

DESCRIPTION

Source Mouse myeloma cell line, NS0-derived



N-terminal Sequence Arg26

Analysis

Predicted Molecular Mass 15 kDa

SPECIFICATIONS

SDS-PAGE 20-25 kDa, reducing conditions

Activity Measured by its binding ability in a functional ELISA. Immobilized rmActivin RIB/Fc Chimera at 1 µg/mL (100 µL/well) can bind rmCripto with a linear range of 0.8-100 ng/mL. This protein will also bind rmNodal in a functional ELISA.

Endotoxin Level <0.10 EU per 1 µg of the protein by the LAL method.

Purity >95%, by SDS-PAGE under reducing conditions and visualized by silver stain.

Formulation Lyophilized from a 0.2 µm filtered solution in PBS. See Certificate of Analysis for details.

PREPARATION AND STORAGE

Reconstitution Reconstitute at 100 µg/mL in sterile PBS.

Shipping The product is shipped at ambient temperature. Upon receipt, store it immediately at the temperature recommended below.

Stability & Storage Use a manual defrost freezer and avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.

- 12 months from date of receipt, -20 to -70 °C as supplied.
- 1 month, 2 to 8 °C under sterile conditions after reconstitution.
- 3 months, -20 to -70 °C under sterile conditions after reconstitution.

BACKGROUND

Cripto is the founding member of the epidermal growth factor-CriptoFRL1Cryptic (EGF-CFC) family of signaling proteins that function in cancer and various developmental processes. These developmental processes include: formation of the germ layers and dorsal organizer, specification of anterior-posterior and left-right axes, and differentiation of heart muscle (1, 2). Other members of the EGF-CFC family include Cryptic, *Xenopus* FRL-1 and zebrafish OEP (one-eyed pinhead). Overall sequence identity between members of the family is low, but they do share several common domains: a variant EGF-like motif, a novel conserved cysteine-rich domain (called CFC domain), and a C-terminal hydrophobic region. Most EGF-CFC members have a glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchoring site at the C-terminus and exist as extracellular membrane-anchored proteins. However, naturally-occurring soluble isoforms also exist. Mouse Cripto shares 66% and 34% amino acid identity with human Cripto and zebrafish OEP, respectively (2). Despite weak conservation in amino acid identity, EGF-CFC family members appear to function similarly in assays for phenotypic rescue of zebrafish *oep* mutants (2). Both secreted and membrane bound forms of Cripto demonstrate biological activity (3).

Cripto, also known as CFC-2 or TDGF-1 (teratocarcinoma-derived growth factor), was originally isolated from an undifferentiated human teratocarcinoma cell line as a potential oncogene. It is overexpressed in many types of cancers and acts as a growth factor for tumors (4). Genetic evidence from mice and zebrafish points to a role for Cripto as an essential cofactor in Nodal signaling. Cripto and OEP mutants display defects in mesoderm induction and heart morphogenesis, similar to phenotypes seen in Nodal mutants (2).

Cripto acts as a cofactor for Nodal by recruiting the Activin type I Receptor, ALK-4, leading to an Act RIB-ALK4-Cripto-Nodal complex for signaling (1, 3). Cripto also forms a complex with activin and Act RIBs to block activin signaling (5). Work has shown that other TGF-β superfamily members such as Vg1 and GDF-1 also require EGF-CFC cofactors (6). Cripto can also activate mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) and Akt pathways independently of Nodal by directly binding to a membrane-associated heparan sulfate proteoglycan, glypican-1 (7).

References:

1. Rosa, F.M. (2002) Science's STKE <http://stke.sciencemag.org/>.
2. Shen, M. and A. Schier (2000) Trends Genet. **16**:303.
3. Yan, Y-T. *et al.* (2002) Mol. Cell Biol. **22**:4439.
4. Salomon, D. *et al.* (2000) Endocrine-Rel. Cancer **7**:199.
5. Gray, P.C. *et al.* (2003) Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA **100**:5193.
6. Cheng, S. *et al.* (2003) Genes & Dev. **17**:31.
7. Bianco, C. *et al.* (2003) Cancer Research **63**:1192.