

cDNA sequence of the human cellular early growth response gene Egr-1

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The Egr family of cellular proteins is composed of four distinct members which contain closely related Cys₂-His₂ zinc finger motifs. Egr-1 (1, 2) [zif 268 (3), NGFIA (4), Krox 24 (5) and TIS 8(6)] is induced by diverse signals that initiate mitogenesis, differentiation and by neuronal excitation (2, 3, 4, 6). Egr-1 activates transcription via the sequence CGCCCCGC (7, 8, unpublished observations), thus suggesting that it may play a broad role as a nuclear signal transducer. The human Egr-1 gene is located on chromosome 5q23–31 (2). Since interstitial deletions in this area occur frequently in patients with therapy related acute myelocytic leukemia (t-AML) (2) and since Egr-1 levels are high in differentiated myeloid cells (unpublished observations), it is possible that Egr-1 has a role in myeloid differentiation. We have therefore isolated and fully sequenced the human Egr-1 cDNA from a human 303 fibroblast library obtained by cross-hybridization to the murine Egr-1 clone OC3.1 (2). The overall nucleotide similarity between mouse and human

sequences is 87% and 94% at the nucleotide and protein levels, respectively. The protein is particularly rich in proline, serine, and threonine residues that have been found in abundance in other transcription factors. Interestingly, the zinc finger domain (a.a. 340–419) critical in DNA binding is identical in mouse (2, 3, 5), rat (4), chicken (9) and man.

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