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(54) **DNA SEQUENCE CODING FOR PROTEIN C**

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 435/440; 435/252.33; 536/23.2

(58) **Field of Search** 435/320.1, 226,
 435/69.1, 440, 252.33; 536/23.2

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

Genomic and cDNA sequences coding for a protein having substantially the same biological activity as human protein C are disclosed. Recombinant plasmids and bacteriophage transfer vectors incorporating these sequences are also disclosed.

3 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

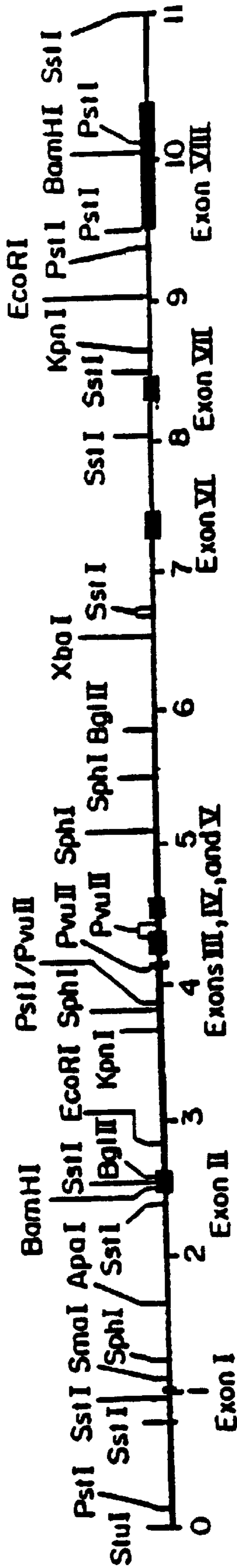


FIG. 1

GGCTTAAAC CACACAGGCC TGGCCTTTCAG TCCCTGGCTCT GCGAGTAAIG CATGGATGTA ACATGGAGA CCCAGGACCT TGCCTCAGTC TTCGAGICT GGTGGCTGCA GGTACTAGT GGTGGTACAC
 CCTACTCCCG GAGGATGGG GACAGATCT GATCGATCCC CTGGGTGGT GACTTCCCTG TGCATCACAC GGAGCCAGC AAGGGTTGGA TTTTAAATAA ACCACTAAC TCCCTCGAGT CTEAGTTCC
 CCTCTAIGA AATGGGGTIG ACAGCATTAA TACTAGCTC TGGGGTGGT GTGAGCTTA ACTGANGTCA TAATATCTA TGTTACTGA GCATGAGCTA TGTCGAAGC CTGTTTTGAG AGCTTTAIGT
 GACTTAAC CTTAATICT CACACACCC TTTAAGGCAC AGATACACCA CGTATTCGA TCCATTTTAC AATGAGGA ACTGAGGCAT GGAGCAGTGA AGCATCTGC CCAACATTCG CCTCCAGTAA
 GTCTGGAGC TGGAAITTC ACCGTGAGT CTGGCTTCAI GGCCTGCCCT GTGATCCTG TAAATTTGT TGAAGACA CCAATGAGT CCAATCAGG TTAGCTAATA TTCTCAGCC NGTCATCAGA
 CCGGAGAGG CAGCCACCC ACTGTCCCA GCGAGAGAC AACATCCTG GCACTCTC CACTGCATC TGGAGCTCT TCTAGGECAG GCAGTGTGAG CTCAGCCCA CGTAGAGGG GCAGCCGAGG
 CCTTCTGAG CTATGTCTCT AGCGAGCAG GACCCCTCAT TCCAGCTTCC GCTGAGGCG CAGCACACAG GGACAGCCCT TCCATTCGCG TCCACCTGG GGGTTCAGGC AGAGCAGCAG CCGGGGTAGC

-42
 Met Trp Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Leu Leu Phe Val Ala Thr Trp Gly Ile Ser Gly Thr Pro Ala
 ACTGCCCCGA GCTCAGAGT CCTCTCAGA CAGGTGGCAG TGCCCTCAGA ATG TGG CAG CTC ACA AGC CTC CTG CTG TTC GTG GGC ACC TGG GGA ATY TCC GGC ACA CCA GCT 63

-20
 Pro Leu
 CCT CTT G GTAGGECAC GGCACCCCTA CCCCCGACC CTGTGGCAT CTACAGGCC CTTCACAGCT TCCACCATCT CTCTGAGCC TGGGTGAGGT GAGGGCCAGA 190
 TGGGATGGC AGGATCAC TGACANGTCC CAGGTAGGCC AGCTGCCAGA GTGCCACACA GGGCTGCCA GGGCAGGCAT GGGTGATGGC AGGGAGCCC GCGATGACCT CCTAAGCTC CCTCTCCAC 320
 ACGGGATGG TCACAGATC CCTTGGCT TCCCTCTCCA CCGACTACT CCTCAACTG TGANGACCC AGGCCAGCC AGGCCAGGC TACCGTCCAC ACTATCCAGC ACAGCTCC CACTCAAT GCACACTGGC 450
 CTGATGGCT CCGTGCCECA ACCCTTTC TGGTCTCCAC AGCCAGGGG AGGAGGCTAT GATCTTGGG GAGGTCCGA GGCACATGGG CCCCIAAGC CACACAGGC TGTTGGTTTC ATTGTGCTT 580
 TTATAGACT GTTATCTGC TTGGACCTG CACCTCCACC CTTTCCCAAG GTCCCTCATA CTGAGGCATA CCCCCTCTA GGTGCTTT TCCCTCATC CACTGAGC ACACCCCA CTTGATCTC 710
 CCTCCTAC TGTCCTTGC ACCAAGCAG ACACCTTACA GAGCCAGGA CACACCTGG CACCTTCTT GGGTATGG TCTGTCTATC CCCCAGGTT CCCCAGGTT GGGGAGGC ATGGGATA 840
 CTGGTTGG GAGGAGAGG AAGACTGGG GGATGTGICA AGATGGGCT GCATGTGGT TACTGGCAGA AGAGTGAGAG GATTANCTT GGCAGCTT ACAGCAGC CCAAGGTTG AGTACTTATC 970
 TCTGGCCAG GCTGTATTGG ATGTTTTACA TGACGGTCTC ATCCCATGT TTTTGGATGA GTAAATGGA CCTTAGAAG GTGGTCAAG TGCCCAAG TCACACAG ATGGGGTGG GGTTCACAGG 1100
 GAGGCTGTC CATCTCAG CAGGCTTCC TCCCTCAACT GGCATCTGT TCTTGGGAG GAAAGACCA GAGGACCCCT GCGCCAGCC ATGACCTAGA ATTAGATGA GCTTTGAGGG GCGCGAGACA 1230

-19
 Asp Ser Val Phe Ser Ser Ser
 AGACCTTCCC AGGCTCTCCC AGCTTGTCT CCTCAGACCC CCTCATGGCC CCAGCCCTC TTAGGCCCT CACCANGTG AGCTCCCTE CCTCCAAAC CAGT AC TCA GTG TTC TCC AGC AGC 1353

Glu Arg Ala His Gln Val Leu Arg Ile Arg Lys Arg Ala Asn Ser Phe Leu Glu Leu Arg His Ser Ser Leu Glu Arg Glu Cys Ile Glu Ile Cys Asp
 GAG CGT GCC CAC CAG GAG GAG GAG GAG GAG CTC CGT CAC AGC AGC CTG CAG CAG CAG TGC ATA GAG GAG GAG ATC TGT GAC 1458

Phe Glu Glu Ala Lys Glu Ile Phe Gln Asn Val Asp Asp Thr
 TTC GAG GAG GGC AAG GAA ATT TTC CAA ATY GIG GAT GAC ACA Y GTAGGCCAC CATGGTCCA GAGGATGAGG CTCAGGGCG AGCTGTAAAC CAGCAGGCC CTCGAGGAGC 1579

FIG. 2A

CACAAACATG CCAATGCCAT TGTAGGAGCT CCCCAGAACT GCTACCTCC TCTCCCTGT ATTCCCTTC CACTCAGCAG AGCTCAGCAG CATECCATTA CTAACTCCAG GGATCACCCT 5644
CAACAGCCCT GGGTACAAI GAGCTTTTAA GAAGTTTAA CACTATGTA AGGAGACAA GGCAGTGGG GATGCTGCTT TGCCTGACTC TGGCATTTG ATGACTGAC 5774
TGCATGAGAG GGGTGTAA TTTGTAATC AGGATTTCT CCCCACAGCT CTGGGATCA AAGAGTAA CAGCCAGTCA CAGCCAGTCA CAGCCAGTCA CTGGCTGAC 5904
TCTTGGCATT CAGTGGACT GTTGTGTTGACT TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG TCACTTACTG 6034
137
TGGCCACAG GCTGGAGGAG GACCAGACA GGAGGCGAGT CTGGGGAGGA GTGCCCTGCA GGCCTCTCAC CACCCTGCCC TACCCTCAGT TG AAG TTC CCT TGT GGG AGG CCC TGG AAG CGG 6154
Met Glu Lys Arg Ser His Leu Lys Arg Asp Thr Glu Asp Gln Val Asp Pro Arg Leu Ile Asp Gly Lys Met Thr Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser Pro 6259
ATG GAG AAG AAG CGC AGT CAC CTG AAA CGA GAC ACA GAA GAC CAA GTA GAT CCG CCG CTC ATT GAT GGG AAG ATG ACC AGG CCG GGA GAC AGC CCC
184
Trp Gln
TGG CAG Y GTGGAGGG AGGCAGCC EGCCTGTCAC GTCTGGGTC CCGGATCACT GAGTCCATCC TGGCAGTAT GCTCAGGGTG CAGAACCGA GAGGAAGCG CTGCCATTC GTTGGGGG 6385
TGAAGAGGT GGGGATGCT TCAGGGAAG ATGGACCAA CCTGAGGGA GAGGAGGCT CAGGTGGGT GAGGGAGGG CATGGGGG ATGGAGGGT CTGCAGGGG GAGGTTTACA GTTCTAANA 6515
AGAGCTGGA AGACACTGCT CTGCTGGCGG GATTTAGG AGAAGCCCTG CTGATGGAG AGGCTAGGA GGGAGGCG GGCCTGAGT CCCCACATGG GAATGCAC TTACTGGGT 6645
CCCCCTCTG CCAGGCATGG GGGAGTAGG AACCAACAG TGGGATATT TGCCCTGGG ACTCAGACTC TGCAGGGTC AGACCCCAA AGACCCGGA CCCCAGTGG GACAGGCCCT 6775
TCAGATAGG GCTCAGGGA GGCAGAGGG ANCATCCAGG CAGCTGGGG GCCACAAAGT CTCTCTGGAA GACACAGGC CTGCCAGGC TCTAAGGATG AGAGGAGCT GCTGGGGAT GTTGGTGTG 6905
CTGAGGCTA CTGAACAGT ATGAACAGTG LAGGACAGC ATGGCCAAAG GCAGGAGAC ACCCTGGAC TGGGAAATGG GCAMAATAG AAACGCCAG AAGGCCCTAA GCCTATGCC 7035
185
ATATGACCAG GGAACCCAGG AAGTGCATA TGAACCCAG GTGCCCTGGA CTGGAGGTG TCAGGAGGCA GGCCTGTGAT GTCATCTCC CACCCTATC CAG YGTG GTC CTG CTG GAC TCA AAG 7159
Lys Lys Leu Ala Cys Gly Ala Val Leu Ile His Pro Ser Trp Val Leu Thr Ala Ala His Cys Met Asp Glu Ser Lys Lys Leu Val Arg Leu Val Val Leu Leu Asp Ser Lys 7266
AAG CTG GCC TGC GGG GCA GTG CTC ATC CAC CCC TCC TGG GTG ACA GCG GCC CAC TGC ATG GAT GAG TCC AAG AAG CTC CTT GTC AGG CTT G Y GATGGGCTG
GAGCCAGCA BAAGGGGCT GCCAGAGGC TGGGTAGGG GACCAGGCAG GTGTCTCAGG TTTGGGGAG CCGCTCCCC AGGTCTTAA GCAGAGGCT TCTTGAGCTC CACAGAGGT GTTGGGGG 7396
AAGAGCCTA TGTGCCCCA CCGTGCAC CCATGTAC CCAGTATTT GCAGTAGGG GTTCTCTGT GCCCTCTG CAGGTACCIG CACACACATG TTTGTGAGG GTTACADAGA 7526
CCTTACCCTC TCCACTCCA CTCATGAGG GCAGGCTGTG TGGCTCAG CACCTTGGG TGCAGAGCC AGCAGGCT GCCTCAGGG GCCTCAGGG CACAGACTGA CAGGATGGA GTGTACAGA 7656
GGAGCCTA GCATCTGCA AGCCACAG CTCCTTCCCT AGCAGGCTGG GGCCTCTAT GCATGGCC GCATCTATGG CAATTTCTGG AGGGGGTC TGGCTCACT CTTTATGCA AAAGAGGCG 7786
AAGCATAT GAGAAAGCC AATTCACAT TCTCAGCC CTGCTCAGG ATAACTATG CCAGTGGCC CCGTGGCTT GCTTCCAGG GAACACTAG TCTGGACTGA GAGGACTTC 7916
TCTCTCAGG GGGACCCGG CCTGCTCC CTGGCAGTGC CAGTCTCTC GGGTCTCTC CACTGCTCTC CAGTACTT TGCCTCATGT TCCCTTGGG CTTGGCTG 8046
TGTCTGGGT TCCAGGGT CTGGGCTTC CCGTCTCC CCGTCTCC TGGTCTCAG GCTCCTGAC TCTGNAAC CACCCAGCAT CCTACCCCT TGGATTGACA CCGTGGCC ACCTCTCTG 8176
GCAGGAAG TACCCTGA TAGGGTTCA AGTGGCTCC GCGCCAGTGC CTGGAGTG AGTGGCTCC TGGGTGACA GTCTCCGGT GACCTCTT CAGGCCCT CCGGCCCTG CAGGGCACA 8306
224
GCAGTGGTG GGCCTCAGGA AAGTCCACT GGGAGAGGC TCCCGCAGC CCACTCTGAC TGTGCCCTCT GCCTGCAGT CA GAG TAT GAC CTG CCG CGC TGG GAG AAG TGG GAG CTG GAC 8426
Leu Asp Ile Lys Glu Val Phe Val His Pro Asn Tyr Ser Lys Ser Thr Asp Asn Asp Ile Ala Leu Leu His Leu Ala Gln Pro Ala Thr Leu Ser Gln Thr 8531
CTG GAC ATC AAG GAG GTC TTC GTC CAC CCC AAC TAC AGC AAG ACC ACC GAC AAT GAC ATC GCA CTG CTG CAC CTG GCC CAG CCC GCC ACC CTC TCG CAG ACC

FIG. 2C

Ile Val Pro Ile Cys Leu Pro Asp Ser Gly Leu Ala Glu Arg Glu Leu Asn Gln Ala Gly Gln Glu Thr Leu Val Thr Gly Trp Gly Tyr His Ser Ser Arg Glu
 ATA GTG CCC ATC TGC CTC CCG GAC AGC CTT GCA GAG CCG GAG CTC AAT CAG GCC GCG CAG GAG ACC CTC GTG ACG GGC TGG GGC TAC CAC AGC ACC CGA GAG 8636
 Lys Glu Ala Lys Arg Asn Arg Thr Phe Val Leu Asn Phe Ile Lys Ile Pro Val Val Pro His Asn Glu Cys Ser Glu Val Met Ser Asn Met Val Ser Glu Asn
 AAG GAG GCC AAG AAG AAC CCG ACC TTC CTC AAC TTC ATC AAG AAT CCC GTC GTC CCG CAC AAT GAG TCC ACC GAG GTC ATG ACC AAC ATG ATG GTC TCT GAG AAC 8741
 Met Leu Cys Ala Gly Ile Leu Gly Asp Arg Gln Asp Ala Cys Glu Gly Asp Ser Gly Gly Pro Met Val Ala Ser Phe His Gly Thr Trp Phe Leu Val Gly Leu
 ATG CTG TGT GCG ATC CTC GCG GAC CCG CAG GAT GCC TCC GAG GGC GAC AGT GCG CCC ATG GTC GCC TCC TTC CAC GGC ACC TGG TTC CTG GTC GTC GGC CTG 8846
 Val Ser Trp Gly Glu Gly Cys Gly Leu Leu His Asn Tyr Gly Val Tyr Thr Lys Val Ser Arg Tyr Leu Asp Trp Ile His Gly His Ile Arg Asp Lys Glu Ala
 GTG ACG TGG GGT GAG GGC TGT GGG CTC CTT CAC AAC TAC GGC GTT TAC ACC AAA GTC GAC TGG ATC CAT GCG CAC ATE AGA GAC AAG GAA GAC 8951
 Pro Gln Lys Ser Trp Ala Pro STOP
 CCC CAG AAG ACG TGG GCA CCT TAG CGACCCCTCC TCCAGGGCTG GCGTTTGGCA TGGCAATGGA TGGGACATTA ⁴¹⁹ TGGGACATG TACAGACAC ACCGGCCCTGC TGTTCGTCC TCCATCCCT
 CTTTGGGCT CTCTGGAGG GAGTAKAT TTAGTGACA CCTGTGTAT GTCACATGCC TTATGATAG ATCTTTACT CTTGTGGG CTTGTGGG TGGGAGGAG CAGATCCAG TTTTGGGGG
 TCTAAGCTG TGTGTGTGA GGGGATACT CIGTTTATGA AAGCATTA ⁴²⁰ AAGACACAC CAGGAGCA CTAGACCTT TCCAGGGCT TGGGAGAG CCTGTGCAG CCGGGATGC TGAAGGTGAG 9075
 GCTTGACCAG CTTCCAGCT ACCCAGCTA TGAAGTAGAC ATGTTTAGCT CATATCACAG AGGAGGAAE TGAAGGCTE GAAGGTTTA CATGTGGAG CCAGGATICA AATCAGGIC TGACTCCAA 9465
 ACCCAGGTC TTTTCTCTGT TCTCCACTGT CCTGGAGGAC AGCTGTCTCA AGGTTTCC GCTGTAGGA AGCAGCCAGA GACCCAGAA GGTGTGGTTC AGCCAGNAT 9595

FIG. 2D


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-42      -40      -30
Met Trp Gln Leu Thr Ser Leu Leu Phe Val Ala Thr
CGG CGA ACT TCC AGT ATC TCC ACC ACC GCC TCT GCC AGT GCC TCC AGA ATC TCC CAG CTC ACA ACC CTC CTC TTC CTT GCC ACC 39

-10      -1 +1
Trp Gly Ile Ser Gly Thr Pro Ala Pro Leu Asp Ser Val Phe Ser Ser Ser Glu Arg Ala His Gln Val Leu Arg Ile Arg Lys Arg Ala
TCC GCA ATT TCC CGC ACA CCA GCT CCT CTT CAC TCA CTC GTC TTC TCC ACC ACC CAG CGT GCC CAC CAG GTG CTG CCG ATC CGC AAA CGT GCC 129

20      30
Asn Ser Phe Leu Glu Glu Leu Arg His Ser Ser Leu Glu Arg Glu Cys Ile Glu Glu Ile Cys Asp Phe Glu Glu Ala Lys Glu Ile Phe
AAC TCC TTC CTC GAG CAG CTC CGT CAC CTC CGT CAC ACC ACC CTC GAG CAG CCG CAG TCC ATA CAG CAG ATC TGT CAC TTC GAG CAG GCC AAG CAA ATT TTC 219

40      50      60
Gln Asn Val Asp Asp Thr Leu Ala Phe Trp Ser Lys His Val Asp Gly Asp Gln Cys Leu Val Leu Pro Leu Glu His Pro Cys Ala Ser
CAA AAT CTC CAT CAC ACA CTC GCC TTC IGG TCC AAG CAC CTC CAG GGT CAC CAG TCC TTG CTC CCC TTC CAG CAC CCC TCC GCC AGC 309

70      80      90
Leu Cys Cys Gly His Gly Thr Cys Ile Asp Gly Ile Gly Ser Phe Ser Cys Asp Cys Arg Ser Gly Trp Glu Gly Arg Phe Cys Gln Arg
CTG TCC TCC GGG CAC GGC ACC TCC ATC CAC GGC ATC GGC ACC TTC ACC TCC ACC TCC CCG ACC GCG TCC GAG CAG CCC TTC TCC CAG CCC 399

100     110     120
Glu Val Ser Phe Leu Asn Cys Ser Leu Asp Asn Gly Gly Cys Thr His Tyr Cys Leu Glu Glu Val Gly Trp Arg Arg Cys Ser Cys Ala
CAG GTG ACC TTC CTC AAT TCC TCT CTC GAC AAC GGC GGC TCC ACC CAT TAC TGC CTA GAG CAG CTC GCG TCC CCG CCC TGT ACC TGT CCG 489

130     140     150
Pro Gly Tyr Lys Leu Gly Asp Asp Leu Leu Gln Cys His Pro Ala Val Lys Phe Pro Cys Gly Arg Pro Trp Lys Arg Met Glu Lys Lys
CCT GCC TAC AAG CTC GGC GAC CAC CTC CTC CAG TGT CAC CCC GCA CTC AAG TTC CCT TGT GCG ACC CCC TCC AAG CCG ATC CAC AAG AAG 579

160     170     180
Arg Ser His Leu Lys Arg Asp Thr Glu Asp Gln Glu Asp Gln Val Asp Pro Arg Leu Ile Asp Gly Lys Met Thr Arg Arg Gly Asp Ser
CGC ACT CAC CTC AAA CCA CAC ACA GAA GAC CAA CAA CAC CAA GTA CAT CCG CGC CTC ATT CAT GCG AAG ATC ACC ACC CCG CCA CAC ACC 669

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FIG. 3A

CCC TCC CTG CAG GCC TGG GCT TTT GCA TGG CAA TGG ATG GCA **CAT TAA ACC** CAC ATG TAA CAA GCA CAC CCG CCT GCT GTT CTG TCC TTC 1479

CAT CCC TCT TTT GGG CTC TTC TGG AGG CAA GTA ACA TTT ACT GAG CAC CTG TTC TAT CTC ACA TGC CTT ATG AAT AGA ATC TTA ACT CCT 1569

AGA GCA ACT CTG TGG GGT GGG CAG CAG CAG ATC CAA GTT TTG CCG GGT CTA AAG CTC TCT CTC TTG ACC CCG ATA CTC TCT TTA TGA AAA 1659

ACA ATA AAT AAC ACA ACC ACC AAA AAA AAA 3' 1689

FIG. 3C

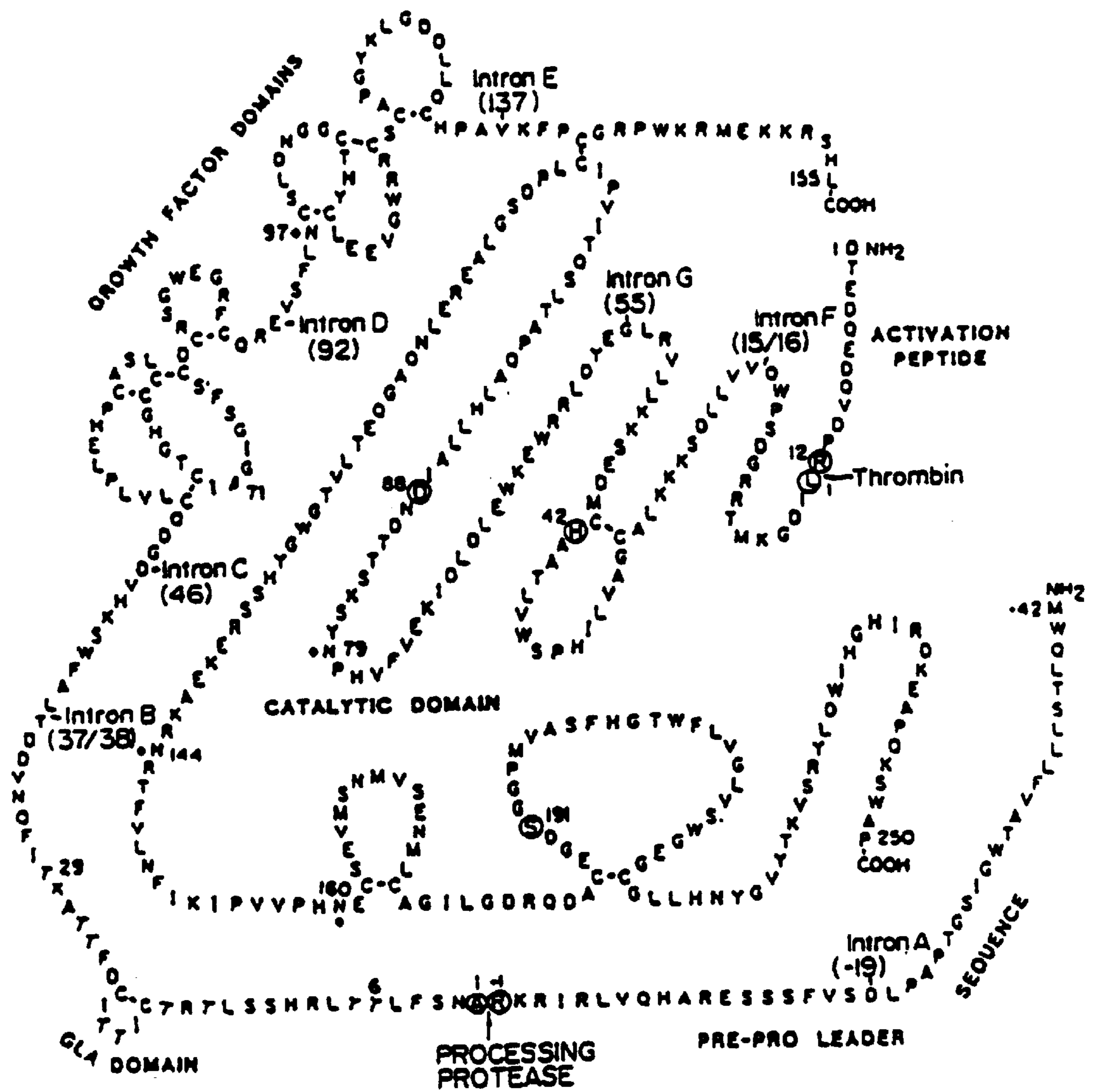


FIG. 4

DNA SEQUENCE CODING FOR PROTEIN C

Matter enclosed in heavy brackets [] appears in the original patent but forms no part of this reissue specification; matter printed in italics indicates the additions made by reissue.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

This invention was made with government support under National Institutes of Health grant number HL16919. The government has certain rights in the invention.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to sequences coding for plasma proteins in general and, more specifically, to a DNA sequences which codes for a protein having substantially the same structure and/or activity of human protein C.

BACKGROUND ART

Protein C is a zymogen, or precursor, of a serine protease which plays an important role in the regulation of blood coagulation and generation of fibrinolytic activity in vivo. It is synthesized in the liver as a single-chain polypeptide which undergoes considerable processing to give rise to a two-chain molecule comprising heavy (Mr=40,000) and light (Mr=21,000) chains held together by disulphide bonds. The circulating two-chain intermediate is converted to the biologically active form of the molecule, known as "activated protein C" (APC), by the thrombin-mediated cleavage of a 12-residue peptide from the amino-terminus of the heavy chain. The cleavage reaction is augmented in vivo by thrombomodulin, an endothelia cell cofactor (Esmon and Owen, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 78: 2249-2252, 1981).

Protein C is a vitamin K-dependent glycoprotein which contains approximately eleven residues of gammacarboxyglutamic acid (gla) and one equivalent of betahydroxyaspartic acid which are formed by post-translational modifications of glutamic acid and aspartic acid residues, respectively. The post-translational formation of specific gamma-carboxyglutamic acid residues in protein C requires vitamin K. These unusual amino acid residues bind to calcium ions and are believed to be responsible for the interaction of the protein with phospholipid, which is required for the anticoagulant activity of protein C.

In contrast to the coagulation-promoting action of other vitamin K-dependent plasma proteins, such as factor VII, factor IX, and factor X, activated protein C acts as regulator of the coagulation process through the inactivation of factor Va and factor VIIa by limited proteolysis. The inactivation of factors Va and VIIIa by protein C is dependent upon the presence of acidic phospholipids and calcium ions. Protein S has been reported to regulate this activity by accelerating the APC-catalyzed proteolysis of factor Va (Walker, J. Biol. Chem. 255:5521-5524, 1980).

Protein C has also been implicated in the action of plasminogen activator (Kisiel and Fujikawa, Behring Inst. Mitt. 73:29-42, 1983). Infusion of bovine APC into dogs results in increased plasminogen activator activity (Comp and Esmon, J. Clin. Invest. 68: 1221-1228, 1981). Recent studies (Sakata et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 82: 1121-1125, 1985) have shown that addition of APC to cultured endothelia cells leads to a rapid, dose-dependent increase in fibrinolytic activity in the conditioned media, reflecting increases in the activity in both urokinase-related and tissue-type plasminogen activators by the cells. APC

treatment also results in a dose-dependent decrease in anti-activator activity.

Inherited protein C deficiency is associated with recurrent thrombotic disease (Broekmans et al., New Eng. J. Med. 309: 340-344, 1983; and Seligsohn et al., New Eng. J. Med. 310: 559-562, 1984) and may result from genetic disorder or from trauma, such as liver disease or surgery. This condition is generally treated with oral anti-coagulants. Beneficial effects have also been obtained through the infusion of protein C-containing normal plasma (see Gardiner and Griffin in Prog. in Hematology, ed. Brown, Grune & Stratton, NY, 13: 265-278). In addition, some investigation have discovered that the anti-coagulant activity of protein C is useful in treating thrombotic disorders, such as venous thrombosis (WO 85/00521). In some parts of the world, it is estimated that approximately 1 in 16,000 individuals exhibit protein C deficiency. Further, a total deficiency in protein C is fatal in newborns.

While natural protein C may be purified from clotting factor concentrates (Marlar et al., Blood 59: 1067-1072) or from plasma (Kisiel, *ibid*), it is a complex and expensive process, in part due to the limited availability of the starting material and the low concentration of protein C in plasma. Furthermore, the therapeutic use of products derived from human blood carries the risk of disease transmission by, for example, hepatitis virus, cytomegalovirus, or the causative agent of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). In view of protein C's clinical applicability in the treatment of thrombotic disorders, the production of useful quantities of protein C and activated protein C is clearly invaluable.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

Briefly stated, the present invention discloses a DNA sequence which codes for a protein having substantially the same biological activity as human protein C.

In addition, the present invention discloses a recombinant plasmid or bacteriophage transfer vector comprising a cDNA sequence comprising the protein C gene cDNA sequence. The amino acid and DNA sequences of this cDNA coding for human protein C are also disclosed.

Other aspects of the invention will become evident upon reference to the detailed description and attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 illustrates a restriction enzyme map of the genomic DNA coding for human protein C.

FIG. 2 illustrates the complete genomic sequence, including exons and introns for human protein C. Arrowheads indicate intron-exon splice junctions. The polyadenylation or processing sequences of A-T-T-A-A-A and A-A-T-A-A-A at the 3' end are boxed. ♦, potential carbohydrate binding sites; √, apparent cleavage sites for processing of the connecting dipeptide; ↓, site of cleavage in the heavy chain when protein C is converted to activated protein C; ●, sites of polyadenylation.

FIG. 3 depicts the amino acid and DNA sequences for a cDNA coding for human protein C.

FIG. 4 illustrates a proposed model for the structure of human protein C.

BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Prior to setting forth the invention, it may be helpful to an understanding thereof to set forth definitions of certain terms to be used hereinafter.

Biological Activity: A function or set of functions performed by a molecule in a biological context (i.e., in an organism or an in vitro facsimile). Biological activities of proteins may be divided into catalytic and effector activities. Catalytic activities of the vitamin K-dependent plasma proteins generally involve the specific proteolytic cleavage of other plasma proteins, resulting in activation or deactivation of the substrate. Effector activities include specific binding of the biologically active molecule to calcium or other small molecules, to macromolecules, such as proteins, or to cells. Effector activity frequently augments, or is essential to, catalytic activity under physiological conditions.

For protein C, biological activity is characterized by its anticoagulant and fibrinolytic properties. Protein C, when activated, inactivates factor Va and factor VIIIa in the presence of phospholipid and calcium. Protein S appears to be involved in the regulation of this function (Walker, *ibid*). Activated protein C also enhances fibronolysis, an effect believed to be mediated by the lowering of levels of plasminogen activator inhibitors (van Hinsbergh et al., *Blood* 65: 444-451, 1985). As more fully described below, Exons VII and VIII are primarily responsible for the catalytic activity of protein C.

Transfer Vector: A DNA molecule which contains, inter alia, genetic information which ensures its own replication when transferred to a host microorganism strain. Examples of transfer vectors commonly used for recombinant DNA are plasmids and certain bacteriophages. Transfer vectors normally include an origin of replication and sequences necessary for efficient transcription and translation of DNA.

As noted above, protein C is synthesized as a single-chain polypeptide which undergoes considerable processing to give rise to a two-chain molecule; a heavy chain (M_r 41,000) and a light chain (M_r 12,000), held together by a disulfide bond.

Within the present invention, a λ gt11 cDNA library was prepared from human liver mRNA. This library was then screened with ^{125}I labeled antibody to human protein C. Antibody-reactive clones were further analyzed for the synthesis of a fusion protein of B-galactosidase and protein C in the λ gt11 vector.

One of the clones gave a strong signal with the antibody probe and was found to contain an insert of approximately 1400 bp. DNA sequence analysis of the DNA insert revealed a predicted amino acid sequence which shows a high degree of homology to major portions of the bovine protein C, as determined by Fernlund and Stenflo (*J. Biol. Chem.* 257: 12170-12179; *J. Biol. Chem.* 257: 12180-12190). *Chem.* 257: 12170

The DNA insert contained the majority of the coding region for protein C beginning with amino acid 65 of the light chain, including the entire heavy chain coding region, and proceeding to the termination codon. Further, following the stop codon of the heavy chain, there are 294 base pairs of 3' noncoding sequence and a poly (A) tail of 9 base pairs. The processing or polyadenylation signal A-A-T-A-A-A was present 13 base pairs upstream from the poly (A) tail in this cDNA insert. This sequence is one of two potential polyadenylation sites.

The cDNA sequence also contains the dipeptide LysArg at position 156-157, which separates the light chain from the heavy chain and is removed during processing by proteolytic cleavage. Upon activation by thrombin, the heavy chain of human protein C is cleaved between arginine-12 and leucine-13, releasing the activation peptide.

In order to obtain the remainder of the light chain coding sequence (amino acids 1-64), a human genomic library in λ

Charon 4A phage was screened for genomic clones of human protein C using the cDNA described above as a hybridization probe. Three different λ Charon 4A phage were isolated that contained overlapping inserts for the gene coding for protein C.

The position of exons on the three phage clones were determined by Southern blot hybridization of digests of these clones with probes made from the 1400 bp cDNA described above. The genomic DNA inserts in these clones were mapped by single and double restriction enzyme digestion followed by agarose gel electrophoresis, Southern blotting, and hybridization to radiolabeled 5' and 3' probes derived from the cDNA for human protein C, as shown in FIG. 1.

DNA sequencing studies were performed using the dideoxy chain-termination method. As shown in FIG. 2, the nucleotide sequence for the gene for human protein C spans approximately 11 kb of DNA. These studies further revealed a potential pre-pro leader sequence of 42 amino acids. Based on homology with the leader sequence of bovine protein C in the region -1 to -20, it is likely that the pre-pro leader sequence is cleaved by a signal peptidase following the Ala residue at position -10. Processing to the mature protein involves additional proteolytic cleavage following residue -1 to remove the amino-terminal propeptide, and at residues 155 and 157 to remove the Lys-Arg dipeptide which connects the light and heavy chains. This final processing yields a light chain of 155 amino acids and a heavy chain of 262 amino acids.

As noted above, the protein C gene is composed of eight exons ranging in size from 25 to 885 nucleotides, and seven introns ranging in size from 92 to 2668 nucleotides. Exon I and a portion of Exon II code for the 42 amino acid pre-pro peptide. The remaining portion of Exon II, Exon III, Exon IV, Exon V, and a portion of Exon VI code for the light chain of protein C. The remaining portion of Exon VI, Exon VII, and Exon VIII code for the heavy chain of protein C. The amino acid and DNA sequences for a cDNA coding for human protein C are shown in FIG. 3.

The location of the introns in the gene for protein C are primarily between various functional domains. Exon II spans the highly conserved region of the leader sequence and the gamma-carboxyglutamic acid (gla) domain. Exon III includes a stretch of eight amino acids which connect the Gla and growth factor domains. Exons IV and V each represent a potential growth factor domain, while Exon VI covers a connecting region which includes the activation peptide. Exons VII and VIII cover the catalytic domain typical of all serine proteases.

The amino acid sequence and tentative structure for human pre-pro protein C are shown in FIG. 4. Protein C is shown without the Lys-Arg dipeptide, which connects the light and heavy chains. The location of the seven introns (A through G) is indicated by solid bars. Amino acids flanking known proteolytic cleavage sites are circled. \blacklozenge designates potential carbohydrate binding sites. The first amino acid in the light chain, activation peptide, and heavy chain start with number 1, and differ from the shown in FIGS. 2 and 3.

Carbohydrate attachment sites are located at residue 97 in the light chain and residues 79, 144, and 160 in the heavy chain, according to the numbering scheme of FIG. 4. The carbohydrate moiety is covalently linked to Asn, but Thr, Ser, or Gln may be substituted. In the majority of instances, the carbohydrate attachment environment can be represented by N-X-Ser or N-X-Thr, where N=Asn, Thr, Ser, or Gln, and X=any amino acid.

The catalytic domain of protein C, which is encoded by Exons VII and VIII, plays a regulatory role in the coagulation process. This domain possesses serine protease activity which specifically cleaves certain plasma proteins (i.e., factors Va and VIIIa), resulting in their activation or deactivation. As a result of this selective proteolysis, protein C displays anticoagulant and fibronolytic activities.

The example which follows describes the cloning of DNA sequences encoding human protein C.

EXAMPLE

Restriction endonucleases and other DNA modification enzymes (e.g., T₄ polynucleotide kinase, bacterial alkaline phosphatase, Klenow DNA polymerase, T₄ polynucleotide ligase) may be obtained from Bethesda Research Laboratories (BRL) and New England Biolabs and are used as directed by the manufacturer, unless otherwise noted.

CLONING OF DNA SEQUENCES ENCODING HUMAN PROTEIN C

A cDNA coding for a portion of human was prepared as described by Foster and Davie (PNAS (USA) 81: 4766-4770, 1984, herein incorporated by reference). Briefly, a λ gt11 cDNA library was prepared from human liver mRNA by conventional methods. Clones were screened using 125_I-labeled affinity-purified antibody to human protein C, and phage were prepared from positive clones by the plate lysate method (Maniatis et al., *ibid*), followed by banding on a cesium chloride gradient. The cDNA inserts were removed using Eco RI and subcloned into plasmid pUC9 (Vieira and Messing, *Gene* 19: 259-268, 1982). Restriction fragments were subcloned in the phage vectors M13mp10 and m13mpll (Messing, *Meth. in Enzymology* 101: 20-77, 1983) and sequenced by the dideoxy method (Sanger et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 74: 5463-5467, 1977). A clone was selected which contained DNA corresponding to the known sequence of human protein C (Kisiel, *ibid*) and encoded protein C beginning at amino acid 65 of the light chain and extending through the heavy chain and into the 3' non-coding region. This clone was designated λ HC1375.

The cDNA insert from λ HC1375 was nick translated using α -³²P dNTP's and used to probe a human genomic library in phage λ Charon 4A (Maniatis et al., *Cell* 15: 687-702, 1978) using the plaque hybridization procedure of Benton and Davis (*Science* 196: 181-182, 1977) as modified by Woo (*Meth. in Enzymology* 68: 381-395, 1979). Positive clones were isolated and plaque-purified (by Foster et al., *PNAS (USA)* 82: 4673-4677, 1985, herein incorporated by reference).

Phage DNA was prepared from positive clones by the method of Silhavy et al. (Experiments with Gene Fusion,

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1984). The purified phage DNA was digested with EcoRI and subcloned into pUC9 for further mapping and sequencing studies. Further analysis suggested that the gene for protein C was present in three EcoRI fragments. In order to generate overlapping protein C DNA sequences, purified phage DNA was digested with Bgl II and subcloned into pUC9.

The sequences of the EcoRI and Bgl II protein C fragments were determined by subcloning the fragments into M13 phage cloning vectors. Sequence analysis of the overlapping fragments established the DNA sequence of the entire protein C gene.

Alternatively, the complete DNA sequence has been determined using a second cDNA clone isolated from a λ gt11 cDNA library. This clone encodes a major portion of protein C, beginning at amino acid 24 and including the heavy chain coding region, termination codon, and 3' noncoding region. The insert from this λ phage clone was subcloned into pUC9 and the resultant plasmid designated pHC 6L.

This pHC 6L insert was nick translated and used to probe a human genomic library in phage λ Charon 4A. One genomic clone was identified which contained a 4.4 kb EcoRI fragment corresponding to the 5' end of the protein C gene. This phage clone was subcloned into pUC9 and the resultant plasmid designated pHCR 4.4. DNA sequence analysis revealed that the pHCR 4.4 insert comprised two exons, encoding amino acids -42 to -19, and amino acids -19 to 37. Thus, the DNA sequence of the entire protein C gene was established due to the overlapping sequences of pHC 6L (24 to 3' noncoding region) and pHCR 4.4 (-42 to 37).

From the foregoing it will be appreciated that, although specific embodiments of the invention have been described herein for purposes of illustration, various modifications may be made without deviating from the spirit and scope of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is not limited except as by the appended claims.

We claim:

1. An isolated human DNA sequence which codes for a protein having substantially the same biological activity as human protein C, wherein said protein comprises a light chain as shown in FIG. 3 from amino acid number 1 to amino acid number 155, and a heavy chain as shown in FIG. 3 from amino acid number 158 to amino acid number 419.

2. An isolated DNA sequence comprising the sequence of FIG. 2, from bp 1 to bp 8972, which sequence codes for human protein C.

3. A bacterial plasmid or bacteriophage transfer vector comprising a cDNA sequence comprising the human protein C gene cDNA sequence.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : RE 37,958 E
DATED : February 10, 2003
INVENTOR(S) : Foster et al.

Page 1 of 1

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 1,

Line 12, insert the following section:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

A continuation application of this reissue patent has been filed as U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/217,105, filed 8-13-02. --

Line 17, change "sequences" to -- sequence --.

Lines 34 and 64, change "endothelia" to -- endothelial --.

Line 65, change "in" (second occurrence) to -- of --.

Column 2,

Line 11, change "Hematology,ed." to -- Hematology, ed. --

Lines 12-13, change "investigation" to -- investigators --.

Column 3,

Line 15, change "inactivities" to -- inactivates --

Line 18, change "fibronolysis," to -- fibrinolysis, --.

Column 5,

Line 7, change "fibronolytic" to -- fibrinolytic --.

Signed and Sealed this

Twenty-fifth Day of March, 2003



JAMES E. ROGAN

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office