

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cardiovascular disease				
Ischemia; reperfusion injury	Not applicable	<i>In vitro</i> and rodent studies suggest that blocking mitochondrial respiration could help reduce reperfusion injury. A small molecule screen identified meclizine as an inhibitor of cell growth in a high-galactose environment, suggesting that the generic antihistamine and antimuscarinic might selectively inhibit galactose-mediated mitochondrial respiration. In a rat model of ischemia-reperfusion injury and a mouse model of cerebral artery occlusion, meclizine protected cardiomyocytes against cell death and reduced infarct volume compared with other antihistamine and antimuscarinic agents. Next steps could include using the screening platform to identify additional compounds.	Patent and licensing status unavailable	Gohil, V. <i>et al. Nat. Biotechnol.</i> ; published online Feb. 14, 2010; doi:10.1038/nbt.1606 Contact: Vamsi K. Mootha, Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass. e-mail: vamsi@hms.harvard.edu
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