CLAIMS

1. A monoclonal antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, capable to inhibit the c-Met dimerization, said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprising a heavy chain comprising CDR-H1, CDR-H2 and CDR-H3 with respectively the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos. 1, 2 and 3; and a light chain comprising CDR-L1, CDR-L2 and CDR-L3 with respectively the amino acid sequences SEQ ID Nos. 5, 6 and 7, wherein said antibody consists of a chimeric, human or humanized antibody and in that said antibody or said functional fragment thereof ~~it~~ also comprises a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. ~~56~~21.

2. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said hinge region comprises the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. ~~57 or 21~~22.

3. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said hinge region comprises the amino acid sequence ~~SEQ ID No. 22 or~~ SEQ ID No. 23.

4. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; and a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 8, 9 or 10.

5. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 8; and a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 22.

6. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 9; and a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 22.

7. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 10; and a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 22.

8. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 8; and a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 23.

9. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 9; and a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 23.

10. The antibody of claim 1, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, wherein said antibody or said functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 4; a light chain variable domain of sequence comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 10; and a hinge region comprising the amino acid sequence SEQ ID No. 23.

11. An isolated nucleic acid, wherein it is chosen from the following nucleic acids:

a) a nucleic acid, DNA or RNA, coding for an antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10;

b) the complementary nucleic acids of the nucleic acids as defined in b).

12. An isolated nucleic acid, wherein it is chosen from a nucleic acid, DNA or RNA, coding for an antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, according to claim 11 and wherein said nucleic sequence coding for the hinge region of said antibody comprises or has a sequence selected from the group consisting of the sequences SEQ ID Nos. 29 or 30.

13. A vector comprising a nucleic acid as claimed in claim 11 or 12.

14. An isolated host cell comprising a vector as claimed in claim 13.

15. A transgenic animal with the exception of man comprising at least one cell transformed by a vector as claimed in claim 13.

16. A process for production of an antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, wherein said process comprises the following stages:

a) culture in a medium and appropriate culture conditions of a cell as claimed in claim 14; and

b) the recovery of said antibody, or functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, thus produced starting from the culture medium or said cultured cells.

17. The antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, of claims 1 to 10, wherein said antibody is coupled chemically to a cytotoxic agent.

18. The antibody of claim 17, wherein said cytotoxic agent is selected in the group consisting of alkylating agents, anti-metabolites, anti-tumor antibiotics, mitotic inhibitors, chromatin function inhibitors, anti-angiogenesis agents, anti oestrogenic agents, anti-androgen agents or immunomodulators.

19. The antibody of claim 17 or 18, wherein said cytotoxic agent is a mitotic inhibitor.

20. The antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, of claims 1 to 10 and 17 to 19 as a medicament.

21. A composition comprising by way of active principle a compound consisting of an antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, as claimed in one of claims 1 to 10, and 17 to 20.

22. The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition comprises, moreover, as a combination product for simultaneous, separate or sequential use, an anti-tumoral antibody.

23. The composition of claim 21, wherein said composition comprises, moreover, as a combination product for simultaneous, separate or sequential use, a cytotoxic/cytostatic agent.

24. The composition of claim 23, wherein said cytotoxic/cytostatic agent is coupled chemically to at least one of the elements of said composition for simultaneous use.

25. The composition of claim 24, wherein said cytotoxic/cytostatic agent is selected in the group consisting of alkylating agents, anti-metabolites, anti-tumor antibiotics, mitotic inhibitors, chromatin function inhibitors, anti-angiogenesis agents, anti oestrogenic agents, anti-androgen agents or immunomodulators.

26. The composition of claim 24 or 25, wherein said cytotoxic/cytostatic agent is a mitotic inhibitor.

27. The composition of claim 21, wherein ~~one, at least, of~~ said antibod~~yies~~, or a functional fragment or derivative thereof, is conjugated with a cell toxin and/or a radioelement.

28. The use of an antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, of claims 1 to 10 and 17 to 20 or of a composition of claims 21 to 27 for the preparation of a medicament intended to inhibit the growth and/or the proliferation of tumor cells.

29. The use of an antibody, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof, of claims 1 to 10 and 17 to 20 or of a composition of claims 21 to 28, for the preparation of a medicament intended for the prevention or for the treatment of cancer.

30. The use of claim 29, wherein said cancer is a cancer chosen from prostate cancer, osteosarcomas, lung cancer, breast cancer, endometrial cancer, glioblastoma or colon cancer.

31. The use of claim 29 or 30, wherein said cancer is a HGF dependant and independent Met-activation related cancer.

32. A method of *in vitro* diagnosis of illnesses induced by an overexpression or an underexpression of the c-Met receptor starting from a biological sample in which the abnormal presence of c-Met receptor is suspected, wherein said method comprises a step wherein said biological sample is contacted with an antibody of claims 1 to 10 and 17 to 20, or a functional fragment ~~or derivative~~ thereof.

33. The method of *in vitro* diagnosis of claim 32, wherein said method comprises a step wherein said antibody is labelled.