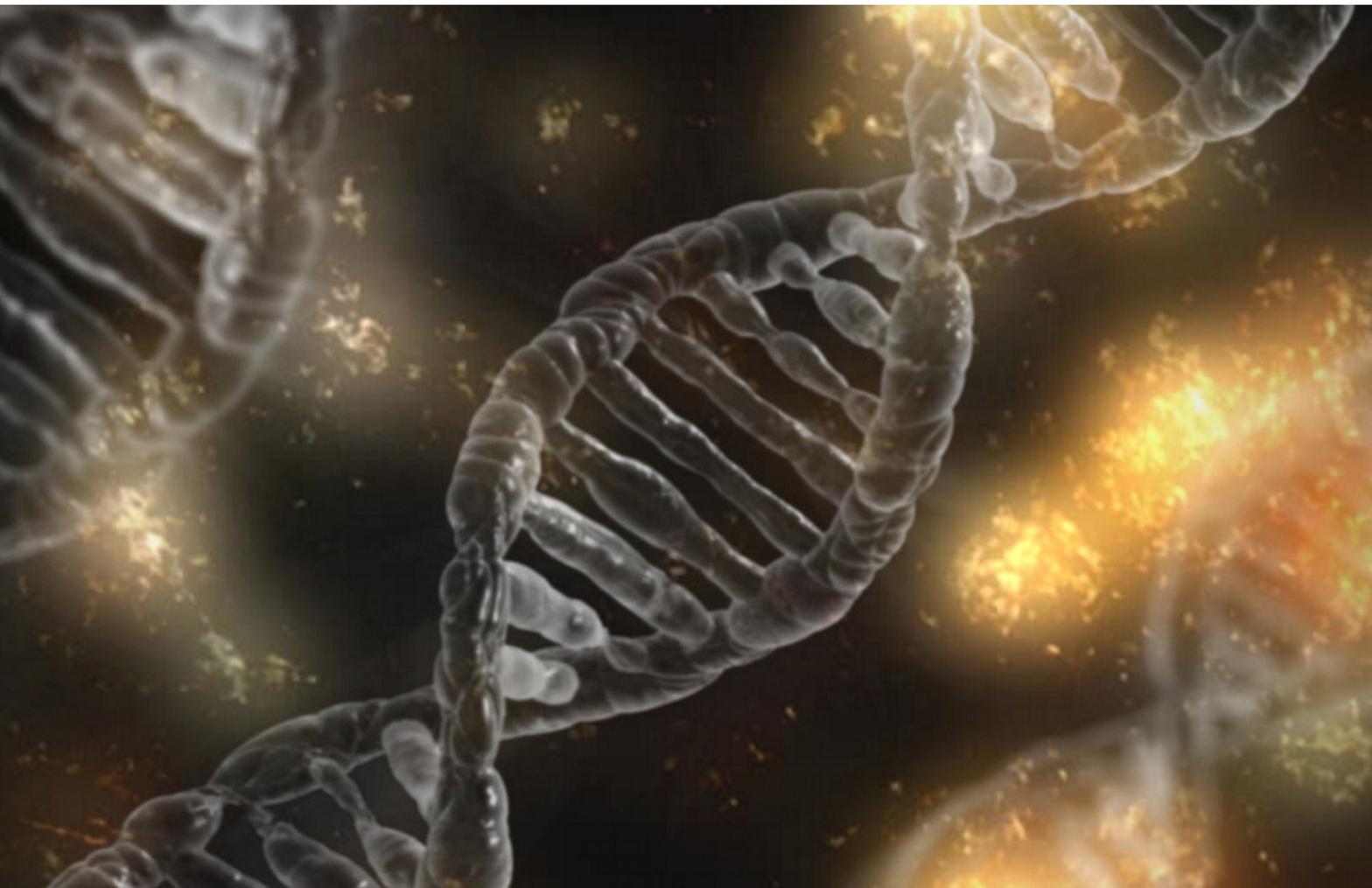




“STRAND LB HELPS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PATIENT”

Strand Life Sciences has announced the launch of their Liquid Biopsy test portfolio ‘Strand LB’ that provides highly sensitive detection of tumor traces from a simple blood draw. In this part of the interview, Dr Vijay Chandru, Chairman & Managing Director of the company shared the details on how it is a powerful tool to detect early and precise indication of tumor presence or cancer recurrence





How would the liquid biopsy test revolutionize cancer diagnosis and treatment?

Strand LB tests play a critical role in cancer diagnostics. The test is beneficial to patients at several stages – early detection, review and monitoring of non-biopsiable tissue and finally for regular monitoring and review post surgery.

In cancer treatment, the thumb rule is that prognosis of survival is

higher when the disease is detected at an early stage. A common example in the case of breast cancer is that stage one has almost 100% 5-year-survival rate compared to stage four which has a meager 22% survival rate.

Liquid biopsy has provided this opportunity to the patient where with the help of a simple blood draw, diagnosis can be made along with identification of genetic markers (EGFR, KRAS, TP53). One challenge with this technique is limited tumor DNA present in

the blood.

Strand LB has been able to overcome this by developing the ability of detecting one tumor DNA molecule in 1000 normal DNA fragments. The best-in-class bioinformatics capabilities also reduce the output time to only 5 working days. This helps the patient and physician to be proactive when making treatment choices rather than reactive and reduces the disease and financial burden of the patient.

In addition, some of

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the current monitoring approaches involve scans which expose patient to radiation.

Strand LB requires a simple blood draw and therefore minimizes the patient’s need for exposure to radiation and other risks associated with repeated tissue biopsies that also involve surgical intervention.

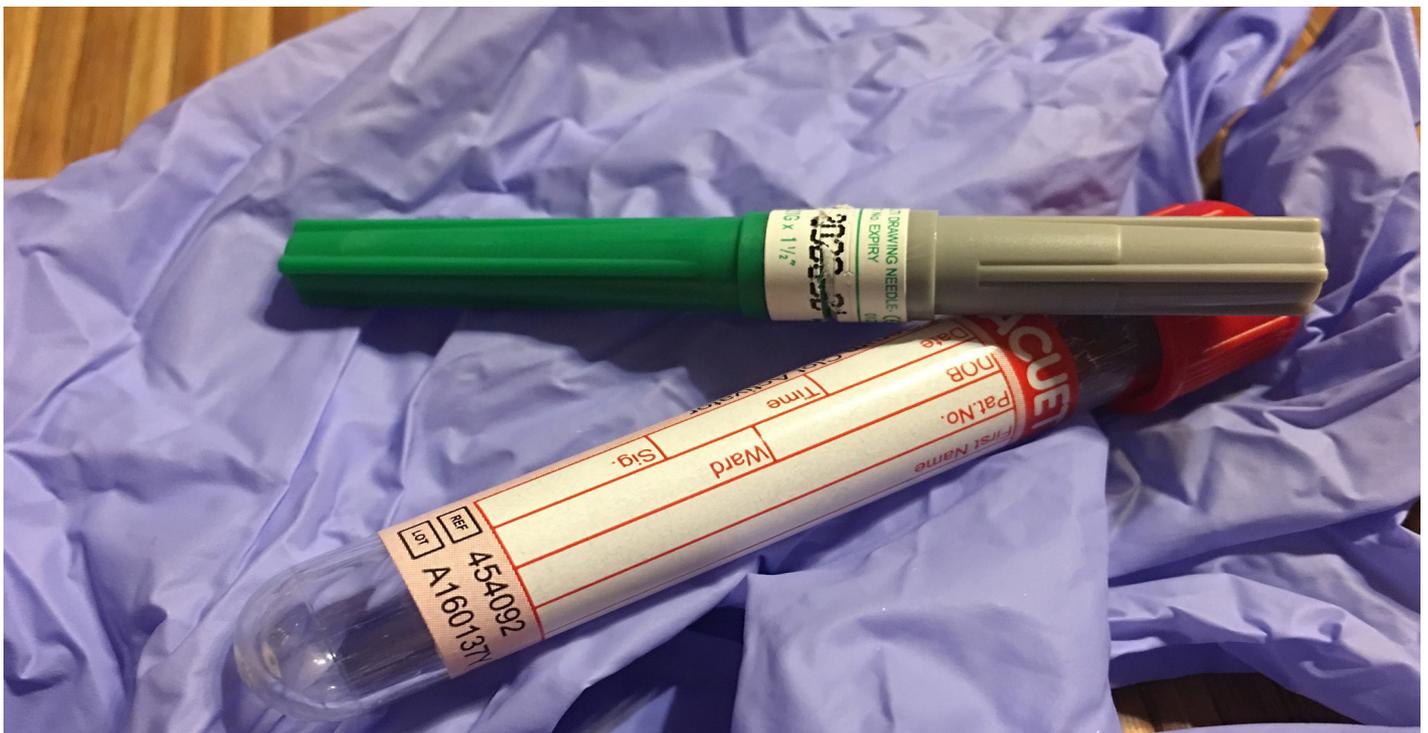
Please tell us about the years of research effort and funding put into its development?

The research effort has lasted for a couple of years and all the funding is done from in house resources. Strand runs a mature and profitable bioinformatics business.

The test was indigenously developed at Strand Life Sciences, Bangalore and clinical validation was done in collaboration with Mazumdar Shaw Cancer Center & TMC, Mumbai.

How can the patients access liquid biopsy test?

The test is available to the public and can be ordered via an oncologist in all major hospitals across India. The details of the test are also available at our website www.strandls.com and can the test can be ordered via the same website as well.





Is the test process simpler than existing alternatives? How cost effective is it?

A cancer patient is under tremendous mental and physical stress while undergoing treatment. There are major or minor surgical interventions followed by exposure to cytotoxic chemotherapy and radiation inducing PET scans.

The option of Strand LB helps in improving the quality of life of the patient because of its simplicity. It is essentially a simple blood draw that can be done at a

hospital or at the patient's home. As an alternative to the solid biopsy it is minimally invasive and therefore reduces pain. Strand LB can be performed multiple times at regular intervals for disease monitoring, which is not possible in the case of solid biopsy. The technique also helps in limiting exposure to harmful radioactive waves during currently routine follow-up PET scans.

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