

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Genitourinary disease				
Erectile dysfunction (ED)	Cystathionine β -synthase (CBS); cystathionase (cystathionine γ -lyase) (CTH)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in rats suggest that intracavernous administration of hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) or L-cysteine could be useful for treating ED. Analysis of human corpus cavernosum tissue showed that CBS and CTH, enzymes responsible for metabolizing L-cysteine to produce H_2S, are localized in the smooth-muscle component of the penile artery. Exogenous administration of H_2S or L-cysteine relaxed strips of human corpus cavernosum in a concentration-dependent manner. In rats, intracavernous administration of H_2S or L-cysteine promoted erections. Next steps include developing H_2S donor compounds and investigating their use in treating ED.</p> <p>SciBX 2(10); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.405 Published online March 12, 2009</p>	Unpatented; licensing status undisclosed	<p>Bianca, R. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online March 2, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0807974105</p> <p>Contact: Giuseppe Cirino, University of Naples Federico II, Napoli, Italy e-mail: cirino@cds.unina.it</p>