This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Tumor-associated macrophages as a biomarker for therapy responsiveness and patient survival in Hodgkin's lymphoma	<p>A study in patient samples suggests that tumor-associated macrophages could be useful biomarkers for predicting treatment outcome and survival in Hodgkin's lymphoma. Gene expression profiling of samples from Hodgkin's lymphoma patients showed that the presence of tumor-associated macrophages was significantly associated with treatment failure ($p=0.02$). In samples from another cohort, greater numbers of CD68⁺ macrophages were significantly associated with lower median progression-free survival and disease-specific survival and greater relapse rates following autologous stem cell transplantation ($p<0.03$). Next steps include establishing a program to routinely assess macrophage content in patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma.</p> <p>SciBX 3(12); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.393 Published online March 25, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Steidl, C. <i>et al.</i> <i>N. Engl. J. Med.</i>; published online March 11, 2010; doi:10.1056/NEJMoa0905680</p> <p>Contact: Randy D. Gascoyne, British Columbia Cancer Agency, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada e-mail: rgascoyn@bccancer.bc.ca</p>