

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Ischemia; reperfusion injury	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 2 family (mitochondrial) (ALDH2)	<p>Studies in rodents suggest that activating ALDH2 could be useful for minimizing ischemic heart damage. In a rat model of acute myocardial infarction (MI), administration of Alda-1, a substituted dichlorobenzamide that activates ALDH2, into the left ventricle 5 minutes before an ischemic event decreased infarct size by 60% compared with that seen in vehicle-treated control rats ($p < 0.01$). Next steps include improving the pharmacokinetics of Alda-1 and investigating the benefits of administering the compound following ischemic damage.</p> <p>CVT-10216, an ALDH2 inhibitor from CV Therapeutics Inc., is in preclinical testing to treat alcohol addiction.</p>	Patented by Stanford University; available for licensing	<p>Chen, C. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Sept. 11, 2008; doi:10.1126/science.1158554</p> <p>Contact: Daria Mochly-Rosen, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. e-mail: mochly@stanford.edu</p>