Nature Reviews Urology **8**, 589 (2011);
 doi:10.1038/nrurol.2011.158;
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 doi:10.1038/nrurol.2011.160;
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IN BRIEF

BLADDER CANCER

Plant lectins have the potential to facilitate targeted delivery of intravesical chemotherapy agents

Suboptimal urothelial delivery of adjuvant intravesical chemotherapy agents is currently a deficiency of this therapy in patients with bladder cancer. Neusch *et al.* found that various plant lectins, such as wheat germ and peanut agglutinins, showed good cytoadhesion and cytoinvasion of healthy and malignant urothelium, with some showing preferential uptake in cancer cells. These molecules could, therefore, represent novel, carbohydrate-based chemotherapy delivery systems.

Original article Neusch, L. *et al.* Lectin mediated biorecognition as a novel strategy for targeted delivery to bladder cancer. *J. Urol.* **186**, 1481–1488 (2011)

SURGERY

Glutaraldehyde pretreatment prevents contraction of buccal mucosa grafts following urethroplasty

Contraction of tissue-engineered buccal mucosa (TEBM) grafts is a potential complication following urethroplasty for urethral stricture repair. After testing several methods of preventing TEBM contraction, Patterson *et al.* found that grafts pretreated with glutaraldehyde lost only 5.5% of their area over 28 days, compared with 21.4% for physical restraint, 28.7% for grafts cultured with β -aminopropionitrile and 45.4% for control grafts.

Original article Patterson, J. M. *et al.* Methods to reduce the contraction of tissue-engineered buccal mucosa for use in substitution urethroplasty. *Eur. Urol.* **60**, 856–861 (2011)

BPH

Saw palmetto extract no better than placebo for LUTS

In a double-blind, multicenter, placebo-controlled trial, which included 369 men with lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS) attributed to benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), Barry *et al.* show that saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) fruit extracts at single, double or triple the standard dose (320 mg per day) is not superior to placebo for improving American Urological Association Symptom Index (AUASI) scores.

Original article Barry, M. J. *et al.* Effect of increasing doses of saw palmetto extract on lower urinary tract symptoms: a randomized trial. *JAMA* **306**, 1344–1351 (2011)

PROSTATE CANCER

Abiraterone resistance mediated by CYP17A1 induction and androgen receptor splice variants

Abiraterone, an inhibitor of CYP17A1 (a steroidogenic enzyme), is used to treat castration-resistant prostate cancer (CRPC). Using xenograft models, Mostaghel *et al.* investigated the development of abiraterone resistance. Their findings suggest that several mechanisms, including upregulation of CYP17A1 and induction of androgen receptor splice variant, might contribute to drug resistance.

Original article Mostaghel, E. A. *et al.* Resistance to CYP17A1 inhibition with abiraterone in castration-resistant prostate cancer: induction of steroidogenesis and androgen receptor splice variants. *Clin. Cancer Res.* **17**, 5913–5925 (2011)