

This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Liver cancer	VEGF-A	<p><i>In vitro</i> and mouse studies suggest hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) with amplifications in VEGF-A may be particularly susceptible to Nexavar sorafenib. In mice with HCC and in human tumor samples, VEGF-A was amplified in a subset of tumors. In a mouse model of HCC, Nexavar induced an antitumor response specifically in the Vegf-a-amplified tumor subset. In a retrospective analysis of patients with HCC treated with Nexavar, survival was improved in those with VEGF-A amplifications. Next steps include validation in an additional cohort.</p> <p>Nexavar sorafenib, which targets VEGF receptor (VEGFR) and other kinases, is marketed by Amgen Inc. and Bayer AG to treat various cancers.</p> <p>SciBX 7(18); doi:10.1038/scibx.2014.522 Published online May 8, 2014</p>	Patent application filed; licensing negotiations under way with an undisclosed biotech in Israel	<p>Horwitz, E. <i>et al. Cancer Discov.</i>; published online March 31, 2014; doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-13-0782</p> <p>Contact: Eli Pikarsky, The Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, Jerusalem, Israel e-mail: pele@hadassah.org.il</p>