

The nucleotide sequence of *Ly 48* (mouse leukosialin, sialophorin): the mouse homolog of CD43

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Ly 48, also known as mouse leukosialin, is a major sialoglycoprotein on the surface of a number of hematopoietic cells. *Ly 48* is the homolog of the human CD43 gene (1, 2) (also known as large sialoglycoprotein, sialophorin, and leukosialin) and the rat W3/13 gene (3). The precise physiologic role of leukosialin is unknown, however the molecule has been implicated in proliferation, Ca²⁺ signalling, and cell adhesion. Characteristic isoforms of leukosialin are found on different cell types and on activated cells. Defects in CD43 expression have been correlated with Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome, an X-linked immunodeficiency disease.

We used a partial mouse cDNA clone encoding mouse leukosialin, ML18 (4) to screen a mouse B10.P cosmid library constructed in the Lorist II vector (5). Two independent cosmid clones were isolated. Transfection, PCR and RNA blot analysis indicated that one of the clones encoded *Ly 48*. This clone was then subcloned into Bluescript and M13 and sequenced by the dideoxy method. The predicted protein sequence was analysed using GCG software and found to be 74% identical to rat leukosialin and 53% identical to human leukosialin (6). The predicted coding region, based on similarity to the human, rat and partial mouse cDNA sequences, contained no introns which

is unusual for a mammalian transmembrane cell surface protein and suggests that the alternative molecular weight isoforms of leukosialin are due to post-translational processes.

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S D G P Q A K D E A A P Q S L *

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