



Short communication

Molecular cloning, characterization and three-dimensional modeling of porcine nectin-2/CD112

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ABSTRACT

Nectin-2, also known as poliovirus receptor-related 2 or CD112, has been identified in many animals and plays a crucial role in cell recognition and adhesion. Here we report the identification of two porcine *Nectin-2* (poNectin-2) isoforms. The open reading frame (ORF) of 1440 nucleotides (nt) of *poNectin-2α* encodes 479 amino acids (aa). *poNectin-2δ* gene consists of 1620 nt of ORF with 539 aa. The deduced aa sequences of *poNectin-2α* and *poNectin-2δ* gene exhibit high identity with human (74% and 79%) and mouse (71% and 76%) orthologs, respectively. The ectodomains of deduced poNectin-2 protein share the structural feature of mammalian Nectin-2, including a conserved cysteine skeleton important for the formation of the three-dimensional structure. RT-PCR analysis showed that the mRNA of both poNectin-2 isoforms was broadly expressed in various tissues and cells. *poNectin-2* gene was mapped to chromosome 6q21. Information from this study will help to elucidate the Nectin-2 pathway in xenotransplant immunity.

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1. Introduction

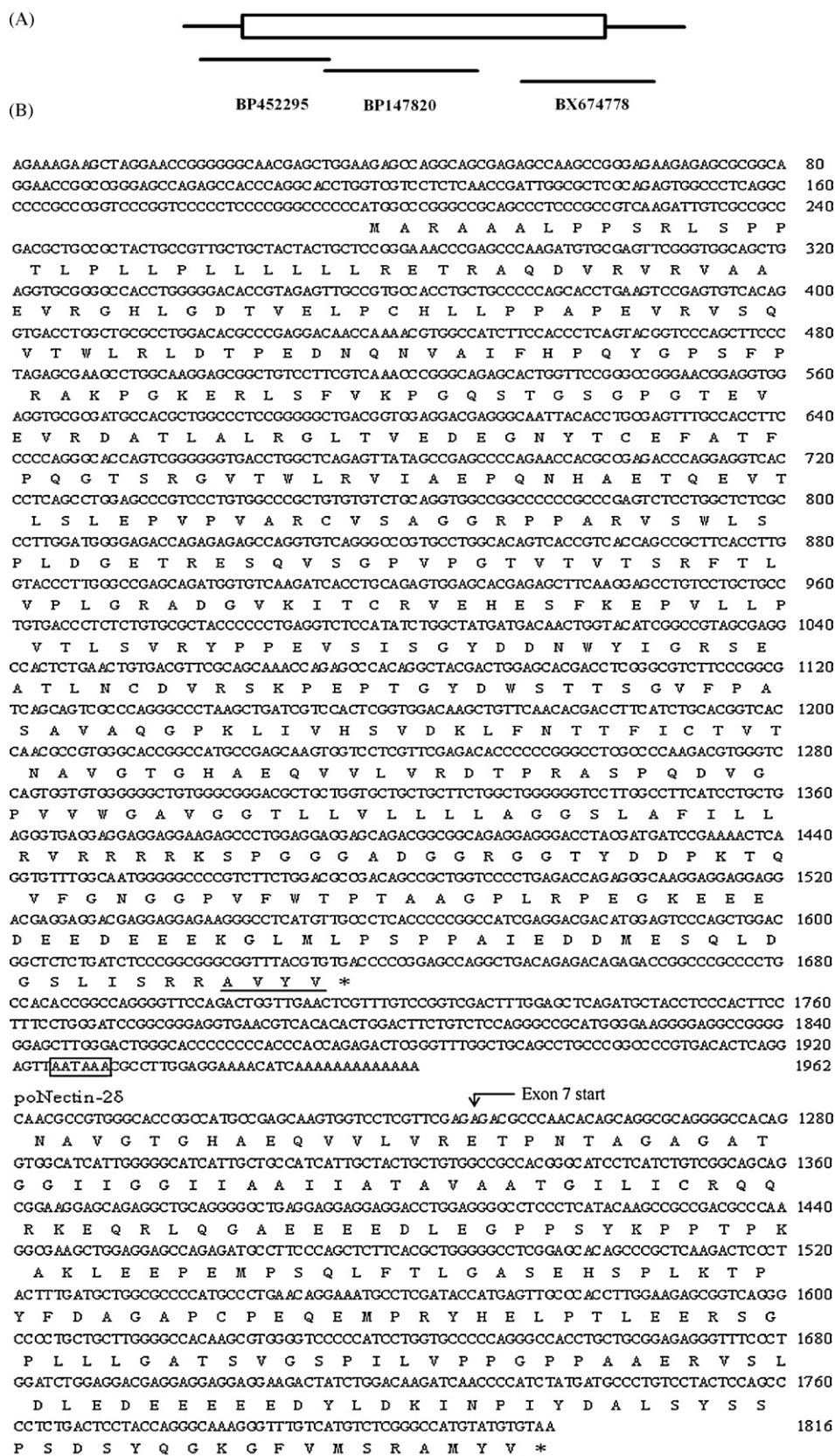
The Nectin family comprises at least four Ca²⁺-independent immunoglobulin-like cell adhesion molecules, Nectin-1, -2, -3, and -4 (Takai and Nakanishi, 2003). Nectin-2/CD112, also known as poliovirus receptor-related 2 (PRR2), is ubiquitously expressed in cells of various tissues, including hematopoietic, neuronal, epithelial and

endothelial cells (Fuchs and Colonna, 2006; Lopez et al., 1998; Reymond et al., 2004). Two different isoforms of Nectin-2 (Nectin-2α and -2δ) have been described in humans and rodents (Aoki et al., 1997; Eberle et al., 1995; Morrison and Racaniello, 1992). Recent data have indicated that Nectin-2 involved in various settings extending far beyond its traditionally associated context of virus receptor (Bottino et al., 2003; Ozaki-Kuroda et al., 2002).

As the ligand for Nectin-2, NAX accessory molecule-1 (DNAM-1) is expressed by virtually all human NK cells, T cells and monocytes (Burns et al., 1985; Kojima et al., 2003; Scott et al., 1989; Shibuya et al., 1998). DNAM-1 signaling pathway engaged by Nectin-2 may contribute to many cell–cell interactions involved events, such as mast cell–eosinophil cross-talk in allergic settings (Bachelet et al., 2006), NK cell–dendritic cell (DC) interaction in “quality

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