This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Elastin-specific MRI contrast agent for noninvasive quantification of plaque burden in atherosclerosis	<p>Studies in mice suggest that the elastin-targeting MRI agent BMS753951 could be useful for noninvasive imaging of atherosclerotic plaques.</p> <p>In a mouse model of accelerated atherosclerosis, BMS753951 showed maximal uptake in the aorta 30 minutes after injection and was retained at high concentrations for at least 2 hours. The agent showed low uptake in other tissues, and excess agent was rapidly cleared from the body. In the atherosclerotic mice, BMS753951 allowed for accurate measurement of atherosclerotic plaque burden. Next steps could include evaluating additional elastin-targeting MRI contrast agents in animal models of atherosclerosis.</p> <p>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. did not disclose its plans for BMS753951.</p> <p>SciBX 4(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.296 Published online March 10, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Makowski, M.R. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 20, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2310</p> <p>Contact: Marcus R. Makowski, King's College London, London, U.K. e-mail: marcus.makowski@kcl.ac.uk</p>