

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Drug platforms			
Injectable extracellular matrix (ECM) hydrogel for treating heart failure following myocardial infarction (MI)	<p>An injectable, porcine-derived ECM hydrogel could be useful for treating MI. In a porcine model for MI, catheter-mediated delivery of the ECM hydrogel decreased pathological left ventricular remodeling and increased cardiac function compared with delivery of saline. In rats, the hydrogel was biodegradable and biocompatible. In human blood samples, the hydrogel was hemo-compatible and triggered minimal platelet activation. Next steps include scaled-up GMP manufacturing of the clinical-grade version of the hydrogel, called VentriGel.</p> <p>Ventrix Inc.'s VentriGel is in preclinical development to prevent left ventricular remodeling and reduce heart failure following MI.</p> <p>SciBX 6(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.250 Published online March 14, 2013</p>	<p>Patents pending; licensed to Ventrix; available for partnering from Ventrix</p>	<p>Seif-Naraghi, S.B. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online Feb. 20, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3005503</p> <p>Contact: Karen L. Christman, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: christman@eng.ucsd.edu</p>