoms vary between individuals, lasting a few days to a few months at a time and affect some people more severely than others, depending on factors such as stress and dietary habits. In a small subgroup, IBS can arise after a case of infectious gastroenteritis and is known as post-infectious IBS.

IBS is currently identified through a diagnosis of exclusion, with patients undergoing procedures such as colonoscopy, endoscopy or blood testing to rule out alternative explanations. Current approaches are invasive for patients and are not definitive, meaning multiple procedures can lead to the accrualment of significant costs.

The company claim a key innovative feature of the IBSchek™ test is the use of targeted antigens to identify post-infectious IBS without excessive investigation. The company add the IBSchek™ test may help target investigations when the test result is inconclusive. The company claim this test will reduce invasive, expensive testing for IBS and will provide the opportunity for earlier treatment, improved patient outcomes and cost savings.

If effective, this technology is predicted to have an impact on the following domain of the NHS Outcomes Framework (www.england.nhs.uk/resources/resources-for-ccgs/out-frwrk):

Domain 1 Preventing people from dying prematurely

**EVIDENCE**

**PUBLISHED PAPER**


**ONGOING STUDIES**

Details of ongoing studies are confidential at this time.

**INFORMATION FROM**

This Alert is based on information from the company and a time-limited internet search.

**Lay summary**

The IBSchek™ measures specific proteins in the blood to find out whether a patient has post infectious irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). This is a condition which affects the bowel, causing stomach pain, diarrhoea and constipation and occurs after a case of gastroenteritis. The developer says the advantage of this test is that it may reduce the number of tests needed to find out if a patient has IBS.