This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	ATG5 autophagy related 5 homolog (ATG5); ATG7 autophagy related 7 homolog (ATG7); Ras	<p>Studies in mice and in cell culture suggest that inhibiting autophagy by targeting <i>ATG5</i> or <i>ATG7</i> could help treat <i>Ras</i>-driven cancers. In mice, <i>Ras</i>-transduced kidney cells deficient in <i>Atg5</i> or <i>Atg7</i> showed less tumor growth than transduced cells that expressed the genes. In <i>Ras</i>-activated human cancer cell lines, the autophagy inhibitor chloroquine decreased proliferation compared with no treatment. Next steps could include identifying and screening for compounds that inhibit autophagy. Chloroquine is a generic drug approved to treat malaria.</p> <p>SciBX 4(9); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.249 Published online March 3, 2011</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Guo, J.Y. <i>et al. Genes Dev.</i>; published online Feb. 11, 2011; doi:10.1101/gad.2016311</p> <p>Contact: Eileen White, The Cancer Institute of New Jersey, New Brunswick, N.J. e-mail: whiteei@umdnj.edu</p>