

Receptor Tyrosine Kinases

These receptors undergo autophosphorylation (catalyze their own phosphorylation) and can transphosphorylate other proteins in response to a ligand.

Classes of Receptor Tyrosine kinases (RTKs)

new - not many marketed drugs, but investigational ones

1- Epidermal growth factor (EGF-R) receptor family includes:

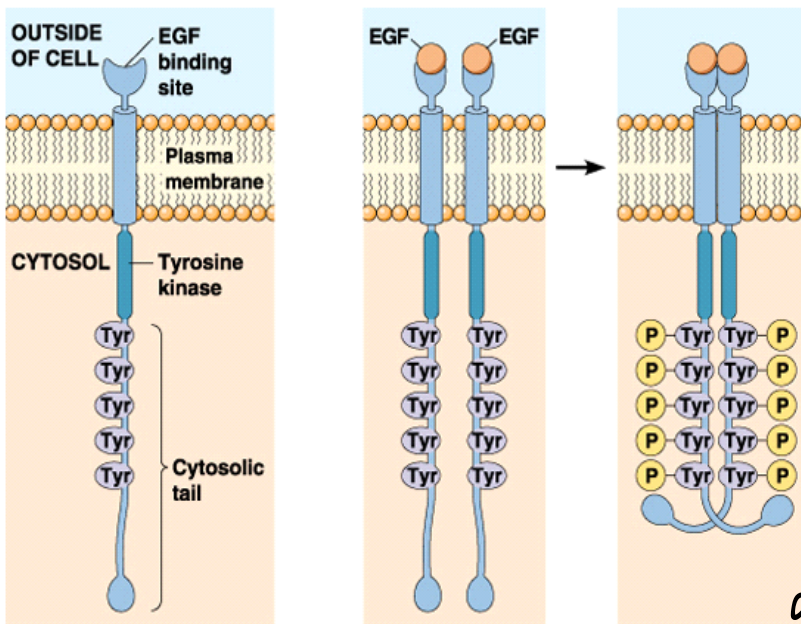
- No ligand
dimer w/ EGFR1 (ErbB1)
- EGFR2 (ErbB2, HER2/neu)
- EGFR3,4 (ErbB3,4 or HER3,4)

"Er" means human

- 2- Insulin Receptor
- 3- Platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF)
- 4- Fibroblast growth factor (FGF)
- 5- Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF)

Receptor tyrosine kinases

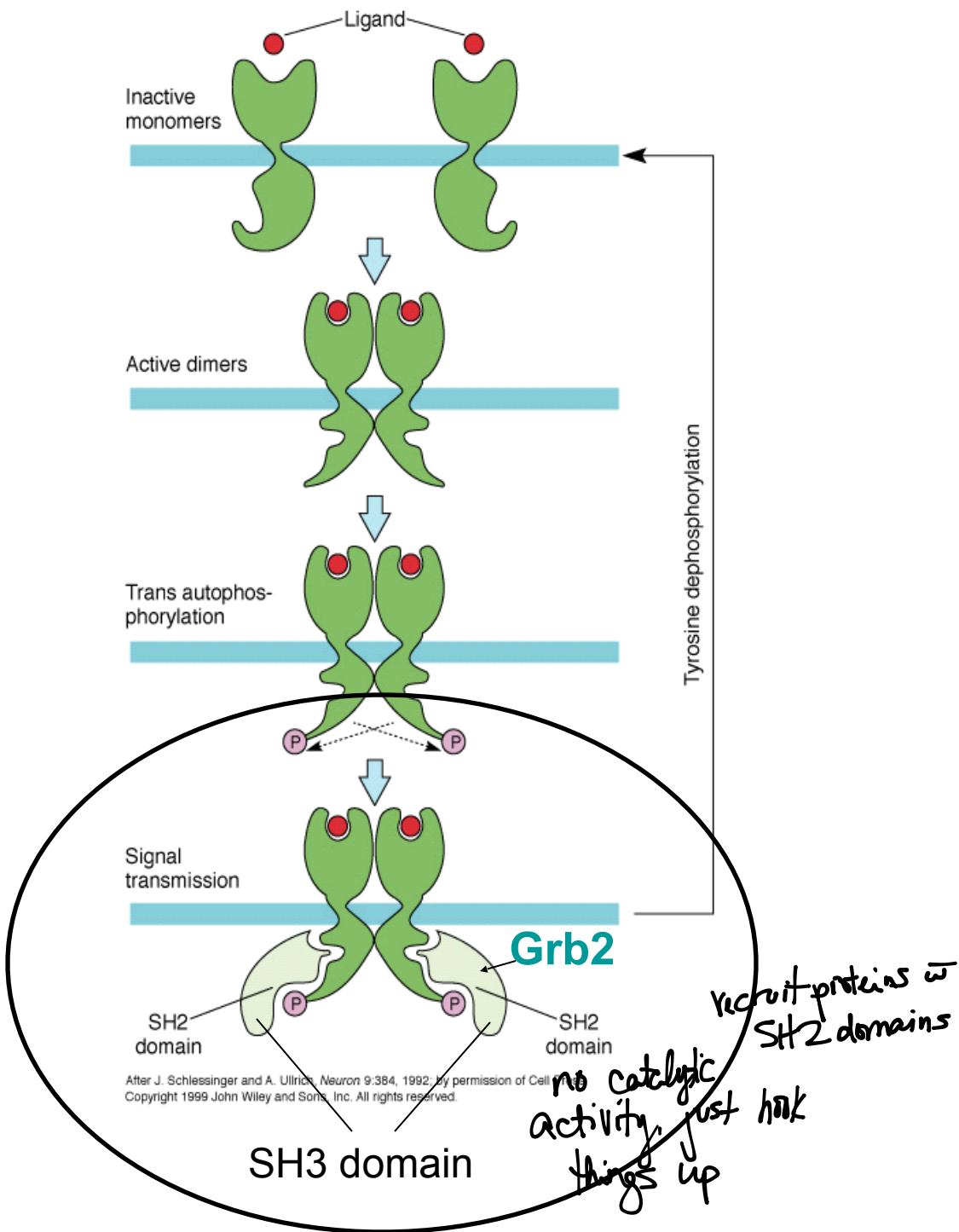
The interaction of the external domain of a receptor tyrosine kinase with the ligand, often a growth factor, up regulates the enzymatic activity of the intracellular catalytic domain, which causes tyrosine phosphorylation of cytoplasmic signaling molecules



(a) Structure of the epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor

(b) Activation of the EGF receptor

good for setting up signal cascade
Fig. 15.23



Grb2 is an adaptor protein containing both **SH2** and **SH3** domains

-SH2 Domains

- Small protein module (150 amino acids) including some highly conserved basic aa (can tell if has SH2 is this motif)
- mediates protein – protein interaction
- these domains found in a wide variety of proteins including those with “catalytic domains” & structural proteins

SH2 domains recognize phosphotyrosine binding sites.

Q: How do you achieve specificity of protein protein interactions?

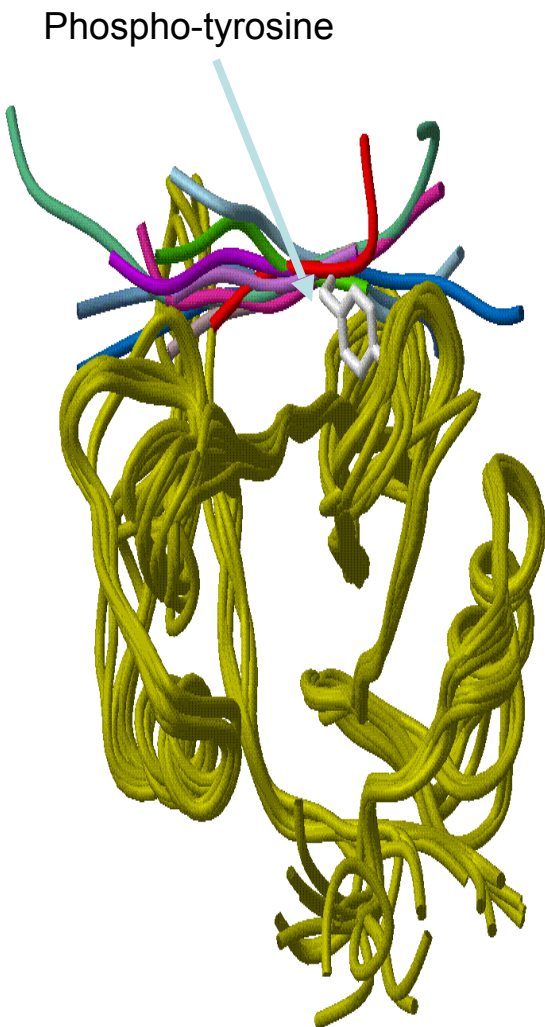
A: Different SH2 domains have different affinities for a given phosphotyrosine (surrounding sequences can confer specificity)

Determining specificity substrates & adaptor proteins.

The sequences C-terminal to the consensus phosphotyrosine binding domain determine if a protein will bind to an RTK and (if it is a substrate) be phosphorylated.

The Src homology 2 (SH2) domain has been found in a number of signal transduction pathways.

eg. on a tyrosine kinase receptor

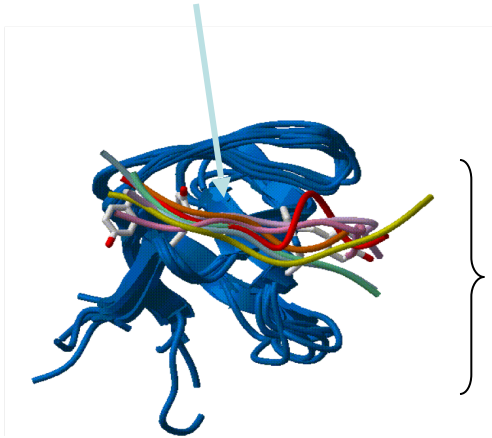


Its primary function is to bind phosphotyrosines and in doing so localizing different proteins necessary to transmit the proper function Pawson, 1997.

homology to gene called SRC

SH2 Domain eg. on Grb2

Polyproline helix



SH3

SH3 domain

β -barrel of 5-6 anti-parallel β -strands.

Binds a polyproline helix

(binds other types of proteins)

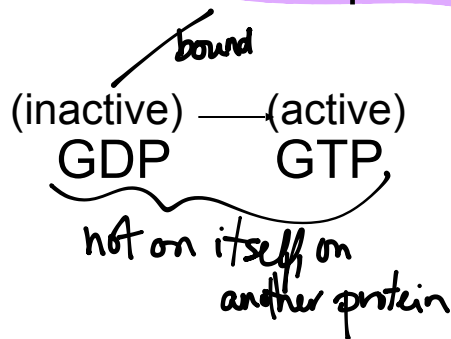
SH3 Domains

Mediate protein: protein interaction

Bind to proline-rich regions in other proteins

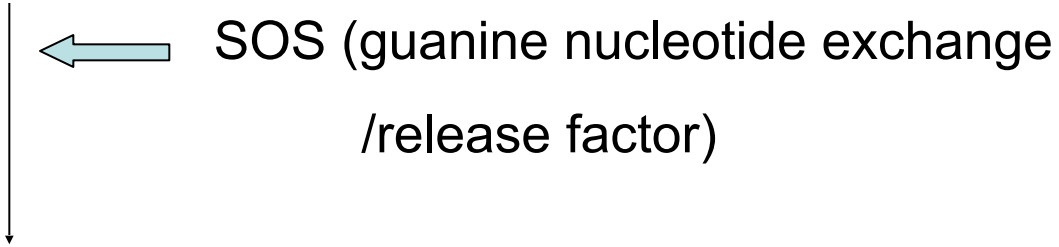
After the phosphorylated RTK binds to Grb2
Grb2 interacts with **SOS** through the Grb2 SH3 domain

SOS is a guanine nucleotide exchange protein that facilitates the activation of the **Ras protein**

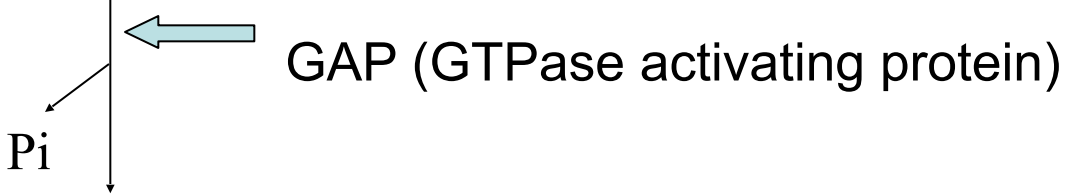


The Ras GTPase Cycle

Ras. GDP (inactive)



Ras. GTP (active)

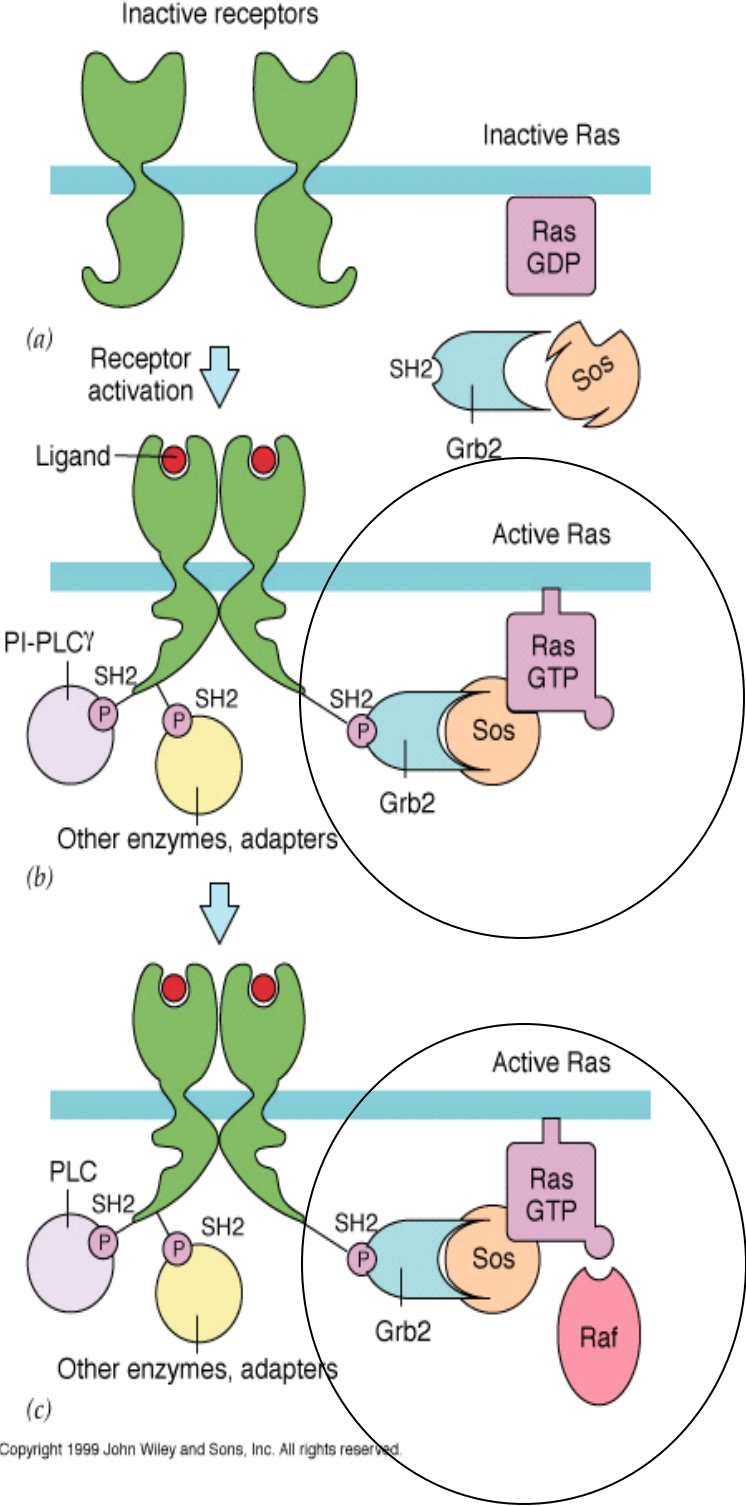


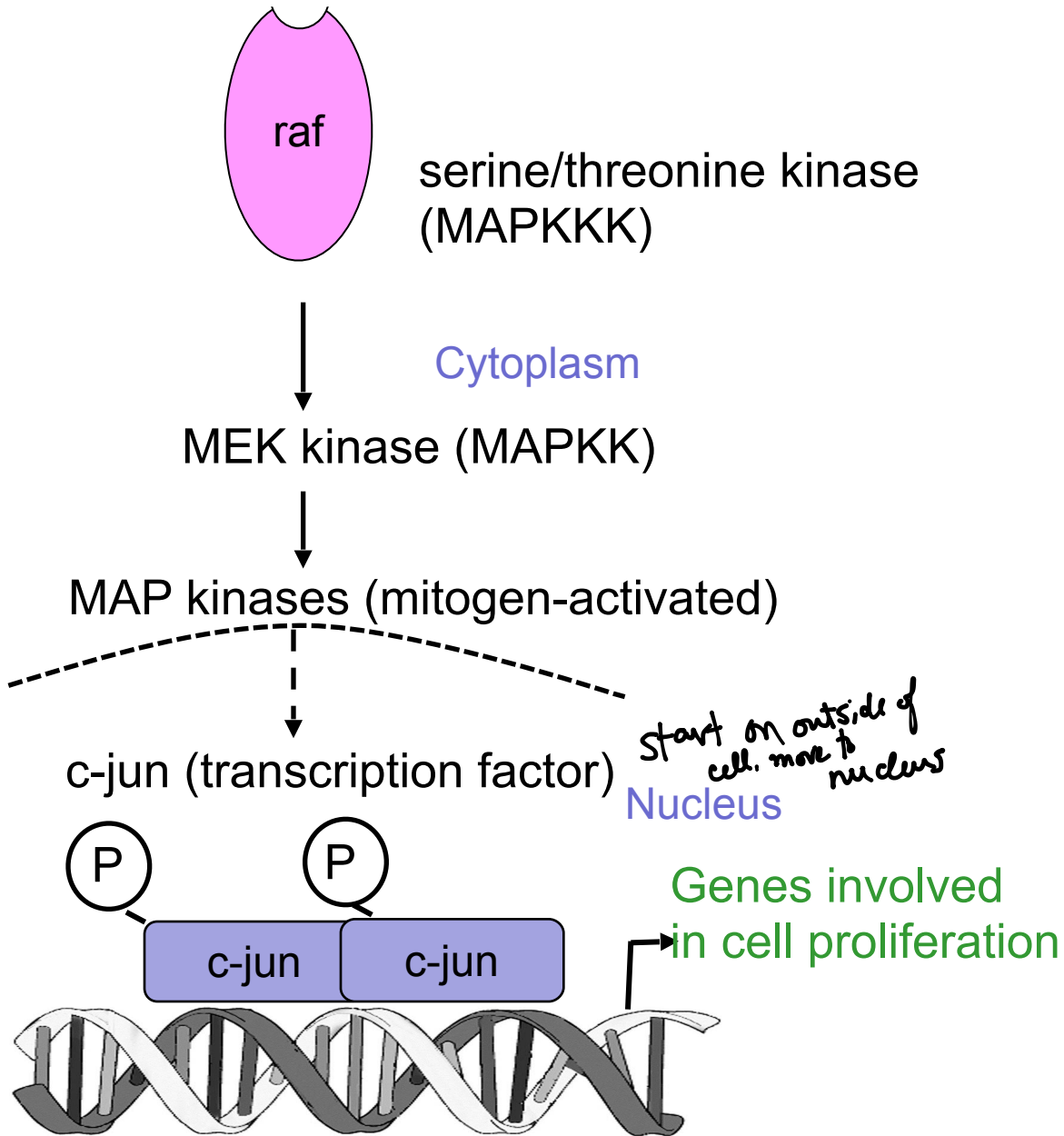
Ras. GDP (inactive)

Ras is an important intermediate in RTK signal transduction

- Ras is a small G-protein (monomeric 21-kD) responsible for activating the Raf-1 kinase
- Mutant Ras proteins are unable to dissociate GTP, so they are stuck in the ON or proliferative state: *ras* (*gene*) mutations found in 30% of human cancers.
- mutations in Ras-GAPs can lead to disease

Intracellular signalling by receptor tyrosine kinases





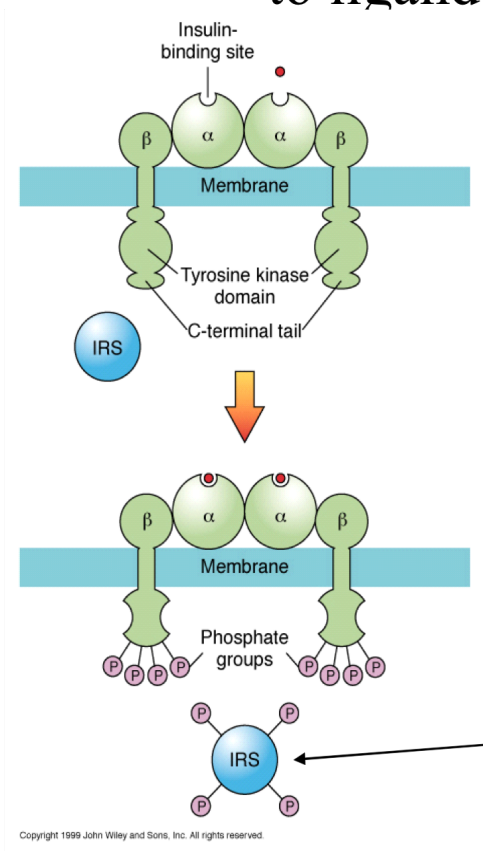
Signaling by RTKs: Summary

- RTK is activated by ligand
- Receptor phosphorylation and binding to Grb2
- Grb2 binds SOS to activate Ras by exchanging GDP for GTP
- Activated Ras then causes a change in conformation of the Raf-1 kinase resulting in its activation
- **Raf-1 then activates the MAP kinase family** which eventually results in the activation of transcription factors in the nucleus
- These transcription factors stimulate the transcription of genes involved in cell proliferation

★ Raf-1 is key intermediate to all ERF

The insulin RTK is a special case:

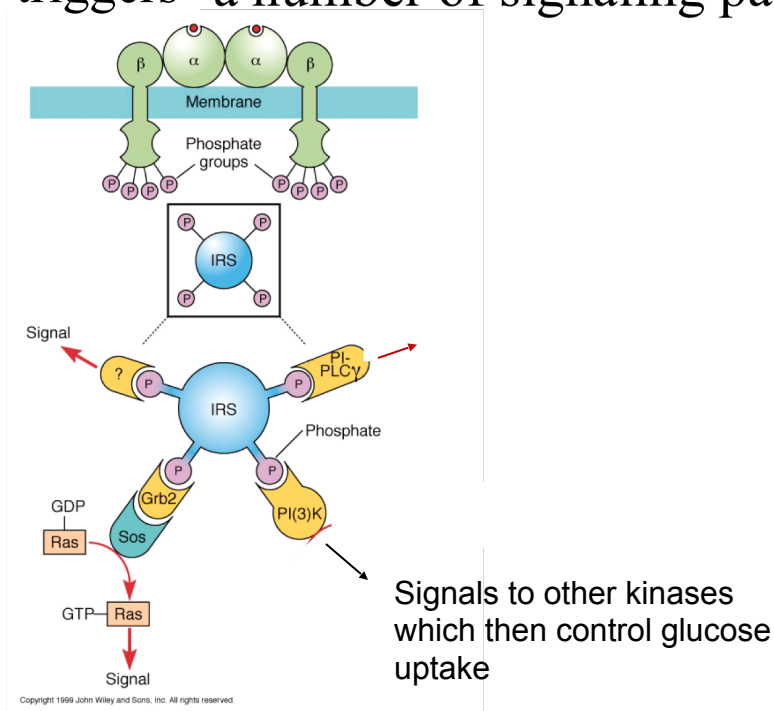
Response of the insulin receptor kinase (IRK) to ligand binding Fig. 15.20



- Heterotetramer ($2\alpha, 2\beta$) *bound by dis bridges*
- Insulin binding leads to change in structure (different from other RTKs)
- Conformation change activates β -subunit TK activity
- β subunit phosphorylates Tyr residues on cytoplasmic domains as well as downstream substrates (IRS)

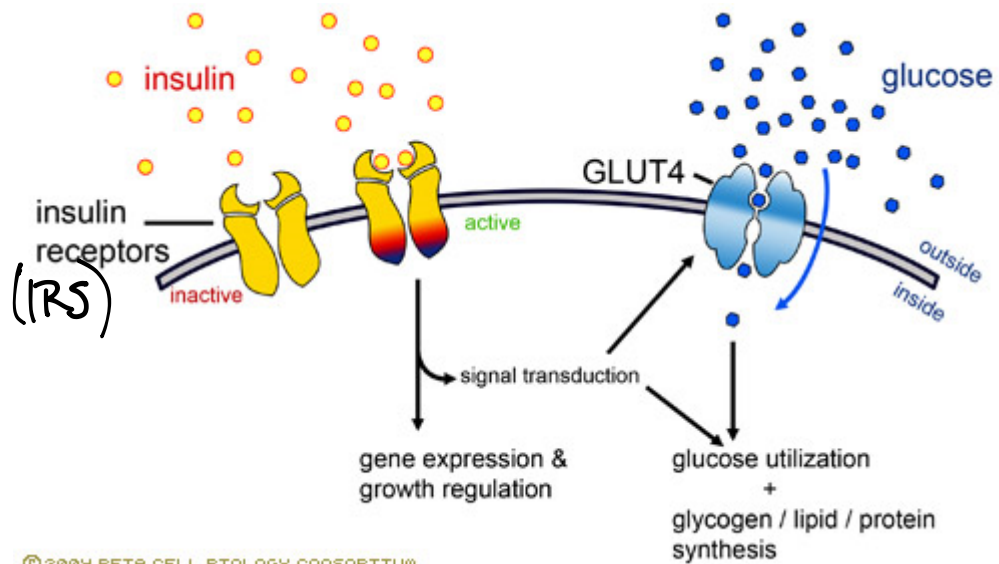
insulin receptor substrate transductⁿ molecule

Once Tyr-Phosphorylated, the IRK activity triggers a number of signaling pathways.

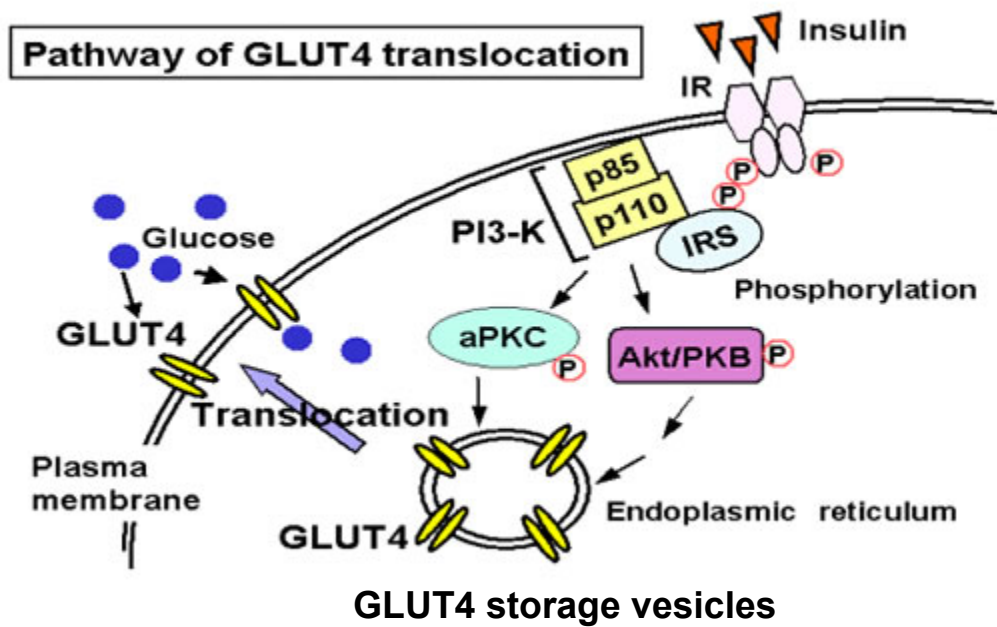


Growth/proliferation
 Survival (antiapoptosis)
 Cell motility
 Glucose metabolism- stimulates movement of
 Glucose transporter proteins to cell membrane
regulate food metabolism

In skeletal muscle and adipose (fat) tissue insulin stimulates both gene expression & glucose uptake



Molecular mechanism of insulin-stimulated GLUT4 membrane fusion



(allow glucose uptake into cell)

Insulin Therapeutics

Diabetes:

Type I- (juvenile)- destruction of beta cells of the pancreas that make insulin

Type II- Adult onset- often associated with obesity and insulin resistance and can involve autoimmunity to the insulin or receptor defects

Insulin actions:

Liver- The liver provides glucose during fasting therefore insulin stimulates the liver to store glucose in the form of glycogen

Skeletal muscle: depends on insulin for glucose uptake to provide energy

Adipose: insulin stimulates the conversion of glucose to fatty acids and storage as triglycerides (that's how sugar can cause obesity)

Diabetes results in many pathologies....

Acute: (spike of sugar)

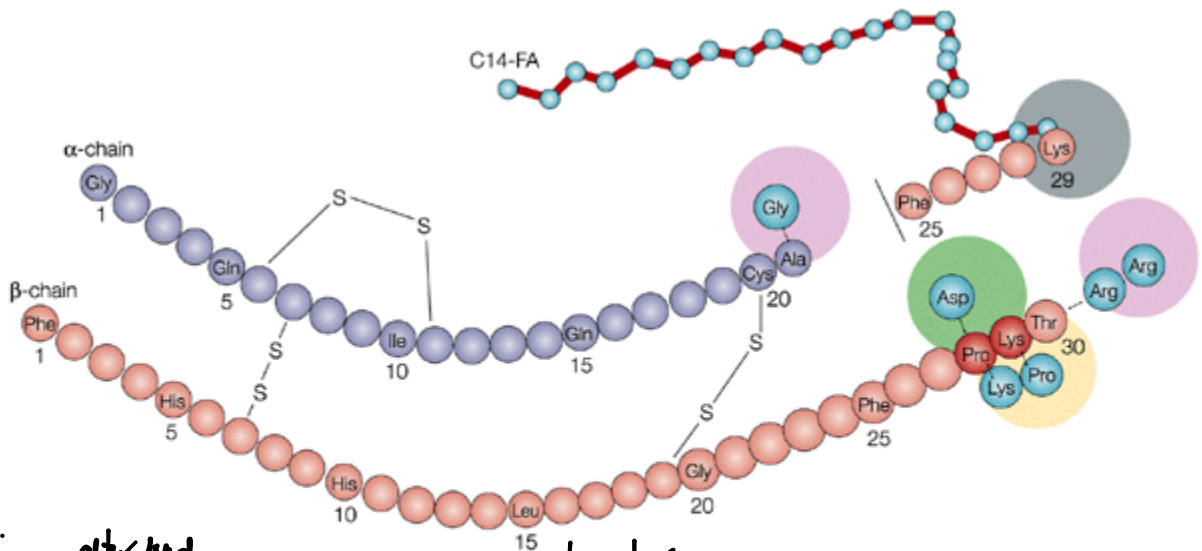
- hyperglycemia resulting in glycosuria (sugar urine), osmotic diuresis and dehydration
- electrolyte depletion
- increased lipolysis stimulated by glucagon leading to ketone production in the liver → ketoacidosis
- abnormal respiration, coma, death ^{(glucagon secreted) →}

Chronic: (cell death)

- Many vascular issues due to high blood glucose levels that result in glycosylated proteins
- Coronary artery disease

insulin that will handle spikes and long term glucose levels

Human Insulin and Insulin analogues



imm. after food

long-term

Fast-acting analogues		Long-acting analogues	
Insulin lispro	Insulin aspart	Insulin glargine	Detemir insulin

Pro-Lys Switch

B-28 Pro-Lys
B-29 Lys-Pro

B28 Pro-Asp

A21 Ala-Gly
B-30 C-terminal
Arg additions

B-30 removed
A-29 FA addition
Fatty acid

Rapid

Rapid

Long-acting

Long-acting

Onset:

min

min

1hr

1-2hr

Post-prandial hyperglycemia

Maintenance
(slow release due to aggregation of molecules therefore dissociation is required)

Activation of RTKs can ultimately lead to cell division or differentiation.

Since RTKs can function as growth factor receptors they are potential oncogenes (cancer promoting).

Tyrosine Kinase Receptors & Cancer

- Many cancer cells have either increased numbers of Tyrosine Kinase receptors (amplification) or they have acquired a mutation that makes it constantly active (constitutive activity)

Examples:

EGF-Receptor (EGFR1) (mutated or overexpressed in many epithelial cancers)

Erb-B2 (EGFR-2/Her2/neu) – Receptor (amplified/mutant in many breast cancers)

also some brain cancers
-B3 } -both of these receptors are

-B4 } heterodimer partners with -B2

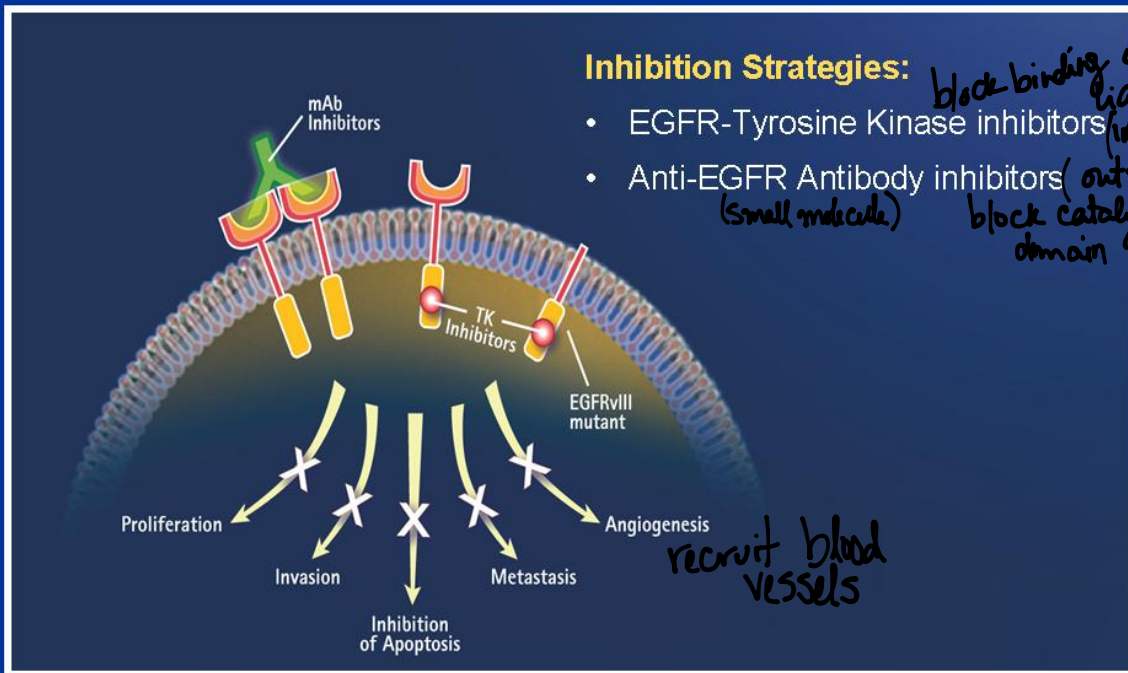


About 15-20% of breast cancers overexpress
HER2 (*neu*)

And other cancers overexpress other receptor
tyrosine kinase types.

Therapeutic strategies to target the RTK family

The EGFR Axis

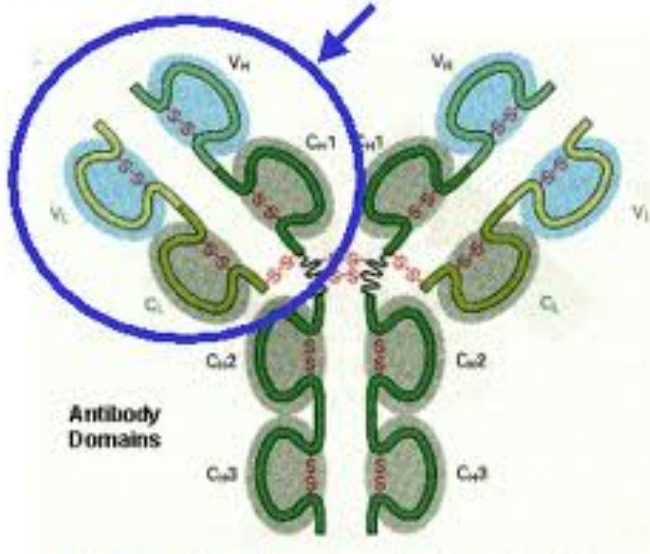


Inhibition Strategies:

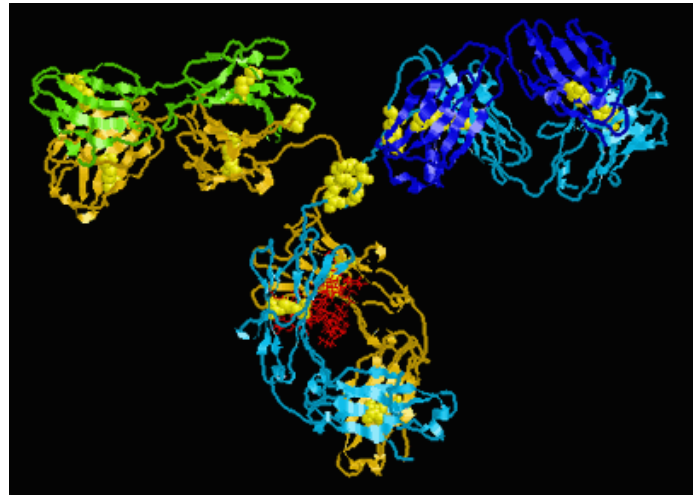
- EGFR-Tyrosine Kinase inhibitors (small molecule) *block catalytic domain*
- Anti-EGFR Antibody inhibitors *block binding of ligand (outside)*

every event above needed for cancer cell to grow

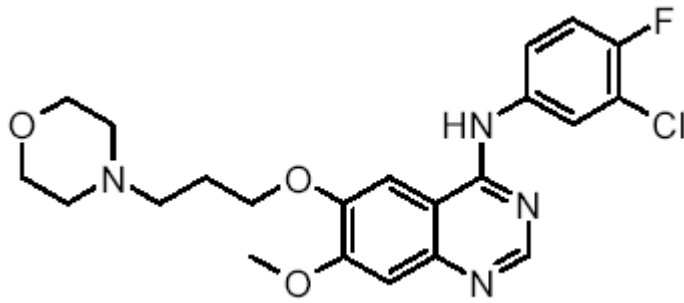
This is the Fab fragment



~ 145,000 Da



RTK Monoclonal Antibody-based therapies



447 Da



Small Molecule Inhibitors: Gefitinib (Iressa™)

Inhibitors of RTKs can be monoclonal antibodies or small molecule drugs....

v. hard to gen med. for 1 catalytic domain

EGFR inhibitors in cancer therapeutics

Monoclonal antibodies

Most Successful

Trastuzumab
(*Herceptin*, Genentech)
monoclonal antibody not to remember

RTK Target

ERBB2
(*Her2-neu*)

Cancer site

breast

Bevacizumab
(*Avastin*, Genentech)

VEGFR

colorectal
some lung cancers

Small molecules

Imatinib
(*Gleevec*, Novartis)
Sm. mol. inhibitor

PDGFR & others

some leukemias,
GI tumors

Erlotinib
(*Tarceva*, Genentech)

EGFR

some lung cancers

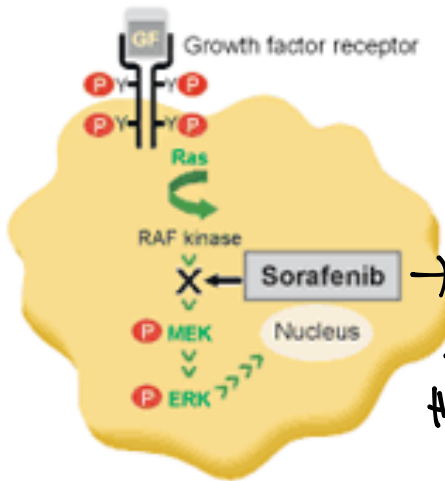
Gefitinib
(*Iressa*, Astra-Zeneca)

EGFR

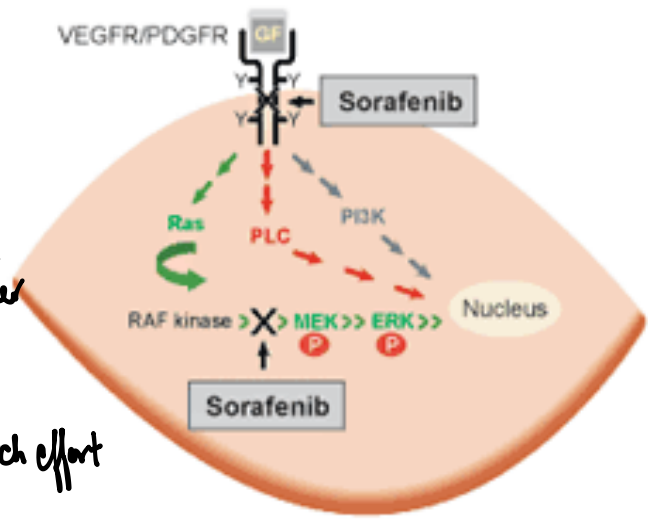
some lung cancers

Successful = ↑ survival time, not curing disease, used to chemo + ↓ chemo time

Sorefenib blocks the Raf kinase *bottleneck for Tyr-Kin receptor*
 (and VEGFR and PDGFR)

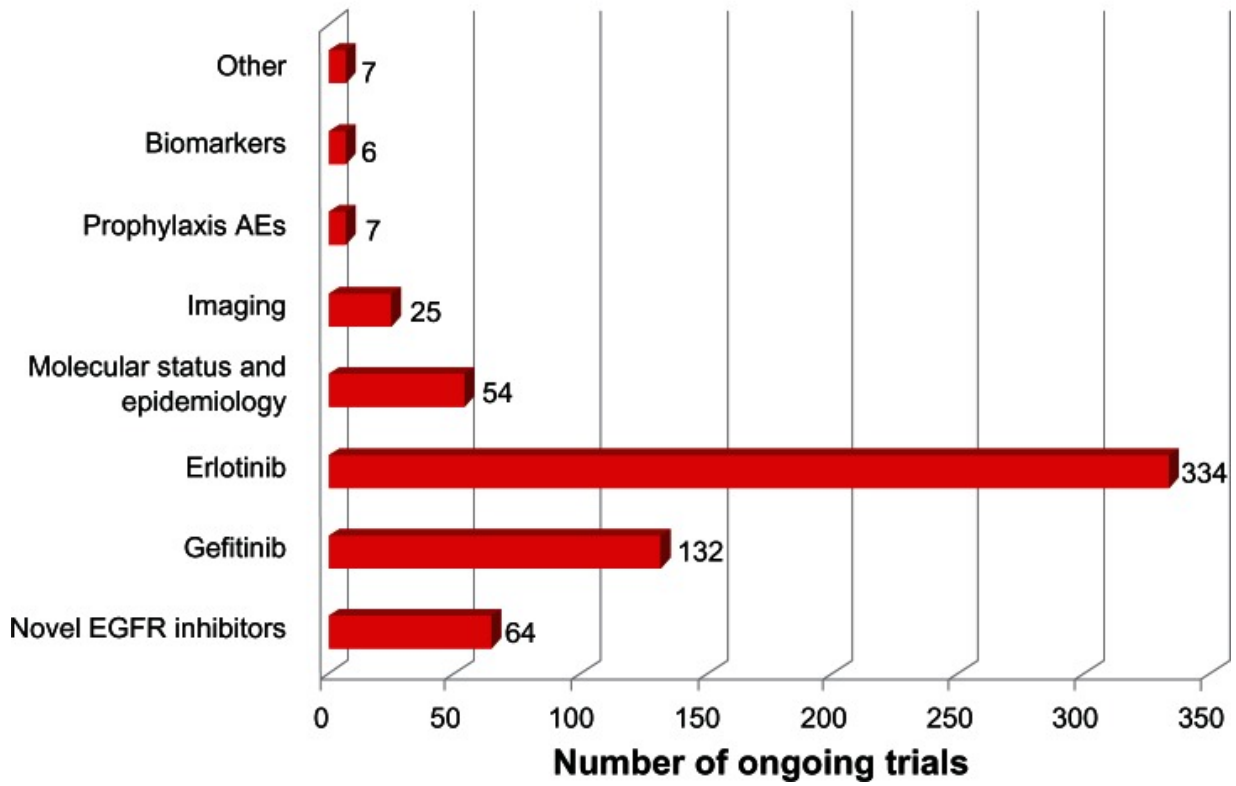


→ Stops a lot of other things too though :/
 last ditch effort



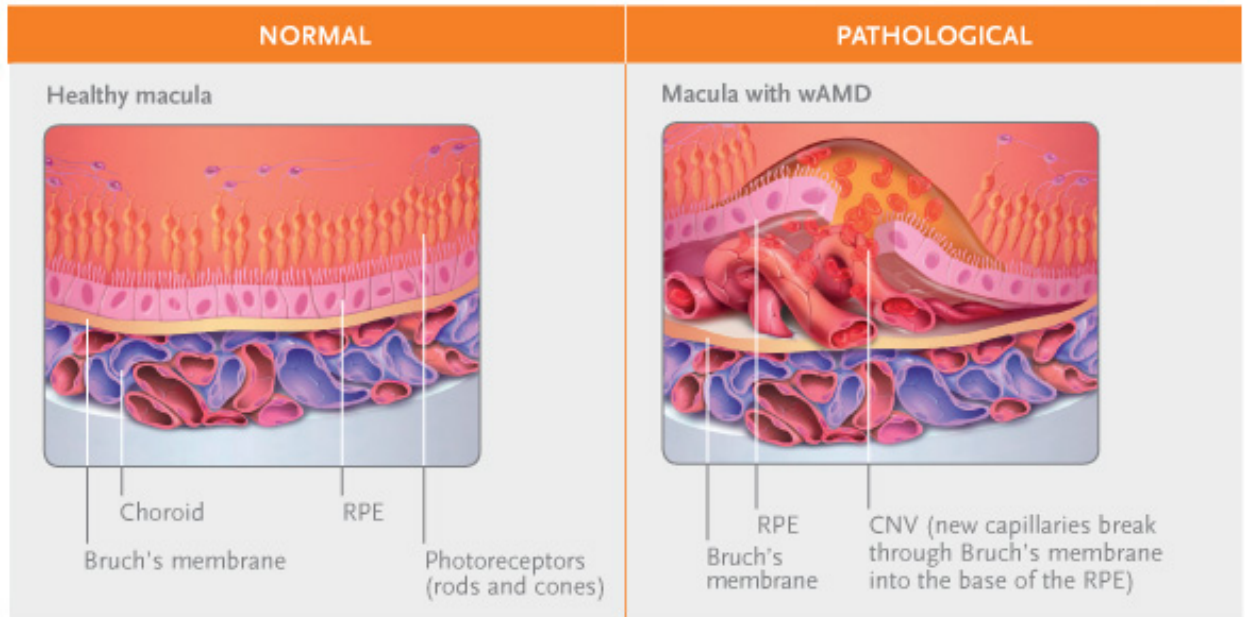
BAY 43-9006 inhibits tumor cell proliferation by targeting the RAF/MEK/ERK pathway at the level of RAF kinase.

BAY 43-9006 exerts an antiangiogenic effect by targeting the receptor tyrosine kinases VEGFR-2 and PDGFR and their associated signaling cascades.



[Onco Targets Ther. 2013; 6: 563–576.](#)

Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) can cause “Wet Macular Degeneration” and loss of central vision



CNV, choroidal neovascularization; RPE, retinal pigment epithelium; VEGF, vascular endothelial growth factor; wAMD, neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration

The macula is in the center of the retina (the layer of tissue on the inside back wall of your eyeball). Wet macular degeneration is a chronic eye disease that causes vision loss in the center of the field of vision caused by abnormal blood vessels that leak fluid or blood into the region of the macula.

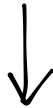


Which RTK inhibitor would you prescribe???

Avastin

Receptor Downregulation

-bound ligand results in endocytosis of tyrosine kinase receptors → eventual degradation



if degradation exceeds synthesis



net receptor down regulation

attenuation of cellular response