

DESCRIPTION

Species Reactivity	Human/Mouse/Rat
Specificity	Detects human, mouse, and rat GDF-8/Myostatin in direct ELISAs and Western blots.
Source	Polyclonal Goat IgG
Purification	Antigen Affinity-purified
Immunogen	<i>E. coli</i> -derived recombinant mouse GDF-8/Myostatin Asp268-Ser376 Accession # O08689
Conjugate	Alexa Fluor 488 Excitation Wavelength: 488 nm Emission Wavelength: 515-545 nm
Formulation	Supplied 0.2mg/ml in 1X PBS with RDF1 and 0.09% Sodium Azide
*Contains <0.1% Sodium Azide, which is not hazardous at this concentration according to GHS classifications. Refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for additional information and handling instructions.	

APPLICATIONS

Please Note: Optimal dilutions should be determined by each laboratory for each application. [General Protocols](#) are available in the Technical Information section on our website.

Neutralization	Optimal dilution of this antibody should be experimentally determined.
Western Blot	Optimal dilution of this antibody should be experimentally determined.
Immunohistochemistry	Optimal dilution of this antibody should be experimentally determined.

PREPARATION AND STORAGE

Shipping	The product is shipped with polar packs. Upon receipt, store it immediately at the temperature recommended below.
Stability & Storage	Protect from light. Do not freeze. 12 months from date of receipt, 2 to 8 °C as supplied

BACKGROUND

Growth Differentiation Factor 8 (GDF-8), also known as myostatin, is a member of the TGF- β superfamily that is expressed specifically in developing and adult skeletal muscle. GDF-8 cDNA encodes a 376 amino acid (aa) prepropeptide with a 24 aa residue signal peptide, a 223 aa residue amino-terminal propeptide, and a 109 aa residue carboxy-terminal mature protein. Mature GDF-8 contains the canonical 7-cysteine motif common to other TGF- β superfamily members. Similar to the TGF- β s, activins and BMP-11, GDF-8 also contains one extra pair of cysteine residues that is not found in other family members. The bioactive form of GDF-8 is a homodimer with an apparent molecular weight of approximately 25 kDa. GDF-8 is highly conserved across species. At the amino acid sequence level, mature human, mouse, rat and cow GDF-8 are 100% identical. Within the TGF- β superfamily, GDF-8 is most closely related to BMP-11, a mammalian protein that acts as a dorsal mesoderm and neural inducer in *Xenopus* explants. The two proteins share 90% amino acid sequence identity within their mature chain. A targeted disruption of GDF-8 in mouse results in large mice with a widespread increase in skeletal muscle mass, indicating that GDF-8 is a negative regulator of skeletal muscle growth. A mutation in the bovine GDF-8 gene has been shown to be responsible for the double-muscling phenotype in cattle breeds such as Belgian Blue cattle that is characterized by an increase in muscle mass. GDF-8 has also been shown to inhibit preadipocyte differentiation to adipocytes. Mature GDF-8 binds to activin type II receptors and the binding is antagonized by the activin-binding protein, follistatin. R&D Systems recombinant GDF-8 preparations have been shown to act similarly to Activin A in both the *Xenopus* animal cap and the K562 assays.

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