

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Cyclin-dependent kinase 2 (CDK2); v-myc myelocytomatosis viral related oncogene, neuroblastoma derived (MYCN)	<p>A study in cell culture suggests that inhibiting CDK2 could help treat MYCN-overexpressing cancers. In three MYCN-overexpressing neuroblastoma cell lines, small hairpin RNA-mediated knockdown of CDK2 caused apoptosis compared with control shRNA. In a neuroblastoma cell line, CDK2 knockdown caused apoptosis when MYCN was expressed but not when the gene was silent. Next steps could include evaluating the effect of inhibiting CDK2 in animals with MYCN-overexpressing cancers.</p> <p>SNS-032, an inhibitor of CDK2, CDK7 and CDK9 from Sunesis Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in Phase I/II for solid tumors and Phase I or earlier for other cancers.</p> <p>CYC103, a cyclin binding groove (CBG) inhibitor targeting CDK2 from Cyclacel Pharmaceuticals Inc., is in preclinical development for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 2(25); doi:10.1038/scibx.2009.999 Published online June 25, 2009</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Molenaar, J.J. <i>et al. Proc Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 8, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0901418106</p> <p>Contact: Jan J. Molenaar, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: jj.molenaar@amc.uva.nl</p>