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THE DISTILLERY

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Androgen receptor (AR) activation levels on circulating tumor cells (CTCs) to predict response to second-line therapy in castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC)	*In vitro* studies suggest AR activation on CTCs could help prostate cancer prognosis. In untreated patients with human prostate cancer, AR activation was greater on CTCs than on samples from healthy controls. CTCs from patients that responded to first-line androgen deprivation therapy showed activated AR phenotypes, whereas CTCs from patients with CRPC showed both activated and inactivated AR phenotypes. In patients with CRPC, having more than 10% CTCs with the mixed AR phenotype prior to second-line therapy or a highly activated AR phenotype after therapy was associated with reduced overall survival. Next steps could include confirming the findings in additional patients. *SciBX* 5(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.1168 Published online Nov. 8, 2012	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Miyamoto, D.T. *et al. Cancer Discov.*; published online Oct. 23, 2012; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-12-0222 **Contact:** Daniel A. Haber, Massachusetts General Hospital, Charlestown, Mass. e-mail: haber@helix.mgh.harvard.edu **Contact:** Shyamala Maheswaran, same affiliation as above e-mail: maheswaran@helix.mgh.harvard.edu