

This week in techniques

Approach	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Assays & screens			
Preeclampsia diagnostic based on amyloid oligomer content of urine	<p>A method for detecting amyloid oligomer content in urine could help diagnose preeclampsia. Urine from pregnant women with preeclampsia contained higher levels of multiple types of amyloid oligomers than urine from pregnant women without the disease. The method involves treating urine samples with Congo red dye, which binds amyloid oligomers to form insoluble aggregates, and then using the intensity of the resulting color as a readout for oligomer content in the sample. In a validation cohort of nearly 600 women, the method diagnosed preeclampsia with 86% sensitivity and 85% specificity. Next steps include an international longitudinal trial using a version of the test commercialized and manufactured by GestVision Inc.</p> <p>Alere Inc. markets Triage PLGF test, an immunoassay that measures placental growth factor (PGF; PlGF) in ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) anticoagulated plasma samples, to diagnose preeclampsia.</p> <p>Miraculins Inc. has its preeclampsia diagnostic test, an assay for detecting the preeclampsia biomarker soluble endoglin (CD105; ENG) in serum and urine, in pivotal trials to diagnose preeclampsia.</p> <p>Carmenta Bioscience Inc. has a panel of six undisclosed serum markers in validation testing to help diagnose preeclampsia.</p> <p>SciBX 7(30); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.905 Published online Aug. 7, 2014</p>	Patented by the Yale School of Medicine; licensed to GestVision	<p>Buhimschi, I.A. <i>et al. Sci. Transl. Med.</i>; published online July 16, 2014; doi:10.1126/scitranslmed.3008808</p> <p>Contact: Irina A. Buhimschi, The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio</p> <p>e-mail: irina.buhimschi@nationwidechildrens.org</p>