

(Toronto, Ontario Oct 11, 2006) – Cancer patients looking to improve their chances of success with chemotherapy can now have a lab test that identifies which drugs have the most potential for killing their unique tumour. Called **Chemofit™**, the test is being offered for the first time in Canada through a partnership between two Ontario private cancer facilities - **Medicor Cancer Centres Inc.** and CareImaging LP - with a New York laboratory, Oncology Research Therapeutics (ORT) Inc.

Chemofit™ is the latest type of chemosensitivity/chemoresistance assay which was developed by ORT Inc. During the complex procedure, the patient's very own cancer cells are pitted against commonly used chemo drugs in the lab. Cell death is then measured, and a detailed report is sent to the patient's oncologist in 4-5 days. "Using this test helps oncologists take the guesswork out of chemo selection, increasing the likelihood of successful treatment, and reducing unnecessary toxic side effects by avoiding chemos that would not work," says ORT CEO John Moran.

Medicor Cancer Centres, the first integrated private cancer clinic in Canada, is offering the test to all eligible cancer patients. "The treatment of cancer is continually evolving, and the choice of chemo is already moving away from empiric treatment," says Medicor President Dr. Humaira Khan. "Every patient's tumour is unique in the way it grows, and responds to treatment. With **Chemofit™**, we can individualize chemotherapy for many tumors like breast, ovarian, lung, colon and prostate."

"Ideally, we want patients who are waiting to have cancer surgery to speak to us about **Chemofit™** right away," says Medicor's Medical Director Dr. Akbar Khan. "That way, we can easily obtain a small fragment of tumour right at the time of surgery. We plan to work with all local hospitals including the leading GTA cancer centres to make **Chemofit™** available to their patients."

CareImaging LP, the first and only private PET scan clinic in Ontario, is the exclusive supplier of **ChemoFit™** in Canada. David Olinoski President of CareImaging LP states "We have always endeavored to provide cutting-edge diagnostic services to cancer patients. **Chemofit™** is another first for our facility, and we have more innovative tests in the pipeline."

Dr. Humaira Khan notes that similar testing has been used for years in leading U.S. cancer centres like Roswell Park Cancer Institute, but has not been adopted in Canada. "We do not want cancer patients to have to wait for anything that can enhance their chances of cure and reduce suffering. We know the Ministry of Health has been diligent at providing funding for cancer care, but it takes time and resources to add the very latest tests to the public system."

"The accuracy of tumour chemo sensitivity testing has improved dramatically over the years, and new clinical data is emerging rapidly" says John Moran. "ChemoFit™ is 99% accurate at identifying resistant chemos, and 87% accurate at identifying effective chemos. It is the most advanced assay at determining true cell death with multiple drugs as compared to any assay being offered in the U.S. Cell death is the most accurate marker of tumour response to a chemo drug."

Dr. Khan and David Olinoski have been talking to oncologists who are eager to try **Chemofit™** with their patients. "While some Canadian doctors may downplay **Chemofit™** as unnecessary, the benefits of individualized treatments are enormous. We routinely use sensitivity testing to choose the most suitable antibiotics for serious infections," states Dr. Humaira Khan. "If the technology exists, why would you not do the same thing with cancer?"

Backgrounder

Chemofit™ – What is it?

Chemofit™ is a specialized chemosensitivity/chemoresistance assay (CS/CR Assay). CS/CR assays use a patient's own tumour cells in the laboratory to identify which drugs have the most as well as the least potential for treating the patient's unique cancer. This information can increase the success of chemotherapy and reduce unnecessary toxicity.

CS/CR assays are being used by many cancer centres in the United States to guide treatment. CS/CR assays are used routinely in selecting second line chemotherapy for ovarian, lung, breast, colon, prostate, cervical cancers as well as sarcomas.

Different assays use different methods to get results. Chemofit™ uses one of the most advanced technologies to measure cell death. It is over 99% accurate for identifying resistant drugs and 87% accurate for identifying sensitive agents.

What are the benefits of using Chemofit™ to guide chemotherapy?

Oncologists presently choose chemo regimens based on clinical experience and general research data, combined with the patient's medical condition. Chemofit™ will allow them to eliminate the regimens that are least likely to work and concentrate on the ones that have the most potential for the unique tumour growing in their patient.

Current studies show that cancer patients administered chemotherapy after laboratory evaluation respond more favorably to the treatment. Studies are also showing a better survival for patients treated with drugs identified as the most effective by the assays.

Chemofit™ spares patients overt toxicity by eliminating drugs that are not likely to be effective. It also helps avoid inducing the potential of cross resistance of effective agents.

Using Chemofit™ is cost effective as it helps avoid the direct costs of ineffective therapy, and of managing treatment-related morbidity.

• Who should consider Chemofit™?

Chemofit™ is recommended to guide chemotherapy for solid tumors like ovarian, lung, breast, colon, prostate, cervical, endometrial, pancreatic cancers and sarcomas. Chemofit™ can be used for selecting both first line and second line chemotherapy, whether the aim of chemotherapy is cure, or palliation.

Backgrounder *(continued)*

How can I get ChemoFit™?

Cancer patients should contact **Medicor Cancer Centres** to discuss their individual medical history, and suitability for the test. Medicor and CareImaging will organize the test for eligible patients from sample collection and transport to obtaining and discussing the report with the patient and their oncologist.

ChemoFit™ requires a fresh tissue sample. Ideally, patients booked for surgery can contact **Medicor Cancer Centres** to organize the test. Patients who are not candidates for surgery or who have already had surgery often can have a small office-based procedure performed to obtain a tumour sample for the **ChemoFit™** test. On many occasions, only a little body fluid taken with a needle under local anesthetic is required to run the test successfully. Living tumour transport is an important part of the procedure, and CareImaging has established a system for proper sample transport.

Cost

ChemoFit™ is not covered under OHIP and costs \$2500. Medicor and CareImaging are offering the test for \$2150 during its first month.

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ChemoFit™ allows cancer patients to tailor their chemotherapy by testing the patient's own tumour cells in the laboratory to identify the most effective drugs for their unique cancer. It also eliminates the drugs least likely to work, thus saving the patient from unnecessary toxic side effects. The test is being offered by **Medicor Cancer Centres Inc.** and CareImaging LP in Toronto. **Medicor Cancer Centres** is the first integrated private cancer clinic in Canada specializing in individualized care. CareImaging is the first and only private PET clinic in Ontario. For more information call **Medicor Cancer Centres** at 1-888-622-6644 or Care Imaging LP at 905-712-9500 or visit www.medicorcancer.com.

Contact:

Name: **Silvana Marra**
Title: Manager Administrative Affairs
Company: **Medicor Cancer Centres Inc.**
Phone: **1-888-622-6644** or **416-227-0037**
email: **smarra@medicorcancer.com**