

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Neurology				
Stroke	Tissue plasminogen activator (tPA)	<p>A study in mice and in cell culture suggests that increasing endogenous tPA expression could protect against stroke-induced brain damage. In a mouse model of stroke, tPA-deficient animals had more widespread neuronal cell death in the hippocampus than wild-type controls. In mouse hippocampal neurons subjected to oxygen-glucose deprivation, tPA significantly increased cell survival compared with no treatment ($p < 0.05$). Next steps include pharmacological studies in rodents and nonhuman primate stroke models.</p> <p>Activase alteplase, a tPA from Roche's Genentech Inc. unit and Boehringer Ingelheim GmbH, is marketed to treat stroke, myocardial infarction (MI) and pulmonary embolism.</p> <p>SciBX 3(19); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.595 Published online May 13, 2010</p>	Work unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Echeverry, R. <i>et al. J. Clin. Invest.</i>; published online May 3, 2010; doi:10.1172/JCI41722</p> <p>Contact: Manuel Yepes, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Ga. e-mail: myepes@emory.edu</p>