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SpectraCell Laboratories Now Offers Aspirin Response Testing™

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Houston, TX- August 4, 2008. SpectraCell Laboratories now offers Aspirin Response Testing (ART™). This newly available test measures a person's response to low-dose aspirin therapy, which is routinely prescribed to millions of Americans for cardiovascular disease prevention.

Recent research has shown that the effects of aspirin in reducing blood (platelet) "stickiness" will vary considerably from patient to patient. In fact, conservative estimates suggest that aspirin resistance exists in about 25% of the population. Since studies show that individuals who do not respond to aspirin (in reducing platelet stickiness) are more than three times more likely to die from heart disease than those that respond well to aspirin, ART™ is vital information. Not only will ART™ tell a clinician if aspirin therapy is working, but it can also help a clinician determine the appropriate dosage of aspirin for each patient, allowing a doctor to tailor their recommendations to the individual.

Platelets are small blood cells that stick together to form blood clots and control bleeding. They produce a chemical called thromboxane to attract other platelets and increase their stickiness. Aspirin works by inhibiting the production of thromboxane by platelets, therefore reducing their stickiness and limiting the size of clots. ART™ measures the level of thromboxane production in apparently healthy individuals.

Specifically, ART™ is an enzyme-linked immunoassay (ELISA) that measures the levels of 11-Dehydro Thromboxane B₂ (11dhTxB₂) in human urine. It reflects in vivo production of thromboxane A₂, which is the target of aspirin therapy. Clinical studies such as the large HOPE (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation) study have shown that elevated levels of 11dhTxB₂ correlate to increased cardiovascular risk.

"Over one million Americans will have a heart attack this year and 40% of those will be fatal. Many of these people are taking aspirin with the assumption that it has the same level of efficacy on everyone," says Dr. Fred Crawford, VP of Operations and Technical Director at SpectraCell Laboratories. "Plus, most people assume aspirin is totally benign, which is not always the case. For the functionally minded physician, ART™ is a superb diagnostic tool for identifying asymptomatic patients whose aspirin treatment is not working."

There are several reasons why a patient may not respond well to aspirin. It may be as simple as a patient taking a dose too low to effectively inhibit thromboxane A₂ production. Platelets can also be activated by pathways that are not blocked by aspirin so other anti-thrombotic therapies may benefit patients that are resistant to aspirin for this reason.

Standard platelet function tests require freshly drawn blood and must be evaluated within four hours. However, since ART™ uses a random urine sample, it is not subject to variables associated with blood sampling. In addition, aspirin response is highly assay-specific, meaning that a patient may not test positive for aspirin resistance with tests that stimulate platelet aggregation in vitro via other, less specific pathways. ART™ is done in vivo and specifically measures stable thromboxane metabolites. The final results are reported in picograms of 11dhTxB₂ per milligram of creatine to standardize results to urine concentration.

About SpectraCell Laboratories – SpectraCell is a CLIA accredited laboratory that services healthcare providers nationwide by providing advanced clinical testing with the patent pending **LPP™** (Lipoprotein Particle Profile) and **FIA™** (Functional Intracellular Analysis) and tests.

SpectraCell's **LPP™** testing is the most advanced lipoprotein test available. Unlike traditional cholesterol tests, SpectraCell's LPP™ directly measures the number of several classes of lipoprotein particles providing an accurate assessment of cardiovascular risk.

SpectraCell's **FIA™** testing is an innovative assessment of a patient's nutritional status. Unlike traditional serum, hair and urine tests, SpectraCell's FIA™ measures how an individual's white blood cells function in specific nutritional environments. Over 30 vitamins, minerals, amino acids and antioxidants are evaluated. With this information, repletion programs can be implemented that take individual differences in metabolism, age, genetics, health, prescription drug usage, absorption rate and other factors into consideration.
