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The foundation review in this issue of *Drug Discovery Today*, by Seyed Jalal Hosseinimehr, discusses current trends in the development of novel radioprotective agents. Such compounds can be used to protect against environmental exposure to radiation, or, more commonly, to protect patients against the harmful effects of radiation encountered during radiotherapy in the treatment of cancer. Research is focused on producing compounds with improved efficacy, routes of administration and toxicity profiles over existing drugs, such as amifostine.

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