

**DESCRIPTION**

**Source** *E. coli*-derived  
Asn49-Ser162, with an N-terminal Met  
Accession # P48346

**N-terminal Sequence** Met

**Analysis**

**Predicted Molecular Mass** 13.4 kDa

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Activity** Measured in a cell proliferation assay using CTLL-2 mouse cytotoxic T cells.  
The ED<sub>50</sub> for this effect is 2-15 ng/mL.

**Endotoxin Level** <1.0 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 Tris and NaCl with BSA as a carrier protein. See Certificate of Analysis for details.

**PREPARATION AND STORAGE**

**Reconstitution** Reconstitute at 100 µg/mL in sterile PBS containing at least 0.1% human or bovine serum albumin.

**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**

Interleukin 15 (IL-15) is a widely expressed 14 kDa cytokine that is structurally and functionally related to IL-2 and plays an important role in many immunological diseases (1, 2). Mature mouse IL-15 shares 70% and 96% amino acid sequence identity with human and rat IL-15, respectively. IL-15 binds with high affinity to IL-15 R $\alpha$  (3). It binds with lower affinity to a complex of IL-2 R $\beta$  and the common gamma chain ( $\gamma$ c) which are also subunits of the IL-2 receptor complex (4). IL-15 associates with IL-15 R $\alpha$  in the endoplasmic reticulum, and this complex is expressed on the cell surface (5). The dominant mechanism of IL-15 action is known as transpresentation in which IL-15 and IL-15 R $\alpha$  are coordinately expressed on the surface of one cell and interact with complexes of IL-2 R $\beta$ / $\gamma$ c on adjacent cells (6). This enables cells to respond to IL-15 even if they do not express IL-15 R $\alpha$  (5). In human and mouse, soluble IL-15-binding forms of IL-15 R $\alpha$  can be generated by proteolytic shedding and bind up nearly all the IL-15 in circulation (7-9). Soluble IL-15 R $\alpha$  functions as an inhibitor that limits IL-15 action (3, 8). Ligation of membrane-associated IL-15/IL-15 R $\alpha$  complexes also induces reverse signaling that promotes activation of the IL-15/IL-15 R $\alpha$  expressing cells (10). IL-15 induces or enhances the differentiation, maintenance, or activation of multiple T cell subsets including NK, NKT, Th17, Treg, and CD8<sup>+</sup> memory cells (11-15). An important component of these functions is the ability of IL-15 to induce dendritic cell differentiation and inflammatory activation (10, 13). IL-15 exhibits anti-tumor activity independent of its actions on NK cells or CD8<sup>+</sup> T cells (16). It also inhibits the deposition of lipid in adipocytes, and its circulating levels are decreased in obesity (17).

**References:**

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