

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Addition of <i>N</i> -acetylneuraminic acid (Neu5Ac) to culture media for producing recombinant therapeutic glycoproteins	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest that adding sialic acid Neu5Ac to the cell culture manufacturing process could lead to glycoprotein-based therapeutics with better half-life and lower immunogenicity than therapeutics generated in nonsupplemented cultures. In cultured Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells supplemented with 5 mM Neu5Ac, secreted and membrane proteins had lower levels of immunogenic sialic acid <i>N</i> -glycolylneuraminic acid (Neu5Gc) than proteins from cells grown in nonsupplemented media. Next steps include optimizing the use of Neu5Ac in cell culture platforms used for the production of clinical therapeutic glycoproteins.	Patent application filed for use of Neu5Ac to eliminate Neu5Gc from glycoprotein therapeutics; licensed by Sialix Inc. from the University of California, San Diego	Ghaderi, D. <i>et al.</i> <i>Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online July 25, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1651 Contact: Ajit Varki, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: alvarki@ucsd.edu
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