

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Other				
Poisoning	Intrinsic smooth muscle pump	<p>Mouse and human studies suggest nitric oxide (NO)-releasing agents could help treat poisoning from snake bite. In humans with a simulated snake bite, local application of an OTC glyceryl trinitrate-containing ointment called Rectogesic increased lymphatic transit time of venom by about 40 minutes compared with application of control ointment. In venom-injected rats, the ointment increased lymphatic transit time by 6 minutes and delayed venom-induced respiratory arrest by 31 minutes compared with control ointment. Next steps include using the compound in combination with pressure bandage and immobilization.</p> <p>Rectogesic is marketed by Care Pharmaceuticals Pty. Ltd. to treat anal fissures.</p> <p><i>SciBX</i> 4(27); doi:10.1038/scibx.2011.767 Published online July 14, 2011</p>	Patent application filed; available for licensing	<p>Saul, M.E. <i>et al. Nat. Med.</i>; published online June 26, 2011; doi:10.1038/nm.2382</p> <p>Contact: Dirk F. van Helden, The University of Newcastle, Australia, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia e-mail: dirk.vanhelden@newcastle.edu.au</p>