

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Human induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cell-derived neurospheres for treatment of spinal cord injury (SCI)	<p>Human iPS cell-derived neurospheres could be useful for treating SCI. Neurospheres are spherical cell clusters derived from stem cells. In a mouse model of contusion-induced SCI, grafted human iPS cell-derived neurospheres survived, migrated and differentiated into neurons, oligodendrocytes and astrocytes. Mice receiving neurosphere transplants had greater recovery of motor and electrophysiological function than vehicle-treated controls. Next steps include testing neurospheres in a nonhuman primate SCI model and deriving neurospheres from human iPS cells created from nonintegrating vectors.</p> <p>SciBX 4(39); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.1102 Published online Oct. 6, 2011</p>	Patent pending; available for licensing from Keio University	<p>Nori, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Sept. 26, 2011; doi:10.1073/pnas.1108077108 Contact: Hideyuki Okano, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: hidokano@a2.keio.jp Contact: Masaya Nakamura, same affiliation as above e-mail: masa@sc.itc.keio.ac.jp</p>