This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Phosphatidylinositol-3,4,5-triphosphate-dependent Rac exchange factor 1 (PREX1) levels predict response to phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) inhibition	<i>In vitro</i> studies suggest PREX1 expression in breast cancer could help predict sensitivity to PI3K inhibitors. Mutations that affect the PI3K pathway can increase sensitivity to PI3K inhibitors, but response is still inconsistent. In breast cancer cells with disruptions in the PI3K pathway, shRNA targeting PREX1 prevented decreased PI3K inhibition-induced apoptosis compared with a nontargeted shRNA control. In a panel of breast cancer cells with disruptions in the PI3K pathway, low PREX1 expression correlated with decreased response to PI3K inhibition. Next steps could include validating the biomarker in additional samples.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Ebi, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Dec. 10, 2013; doi:10.1073/pnas.1314124110 Contact: Jeffrey A. Engelman, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and Harvard Medical School, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: jengelman@partners.org
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