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Mass

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(54) **DETECTION OF ERBB2 GENE AMPLIFICATION TO INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ERBB2 ANTIBODY BREAST CANCER THERAPY**

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(58) **Field of Classification Search** ..... None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The invention provides a method for more effective treatment of patients susceptible to or diagnosed with tumors overexpressing ErbB, as determined by a gene amplification assay, with an ErbB antagonist. Such method comprises administering a cancer-treating dose of the ErbB antagonist, preferably in addition to chemotherapeutic agents, to a subject in whose tumor cells ErbB has been found to be amplified e.g., by fluorescent in situ hybridization. ErbB antagonists described include an anti-HER2 antibody. Pharmaceutical packaging for providing the components for such treatment is also provided.

6 Claims, No Drawings