

PX'Therapeutics to collaborate with Grenoble Hospital and INSERM for the development of a new diagnostic tool to prevent cardiovascular diseases.

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Subsidiary of Aguetant pharmaceutical group, PX'Therapeutics, a Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization committed to the development and production of recombinant proteins, the Grenoble University Hospital Center and the French Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) announce the signature of a service agreement for the development and production of an antibody fragment for the *in vivo* diagnosis of atherosclerotic plaques.

While coronary diseases and their direct consequence, the rupture of vulnerable atherosclerotic plaques, are responsible for the majority of deaths related to cardiovascular diseases in the European Union and the United States, there is no clinical tool available for the diagnosis of such lesions. The project aims at developing a radiolabelled tracer to diagnose, through nuclear imaging, the presence of vulnerable atherosclerotic plaques and to prevent their rupture.

The diagnostic tool is made of a radiolabeled nanobody (single chain antibody fragment) which targets VCAM-1, the vascular cell adhesion protein 1, marker of cardiovascular inflammation.

Within this project, PX'Therapeutics is in charge of the development of a process for the production of the antibody fragment, as well as the manufacturing of several batches of the nanobody, including a GMP-grade batch, produced according to the Good Manufacturing Practices. After being radiolabelled, the nanobody will be used to perform a phase I/IIA clinical trial conducted by the Nuclear Medicine and Cardiology Department of Grenoble University Hospital Center, with the objectives to assess its biodistribution and safety in humans.

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