

PROFILE: DIACEUTICS

# Putting medicine to the test

Irish company Diaceutics focuses on giving patients the best possible chance of benefiting from the right medication by ensuring they are tested correctly

Precision medicine has the potential to transform healthcare in the future. Earlier and better testing that enables patients to get the right drug at the right time may improve patient outcomes and can reduce the need for often costly late-stage disease management. Driving this change is Diaceutics, the Irish medtech company that drives better patient testing globally.

"Although precision medicine is already making a huge impact on people's lives, suboptimal diagnostic test practices mean that patients are missing out on potentially life-saving drugs. Our research results show that more than 156,000 cancer patients per year in the US and Europe are not receiving potentially lifesaving drugs because of imperfect testing. We provide pharmaceutical companies with valuable patient-testing data that helps them to identify and reach more patients who can benefit from these new personalised treatments," said Steve Vitale, managing director, marketing, Diaceutics.

"To date, we estimate that Diaceutics has improved testing for nearly 500,000 patients, giving them the best possible chance of benefiting from the right medication as identified by better diagnostic test results," he said.

Vitale continued: "Every year, 1.7 million cancer



Steve Vitale, managing director, marketing, Diaceutics



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patients in the US and Europe undergo tests to determine whether or not there are novel precision drugs available that are likely to work better with their genetic make-up, compared to traditional therapies. However, substandard test availability information, as well as delayed reporting of test results, false negatives and sample management issues, means that patients are missing out.

"We estimate that the figures may be much higher, as this data doesn't take into account the number of patients that aren't tested at all. Our research has found that four years after new diagnostic tests become available, just 50 per cent of patients who may be eligible for precision drugs will have been tested by their physician," he explained.

"In oncology, for example, many of the patients that are tested for precision drugs are seriously ill. Traditionally, a patient suffering from breast cancer or leukaemia could be treated with a standard cocktail of drugs. We can eliminate the mystery behind knowing if a particular therapy may work or not by helping patients to get properly tested, which significantly increases the chances of being treated with the correct drug. Time is vital and physicians need to be able to see the results of those tests as soon as possible. Despite this urgency,

novel tests often suffer from issues which lead to patients missing out on the test, leading to them not having access to the drugs they may need and potentially facing a much longer treatment time with a bleaker prognosis.

"We recognised that closing the gap between the doctor, the lab and pharma was critical if diagnostic testing was to be effectively leveraged to help people get better quicker. So we embarked on a global effort to establish a network of laboratories that would be willing to share real-time testing information in order to improve patient care and elevate the effectiveness of the labs themselves. The data and analytical insights gained from this network of hundreds of laboratories around the globe helps our pharmaceutical clients to understand testing patterns and more effectively integrate proper diagnostic testing into patients' treatment," Vitale said.

"Medicine is going to become increasingly reliant on diagnostics in the future. In the next 48 months, some 300 new test-dependent drugs or indications will be brought to market. We therefore need to make sure that labs, pathologists, physicians and pharma companies are perfectly aligned to prepare for this dynamic and ensure patients are receiving the specific drug that may potentially save their lives."