This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Highly prevalent telomerase reverse transcriptase (<i>TERT</i>) promoter mutations in tumors including glioblastoma and bladder cancer	Highly prevalent mutations upstream of <i>TERT</i> could help guide the diagnosis and development of new treatments for various cancers. <i>TERT</i> promoter mutations were recently associated in about 70%–80% of melanoma samples, but it was unclear how widespread the mutations were in other cancer types. In a survey of <i>TERT</i> promoter sequences from 1,128 tumors covering 48 tumor types, mutations were identified in 20% of tumors, including 79% of myxoid liposarcomas, 44% of hepatocellular carcinomas, 51% of gliomas and 67% of bladder cancers. In 50 patients with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), a mutated <i>TERT</i> promoter sequence was associated with lower survival than the wild-type promoter sequence. Next steps could include determining if mutations in the <i>TERT</i> promoter could aid the early diagnosis of various cancers.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Killela, P.J. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online March 25, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1303607110 Contact: Hai Yan, Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C. e-mail: yan00002@mc.duke.edu Contact: Bert Vogelstein, The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md. e-mail: bertvog@gmail.com
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