

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Expression analysis of stromal tissue to predict breast cancer clinical outcome	Gene-expression analysis of breast stromal tissue could be used to predict clinical outcome in breast cancer patients. Stromal tissue consists of nontransformed connective tissue that surrounds breast cancer cells. An expression analysis of stromal tissue from invasive breast carcinoma samples revealed 26 genes that predicted clinical outcome with greater accuracy than genes identified by previously published methods, particularly in <i>human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2)</i> -positive patients. Next steps include collaborating with clinicians to analyze patient tumor stroma for other outcome predictors as well as comparing the stromal microenvironments of tumors from patients predicted to have good or poor clinical outcomes. At least five companies market diagnostics to predict breast cancer recurrence.	Patent application filed; available for licensing through the McGill University Office of Technology Transfer	Finak, G. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online April 27, 2008; doi:10.1038/nm1764 Contact: Morag Park, Department of Oncology, McGill University, Quebec, Canada e-mail: morag.park@mcgill.ca