

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Infectious disease				
Influenza virus	Viral polymerase	<p>Studies in mice suggest that T-705 favipiravir, a viral polymerase inhibitor, could help treat highly pathogenic and drug-resistant H5N1 influenza virus. In mice injected with lethal levels of a highly pathogenic strain of H5N1, T-705 was more effective at increasing survival than oseltamivir, a neuraminidase inhibitor that was previously shown to treat highly pathogenic H5N1 infection. Also in mice, T-705 was effective against oseltamivir-resistant viruses even when administered 72 hours postinfection. Next steps could include testing the compound in clinical trials for H5N1-infected patients.</p> <p>Toyama Chemical Co. Ltd.'s T-705 is in Phase III testing to treat seasonal influenza virus. Gilead Sciences Inc. and Roche market Tamiflu oseltamivir to treat and prevent influenza infection.</p> <p>SciBX 3(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2010.88 Published online Jan. 21, 2010</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Kiso, M. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online Dec. 21, 2009; doi:10.1073/pnas.0909603107 Contact: Yoshihiro Kawaoka, The University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan e-mail: kawaoka@ims.u-tokyo.ac.jp</p>