

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Immunohistochemical characterization of medulloblastomas based on dickkopf homolog 1 (DKK1), secreted frizzled-related protein 1 (SFRP1), natriuretic peptide receptor C/guanylate cyclase C (NPR3) and potassium channel Kv1.1 (KCNA1)	Immunohistochemical determination of DKK1, SPRP1, NPR3 and KCNA1 could help categorize medulloblastoma patients into distinct subgroups to improve treatment strategies and clinical trial design. Transcription profiles of patient medulloblastomas showed four distinct subgroups based on <i>DKK1</i> , <i>SPRP1</i> , <i>NPR3</i> and <i>KCNA1</i> mRNA levels, with one group representing patients with the worst clinical outcomes. The subgrouping was duplicated at the protein level with antibodies against DKK1, SNRP1, NPR3 and KCNA1, making the strategy amenable for routine clinical application. Ongoing work includes validating the findings in larger patient cohorts.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Northcott, P.A. <i>et al. J. Clin. Oncol.</i> ; published online Sept. 7, 2010; doi:10.1200/JCO.2009.27.4324 Contact: Michael D. Taylor, Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: mdtaylor@sickkids.ca
	<i>SciBX</i> 3(37); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1137 Published online Sept. 23, 2010		