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Précis: The identification of two activating MTOR mutations in a patient who experienced a complete response to everolimus and pazopanib suggests an underlying mechanism of mTOR inhibitor sensitivity.
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Précis: Activating MTOR mutations are widespread in human cancers and correlate with hypersensitivity to mTOR pathway inhibition.
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Vemurafenib treatment was previously shown to uncover an NRAS-mutant chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML) in a patient with BRAF-mutant metastatic melanoma. Abdel-Wahab and colleagues report that the combination of vemurafenib and the MEK inhibitor cobimetinib blocked vemurafenib-induced CMML proliferation and restored normal white blood cell counts in this patient. Intermittent administration of vemurafenib and cobimetinib has durably maintained a near-complete melanoma response and has prevented CMML progression in association with decreased levels of CMML-derived circulating tumor DNA and reduced ERK activation in monocytes. Intermittent combination RAF and MEK inhibitor therapy may thus be useful for treatment of RAS-driven malignancies arising due to paradoxical activation of wild-type RAF by RAF inhibitors in RAS-mutant cells. For details, please see the article by Abdel-Wahab and colleagues on page 538.

ON THE COVER

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