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(54) Title: MODIFIED TIE-2-RECEPTOR LIGANDS

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides for a modified TIE-2 ligand which has been altered by addition, deletion or substitution of one or more amino acids, or by way of tagging, with for example, the Fc portion of human IgG-1, but which retains its ability to bind the TIE-2 receptor. The invention further provides for a modified TIE-2 ligand which is a chimeric TIE-2 ligand comprising at least a portion of a first TIE-2 ligand and a portion of a second TIE-2 ligand which is different from the first. In a specific embodiment, the invention further provides for a chimeric TIE ligand comprising at least a portion of TIE-2 Ligand-1 and a portion of TIE-2 Ligand-2. In addition the present invention provides for isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the modified TIE-2 ligands described. The invention also provides for therapeutic compositions as well as a method of blocking blood vessel growth, a method of promoting neovascularization, a method of promoting the growth or differentiation of a cell expressing the TIE receptor, a method of blocking the growth or differentiation of a cell expressing the TIE receptor and a method of attenuating or preventing tumor growth in a human.