



maintrac®



**stemtrac® Tumorspheres**

Assessment of Tumor Aggressiveness

## What is stemtrac®?

Tumors release cells into the surrounding tissue and into the blood. They are called circulating epithelial tumor cells (CETCs/CTCs). Amongst them are the so-called **circulating cancer stem cells**, which can be identified with **stemtrac®**. During a period of up to **21 days**, the cancer stem cells grow into **tumorspheres** in vitro. A tumorsphere is a **spherical structure** that results from the cell division of a cancer stem cell<sup>1</sup>.

## Clinical Relevance<sup>1</sup>

The more **stemtrac® Tumorspheres** found, **the more aggressive** the tumor and **the higher the risk of metastasis**.

- Metastasized patients have more tumorspheres than non-metastasized patients.
- The number of tumorspheres can be used as a **biomarker** for the presence of already **existing metastases**.
- No tumorsphere growth was observed in subjects without diagnosed cancer.

## Application of stemtrac®

The number of **stemtrac® Tumorspheres** can be used in combination with **maintrac®** to monitor the activity of the remaining tumor burden:

- **After the end of therapy** to estimate the aggressiveness and metastatic risk of the remaining tumor cells.
- **In complete remission** when CETCs are increasing.
- **In disease progression** when CETCs are low or undetectable (loss of EpCAM expression, i.e. dedifferentiation of tumor cells).

**Please note** that in case of chemotherapy, blood sampling for stemtrac® tumorspheres should be performed 2-3 weeks after administration of the cytostatic drugs.

# Innovative Laboratory Diagnostics of Circulating Cancer Stem Cells Before, During and After Cancer Therapy

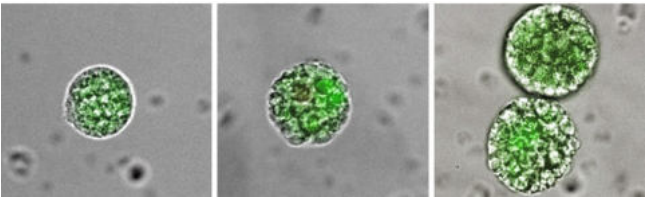
## stemtrac® Quality Features

- **Detection** of circulating cancer stem cells without enrichment steps<sup>1,2</sup>
- **Quantitative** determination of circulating cancer stem cells from peripheral blood<sup>1,2</sup>
- **Highly sensitive** and **reproducible**<sup>1,2</sup>
- Performed in a DIN EN ISO 15189 **certified laboratory**, accredited by DAkkS (ILAC approved)<sup>3</sup>

day 7

day 14

day 21



The pictures show the development of tumorspheres of circulating cancer stem cells from peripheral blood.

## Additional examinations

- maintrac® **Cell Counting**
- maintrac® **Therapeutic Substance Testing**
- maintrac® **Therapy Relevant Tumor Cell Characteristics**

## Requisition

Shipping boxes including the lab request form can be ordered free of charge online at:

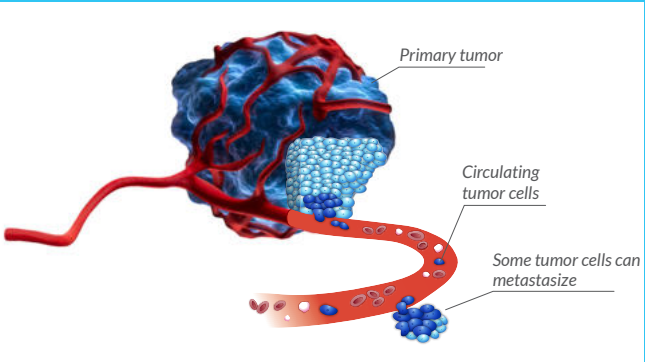
[www.maintrac.de/en/order/order-maintrac-boxes](http://www.maintrac.de/en/order/order-maintrac-boxes)

Only 15 ml EDTA blood is required for the examination.

## Transmission of Results

The results are usually sent **digitally** (DSGVO-compliant) or **by post** within three weeks.

Your competent partner in oncology.



Laboratory Dr. Pachmann  
Kurpromenade 2  
95448 Bayreuth  
Phone: +49 921 850 200  
E-mail: [mail@laborpachmann.de](mailto:mail@laborpachmann.de)  
[www.laborpachmann.de](http://www.laborpachmann.de)

[www.maintrac.de](http://www.maintrac.de)

### Costs

At present, the stemtrac<sup>®</sup> diagnostic is not reimbursed by the statutory health insurances, but is a self-pay service. Whether and to what extent privately insured patients can receive reimbursement from their insurance company must be clarified with their own private health insurance company.

<sup>1</sup> Pizon, Monika et al. "The number of tumorspheres cultured from peripheral blood is a predictor for presence of metastasis in patients with breast cancer." *Oncotarget* vol. 7,30 (2016): 48143-48154. doi:10.18632/oncotarget.10174

<sup>2</sup> Pizon Monika et al. "Chick Chorioallantoic Membrane (CAM) Assays as a Model of Patient-Derived Xenografts from Circulating Cancer Stem Cells (cCSCs) in Breast Cancer Patients." *Cancers* vol. 14,6 (2022): 1476. <https://doi.org/10.3390/cancers14061476>

<sup>3</sup> The stemtrac method is a method produced in the Dr. Pachmann laboratory (in-house production). It is used exclusively in the Dr. Pachmann laboratory and is therefore not marketed.