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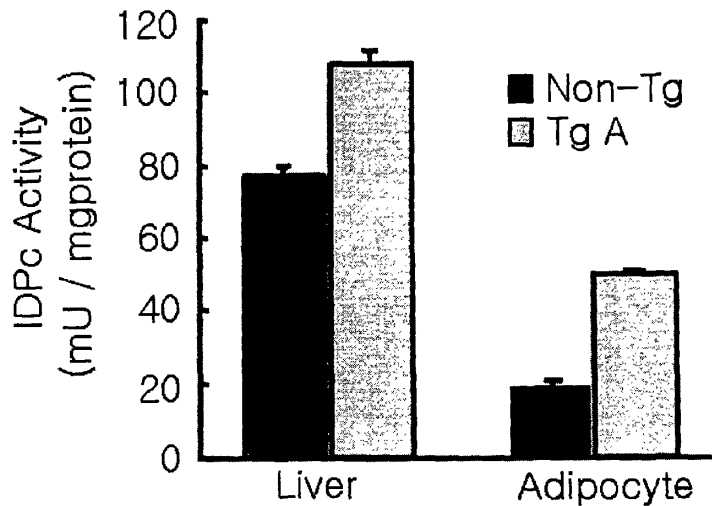
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ISOCITRATE DEHYDROGENASE, GENE THEREOF, AND USE OF THE SAME IN THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY, HYPERLIPIDEMIA, AND FATTY LIVER IN LIPID BIOSYNTHESIS



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a cytosolic isocitrate dehydrogenase, its gene, and its use in the treatment of obesity, hyperlipidemia, and fatty liver. The expression of the IDPc gene and the concomitant increase in IDPc level bring about an increase in the cellular level of NADPH, which causes the lipid deposition in adipocytes, leading to obesity and fatty liver. A decrease in the cellular level of NADPH, resulting from the suppression of the gene expression of IDPc, has the effect of inhibiting the lipid deposition in adipocytes. Further, by taking advantage of the suppressive or inhibitory effects of isocitrate dehydrogenase inhibitors, pharmaceutically effective materials for the prophylaxis and treatment of obesity, hyperlipidemia and fatty liver can be developed.

WO 02/33063 A1



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ISOCITRATE DEHYDROGENASE, GENE THEREOF, AND USE OF
THE SAME IN THE TREATMENT OF OBESITY,
HYPERLIPIDEMIA, AND FATTY LIVER IN LIPID
BIOSYNTHESIS

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an isocitrate dehydrogenase which catalyze the production of NADPH
10 necessary for the biosynthesis of lipids, including fatty acids, squalene and cholesterol, and its use in the treatment of metabolic diseases, including obesity, hyperlipidemia and fatty liver. Also, the present invention relates to an isocitrate dehydrogenase gene,
15 fused gene constructs containing the gene, transfectant cells harboring the genes in their genome, and transgenic animals capable of expressing isocitrate dehydrogenase continuously throughout their lifespan.

20

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Taking part in the TCA (tricarboxylic acid) cycle, isocitrate dehydrogenase catalyses the oxidative
25 decarboxylation of citric acid into α -ketoglutarate with concurrent production of NADH or NADPH.

In higher animals, isocitrate dehydrogenase

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isozymes can be separated into three classes according to their cofactors and locations in the cell: mitochondrial NAD⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase (hereinafter referred to as "IDH"), mitochondrial
5 NADP⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase (hereinafter referred to as "IDPm"), and cytoplasmic NADP⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase (hereinafter referred to as "IDPc"). Among these isocitrate isoenzymes, IDH has been assumed to play a major role in the oxidative
10 decarboxylation of isocitrate in the tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA) with concurrent production of α -ketoglutarate and NADH. NADH is used for energy generation through the electron transfer system and α -ketoglutarate is a metabolite used in the synthesis of
15 amino acids such as glutamic acid, glutamine, arginine, and proline, and other biological products. IDH activity is regulated as a control point of the TCA cycle. Therefore, IDH is a key enzyme to regulate not only the TCA cycle, but also energy metabolism,
20 protein biosynthesis and nitrogen metabolism because metabolites of the TCA cycle take part in such metabolisms.

Since its isolation from yeast and pig, IDH has been under study. Yeast IDH is an allosterically
25 regulated enzyme that exists as an octamer composed of two nonidentical subunits IDH1 and IDH2 sharing high homology with each other. IDH1 plays a role in the

regulation of the enzyme activity while IDH2 is responsible for the catalytic activity (Keys, D. A. & McAlister-Henn, L., J. Bacteriol., 172, 4280-4287, 1990). Broken down into three subunits (α , β , γ subunits), swine IDH also exists as an octamer ($2(\alpha 2\beta$
5 $\gamma)$) in active form.

Found to have bipartite structures, IDPm and IDPc are, however, not known as to their functions. Although both having molecular weight of about 45 kDa
10 with high homology, the two enzymes were identified as different, independent proteins, as analyzed by immunological reaction experiments using polyclonal antibodies (Plaut, G. W. E. et al., Biochem. Biophys. Acta., 760, 300-308, 1983; Fantania, H. R. et al.,
15 FEBS, 322, 245-248, 1993). Particularly, IDPm and IDPc are highly tissue-specific. In cardiac muscle tissues, for instance, more than 90 % of total NADP⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase exists in mitochondria and the remaining 10 % is found in
20 cytoplasm. In contrast, it is reported that as low as 3 % of the total NADP⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase of liver tissues is found in mitochondria while the remaining 97 % exists in cytoplasm (Plaut, G. W. E., Current Topics in Cell
25 Regulation, 2, 1-27, 1983).

As mentioned above, isocitrate dehydrogenase isozymes have been characterized concerning some of

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