

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Neuregulin 1 (NRG1); v-erb-a erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 4 (ERBB4; HER4)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that enhancing NRG1 signaling could help treat injured cardiac tissue. In mice, injection of NRG1 or overexpression of its receptor Erbb4 led to greater cardiomyocyte proliferation than occurred in control mice or Erbb4 knockout mice. In a mouse model of myocardial injury, NRG1 improved cardiac function, reduced the size of infarct scars and decreased cardiac hypertrophy compared with no treatment. Future studies could include pig models of myocardial injury.</p> <p>Osiris Therapeutics Inc's Prochymal adult mesenchymal stem cell therapy is in Phase II testing to treat heart damage after acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and in Phase II and Phase III testing to treat tissue damage in other indications such as Crohn's disease and type 2 diabetes.</p> <p>SciBX 2(31); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1210 Published online Aug. 13, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Bersell, K. <i>et al. Cell</i>; published online July 23, 2009; doi:10.1016/j.cell.2009.04.060</p> <p>Contact: Bernhard Kühn, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: bkuhn@enders.tch.harvard.edu</p>