

ANGLE PLC

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ANGLE's Parsortix liquid biopsy proving to be more than just a cancer detection device

What ANGLE does

ANGLE plc (LON:AGL, OTCQX:ANPCY) is the firm behind Parsortix - a simple blood test which can help doctors spot the signs of cancer at an early stage.

Blood tests - or liquid biopsies as they are known to clinicians - are seen as having important advantages over the tissue samples that are commonly used by hospitals: they are less traumatic, return results quicker and are cheaper.

Parsortix is different to many of its rivals as, rather than testing for fragments of dead cancer cells, it detects and captures circulating tumour cells (CTCs).

CTCs provide the tell-tale signs of cancer and their capture can allow doctors to more accurately assess treatment options.

This method is seen as more reliable because other tests have shown that fragments of dead cancer cells are present in around a quarter of people over 65 who do not have cancer. CTCs, on the other hand, give a complete picture because they can only be found in people with cancer.

Head and neck cancer

A study by the University of Athens showed its liquid biopsy was superior to a leading antibody approach when it came to harvesting CTCs in people with head and neck cancer.

Researchers drew blood from 50 patients and 18 healthy volunteers. The published data revealed use of the ANGLE technology resulted in much higher CTC harvesting positivity rates, purer samples, and "excellent" RNA quality for molecular analysis.

Foetal and ovarian testing

Cancer is where Parsortix has been gaining the most traction - with more than 200 of its devices are in use around the world, but the system has also showed promise in harvesting foetal cells, which could help detect abnormalities such as Down's Syndrome in unborn children.

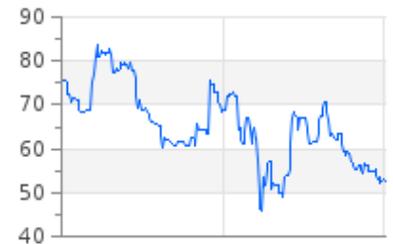
In the small-scale study, Parsortix was able to distinguish between male and female chromosomes and, in one case, correctly identified trisomy 21, the marker for Down's.

Parents and doctors are willing to pay a hefty price to ensure the health of their unborn babies, with the non-invasive prenatal testing market estimated to be worth around US\$600mln. Analysts expect it to grow to US\$1bn a year by 2022.

Price: 52.6

Market Cap: £90.89 m

1 Year Share Price Graph



August 2019 February 2020 August 2020

Share Information

Code: AGL

Listing: AIM

52 week High Low
85 40

Sector: Pharma & Biotech

Website: www.angleplc.com

Company Synopsis:

ANGLE PLC develops products for use in rare cell diagnostics that enable early, accurate identification of an individual's condition for the prevention, treatment, and monitoring of disease.

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Melanoma

Researchers in Western Australia using the Parsortix liquid biopsy system have found another use for the cancer detection device. A team at Edith Cowan University in Perth deployed the technology to monitor people with melanoma and were able to sort them into high risk and low-risk groups.

This has opened the possibility of assessing the prognosis and tailoring the treatment approach "taking into account disease status", ANGLE investors were told. Parsortix was also shown to be superior to other methods looked at by the Edith Cowan team at picking up the tell-tale signs of cancer assessed.

Kidney cancer

A study by Italy's Istituto Nazionale Tumori di Milano suggested that even the presence of a single circulating tumour cell (CTC) in a blood sample prior to treatment may predict a reduced progression-free survival.

Lung cancer

An analysis by the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf used Parsortix in the early detection of the spread of lung cancer to the brain, suggesting it could be a viable solution.

Currently, the only way to assess whether the disease has developed in this way is to carry out a "highly invasive" tissue biopsy.

Advanced prostate cancer

A study conducted at University of Southern California concluded that the liquid biopsy system provides a "straightforward and scalable approach" to analysing and assessing treatment options for men with advanced prostate cancer, while ANGLE believes the workflow could extend to most solid tumour cancer types.

How it is doing

The coronavirus pandemic has hit operations, though ANGLE confirmed it has a cash runway that takes it out to mid-2021 and that it has received a £1.9m In R&D tax credit. It said it is managing its resources and has furloughed staff.

A key focus during lockdown has been on finalising the significant amount of written documentation and analysis for the firm's imminent submission to the US Food & Drug Administration.

It is working with a research and development skeleton crew in Guildford, while at its Toronto labs, HyCEAD Zipler analytical and assay verification work for ANGLE's ovarian cancer test is "progressing".

And finally, while the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York has temporarily ceased patient enrolment, researchers are analysing the second retained samples from the previous ovarian cancer clinical study.

Video

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