

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Biomarkers for renal transplant tolerance	<p>A study in renal transplant patients suggests that serologic and gene expression markers could help identify patients who can tolerate withdrawal of immunosuppressive therapy. In blood from 11 subjects who had stopped taking immunosuppressants but had not lost their graft, graft-reactive antibodies, memory B cells and T cells were lower than those in subjects with chronic graft rejection. An index based on a combination of serologic data and microarray-derived gene expression data predicted which individuals from an independent test set of 89 cases and controls were tolerant of immunotherapy withdrawal (positive predictive value, 80%; negative predictive value, 96%). Next steps include predicting which patients in a larger follow-up study fit the profile of tolerance and testing the effect of reduced dosing of immunosuppressants in those patients. Pangaea Biotech S.A. is developing a diagnostic to identify transplant patients who can tolerate withdrawal of immunosuppressants.</p> <p>SciBX 3(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.720 Published online June 10, 2010</p>	<p>Patent pending; Miltenyi Biotec GmbH, which collaborated in the study, has option to license patent from the Indices of Tolerance EU consortium</p>	<p>Sagoo, P. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 24, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI39922 Contact: Maria Hernandez-Fuentes, King's College London, London, U.K. e-mail: maria.hernandez@kcl.ac.uk</p>