Fluoptics
Fluorescence imaging for surgery

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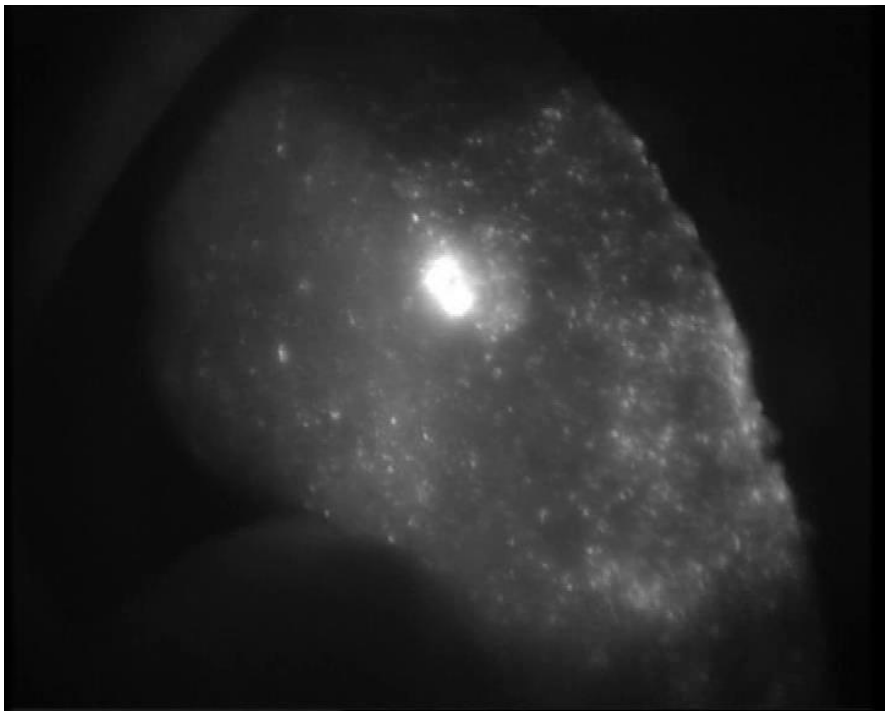
HEALTH | BIOTECHNOLOGIES | INNOVATION | FLUORESCENCE IMAGING | SURGERY | CANCER

Investments for the Future: Fluoptics gets funding for the project HECAM for the treatment of liver cancer

Grenoble, France – Fluoptics, specializing in fluorescence imaging for guided surgery (FIGS), announces that the project *HEpatocellular CArcinoma Multi-technological* (HECAM) has secured its funding. The project HECAM, which includes Fluoptics amongst its members, aims at building a new cluster of medical companies involved in the development of new treatments against liver cancer (hepatocarcinomatosis), in the framework of the program Investments for the Future, managed by bpiFrance.

The project, the budget of which amounts to 41 M€, was provided with a funding of 21.7 M€ with grants and repayable advances. HECAM was labelled by the clusters Medicen Paris Region, Atlanpole Biotherapies, Eurobiomed, Lyonbiopôle and OPTITEC. The ambition of the project, through the creation of a new network of medical companies, is to develop in the short term a range of solutions including new and efficient diagnostic tests (biomarkers, physical measures and imaging) and interventional therapies, for the benefit of the medical practitioners.

«We are very proud to take part into this project. It highlights the strong interest the medical and industrial worlds have in the innovative fluorescent imaging solutions developed by Fluoptics », rejoices Odile Allard, Fluoptics' CEO.



Subcapsular (8 mm) hepatocellular carcinomatosis on healthy liver. Copyright Fluoptics©

« During surgical operations of liver cancers, our optical imaging system enables the surgeon to visualize very precisely and in real time the resection margins of tumours. This « third eye » provides a critical assistance to the surgeon and proves also to be of great interest for the patient as it makes it possible to spare a larger part of healthy tissue», emphasizes Odile Allard.

« As of today, we use fluorescence imaging daily for our operations of hepatectomies and liver transplants. It is a technique complementary to the visual and palpatory exploration, which sometimes turns out to be inefficient. Fluorescence makes it possible to detect small lesions close to the liver surface, an area difficult to investigate with intraoperative ultrasound. Such lesions appear on the screen as small fluorescent spots on the liver surface. Besides, this technique provides us with a real time imaging for the monitoring of the liver vascularization, and as such is a true intraoperative augmented reality tool for the surgeon», explains Dr. Eric Vibert, specialized in liver surgery and transplantation at the Paul Brousse hos*pital (Villejuif, France).*

The hepatocellular carcinomatosis (HCC) is a primary cancer of the liver. It belongs to the most frequent cancer types in the world, with about 500,000 new cases annually, and ranks 5th for men and 7th for women.

In 90% of cases, it originates from a cirrhosis either viral (hepatitis B or C), or alcoholic or metabolic (obesity and diabetes). It remains often asymptomatic with a slow development from the fibrosis phase to the cirrhosis phase over a period of 20 years. Its prognosis is significantly unfavourable, with a survival rate lower than 30% at 5 years, but which can reach 50% to 70% when diagnosed and treated early enough.

About Fluoptics
Founded in 2009, Fluoptics develops and markets innovative solutions in the field of fluorescence image-guided surgery. This technology has many applications, among others in surgical oncology, for the resection of tumors and metastasis, for sentinel lymph nodes detection, but also in cardiovascular surgery, reconstructive surgery and liver surgery. Based in Grenoble, Fluoptics has today 17 employees. For more information: www.fluoptics.com

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