



The **Realisation** of Research

Biomarker for Prediction of Early Pregnancy Loss

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Diagnostic/Prognostic
Biomarkers

Description:

Biomarker for Prediction of Early Pregnancy Loss

Available for: Co-development and/or licensing

Summary

UCL researchers have identified two bio-markers that differentiate women who miscarry during pregnancy from those who do not miscarry among a group of high-risk patients.

The Technology and its Advantages

Currently there are no validated biochemical tests to predict a subsequent miscarriage in early pregnancy. Many pregnant women exhibit symptoms of miscarriage called 'threatened miscarriage'. Almost ten percent of these women have a miscarriage and the rest have a live birth at term.

We have used a simple ELISA best test to measure two biomarkers in early pregnancy in patients with symptoms of with threatened miscarriage. Women who subsequently have a miscarriage have significantly different levels of these two proteins in maternal circulation than women who do not miscarry.

Market Opportunity

In the UK, approximately 20% of pregnant women exhibit symptoms of 'threatened miscarriage'. If physicians could narrow this down to a smaller group, they could provide prophylactic treatment and also closely monitor and counsel them.

A predictive test for early miscarriage versus ongoing pregnancy based upon the biomarkers we have identified would be of significant value to health care providers, helping them focus resources on high-risk patients and reassure low-risk patients who exhibit symptoms of threatened miscarriage.

This would particularly be relevant to the expanding patient pool of patients who undergo in vitro fertilisation.

Intellectual Property Status

A patent claiming these novel markers is currently at PCT. The priority patent application was filed on 2nd December 2009.

Further Information

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