Inhibins as Novel and Targetable Regulators of Angiogenesis

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Technology description

Background:
This researcher has identified Inhibin as a heterodimeric molecule that could be considered a novel and robust regulator of angiogenesis. Inhibin has been identified as a biomarker for ovarian cancer. It has been shown to act as a tumor suppressor in gonadal tumors in mice experiments, and has also been identified in elevated levels in ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancers.
Invention Description:
The subject invention is a method or mechanism of action that would make it possible for several diseases inflicted by vascular abnormalities to be controlled and/or treated therapeutically.

Application area

The invention is predicted to be used (alone) to block cancer angiogenesis or in combination with anti-VEGF therapies in all cases that anti-VEGF therapies are used. It can also be explored in diseases such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome, HHT, preeclampsia, and macular degeneration.

Advantages

1) Inhibin levels are very low in post-menopausal women (and in men) and hence when elevated, targeting it should have limited adverse effects as it has no normal function at this stage
2) Anti-VEGF therapies are typically quite toxic due to wide spread effects and the requirements for VEGF. Being able to lower the dose of these therapies by combining them with anti-Inhibin therapies would minimize side effects for patients.

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