

Technology: [Methods for determining and inhibiting rheumatoid arthritis associated with the BRAF oncogene in a subject](#)

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Inventor: Richard Weisbart

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The VA has sole ownership of this patent.

Contact: lee.sylvers@va.gov

Abstract: The invention provides methods for determining whether a subject is suffering from a rheumatoid arthritis associated with the BRAF oncogene comprising contacting isolated fibroblasts from the subject with a molecule or pool of molecules directed to the BRAF oncogene; and culturing the sample in the presence of the agent and determining whether BRAF oncogene expression by the cell is decreased and/or whether cells in the sample return to a less transformed phenotype, exhibit decreased cell proliferation and/or exhibit increased contact inhibition, any of which is indicative that the subject is suffering from a rheumatoid arthritis associated with the BRAF oncogene.