

DESCRIPTION

Anti-GDF15 antibody

5 Technical field
[0001]

 The present application claims priority with respect to International Application No. PCT/JP2019/047956, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

10 The present disclosure relates to anti-GDF15 antibodies and uses thereof.

Background
[0002]

15 Cachexia is a complex metabolic disease characterized by weight loss and muscle weakness associated with chronic diseases. Among them, cancer cachexia is found in many patients with advanced cancer and requires aggressive treatment as it deteriorates prognosis and QOL of the
20 patients. However, since pathophysiology of cachexia is complicated and there are many unclear points about the mechanism of its occurrence, no effective therapeutic agent is currently available.

[0003]

25 GDF15 (Growth Differentiation Factor 15) is a secretory protein of the TGF- β superfamily and has been reported to be involved in various diseases such as cancer and diabetes. There are many reports of clinical studies on blood GDF15 concentration. For example, high GDF15 levels in blood and
30 cancer tissues in cancer patients and correlation between blood GDF15 levels and prognosis in cancer patients are reported. GDF15 is also known to act on the feeding center of the brain to induce anorexia and known to be involved in the development of cachexia.

35

Summary

Problem to be solved

[0004]

5 An object of the present disclosure is to provide an anti-GDF15 antibody useful in the treatment of a disease or symptom associated with GDF15.

Means for solving problem

[0005]

10 In an aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope of hGDF15 comprising the amino acid sequence of DHCPLGPGRCCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3).

[0006]

15 In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR1 consisting
20 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

25 CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by
30 having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

35 CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable

region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

5 CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by
10 having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
15 sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising
20 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
25 residues.

[0007]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

30 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 or
35 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid

sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[0008]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by

having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues.

[0009]

5 In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
10 sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
15 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
20 residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
25 sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising
30 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
35 residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[0010]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

5 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[0011]

10 In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR1 consisting
15 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

20 CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135
25 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
30 sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

35 CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[0012]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 by having amino acid modification

of one to three amino acid residues; and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues.

[0013]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides an
anti-hGDF15 antibody that competes for binding to hGDF15
with the antibody of any one of the preceding paragraphs.

[0014]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides a
polynucleotide encoding the antibody of any one of the
preceding paragraphs, an expression vector comprising the
polynucleotide, or a transformed cell comprising the
polynucleotide.

[0015]

In a further aspect, the present disclosure provides a
pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of any
one of the preceding paragraphs.

Effect of invention

[0016]

The anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure
recognizes an epitope different from epitopes of existing
anti-hGDF15 antibodies and it is useful for treating a
disease or symptom associated with GDF15.

Brief description of drawings

[0017]

Fig. 1 shows the results of competitive tests using
5 four anti-hGDF15 monoclonal antibodies (HuMAB2, MAB17,
Hu01G06-127, MAB957).

Fig. 2A shows the results of three-dimensional
structure analysis of the cocrystal of HuMAB2 Fab and hGDF15.

Fig. 2B shows the results of analysis of an epitope and
10 a paratope by the three-dimensional structure analysis of
the cocrystal of HuMAB2 Fab and hGDF15.

Fig. 3 shows the results of three-dimensional structure
analysis of the binding between HuMAB2 Fab and hGDF15. hGDF15
forms a homodimer, and among the amino acids to which HuMAB2
15 binds, the amino acids present in one of the hGDF15 monomers
(Monomer 1) are underlined, and the amino acids present in
another monomer (Monomer 2) (71D72T) are double underlined.
The amino acids that are important for binding are shown in
bold, and the amino acids to which HuMAB2 particularly
20 strongly binds are shown by arrows.

Fig. 4 shows the results of the binding assay between
HuMAB2 and hGDF15 or a synthetic peptide of DHCPLGPGRCCRLH
(SEQ ID NO: 3).

Fig. 5A shows the binding of HuMAB2 variants to hGDF15
25 (H chain modified antibodies 1/2).

Fig. 5B shows the binding of HuMAB2 variants to hGDF15
(H chain modified antibodies 2/2).

Fig. 5C shows the binding of HuMAB2 variants to hGDF15
(L chain modified antibodies 1/2).

Fig. 5D shows the binding of HuMAB2 variants to hGDF15
30 (L chain modified antibodies 2/2).

Fig. 6 shows the capture of hGDF15 in blood by HuMAB2
and MAB17.

Fig. 7 shows the effect of an anti-hGDF15 antibody on
35 blood unbound hGDF15 concentration in a cancer-bearing mouse

model.

Fig. 8 shows the effect of HuMAB2 on weight loss, cumulative food intake, and blood unbound hGDF15 concentration in the cancer-bearing mouse model.

5 Fig. 9 shows the effect of HuMAB2 on the activity (circadian rhythm) of the cancer-bearing mouse model.

Fig. 10 shows the binding of HuMAB2 variants to hGDF15.

Fig. 11 shows the binding of HuMAB2 variants to hGDF15, wherein the HuMAB2 variants are composed of a variant H chain (H49R, H49D, H48S, H71Y, H83R, or H120F) and a variant L chain (L48K, L112D, L72F, or L74H).

Fig. 12 shows a schema of evaluation of inhibitory activity of an anti-hGDF15 antibody against GDF15 and GFRAL complex formation.

15 Fig. 13 shows a schema of evaluation of inhibitory activity of HuMAB2 against GDF15, GFRAL and RET complex formation and the results of the evaluation.

Fig. 14 shows the effect of MAB1 on weight loss, cumulative food intake, and blood unbound hGDF15 concentration in the cancer-bearing mouse model.

Detailed description of embodiments

[0018]

Unless otherwise specified, the terms used herein have the meanings generally understood by those skilled in the art in the fields such as organic chemistry, medical science, pharmaceutical science, molecular biology, and microbiology. Definitions of some terms used herein are provided below, and these definitions herein supersede the general understandings.

30 [0019]

In the present disclosure, when a number is accompanied by the term "about", it is intended to include a range of $\pm 10\%$ of that value. For example, "about 20" shall include "18 to 22". A range of numbers includes all numbers between the

endpoints and the numbers at the endpoints. The "about" for a range applies to both ends of the range. Thus, for example, "about 20 to 30" shall include "18 to 33".

[0020]

5 In the present specification, amino acid residues are represented by the following abbreviations.

Ala or A: Alanine

Arg or R: Arginine

Asn or N: Asparagine

10 Asp or D: Aspartic acid

Cys or C: Cysteine

Gln or Q: Glutamine

Glu or E: Glutamic acid

Gly or G: Glycine

15 His or H: Histidine

Ile or I: Isoleucine

Leu or L: Leucine

Lys or K: Lysine

Met or M: Methionine

20 Phe or F: Phenylalanine

Pro or P: Proline

Ser or S: Serine

Thr or T: Threonine

Trp or W: Tryptophan

25 Tyr or Y: Tyrosine

Val or V: Valine

In the present specification, an amino acid residue in an amino acid sequence may be indicated by the number representing its position and an abbreviation representing the amino acid residue (for example, an arginine residue at position 13 is referred to as "13R").

[0021]

35 GDF15 (Growth Differentiation Factor 15) is a secreted protein of the TGF- β superfamily, also known as MIC-1, PLAB, PDF, and NAG-1. The GDF15 gene expresses a precursor, pro

GDF15, and this pro GDF15 is cleaved by a membrane-type metalloendoprotease to produce mature GDF15. GDF15 is soluble and thought to form a dimer to be recognized by its receptor, GFRAL. Unless otherwise stated, the term GDF15 as
 5 used herein means mature GDF15.

[0022]

As used herein, the term GDF15 is intended to include GDF15 of any species. In an embodiment, GDF15 is human GDF15 (hGDF15). The representative amino acid sequence of pro
 10 hGDF15 is shown in SEQ ID NO: 1. Pro hGDF15 is a 308 amino acid polypeptide composed of a signal peptide of 29 amino acids (underlined), a propeptide of 167 amino acids, and a mature peptide of 112 amino acids (double underlined, hGDF15). The representative amino acid sequence of hGDF15 is shown in
 15 SEQ ID NO: 2, but hGDF15 in the present disclosure is not limited to polypeptides comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

Pro hGDF15 (SEQ ID NO: 1)

MPGQELRTVN GSQMLLVLLV LSWLPHGGAL SLAEASRAS F PGPSELHSED
 SRFRELRKRY EDLLTRLRAN QSWEDSNTDL VPAPAVRILT PEVRLGSGGH
 LHLRISRAAL PEGLPASRL HRALFRLSPT ASRSWDVTRP LRRQLSLARP
 QAPALHLRLS PPSQSDQLL AESSARPQL ELHLRPQAAR GRRRARARNG
DHCPLGPGRC CRLHTVRASL EDLGWADWVL SPREVQVTC IGACPSQFRA
ANMHAQIKTS LHRLKPDTPV APCCVPASYN PMVLIQKTDV GVSLOTYDDL
LAKDCHCI

hGDF15 (SEQ ID NO: 2)

ARNGDHCPLG PGRCCRLHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTCIGACPS
 QFRAANMHAQ IKTS LHRLKPDTPV APCCVPASYN PMVLIQKTDV GVSLOTYDDL
 LAKDCH CI

20

[0023]

The term "antibody" as used herein means a molecule comprising an immunoglobulin or a part thereof and being

capable of binding to an antigen, and is intended to include not only molecules in the form of natural immunoglobulins, but also various molecules having different structures such as chimeric antibodies, humanized antibodies, multispecific antibodies and antibody fragments. The term "monoclonal" as used herein is used to distinguish the antibody from "a polyclonal antibody", which is a mixture of multiple antibodies against different epitopes, and means that the antibody can be obtained from a population of a single antibody. Therefore, the term "monoclonal antibody" can mean, for example, a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, a human antibody, a multispecific antibody, and an antibody fragment. An antibody fragment means a molecule comprising a part of an immunoglobulin as its constituent. Examples of antibody fragments include, but are not limited to, heavy and light chain variable regions of an antibody (V_H and V_L), $F(ab')_2$, Fab' , Fab , Fv , disulphide-linked FV ($sdFv$), Single-Chain FV ($scFV$) and conjugates thereof. The antibody is not limited to an antibody of a particular species, and may be a mouse, rat, rabbit, goat, or human antibody.

[0024]

As used herein, the term "isolated" means that a biological molecule (eg, antibody or polynucleotide) is substantially separated from other components in its natural environment.

[0025]

The immunoglobulin class of an antibody is determined based on its heavy chain constant region. Immunoglobulin classes include IgA , IgD , IgE , IgG , and IgM , and the corresponding heavy chains are called α chain, δ chain, ϵ chain, γ chain, and μ chain, respectively. The immunoglobulin class can be further classified into subclasses (isotypes) such as $IgG1$, $IgG2$, $IgG3$, $IgG4$, $IgA1$ and $IgA2$. The immunoglobulin class and subclass of the antibody of the present specification are not limited to any specific class

and subclass. In an embodiment, the immunoglobulin class is IgG. The light chain of an antibody can be divided into κ chain and λ chain based on its constant region, and the antibody of the present specification may have either κ chain or λ chain.

[0026]

The variable region of an antibody is usually composed of three complementarity determining regions (also referred to as CDRs) sandwiched between four framework regions (also referred to as FRs). FRs and CDRs generally exist in the order of FR1-CDR1-FR2-CDR2-FR3-CDR3-FR4 for both light and heavy chains. Several methods have been reported for defining variable regions and CDRs of antibodies and examples of such methods include definitions of Kabat (Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th ed., Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. 1991), Chothia (Chothia et al., J. Mol. Biol., 1987; 196: 901-917), AbM (Martin et al., Proc.Natl.Acad.Sci.USA, 1989; 86: 9268-9272), Contact (MacCallum et al., J. Mol. Biol. 1996; 262: 732-745) and IMGT (Lefranc et al., Dev Comp Immunol. 2003; 27(1): 55-77). In the present specification, the definition of Kabat is used unless otherwise stated.

[0027]

As used herein, an anti-hGDF15 antibody means an antibody that binds to hGDF15 with sufficient affinity to exert a desired effect. The anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure can be obtained by a general method using hGDF15 or a part thereof as an immunogen. The immunogen can be prepared by conventional methods for peptide synthesis, for example by genetic engineering techniques or chemical synthesis. Alternatively, the antibody of the present disclosure can be obtained by preparing an expression vector comprising the gene of the antibody using genetic engineering techniques and expressing the antibody in cells.

[0028]

A polyclonal antibody can be prepared by general methods such as methods described in "Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Lane, H. D. et al. eds., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, New York, 1989". Specifically, a polyclonal antibody can be
5 prepared by immunizing a mammal such as a rat, mouse, rabbit, goat, or horse with the above-mentioned immunogen.
[0029]

A monoclonal antibody can be obtained by methods known in the art, for example by preparing a hybridoma that
10 produces the antibody, or by preparing an expression vector comprising the gene of the antibody using genetic engineering techniques and expressing the antibody in cells.
[0030]

A hybridoma that secretes a monoclonal antibody can be
15 prepared according to the method described in Kohler et al., Nature 256: 495, 1975. First, an immunogen is mixed with a suitable substance for enhancing antigenicity of the immunogen (eg, keyhole limpet hemocyanin or bovine serum albumin) and, if necessary, with an immunostimulant (eg,
20 Freund's complete or incomplete adjuvant), and used to immunize a non-human mammal such as rat, mouse, rabbit, goat or horse. Usually, the animal is immunized multiple times at intervals of 3 to 10 days, and 1 to 100 µg of the immunogen peptide is administered. Immune cells (cells capable of
25 producing antibodies in the immunized animal) are then recovered from the immunized animal after multiple immunizations, and fused with myeloma cells that are not capable of producing their own antibodies (for example, cells derived from a mammal such as mouse, rat, guinea pig,
30 hamster, rabbit, or human). The cell fusion can be carried out using polyethylene glycol, or by electric fusion, for example. Then, cells that are successfully provided by cell fusion are selected based on the selection marker possessed by the fused cells, and the reactivity of the antibody
35 produced by the selected cells to the immunogen is confirmed,

for example by the immunoassay as described below, and finally a hybridoma that produces a monoclonal antibody of interest is obtained. The monoclonal antibody can be isolated from culture supernatant prepared by culturing the hybridoma thus obtained *in vitro*. Alternatively, the hybridoma can be cultured *in vivo* in ascites of an animal such as mouse, rat, guinea pig, hamster or rabbit, and the monoclonal antibody can be isolated from the ascites.

[0031]

A monoclonal antibody can also be obtained by preparing an expression vector comprising the gene of the antibody and expressing the antibody in host cells (P.J.Delves., ANTIBODY PRODUCTION ESSENTIAL TECHNIQUES., 1997 WILEY; P.Shepherd and C.Dean., Monoclonal Antibodies., 2000 OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS; J.W. Goding., Monoclonal Antibodies: principles and practice., 1993 ACADEMIC PRESS). Alternatively, a monoclonal antibody can be obtained by using techniques for producing transgenic animals to produce a transgenic animal (eg, cow, goat, sheep or pig) in which the gene of the antibody of interest is introduced into endogenous genes. The monoclonal antibody derived from the antibody gene can be obtained from milk of the transgenic animal.

[0032]

The monoclonal antibody thus obtained can be purified by appropriately combining methods well known in the art, such as chromatography using protein A columns, ion exchange chromatography, hydrophobic chromatography, salting-out method, gel filtration, and affinity chromatography.

[0033]

A chimeric antibody is an antibody that contains sequences derived from different origins, and can be an antibody in which a variable region derived from one origin is linked to a constant region derived from another origin. In an embodiment, a chimeric antibody is composed of a variable region of an antibody derived from a non-human

mammal and a constant region derived from a human antibody. A chimeric antibody can be obtained, for example, by connecting a polynucleotide encoding a variable region of an antibody of a non-human mammal and a polynucleotide encoding a constant region of a human antibody, incorporating the polynucleotide thus obtained into an expression vector, introducing the expression vector into a host, and expressing the antibody in the host.

[0034]

The CDR is a region that substantially determines the binding specificity of an antibody, and amino acid sequences of CDRs show a great diversity. In contrast, amino acid sequences constituting FRs show a high homology even among antibodies having different binding specificities. Therefore, the binding specificity of one antibody can be transplanted to another antibody by transplanting CDRs.

[0035]

Various methods for CDR transplantation are known and are described, for example, in the following documents: US Pat. No. 7,022,500, US Pat. No. 6,982,321, US Pat. No. 6,180,370, US Pat. No. 6,054,297. Specification, US Pat. No. 5,693,762, US Pat. No. 5,859,205, US Pat. No. 5,693,761, US Pat. No. 5,565,332; US Pat. No. 5,585,089, US Pat. No. 5,530,101, US Pat. No. 5,225,539; Jones et al. (1986) Nature 321:522-525; Riechmann et al. (1988) Nature 332: 323-327; Queen, et al. (1989) Proc. Natl. Acad. U.S.A. 86:10029-10033; Verhoeyen et al. (1988) Science 239:1534-1536; Winter (1998) FEBS lett 430:92-94.

[0036]

A humanized antibody is generally composed of CDRs of an antibody derived from a non-human animal, FRs derived from a human antibody, and constant regions derived from a human antibody. A humanized antibody can be obtained by transplanting CDRs of an antibody derived from a non-human animal into a human antibody. A humanized antibody can be

prepared by various methods, one example of which is Overlap Extension PCR (Almagro and Fransson, Front. Biosci. 13:1619-1633(2008)). In this method, an oligonucleotide having a portion that overlaps the end of a CDR of a non-human animal antibody (for example, a mouse antibody) and a FR of a human antibody is used as a primer for PCR to synthesize a polynucleotide in which the CDR of the non-human animal antibody and the FR of the human antibody are linked. Next, the polynucleotide thus obtained is ligated with a polynucleotide encoding a constant region of a human antibody and incorporated into an expression vector, and the expression vector is introduced into a host for expression to obtain a humanized antibody.

[0037]

The sequences of FRs can be determined based on a database (eg, VBase, <https://www2.mrc-lmb.cam.ac.uk/vbase/>), which discloses germline antibody gene sequences, or references (eg, Kabat et al., Sequences of Proteins of Immunological Interest, 5th ed., Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD. 1991); Tomlinson, I. M. et al. (1992) J. Mol. Biol. 227:776-798; Cox, J. P. L. et al. (1994) Eur. J Immunol. 24:827-836). FRs may contain one or more amino acid mutations as compared to germline sequences. How to select suitable FRs has been known and FRs may be those selected by Best fit method (Sims et al. J. Immunol. 151:2296 (1993)) or those derived from the consensus sequences of a specific subgroup of the light or heavy chain variable region of human antibodies (Carter et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:4285 (1992); Presta et al. J. Immunol. 151:2623 (1993)).

[0038]

A human antibody can be obtained, for example, by sensitizing human lymphocytes *in vitro* with a desired antigen and then fusing the sensitized lymphocytes with human myeloma cells (Japanese Patent Publication No. Heil-59878). For

human myeloma cells, which are fusion partners, U266 can be used for example. A human antibody can also be obtained by immunizing a transgenic animal having the entire repertoire of human antibody genes with a desired antigen (Lonberg, Nat. Biotech. 23:1117-1125, 2005). It is also known that a human antibody can be obtained by panning using a human antibody library (Antibody Phage Display: Methods and Protocols, Methods in Molecular Biology 178, 2001). For example, variable regions of human antibodies are expressed as a single-chain antibody (scFv) on the surface of phages by phage display method to select a phage that binds to the antigen, and the gene of the selected phage is analyzed to determine the DNA sequence encoding the variable region of a human antibody that binds to the antigen. The human antibody can then be obtained by ligating this variable region sequence with a constant region sequence of a human antibody in-frame, inserting the sequence into an appropriate expression vector, introducing this expression vector into a host, and expressing the antibody.

[0039]

A multispecific antibody is an antibody that binds to at least two different sites. Examples of multispecific antibodies include bispecific antibodies and trispecific antibodies. In an embodiment, the multispecific antibody binds hGDF15 and one or more different antigens. A multispecific antibody can be prepared, for example, by genetic engineering techniques or by binding two or more antibodies that recognize different antigens.

[0040]

An antibody fragment can be obtained, for example, by digesting an antibody with a protease such as papain or pepsin. Alternatively, an antibody fragment can be obtained by introducing an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody fragment into host cells and expressing the fragment (for example, Co, M. S. et

al., J. Immunol. (1994) 152, 2968-2976; Better, M. and Horwitz, A. H., Methods Enzymol. (1989) 178, 476-496; Pluckthun, A. and Skerra, A., Methods Enzymol. (1989) 178, 497-515; Lamoyi, E., Methods Enzymol. (1986) 121, 652-663; 5 Rousseaux, J. et al., Methods Enzymol. (1986) 121, 663-669; Bird, R. E. and Walker, B. W., Trends Biotechnol. (1991) 9, 132-137; Hudson et al., Nat. Med., (2003) 9, 129-134).

[0041]

10 As described above, an antibody can be obtained by introducing an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding the antibody into cells and expressing the antibody. Specifically, an expression vector is constructed so that a sequence encoding an antibody is expressed under an expression control region such as enhancer or promoter, and 15 this expression vector is used to transform host cells to express the antibody.

[0042]

20 That is, the present disclosure also provides a polynucleotide encoding an anti-hGDF15 antibody, an expression vector comprising the polynucleotide, and a transformed cell comprising a polynucleotide capable of expressing the antibody as described herein.

[0043]

25 As the host cells, eukaryotic cells such as animal cells, plant cells, and fungal cells can be used, for example. Examples of animal cells include mammalian cells (eg, CHO, COS, NIH3T3, myeloma, Baby Hamster Kidney (BHK), HeLa, Vero), amphibian cells (eg, Xenopus oocytes), and insect cells (eg, Sf9, Sf21, Tn5). Fungal cells include yeast (eg, 30 Saccharomyces genus such as Saccharomyces cerevisiae) and filamentous fungi (eg, Aspergillus genus such as Aspergillus niger). Also, prokaryotic cells such as E. coli (eg, JM109, DH5 α , HB101) and Bacillus subtilis can also be used as host cells. The vector can be introduced into the host cells by 35 a method using calcium phosphate or DEAE-dextran,

electroporation, or lipofection, for example.

[0044]

Binding of the obtained antibody to the antigen can be confirmed by immunoassays such as enzyme immunoassay (EIA) (including ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA), chemoluminescence immunoassay (CIA), and fluorescence immunoassay (FIA), or BIACORE® surface plasmon resonance assay. Binding of the antibody to the antigen can also be confirmed by a competitive assay. For example, it can be confirmed by examining whether the obtained antibody competes with an anti-hGDF15 antibody that has been confirmed to bind to hGDF15.

[0045]

As used herein, an antibody that competes with a given anti-hGDF15 antibody (i.e., a reference antibody) means an antibody that significantly reduces the binding of the reference antibody to hGDF15 when measured under the conditions described in the Examples. In an embodiment, the antibody of the present disclosure reduces the binding of the reference antibody to hGDF15 by 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90%, or 95% or more.

[0046]

In an embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure binds to an epitope of hGDF15 comprising the amino acid sequence of DHCPLGPGRCCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3). The amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 corresponds to the amino acid residues at positions 5 to 18 of SEQ ID NO: 2. Whether an antibody binds to the epitope comprising the amino acid sequence of DHCPLGPGRCCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3) can be confirmed by examining whether the antibody competes for binding to hGDF15 with an antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

[0047]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure competes with a given anti-hGDF15 antibody for binding to hGDF15. In an embodiment, the antibody of the present disclosure competes for binding to hGDF15 with an antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

[0048]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by
5 having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
10 sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by
15 having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues;
20

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
25 sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
30 residues, and
35

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

5 a light chain variable region that contains CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

15 CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

20 CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; or

30 a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135

by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

5 CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

10 CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

20 CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

25 CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

30 CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable

35

region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

5 In this embodiment, the CDRs may be identified by any method. The CDR contained in the given heavy or light chain variable region means CDR consisting of an amino acid sequence identified by a certain method from the given heavy or light chain variable region, and the heavy or light chain variable region that contains such CDRs may differ from the
10 given heavy or light chain variable region in a sequence other than the CDRs. One of ordinary skill in the art can identify the CDRs by a suitable method in consideration of various conditions. In an embodiment, the CDRs are identified by any definition selected from Kabat, Chothia, AbM, Contact,
15 and IMGT.

[0049]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
20 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 or
25 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
30 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
35 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 by having amino acid modification

of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues.

[0050]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-44 and 149-150,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-153, and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80; and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-89, 100-104, and 154,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106-115, and 155-157, and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

[0051]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-42 and 149-150,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 46-48, 52-66, and 151-152, and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID

NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, 100-104, and 154,

5 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, 113-115, and 155-157, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131, and 132.

[0052]

10 In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises a heavy chain variable
region selected from (1)-(3) and a light chain variable
region selected from (4)-(6):

(1) a heavy chain variable region that contains

15 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-44 and 149-150,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

20 (2) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-153, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

25 (3) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
30 NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80;

(4) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-89, 100-104, and 154,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
35 and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(5) a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
5 NOS: 22, 90, 106-115, and 155-157, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
and

(6) a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
10 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.
[0053]

15 In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises a heavy chain variable
region selected from (1)-(3) and a light chain variable
region selected from (4)-(6):

(1) a heavy chain variable region that contains
20 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-42 and 149-150,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

25 (2) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 46-48, 52-66, and 151-152, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

30 (3) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
35 NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79;

(4) a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, 100-104, and 154,

5 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;

(5) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

10 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, 113-115, and 155-157, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;
and

(6) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

15 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131, and 132.

[0054]

20 In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises a heavy chain variable
region selected from (1)-(3) and a light chain variable
region selected from (4)-(6):

(1) a heavy chain variable region that contains

25 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38, and 39

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

30 (2) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 52, and 66, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

35 (3) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

5 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20 and 77;

(4) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21 and 85,

10 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;

(5) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

15 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 155, and 157, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;
and

(6) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

20 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23 and 95.

[0055]

25 In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises

(i) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-44, and 149-150,

30 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and

a light chain variable region that contains

35 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

- CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(ii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
- 5 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-153, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and
- 10 a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
- 15 (iii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
- 20 NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80, and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
- 25 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(iv) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
- 30 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-89, 100-104, and 154,
- 35 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,

and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(v) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

5 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

and

a light chain variable region that contains

10 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106-115, and 155-157, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23; or

(vi) a heavy chain variable region that contains

15 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

20 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
25 NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

[0056]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises

(i) a heavy chain variable region that contains

30 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-42, and 149-150,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,

35 and

a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 and
 5 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
 (ii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-152, and
 10 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
 and
 a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 15 and
 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
 (iii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
 20 and
 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79, and
 a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 25 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 and
 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
 (iv) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 30 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
 and
 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
 and
 a light chain variable region that contains
 35 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID

NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, 100-104, and 154,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

5 (v) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

10 and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, 113-115, and 155-157, and

15 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23; or

(vi) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

20 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

25 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131, and 132.

[0057]

30 In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of
the present disclosure comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 by having amino acid modification

35 of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

5 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

10 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

15 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

20 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[0058]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises

25 a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

30 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

35 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid

sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 or
5 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 or
10 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 or
15 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[0059]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises

a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid
20 sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10,
25 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid
sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, or the amino
30 acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues.

[0060]

35 In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of

the present disclosure comprises

a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid substitution selected from H48R, H49R, H49D, H50R, H50S, H50F, H52R, H52Q, H72R, H73D, H73R, H73Y, H119R, H119F, H48S, H71Y, H72A, H72L, H72N, H72T, H72W, H75H, H75L, H75N, H75Q, H79H, H79K, H79Q, H79R, H83R, H117Q, H119E, H119H, H119K, H119N, H119Q, H119S, H119T, H120A, H120D, H120F, H120N, H120Q, H122F, H54T, H54N, H71R, H71H, and H77I, and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid substitution selected from L47R, L48E, L48R, L48S, L48K, L50D, L50R, L50F, L50Y, L73R, L111F, L111Y, L112E, L112R, L112D, L112F, L113D, L113R, L113F, L48H, L48Y, L50Q, L50W, L51Q, L69Y, L70F, L70H, L72D, L72E, L72R, L72Y, L73K, L73N, L73Y, L75Q, L87K, L87N, L111A, L111N, L111S, L112H, L112Q, L112T, L112Y, L113S, L114F, L114H, L114I, L114N, L114Y, L116H, L116Y, L51Y, L72F, L73Q, and L74H.

[0061]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises

a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid substitution selected from H49R, H49D, H50R, H50S, H50F, H73D, H73R, H73Y, H48S, H71Y, H72A, H72L, H72N, H72T, H72W, H75H, H75L, H75N, H75Q, H79H, H79K, H79Q, H79R, H83R, H119N, H119S, H120F, H120Q, H54T, H54N, H71R, and H71H, and

a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid substitution selected from L47R, L48E,

L48R, L48K, L50D, L50R, L50F, L50Y, L73R, L112E, L112D, L112F, L113D, L113R, L113F, L48H, L48Y, L50Q, L50W, L51Q, L70F, L72D, L72E, L72R, L72Y, L73N, L73Y, L75Q, L112H, L112Q, L112Y, L113S, L116H, L116Y, L51Y, L72F, L73Q, and L74H.

5 [0062]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises

10 a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid substitution selected from H49R, H49D, H48S, H71Y, H83R, and H120F, and

15 a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid substitution selected from L48K, L112D, L72F, and L74H.

[0063]

20 In the above embodiments, the amino acid substitution is indicated by an abbreviation representing the amino acid residue before substitution, the number representing its position, and an abbreviation representing the amino acid residue after substitution. For example, "H48R" means substitution of a histidine residue at position 48 to an arginine residue.

25 [0064]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

30 [0065]

In a further embodiment, the anti-hGDF15 antibody of the present disclosure comprises

35 a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid

sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to

10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues; or

a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues.

[0066]

As used herein, the amino acid modification includes amino acid deletion, substitution, insertion, and addition. The modification may be any one of, or a combination of two or more of, deletion, substitution, insertion, and addition. The number of modifications can be, but not limited to, 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3. In an embodiment, the amino acid modification is amino acid substitution. In a further embodiment, the amino acid modification is modification of one to three amino acid residues. In a further embodiment, the amino acid modification is amino

acid substitution of one amino acid.

[0067]

As used herein, an amino acid sequence that "comprises" a given amino acid sequence includes an amino acid sequence comprising the given amino acid sequence and one or more amino acid residues added to the given amino acid sequence, and an amino acid sequence consisting of the given amino acid sequence.

[0068]

As used herein, a heavy or light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of a given heavy or light chain variable region, and a heavy or light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of a given heavy or light chain variable region by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues includes a heavy or light chain variable region in which the CDRs in the amino acid sequence of the given heavy or light chain variable are not modified.

[0069]

As used herein, "sequence identity" with respect to an amino acid sequence refers to a proportion of amino acid residues that match between the sequence and a sequence to be compared that are optimally aligned (i.e., aligned such that the two sequences are maximally matched) over the entire region of the sequences. The sequences may have an addition or deletion (eg, gap) in the optimal alignment of the two sequences. The sequence identity can be calculated using programs such as FASTA, BLAST, and CLUSTAL W provided in public databases (eg, DDBJ (<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp>)). Alternatively, the sequence identity can also be obtained using a commercially available sequence analysis software (eg, Vector NTI® software, GENETYX® ver. 12).

[0070]

Various methods are known to obtain an antibody having a desired property by modifying its amino acid sequence. For example, variants with improved binding affinity can be obtained by a method based on phage display. In this method, the site to which mutation is introduced is determined by identifying amino acid residues that affect the interaction between the antibody and the antigen by the alanine scanning mutagenesis method, or by identifying the contact point between the antibody and the antigen by analyzing the crystal structure of the antigen-antibody complex. A variant having a desired property can be obtained by preparing variants in which the amino acid of the site thus identified is modified, by error-prone PCR or site-specific mutagenesis for example, and screening the library of the obtained variants.

[0071]

The antibody of the present disclosure has an effect of lowering blood GDF15 concentration. Whether an antibody has such an effect can be confirmed by evaluating whether the antibody significantly reduces blood GDF15 concentration in an animal to which GDF15-expressing cancer cells are transplanted as compared with a control antibody, as described in Examples. Without being bound by any theory, the antibody of the present disclosure is considered to reduce blood GDF15 concentration by suppressing cleavage of pro GDF15. The antibody of the present disclosure may also bind to mature GDF15 and has an effect of inhibiting signal transduction from GDF15.

[0072]

The antibody of the present disclosure can have an effect of improving a symptom such as weight loss, loss of appetite, or circadian rhythm disorder by lowering blood GDF15 concentration (in some cases, further by inhibiting signal transduction of GDF15).

[0073]

For the antibody, a subclass of immunoglobulin may be

selected, or the amino acid sequence or sugar chain in the Fc region may be modified, for the regulation of antibody-dependent cellular cytotoxicity (ADCC) activity, complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC) activity or pharmacokinetics, o. For example, IgG4 may be selected for the purpose of reducing capacity of complement activation. In addition, modification that reduces or enhances the binding to an Fc receptor or Clq, or modification that increases the binding affinity to FcRn to prolong half-life in blood may be made.

[0074]

The antibody also may be bound to a polymer such as polyethylene glycol (PEG), polypropylene glycol, polyoxyalkylene, or a copolymer of polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol, for the purpose of prolonging half-life in blood or improving stability of the antibody, for example.

[0075]

The antibody may also be bound to a substance such as a chemotherapeutic agent, toxic peptide, or radioisotope. Examples of chemotherapeutic agents include alkylating agents such as cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, mechlorethamine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambusyl, and iphosphamide; metabolic antagonists such as azathiopurine and mercaptopurine; vincaalkaloids (eg, vincristine, vinblastine, vinorelbine and vindesine), alkaloids such as taxan (eg, paclitaxel, docetaxel), etoposide and teniposide; topoisomerase inhibitors such as camptothecin (eg, irinotecan and topotecan); and cytotoxic antibiotics such as actinomycin, anthracycline, doxorubicin, daunorubicin, valrubicin, idarubicin, epirubicin, bleomycin, plicamycin and mitomycin.

[0076]

The antibody of the present disclosure can be used as an active ingredient of a pharmaceutical composition. The antibody of the present disclosure has an effect of lowering

blood GDF15 concentration (in some cases, further has an effect of inhibiting signal transduction of GDF15), and are useful for treating a disease or symptom associated with GDF15. Examples of diseases or symptoms associated with GDF15 include weight loss, loss of appetite, muscle loss, decreased activity, circadian rhythm disorder, abnormal pituitary hormone secretion, thermoregulatory dysfunction, cachexia, cancer, diabetes, kidney failure, heart failure, AIDS, COPD, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis, tuberculosis, sarcopenia, cancer bone metastasis, anticancer drug-induced nausea and vomiting, hyperemesis gravidarum, chronic myeloproliferative disorders (eg, myelofibrosis, polycythemia vera, essential plateletemia), anorexia nervosa, bipolar disorder, mitochondrial disease, and ICU-related muscle weakness.

[0077]

In an embodiment, the cachexia is cachexia associated with cancer, diabetes, kidney failure, heart failure, AIDS, COPD, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis, or tuberculosis. In a further embodiment, the cachexia is cancer cachexia. The treatment of cachexia includes amelioration of one or more symptoms selected from weight loss, loss of appetite, muscle loss, decreased activity, circadian rhythm disorder, abnormal pituitary hormone secretion, and thermoregulatory dysfunction.

[0078]

Examples of cancers include, but are not limited to, gastric cancer, esophageal cancer, colon cancer, lung cancer, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer, prostate cancer, ovarian cancer, breast cancer, cervical cancer, uterine body cancer, testicular cancer, bladder cancer, thyroid cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, intrahepatic bile duct cancer, head and neck cancer, leukemia, multiple myeloma, lymphoma, brain tumor, glioma, and melanoma.

[0079]

The antibody of the present disclosure is administered to a subject in an amount capable of exerting a desired effect (eg, treatment of a disease or symptom associated with GDF15) (referred to herein as an effective amount). The dose of the antibody is appropriately selected depending on factors such as its administration method and age, body weight, and health condition of the subject. For example, the antibody may be administered at 10 µg/kg to 100 mg/kg, 100 µg/kg to 10 mg/kg, or 1 mg/kg to 10 mg/kg per day for an adult daily, once every few days, once a week, once every few weeks, once a month, or once every few months, although the antibody may be administered differently. The method of administering the antibody is also appropriately selected depending on factors such as age, weight, and health condition of the subject. The administration method may be oral administration or parenteral administration, and parenteral administration is preferred. Examples of parenteral administration include subcutaneous administration, intradermal administration, intramuscular administration, and intravenous administration, and intravenous administration is preferred.

[0080]

As used herein, the "subject" is a mammal. Examples of mammals include, but are not limited to, mice, rats, rabbits, cats, dogs, sheep, pigs, horses, cows, monkeys, and humans. In an embodiment, the subject is a human.

[0081]

The pharmaceutical composition can be formulated by conventional methods. In addition to the antibody, the pharmaceutical composition may comprise a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or additive, such as sterile water, saline, stabilizer, excipient, antioxidant, buffering agent, preservative, surfactant, chelating agent, or binder.

[0082]

The antibody of the present disclosure may be used in

combination with a different therapeutic agent. In the present specification, when two or more of active ingredients are used in combination, all or part of the active ingredients may be contained in a single composition, or all the agents may be separately contained in different compositions. The administration schedules of the two or more active ingredients may be the same or different.

[0083]

In an embodiment, the antibody of the present disclosure is used in combination with a cancer therapeutic agent. Examples of cancer therapeutic agents include, but are not limited to, alkylating agents such as cisplatin, carboplatin, oxaliplatin, mechlorethamine, cyclophosphamide, chlorambusyl, and ifosfamide; metabolic antagonists such as azathiopurine and mercaptopurine; vincaalkaloids (eg, vincristine, vinblastine, vinorelbine and vindesine), alkaloids such as taxan (eg, paclitaxel, docetaxel), etoposide and teniposide; topoisomerase inhibitors such as camptothecin (eg, irinotecan and topotecan); and cytotoxic antibiotics such as actinomycin, anthracycline, doxorubicin, daunorubicin, valrubicin, idarubicin, epirubicin, bleomycin, plicamycin and mitomycin; molecular targeting agents such as EGFR inhibitors, HER2 inhibitors, ALK inhibitors, and VEGFR inhibitors; immune checkpoint inhibitors such as anti-PD-1 antibodies, anti-PD-L1 antibodies.

[0084]

Exemplary embodiments of the present disclosure are described below.

[0085]

[1] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope of hGDF15 comprising the amino acid sequence of DHCPLGPGRCCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3).

[2] The antibody of item 1, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by

having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR3 consisting
5 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

10

[3] The antibody of item 1 or 2, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 or
15 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 or
20 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 or
25 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or
30 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

35 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 or

an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

- 5 [4] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
10 sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,
- 15 CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
20 residues, and
- 25 CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
30 residues; and
- 35 a light chain variable region that contains CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

15

[5] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 or

an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

5 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

10 [6] The antibody of any one of items 2 to 5, wherein the amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues is amino acid modification of one amino acid residue.

[7] The antibody of any one of items 2 to 6, wherein the amino acid modification is amino acid substitution.

15 [8] The antibody of any one of items 2 to 7, wherein the amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues is amino acid substitution of one amino acid residue.

20 [9] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 8, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20.

25 [10] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 9, wherein the antibody comprises a light chain variable region that contains CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23.

30 [11] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 10, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 18, 38-44, and 149-150,

35 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID

NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-153, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80; and

a light chain variable region that contains

5 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-89, 100-104, and 154,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106-115, and 155-157, and

10 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

[12] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 11, wherein the
antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

15 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-42, and 149-150,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 46-48, 52-66, and 151-152, and

20 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, 100-104, and 154,

25 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, 113-115, and 155-157, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131, and 132.

30 [13] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 12, wherein the
antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18 and 38-44,

35 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 45-48, and 52-66, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 21, 81-89, and 100-104,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 22, 90, and 106-115, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

10

[14] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 13, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 18 and 38-42,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 19, 46-48, and 52-66, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79; and

20

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, and 100-104,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, and 113-115, and

25

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131 and 132.

[15] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 14, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region selected from (1)-(3) and a light chain variable region selected from (4)-(6):

30

(1) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 18, 38-44 and 149-150,

35

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,

and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

(2) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

5 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-153, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

(3) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

10 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80;

(4) a light chain variable region that contains

15 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 21, 81-89, 100-104, and 154,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;

20 (5) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 22, 90, 106-115, and 155-157, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;

25 and

(6) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22, and

30 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

[16] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 15, wherein the
antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region selected
35 from (1)-(3) and a light chain variable region selected from

(4)-(6):

(1) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-42 and 149-150,

5 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

(2) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

10 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 46-48, 52-66, and 151-152, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

(3) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

15 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79;

(4) a light chain variable region that contains

20 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, 100-104, and 154,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;

25 (5) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, 113-115, and 155-157, and

30 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NOS: 23;
and

(6) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

35 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID

NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131, and 132.

[17] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 16, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region selected from (1)-(3) and a light chain variable region selected from (4)-(6):

(1) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 18, 38, and 39

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

(2) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 19, 52, and 66, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

(3) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19, and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 20 and 77;

(4) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 21 and 85,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(5) a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 22, 155, and 157, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

and

(6) a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 and
 5 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 23 and 95.

[18] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 17, wherein the
 antibody comprises

- 10 (i) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 18, 38-44, and 149-150,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
 and
 15 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
 and
 a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 20 and
 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
 (ii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 25 NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-153, and
 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
 and
 a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 30 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 and
 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
 (iii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 35 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,

and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80, and

a light chain variable region that contains

5 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(iv) a heavy chain variable region that contains

10 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

15 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 21, 81-89, 100-104, and 154,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

20 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(v) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

25 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
30 NOS: 22, 90, 106-115, and 155-157, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23; or
(vi) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
35 and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

5 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

10 [19] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 18, wherein the
antibody comprises

(i) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18, 38-42, and 149-150,

15 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and

a light chain variable region that contains

20 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(ii) a heavy chain variable region that contains

25 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 45-48, 52-66, and 151-152, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and

30 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

35 (iii) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
5 NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79, and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
10 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(iv) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
15 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, 100-104, and 154,
20 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(v) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
25 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and
a light chain variable region that contains
30 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, 113-115, and 155-157, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23; or
(vi) a heavy chain variable region that contains
35 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

5 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

10 CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131, and 132.

[20] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 19, wherein the
antibody comprises

(i) a heavy chain variable region that contains

15 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 18 and 38-44,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

20 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

25 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(ii) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 19, 45-48, and 52-66, and

30 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

35 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(iii) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
5 and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20, 49, 50 and 67-80, and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
10 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(iv) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
15 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and
a light chain variable region that contains
20 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-89, and 100-104,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
25 (v) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
30 and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 22, 90, and 106-115, and
35 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23; or

(vi) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
 and

5 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
 and

a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 10 and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 23, 91-99, and 118-132.

[21] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 20, wherein the
 15 antibody comprises

(i) a heavy chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 18 and 38-42,

20 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
 and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
 and

a light chain variable region that contains
 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
 25 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
 and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(ii) a heavy chain variable region that contains

30 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
 NOS: 19, 46-48, and 52-66, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
 and

a light chain variable region that contains
 35 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;
(iii) a heavy chain variable region that contains

5 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 20, 71, 73, 77, and 79, and

10 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

15 (iv) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;

20 and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 21, 81-83, 85-89, and 100-104,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
25 and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23;

(v) a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
30 and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

35 CDR2 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID

NOS: 22, 90, 106, 108-111, and 113-115, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23; or
(vi) a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
5 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20;
and
a light chain variable region that contains
10 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising an amino acid sequence selected from SEQ ID
NOS: 23, 93, 95-99, 121, 122, 124, 125, 131 and 132.

15

[22] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 21, wherein the
antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,

20 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and

a light chain variable region that contains

25 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23.

30

[23] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 22, wherein the
antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a heavy
chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of
SEQ ID NO: 4, and CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a light
chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of

35

SEQ ID NO: 5.

[24] The antibody of item 1, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

5 CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
10 residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable
15 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR3 consisting
20 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

25 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable
30 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR2 consisting
35 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid

sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

5 CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134
10 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[25] The antibody of item 1 or 24, wherein the antibody comprises

15 a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,
20 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 or
25 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and
a light chain variable region that contains CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 or
30 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
35 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 by having amino acid modification

of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 by having amino acid modification
5 of one to three amino acid residues.

[26] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains

10 CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR1 consisting
of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable
region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133
by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
15 residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR2 consisting
of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable
20 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133
by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR3 consisting
25 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable
region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133
by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
residues; and

30 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR1 consisting
of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable
35 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134

by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR2 consisting
5 of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

10 CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134
15 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[27] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

20 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 or
25 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 or
30 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 or
35 an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 by having amino acid modification

of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 by having amino acid modification
5 of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues.

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[28] The antibody of any one of items 24 to 27, wherein the
amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues
is amino acid modification of one amino acid residue.

15

[29] The antibody of item 28, wherein the amino acid
modification is amino acid substitution.

20

[30] The antibody of item 28 or 29, wherein the amino acid
modification of one to three amino acid residues is amino
acid substitution of one amino acid residue.

25

[31] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 24 to 30, wherein
the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that
contains CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
NO: 139.

30

[32] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 24 to 31, wherein
the antibody comprises a light chain variable region that
contains CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID
NO: 142.

35

[33] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 24 to 32, wherein
the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139,
and

5 a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141,
and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142.

10

[34] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 24 to 33, wherein
the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a
heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, and CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3
15 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the
amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134.

[35] The antibody of item 1, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains

20

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR1 consisting
of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable
region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135
25 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR2 consisting
of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable
region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135
30 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
residues, and

35

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising
the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR3 consisting

of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[36] The antibody of item 1 or 35, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

5 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and a light chain variable region that contains

10 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

15 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

20 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[37] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains

25 CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

30 CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable

35

region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

5 CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
10 residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
15 sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising
20 the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid
25 residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable
30 region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[38] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises
35 a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

5 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

10 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

15 CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

20 CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

25 CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

[39] The antibody of any one of items 35 to 38, wherein the amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues is amino acid modification of one amino acid residue.

30

[40] The antibody of item 39, wherein the amino acid modification is amino acid substitution.

35 [41] The antibody of item 39 or 40, wherein the amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues is amino

acid substitution of one amino acid residue.

[42] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 35 to 41, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145.

[43] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 35 to 42, wherein the antibody comprises a light chain variable region that contains CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148.

[44] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 35 to 43, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143, CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144, and CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145, and

a light chain variable region that contains CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146, CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148.

[45] The antibody of any one of items 1 and 35 to 44, wherein the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, and CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136.

[46] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 45, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues.

[47] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues;

and

a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20, 1 to 15, 1 to 10, 1 to 5, or 1 to 3 amino acid residues.

[48] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 47, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region comprising

the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

5 [49] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 48, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that
differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by
10 having amino acid substitution selected from H48R, H49R,
H49D, H50R, H50S, H50F, H52R, H52Q, H72R, H73D, H73R, H73Y,
H119R, H119F, H48S, H71Y, H72A, H72L, H72N, H72T, H72W, H75H,
H75L, H75N, H75Q, H79H, H79K, H79Q, H79R, H83R, H117Q, H119E,
H119H, H119K, H119N, H119Q, H119S, H119T, H120A, H120D, H120F,
15 H120N, H120Q, H122F, H54T, H54N, H71R, H71H, and H77I, and
a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that
differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by
having amino acid substitution selected from L47R, L48E,
20 L48R, L48S, L48K, L50D, L50R, L50F, L50Y, L73R, L111F, L111Y,
L112E, L112R, L112D, L112F, L113D, L113R, L113F, L48H, L48Y,
L50Q, L50W, L51Q, L69Y, L70F, L70H, L72D, L72E, L72R, L72Y,
L73K, L73N, L73Y, L75Q, L87K, L87N, L111A, L111N, L111S,
L112H, L112Q, L112T, L112Y, L113S, L114F, L114H, L114I, L114N,
25 L114Y, L116H, L116Y, L51Y, L72F, L73Q, and L74H.

[50] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 49, wherein the
antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid
30 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that
differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by
having amino acid substitution selected from H49R, H49D,
H50R, H50S, H50F, H73D, H73R, H73Y, H48S, H71Y, H72A, H72L,
H72N, H72T, H72W, H75H, H75L, H75N, H75Q, H79H, H79K, H79Q,
35 H79R, H83R, H119N, H119S, H120F, H120Q, H54T, H54N, H71R,

and H71H, and

a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid substitution selected from L47R, L48E, L48R, L48K, L50D, L50R, L50F, L50Y, L73R, L112E, L112D, L112F, L113D, L113R, L113F, L48H, L48Y, L50Q, L50W, L51Q, L70F, L72D, L72E, L72R, L72Y, L73N, L73Y, L75Q, L112H, L112Q, L112Y, L113S, L116H, L116Y, L51Y, L72F, L73Q, and L74H.

[51] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 50, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid substitution selected from H49R, H49D, H48S, H71Y, H83R, and H120F, and

a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid substitution selected from L48K, L112D, L72F, and L74H.

[52] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 51, wherein the antibody competes for binding to hGDF15 with an anti-hGDF15 antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

[53] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 52, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

[0086]

[54] An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody competes

for binding to hGDF15 with the antibody of any one of items 1 to 53.

5 [55] The antibody of item 54, wherein the antibody competes with an anti-hGDF15 antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

10 [56] The antibody of item 54 or 55, wherein the antibody decreases blood GDF15 concentration.

[57] The antibody of any one of items 54 to 56, wherein the antibody suppresses cleavage of pro GDF15.

15

[58] The antibody of any one of items 54 to 56, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

[0087]

20 [59] A polynucleotide encoding the antibody of any one of items 1 to 58.

[60] The polynucleotide of item 59, wherein the polynucleotide comprises the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 24 and/or the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 25.

25

[61] An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of item 59 or 60.

30 [62] A transformed cell comprising the polynucleotide of item 59 or 60.

[0088]

35 [63] A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of any one of items 1 to 58.

[64] The pharmaceutical composition of item 63, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for treating a disease or symptom associated with GDF15.

5

[65] The pharmaceutical composition of item 64, wherein the disease or symptom associated with GDF15 is cancer.

10

[66] The pharmaceutical composition of item 64, wherein the disease or symptom associated with GDF15 is cachexia.

[67] The pharmaceutical composition of item 66, wherein the cachexia is cancer cachexia.

15

[68] The pharmaceutical composition of item 63, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for decreasing blood GDF15 concentration.

[0089]

20

[69] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 58 for use in treating a disease or symptom associated with GDF15.

[70] The antibody of any one of items 1 to 58 for use in decreasing blood GDF15 concentration.

25

[71] A method of treating a disease or symptom associated with GDF15, comprising administering an effective amount of the antibody of any one of items 1 to 58 to a subject in need thereof.

30

[72] A method of decreasing blood GDF15 concentration, comprising administering an effective amount of the antibody of any one of items 1 to 58 to a subject in need thereof.

35

[73] Use of the antibody of any one of items 1 to 58 for the

manufacture of a medicament for treating a disease or symptom associated with GDF15.

5 [74] Use of the antibody of any one of items 1 to 58 for the manufacture of a medicament for decreasing blood GDF15 concentration.

[0090]

10 The present invention will be further described with reference to the following examples, but is not limited to the examples in any sense.

Examples

[0091]

15 I. Antibody production (1)

A. Preparation of anti-hGDF15 antibody

1 Immunization to animals

Schedule

20 Day 1; Initial immunization (25 µg/shot/body, Abisco-100, ip)

Day 10; Second immunization (25 µg/shot/body, Abisco-100, ip)

Day 17; Third immunization (25 µg/shot/body, Abisco-100, ip)

Day 21; Titer check

25 Day 24; Final boost (25 µg/shot/body, Abisco-100, ip)

Day 27; Splenectomy, cell fusion

Reagents

30 • Recombinant Human GDF15 (rhGDF15), R&D, 957-GD-025/CF, 25 µg

• Abisco-100 (ISCONOVA)

Animals

• 3H/HeJ Jms Slc-lpr/lpr (5W, Japan SLC, female)

35 [0092]

Procedures

1. Fifty μ L of hGDF15 (0.5 mg/mL), 25 μ L of Abisco-100, and 175 μ L of PBS were mixed and administered intraperitoneally to a mouse (initial immunization).
- 5 2. Ten and seventeen days after the initial immunization, a hGDF15 solution prepared in the same manner as in the initial immunization was intraperitoneally administered.
3. Twenty-one days after the initial immunization, blood was collected from the tail of the mouse using a capillary blood collection tube, and plasma was obtained by centrifugation.
- 10 4. The plasma was diluted 100-fold, 1000-fold, and 10000-fold, and ELISA was performed using a 96-well plate on which hGDF15 was immobilized. It was confirmed that the antibody titer to hGDF15 was increased.
- 15 5. Twenty-four days after the initial immunization, a hGDF15 solution prepared in the same manner as in the initial immunization was intraperitoneally administered.
6. Twenty-seven days after the initial immunization, the spleen was removed under anesthesia and cell fusion was performed.
- 20

[0093]

2 Cell fusion and HAT selection

Cells

- 25 • Sp2/o-14Ag (referred to as Sp2/o cells herein after, ATCC # CRL-1581)

Subculture not to exceed 3×10^5 cells/mL

Reagents

- 30 • DMEM (GIBCO, 10313-021)
- FBS (deactivated at 56°C for 30 minutes)
- Penicillin-Streptomycin-Glutamine (Invitrogen, 10378-016)
- Insulin (Funakoshi, BT-243), prepared at 10 mg/mL
- 55 mM 2-Mercaptoethanol(1000 $\times$) (Invitrogen, 21985-023)
- 35 • rIL-6

- PBS
- Turk's solution
- Trypan blue
- Red blood cell lysing buffer (SIGMA, R7757)
- 5 • PEG1500 (Roche, 108014)
- HAT Media Supplement (50×) Hybri-Max (SIGMA, H0262)
- HT Media Supplement (50×) Hybri-Max (SIGMA, H0137)

Equipment

- 10 • 6-well plate (BD, 353046)
 - Large flask for floating cell culture
 - Surgical tweezers (3)
 - Surgical scissors (3)
 - 50 mL Falcon tube
 - 15 • 1 mL syringe
 - 23G injection needle
 - Cell strainer 40 μ m (BD, 352340)
-
- 20 Medium composition
 - Sp2/o culture medium

DMEM	500 mL
FBS	55 mL (final 10%)
Penicillin-Streptomycin-Glutamine (100×)	5 mL (final 1×)
 - 25 • Cell fusion medium

DMEM	
------	--
 - Hybridoma medium

DMEM	500 mL
FBS	55 mL (final 10%)
Penicillin-Streptomycin-Glutamine (100×)	5 mL (final 1×)
2ME	500 μ L (final 0.1%)
Insulin (10 mg/mL)	250 μ L (final 5 μ g/mL)

as appropriate (final 5 ng/mL)

- HAT selection medium

Hybridoma medium

50× HAT

as appropriate (final 1×)

5

[0094]

Procedures

- Preparation of myeloma (1 week before cell fusion)

10 1. Cryopreserved Sp2/o cells (approximately 1×10^6 cells/vial) were thawed and suspended in 10 mL of Sp2/o medium previously dispensed into a 15 mL falcon tube. The suspension was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 3 minutes for washing and the supernatant was removed.

15 2. The pellet (Sp2/o cells) was suspended in 4 ml of Sp2/o medium.

3. A 6-well plate containing 4 mL of Sp2/o medium in each well was prepared and the suspension of Sp2/o cells prepared in step 2 above was diluted in 2-fold series.

20 4. The cells were cultured at 37°C under 5.5% CO₂ for 1 to 2 days.

5. Cells in good condition according to microscopic observation were collected, and cultured and expanded in a large flask (or medium flask) for floating cell culture. The cells were passaged 2 days before cell fusion. (The cell density was adjusted to around 5×10^5 cells/mL on the day of cell fusion.)

[0095]

- Excision of spleen from mouse

30 1. The mouse was anesthetized, thoroughly sprayed with 70% ethanol, and then laparotomized in a safety cabinet. In order to aseptically remove the spleen, tweezers and scissors for exterior skin and those for intraperitoneal operation were sterilized.

35 2. After total blood sampling from the abdominal aorta under anesthesia, the spleen was removed.

3. The spleen was placed in a 50 mL falcon tube pre-filled with PBS and placed on ice until cell fusion.

[0096]

• Cell fusion (production of hybridoma)

5 DMEM (serum-free) and PEG were preheated in a 37°C incubator and the followings were performed.

1. Sp2/o cells were collected and the number of the cells was counted. Only cells in flasks of 1×10^6 cells/mL or less were used.

10 2. About 10 mL of PBS was added to one well of a 6-well falcon plate, the excised spleen was placed therein, and the remaining adipose tissue was removed.

15 3. A fresh 10 mL of PBS was placed in one of the remaining wells and the spleen was transferred to the well. The spleen was cut in half with sterile tweezers and scissors.

4. A 23G needle was attached to a 1 mL syringe to aspirate PBS, and the PBS was injected into the spleen cut in half so that the splenocytes were extruded into the PBS. The extrusion was repeated until the spleen turned white.

20 5. A sterilized mesh was placed on top of a 50 mL falcon tube, and the PBS containing splenocytes was passed through the mesh so that tissues other than splenocytes were removed. The cell fusion medium was added so that the total volume was 40 mL.

25 6. The resulting mixture was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 3 minutes and the supernatant was removed.

7. The spleen cells were suspended in 20 mL of cell fusion medium and stained with Turk's solution (Turk's solution: suspension = 10:1), and leukocytes were counted.

30 (Generally, it is about 1×10^8 cells, or 5×10^6 cells/mL.)

8. The resulting solution was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 3 minutes and the supernatant was removed.

9. The cells were suspended in 3 mL of Red blood cell lysing buffer and left on ice for 3 minutes.

35 10. To the suspension, 17 mL of cell fusion medium was added,

and the resulting solution was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 3 minutes to collect splenocytes.

11. A medium containing Sp2/o cells was added to the splenocytes in an amount that splenocytes: Sp2/o cells was 5:1 in cell number to prepare a suspension.

12. The suspension was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 3 minutes and its supernatant was removed.

13. The precipitated cells were resuspended by tapping.

14. One mL of PEG1500 was added over 1 minute with gentle stirring.

15. The stirring was continued for another 1 minute.

16. In the same manner as in step 14, 1 mL of cell fusion medium was added dropwise.

17. Further, 3 mL of cell fusion medium was added over 3 minutes.

18. Further, 10 mL of cell fusion medium was added over 1 minute.

19. The resulting mixture was left at 37°C for 10 minutes.

20. The cell fusion medium was added so that the total volume was 40 mL.

21. The resulting mixture was centrifuged at 1500 rpm for 3 minutes and the supernatant was removed.

22. The precipitated cells were suspended in the hybridoma medium so that the number of splenocytes was 1×10^6 cells per mL, and the hybridoma was seeded on a 96-well flat bottom plate at 100 μ L per well.

23. The hybridoma was cultured overnight at 37°C under 5.5% CO₂.

24. 2 $\times$ HAT selection medium was added at 100 μ L/well, and the cell culture was continued.

25. The medium was exchanged by removing 100 μ L of the supernatant every other day and adding 100 μ L of 1 $\times$ HAT selection medium.

[0097]

35 3 Antibody screening

Hybridomas producing anti-hGDF15 antibodies were selected as follows based on the binding strength to hGDF15 measured by ELISA using the supernatant of hybridomas 5 days after the start of culturing in a 96-well plate.

5 [0098]

To a 96-well plate on which hGDF15 (R&D Systems, 957-GD-025/CF) was immobilized, 100 μ L/well of the culture supernatant was added and reacted at room temperature for 2 hours. After washing of the wells, a secondary detection antibody (HRP-labeled anti-mouse IgG antibody (Promega, W402B)) was added and reacted at room temperature for 1 hour. After washing of the wells, TMB solution (Sigma, T2885) was added for color development, and the absorbance at 450 nm was measured with a plate reader.

15 [0099]

Hybridomas in wells showing the absorbance at 450 nm of 1.0 or higher were further monoclonalized by limiting dilution. Finally, 16 clones were obtained. Of the 16 clones obtained, 13 clones were cultured, excluding one clone that was IgM and two clones that showed non-specific binding to multiple proteins.

20 [0100]

Antibodies were purified from the culture supernatant using HiTrap rProtein A FF (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, 17508001). The concentration of the purified antibody was measured using NanoDrop (Thermo Scientific) with an absorbance at 280 nm.

[0101]

The binding affinity of each purified antibody with hGDF15 was measured by ELISA as follows. hGDF15 at a concentration of 200 ng/mL was added to the wells at 100 μ L/well. A 96-well plate on which hGDF15 was immobilized was reacted with the purified antibody serially diluted at 0.39 ng/mL to 25 ng/mL at 100 μ L/well, and then the hGDF15-anti-hGDF15 antibody complex was detected with an HRP-conjugated

35

secondary antibody. For detecting color development, the absorbance at 450 nm was measured, and the value at the antibody amount of 5 ng/mL was calculated using a 4-parameter logistics curve. The binding value of each antibody was a relative value calculated by setting the value of clone MAB17 to 100.

[0102]

Table 1 shows the results of affinity between hGDF15 and the obtained anti-hGDF15 antibody. MAB2, which showed a much stronger binding than MAB17, was humanized.

Table 1

Clone	Relative value with the value of MAB17 as 100
MAB3	72.3
MAB4	44.2
MAB5	36.4
MAB6	68.1
MAB1	33.6
MAB11	12.0
MAB12	36.2
MAB13	50.1
MAB7	3.1
MAB15	25.1
MAB14	26.4
MAB17	100.0
MAB2	350.9

15 [0103]

4 Preparation of humanized antibody

• Cells

Cell line name: ExpiCHO

Origin: Chinese hamster

20 Cell source: Thermo Fisher Scientific (A29127)

Culture solution: ExpiCHO expression medium

Culture solution source: Thermo Fisher Scientific (A2910001)

[0104]

- Expression vector

Vector name: pcDNA-3.1

cDNA origin: Total synthesis

Source: Thermo Fisher Scientific

5 [0105]

- Recombinant protein

Protein name: Human GDF15

Origin: CHO cells

Source: R&D systems (957-GD-025/CF)

10 [0106]

- Design of chimeric antibody sequence

The variable region containing the CDR sequences of MAB2, which is derived from a mouse, and the constant region of bevacizumab were joined to form a chimeric antibody sequence.

15 [0107]

- Design of humanized antibody sequence

A human antibody with high similarity to MAB2 was searched by Blast search. The CDR sequences of the human antibody were replaced with those of MAB2 to prepare a variable region, and the variable region was joined with the constant region of bevacizumab to prepare a full-length humanized antibody. The amino acids of the mouse antibody that were considered to be important for maintaining its structure according to the structure prediction were maintained and used as a part of the humanized antibody.

25 [0108]

- Preparation and purification of antibody

The heavy and light chain genes were totally synthesized and incorporated into expression vectors, respectively. ExpiCHO cells were seeded on a 24-well plate, and the next day, the heavy and light chain expression vectors were co-transfected with TransIT-CHO kit (Takara, V2170) to co-express the heavy and light chains. After 5 days, the whole culture supernatant containing the antibody produced was

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collected and the antibody was purified using Hitrap rProteinA FF column (GE healthcare, 17-5080-01).

[0109]

- Measurement of antibody concentration

5 The antibody concentration in the supernatant was measured with Human IgG EIA kit (Takara, MK136) according to the protocol attached to the kit. The concentration of the purified antibody was determined by measuring the absorbance at 280 nm with NanoDrop (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

10 [0110]

- Measurement of amount of binding to hGDF15 (ELISA)

15 A 100 μ L human GDF15 solution (0.4 μ g/mL) was added to a 96-well plate and left until the next morning to prepare a plate for ELISA. Blocking of the plate was performed with 1% BSA for 1 hour. A dilution series having a common ratio of 3 was prepared for the culture supernatant containing the antibody, and 100 μ L each was added to the ELISA plate and left for 2 hours. For the reaction with a secondary antibody, 100 μ L of a diluted solution of an HRP conjugated anti-human IgG antibody (Gene Tex, GTX26759) (20000-fold) was added and reacted for 1 hour. TMB (Sigma, T-0440) was used for color development reaction, and 2N sulfuric acid was used as a reaction terminator. The absorbance was measured at 450 nm.

[0111]

25 • Measurement of binding affinity using BLITZ

30 The binding affinity of the antibody was measured using BLITZ (Pall ForteBio), which is a biomolecular interaction analysis system. Anti-HIS (Pall ForteBio, 18-5114) was used as a sensor chip, and ForteBio Sample Diluent (Pall ForteBio, 18-1048) was used as a washing solution. The measurement program was set as 60 seconds for adsorption of hGDF15 to the sensor chip, 120 seconds for antibody binding, and 120 seconds for dissociation.

[0112]

35 B. Sequencing

1 Test methods

Total RNA was prepared from a hybridoma cultured in a 10 cm petri dish, and cDNA was synthesized using SMARTer RACE 5'/3'Kit (Takara, 634858). The synthesized cDNA was incorporated into a pCR4Blunt-TOPO vector and amplified using *Escherichia coli*, and the plasmid DNA was purified. DNA sequencing was performed using BigDye™ Terminator v3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 4337454) and M13 primer with ABI 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems).

[0113]

2 Results

The amino acid sequences of MAB17, MAB2, and HuMAB2 are shown in Table 2, the CDR sequences of these antibodies are shown in Table 3, and the cDNA sequences of HuMAB2 are shown in Table 4. The CDRs were identified based on the Kabat's definition.

Table 2-1

Antibody name	Sequence name (vector name)	Amino acid sequence (CDR sequence is underlined)	SEQ ID NO:
MAB2	H chain variable region	MRMLSVLYLLSALPGILSDVQLQESGPSL VRPSQTL ~~SLTCTVTGFSIN~~ <u>SDCYWI</u> WIRQ FPGNKLEYIG <u>YTFYSGITYYNPSLAS</u> RTY ITRDTSKNQFSLKLNSVTTEDTATYYCAR <u>DCDYAMDY</u> WGQGTSVTVS	4
	L chain variable region	MGYSAQFLGLLLLCFQGTRCDIQMTQTTS SLSASLGDRVTIS <u>CRASQDISNYLN</u> WYQQ KPDGTVKLLIH <u>YTSTLHS</u> GVPSRFSGSGS GTDYSLTISNLEQEDIATYFC <u>QOGNTLPW</u> <u>TFGGG</u> TKLEIKRADA	5
MAB17	H chain variable region	MDRLTFSFLLLIIVPAYVLSQVTLKESGPG ILQPSQTL ~~SLTCSFSGFSLNTHGMGVGWI~~ RQPSGKGLEWLANIWWNDDKYNSALKSR LTLSKDTSNNQVFLKISSVDTADTATYFC AQVAWDWFAYWGQGTLVTVS	6
	L chain variable region	MDSQVQIFSFLLISASVILSRGQIVLTQS PAIMSASLGEEITLTCSASSSVRYMHYQ QKSGTSPKVLIYSTSNLASGVPSRFSGSG SGTFYSLTISSVEAEDAADYYCHQWSSYP WTFGGGTKLEIKRADA	7

Table 2-2

Antibody name	Sequence name (vector name)	Amino acid sequence (CDR sequence is underlined)	SEQ ID NO:
HuMAB2	H chain variable region	MKHLWFLLLLLAAPRWVLSQVQLQESGPGLVKPSETLSLTCTVSGFSIN <u>SDCYWI</u> WIRQPPGKGLEIYIGY <u>TFYSGITYYNPSLAS</u> RRTTISRDTSKNQFSLKLSSVTAADTAVYYCAR <u>DCDYAMDY</u> WGQGTLLTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSG	8
	L chain variable region	MRVPAQLLGLLLLWLPGARCDIQMTQSPSLSASVGDRTITC <u>RASQDISNYLN</u> WYQQKPGKAVKLLIH <u>YTSTLHSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTISSLPEDFATYFCQ</u> <u>QGN</u> <u>TL</u> <u>PW</u> <u>T</u> FGQGTKLEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPP	9
	H chain, full length (H3delK)	MKHLWFLLLLLAAPRWVLSQVQLQESGPGLVKPSETLSLTCTVSGFSIN <u>SDCYWI</u> WIRQPPGKGLEIYIGY <u>TFYSGITYYNPSLAS</u> RRTTISRDTSKNQFSLKLSSVTAADTAVYYCAR <u>DCDYAMDY</u> WGQGTLLTVSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSGGTAALGCLVKDYFPEPTVSWNSGALTSGVHTFPAVLQSSGLYSLSSVVTVPSSSLGTQTYICNVNHKPSNTKVDKKVEPKSCDKTHTCPPCPAPELLGGPSVFLFPPKPKDTLMISRTPEVTCVVDVSHEDPEVKFNWYVDGVEVHNAKTKPREEQYNSTYRVVSVLTVLHQDWLNGKEYKCKVSNKALPAPIEKTISKAKGQPREPQVYTLPPSREEMTKNQVSLTCLVKGFYPSDIAVEWESNGQPENNYKTTTPVLDSDGSFFLYSKLTVDKSRWQQGNVFSCSVMHEALHNHYTQKSLSLSPG	10
	L chain, full length (L7)	MRVPAQLLGLLLLWLPGARCDIQMTQSPSLSASVGDRTITC <u>RASQDISNYLN</u> WYQQKPGKAVKLLIH <u>YTSTLHSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTISSLPEDFATYFCQ</u> <u>QGN</u> <u>TL</u> <u>PW</u> <u>T</u> FGQGTKLEIKRTVAAPSVFIFPPSDEQLKSGTASVVCLLNNFYPREAKVQWKVDNALQSGNSQESVTEQDSKDSTYSLSSTLTLSKADYEKHKVYACEVTHQGLSSPVTKSFNRGEC	11

Table 3

Antibody name	Chain	CDR number	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
MAB17	H	CDR-H1	THGMGVG	12
	H	CDR-H2	NIWWNDDKYNSALKS	13
	H	CDR-H3	VAWDWFAY	14
	L	CDR-L1	SASSSVRYMH	15
	L	CDR-L2	STSNLAS	16
	L	CDR-L3	HQWSSYPWT	17
MAB2 HuMAB2	H	CDR-H1	SDCYWI	18
	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYNPSLAS	19
	H	CDR-H3	DCDYAMDY	20
	L	CDR-L1	RASQDISNYLN	21
	L	CDR-L2	YTSTLHS	22
	L	CDR-L3	QQGNTLPWT	23

Table 4-1

Antibody name	Sequence name (vector name)	cDNA sequence	SEQ ID NO:
HuMAB2	H chain variable region	ATGAAGCACCTGTGGTTTCTGCTGCTGCTGGCCGC TCCCAGATGGGTGCTGTCTCAGGTGCAGCTGCAGG AATCTGGCCCTGGCCTCGTGAAGCCCAGCGAGACA CTGAGCCTGACCTGTACCGTGTCCGGCTTCAGCAT CAACAGCGACTGCTACTGGATCTGGATCAGACAGC CCCCTGGCAAGGGCCTGGAGTACATCGGCTACACC TTCTACAGCGGCATCACCTACTACAACCCAGCCT GGCCAGCCGGACCACCATCAGCAGAGACACCAGCA AGAACCAGTTCAGCCTGAAGCTGAGCAGCGTGACA GCCGCCGATAACCGCCGTGTACTACTGCGCCAGAGA CTGCGACTACGCCATGGACTATTGGGGCCAGGGCA CCCTCGTGACCGTGTCTAGCGCCTCTACAAAGGGC CCCAGCGTGTTCCTCTGGCCCCTAGCAGCAAGAG CACATCTGGC	24
	L chain variable region	ATGAGAGTGCCTGCTCAGCTGCTGGGACTGCTGCT GCTGTGGCTGCCTGGCGCTAGATGCGACATCCAGA TGACCCAGAGCCCCAGCAGCCTGTCTGCCAGCGTG GGCGACAGAGTGACCATCACCTGTAGAGCCAGCCA GGACATCAGCAACTACCTGAACTGGTATCAGCAGA AACCCGGCAAGGCCGTGAAGCTGCTGATCCACTAC ACCAGCACCTGCACAGCGGCGTGCCCAGCAGATT TTCTGGCAGCGGCTCCGGCACCGACTACACCCTGA CAATCAGCTCCCTGCAGCCCCAGGACTTCGCTACC TACTTCTGTCTAGCAAGGCAACACCCTGCCCTGGAC CTTTGGCCAGGGCACCAAGCTGGAAATCAAGCGGA CAGTGGCCGCTCCCAGCGTGTTTCATCTTCCCACCT	25

Table 4-2

Antibody name	Sequence name (vector name)	cDNA sequence	SEQ ID NO:
HuMAB2	H chain, full length (H3delK)	ATGAAGCACCTGTGGTTTCTGCTGCTGCTGGCCGC TCCCAGATGGGTGCTGTCTCAGGTGCAGCTGCAGG AATCTGGCCCTGGCCTCGTGAAGCCCAGCGAGACA CTGAGCCTGACCTGTACCGTGTCCGGCTTCAGCAT CAACAGCGACTGCTACTGGATCTGGATCAGACAGC CCCCTGGCAAGGGCCTGGAGTACATCGGCTACACC TTCTACAGCGGCATCACCTACTACAACCCCAGCCT GGCCAGCCGGACCACCATCAGCAGAGACACCAGCA AGAACCAGTTCAGCCTGAAGCTGAGCAGCGTGACA GCCGCCGATACCGCCGTGTACTACTGCGCCAGAGA CTGCGACTACGCCATGGACTATTGGGGCCAGGGCA CCCTCGTGACCGTGTCTAGCGCCTCTACAAAGGGC CCCAGCGTGTTCCTCTGGCCCCCTAGCAGCAAGAG CACATCTGGCGGAACAGCCGCCCTGGGCTGCCTCG TGAAAGACTACTTCCCCGAGCCCGTGACAGTGTCC TGGAACTCTGGCGCCCTGACAAGCGGCGTGACACAC CTTTCCAGCCGTGCTGCAGAGCAGCGGCCTGTACT CTCTGTCCAGCGTCGTGACTGTGCCCAGCAGCTCT CTGGGCACCCAGACCTACATCTGCAACGTGAACCA CAAGCCCAGCAACACCAAGGTGGACAAGAAGGTGG AACCCAAGAGCTGCGACAAGACCCACACCTGTCCC CCTTGTCCTGCCCCCGAACTGCTGGGAGGCCCTTC CGTGTTCTGTTCCCCCCAAAGCCCAAGGACACCC TGATGATCAGCAGAACCCCCGAAGTGACCTGCGTG GTGGTGGACGTGTCCACGAGGACCCTGAAGTGAA GTTCAATTGGTACGTGGACGGCGTGGAAGTGACACA ACGCCAAGACCAAGCCTAGAGAGGAACAGTACAAC AGCACCTACCGGGTGGTGTCCGTGCTGACAGTGCT GCACCAGGACTGGCTGAACGGCAAAGAGTACAAGT GCAAGGTGTCCAACAAGGCCCTGCCTGCCCCCATC GAGAAAACCATCTCCAAGGCCAAGGGACAGCCCCG CGAGCCCCAGGTGTACACACTGCCTCCAAGCCGGG AAGAGATGACCAAGAATCAGGTGTCCCTGACATGC CTCGTGAAGGGCTTCTACCCCTCCGATATTGCCGT GGAATGGGAGAGCAACGGCCAGCCCGAGAACAAC ACAAGACCACCCCCCTGTGCTGGACAGCGACGGC TCATTCTTCCTGTACAGCAAGCTGACCGTGGACAA GTCCCGGTGGCAGCAGGGCAACGTGTTAGCTGCA GCGTGATGCACGAGGCCCTGCACAACCACTACACC CAGAAGTCCCTGTCCCTGAGCCCCGGCTAA	26

Table 4-3

Antibody name	Sequence name (vector name)	cDNA sequence	SEQ ID NO:
HuMAB2	L chain, full length (L7)	ATGAGAGTGCCTGCTCAGCTGCTGGGACTGCTGCT GCTGTGGCTGCCTGGCGCTAGATGCGACATCCAGA TGACCCAGAGCCCCAGCAGCCTGTCTGCCAGCGTG GGCGACAGAGTGACCATCACCTGTAGAGCCAGCCA GGACATCAGCAACTACCTGAACTGGTATCAGCAGA AACCCGGCAAGGCCGTGAAGCTGCTGATCCACTAC ACCAGCACCTGCACAGCGGCGTGCCCAGCAGATT TTCTGGCAGCGGCTCCGGCACCGACTACACCCTGA CAATCAGCTCCCTGCAGCCCCGAGGACTTCGCTACC TACTTCTGTGTCAGCAAGGCAACACCCTGCCCTGGAC CTTTGGCCAGGGCACCAAGCTGGAAATCAAGCGGA CAGTGGCCGCTCCCAGCGTGTTTCATCTTCCACCT AGCGACGAGCAGCTGAAGTCTGGCACCGCCTCTGT CGTGTGCCTGCTGAACAACTTCTACCCCCGCGAGG CCAAGGTGCAGTGGAAGGTGGACAATGCCCTGCAG TCCGGCAACAGCCAGGAAAGCGTGACCGAGCAGGA CAGCAAGGACTCCACCTACAGCCTGTCCTCCACCC TGACCCTGAGCAAGGCCGACTACGAGAAGCACAAG GTGTACGCCTGCGAAGTGACCCACCAGGGCCTGAG CAGCCCTGTGACCAAGAGCTTCAACCGGGGCGAGT GCTGA	27

[0114]

5 C. Comparison with existing anti-hGDF15 antibodies

1 Test materials and methods

Anti-hGDF15 antibody

Table 5 shows the antibodies used for comparison of reactivity with HuMAB2.

Table 5

Antibody name	Type
MAB17	mouse, monoclonal
MAB3	mouse, monoclonal
MAB4	mouse, monoclonal
MAB5	mouse, monoclonal
MAB6	mouse, monoclonal
MAB1	mouse, monoclonal
MAB11	mouse, monoclonal
MAB12	mouse, monoclonal
MAB13	mouse, monoclonal
Hu01G06-127 ¹⁾	humanized, monoclonal
MAB957 ²⁾	mouse, monoclonal
Biotinylated Goat Anti-Human GDF-15 Detection Antibody ³⁾	goat, polyclonal

1) Humanized anti-hGDF15 antibody (WO2014/100689)

2) R&D Systems, MAB957, Lot No: UDC1014011

3) R&D Systems, DY957

[0115]

5 Test methods

HuMAB2 and the anti-GDF15 monoclonal antibodies shown in Table 5 (2 µg/mL) were added to 96-well plates at 100 µL/well to be immobilized on the plates, and reacted with 100 µL/well of hGDF15 (R&D Systems, 957-GD-025/CF) serially diluted from a concentration of 1 ng/ml. HuMAB2 biotinylated using EZ-Link Micro NHS-PEG4-Biotinylation Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 21955) was used as the detection antibody (1 µg/mL as 100 µL/well). Whether or not sandwich ELISA was established was determined using Streptavidin-HRP conjugate in Human GDF15 ELISA Kit (R&D Systems, DY957). The detection antibody in Human GDF15 ELISA Kit (R&D Systems, DY957) (Table 5), which can establish sandwich ELISA with any monoclonal antibody, was used as a positive control antibody (PC) for sandwich ELISA.

[0116]

2 Results

It was expected that competitive inhibition would occur when the immobilized antibody and the biotinylated antibody recognize similar epitopes, but no competitive inhibition would occur when these antibodies recognize different epitopes. As shown in Fig. 1, HuMAB2 was able to recognize hGDF15 at the same time as other antibodies. This result suggests that HuMAB2 recognizes an epitope different from epitopes of other antibodies.

[0117]

As shown above, it was demonstrated that HuMAB2 does not compete with any existing antibody. Then, other antibodies obtained this time were tested to see whether each of these antibodies competes with HuMAB2 by the same method as described above. The results are shown in Table 6 as %inhibition. Of the 8 clones tested, 4 clones (MAB1, MAB11, MAB12 and MAB13) were found to inhibit the binding of HuMAB2 and hGDF15 by more than 70%.

Table 6

Results of competitive tests with individual hGDF15 monoclonal antibodies

Clone	Inhibition %
MAB3	11
MAB4	46
MAB5	45
MAB6	22
MAB1	82
MAB11	73
MAB12	73
MAB13	79
MAB17	0
HuMAB2	80

[0118]

D. Crystallization of complex of hGDF15 and HuMAB2 Fab

1 Test materials and methods

hGDF15 (R&D Systems, 9279-GD-050) was mixed with HuMAB2 Fab (comprising a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9) (20 ml Tris-HCl, 200 mM NaCl, pH7.2) at a molar ratio 1:1 to prepare a protein solution at a concentration of 5 mg/mL. HuMAB2 crystallization was performed by the Sitting drop vapor diffusion method. The mixing ratio of the protein solution and the reservoir solution was 1:1. Using the crystals obtained with the screening kit Crystal Screen 2 (Hampton Research, HR2-112), the crystal structure of the complex was determined with a resolution of 2.8Å. The phase was determined by the molecular substitution method.

[0119]

2 Results

Three-dimensional structural analysis revealed that hGDF15 formed a homodimer, and that two molecules of HuMAB2 Fab were bound to the hGDF15 dimer (Fig. 2A). The amino acids lined up at the binding interface between HuMAB2 and hGDF15 were identified as making up a paratope and an epitope, respectively (Fig. 2B). The identified epitope of hGDF15 and the amino acids on HuMAB2 that are important for binding are underlined in Table 7.

Table 7

		Amino acid sequence	SEQ ID NO:
HuMAB2	H chain variable region	MKHLWFLLLLAAPRWVLSQVQLQESGPGLVKPS ETLSLTCTVSGFSINSDCYWIIWIRQPPGKLEY IGYTFYSGITYYNPSLASRTTISRDTSKNQFSL KLSSVTAADTAVYYCARDYAMDYWGQGTLLV VSSASTKGPSVFPLAPSSKSTSG	8
	L chain variable region	MRVPAQLLGLLLWLPGARCDIQMTQSPSSLSA SVGDRVITTCRASQDISNYLNWYQQKPGKAVKL LIHYTSTLHSGVPSRFSGSGSGTDYTLTISSLQ PEDFATYFCQQGNTLPWTFGQGTKLEIKRTVAA PSVFIFPP	9
hGDF15		ARNGDHCPLG PGRCCRLHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSLOT YDDLLAKDCH CI	2

[0120]

5 The epitope of hGDF15 analyzed using Molecular
Operating Environment (MOE) is shown in Fig. 3. It was
revealed that HuMAB2 binds to the 14 amino acids from
aspartic acid at position 5 to histidine at position 18 at
the N-terminus and isoleucine at position 45 (45I) and
10 glycine at position 46 (46G) on one of the hGDF15 monomers
(Monomer 1), and to aspartic acid at position 71 (71D) and
threonine at position 72 (72T) on another monomer (Monomer
2).

[0121]

15 Amino acid residues presumed to be particularly
strongly involved in HuMAB2 interaction within the epitope
were calculated using MOE Protein Contacts (Table 8). Then,
the amino acids shown in Fig. 3 were shown to particularly
strongly bind to HuMAB2.

20

Table 8

Antibody	hGDF15	E (kcal/mol)
L Asn112	Arg13	-6.5
H Asp119	Arg16	-3.4
H Phe71	His6	-1.6
H Tyr69	His6	-1.4
L Asn51	Thr72	-1.2
L Tyr70	Thr72	-1.1
H Ile75	His6	-1.1
H Tyr120	Leu17	-0.91
L Trp116	Gly10	-0.76
H Tyr52	Cys 7	-0.72

* Top 10 are shown.

[0122]

5 E. Reactivity of anti-hGDF15 antibody to hGDF15 and mutant hGDF15

1 Test materials and methods

Test materials

10 The antibodies used for comparison of reactivity with HuMAB2 antibody are shown in Table 9.

Table 9

Antibody name	Type
MAB17	mouse, monoclonal
Hu01G06-127 ¹⁾	humanized, monoclonal
MAB957 ²⁾	mouse, monoclonal
Biotinylated Goat Anti-Human GDF-15 Detection Antibody ³⁾	goat, polyclonal

1) Humanized anti-hGDF15 antibody (WO2014/100689)

2) R&D Systems, MAB957, Lot No: UDC1014011

3) R&D Systems, DY957

15 [0123]

Test methods

Test outline

An expression construct of a mutant hGDF15 was transfected into ExpiCHO-S cells. The transfected cells were cultured and the culture supernatant was collected. Once the expression of each mutant hGDF15 in the collected culture supernatant was confirmed with a commercially available ELISA kit for measuring GDF15, the reactivity of HuMAB2 to the mutant hGDF15 was evaluated by ELISA. Amino acid residues being particularly important in the epitope were identified by evaluating the reactivity of HuMAB2 to the mutated GDF15 by two methods, ELISA and a biomolecular interaction analysis system. Verification of differentiation by epitope differences between HuMAB2 and other anti-hGDF15 antibodies was performed by comparing the reactivity to a mutant hGDF15 of each of the other anti-hGDF15 antibodies with that of HuMAB2 by sandwich ELISA.

[0124]

Preparation of mutant hGDF15

pcDNA-3.1 vector (Thermo Fisher Scientific) into which each mutant hGDF15 gene was introduced was transfected using ExpiCHO™ Expression System Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, A29133) to ExpiCHO-S (Thermo Fisher Scientific) cells included in the kit. The culture supernatant 10 days after transfection was centrifuged at 8000 rpm for 30 minutes at 4°C, and the culture supernatant was collected. The collected culture supernatant was stored frozen (set temperature -20°C).

[0125]

Confirmation of expression of mutant hGDF15

The mutant hGDF15 in the collected culture supernatant was measured with Human GDF15 ELISA Kit (R&D System, DY957) according to the instructions of the kit to confirm expression and determine the concentration of the protein.

[0126]

Evaluation of reactivity of GDF15 antibody to mutant hGDF15

Recombinant Human GDF15 (R&D Systems, 957-GD-025/CF) was used as a wild-type (Wt) hGDF15. The Wt and mutant hGDF15 were serially diluted and reacted with a plate on which each hGDF15 antibody was immobilized and the bound Wt and mutant hGDF15 were detected with the detection antibody in Human GDF15 ELISA Kit (R&D Systems, DY957) (Table 9).

[0127]

Evaluation of HuMAB2 reactivity to mutated GDF15 by biomolecular interaction analysis system

Each mutant hGDF15 was purified using an affinity column in which MAB17 was immobilized on Sepharose (GE Healthcare, 17-0906-01). The evaluation by the biomolecular interaction analysis system was performed using OCTET QKe (ForteBio). Recombinant Human GDF15 (R&D Systems, 957-GD-025/CF) was used as a Wt GDF15. The Wt and mutant hGDF15 were bound to the biosensor Ni-NTA (ForteBio, 18-5101) and then reacted with serially diluted HuMAB2 to evaluate the interaction between the mutant hGDF15 and HuMAB2. The analysis was performed using the Kinetics Method.

[0128]

2 Results

The amino acid sequences of wild-type (WT) and mutant hGDF15 are shown in Table 10. The position where the amino acid of the wild-type hGDF15 was replaced with alanine is underlined.

Table 10

	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
hGDF15 (WT)	ARNGDHCPLG PGRCCRLHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	2
H6A	ARNGD <u>A</u> CPLG PGRCCRLHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	28
R13A	ARNGDHCPLG P <u>G</u> ACCRLHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	29
R16A	ARNGDHCPLG PGRCC <u>A</u> LHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	30
R13A, R16A	ARNGDHCPLG P <u>G</u> ACC <u>A</u> LHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	31
3A	ARNGDHCPLG P <u>A</u> ACC <u>A</u> LHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	32
4A	ARNGDHCPLG P <u>A</u> ACC <u>AA</u> HTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	33
6A	ARNGDHCPL <u>A</u> <u>AA</u> ACC <u>AA</u> HTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	34
8A	ARNGDHC <u>AAA</u> <u>AA</u> ACC <u>AA</u> HTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP DTVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	35
T72A	ARNGDHCPLG PGRCCRLHTV RASLEDLGWA DWVLSPREVQ VTMCIGACPS QFRAANMHAQ IKTSLHRLKP <u>D</u> AVPAPCCVP ASYNPMVLIQ KTDGTGVSQT YDDLLAKDCH CI	36

[0129]

5 Table 11 shows the binding of the four anti-hGDF15 antibodies to hGDF15 and the mutant hGDF15. HuMAB2 did not bind to the mutant hGDF15, or bound but at a weaker level than to the wild-type hGDF15. In contrast, binding of other

anti-hGDF15 antibodies to hGDF15 was not affected by the mutations. According to the results, it was revealed that, within the epitope of hGDF15 for HuMAB2, 5DHCPLGPGRCCRLH18 (SEQ ID NO: 3) on the N-terminus is important for the binding, and 13R and 16R are particularly important for binding of HuMAB2. The results also confirmed that MAB17, Hu01G06-127, and MAB957 have different epitopes from HuMAB2.

Table 11

	Anti-GDF15 antibody			
	HuMAB2	MAB17	Hu01G06-127	MAB957
hGDF15 (WT)	100	100	100	100
H6A	136.1±1.4	87.7±5.0	90.5±2.3	88.3±2.6
R13A	17.8±1.4	97.2±0.6	91.4±3.5	89.9±0.5
R16A	24.0±0.9	101.2±4.1	102.0±4.3	93.9±0.8
R13A, R16A	4.9±0.9	83.0±1.0	87.6±3.0	80.6±1.9
3A	0.4±0.2	109.8±1.3	96.2±0.2	99.0±1.6
4A	0.0±0.1	95.0±1.2	83.5±1.3	84.1±0.6
6A	0.0±0.0	83.9±1.9	61.6±0.5	74.3±4.1
8A	-0.1±0.1	78.8±0.2	57.1±0.6	69.2±1.9
T72A	100.9±2.7	104.4±4.4	107.7±6.9	101.2±3.7

The binding to each mutant hGDF15 was expressed as a relative value when the amount of the anti-GDF15 antibody bound to 500 pg/mL hGDF15 was 100. N=3. The value represents mean ± SD.

[0130]

F. Evaluation of HuMAB2 antibody reactivity to epitope region peptide

1 Test methods

Since the 14 residues from the asparagine residue at position 5 to the histidine residue at position 18 of hGDF15 (DHCPLGPGRCCRLH, SEQ ID NO: 3) were revealed to be important for the binding of HuMAB2, a peptide of this sequence was synthesized by GenScript (Table 12). Peptide 1 was unmodified at both ends, and Peptide 2 was synthesized by acetylating the amino terminus and amidating the carboxyl terminus for the purpose of mimicking the natural state because this

region is an internal region within hGDF15. HuMAB2 antibody (10 µg/mL) was added at 100 µL/well to a 96-well plate on which a 10 µg/mL peptide solution had been added at 100 µL/well and the peptide had been immobilized, and thereby reacted with the peptide (25°C for 3 hours). The bound HuMAB2 antibody was detected by adding a 5000-fold diluted anti-human IgG-HRP (Jackson ImmunoResearch, 109-035-008) at 100 µL/well and reacted at 25°C for 1 hour. A plate on which hGDF15 (R&D Systems, 957-GD-025/CF) was immobilized was used as a control plate. The detection antibody in Human GDF15 ELISA Kit (R&D Systems, DY957) (Table 9) was used as a positive control antibody that reacts with the peptide, and Human IgG1 Isotype control (Abcam, ab206198) was used as a negative control antibody.

Table 12

Synthesized peptides

Peptide name	Sequence	Modification
Peptide 1	DHCPLGPGRCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3)	None
Peptide 2	DHCPLGPGRCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3)	N-terminal acetylation and C-terminal amidation

[0131]

2 Results

As shown in Fig. 4, the anti-hGDF15 polyclonal antibody, which was a positive control antibody, reacted with both the two peptides and hGDF15. In contrast, HuMAB2 reacted only with hGDF15, and did not react with the two synthetic peptides as the negative control antibody Human IgG1 Isotype control (hIgG1). These results suggested that the sequence around the epitope or conformation is important for the binding of HuMAB2 to the epitope of hGDF15.

[0132]

G. Binding to hGDF15 of HuMAB2 variant prepared by amino

acid substitution in CDR

1 Test materials and methods

Test system

Cells

5 1) Cell line name: ExpiCHO

2) Origin: Chinese hamster

3) Cell source: Thermo Fisher Scientific (A29127)

4) Culture solution: ExpiCHO expression medium

10 5) Culture solution source: Thermo Fisher Scientific
(A2910001)

Antibody expression vector

1) Vector name: pcDNA-3.1

2) cDNA origin: Total synthesis

3) Source: Thermo Fisher Scientific

15 Recombinant protein

1) Protein name: Human GDF15 (hGDF15)

2) Origin: CHO cells

3) Source: R&D systems (957-GD-025/CF)
[0133]

20 Test methods

Design of expression vector

Based on the information obtained from the crystal structure analysis of HuMAB2 and hGDF15, the amino acids at the binding interface between the antibody and the antigen were determined as making up a paratope and an epitope, and expression vectors in which amino acid mutation was introduced into the heavy or light chain of HuMAB2 were designed. Table 13 shows a list of the variant antibodies (the modified amino acids are underlined). The regions in both heavy and light chains are arranged in the order of FR1-CDR1-FR2-CDR2-FR3-CDR3-FR4 from the N-terminus.

[0134]

Cell transfer of expression vector

35 CHO cells were seeded on a 24-well plate, and the next day, the expression vectors of the heavy and light chains of

the variant antibody shown in Table 13 were introduced in combination into the cells using TransIT-CHO kit (Takara, V2170). After 5 days, the whole supernatant was collected and stored in a freezer set at -20°C until use.

5 [0135]

Measurement of amount of binding to hGDF15

A 100 μ L hGDF15 solution (0.4 μ g/ml) was added to a 96-well plate and left at 4°C until the next morning to prepare a plate for ELISA. To the plate, 1% BSA was added for blocking
10 for 1 hour. A dilution series of the culture supernatant containing the variant antibody was prepared from 30-fold dilution (common ratio of dilution factor was 3), and 100 μ L of each solution was added to the ELISA plate and left for 2 hours. As a secondary antibody, an HRP conjugated anti-
15 human IgG antibody (Gene Tex, GTX26759) (20000-fold dilution) was added and left for 1 hour. TMB (Sigma, T-0440) was used for color development reaction, and 2N sulfuric acid was used as a reaction terminator. The absorbance was measured at 450 nm.

20 [0136]

Measurement of antibody concentration using OCTET

The antibody concentration in the culture supernatant was measured by a biomolecular interaction analysis system OCTET QKe (Pall ForteBio). The sensor chip was Protein L
25 (Pall ForteBio, 18-5085), the regenerated solution for the sensor chip was 10 mM Glycine (pH1.1), and the washing solution was ForteBio Sample Diluent (Pall ForteBio, 18-1048). As a standard, IgG from human serum reagent grade (Sigma-Aldrich, I12511-10MG) was used at 50 mg/mL, 10 mg/mL,
30 1 mg/mL, and 0.1 mg/mL, and the culture supernatant to be measured was diluted 2-fold with Sample Diluent (Pall ForteBio, 18-1104) before use. In the measurement program, the sensor chip was regenerated for 5 seconds and washed for 5 seconds for 3 cycles, and then the antibody concentration
35 measurement was set as 120 seconds.

[0137]

Comparison of amount of binding to HuMAB2

The amount of binding to human hGDF15 at 5 ng/mL of antibody was calculated on Excel, and the amount of binding of each variant antibody was expressed as a relative value when the amount of HuMAB2 bound to hGDF15 was 100. Three independent tests were performed to determine the mean $\pm$ standard error. The amount of binding was set to 0 when the antibody was not expressed due to the mutation. The results are shown in Figs. 5A to 5D.

[0138]

2 Results

Five antibodies that showed a relative amount of binding of 1.5 times or more that of HuMAB2 were obtained. In contrast, a decrease of the amount of binding to 50% or less was observed in 30 antibodies. The two results of "H50S-L7" shown in of Fig. 5A "H chain modified antibody 1/2" were obtained with the same vector to check errors between wells in culture and ELISA. Since the two showed similar values, the test system was shown to be stable.

[0139]

The heavy chain variant antibodies H48S-L7, H83R-L7, and H120F-L7, and the light chain variant antibodies H3-L48K and H3-L112D had an approximately 1.5-fold increase in binding strength compared to HuMAB2. On the other hand, since the amount of binding was decreased in the variant at glycine at position 111 (111G) and the variant at leucine at position 114 (114L), which were variants of the light chain of HuMAB2, these amino acids were suggested to make an important site for binding to hGDF15 and maintaining the structure of the CDR sequences of HuMAB2.

[0140]

Table 13-1

Antibody name	Sequence name		Mutation site		Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
	H chain	L chain	Chain	Region		
H48R-L7	H48R	L7	H	FR1	DVQLQESGPGGLVKPSETLS LTCTVSGFSIR	37
H49R-L7	H49R	L7	H	CDR-H1	RDCYWI	38
H49D-L7	H49D	L7	H	CDR-H1	DDCYWI	39
H50R-L7	H50R	L7	H	CDR-H1	SRCYWI	40
H50S-L7	H50S	L7	H	CDR-H1	SSCYWI	41
H50F-L7	H50F	L7	H	CDR-H1	SFCYWI	42
H52R-L7	H52R	L7	H	CDR-H1	SDCRWI	43
H52Q-L7	H52Q	L7	H	CDR-H1	SDCQWI	44
H72R-L7	H72R	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFRSGITYYNPSLAS	45
H73D-L7	H73D	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYDGYITYYNPSLAS	46
H73R-L7	H73R	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYRGITYYNPSLAS	47
H73Y-L7	H73Y	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYYGYITYYNPSLAS	48
H119R-L7	H119R	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCRYAMDY	49
H119F-L7	H119F	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCFYAMDY	50
H48S-L7	H48S	L7	H	FR1	DVQLQESGPGGLVKPSETLS LTCTVSGFSIS	51
H71Y-L7	H71Y	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTYYSGYITYYNPSLAS	52
H72A-L7	H72A	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFASGYITYYNPSLAS	53
H72L-L7	H72L	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFLSGYITYYNPSLAS	54
H72N-L7	H72N	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFNSGYITYYNPSLAS	55
H72T-L7	H72T	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFTSGYITYYNPSLAS	56
H72W-L7	H72W	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFWSGYITYYNPSLAS	57
H75H-L7	H75H	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGHTYITYYNPSLAS	58
H75L-L7	H75L	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGLYITYYNPSLAS	59
H75N-L7	H75N	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGNTYITYYNPSLAS	60
H75Q-L7	H75Q	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGQTYITYYNPSLAS	61
H79H-L7	H79H	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYHPSLAS	62
H79K-L7	H79K	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYKPSLAS	63
H79Q-L7	H79Q	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYQPSLAS	64
H79R-L7	H79R	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYRPSLAS	65
H83R-L7	H83R	L7	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYNPSLRS	66

Table 13-2

Antibody name	Sequence name		Mutation site		Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
	H chain	L chain	Chain	Region		
H117Q-L7	H117Q	L7	H	CDR-H3	QCDYAMDY	67
H119E-L7	H119E	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCEYAMDY	68
H119H-L7	H119H	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCHYAMDY	69
H119K-L7	H119K	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCKYAMDY	70
H119N-L7	H119N	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCNYAMDY	71
H119Q-L7	H119Q	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCQYAMDY	72
H119S-L7	H119S	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCSYAMDY	73
H119T-L7	H119T	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCTYAMDY	74
H120A-L7	H120A	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCDAAMDY	75
H120D-L7	H120D	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCDDAMDY	76
H120F-L7	H120F	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCDFAMDY	77
H120N-L7	H120N	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCDNAMDY	78
H120Q-L7	H120Q	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCDQAMDY	79
H122F-L7	H122F	L7	H	CDR-H3	DCDYAFDY	80
H3-L47R	H3delK	L47R	L	CDR-L1	RASRDISNYLN	81
H3-L48E	H3delK	L48E	L	CDR-L1	RASQEISNYLN	82
H3-L48R	H3delK	L48R	L	CDR-L1	RASQRISNYLN	83
H3-L48S	H3delK	L48S	L	CDR-L1	RASQSISNYLN	84
H3-L48K	H3delK	L48K	L	CDR-L1	RASQKISNYLN	85
H3-L50D	H3delK	L50D	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIDNYLN	86
H3-L50R	H3delK	L50R	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIRNYLN	87
H3-L50F	H3delK	L50F	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIFNYLN	88
H3-L50Y	H3delK	L50Y	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIYNYLN	89
H3-L73R	H3delK	L73R	L	CDR-L2	YTSRLHS	90
H3-L111F	H3delK	L111F	L	CDR-L3	QQFNTLPWT	91
H3-L111Y	H3delK	L111Y	L	CDR-L3	QQYNTLPWT	92
H3-L112E	H3delK	L112E	L	CDR-L3	QQGETLPWT	93
H3-L112R	H3delK	L112R	L	CDR-L3	QQGRTLPT	94
H3-L112D	H3delK	L112D	L	CDR-L3	QQGDTLPWT	95
H3-L112F	H3delK	L112F	L	CDR-L3	QQGFTLPWT	96
H3-L113D	H3delK	L113D	L	CDR-L3	QQGNDLPWT	97
H3-L113R	H3delK	L113R	L	CDR-L3	QQGNRLPWT	98
H3-L113F	H3delK	L113F	L	CDR-L3	QQGNFLPWT	99
H3-L48H	H3delK	L48H	L	CDR-L1	RASQHISNYLN	100
H3-L48Y	H3delK	L48Y	L	CDR-L1	RASQYISNYLN	101
H3-L50Q	H3delK	L50Q	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIQNYLN	102
H3-L50W	H3delK	L50W	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIWNYLN	103
H3-L51Q	H3delK	L51Q	L	CDR-L1	RASQDISQYLN	104

Table 13-3

Antibody name	Sequence name		Mutation site		Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
	H chain	L chain	Chain	Region		
H3-L69Y	H3delK	L69Y	L	FR2	WYQQKPGKAVKLLI Y	105
H3-L70F	H3delK	L70F	L	CDR-L2	F TSTLHS	106
H3-L70H	H3delK	L70H	L	CDR-L2	H TSTLHS	107
H3-L72D	H3delK	L72D	L	CDR-L2	YT D TLHS	108
H3-L72E	H3delK	L72E	L	CDR-L2	YT E TLHS	109
H3-L72R	H3delK	L72R	L	CDR-L2	YT R TLHS	110
H3-L72Y	H3delK	L72Y	L	CDR-L2	YT Y TLHS	111
H3-L73K	H3delK	L73K	L	CDR-L2	YTS K LHS	112
H3-L73N	H3delK	L73N	L	CDR-L2	YTS N LHS	113
H3-L73Y	H3delK	L73Y	L	CDR-L2	YTS Y LHS	114
H3-L75Q	H3delK	L75Q	L	CDR-L2	YTSTL Q S	115
H3-L87K	H3delK	L87K	L	FR3	GVPSRFSGSG K GTDYTLTI SSLQPEDFATYFC	116
H3-L87N	H3delK	L87N	L	FR3	GVPSRFSGSG N GTDYTLTI SSLQPEDFATYFC	117
H3-L111A	H3delK	L111A	L	CDR-L3	QQ A NTPWT	118
H3-L111N	H3delK	L111N	L	CDR-L3	QQ N NTPWT	119
H3-L111S	H3delK	L111S	L	CDR-L3	QQ S NTPWT	120
H3-L112H	H3delK	L112H	L	CDR-L3	QQ H TLPWT	121
H3-L112Q	H3delK	L112Q	L	CDR-L3	QQ Q TLPWT	122
H3-L112T	H3delK	L112T	L	CDR-L3	QQ T TLPWT	123
H3-L112Y	H3delK	L112Y	L	CDR-L3	QQ Y TLPWT	124
H3-L113S	H3delK	L113S	L	CDR-L3	QQGN S LPWT	125
H3-L114F	H3delK	L114F	L	CDR-L3	QQGN F PWT	126
H3-L114H	H3delK	L114H	L	CDR-L3	QQGN H PWT	127
H3-L114I	H3delK	L114I	L	CDR-L3	QQGN I PWT	128
H3-L114N	H3delK	L114N	L	CDR-L3	QQGN N PWT	129
H3-L114Y	H3delK	L114Y	L	CDR-L3	QQGN Y PWT	130
H3-L116H	H3delK	L116H	L	CDR-L3	QQGNTLP H T	131
H3-L116Y	H3delK	L116Y	L	CDR-L3	QQGNTLP Y T	132

[0141]

5 II. Pharmacological test (1)

A. Capture of hGDF15 in blood

1 Test materials and methods

Animals

1) Species/Lineage: mouse/BALB-c Slc-nu/nu

10 2) Microbiological grade: specific pathogen-free (SPF)

3) Source: Japan SLC

4) Gender: Female

5) Week age: 6 weeks old (at the time of hGDF15 or antibody administration)

6) Breeding conditions

Animals are bred under the environment set at the following conditions.

a) Temperature: $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$

b) Humidity: $60 \pm 10\%$

c) Lighting: Lighting time: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Off time: 7:00 pm to 7:00 am

d) Food and water: Free intake, CRF-1 (Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd.), tap water

[0142]

Test schedule

Table 14 shows the test schedule wherein the day of antibody administration is set as Day 0.

Table 14

Item	Day with the day of antibody administration as Day 0 (● indicates the day of implementation)				
	-2	0	1	2	3
Grouping	●				
rhGDF15 administration		●	●	●	●
Antibody administration		●			
Body weight, food intake	●	●	●	●	●
Blood collection					●

20

[0143]

How to raise animals

Mice were separated into individual cages 3 days after delivery. In order to acclimatize to individual breeding, the acclimatization period until grouping was set to 5 days.

25

[0144]

Grouping

Based on the body weight, mice were divided into 6 groups in total, 6 animals per group, by an experimental data collection and processing system (SAS institute Japan, R9.3).

[0145]

Administration of anti-hGDF15 antibody

rhGDF15, HuMAB2 antibody, and MAB17 antibody were intraperitoneally administered at 10 mL/kg. To the control group, Dulbecco's Phosphate-Buffered Saline (DPBS) was administered at 10 mL/kg. The groups are shown in Table 15.

Table 15

	Treatment	n
1	DPBS	6
2	rhGDF15 0.3 mg/kg	6
3	rhGDF15 1 mg/kg	6
4	rhGDF15 3 mg/kg	6
5	rhGDF15 3 mg/kg + MAB17 3 mg/kg	6
6	rhGDF15 3 mg/kg + HuMAB2 3 mg/kg	6

[0146]

Measurement of body weight and food intake

Body weight and food intake were measured on the day of grouping and 0, 1, 2, and 3 days after administration.

[0147]

Blood collection and anatomy

Blood was collected from the inferior vena cava of mice anesthetized with isoflurane inhalation on 3 days after antibody administration. Plasma was prepared using an EDTA2K blood collection tube and stored in a freezer set at -80°C until use. After blood collection, the mice were exsanguinated and euthanized by inferior vena cava incision under anesthesia.

[0148]

Blood unbound hGDF15 concentration

In order to measure hGDF15 that was not bound to antibodies in blood (unbound hGDF15), antigen-antibody complexes were removed by the following procedure. Five μL of Protein A/G agarose beads (Thermo scientific, 20421) was mixed with 50 μL of mouse plasma and 145 μL of PBS and mixed at 4°C for 2 hours. After centrifugation, the supernatant was transferred to a new Eppen tube and stored in a freezer at -80°C until use. Subsequent blood GDF15 measurement was performed with a GDF15 measurement ELISA kit (R&D systems, DY957) according to the instructions of the kit. For samples below the detection limit, the blood GDF15 concentration was set to 0 pg/mL.

[0149]

Statistical analysis

Wilcoxon rank sum test was performed on the concentration of unbound GDF15 in blood. SAS software (SAS institute Japan, R9.3) was used for statistical analysis.

[0150]

2 Results

The results are shown in Fig. 6. The blood hGDF15 concentration increased depending on the dose of rhGDF15, and both MAB17 and HuMAB2 captured GDF15 in blood.

[0151]

B. Decreased blood GDF15 concentration in cancer-bearing mouse model

1 Test materials and methods

Test substances

- HuMAB2

- MAB1

- MAB13

Control substances

- MAB17

- MAB957 (R&D Systems)

- Hu01G06-127 (WO2014/100689)

[0152]

Preparation of test substances and control substances

5 All antibodies were prepared at 1 mg/mL with DPBS and
stored in a freezer at -80°C until the day of administration.

[0153]

Test system

Cells

1) Cell line name: MKN45

10 2) Origin: Human gastric cancer

3) Source: JCRB (Japanese Collection of Research
Bioresources) cell bank

4) Culture conditions: 37°C, 5% CO₂

a) Culture medium: RPMI1640

15 i) Source: life technologies

b) Serum: Fetal bovine serum

i) Concentration: 10%

ii) Source: Tissue Culture Biology

Animals

20 5) Species/Lineage: mouse/BALB-c Slc-nu/nu

6) Microbiological grade: specific pathogen-free (SPF)

7) Source: Japan SLC

8) Gender: Female

9) Week age: 7 weeks old (at the time of cell
25 transplantation)

10) Animals were bred under the environment described in "A.
Capture of hGDF15 in blood".

[0154]

Group composition

30

Table 16

Test 1				
	Group	Cell transplan tation	Agent administered (dose)	n
1	Normal (vehicle)	none	DPBS	5
2	MKN45 (vehicle)	MKN45	DPBS	5
3	MKN45 (MAB17)	MKN45	MAB17 (10 mg/kg)	5
4	MKN45 (MAB957 ¹⁾)	MKN45	MAB957 (10 mg/kg)	5
5	MKN45 (Hu01G06-127 ²⁾)	MKN45	Hu01G06-127 (10 mg/kg)	5
6	MKN45 (HuMAB2)	MKN45	HuMAB2 (10 mg/kg)	5

1) R&D Systems, MAB957, Lot No: UDC1014011

2) Humanized anti-hGDF15 antibody (WO2014/100689)

Table 17

Test 2				
	Group	Cell transplan tation	Agent administered (dose)	n
1	Normal (vehicle)	none	DPBS	5
2	MKN45 (vehicle)	MKN45	DPBS	5
3	MKN45 (MAB17)	MKN45	MAB17 (10 mg/kg)	5
4	MKN45 (MAB1)	MKN45	MAB1 (10 mg/kg)	5
5	MKN45 (MAB13)	MKN45	MAB13 (10 mg/kg)	5

5

[0155]

Test methods

How to raise animals

- 10 Mice were separated into individual cages 3 days after delivery. In order to acclimatize to individual breeding, the acclimatization period until transplantation of MKN45 was set to 5 days.

[0156]

- 15 Cell preparation and cell transplantation into animals

- 20 MKN45 cells were cultured in a 150 mm petri dish. The cells were harvested by treatment with 0.25% trypsin-EDTA (SIGMA, T6689) on the day of transplantation, and the supernatant was removed by centrifugation (1200 rpm, 5 minutes). The cells were suspended in DPBS to 5×10^6 cells/mL and transplanted subcutaneously into the abdomen of mice

anesthetized with isoflurane inhalation at 0.2 mL/body (1×10^6 cells/body).

[0157]

Grouping

5 In Test 1, 5 mice were randomly selected from 42 mice before transplantation of MKN45 as Normal (vehicle) group, and MKN45 was transplanted to the remaining 37 mice. Twelve days after transplantation of MKN45, the mice were divided into 6 groups, 5 mice per group, by SAS software (SAS
10 institute Japan, R9.4) based on the body weight, and assigned to MKN45 (vehicle) group, MKN45 (MAB17) group, MKN45 (MAB957) group, MKN45 (Hu01G06-127) group, and MKN45 (HuMAB2) group. Similarly, in Test 2, the mice were assigned to Normal (vehicle) group, MKN45 (vehicle) group, MKN45 (MAB17) group,
15 MKN45 (MAB1) group, and MKN45 (MAB13) group in 5 mice per group. After grouping, surplus animals were exsanguinated and euthanized under isoflurane anesthesia.

[0158]

Administration of DPBS and antibodies

20 DPBS and antibodies (10 mL/kg) were intraperitoneally administered 14 days after MKN45 transplantation (2 days after grouping). In Test 1, DPBS and antibodies were also administered 7 days after the start of antibody administration.

25 [0159]

Blood sampling

 Blood was collected from the inferior vena cava of mice anesthetized with isoflurane inhalation 14 days (Test 1) or 7 days (Test 2) after the start of antibody administration.
30 Plasma was prepared using an EDTA2K blood collection tube and stored in a freezer set at -80°C until use. After blood collection, the mice were exsanguinated and euthanized by inferior vena cava incision under anesthesia.

[0160]

35 Blood unbound hGDF15 concentration

In order to measure hGDF15 that was not bound to antibodies in blood (unbound hGDF15), the antigen-antibody complex was removed by the following procedure. Five μL of Protein A/G agarose beads (Thermo scientific, 20421), 50 μL of mouse plasma and 145 μL of PBS were mixed at 4°C for 2 hours. After centrifugation, the supernatant was transferred to a new Eppen tube and stored in a freezer at -80°C until use. Subsequent blood GDF15 measurement was performed with a GDF15 measurement ELISA kit (R&D systems, DY957) according to the instructions of the kit. For samples below the detection limit (62.5 pg/mL or less), the blood GDF15 concentration was set to 0 pg/mL.

[0161]

Statistical analysis

Wilcoxon rank sum test was performed on the concentration of unbound hGDF15 in blood 14 days (Test 1) or 7 days (Test 2) after the start of antibody administration. SAS software (SAS institute Japan, R9.4) was used for statistical analysis.

[0162]

2 Results

In Test 1, the blood hGDF15 concentration was about 2000 pg/mL in the MKN45 group in which MKN45 cells were transplanted. Among the groups in which any of the antibodies was administered to the MKN45-transplanted model mouse, the blood hGDF15 concentration increased in the MAB17-, MAB957-, and Hu01G06-127-administered groups as compared with the solvent-administered group. On the other hand, in the HuMAB2-administered group, the blood hGDF15 concentration decreased (Fig. 7).

[0163]

Table 18 shows the relative values when the blood hGDF15 concentration in the solvent-administered group was 100 in Test 2. Similar to HuMAB2, MAB1 and MAB13 also showed a decrease in blood hGDF15 concentration.

Table 18

Group	Relative value of blood GDF15 level
MKN45(vehicle)	100
MKN45(MAB17)	302.6
MKN45(MAB1)	72.1
MKN45(MAB13)	85.8

5 [0164]

The above results were different from the results of MAB17 in the test administering a recombinant hGDF15 (Fig. 6). One of the reasons for this can be the difference in epitope between HuMAB2 and the other three antibodies used in the test. hGDF15 is produced by cleavage of pro hGDF15 by a proteolytic enzyme (A.R.Bauson et al. Cancer Res. 2005; 65 (6): 2320-2336). It is considered that HuMAB2 has an epitope in the vicinity of this cleavage site, and binding to this epitope may suppress the production of hGDF15. It has been reported that an anti-CCL-2 neutralizing antibody (ABN912) did not improve but exacerbated the condition of rheumatoid arthritis patients. The antibody increased the blood CCL-2 concentration in a dose-dependent manner and this was considered to be one of the reasons of this exacerbation, suggesting the importance of reducing blood antigen levels (J.J.Haringman et al. Arthritis & Rheumatism 2006; 54 (8): 2387-2392). Therefore, anti-GDF15 antibodies that reduce the amount of blood GDF15 such as HuMAB2 are expected to be clinically more useful than those that increase blood hGDF15.

25 [0165]

C. Improvement of cachexia symptoms in cancer-bearing mouse model (1)

1 Test materials and methods

1.1 Preparation of test substance

30 HuMAB2 was prepared at 1 mg/mL with DPBS and stored in

a freezer at -80°C until the day of administration.

[0166]

1.2 Test system

1.2.1 Cells

5 1) Cell line name: MKN45

2) Origin: Human gastric cancer

3) Source: JCRB (Japanese Collection of Research Bioresources) cell bank

4) Culture conditions: 37°C , 5% CO_2

10 a) Culture medium: RPMI 1640

i) Source: life technologies

b) Serum: Fetal bovine serum

i) Concentration: 10%

ii) Source: Tissue Culture Biology

15 1.2.2 Animal

1) Species/Lineage: mouse/BALB-c Slc-nu/nu

2) Microbiological grade: specific pathogen-free (SPF)

3) Source: Japan SLC

4) Gender: Female

20 5) Week age: 7 weeks old (at the time of cell transplantation)

6) Breeding conditions

Animals are bred under the environment set at the following conditions.

25 a) Temperature: $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$

b) Humidity: $60 \pm 10\%$

c) Lighting: Lighting time: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

Off time: 7:00 pm to 7:00 am

30 d) Food and water: Free intake, CRF-1 (Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd.), tap water

[0167]

1.2.3 Group composition

Table 19

	Group	Cell transplan tation	Agent administered (dose)	n
1	Normal (vehicle)	none	DPBS	8
2	MKN45 (vehicle)	MKN45	DPBS	8
3	MKN45 (HuMAB2)	MKN45	HuMAB2 (10 mg/kg)	8

[0168]

5 1.3 Test methods

1.3.1 Test schedule

Table 20 shows the test schedule wherein the day of antibody administration was set as Day 0.

Table 20

Item	Day with the day of antibody administration as Day 0 (● indicates the day of implementation)								
	-14	-11	-8	-5	-2	0	2	4	7
MKN45 transplantation	●								
Grouping					●				
Antibody administration						●			
Body weight, food intake	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Blood collection, dissection									●

[0169]

1.3.2 How to raise animals

Mice were separated into individual cages 3 days after delivery. In order to acclimatize to individual breeding, the acclimatization period until transplantation of MKN45 was set to 5 days.

[0170]

1.3.3 Cell preparation and cell transplantation into animals

MKN45 cells were cultured in a 150 mm petri dish. The cells were harvested by treatment with 0.25% trypsin-EDTA

(SIGMA, T6689) on the day of transplantation, and the supernatant was removed by centrifugation (1200 rpm, 5 minutes). The cells were suspended in DBPS to 5×10^6 cells/mL and transplanted subcutaneously into the abdomen of mice anesthetized with isoflurane inhalation at 0.2 mL/body (1×10^6 cells/body).

[0171]

1.3.4 Grouping

Prior to transplantation of MKN45, 8 mice were randomly selected from 32 mice as Normal group, and MKN45 was transplanted to the remaining 24 mice. Twelve days after transplantation of MKN45, the mice were divided into 2 groups in total, 8 mice per group, based on the body weight, by an experimental data collection and processing system (EDCS, ver. 2.1) and assigned to MKN45 group and HuMAB2 group. After grouping, surplus animals were exsanguinated and euthanized under isoflurane anesthesia.

[0172]

1.3.5 Administration of DPBS and HuMAB2

DPBS and HuMAB2 were administered 14 days after MKN45 transplantation (2 days after grouping). DPBS and HuMAB2 were administered intraperitoneally at 10 mL/kg.

[0173]

1.3.6 Measurement of body weight and food intake

Body weight and food intake were measured every 3 days from the day of MKN45 transplantation to the day of antibody administration. Measurements were taken 0, 2, 4, and 7 days after antibody administration.

[0174]

1.3.7 Blood collection and anatomy

Blood was collected from the inferior vena cava of mice anesthetized with isoflurane inhalation on 7 days after antibody administration. Plasma was prepared using an EDTA2K blood collection tube and stored in a freezer set at -80°C until use. After blood collection, the mice were

exsanguinated and euthanized by inferior vena cava incision under anesthesia. The tumor was collected by dissecting the skin of the tumor site with surgical scissors and the collected tumor was weighed.

5 [0175]

1.4 Statistical analysis

Regarding body weight and tumor weight 7 days after antibody administration and cumulative food intake from the day of antibody administration to Day 7, unpaired t-tests were performed between Normal group and MKN45 group and between MKN45 group and HuMAB2 group, respectively. Wilcoxon rank sum test was performed on the concentration of unbound GDF15 in blood. SAS software (SAS institute Japan, R9.3) was used for statistical analysis.

15 [0176]

2 Results

Using cancer-bearing (MKN45-transplanted) mice, the effect of HuMAB2 on changes in body weight and food intake, which are symptoms of cancer cachexia, was investigated, and the effect on the amount of unbound GDF15 in blood was also examined. Fig. 8 shows changes in body weight, cumulative food intake for 7 days after antibody administration, and blood unbound GDF15 concentration 7 days after antibody administration. The body weight 7 days after antibody administration was reduced by about 4 g in MKN45 group as compared with Normal group, and a significant weight loss was observed by transplantation of MKN45 cells ($P < 0.01$). On the other hand, in HuMAB2 group, recovery of body weight loss was observed after administration of the antibody, and a significant increase in body weight was observed as compared with MKN45 group ($P < 0.01$). Similarly, the cumulative food intake for 7 days after antibody administration was significantly decreased in MKN45 group ($P < 0.01$), and significantly increased in HuMAB2 group compared with MKN45 group ($P < 0.01$). No unbound GDF15 in blood was

detected in Normal group, but the blood unbound GDF15 concentration significantly increased to about 1500 pg/mL in MKN45 group ($P < 0.01$), and similar to the result in Fig. 7, it significantly decreased to about one twentieth in HuMAB2 group ($P < 0.01$). These results confirmed that the cachexia-like symptoms (weight loss, food intake) in MKN45-transplanted mice were recovered by administration of HuMAB2. [0177]

D. Improvement of cachexia symptoms in cancer-bearing mouse model (2)

1 Test materials and methods

1.1 Preparation of test substance

HuMAB2 was prepared at 1 mg/mL with DPBS and stored in a freezer at -80°C until the day of administration.

[0178]

1.2 Test system

1.2.1 Cells

1) Cell line name: MKN45

1) Origin: Human (human gastric cancer tissue)

2) Source: JCRB (Japanese Collection of Research Bioresources)

3) Culture conditions: 37°C , 5% CO_2 , Pre-culture conditions: 37°C , 5% CO_2

a) Culture medium: RPMI1640

i) Source: life technologies

b) Serum: Fetal bovine serum

i) Concentration: 10%

ii) Source: Tissue Culture Biology

1.2.2 Animals

1) Species/Lineage: mouse/BALB-c Slc-nu/nu

2) Microbiological grade: specific pathogen-free (SPF)

3) Source: Japan SLC

4) Gender: Female

5) Week age: 6-12 weeks old

6) Breeding conditions

Animals were bred under the environment set at the following conditions.

a) Temperature: $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$

b) Humidity: $60 \pm 10\%$

5 c) Lighting: Lighting time: 7:00 am to 7:00 pm
Off time: 7:00 pm to 7:00 am

d) Food and water: Free intake (Pair-feeding group in Test 1 was fed with a prescribed amount daily), CRF-1 (Oriental Yeast Co., Ltd.), tap water

10

[0179]

1.2.3 Group composition

Table 21

	Group	Cell transplan tation	Agent administered (dose)	n
1	Normal (vehicle)	none	DPBS	5
2	MKN45 (vehicle)	MKN45	DPBS	4
3	MKN45.(HuMAB2)	MKN45	HuMAB2 (10 mg/kg)	4

15

[0180]

1.3 Test methods

1.3.1 Model preparation, grouping, and antibody administration

20 First, 5 animals were randomly selected as Normal group. The cachexia model was prepared as described in C above, and the antibody was intraperitoneally administered (Fig. 9).

[0181]

1.3.2 Measurement of locomotor activity

25 To measure the locomotor activity, a wireless running wheel (Brain Science Idea, ENV-044) was installed in the cage, and the number of rotations of the running wheel was measured as the locomotor activity. The measured values were gathered every 12 hours in the light period (7 am to 7 pm)
30 and the dark period (7 pm to 7 am).

[0182]

1.4 Endpoint

- Body weight
- Locomotor activity

5 [0183]

1.5 Statistical analysis

Grouping was done in one dimension using weight as an index. SAS software (SAS institute Japan, R9.3) was used for grouping and testing.

10 [0184]

2 Results

To assess cachexia-like symptoms induced by GDF15, a running wheel was placed in the cage and locomotor activity was measured. Fig. 9 shows the test schedule. Compared with Normal group, the amount of activity in MKN45 group decreased to about 1/10. It was demonstrated that this decrease in the amount of activity recovered to almost the same level as Normal group about 3 days after administration of HuMAB2. It was also demonstrated that in MKN45 group, not only the decrease in the amount of activity, but also a change in the activity pattern was observed. In Normal group, the characteristics of nocturnal animals, which become active in the dark period and less active in the light period, were observed. However, in MKN45 group, the activity pattern was clearly reversed. Then, in HuMAB2 group, to which the antibody was administered, the pattern was restored as in Normal group.

[0185]

III. Antibody production (2)

30 A. Sequencing

The amino acid sequences of MAB1 and MAB13 (Table 1) were determined in the same manner as those of MAB2. The amino acid sequences of the H and L chain variable regions are shown in Table 22, and the CDR sequences are shown in Table 23.

[0186]

Table 22

Antibody name	Sequence name (vector name)	Amino acid sequence (CDR sequence is underlined)	SEQ ID NO:
MAB1	H chain variable region	MSSPQSLKTLTITMGWTWIFILILSVTTGVH SEVQLQQSGPELEKPGASVKISCKASGYSFT <u>GYNMN</u> WVKQSNQKSLEWIGN <u>NIDPYYGGTSYN</u> <u>QKFKG</u> KATLTVDKSSSTAYMQLKSLTSEDSA VYYCAR <u>PGRYDGAWFAY</u> WGQGLVTVSA	133
	L chain variable region	MDFQVQIFSFLLISASVIMSRGQIVLSQSPA ILSASPGEKVTMT <u>CRASSNVN</u> MHWYQQKPG SSPKPWIY <u>ATSNLAS</u> GVPARFSGSGSGTSYS LTISRVEAEDAATYYC <u>QQWSDNPLT</u> FGAGTK LELK	134
MAB13	H chain variable region	MSSPQSLKTLTLTMGGIWIFLFLLSGTAGVH SEIQLQQTGPPELVKPGASVKISCKASGYSFT <u>DYIML</u> WVKQRHGKSLEWIGN <u>NIHPYYGTTSYN</u> <u>LKFKG</u> KATLTVDKSSSTAYMQLNSLTSEDSA VYYCARG <u>GIGGSPFAY</u> WGQGLVTVSA	135
	L chain variable region	MKLPVRLLVLMFWIPASSSDVLMQTPLSLP VSLGDQASISCR <u>SSQSIVHS</u> NGNTYLEWYLQ KPGQSPKLLIY <u>KVSNRFS</u> GVDPDRFTGTGSGT DFTLKISRVEAEDLGVYYC <u>FQGSHPVPT</u> FGG GTKLEIK	136

5

[0187]

Table 23

Antibody name	Chain	CDR number	Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
MAB1	H	CDR-H1	GYNMN	137
	H	CDR-H2	NIDPYYGGTSYNQKFKG	138
	H	CDR-H3	PGRYDGAWFAY	139
	L	CDR-L1	RASSNVNYMH	140
	L	CDR-L2	ATSNLAS	141
	L	CDR-L3	QQWSDNPLT	142
MAB13	H	CDR-H1	DYIML	143
	H	CDR-H2	NIHPYYGTTSYNLKFKEG	144
	H	CDR-H3	GIGGSPFAY	145
	L	CDR-L1	RSSQSIVHSNGNTYLE	146
	L	CDR-L2	KVSNRFS	147
	L	CDR-L3	FQGSHVPYT	148

[0188]

5 B. Preparation of variant antibodies

In the same manner as in "I. Antibody production (1) G. Binding to hGDF15 of HuMAB2 variant prepared by amino acid substitution in CDR", HuMAB2 variants shown in Table 24 were further prepared. Fig. 10 shows the amount of binding to hGDF15 of each variant antibody when the amount of binding of HuMAB2 was 100. Antibodies showing a binding amount equal to or higher than that of HuMAB2 were obtained.

Table 24

Antibody name	Sequence name		Mutation site		Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
	H chain	L chain	Chain	Region		
H54T-L7	H54T	L7	H	CDR-H1	SDCYW T	149
H54N-L7	H54N	L7	H	CDR-H1	SDCYW N	150
H71R-L7	H71R	L7	H	CDR-H2	Y T RYSGITYYNPSLAS	151
H71H-L7	H71H	L7	H	CDR-H2	Y H YSGITYYNPSLAS	152
H77I-L7	H77I	L7	H	CDR-H2	Y I YSGITYYNPSLAS	153
H3-L51Y	H3	L51Y	L	CDR-L1	RASQDIS Y YLN	154
H3-L72F	H3	L72F	L	CDR-L2	YT F TLHS	155
H3-L73Q	H3	L73Q	L	CDR-L2	YTS Q LHS	156
H3-L74H	H3	L74H	L	CDR-L2	YTST H HS	157

[0189]

5 Further, the H chain (H49R, H49D, H48S, H71Y, H83R, or H120F) and L chain (L48K, L112D, L72F, or L74H) (Table 25), which were from the HuMAB2 variants having high binding activity to hGDF15, were combined and the binding of the antibody thus obtained to hGDF15 was examined. The results
10 are shown in Fig. 11. A large number of antibodies showing a binding amount equal to or higher than that of HuMAB2 were obtained.

Table 25

Sequence name	Mutation site		Sequence	SEQ ID NO:
	Chain	Region		
H49R	H	CDR-H1	R DCYWI	38
H49D	H	CDR-H1	D DCYWI	39
H48S	H	FR1	DVQLQESGPGGLVKPSETL SLTCTVSGFS I S	51
H71Y	H	CDR-H2	Y T YSGITYYNPSLAS	52
H83R	H	CDR-H2	YTFYSGITYYNPSL R S	66
H120F	H	CDR-H3	DCD F AMDY	77
L48K	L	CDR-L1	RASQ K ISNYLN	85
L112D	L	CDR-L3	QQG D TLPWT	95
L72F	L	CDR-L2	YT F TLHS	155
L74H	L	CDR-L2	YTST H HS	157

[0190]

5 C. Evaluation of inhibitory activity against GDF15, GFRAL and RET complex formation

GDF15 forms a complex with the receptor GFRAL and the co-receptor RET to transduce intracellular signals. Then, the effects of HuMAB2 on GDF15, GFRAL and RET complex formation were examined.

[0191]

First, the effect on GDF15 and GFRAL complex formation was examined (Fig. 12). GFRAL (R&D systems, 9697-GR) was immobilized on a plate, and GDF15 (R&D systems, 957-GD/CF) biotinylated with EZ-Link Micro NHS-PEG4-Biotinylation Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 21955) and a serially diluted solution of an anti-GDF15 monoclonal antibody (Table 26) were reacted with the plate. Human IgG1, kappa-Isotype Control (Abcam) was used as a negative control antibody.

GDF15 bound to GFRAL was detected using Pierce High Sensitivity Streptavidin-HRP (Thermo Fisher Scientific, 21130). TMB 1-Component Microwell Peroxidase Substrate, SureBlue (SeraCare Life Sciences) was used for color

development, and the reaction was stopped by adding a stop solution (Wako). Absorbance was measured at 450 nm (OD450) using Emax (Molecular Devices). The % of control value was calculated according to Equation-1 from the OD450 value when each antibody was added, with the OD450 value when no antibody was added as a control. The IC50 value was obtained by calculating the inhibition rate from the % of control value thus obtained according to Equation-2 and using an Excel macro for IC50 calculation.

% of control = OD450 value of antibody-added sample / OD450 value without antibody addition × 100 (Equation-1)
 Inhibition rate = 100 - % of control (Equation-2)
 [0192]

As shown in Table 26, anti-GDF15 antibodies other than HuMAB2 inhibited the complex formation of GDF15 and GFRAL, while HuMAB2 did not. This difference was thought to be due to difference of the epitopes of these antibodies.

Table 26

Antibody	IC50 (nM)
HuMAB2	>500
Hu01G06-127 ¹⁾	0.05
MAB17	11.98
MAB957 ²⁾	11.13
Human IgG ³⁾ (Negative Control)	>500

1) Humanized anti-hGDF15 antibody (WO2014/100689)

2) R&D Systems, MAB957, Lot No: UDC1014011

3) Human IgG1, kappa-Isotype Control (Abcam)

[0193]

Next, the effects on GDF15, GFRAL and RET complex formation were examined. To an ELISA plate on which 30 nM

GFRAL (R&D systems) was immobilized, a mixture of 50 nM GDF15 (R&D Systems, 9279-GD), 30 nM RET (R&D Systems, 1168-CR), and a serially diluted solution of HuMAB2 (0-500 nM) was added. Human IgG1, kappa-Isotype Control (Abcam) was used as a negative control antibody. The GDF15/GFRAL/RET complex thus formed was detected using Anti-His Peroxidase conjugated antibody (R&D systems, MAB050H). TMB 1-Component Microwell Peroxidase Substrate, SureBlue (SeraCare Life Sciences) was used for color development, and the reaction was stopped by adding a stop solution (Wako). Absorbance was measured at 450 nm using Emax (Molecular Devices). The % of control value was calculated according to Equation-1 from the OD450 value when each antibody was added, with the OD450 value when no antibody (0 nM antibody) was added as a control. The IC50 value was obtained by calculating the inhibition rate from the % of control value thus obtained according to Equation-2 and using an Excel macro for IC50 calculation.

[0194]

HuMAB2 failed to show inhibitory activity against GDF15/GFRAL complex formation (Table 26), but showed against GDF15/GFRAL/RET complex formation (Fig. 13). From these result, HuMAB2 was considered to exert its inhibitory activity on the function of GDF15 by inhibiting complex formation with RET, which functions to transmit signals into cells.

[0195]

VI. Pharmacological test (2)

A. Improvement of cachexia symptoms in cancer-bearing mouse model (3)

In the same manner as in "II. Pharmacological test (1) C. Improvement of cachexia symptoms in cancer-bearing mouse model (1)", the effect of MAB1 on body weight, food intake, and the amount of unbound GDF15 in blood was examined with cancer-bearing (MKN45 cell-transplanted) mice. The groups are shown in Table 27.

Table 27

	Group	Cell transplan tation	Agent administered (dose)	n
1	Normal (vehicle)	none	DPBS	8
2	MKN45 (vehicle)	MKN45	DPBS	8
3	MKN45 (MAB17)	MKN45	MAB17 (10 mg/kg)	8
4	MKN45 (MAB1)	MKN45	MAB1 (10 mg/kg)	8

5 [0196]

Fig. 14 shows changes in body weight, cumulative food intake for 7 days after antibody administration, and blood unbound GDF15 concentration 7 days after antibody administration. Weight loss was observed in MKN45 group, whereas recovery of weight loss was observed in MAB1 group after administration of the antibody. The cumulative food intake for 7 days after antibody administration also tended to increase in MAB1 group compared with MKN45 group. The blood unbound GDF15 concentration increased by MKN45 transplantation was decreased by MAB1, as was by HuMAB2 (Fig. 8). These results confirmed that the cachexia-like symptoms (weight loss, food intake) of MKN45 transplanted mice are recovered by administration of MAB1.

Claims

1. An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody binds to an epitope of hGDF15 comprising the amino acid sequence of DHCPLGPGRCCRLH (SEQ ID NO: 3).

2. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable

region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

3. The antibody of claim 1 or 2, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 or

an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

4. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 19,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 20,
and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 21,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 22,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 23.

5. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, and CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

6. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134

by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

7. The antibody of claim 1 or 6, wherein the antibody comprises

a heavy chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 or

an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues.

8. The antibody of any one of claims 1, 6 and 7, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 137,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 138,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 139,
and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 140,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 141,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 142.

9. The antibody of any one of claims 1 and 6 to 8, wherein the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 133, and CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 134.

10. The antibody of claim 1, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues; and

a light chain variable region that contains

CDR1 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR1 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR1 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues,

CDR2 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR2 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR2 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid residues, and

CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136, or CDR3 consisting of an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of the CDR3 contained in the light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136 by having amino acid modification of one to three amino acid

residues.

11. The antibody of claim 1 or 10, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues; and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues, and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 or
an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid
sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148 by having amino acid modification
of one to three amino acid residues.

12. The antibody of any one of claims 1, 10 and 11,
wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 143,

CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 144,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 145,
and
a light chain variable region that contains
CDR1 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 146,
CDR2 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 147,
and
CDR3 comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 148.

13. The antibody of any one of claims 1 and 10 to 12, wherein the antibody comprises CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 135, and CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 contained in a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 136.

14. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 13, wherein the antibody comprises
a heavy chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 90% or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20 amino acid residues;
and
a light chain variable region comprising an amino acid sequence having 90% or more sequence identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9, or the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 or an amino acid sequence that differs from the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 by having amino acid modification of 1 to 20 amino acid residues.

15. The antibody of any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the antibody comprises a heavy chain variable region

comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

16. An anti-hGDF15 antibody, wherein the antibody competes for binding to hGDF15 with the antibody of any one of claims 1 to 15.

17. The antibody of claim 16, wherein the antibody competes for binding to hGDF15 with an anti-hGDF15 antibody comprising a heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 and a light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9.

18. A polynucleotide encoding the antibody of any one of claims 1 to 17.

19. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 18.

20. A transformed cell comprising the polynucleotide of claim 18.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of any one of claims 1 to 17.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for treating a disease or symptom associated with GDF15.

23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the disease or symptom associated with GDF15 is cancer.

24. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the disease or symptom associated with GDF15 is cachexia.

25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 24, wherein the cachexia is cancer cachexia.

26. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 21, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is for decreasing blood GDF15 concentration.