

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Hematology				
Bone marrow transplant (BMT)	Protein kinase B (PKB; Akt)	<p>A study in mice suggests that inhibiting Akt could improve engraftment in bone marrow transplants. In nonobese diabetic mice, transplantation of human hematopoietic progenitor cells expressing constitutively active Akt led to less cell migration to the bone marrow and lower levels of engraftment than transplantation of cells expressing a control vector. In the same mice, hematopoietic progenitor cells cultured with an Akt inhibitor prior to transplant had greater bone marrow migration and engraftment than cells cultured in the absence of inhibitor. Next steps include optimizing the dose and duration of inhibitor treatment.</p> <p>At least four companies have Akt inhibitors in clinical trials for cancer.</p> <p>SciBX 3(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.863 Published online July 22, 2010</p>	Unpatented; licensing status not applicable	<p>Buitenhuis, M. <i>et al. Blood</i>; published online June 21, 2010; doi:10.1182/blood-2009-10-250258</p> <p>Contact: Miranda Buitenhuis, University Medical Center Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands e-mail: m.buitenhuis@erasmusmc.nl</p>