

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Breast cancer	Angiotensin II type 1 receptor (AGTR1); estrogen receptor; HER2 (ERBB2; neu)	<p><i>In vitro</i> and <i>in vivo</i> studies suggest that AGTR1 antagonists could be repurposed to treat breast cancer. AGTR1 was overexpressed in estrogen receptor-positive and ERBB2-negative primary breast cancer samples. AGTR1-overexpressing human breast cancer cell lines stimulated with angiotensin II were more invasive than untreated controls. In mice with AGTR1-overexpressing xenograft tumors, Cozaar losartan decreased tumor size by 30% compared with that in untreated and non-AGTR1-expressing xenograft controls.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc. markets the AGTR1 antagonist Cozaar to treat heart failure, hypertension, myocardial infarction (MI), stroke and diabetes. Thirteen other companies have AGTR1 antagonists marketed or approved to treat cardiovascular indications, renal indications, diabetes and stroke.</p> <p>SciBX 2(23); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.932 Published online June 11, 2009</p>	Patented; licensing status unavailable	<p>Rhodes, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 1, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0900351106 Contact: Arul Chinnaiyan, University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, Mich. e-mail: arul@umich.edu</p>