

# Nucleotide sequence of the cDNA encoding human tyrosinase-related protein

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We have isolated a pigment cell-specific cDNA, pMT4, from B16 mouse melanoma cDNA library by differential hybridization (1) and initially considered that it codes for tyrosinase, an essential enzyme of melanin biosynthesis (1). However, the pMT4 was shown to map to the brown (*b*) locus (2) that determines the type of melanin produced, which is inconsistent with the assumption that tyrosinase is encoded at the *c* locus (3). Subsequently, the protein encoded by pMT4 was shown to possess no tyrosinase activity in transient expression assays (4) and tentatively termed tyrosinase-related protein (TRP) (2), since mouse TRP shares 40% amino acid homology with the sequence of mouse tyrosinase (4). Here we present the nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of the cDNA coding for human TRP, a homologue to mouse *b* locus gene product. Two cDNA clones were isolated from a cDNA library of S7 human melanoma cells (5), constructed in the Okayama-Berg vector (6), by using the mouse TRP cDNA, pMT4, as a hybridization probe. The assigned reading frame codes for a polypeptide of 527 amino acids with a molecular weight of 60,000, including a putative signal peptide of 24 amino acids (indicated by negative numbers). Human TRP is shorter than mouse TRP by ten amino acids at the carboxy terminus and the degree of sequence homology is about 93%.

## REFERENCES

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-20
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-1 1 10
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480 490

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