

## DESCRIPTION

<b>Species Reactivity</b>	Rat
<b>Specificity</b>	Detects rat IL-18/IL-1F4 in Western blots. In Western blots, approximately 25% cross-reactivity with recombinant mouse IL-18 is observed and 10% cross-reactivity with recombinant human IL-18 is observed.
<b>Source</b>	Polyclonal Goat IgG
<b>Purification</b>	Antigen Affinity-purified
<b>Immunogen</b>	<i>E. coli</i> -derived recombinant rat IL-18/IL-1F4 His37-Ser194 Accession # P97636
<b>Formulation</b>	Lyophilized from a 0.2 µm filtered solution in PBS with BSA as a carrier protein. See Certificate of Analysis for details.

## 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.

	Recommended Concentration	Sample
<b>Western Blot</b>	0.1 µg/mL	Recombinant Rat IL-18/IL-1F4 (Catalog # 521-RL)

## PREPARATION AND STORAGE

<b>Reconstitution</b>	Reconstitute at 0.2 mg/mL in sterile 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>• 6 months, -20 to -70 °C under sterile conditions after reconstitution.</li> </ul>

## BACKGROUND

Interleukin-18 (IL-18), also known as IL-1F4 and IFN-γ inducing factor (IGIF), is a member of the IL-1 family of cytokines and is a key molecule in the innate immune response (1). Rat IL-18 is synthesized as a 24 kDa proprotein that contains a 36 amino acid (aa) propeptide and a 158 aa mature region (2). Under inflammatory conditions, the propeptide is cleaved by Caspase-1 in the cytoplasm to liberate the mature nonglycosylated 18 kDa monomeric IL-18 (3, 4). Mature rat IL-18 shares 91% aa sequence identity with mouse IL-18 and 60-64% aa sequence identity with human, canine, feline, porcine, and rhesus macaque IL-18. IL-18 is secreted by a variety of cell types including macrophages, dendritic cells, and epithelial cells (1, 5). Circulating mature IL-18 is sequestered by soluble IL-18 binding proteins (IL-18 BP) that inhibit IL-18 bioactivity (6). IL-18 interacts with the widely expressed IL-18 Rα which then recruits the signaling subunit IL-18 Rβ (7, 8). The IL-1 family member IL-1F7 also binds to IL-18 Rα but does not recruit IL-18 Rβ or induce signaling (9). IL-1F7 binds IL-18 BP and enhances its neutralizing effect on IL-18 activity (9). IL-18 synergizes with other cytokines to activate NK, Th1, and Th17 cells and to increase the production of IFN-γ (1, 5, 10-12). IL-18 can also promote Th2 cytokine release which reduces the effectiveness of antiviral responses (13, 14). Increased levels of active IL-18 contribute to the severity of autoimmunity and hypertension, while deficiency of IL-18 results in symptoms of metabolic syndrome (1, 5, 15, 16). In cancer, IL-18 stimulates Th1 and NK cells to target tumor cells, but it can also promote angiogenesis, metastasis, and tumor cell immune evasion (11).

### References:

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