

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Top hospitals in Barcelona and Madrid are pioneers in adopting the MAF Test in Spain to improve breast cancer prognosis**

- **This pioneering test helps oncologists determine which breast cancer patients should be treated with bisphosphonates to improve their prognosis and survival.**
- **MAF Test® could benefit more than 30,000 patients each year.**
- **The clinical and scientific results of the MAF Test® have been published in high-impact journals such as *The Lancet Oncology*, *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, and *Nature Cell Biology*.**
- **The MAF Test® is already available in Spain, Portugal, Italy, South Africa, and the United Kingdom.**

*Barcelona, July 17, 2025* – Inbiomotion announces that MAF Test® will be available starting today at Hospital del Mar (Barcelona), Clínic Barcelona Comprehensive Cancer Center, HM Hospitales centers in the Community of Madrid, and the International Breast Cancer Center/Pangaea Oncology (Barcelona). These are the first public and private centers in Spain to incorporate this pioneering test for breast cancer patients. The widespread implementation of MAF Test® could increase survival by almost 80% of the 33,000 patients with early-stage breast cancer diagnosed annually in Spain, according to 2024 estimates from the Spanish Society of Medical Oncology (SEOM).

MAF Test® predicts the prognosis of breast cancer patients and helps oncologists identify those in whom metastasis could be prevented and who could benefit from adjuvant treatment with bisphosphonates (drugs commonly used to treat osteoporosis). MAF Test® also identifies patients whose prognosis would worsen if treated with bisphosphonates, thus avoiding exposing them to unnecessary treatments that would not benefit them.

Breast cancer is the most common form of cancer among women, with more than 2 million new cases diagnosed each year worldwide. Approximately 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer during their lifetime, and of these, between 15% and 20% may develop metastases. Being able to identify patients at higher risk of recurrence and personalize their treatment is vital to improving their survival and quality of life.

Dr. Javier Cortés, director of the International Breast Cancer Center (IBCC) in Barcelona, said: *"As a center dedicated exclusively to breast cancer, the incorporation of the MAF Test allows us to take another step forward in personalizing treatment. This test helps us identify which patients will truly benefit from bisphosphonates in the adjuvant setting, improving their outcomes while avoiding exposing those for whom they would not be useful or could even be harmful to ineffective treatments."*

Dr. Eva M. Ciruelos, coordinator of the Breast Cancer Unit at HM Hospitals in the Community of Madrid, highlighted: *"At HM Hospitals, we are committed to innovation in order to offer the best personalized medicine. Diagnostic tools such as the MAF Test help us make informed decisions about which patients will benefit from bisphosphonate treatment and avoid unnecessary treatments in those who would not benefit. This means optimizing care and improving the quality of life of our patients."*

Dr. Sònia Servitja, medical oncologist and head of the breast cancer section of the oncology department at Hospital del Mar (Barcelona), commented: *"It is very exciting to see how pioneering research carried out in Barcelona is translating into concrete improvements for our patients. Having the option of performing the MAF Test in our hospital will enable us to more easily identify patients at high risk of metastasis and tailor treatment to improve their survival."*

Dr. Maria Vidal, medical oncologist and head of the breast cancer unit at the Clínic Barcelona Comprehensive Cancer Center, emphasizes: *"In line with the European Commission's recommendations for comprehensive cancer centers, at the Clínic we are committed to incorporating innovative and validated tools that improve clinical decision-making. The arrival of the MAF Test allows us to move towards more personalized medicine, better identifying patients at risk of bone relapse and more accurately selecting those who will truly benefit from bisphosphonate treatment."*

Finally, Dr. Aleix Prat, director of the Clínic Barcelona Comprehensive Cancer Center and director of the Chair of Innovation in Precision Oncology at the University of Barcelona, concludes: *"Precision oncology requires the incorporation of clinically validated biomarkers that help us tailor treatments to the biological risk of each tumor. The MAF Test is an excellent example of how biomedical research can generate useful and accessible tools that improve decision-making and the quality of care. Its implementation in hospitals represents another step toward more effective, safer, and more personalized medicine."*

The results demonstrating the clinical utility of the MAF Test® were obtained from biopsies of patients in two landmark clinical trials, each involving more than 3,000 patients (AZURE and NSABP-B34). These results, published in *The Lancet Oncology* (2017) and the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* (2021), showed that 80% of patients with breast tumors were MAF-negative, and that in this group, adjuvant treatment with bisphosphonates (clodronate or zoledronic acid) increased disease-free survival by 14.3% and reduced the relative risk of death by 21.4% (AZURE). In contrast, patients with MAF-positive tumors did not benefit and even had a worse prognosis with the use of bisphosphonates, regardless of their menopausal status.

This announcement follows a recent publication in *Nature Cell Biology* that provides key data to elucidate the biology of the MAF biomarker. A team from IRB Barcelona led by ICREA researcher Dr. Roger Gomis, co-founder of Inbiomotion, revealed in that publication the mechanism by which amplification of the MAF gene increases the risk of metastasis in breast cancer. This finding is a crucial step toward understanding the molecular basis of metastasis and has important clinical implications for the future treatment of the disease.

Prof. Roger Gomis comments: *"It is great news to announce the adoption of the MAF Test in leading hospitals, reinforcing our commitment to improving cancer care in the healthcare system. This announcement represents a major step forward in increasing diagnostic capabilities and improving clinical outcomes for patients with early-stage breast cancer. We look forward to continuing to work with these hospitals to empower healthcare professionals and make a positive and lasting impact on people's lives."*

### **About Inbiomotion**

Inbiomotion is a spin-off of IRB Barcelona and ICREA, founded in 2011 by Dr. Roger Gomis after identifying the MAF gene as a biomarker for predicting bone metastasis in breast cancer. Inbiomotion has developed a diagnostic kit based on the detection of MAF gene amplification (MAF Test®), with the aim of promoting precision medicine and improving the treatment of breast cancer patients. The company's main investors are Ysios Capital, Caixa Capital Risc, Alta Life Sciences Spain I FCR (Altamar CAM), and the Vila Casas Foundation. For more information, visit [www.inbiomotion.com](http://www.inbiomotion.com).

### **About International Breast Cancer Center / Pangaea Oncology**

The International Breast Cancer Center (IBCC) is the first center in Spain specializing exclusively in breast cancer. Located in Barcelona, it is directed by Dr. Javier Cortés. Pangaea Oncology is a medical company focused on precision oncology, with laboratories and molecular diagnostic services aimed at improving the survival and quality of life of cancer patients. IBCC and Pangaea collaborate to implement new diagnostic tools and innovative treatments, placing themselves at the forefront of specialized cancer care.

### **About HM Hospitals**

HM Hospitales is Spain's leading private hospital group, offering excellence in healthcare combined with research, teaching, constant technological innovation, and the publication of results. Led by doctors and with 100% Spanish capital, it currently has 7,500 professionals who focus their efforts on providing quality, innovative medicine centered on the health and well-being of their patients and their families. HM Hospitals comprises 54 healthcare centers: 23 hospitals, 3 comprehensive centers specializing in oncology, cardiology, and neuroscience, 5 centers specializing in reproductive medicine, eye health, oral health, aesthetic medicine, and plastic surgery, and personalized early prevention, as well as 23 polyclinics. All of them work in a coordinated manner to offer comprehensive management of their patients' needs and requirements.

### **About Hospital del Mar**

Hospital del Mar (Barcelona) is a leading public university hospital belonging to the Parc de Salut Mar. It has an outstanding medical oncology unit and is a pioneer in translational basic research, clinical trials, and cancer treatments in the public health system, serving patients in Barcelona and Catalonia with a multidisciplinary and innovative approach.

### **About Hospital Clínic de Barcelona**

Hospital Clínic de Barcelona is a public university hospital internationally recognized for its excellence in care and research. Its Clinical Cancer Institute (ICMHO) and leading research groups place it at the forefront of cancer diagnosis and treatment, consolidating its position as a center of reference in oncology at the national and international level.

### **About the MAF gene**

MAF (mesenchymal aponeurotic fibrosarcoma gene, an AP-1 family transcription factor) is an oncogene that is amplified in certain primary breast cancers and is associated with increased metastatic potential, especially in bone. MAF regulates, at the gene expression level, other genes such as PTHrP, which are involved in

cellular processes related to metastasis: cell survival, tumor initiation, metabolic reprogramming, and, in particular, adhesion to cells in the bone microenvironment and osteoclast differentiation. In addition, the MAF protein interacts with the estrogen receptor – a key element in the development of breast cancer – by modifying its structure. This interaction causes a reorganization of DNA chromatin, allowing the activation of genes that promote metastasis, particularly in response to estrogen stimulation. This evidence indicates that the MAF gene plays a key hierarchical role in the metastatic process of breast cancer.

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