

ABSTRACT

Methods that entail detection of an epiregulin (EREG) protein for cancer diagnosis are disclosed. In colon cancer, lung adenocarcinoma, pancreatic cancer, stomach cancer, and
5 kidney cancer, the gene and protein expressions of EREG were frequently found to be elevated. Antibodies that recognize an EREG protein are used for diagnosing or treating cancer in the present invention. Pharmaceutical compositions, cell proliferation inhibitors, and anticancer agents containing an EREG-binding antibody as an active ingredient are also disclosed. Methods of inducing cell damage in EREG-expressing cells and methods of suppressing the
10 proliferation of EREG-expressing cells by contacting the EREG-expressing cells with EREG-binding antibodies are also disclosed.