

### This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
<b>Drug platforms</b>			
Calcium phosphate bone substitutes as alternatives to autologous bone grafts	<p>Calcium phosphate bone substitutes could be useful for bone grafting procedures. Porous calcium phosphate ceramic was produced using hydroxyapatite, tricalcium phosphate or a mixture of the two compounds. In sheep with 17 mm-diameter bone defects, a ceramic implant composed of tricalcium phosphate and trace amounts of hydroxyapatite was comparable to an autologous bone graft at covering the defects with new bone. The ceramic also had superior performance compared with InFuse, a bone graft marketed by Medtronic Inc. Next steps include preclinical functionality studies in models of bone defects.</p> <p>Progentix Orthobiology B.V. has calcium phosphate synthetic bone substitutes in an undisclosed stage of development.</p> <p>InFuse, an implantable material containing bone morphogenic protein 2 (BMP2), is indicated to treat open fractures and spinal degenerative disk disease.</p> <p><b>SciBX 3(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.935</b>  <b>Published online Aug. 5, 2010</b></p>	<p>Patent pending; licensed to NuVasive Inc. for spine and orthopedic indications; dental and craniomaxillofacial indications available for licensing</p>	<p>Yuan, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online July 19, 2010; doi:10.1073/pnas.1003600107</p> <p><b>Contact:</b> Joost D. de Bruijn, Queen Mary, University of London, London, U.K.  <a href="mailto:j.d.debruijn@qmul.ac.uk">j.d.debruijn@qmul.ac.uk</a></p>