

**DESCRIPTION**

<b>Source</b>	Human embryonic kidney cell, HEK293-derived human IL-6/IL-6R alpha Complex protein		
	Human IL-6R alpha (Leu20-Asp358) Accession # P08887	GGGSGGGSGGGS	Human IL-6 Val30-Met212 Accession # P05231
	N-terminus		C-terminus
<b>N-terminal Sequence Analysis</b>	Leu20 (Human IL-6R alpha)		
<b>Predicted Molecular Mass</b>	59 kDa		

**SPECIFICATIONS**

<b>SDS-PAGE</b>	78-93 kDa, reducing conditions
<b>Activity</b>	Measured by its ability to inhibit M1 mouse myeloid leukemia cell proliferation. The ED <sub>50</sub> for this effect is 2.5-12.5 ng/mL.
<b>Endotoxin Level</b>	<0.10 EU per 1 µg of the protein by the LAL method.
<b>Purity</b>	>90%, by SDS-PAGE visualized with Silver Staining and quantitative densitometry by Coomassie® Blue Staining.
<b>Formulation</b>	Lyophilized from a 0.2 µm filtered solution in PBS. See Certificate of Analysis for details.

**PREPARATION AND STORAGE**

<b>Reconstitution</b>	Reconstitute at 500 µg/mL in PBS.
<b>Shipping</b>	The product is shipped at ambient temperature. Upon receipt, store it immediately at the temperature recommended below.
<b>Stability &amp; Storage</b>	<p><b>Use a manual defrost freezer and avoid repeated freeze-thaw cycles.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 months from date of receipt, -20 to -70 °C as supplied.</li> <li>• 1 month, 2 to 8 °C under sterile conditions after reconstitution.</li> <li>• 3 months, -20 to -70 °C under sterile conditions after reconstitution.</li> </ul>

**BACKGROUND**

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a pleiotropic, α-helical, 22-28 kDa phosphorylated and variably glycosylated cytokine that plays important roles in the acute phase reaction, inflammation, hematopoiesis, bone metabolism, and cancer progression (1-5). Mature human IL-6 is 183 amino acids (aa) in length and shares 39% aa sequence identity with mouse and rat IL-6 (6). Alternative splicing generates several isoforms with internal deletions, some of which exhibit antagonistic properties (7-10). IL-6 induces signaling through a cell surface heterodimeric receptor complex composed of a ligand binding subunit (IL-6 R alpha) and a signal transducing subunit (gp130). IL-6 binds to IL-6 Rα, triggering IL-6 Rα association with gp130 and gp130 dimerization (11). gp130 is also a component of the receptors for CLC, CNTF, CT-1, IL-11, IL-27, LIF, and OSM (12). Soluble forms of IL-6 Rα are generated by both alternative splicing and proteolytic cleavage (5). In a mechanism known as trans-signaling, complexes of soluble IL-6 and IL-6 Rα elicit responses from gp130-expressing cells that lack cell surface IL-6 Rα (5). Trans-signaling enables a wider range of cell types to respond to IL-6, as the expression of gp130 is ubiquitous, while that of IL-6 Rα is predominantly restricted to hepatocytes, monocytes, and resting lymphocytes (2, 5). Soluble splice forms of gp130 block trans-signaling from IL-6/IL-6 Rα but not from other cytokines that use gp130 as a co-receptor (5, 13). IL-6, along with TNF-α and IL-1, drives the acute inflammatory response and the transition from acute inflammation to either acquired immunity or chronic inflammatory disease (1-5). When dysregulated, it contributes to chronic inflammation in obesity, insulin resistance, inflammatory bowel disease, arthritis, sepsis, and atherosclerosis (1, 2, 5). IL-6 can also function as an anti-inflammatory molecule, as in skeletal muscle where it is secreted in response to exercise (2). In addition, it enhances hematopoietic stem cell proliferation and the differentiation of Th17 cells, memory B cells, and plasma cells (1, 14).

**References:**

1. Mansell, A. and B.J. Jenkins (2013) Cytokine Growth Factor Rev. **24**:249.
2. Schuett, H. *et al.* (2009) Thromb. Haemost. **102**:215.
3. Erta, M. *et al.* (2012) Int. J. Biol. Sci. **8**:1254.
4. Garbers, C. *et al.* (2012) Cytokine Growth Factor Rev. **23**:85.
5. Mihara, M. *et al.* (2012) Clin. Sci. (Lond.) **122**:143.
6. Hirano, T. *et al.* (1986) Nature **324**:73.
7. Kestler, D.P. *et al.* (1995) Blood **86**:4559.
8. Kestler, D.P. *et al.* (1999) Am. J. Hematol. **61**:169.
9. Bihl, M.P. *et al.* (2002) Am. J. Respir. Cell Mol. Biol. **27**:48.
10. Alberti, L. *et al.* (2005) Cancer Res. **65**:2.
11. Murakami, M. *et al.* (1993) Science **260**:1808.
12. Muller-Newen, G. (2003) Sci. STKE **2003**:PE40.
13. Mitsuyama, K. *et al.* (2006) Clin. Exp. Immunol. **143**:125.
14. Cerutti, A. *et al.* (1998) J. Immunol. **160**:2145.