This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)-based monitoring of chemotherapy progress with [¹³ C]metabolites	<p>A study in mice suggests that [¹³C]metabolites could be used to assess tumor response to chemotherapy <i>in vivo</i>. In a murine tumor model, the NMR [¹³C]malate signal derived from the breakdown of systemically injected [¹³C]fumarate was stronger in tumor sites than in healthy tissues. [¹³C]Malate levels increased more quickly in chemotherapy-treated mice than those in untreated controls due to tumor necrosis. Next steps include clinical trials with [¹³C]fumarate, [¹³C]pyruvate and other [¹³C]metabolites as contrast-enhancing reagents.</p> <p>SciBX 2(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1716 Published online Dec. 3, 2009</p>	Related patents held by General Electric Co.'s GE Healthcare unit; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Gallagher, F.A. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Nov. 10, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0911447106 Contact: Kevin M. Brindle, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K. e-mail: kmb1001@cam.ac.uk</p>