Impact of PDB Structures on Anti-Cancer Drug Approvals



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Between 2010-2018, the US FDA approved

NEW ANTI-CANCER DRUGS

New Molecular Entities (NMEs)

Open access to three-dimensional structure information from the Protein Data Bank (PDB) facilitates discovery and development of life saving drugs. The impact ranges from understanding target biology through identifying a given target as likely druggable to structure-guided optimizing of potency and selectivity.

of these NMEs had a total of 2412 unique strue PDB exploint targets in the

unique structures in the PDB exploring their biological targets in the pre-approval years

Low Molecular Weight (LMW) NMEs 54 2007

Target classes	Protein Kinase	33	1,136	
	Tubulin	2	249	Number of unique PDB structures for LMW NME Target
	Ribosome A Site	1	134	
	Androgen Receptor	2	96	
	HDAC	2	92	
	PARPs	4	89	
	Proteasome	2	62	
	E3 Ubiquitin Ligase	1	50	
	IDH1	1	40	
	BCL-2	1	26	
	CYP17A1	1	13	
	Smoothened	3	11	
	IDH2	1	9	

41 Number of LMW NME/target complexes in the PDB

Biologic NMEs 20



The T-cell surface protein PD-1 (dark red) can bind to another protein on the surface of cancer cell suppressing the body's immune response. The biologic NME, the antibody pembrolizumab (blue), blocks PD-1, thereby enabling the body to kill cancer. Illustration created from PDB entries 5ggs and 5dk3.

405

Reference: Westbrook et al. (2020) Impact of Protein Data Bank on Anti-neoplastic Approvals. Drug Discovery Today 25: 837-850 doi: 10.1016/j.drudis.2020.02.002



Abnormal activity of cyclin-dependent kinases (blue) and their regulatory

proteins, the cyclins (red), can

a hallmark of cancer. The new

and ribociclib (yellow) inhibit

malignant cells from dividing.

Illustration created from

PDB entries 1bi7,

512s, and 512t.

lead to accelerated cell division,

LMW NMEs, abemaciclib (green)

the kinase, thereby stopping the

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