

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	Not applicable	<p>Mouse studies suggest activating autophagy or increasing ATP release from tumor cells could help treat cancer. In a mouse xenograft model of colorectal cancer, the generic chemotherapeutic mitoxantrone induced autophagy and increased immunogenic ATP release compared with saline. In mice with mitoxantrone-treated human colorectal cancer cells, transplantation of autophagy-deficient cells decreased ATP release and the antitumor immune response and increased tumor growth compared with transplantation of autophagy-competent cells. Next steps could include developing strategies to promote autophagy or immunogenic ATP release in autophagy-deficient cancers.</p> <p>Hydroxychloroquine, a generic inhibitor of autophagy, is in investigator-led Phase II trials for various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 5(3); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.70 Published online Jan. 19, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Michaud, M. <i>et al. Science</i>; published online Dec. 16, 2011; doi:10.1126/science.1208347 Contact: Laurence Zitvogel, Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM), Villejuif, France e-mail: zitvogel@igr.fr Contact: Guido Kroemer, same affiliation as above e-mail: kroemer@orange.fr</p>