## This week in therapeutics

| Indication | Target/marker/ pathway | Summary | Licensing status | Publication and contact information |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cancer** | | | | |
| Lymphoma | CD20; interferon-α (IFNA; IFN-α) | *In vitro* and mouse studies suggest that an anti-CD20–IFN-α fusion protein could help treat lymphoma. The fusion protein was constructed by linking the anti-CD20 antibody Rituxan rituximab to IFN-α. In murine lymphoma cells expressing human CD20, the fusion protein prevented proliferation and increased apoptosis compared with Rituxan alone or a non–CD20 targeting IFN-α fusion protein. In mice with Rituxan-insensitive lymphoma cells, treatment with the anti-CD20–IFN-α fusion protein abolished tumors and increased survival compared with co-treatment with an anti-CD20 antibody and IFN-α. Next steps could include additional testing of the fusion protein in animal models.<br>Biogen Idec Inc. and the Genentech Inc. unit of Roche market Rituxan rituximab to treat various cancers and rheumatoid arthritis (RA).<br>At least six companies have anti-CD20 therapies in clinical and preclinical testing to treat B cell lymphoma.<br><br>*SciBX* 3(8); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.244<br>Published online Feb. 25, 2010 | Patent and licensing status unavailable | Xuan, C. *et al. Blood*; published online Feb. 4, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-10-250555<br>**Contact:** Sherie L. Morrison, University of California, Los Angeles, Calif.<br>e-mail: sheriem@microbio.ucla.edu |