



bioMérieux launches the Parvovirus B19 R-gene[®] kit, a new ARGENE[®] test for the detection and quantification of the three Parvovirus B19 genotypes

Marcy l'Étoile, France, October 28, 2013 - bioMérieux, a world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics, has announced the launch of the Parvovirus B19 R-gene[®] kit, a new CE-marked ARGENE[®] real-time PCR test, used for the detection and quantification of the three Parvovirus B19 genotypes.

This new molecular diagnostic test, developed and produced at bioMérieux's site in Verniolle (France), is part of the ARGENE[®] range of molecular biology tests, one of the most comprehensive ranges on the market for monitoring viral infections in immunocompromised patients. The Parvovirus B19 R-gene[®] kit is the only molecular diagnostic solution that enables detection and quantification of the three Parvovirus B19 genotypes with identical sensitivity, on various types of biological samples (whole blood, plasma and serum). It also enables qualitative detection in bone marrow and medullary plasma.

Primary Parvovirus B19 infection generally occurs in childhood, in the form of a mild skin rash. It is sometimes known as the "Fifth Disease" or *erythema infectiosum*. This virus is also responsible for severe infections in immunocompromised patients, vulnerable patients, particularly those suffering from congenital anemia, as well as pregnant women.

"We are very pleased to extend our molecular biology offer with this new test in the ARGENE[®] range, which now comprises a menu covering a dozen parameters for monitoring immunocompromised patients," declared Alexandre Mérieux, Corporate Vice President, bioMérieux Microbiology and Molecular Biology Unit. *"The ARGENE[®] range fits perfectly into our offer and has recorded sustained growth of over 20% as of the end of September 2013."*

The Parvovirus B19 R-gene[®] kit can be used on the majority of nucleic acid extraction platforms on the market, including the bioMérieux NucliSENS[®] easyMag[®] system. Amplification and detection with the Parvovirus B19 R-gene[®] test can be carried out on the main real-time PCR platforms available in laboratories.

About bioMérieux

Pioneering Diagnostics

A world leader in the field of *in vitro* diagnostics for 50 years, bioMérieux is present in more than 150 countries through 41 subsidiaries and a large network of distributors. In 2012, revenues reached €1,570 million with 87% of sales outside of France.

bioMérieux provides diagnostic solutions (reagents, instruments, software), which determine the source of disease and contamination to improve patient health and ensure consumer safety. Its products are used for diagnosing infectious diseases and providing high medical value results for cancer screening and monitoring and cardiovascular emergencies. They are also used for detecting microorganisms in agri-food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products.

bioMérieux is listed on the NYSE Euronext Paris market (Symbol: BIM – ISIN: FR0010096479).
Corporate website: www.biomerieux.com

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