

January 31, 2006

AnGes MG, Inc.

Medical-Use Patent for HGF Gene Granted in U.S.
- Covering Cardiomyopathy -

AnGes MG Inc. announced that a patent for the use of HGF gene for cardiomyopathy was granted in the U.S., and US 6,989,374 was issued.

The present invention features the introduction of HGF gene encapsulated in HVJ-liposome into cardiac muscle for the treatment of cardiomyopathy based on its fibrosis-reducing effect in addition to angiogenic effect. This technology features the introduction of HGF gene into the cardiac muscle with a catheter under echocardiogram observation. Thus, the invention provides new therapeutic and preventive measures for cardiomyopathy without thoracotomy.

Cardiomyopathy is a disease of decreased pumping capability of the heart due to cardiac muscle degeneration, which results in palpitation, breathlessness and respiratory difficulty. Currently no effective treatment has been established other than symptomatic treatment for reducing the strain on the heart. In contrast, the present invention intends to improve the pumping capability of the heart and is expected to demonstrate excellent improving effects.

AnGes MG has already been clinically developing the use of HGF gene for ischemic heart disease (IHD) in the U.S. This patent strongly supports the further application of HGF gene for other new heart diseases. In addition to the U.S., AnGes MG has filed patent applications for the present invention in Asian countries including Japan, and European countries.

AnGes MG has globally filed patent applications with targets such as Parkinson's disease, dermatosis and hearing impairment in addition to the abovementioned current clinical development and is making efforts to establish related intellectual property rights.