This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Blood coagulation	Factor XI; factor XII	Rabbit studies suggest antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) that knock down expression of <i>factor XI</i> or <i>factor XII</i> can be used to prevent contact-induced coagulation. In rabbits with a catheter, ASOs targeting <i>factor XI</i> or <i>factor XII</i> prolonged catheter occlusion more than twofold compared with scrambled oligonucleotide or an ASO targeting <i>factor VII</i> . Next steps include using ASOs to determine the relative contribution of the contact and extrinsic coagulation pathways to clotting in animal models of thrombosis. Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc. has an ASO targeting factor XI in Phase II testing to prevent coagulation.	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Yau, J.W. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online Feb. 5, 2014; doi:10.1182/blood-2013-12-540872 Contact: Jeffrey I. Weitz, Thrombosis and Atherosclerosis Research Institute, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada e-mail: weitzj@taari.ca
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