



PII: S0002-9629(17)30683-3
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjms.2017.12.007>
Reference: AMJMS585

To appear in: *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*

Cite this article as: , , *The American Journal of the Medical Sciences*,doi:

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Teaching old drugs new tricks: repositioning pharmaceuticals for bench to bedside success

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Short Title: Repositioning drugs to target PI3K/Akt/mTOR signaling

Conflict of Interest Statement:

Authors declare no conflicts of interest

The article by Zheng and colleagues, “Local anesthetic drug inhibits growth and survival in chronic myeloid leukemia through suppressing PI3K/AKT/mTOR,” in this issue is one of several recent examples in *The American Journal of Medical Sciences* that showcase the possibilities of repositioning drugs as anti-cancer agents¹⁻⁶. Drug repositioning, or repurposing, is defined by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences as “studying a drug already approved to treat one disease or condition to see if it is safe and effective for treating a different disease”. Research based on this idea has exploded in the past 15 years, and citations mentioning drug repositioning have increased every year since the early 2000s.

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