

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Melanoma	BRAF	<p>A study in mice suggests intermittent rather than continuous dosing of Zelboraf could prevent or delay drug resistance in patients with melanoma. In xenograft mice implanted with subcutaneous melanoma tumors, intermittent dosing of the small molecule BRAF inhibitor Zelboraf did not lead to drug resistance in any animals after 200 days, whereas continuous dosing of the drug led to lethal Zelboraf resistance within 100 days. Next steps include testing the intermittent dosing regimen in patients with melanoma.</p> <p>Zelboraf vemurafenib (PLX4032) is marketed by Roche and Daiichi Sankyo Co. Ltd. to treat metastatic melanoma in patients expressing the V600E BRAF mutation.</p> <p>Dabrafenib (GSK2118436), a small molecule BRAF inhibitor from GlaxoSmithKline plc, is in registration to treat advanced or metastatic BRAF mutant melanoma.</p> <p>SciBX 6(6); doi:10.1038/scibx.2013.136 Published online Feb. 14, 2013</p>	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	<p>Das Thakur, M. <i>et al. Nature</i>; published online Jan. 9, 2013; doi:10.1038/nature11814</p> <p>Contact: Darrin D. Stuart, Novartis Institutes for BioMedical Research, Emeryville, Calif. e-mail: darrin.stuart@novartis.com</p> <p>Contact: Martin McMahan, University of California, San Francisco, Calif. e-mail: mcmahan@cc.ucsf.edu</p>