

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Markers			
Tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) variants as prognostic markers in cancer	<i>In vitro, in vivo</i> and patient sample studies suggest TNF- α expression profiles could help guide cancer treatment. Malignant cells produce the inflammatory cytokine TNF- α , which can be in membrane-tethered or soluble forms. In cultured lung carcinoma cells and in mouse xenograft models, vector-induced expression of soluble TNF- α increased tumor growth, and expression of membrane-tethered TNF- α decreased tumor growth, compared with no TNF- α expression. In biopsies from patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), higher expression of membrane-tethered TNF- α relative to soluble TNF- α correlated with increased survival. Next steps include determining how tumors with different ratios of membrane-tethered and soluble TNF- α respond to TNF- α antagonists.	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	Ardestani, S. <i>et al. Cancer Res.</i> ; published online May 23, 2013; doi:10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-13-0002 Contact: Pampee P. Young, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. e-mail: pampee.young@vanderbilt.edu
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