

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Malaria	Not applicable	<p>A study in rodents identified five ozonide compounds that could help treat malaria. In mice infected with <i>Plasmodium berghei</i>, the ozonides increased survival compared with no treatment. For each compound, the increased survival was comparable to or better than that for mice treated with the ozonide artemisinin (OZ277). One of the analogs cured infection in three of five mice. Next steps include scaling up chemical synthesis of the compounds and performing preclinical toxicity studies.</p> <p>OZ277/RBx11160, a combination of artemisinin maleate and piperaquine phosphate from Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., is in Phase III testing to treat malaria infection</p> <p>SciBX 2(47); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.1730 Published online Dec. 10, 2009</p>	Compounds patented for use in malaria	<p>Dong, Y. <i>et al. J. Med. Chem.</i>; published online Nov. 19, 2009; doi:10.1021/jm901473s</p> <p>Contact: Jonathan L. Vennerstrom, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb. e-mail: jvenners@unmc.edu</p>