CLAIMS:

1. Use of an anti-VHZ agent in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prophylaxis or alleviation of breast cancer, wherein the breast cancer is not an invasive or metastatic breast cancer, and wherein VHZ is overexpressed in the breast cancer.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is capable of down-regulating any combination of the expression, amount or activity of a VHZ sequence shown as GenBank accession number NM_017823 or NP_060293, or a sequence which has at least 90% sequence identity to that sequence,

3. The use according to claim 1 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is an anti-VHZ antibody.

4. The use according to claim 3 wherein the anti-VHZ antibody is a humanised antibody.

5. The use according to claim 3 wherein the anti-VHZ antibody is an anti-peptide antibody generated against RRLRPGSIETYEQEK corresponding to amino acid residues (126-140) of human VHZ.

6. The use according to claim 3 wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of:

chicken anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue numbers LS-C32281, amino acids 35 to 90, LS-C42458, LS-A6806 and LS-A6803, LS-C32281, LifeSpan Inc, Seattle, Washington, USA);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number DS-PB-00676, RayBiotech Inc, Norcross, Georgia, USA);

chicken anti- human VHZ antibody (catalogue number XW-7857, ProSci Incorporated, Poway, California, USA);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number F4560 and D9840-66A, United States Biological, Swampscott, Massachusetts, USA);

chicken anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number D9840-66, United States Biological, Swampscott, Massachusetts, USA);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number AHP1142, AdB Serotec, Oxford, United Kingdom);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number NBII0-40452, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, Colorado, USA); and

chicken anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number NB100-75328, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, Colorado, USA).

7. The use according to claim 1 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is capable of downregulating VHZ by RNA interference

8. The use according to claim 7 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is a Small Interfering RNA (siRNA), Short Hairpin RNA (shRNA), or Chimera RNAi, or a DUSP23 Pre-design Chimera RNAi (catalogue number H00054935-ROI, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, Colorado, USA).

CLAIMS:

1. Use of an anti-VHZ agent in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment, prophylaxis or alleviation of cancer, wherein the cancer is not an invasive or metastatic cancer.

2. The use according to claim 1 wherein the cancer is breast cancer.

3. The use according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is capable of down-regulating any combination of the expression, amount or activity of a VHZ sequence shown as GenBank accession number NM_017823 or NP_060293, or a sequence which has at least 90% sequence identity to that sequence,

4. The use according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is an anti-VHZ antibody.

5. The use according to claim 4 wherein the anti-VHZ antibody is a humanised antibody.

6. The use according to claim 4 wherein the anti-VHZ antibody is an anti-peptide antibody generated against RRLRPGSIETYEQEK corresponding to amino acid residues (126-140) of human VHZ.

7. The use according to claim 4 wherein the antibody is selected from the group consisting of:

chicken anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue numbers LS-C32281, amino acids 35 to 90, LS-C42458, LS-A6806 and LS-A6803, LS-C32281, LifeSpan Inc, Seattle, Washington, USA);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number DS-PB-00676, RayBiotech Inc, Norcross, Georgia, USA);

chicken anti- human VHZ antibody (catalogue number XW-7857, ProSci Incorporated, Poway, California, USA);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number F4560 and D9840-66A, United States Biological, Swampscott, Massachusetts, USA);

chicken anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number D9840-66, United States Biological, Swampscott, Massachusetts, USA);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number AHP1142, AdB Serotec, Oxford, United Kingdom);

rabbit anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number NBII0-40452, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, Colorado, USA); and

chicken anti-human VHZ antibody (catalogue number NB100-75328, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, Colorado, USA).

8. The use according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is capable of downregulating VHZ by RNA interference

9. The use according to claim 8 wherein the anti-VHZ agent is a Small Interfering RNA (siRNA), Short Hairpin RNA (shRNA), or Chimera RNAi, or a DUSP23 Pre-design Chimera RNAi (catalogue number H00054935-ROI, Novus Biologicals, Littleton, Colorado, USA).

10. A method of detecting a cancer cell, the method comprising detecting modulation of expression, amount or activity of VHZ in a cell in a sample obtained from an individual.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the modulation is up-regulation.

12. The method of claim 10 in which the expression of VHZ is compared to the expression, amount or activity of VHZ in a control cell known to be non-cancerous.

13. The method according to Claim 10, in which the method comprises detecting a VHZ nucleic acid or a VHZ polypeptide.

14. The method according to claim 10 wherein the VHZ nucleic acid is detected by means of a probe comprising at least a portion of a nucleic acid having a sequence shown as GenBank accession number NM_017823 or NP_060293 or a sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to such a sequence, or in which the method comprises detecting a VHZ polypeptide by means of an anti-VHZ antibody.