Supplemental Materials/Methods

PCR/RT-PCR

Human fetal pancreas RNA was generously donated by Alberto Hayek (University of California, San Diego). Total RNA from INS-1 cells, NIT cells and human islets was isolated using the RNA Easy isolation Kit (Qiagen). RNA was reverse transcribed using random hexamers at 42 °C for 50 minutes with SuperScript II Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). The gene-specific primers used to amplify cDNA are shown in supplementary Table 1. For amplification with HotStarTaq enzyme, cDNA was denatured at 92°C, annealed between 58 and 62 °C and extended at 72 °C for 35 cycles. PCR products were analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis and ethidium bromide staining. Controls with no template were used to ensure that there was no DNA contamination.