

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Heart failure	Unknown	<p>Studies in canines and in tissue culture suggest that a modified B-type natriuretic peptide (ASBNP.1) could help treat heart failure with fewer renal side effects than first-generation peptides. Recombinant BNP can cause hypotension that leads to poor renal function. In a canine model of heart failure, i.v. infusion of ASBNP.1 increased the glomerular filtration rate, urinary sodium excretion and urine flow of the kidney compared with baseline ($p < 0.05$). ASBNP.1 did not affect mean arterial blood pressure in the canines. Toxicology studies are ongoing.</p> <p>Natrecor nesiritide, a recombinant BNP from Johnson & Johnson, is marketed to treat acutely decompensated congestive heart failure in patients with dyspnea at rest or with a small amount of activity. At least three other companies have natriuretic peptides or compounds targeting natriuretic peptide receptors in Phase II or earlier for heart failure and hypertension.</p> <p>Anexon Inc. is developing the peptide for cardiovascular indications.</p> <p>SciBX 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1007 Published online June 25, 2009</p>	<p>Patents pending; exclusively licensed to Anexon for use in all indications</p>	<p>Pan, S. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 15, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0811851106 Contact: Robert D. Simari, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. e-mail: simari.robert@mayo.edu</p>