

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL)	X-linked inhibitor of apoptosis protein (XIAP); tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TNFSF10;TRAIL)	<p>Studies in cell culture and in mice suggest that small molecule inhibitors of XIAP could be useful for treating ALL. In acute leukemia cells, XIAP inhibitors acted in concert with TRAIL to induce apoptosis and inhibit survival of the cells but did not affect normal peripheral blood mononuclear cells. In a mouse model of pediatric ALL, an Xiap inhibitor lowered leukemic burden compared with that seen in control-treated mice. Next steps could include investigation of Xiap inhibitors in combination with Trail in the mouse model of pediatric ALL.</p> <p>Inhibitor AEG35156, a second-generation antisense XIAP from Aegera Therapeutics Inc., is in Phase I/II testing for various cancer indications.</p> <p>SciBX 2(1); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.6 Published online Jan. 8, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fakler, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online Nov. 25, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2007-09-114314</p> <p>Contact: Simone Fulda, University Children's Hospital, Ulm, Germany e-mail: simone.fulda@uniklinik-ulm.de</p>