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Transfecting with antibodies

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The various available transfection methods suffer from low efficiency, lack of specificity for a particular cell type, and a tendency to kill many of the target cells. Bildirici *et al.* offer a solution in the 18 May *Nature*, using antibody-coated beads (*Nature* 2000, **405**:298). DNA enters the cells after agitation of a bead-cell mixture tears holes in the cell membrane. Transfection efficiency ranges from 40 to 80% with less than 20% cell killing, and the DNA is targeted to cells with the relevant cell surface marker. This targeting will be particularly important for *ex vivo* gene therapy applications.

References

1. Nature magazine, [<http://www.nature.com/nature/>]