

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	WEE1 tyrosine kinase (WEE1)	<p>A study in mice and in patient samples suggests that inhibiting WEE1 could help treat glioblastoma. In primary glioblastoma samples, WEE1 levels were higher than those in normal brain tissue from the same patient. In orthotopic mouse models of glioblastoma multiforme, small hairpin RNA-mediated WEE1 knockdown or a small molecule WEE1 inhibitor led to greater sensitivity to radiation therapy than that in controls. Next steps could include evaluating the WEE1 inhibitor MK1775 in combination with marketed glioblastoma therapies in a Phase I trial.</p> <p>Merck & Co. Inc.'s MK-1775 is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 3(38); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.1142 Published online Sept. 30, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Mir, S.E. <i>et al. Cancer Cell</i>; published online Sept. 14, 2010; doi:10.1016/j.ccr.2010.08.011 Contact: Thomas Würdinger, VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam, the Netherlands e-mail: t.wurdinger@vumc.nl</p>