Wako Diagnostics

Press Release - November 15, 2006

Wako Diagnostics Reports the Release of a New CPT Code for AFP-L3%

Richmond, VA, November 15, 2006—Wako Diagnostics, a leading provider of diagnostic reagents and instruments, today reported the release of a new CPT code by the AMA for the testing of AFP-L3%. The new code number is CPT 82107. This follows the FDA 510(k) approval of the AFP-L3% test in May 2005. Hepatologists and gastroenterologists use AFP-L3% as a risk assessment and rule out test for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

Serum levels of alpha fetoprotein (AFP) and *Lens culinaris* agglutinin reactive alpha fetoprotein (AFP-L3) are the two biomarkers used to report the ratio, AFP-L3%. AFP-L3 is a fucosylated isoform of AFP, and is isolated through its differential binding to the lectin *Lens culinaris* agglutinin (LCA). Total AFP levels vary widely in patients with liver cirrhosis and chronic viral hepatitis B (HBV) and C (HCV) infections. AFP-L3% is a more specific test to identify patients at high risk for the development of HCC within the next 21 months.

LiBASys

Both total AFP and AFP-L3% values are reported using Wako's AFP-L3% reagents coupled with the LiBASys instrument. Reagents and instrumentation are offered by Wako directly to clinical laboratories. Currently, several major US reference laboratories offer this important test to their clients.

About Wako Diagnostics:
Wako Diagnostics, part of Wako Chemicals USA Inc., is headquartered in Richmond, VA, is a solely owned subsidiary of Wako Pure Chemicals, with headquarters in Osaka, Japan. Wako offers a full range of reagents for both clinical and research laboratories worldwide. Wako has also recently added specialty instrumentation to its extensive clinical diagnostic product line. More information may be obtained at www.wakodiagnostics.com.

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