

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Prognostic biological markers to predict conversion of clinically isolated syndrome (CIS) to clinically definite multiple sclerosis (CDMS)	A human gene-expression study found biological markers that could be used to identify CIS patients at high risk of conversion to CDMS. Predictive models of disease conversion identified CIS patients with high risk of conversion to CDMS with 92% sensitivity and 86% specificity. CIS patients who rapidly converted to CDMS had significantly lower expression of transducer of ERBB2, 1 (TOB1) than other CIS individuals ($p=0.001$). TOB1 inhibits T cell proliferation and cytokine production. Moreover, all CIS patients had lower expression of genes involved in inflammatory responses than healthy controls. Next steps include validating potential prognostic markers in independent patient cohorts and developing an assay based on the markers.	Patent application pending; available for licensing through the University of California, San Francisco Office of Technology Management	Corvol, J.-C. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Aug. 4, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0805065105 Contact: Sergio E. Baranzini, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: sebaran@cgl.ucsf.edu