



Non-Confidential Description - PSU No. 4360 **“Assessing Lactation Sufficiency”**

Field of Invention/Keywords:

Biomedical, devices, diagnostics, environment, medical, process-procedure, therapeutic, biotechnology, proteomics

Inventors:

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Background

Breast milk is best, but only if a woman is producing enough, high-quality milk. Experts believe that as many as 15% of women may suffer from lactation failure. More importantly, while the number of women producing sub-optimal breast milk (herein referred to as “lactation insufficiency”) is not known, countless women are concerned that they are not making enough high-quality milk to meet their infant’s needs. In fact, 50% of women wean their children prior to the age recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics due to concerns over lactation insufficiency. There is currently no way to diagnose lactation insufficiency, other than noting the decline in a breastfed infant’s health.

Invention Description

This invention relates to novel, proprietary over-the-counter and point-of-care diagnostic platforms to assess lactation performance. This will allow mothers to monitor lactation performance themselves, and provide healthcare providers with the tools to appropriately diagnose lactation insufficiency and intervene BEFORE infants are prematurely weaned or their health is permanently compromised. This technology relates to a convenient assay to test for screening, diagnosing and/or monitoring lactation (in)sufficiency, and could be used for establishing and evaluating treatment plans.

Advantages

- Will allow early, quick and accurate diagnosis of lactation (in)sufficiency
- Technology facilitates easy and inexpensive implementation e.g. a convenient test device
- Suitable for commercial as well as “at home” use

Status of the Invention

Collaboration, sponsored research, and sub-licensing

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