

# A step forward in HPV diagnostics

*A France-based company by the name of Genomic Vision — developers of the standard technology in diagnostic tests for the early detection of cancers and hereditary diseases — has taken another step forward in the commercialization of its technology. Through a licensing agreement with a Czech company called Phyteneo, the company's proprietary technology will allow for early detection tests to be performed in the country, following all the necessary regulation.*

Genomic Vision is a leading company in the field of genetic testing and biomarker discovery. Founded in 2004 by researcher Aaron Bensimon, a doctor in molecular biology and head of the Genomic Instability Unit of the Institut Pasteur, the company's proprietary technology combines Molecular Combing; isolation and linearization genomic DNA, with a unique targeting and detection strategy, the Genomic Morse Code.

"We are stretching single DNA molecules and putting fluorescent biomarkers that generate a barcode on the DNA," Mr. Bensimon explains. "Any changes to it will indicate genetic

mutation, so we are analyzing the genes and providing diagnostics tools for the detection of cancer and genetic disease that are characterized by changes to the DNA."

The company's technology, which has been patented, offers a new way to identify and quantify genetic aberrations that cannot be seen by conventional methods. Close to 50 people work for the company's headquarters near Paris, France — the majority of them PhD holders. Genomic Vision is a publicly traded company in the Euronext stock exchange since 2014. Recently, the company announced a licensing agreement with Czech

Republic-based Phyteneo for the commercialization of its HPV integration test in the European nation. Phyteneo will be in charge of the registration of the test as Medical Device to the regional regulatory agency.

"The information provided by Genomic Vision test is completely new and gynecologists are very excited by the idea of having the possibility to propose to their patients a new test that could help them to optimize their follow up and care," Petr Behensky, CEO of Phyteneo. "We already know the centers that are willing to perform the test in Czech Republic and we are already thinking of making the test available for patients in other Eastern European Countries."

Over 2 million screening procedures for cervical cancer are performed yearly in the Czech Republic. Every year, 180,000 Czech women are detected with high-risk HPV, which makes the availability of the test an opportunity for improved care and disease management.

"The importance of this agreement is about time to market," said Mr. Bensimon. "For us, this is the first country with a strong interest in cervical cancer."



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