

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Genitourinary disease				
Priapism	Adenosine; adenosine A2b receptor	<p>A study in mice suggests that reducing adenosine levels in penile tissue might be useful for treating priapism, persistent penile erection in the absence of sexual excitation. Mice deficient in adenosine deaminase (ADA), which is necessary for the breakdown of adenosine, exhibited priapism and excess adenosine accumulation in penile tissues. Gene knockout and pharmacology studies showed that activation of the adenosine A2b receptor was necessary for the phenotype. The researchers are testing an undisclosed A2b receptor inhibitor in ADA-deficient mice.</p> <p>CV Therapeutics Inc.'s CVT-6883 adenosine A2b receptor antagonist is in Phase I testing to treat cardiopulmonary disease.</p>	U.S. patent application filed covering disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention applications in relation to adenosine signaling; available for licensing	<p>Mi, T. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online March 13, 2008; doi:10.1172/JCI33467</p> <p>Contact: Yang Xia, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas e-mail: yang.xia@uth.tmc.edu</p>