

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Brain cancer	Poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 (PARP-1); Platelet derived growth factor receptor- α (PDGFRA); Platelet derived growth factor- α (PDGFA; PDGF1)	<p>Analysis of tumor samples suggests that inhibiting PDGFRA and PARP-1 could help treat pediatric diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG). Genetic analysis showed that about 50% of DIPG tumors had more copies of the <i>PDGFA</i> and <i>PDGFRA</i> genes than normal brain samples. Immunohistochemical analysis showed that the DIPG tumors had greater PDGFA expression than normal brain samples. Also, 27% of the tumors had more copies of the <i>PARP-1</i> gene and 56% expressed higher levels of PARP-1. Next steps include using the genetic analysis method to identify new cancer targets. Eli Lilly and Co.'s IMC-363, a mAb against PDGFRA, is in Phase I testing to treat solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 3(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.240 Published online Feb. 25, 2010</p>	Findings unpatented; available for licensing	<p>Zarghooni, M. <i>et al.</i> <i>J. Clin. Oncol.</i>; published online Feb. 8, 2010; doi:10.1200/JCO.2009.25.5463 Contact: Cynthia Hawkins, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario, Canada e-mail: cynthia.hawkins@sickkids.ca</p>