This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM)	<i>Chemokine (C-X3-C motif) receptor 1 (CX3CR1)</i>	<p>Patient DNA analysis suggests that SNPs in the <i>CX3CR1</i> gene may be useful for predicting survival of GBM patients. In 230 GBM patients, a prospective analysis showed that the V249I allele in <i>CX3CR1</i> was associated with significantly higher median survival than that seen in patients who lacked the allele (16.9 vs. 13.5 months; $p=0.0005$). In a separate group of 106 GBM patients who had undergone surgical resection, the same allele was associated with higher median survival than that seen in patients lacking the allele (26.2 vs. 14.1 months; $p=0.0001$). Immunohistochemical analysis of tumor biopsies showed that the allele was associated with lower tumor infiltration of microglial cells than that seen in tumor biopsies from patients who lacked the allele. Next steps include validating the <i>CX3CR1</i>-V249I allele as a biomarker in a larger cohort of GBM patients who have undergone surgery.</p> <p>SciBX 1(43); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1043 Published online Dec. 4, 2008</p>	Patent application filed for use in patients with GBM that received surgery; available for licensing from the Public Assistance Hospital of Paris Office of Licensing & Tech Transfer	<p>Rodero, M. <i>et al. J. Clin. Oncol.</i>; published online Nov. 10, 2008; doi:10.1200/JCO.2008.17.2833</p> <p>Contact: Marc Sanson, Hospital Group Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France e-mail: marc.sanson@psl.ap-hop-paris.fr</p>