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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS INCLUDING CALCIUM INFLUX BLOCKERS FOR INHIBITING CELL GROWTH

(57) Abstract

A general feature of the present invention is the induction of the death of stimulated cells by a Ca^{2+} influx blocker. The invention, in its various aspects, includes administration of compositions that induce cell death including administration of a composition to a mammal, e.g., a human for therapeutic purposes; compositions, e.g., a composition having a Ca^{2+} influx blocker and an agent which normally stimulates cells in which cell death is to be induced; kits of compositions, e.g., a kit having a Ca^{2+} influx blocker and an agent which normally stimulates cells in which cell death is to be induced; use of such compositions or kits of compositions as anti-inflammatory agents and/or anti-proliferative agents; and use of a Ca^{2+} influx blocker or use of Ca^{2+} influx blocker and agent in the preparation of a medicament for use in inducing cell death. The invention includes a method for diagnosing the susceptibility of diseased animals to treatment with a Ca^{2+} influx blocker or the combination of a Ca^{2+} influx blocker and agent which normally stimulates cells in order that the treatment can induce cell death. The invention includes a method for screening potential compounds as Ca^{2+} influx blockers.