

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Cancer diagnostics measuring the mechanical properties of cells	Human tissue studies suggest measuring the mechanical properties of cells could be used to diagnose cancer. Microfluidic mechanical manipulation of cells isolated from pleural fluid samples of 119 patients identified cell deformability differences that distinguished nonmalignant pleural effusions from malignant ones in 63% of the cases. Next steps include large-scale validation studies of mechanical deformation for hematological malignancies and inflammatory disease. CytoVale Inc. has the microfluidic platform in preclinical development for the early detection of sepsis. SciBX 7(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.30 Published online Jan. 9, 2014	Patent pending; licensed to CytoVale	Tse, H.T.K. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i> ; published online Nov. 20, 2013; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3006559 Contact: Dino Di Carlo, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif. e-mail: dicarlo@seas.ucla.edu Contact: Jianyu Rao, same affiliation as above e-mail: jrao@mednet.ucla.edu