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**Novel variant of OCT4B4 is differentially expressed in human embryonic stem and embryonic carcinoma cells**

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**Abstract**

POU domain proteins are an important family of transcription factors that regulates cell type-specific gene expression. One of the most crucial members of this family that maintains pluripotency and self-renewal of embryonic stem cells is POU5F1/OCT4. The OCT4 gene can generate several variants under different situations/cell types includes OCT4A that is the major factor sustains pluripotency in embryonic stem and embryonic carcinoma cells, and also OCT4B and OCT4B1, which might be transcribed from a different potential promoter located in intron1 and are expressed in various tissues and cell types.

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