

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Cancer	<i>Phosphatase and tensin homolog pseudogene 1</i> (<i>PTENP1</i> ; <i>PTENpg1</i>); <i>PTEN</i> (<i>MMAC1</i> ; <i>TEP1</i>)	Cell culture studies suggest inhibiting <i>PTENpg1</i> -encoded antisense RNA could help treat cancer. <i>PTENpg1</i> is a nonfunctional homolog of <i>PTEN</i> that positively regulates <i>PTEN</i> translation by binding and depleting microRNAs. In a panel of cell lines, a <i>PTENpg1</i> antisense RNA was detected and its expression inversely correlated with <i>PTEN</i> expression. In cultured cells treated with the generic chemotherapeutic doxorubicin, small interfering RNA against <i>PTENpg1</i> antisense RNA increased cell death compared with control siRNA. Next steps include inhibiting the <i>PTENpg1</i> antisense RNA in disease models.	Patent application filed; available for licensing	Johnsson, P. <i>et al. Nat. Struct. Mol. Biol.</i> ; published online Feb. 24, 2013; doi:10.1038/nsmb.2516 Contact: Kevin V. Morris, The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, Calif. e-mail: kmorris@scripps.edu Contact: Dan Grandér, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden e-mail: dan.grander@ki.se
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