

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Autoimmune disease				
Autoimmune	Sugar moiety of IgG	Studies in mice suggest that glycoside hydrolase enzyme therapy could be useful for treating autoimmune disease. In healthy mice, i.v. administration of recombinant endoglycosidase S (EndoS) from <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i> increased hydrolysis of IgG-associated carbohydrates in serum at 45 minutes compared with baseline. In a murine model of spontaneous lupus-like disease, EndoS treatment lowered serum IgG autoantibody levels and increased survival compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Further preclinical studies in other animal models of autoimmune disease are ongoing to determine the indications that should first be targeted in clinical testing.	EndoS treatment of conditions involving IgG autoantibodies patented by Hansa Medical AB; available for licensing in the U.S. and Europe	Albert, H. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i> ; published online Sept. 22, 2008; doi:10.1073/pnas.0808248105 Contact: Falk Nimmerjahn, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Erlangen, Germany e-mail: fnimmerj@molmed.uni-erlangen.de Contact: Jeffrey V. Ravetch, The Rockefeller University, New York, N.Y. e-mail: ravetch@rockefeller.edu