

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL)	Phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K); protein kinase CK2	<p>Studies in human cell samples suggest that dual inhibition of PI3K and protein kinase CK2 could help treat CLL. In cultured cells from CLL patients, a PI3K inhibitor plus a protein kinase CK2 inhibitor and/or fludarabine increased apoptosis compared with any of the agents alone. Ongoing work includes validating the findings in clinical studies of CLL patients.</p> <p>Fludara fludarabine, a purine nucleotide analog that inhibits DNA synthesis from Bayer AG and Genzyme Corp., is marketed to treat CLL and is approved to treat mantle cell lymphoma (MCL) and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL).</p> <p>Aeterna Zentaris Inc. and Keryx Biopharmaceuticals Inc. are developing perifosine (KRX-0401), an alkylphosphocholine modulator of PI3K, protein kinase B (PKB; Akt) and other signal transduction pathways that is in Phase III testing to treat multiple myeloma (MM) and colorectal cancer and in Phase II testing to multiple other cancers.</p> <p>Exelixis Inc. and sanofi-aventis Group's oral selective PI3K inhibitor, XL-147 (SAR245408), is in Phase II testing to treat endometrial cancer and in Phase I/II testing to treat multiple other cancers.</p> <p>Cylene Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s protein kinase CK2 inhibitor, CX-4945, is in Phase I testing to treat cancer.</p>	Patent application filed by the Medical University of Vienna; available for licensing	<p>Shehata, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online June 24, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-10-248054</p> <p>Contact: Medhat Shehata, Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria e-mail: medhat.shehata@meduniwien.ac.at</p>
<p>SciBX 3(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.821 Published online July 15, 2010</p>				