This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
PD-1 receptor (PDCD1; PD-1; CD279)-expressing T cells for HPV-positive head and neck cancer prognosis	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest levels of PD-1-expressing T cells could be useful as a prognostic marker and help guide treatment for HPV-positive head and neck cancer. In 32 patients with HPV-positive head and neck cancers, survival rates and levels of PD-1-expressing T cells were higher than those for 32 patients with HPV-negative cancers. In a mouse HPV tumor model, an antibody targeting the PD-1 ligand programmed cell death 1 ligand 1 (CD274 molecule; PD-L1; B7-H1) increased the antitumor effect of an HPV cancer vaccine targeting E7 transforming protein (human papillomavirus-16; HpV16gp1) compared with control antibodies. Next steps include validating the biomarker findings and testing anti-PD-1 antibodies in clinical trials. At least eight companies have antibodies targeting PD-1 or PD-L1 in Phase II testing or earlier to treat various cancers. SciBX 5(46); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1221 Published online Nov. 29, 2012	Findings unpatented; licensing not applicable	Badoual, C. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i>; published online Nov. 7, 2012; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-12-2606 Contact: Eric Tartour, Georges Pompidou European Hospital, Paris, France e-mail: eric.tartour@egp.aphp.fr