



Imalux Collaborates Again with Preventative Oncology International™ in Second Study of Cervical Cancer in China

Cleveland, OH May 16, 2008 Dr. Jerome Belinson, a leading researcher in gynecological cancers, and his team from Preventative Oncology International™ (POI), along with Dr. Nancy Tresser, Chief Medical Officer of Imalux Corporation, returned to China in April to study 200 patients at risk for cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer is the second greatest cause of cancer deaths in women world-wide. It is directly linked to the high-risk types of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV). While the current standard for cervical cancer diagnosis in the US is based upon the Pap test, the link between cervical cancer and HPV has made it possible to identify patients at high risk of cervical cancer by testing for the HPV virus.

The Cleveland Clinic and Renmin Hospital IRB approved “Study of the Diagnostic Efficacy of ‘Real Time’ Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT) in the management of Pre-Invasive and Invasive Neoplasia of the Uterine Cervix.” was conducted in April in collaboration with Renmin Hospital in Guizhou Province, China. One thousand (1,000) women were screened with cytology and HPV testing. Two hundred twenty (220) of these women were considered “high risk.” Of these, we examined one hundred seventy two (172) in April. Approximately eight hundred (800) OCT images were taken and are now being compared to diagnostic impression and pathologic findings to determine the accuracy of OCT in this application.

A similar study was done in December in Shenzhen, China. Two hundred ninety nine (299) patients found to be “high risk” were examined with colposcopy and OCT. Fifty four (54) of these patients were high risk with evidence of precancer (CINII, 26), early cancer (CIN III, 24) or cancer (4). In this study OCT increased the ability to correctly identify (specificity) the earliest stages of cervical cancer by up to 40%, suggesting that OCT, when combined with colposcopy, could dramatically decrease the number of patients treated unnecessarily. The study team, along with researchers from Case Western Reserve University’s department of Biomedical Engineering, is now studying two features identified on the OCT images that may be able to differentiate the various stages of cervical cancer.

A successful outcome from this series of studies could lead to a rapid, low cost method for a single episode of care (see and treat) with excellent sensitivity and specificity. According to Dr. Tresser, “This study showed that we could use OCT in a low-resource setting with the intent to improve women’s health care globally.”

Imalux is a Cleveland-based corporation that is focused on the clinical validation and commercialization of Optical Coherence Tomography technology originally developed at the Institute of Applied Physics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, one of the pioneers of OCT technology worldwide.



The Company's Niris Imaging System provides real-time, high spatial resolution, two-dimensional, cross-sectional depth visualization of tissue microstructure. The compact, point-of-care System creates images utilizing harmless near infrared light. The spatial resolution of the System is on the order of 0.01 mm, surpassing conventional ultrasound imaging by an order of magnitude. Niris is currently being used at leading worldwide institutions by clinicians and researchers in numerous clinical validation programs in the fields of urology, gynecology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, and, dentistry. For more information about Imalux see www.imalux.com.

Preventive Oncology International™ (POI) is an international non-profit organization that blends humanitarian work with scientific investigation. Since its founding in 1997, it has been the specific objective of POI to transplant as well as develop techniques of high quality cervical cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment, to the developing countries and other low resource areas. POI has already completed HPV and cervical cancer screening studies in Mexico and Dominican Republic, as well as both urban and rural sites in China. For more information on POI see <http://www.preventiveoncologyinternational.org/>

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