

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Imaging			
Micrococcal nuclease-activated fluorescent oligonucleotide probes to image <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> infection	<i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest a nuclease-activated fluorescent oligonucleotide probe could noninvasively image and diagnose <i>S. aureus</i> infections. The oligonucleotide probe was specifically cleaved by <i>S. aureus</i> micrococcal nuclease and was resistant to degradation by serum nucleases. In mice with thigh muscle infection by wild-type <i>S. aureus</i> , intravenously injected probes were activated and caused fluorescence at the infection site, whereas probe activation was decreased or absent in uninfected muscles or muscles infected with a micrococcal nuclease-deficient strain. Next steps include exchanging the fluorophore on the probe with a fluorophore suitable for clinical imaging.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Hernandez, F. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i> ; published online Feb. 2, 2014; doi:10.1038/nm.3460 Contact: James O. McNamara II, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa e-mail: james-mcnamara@uiowa.edu
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