

Specification

Anti-PCSK9 Antibody and Use Thereof

5 **Technical field**

The present invention belongs to the field of biomedicine. Provided herein is an antigenic polypeptide, which can be used for producing antibodies capable of binding to PCSK9-derived molecules. The invention also relates to an antibody or a functional fragment thereof specifically binding to PCSK9 with high affinity. The invention also provides a nucleic acid molecule encoding the present antibody or the functional fragment thereof, an expression vector and a host cell for expressing the present antibody or the functional fragment thereof, and the production method of the present antibody or the functional fragment thereof. The invention also provides an immunoconjugate and a pharmaceutical composition comprising the present antibody or the functional fragment thereof, and a method for treating various diseases including dyslipidemia and related cardiovascular diseases by using the present antibody or the functional fragment thereof.

Background technology

Familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) is an autosomal monogenic dominant genetic disease, which is familial and has various clinical performances. FH is the most serious one among lipid metabolism monogenic diseases, and is also referred to as LDL receptor disease or hyperlipidaemia type IIa, which is the most common inherited hyperlipidaemia in children, and is an important risk factor of coronary artery disease. The significant increase of Low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) is an important sign of the disease, and therefore, inhibiting the degradation of the hepatocytic LDLR and increasing the LDL uptake of LDLR can reduce the atherosclerosis progress, and the risk of disease can be reduced. PCSK9 gene mutations (S127R,F216L) were detected in ADH patient's family from which LDLR and apoB gene mutations were excluded. The effect of PCSK9 on lipid metabolism was illustrated for the first time (Abifadel, Varret et al. 2003). At present, PCSK9 is taken as a novel therapeutic target for dyslipidemia, and has a good application prospect.

Proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9(PCSK9), also referred to as neural apoptosis-regulated convertase 1 (NARC-1), belongs to the ninth member of the Kexin-like proprotein convertase subtilisin family, and is composed of 692 amino acid residues, mainly found in liver, kidney, and small intestine and the like. It is expressed by liver parenchyma cells, mesenchymal cells, and colon epidermal cells and the like, and is found in blood as a secretory

protein (Seidah, Benjannet et al. 2003).

Pcsk9 is encoded by PCSK9 gene, which is located on human autosomal LP33-p34.3, and is mainly synthesized in endoplasmic reticulum. It first forms a 72 kDa non-active precursor structure, and then cleavage occurs at positions 152 and 153 via autocatalysis, to form a 14 kDa precursor domain and a 57 kDa mature fragment comprising a catalytic domain and a C-terminal domain (Benjannet, Rhoads et al. 2004). The precursor domain can bind to the catalytic domain in a non-covalent fashion, which is necessary for correctly folding of mature fragment and transporting out of the endoplasmic reticulum.

PCSK9 gene mutation can be divided into a function acquired type (D347Y, S127R, F216L, L82X, and Y142X, etc.) and a function defected type (R46L, Y142X, and C679) (Abifadel, Varret et al. 2003), wherein through the synergy with different proteins, the function acquired type mutants can change the affinity of the PCSK9, or improve the sensitivity of protease to the self-cleavage of PCSK9, and improve the degradation of LDLR by PCSK9, resulting in increased blood LDL-C level, inducing ADH or early-onset atherosclerosis disease.

Research shows that PCSK9 not only has an important influence on differentiation of liver parenchyma cells and nerve cells (Seidah, Benjannet et al. 2003), but also adjusts the expression of low-density lipoprotein receptor (LDLR), so as to participate in synthesis and metabolism of cholesterol. Research shows that adding purified PCSK9 protein into HepG2 cell culture medium reduced cell surface LDLR with a dose dependent effect (Lagace, Curtis et al. 2006). However, the level of LDLR was significantly reduced in mice with liver cells over-expressing PCSK9, while the expression level of LDLR mRNA was not reduced (Lambert, Charlton et al. 2009). Therefore, PCSK9 adjusts LDLR level by a post-transcription mechanism.

LDLR molecule consisted of five main domains: a ligand-binding cysteine-rich region; an epidermal growth factor (EGF) precursor homologous domain, including three EGF-like repeat sequences (EGF-A, EGF-B, and EGF-C) and a beta helix structure, a saccharide domain, a transmembrane domain, and a cytoplasmic tail region containing a sequence necessary for receptor internalization.

In 2007, a breakthrough progress was made with respect to the study of molecular mechanism of PCSK9-mediated LDLR degradation. The study shows that PCSK9 is secreted into blood plasma, which can bind to the extracellular domain of LDLR and cause internalization, facilitating the degradation of the latter in lysosome (Zhang, Lagace et al. 2007). Further research showed that in neutral pH environment at cell surface, PCSK9 can bind to EGF-A on the extracellular segment of LDLR, causing endocytosis into the cell. In low-pH cellular environment, the C-terminal domain of PCSK9 can bind to the ligand domain of LDLR,

so that LDLR is degraded in lysosome and unable to return to cell membrane (Fisher, Surdo et al. 2007).

In conclusion, PCSK9 has become an important target of dyslipidemia and the related cardiovascular diseases at present. The monoclonal antibody against such has a wide application prospect.

Summary of Invention

The problem to be solved by embodiments of the invention

One object of the present invention is to provide an antibody against a dyslipidemia-related target and a functional fragment thereof, a method for treating dyslipidemia by using the antibody or the antibody functional fragment thereof, and the like.

Means for solving the technical problem

In order to achieve the above mentioned objects, the inventors of the invention performed thorough research, and completed the present invention based on the findings that the present antibody can specifically bind to PCSK9 and inhibit the binding of PCSK9 to LDLR, so as to increase the uptake of LDL-c. The present invention comprises the following embodiments.

In one embodiment, the invention provides anti-PCSK9 antibodies capable of binding to proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9(PSCK9), and functional fragments thereof, comprising the heavy chain CDRs of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 30 or any of the variants of the sequence, and/or the light chain CDRs of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 27 or any of the variants of the sequence.

In another embodiment, the invention further provides antibodies capable of binding to PCSK9 or functional fragments thereof, wherein the amino acid sequences of CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 of the heavy chain CDRs are selected from one of the groups consisting of the following amino acid sequences or variants thereof:

	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3
A	SEQ ID NO:4	SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:6
B	SEQ ID NO:10	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:12
C	SEQ ID NO:16	SEQ ID NO:17	SEQ ID NO:18
D	SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:24
E	SEQ ID NO:28	SEQ ID NO:29	SEQ ID NO:30

and/or the amino acid sequences of CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 of the light chain CDRs are selected from the group consisting of the following amino acid sequences or variants thereof.

	LCDR1	LCDR2	LCDR3
A	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:3
B	SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:8	SEQ ID NO:9
C	SEQ ID NO:13	SEQ ID NO:14	SEQ ID NO:15
D	SEQ ID NO:19	SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:21
E	SEQ ID NO:25	SEQ ID NO:26	SEQ ID NO:27

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Disclosed herein is an antibody or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the three heavy chain CDRs of the antibody or the functional fragment thereof are selected from any one of the following group (A) to group (E): (A) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:4, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:5 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, (B) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:10, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:11 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:12, (C) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:16, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:17 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:18, (D) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:22, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:23 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:24, and (E) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:28, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:29 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:30; and

15 the three light chain CDRs of the antibody or the functional fragment thereof are selected from any one of the following group (a) to group (e): (a) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:1, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:3, (b) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:7, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:8 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:9, (c) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:14 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:15, (d) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:19, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:20 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:21, and (e) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:25, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:26 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:27.

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In another embodiment, the present invention provides antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 and the functional fragment thereof, wherein the amino acid sequences of the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and the light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 are selected from the group consisting of the following amino acid sequences or variants thereof:

	LCDR1	LCDR2	LCDR3	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3
A	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:3	SEQ ID NO:4	SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:6
B	SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:8	SEQ ID NO:9	SEQ ID NO:10	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:12
C	SEQ ID NO:13	SEQ ID NO:14	SEQ ID NO:15	SEQ ID NO:16	SEQ ID NO:17	SEQ ID NO:18
D	SEQ ID NO:19	SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:21	SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:24
E	SEQ ID NO:25	SEQ ID NO:26	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:28	SEQ ID NO:29	SEQ ID NO:30

In another embodiment, the invention provides antibodies capable of binding to PCSK9 or functional fragments thereof, which comprises a heavy chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40 or variants of any of said sequences, and/or a light chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 or variants of said sequences.

In another embodiment, the invention provides antibodies capable of binding to PCSK9 or functional fragments thereof, wherein said heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 32 or a variant thereof and said light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 31 or a variant thereof, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 34 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 33 or a variant thereof, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:36 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:35 or a variant thereof, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:38 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 37 or a variant thereof, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 40 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 39 or a variant thereof.

In another embodiment, the invention provides antibodies capable of binding to PCSK9 or functional fragments thereof, which is a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a fully human antibody.

In another embodiment, the invention provides an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 or a functional fragment thereof and an expression

vector or a host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule.

Disclosed herein is an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody or functional fragment thereof as defined herein or an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule, or a host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule.

5 In another embodiment, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition, comprising the antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 or the functional fragment thereof, a nucleic acid molecule encoding the present antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 or the functional fragment thereof, and an expression vector or a host cell, or any combination thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10 Disclosed herein is a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or functional fragment thereof as defined herein, or the nucleic acid molecule and expression vector or host cell as defined herein, or any combination thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides use of the present antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 or a functional fragment thereof, or the nucleic acid molecule encoding
15 the same, or an expression vector or a host cell in the manufacture of a medicament for treating diseases such as dyslipidemia and related cardiovascular diseases, including hyperlipidemia or hypercholesterolemia.

Disclosed herein is the use of the antibody or functional fragment thereof as defined herein, or the nucleic acid molecule as defined herein or the expression vector or host cell as defined
20 herein in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of dyslipidemia and related cardiovascular diseases selected from hyperlipidemia and hypercholesterolemia.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides the use of the present antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 or a functional fragment thereof, or the nucleic acid molecule encoding the same, or an expression vector or a host cell in the manufacture of a medicament
25 for facilitating cellular uptake of LDL. (According to the description of the background art, it is understood that PCSK9 can bind to LDLR and reduce LDLR, so that the cell uptake of LDL is reduced, causing rise of blood lipids. An anti-PCSK9 antibody can neutralize PCSK9 thereby reversing the process, improving cell uptake of LDL and reduce blood lipids.)

In another embodiment, the present invention provides an immunoconjugate, which
30 comprises the present antibody capable of binding to PCSK9 or a functional fragment thereof conjugated to a therapeutic agent, preferably, the therapeutic agent is a toxin, a radioactive isotope, a drug or a cytotoxic agent.

Disclosed herein is an immunoconjugate comprising an antibody or a functional fragment thereof as defined herein conjugated to a therapeutic agent.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1: SDS-PAGE electrophoresis diagram of human PCSK9;

Fig. 2: Elisa assay of the binding of human PCSK9 with LDLR;

Fig. 3: FACS detection of the binding of human PCSK9 with LDLR;

5 Fig. 4: FACS verification of the binding of human PCSK9 with LDLR;

Fig. 5: FACS detection of the binding of candidate hybridoma cells with human PCSK9;

Fig. 6: Assay for the binding of murine-derived antibody and PCSK9 D347Y
(antigen-coated);

10 Fig. 7: Assay for the binding of murine-derived antibody and PCSK9 D347Y
(antibody-coated);

Fig. 8: Assay for the competitive binding of murine-derived antibody with PCSK D347Y
antigen epitope against reference antibody;

Fig. 9: Influence of murine-derived antibody on HepG2 cell LDL uptake;

Fig. 10: Binding of chimeric antibody with human PCSK9;

15 Fig. 11: Effect of chimeric antibody on LDL uptake of HepG2 cells;

Fig. 12: Binding of humanized antibody with human PCSK9;

Fig. 13: Effect of humanized antibody on LDL uptake of HepG2 cells;

Fig. 14: Humanized antibody can effectively reduce in vivo LDL-c level in Cynomolgus
monkey (*Macaca fascicularis*).

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Specific Mode for Carrying out the Invention

Unless otherwise defined, all scientific and technological terms used herein have the same meaning as understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. For the definition and the terminology in relevant art, the skilled in the art can refer to *Current Protocols In Molecular Biology*
25 (Ausubel). The abbreviations of the amino acid residues are standard 3-letter and/or 1-letter code accepted in the field, referring to one of the 20 common L-amino acids.

The invention provides an anti-PCSK9 antibody or the functional fragment thereof capable of binding to proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9 (PCSK9). The present antibody or the functional fragment thereof has at least one of the capabilities including blocking the interaction
30 between PCSK9 and LDLR with high affinity; binding to PCSK9 with high specificity.

The invention further provides a humanized anti-PCSK9 antibody and a functional fragment thereof. The humanized antibody is obtained by carrying out computer simulation design on a murine-derived antibody generated by immunizing mice, combined with phage display technology. The binding epitopes are also correspondingly identified according to the
35 binding characteristics with PCSK9 proteins from different species. The present humanized

anti-PCSK9 antibody and the functional fragment thereof not only has the above-mentioned beneficial characteristics, but also binds to human or Cynomolgus monkey PCSK9 protein with high affinity and interacts with murine-derived PCSK9 protein.

The skilled in the art can replace, add and/or delete one or more (e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 or more) amino acids of the sequences described in the present invention provided that the antibody activity is not substantially affected so as to obtain a variant of the sequence of the antibody or the functional fragment thereof, which are considered to be included within the scope of the present invention. For example, amino acids in the variable region can be replaced with those having similar properties. The variants of the present invention can have a sequence having at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% sequence identity with the sequence from which the variant is derived. The sequence identity can be measured by using sequence analysis software, for example, computer program BLAST with default parameters, especially BLASTP or TBLASTN.

The antibody of the invention can be of full-length (e.g., IgG1 or IgG4 antibody) or can only comprise an antigen binding moiety (e.g., Fab, F(ab')₂ or scFv fragment) or can be modified to alter the function. The invention comprises an anti-PCSK9 antibody with a modified glycosylation pattern. In some applications, modification for removal of undesirable glycosylation sites may be useful, or the absence of fucose moiety on the oligosaccharide chain, so as to enhance the antibody-dependent cytotoxicity (ADCC). In other applications, it can be modified with galactosyl moiety to modify the complement-dependent cell toxicity (CDC).

The term "functional fragment" as used herein refers to an antibody fragment, such as fv, scFv (sc means single chain), Fab, F(ab')₂, Fab', scFv-Fc fragment or diabody), or any fragment which can increase the half-life period by chemical modification or incorporating into liposome. The chemical modification is, for example, addition of poly (alkylene) glycol such as polyethylene glycol ("PEGylated"), (the PEGylated fragments which are referred to as fv-PEG, scFv-PEG, FAB-PEG, F(ab')₂-PEG or Fab'- PEG) (wherein "PEG" is polyethylene glycol), and the fragment has an EGFR binding activity. Preferably, the functional fragments consist of or comprise partial sequence of the heavy or light variable chains of their source antibody, wherein the partial sequence is sufficient to retain the same binding specificity and sufficient affinity as the source antibody thereof, for PCSK9, an affinity preferably equal to at least 1/100 of the affinity of the source antibody thereof, in a more preferred manner, equal to at least 1/10. Such functional segments will comprise at least five amino acids, preferably 10, 15, 25, 50 and 100 consecutive amino acids of the source antibody sequence.

One skilled in the art can clone the DNA molecules encoding the anti-PCSK9 antibody of the present invention into a vector, and then transform vector into a host cell. Therefore, the

invention further provides a recombinant DNA vector comprising the DNA molecule encoding the anti-PCSK9 antibody disclosed by the invention.

Preferably, the recombinant DNA vector is an expression vector. The skilled in the art can clone the DNA molecule of the antibody into an expression vector, and transform the vector into a host cell, to obtain an antibody through an inductive expression. The expression vector of the present invention comprises a DNA sequence encoding the heavy chain variable region, light chain variable region and /or constant region of the anti-PCSK9 antibody. However, two expression vectors can be constructed separately, with one comprising a heavy chain variable region and a constant region, and the other one comprising a light chain variable region and a constant region to co-transfect mammal cells. In a preferred embodiment, the expression vector further comprises a promoter and a DNA sequence encoding a secretory signal peptide, and at least one drug resistant gene for screening.

The present host cell can be a prokaryotic host cell, an eukaryotic host cell or a phage. The prokaryotic host cells can be *Escherichia coli*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *Streptomyces* or *Proteus mirabilis* and the like. The eukaryotic host cell can be fungus such as *Pichia pastoris*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, insect cells such as grassland armyworms and the like, plant cells such as tobacco, mammal cells such as BHK cells, CHO cells, COS cells, myeloma cells and the like. In some embodiments, the host cells of the invention are preferably mammal cells, more preferably BHK cells, CHO cells, NSO cells or COS cells.

The term "pharmaceutical composition" as used herein refers to the combination of at least one drug and optionally pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or accessories that are combined together to achieve some particular purpose. In certain embodiments, the pharmaceutical composition comprises a combination separated in time and/or space, as long as they can act together to achieve the purpose of the invention. For example, components in the pharmaceutical composition (such as antibodies and nucleic acid molecules, nucleic acid molecule combinations and/or conjugates according to the present invention) can be administered as a whole or separately to an object. When the components comprised in the pharmaceutical composition are separately administered to an object, said components can be administered at the same time or sequentially. Preferably, the pharmaceutical carrier is water, buffering aqueous solution, isotonic saline solution such as PBS (phosphate buffer solution), glucose, mannitol, dextrose, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, 0.3% glycerol, hyaluronic acid, ethanol or polyalkylene glycol such as polypropylene glycol, triglycerides and the like. The type of the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier especially depends on whether the composition according to the invention is formulated for oral, nasal, subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous administration. The composition of

the invention can comprise wetting agent, emulsifier or buffer substance as additives.

The pharmaceutical composition according to the invention can be administered by any suitable means, such as oral, nasal, intradermal, subcutaneous, intramuscular or intravenous administration.

5 In one related aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition for combination of an anti-PCSK9 antibody and a second therapeutic agent. In one embodiment, the second therapeutic agent is any reagent that can advantageously combine with anti-PCSK9 antibody. Exemplary reagents that may advantageously combine with anti-PCSK9 antibodies include, but are not limited to, other reagents that inhibit PCSK9 activity (including other
10 antibodies or antigen binding fragments thereof, a peptide inhibitor, a small molecule antagonist and the like) and/or a reagent for interfering the upstream or downstream signaling of PCSK9.

The term used herein "eliminating, inhibiting or reducing the PCSK9 activity to prevent or treat diseases or conditions" means diseases or conditions caused by PCSK9 expression or with symptoms/features by PCSK9 expression. In some embodiments, the disease or condition is
15 selected from hyperlipidemia or hypercholesterolemia.

As used herein, a "therapeutically effective amount" refers to a dose sufficient to display the benefit on the subject to which it is administered. The actual amount, as well as the rate and time of administration, will depend on the own conditions of the patient and severity of the condition. The prescription of treatment (such as determination of dose and the like) is finally
20 responsibility of general practitioner and other doctors and depend on his decision, generally considering the disease to be treated, the condition of the individual patient, delivery location, administration means and other factors known to doctors.

The term "subject" as used herein refers to a mammal, such as a human, but also can be other animals such as wild animals (such as heron, stork, crane and the like), livestock (such
25 as ducks, geese and the like) or experimental animals (such as orangutan, monkey, rat, mouse, rabbit, guinea pig and the like).

On one hand, the present antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises the heavy chain CDRs of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 30 or any of the variants of the sequence, and/or
30 the light chain CDRs of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 27 or any of the variants of the sequence.

In some preferred embodiments, the amino acid sequences of CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 of the heavy chain CDRs are selected from one of the groups consisting of the following amino
35 acid sequences or variants thereof:

	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3
A	SEQ ID NO:4	SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:6
B	SEQ ID NO:10	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:12
C	SEQ ID NO:16	SEQ ID NO:17	SEQ ID NO:18
D	SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:24
E	SEQ ID NO:28	SEQ ID NO:29	SEQ ID NO:30

and/or the amino acid sequences of CDR1, CDR2, and CDR3 of the light chain CDRs are
5 selected from the group consisting of the following amino acid sequences or variants thereof

	LCDR1	LCDR2	LCDR3
A	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:3
B	SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:8	SEQ ID NO:9
C	SEQ ID NO:13	SEQ ID NO:14	SEQ ID NO:15
D	SEQ ID NO:19	SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:21
E	SEQ ID NO:25	SEQ ID NO:26	SEQ ID NO:27

In some preferred embodiments, the amino acid sequences of the heavy chain CDR1,
CDR2 and CDR3 and the light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 are selected from the group
10 consisting of the following amino acid sequences or variants thereof:

	LCDR1	LCDR2	LCDR3	HCDR1	HCDR2	HCDR3
A	SEQ ID NO:1	SEQ ID NO:2	SEQ ID NO:3	SEQ ID NO:4	SEQ ID NO:5	SEQ ID NO:6
B	SEQ ID NO:7	SEQ ID NO:8	SEQ ID NO:9	SEQ ID NO:10	SEQ ID NO:11	SEQ ID NO:12
C	SEQ ID NO:13	SEQ ID NO:14	SEQ ID NO:15	SEQ ID NO:16	SEQ ID NO:17	SEQ ID NO:18
D	SEQ ID NO:19	SEQ ID NO:20	SEQ ID NO:21	SEQ ID NO:22	SEQ ID NO:23	SEQ ID NO:24
E	SEQ ID NO:25	SEQ ID NO:26	SEQ ID NO:27	SEQ ID NO:28	SEQ ID NO:29	SEQ ID NO:30

In some embodiments, the antibodies or functional fragments thereof of the present
15 invention comprises a heavy chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the
amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40 or variants of any of said

sequences, and/or light chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 or variants of said sequences.

In a preferred embodiment, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 32 or a variant thereof; the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 31 or a variant thereof.

5 In another preferred embodiment, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 34 or a variant thereof; the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 33 or a variant thereof.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 36 or a variant thereof; the variable region of the light chain is SEQ ID NO: 35 or a variant thereof.

10 In yet another preferred embodiment, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 38 or a variant thereof; the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 37 or a variant thereof.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 40 or a variant thereof; the variable region of the light chain is SEQ ID NO: 39 or a variant thereof.

The antibody or the functional fragment thereof can be a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a fully human antibody.

15 The present antibody or functional fragment thereof can be humanized. The preparation of humanized antibody is well known to those skilled in the art. For example, the CDR sequences of the present invention can be transferred into a human antibody variable region to prepare the humanized anti-PCSK9 antibody of the invention. The humanized antibody will not generate anti-antibody reaction (AAR) or human anti-mouse antibody reaction (HAMA), will not be
20 quickly removed by the neutralization of anti-antibody, and will exert an immune effector function.

In some preferred embodiments, the humanized anti-PCSK9 antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises a heavy chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40 or variants of any of said
25 sequences, and/or light chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39 or variants of said sequences.

In one preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 32 or a variant thereof and said light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 31 or a variant thereof.

30 In another preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 34 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 33 or a variant thereof.

In another preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 36 or a variant thereof and the
35 light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 35 or a variant thereof.

In another preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:38 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 37 or a variant thereof.

5 In another preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 40 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 39 or a variant thereof.

In another preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 47 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 45 or a variant thereof.

10 In another preferred embodiment of the present humanized antibody or the functional fragment thereof, the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 49 or a variant thereof and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 45 or a variant thereof.

The invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody of the invention or a functional fragment thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the nucleic acid
15 molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOs: 48, 50 and/or 46; or a combination thereof.

The invention further provides an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule and a host cell comprising the expression vector.

20 The invention provides a method for producing an anti-PCSK9 antibody or a functional fragment thereof, comprising the steps of: culturing the host cell of the invention under the condition allowing the antibody or the functional fragment thereof to be generated, and recovering the generated antibody or functional fragment thereof.

In another aspect, the present invention relates to an immunoconjugate comprising an antibody or a functional fragment thereof conjugated to a therapeutic agent. The therapeutic
25 agent is preferably a toxin, a radioactive isotope, a drug or a cytotoxic agent.

The present invention also relates to a pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of the invention or a functional fragment thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30 In another aspect, the present invention provides method for preventing or treating diseases or conditions by eliminating, inhibiting or reducing PCSK9 activity, comprising administering to the subject in need of a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody or a functional fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the expression vector, the host cell, the immunoconjugate or the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention.

35 The present invention also provides use of the antibody or a functional fragment thereof, the nucleic acid, the expression vector, the host cell, the immunoconjugate or the

pharmaceutical composition of the present invention in preparation of medicament for treating diseases or conditions.

The following examples are provided to demonstrate and further explain some preferred embodiments and aspects of the invention, which should not be interpreted as limiting the scope thereof.

Examples

Example 1: Cloning of human PCSK9 extracellular region and LDLR extracellular region into an eukaryotic expression system

Human PCSK9 extracellular fragment was PCR amplified by using human PCSK9 gene cDNA (from Beijing Sino Biological Inc.) of known sequence as a template (template sequence as follows), with an upstream primer 5'-GTACACTAGTCACCATGGGCACCGTCAGCTC-3', and a downstream primer 5'-GATCCTCGAGCCTGGAGCTCCTGGGAGG-3'. The amplified product was subjected to *speI* and *XhoI* double-enzyme digestion, and cloned into a self-constructed eukaryotic expression plasmid system (pSec CAGA2 ECD). A 293E cell was transfected with the plasmid through PEI. After 6 days, the supernatant of the culture medium was collected and human PCSK9 extracellular region protein was purified via affinity chromatography.

Similarly, LDLR extracellular fragment was PCR amplified by using an upstream primer 5'-GTACGCTAGCCACCATGGGGCCCTGGGGCTG-3' and a downstream primer 5'-GATCCTCGAGCCCTCACGCTACTGG-3'. The amplified product was subjected to *NheI* and *XhoI* double-enzyme digestion, and cloned into a self-constructed eukaryotic expression plasmid system. A 293E cell was transfected with the plasmid through PEI. After 6 days, the supernatant of the culture medium was collected and the LDLR extracellular region was purified.

As shown in Figure 1 is the SDS-PAGE electrophoresis diagram of human PCSK9 extracellular region protein.

Nucleotide sequence of extracellular region of human PCSK9: SEQ ID NO:41

ATGGGCACCG	TCAGCTCCAG	GCGGTCCTGG	TGGCCGCTGC	CACTGCTGCT	GCTGCTGCTG	61
CTGCTCCTGG	GTCCCGCGGG	CGCCCGTGCG	CAGGAGGACG	AGGACGGCGA	CTACGAGGAG	121
CTGGTGCTAG	CCTTGCGTTC	CGAGGAGGAC	GGCCTGGCCG	AAGCACCCGA	GCACGGAACC	181
ACAGCCACCT	TCCACCGCTG	CGCCAAGGAT	CCGTGGAGGT	TGCCTGGCAC	CTACGTGGTG	241
GTGCTGAAGG	AGGAGACCCA	CCTCTCGCAG	TCAGAGCGCA	CTGCCC GCCG	CCTGCAGGCC	301

5	CAGGCTGCCC	GCCGGGGATA	CCTCACCAAG	ATCCTGCATG	TCTTCCATGG	CCTTCTTCCT	361
	GGCTTCCTGG	TGAAGATGAG	TGGCGACCTG	CTGGAGCTGG	CCTTGAAGTT	GCCCCATGTC	421
	GACTACATCG	AGGAGGACTC	CTCTGTCTTT	GCCCAGAGCA	TCCCGTGGAA	CCTGGAGCGG	481
	ATTACCCCTC	CACGGTACCG	GGCGGATGAA	TACCAGCCCC	CCGACGGAGG	CAGCCTGGTG	541
	GAGGTGTATC	TCCTAGACAC	CAGCATACAG	AGTGACCACC	GGGAAATCGA	GGGCAGGGTC	601
10	ATGGTCACCG	ACTTCGAGAA	TGTGCCCAG	GAGGACGGGA	CCCGCTTCCA	CAGACAGGCC	661
	AGCAAGTGTG	ACAGTCATGG	CACCCACCTG	GCAGGGGTGG	TCAGCGGCCG	GGATGCCGGC	721
	GTGGCCAAGG	GTGCCAGCAT	GCGCAGCCTG	CGCGTGCTCA	ACTGCCAAGG	GAAGGGCACG	781
	GTTAGCGGCA	CCCTCATAGG	CCTGGAGTTT	ATTCGGAAAA	GCCAGCTGGT	CCAGCCTGTG	841
	GGGCCACTGG	TGGTGCTGCT	GCCCCTGGCG	GGTGGGTACA	GCCGCGTCCT	CAACGCCGCC	901
15	TGCCAGCGCC	TGGCGAGGGC	TGGGGTCGTG	CTGGTCACCG	CTGCCGGCAA	CTTCCGGGAC	961
	GATGCCTGCC	TCTACTCCCC	AGCCTCAGCT	CCCAGGTCA	TCACAGTTGG	GGCCACCAAT	1021
	GCCCAGGACC	AGCCGGTGAC	CCTGGGGACT	TTGGGGACCA	ACTTTGGCCG	CTGTGTGGAC	1081
	CTCTTTGCCC	CAGGGGAGGA	CATCATTGGT	GCCTCCAGCG	ACTGCAGCAC	CTGCTTTGTG	1141
	TCACAGAGTG	GGACATCACA	GGCTGCTGCC	CACGTGGCTG	GCATTGCAGC	CATGATGCTG	1201
20	TCTGCCGAGC	CGGAGCTCAC	CCTGGCCGAG	TTGAGGCAGA	GA CTGATCCA	CTTCTCTGCC	1261
	AAAGATGTCA	TCAATGAGGC	CTGGTTCCCT	GAGGACCAGC	GGGTACTGAC	CCCCAACCTG	1321
	GTGGCCGCCC	TGCCCCCAG	CACCCATGGG	GCAGGTTGGC	AGCTGTTTTG	CAGGACTGTG	1381
	TGGTCAGCAC	ACTCGGGGCC	TACACGGATG	GCCACAGCCA	TCGCCCCTG	CGCCCCAGAT	1441
	GAGGAGCTGC	TGAGCTGCTC	CAGTTTCTCC	AGGAGTGGGA	AGCGGCGGGG	CGAGCGCATG	1501
25	GAGGCCCAAG	GGGGCAAGCT	GGTCTGCCGG	GCCCACAACG	CTTTTGGGGG	TGAGGGTGTC	1561
	TACGCCATTG	CCAGGTGCTG	CCTGCTACCC	CAGGCCAACT	GCAGCGTCCA	CACAGCTCCA	1621
	CCAGCTGAGG	CCAGCATGGG	GACCCGTGTC	CACTGCCACC	AACAGGGCCA	CGTCCTCACA	1681
	GGCTGCAGCT	CCCACTGGGA	GGTGGAGGAC	CTTGGCACCC	ACAAGCCGCC	TGTGCTGAGG	1741
	CCACGAGGTC	AGCCCAACCA	GTGCGTGGGC	CACAGGGAGG	CCAGCATCCA	CGCTTCCTGC	1801
30	TGCCATGCCC	CAGGTCTGGA	ATGCAAAGTC	AAGGAGCATG	GAATCCCGGC	CCCTCAGGAG	1861
	CAGGTGACCG	TGGCCTGCCA	GGAGGGCTGG	ACCCTGACTG	GCTGCAGTGC	CCTCCCTGGG	1921
	ACCTCCCACG	TCCTGGGGGC	CTACGCCGTA	GACAACACGT	GTGTAGTCAG	GAGCCGGGAC	1981
	GTCAGCACTA	CAGGCAGCAC	CAGCGAAGAG	GCCGTGACAG	CCGTTGCCAT	CTGCTGCCGG	2041
	AGCCGGCACC	TGGCGCAGGC	CTCCCAGGAG	CTCCAGTGA			

Nucleotide sequence of the LDLR extracellular region: SEQ ID NO: 42

ATGGGGCCCT GGGGCTGGAA ATTGCGCTGG ACCGTCGCCT TGCTCCTCGC CGCGGCGGGG
 ACTGCAGTGG GCGACAGATG CGAAAGAAAC GAGTTCCAGT GCCAAGACGG GAAATGCATC 121
 TCCTACAAGT GGGTCTGCGA TGGCAGCGCT GAGTGCCAGG ATGGCTCTGA TGAGTCCCAG 181
 GAGACGTGCT TGTCTGTAC CTGCAAATCC GGGGACTTCA GCTGTGGGGG CCGTGTCAAC 241
 CGCTGCATTC CTCAGTTCGT GAGGTGCGAT GGCCAAGTGG ACTGCGACAA CGGCTCAGAC 301
 GAGCAAGGCT GTCCCCCAA GACGTGCTCC CAGGACGAGT TTCGCTGCCA CGATGGGAAG 361
 TGCATCTCTC GGCAGTTCGT CTGTGACTCA GACCGGGACT GCTTGGACGG CTCAGACGAG 421
 GCCTCCTGCC CGGTGCTCAC CTGTGGTCCC GCCAGCTTCC AGTGCAACAG CTCCACCTGC 481
 ATCCCCCAGC TGTGGGCCTG CGACAACGAC CCCGACTGCG AAGATGGCTC GGATGAGTGG 541
 CCGCAGCGCT GTAGGGGTCT TTACGTGTTC CAAGGGGACA GTAGCCCCTG CTCGGCCTTC 601
 GAGTTCCACT GCCTAAGTGG CGAGTGCATC CACTCCAGCT GGCGCTGTGA TGGTGGCCCC 661
 GACTGCAAGG ACAAATCTGA CGAGGAAAAC TGCCTGTGG CCACCTGTCG CCCTGACGAA 721
 TTCCAGTGCT CTGATGGAAA CTGCATCCAT GGCAGCCGGC AGTGTGACCG GGAATATGAC 781
 TGCAAGGACA TGAGCGATGA AGTTGGCTGC GTTAATGTGA CACTCTGCGA GGGACCCAAC 841
 AAGTTCAAGT GTCACAGCGG CGAATGCATC ACCCTGGACA AAGTCTGCAA CATGGCTAGA 901
 GACTGCCGGG ACTGGTCAGA TGAACCATC AAAGAGTGC GACCAACGA ATGCTTGGAC 961
 AACAACGGCG GCTGTTCCCA CGTCTGCAAT GACCTTAAGA TCGGCTACGA GTGCCTGTGC 1021
 CCCGACGGCT TCCAGCTGGT GGCCAGCGA AGATGCGAAG ATATCGATGA GTGTCAGGAT 1081
 CCCGACACCT GCAGCCAGCT CTGCGTGAAC CTGGAGGGTG GCTACAAGTG CCAGTGTGAG 1141
 GAAGGCTTCC AGCTGGACCC CCACACGAAG GCCTGCAAGG CTGTGGGCTC CATCGCCTAC 1201
 CTCTTCTTCA CCAACCGCA CGAGGTCAGG AAGATGACGC TGGACCGGAG CGAGTACACC 1261
 AGCCTCATCC CCAACCTGAG GAACGTGGTC GCTCTGGACA CGGAGGTGGC CAGCAATAGA 1321
 ATCTACTGGT CTGACCTGTC CCAGAGAATG ATCTGCAGCA CCCAGCTTGA CAGAGCCCAC 1381
 GGCCTCTCTT CCTATGACAC CGTCATCAGC AGGGACATCC AGGCCCCCGA CGGGCTGGCT 1441
 GTGGACTGGA TCCACAGCAA CATCTACTGG ACCGACTCTG TCCTGGGCAC TGTCTCTGTT 1501
 GCGGATACCA AGGGCGTGAA GAGGAAAACG TTATTGAGG AGAACGGCTC CAAGCCAAGG 1561
 GCCATCGTGG TGGATCCTGT TCATGGCTTC ATGTACTGGA CTGACTGGGG AACTCCTGCC 1621
 AAGATCAAGA AAGGGGGCCT GAATGGTGTG GACATCTACT CGCTGGTGAC TGAAAACATT 1681
 CAGTGGCCCA ATGGCATCAC CCTAGATCTC CTCAGTGGCC GCCTCTACTG GGTTGACTCC 1741
 AAACCTCACT CCATCTCAAG CATCGATGTC AACGGGGGCA ACCGGAAGAC CATCTTGGAG 1801
 GATGAAAAGA GGCTGGCCCA CCCCTTCTCC TTGGCCGTCT TTGAGGACAA AGTATTTTGG 1861
 ACAGATATCA TCAACGAAGC CATTTTCAGT GCCAACCGCC TCACAGGTTC CGATGTCAAC 1921
 TTGTTGGCTG AAAACCTACT GTCCCCAGAG GATATGGTTC TCTTCCACAA CCTCACCCAG 1981
 CCAAGAGGAG TGAACCTGGT TGAGAGGACC ACCCTGAGCA ATGGCGGCTG CCAGTATCTG 2041
 TGCCTCCCTG CCCCAGAGAT CAACCCAC TCGCCCAAGT TTACCTGCGC CTGCCCCGAC 2101
 GGCATGCTGC TGGCCAGGGA CATGAGGAGC TGCCTCACAG AGGCTGAGGC TGCACTGGCC 2161
 ACCCAGGAGA CATCCACCGT CAGGCTAAAG GTCAGCTCCA CAGCCGTAAG GACACAGCAC 2221
 ACAACCACCC GACCTGTTCC CGACACCTCC CGGCTGCCTG GGGCCACCCC TGGGCTCACC 2281
 ACGGTGGAGA TAGTGACAAT GTCTACCAA GCTCTGGGCG ACGTTGCTGG CAGAGGAAAT 2341
 GAGAAGAAGC CCAGTAGCGT GAGGG

Example 2: ELISA assay for the binding of human PCSK9 recombinant protein to LDLR

2.1 Biotin-labeling of human PCSK9 recombinant protein

5 Human PCSK9 recombinant protein and biotin-xx-NHS dissolved in DMSO were mixed

at a ratio of 1:10, kept at room temperature for 2 hrs, and then the reactant mixture was passed through a 10 kD ultrafiltration column to separate biotin-labeled human PCSK9 and free biotin.

2.2 ELISA detection for the binding of human PCSK9 and LDLR

In order to determining the binding ability of human PCSK9 with LDLR, 1 µg/ml of LDLR was plated on the 96-well ELISA plate in coating buffer, stored at 4°C overnight. The next day, the solution in the wells was discarded, and the wells were washed with a washing buffer for three times. Then, PBS solution containing 2% of milk was added for blocking for 60 minutes. After washing with washing buffer for three times, 100µl of biotin-labeled human PCSK9 at different concentrations was added, incubated for 1 hour at room temperature, washed with washing buffer for three times. HRP cross-linked goat anti-mouse antibody was diluted at 1:10000 with washing buffer, incubated for 1 hour at room temperature, washed with washing buffer for three times, and a 50µl TMB substrate solution was added for developing. After reacting for 8 minutes at room temperature, the reaction was terminated by 100µl 12M HCl solution, and the absorbance was read at 450 nm.

As can be seen from FIG. 2, human PCSK9 recombinant protein can specifically bind to LDLR in a dose-dependent fashion.

Example 3: Cell-level assay for the binding of PCSK9 to LDLR

3.1 Construction of 293F-LDLR stably transfected cell strain

The constructed eukaryotic expression plasmid with the full-length LDLR sequence with puromycin screening system was transfected into 293F adherent cells through PEI. 24 hours after transfection, screening was carried out with purmycin (2 µg/mL) until a 293F-LDLR stably transfected cell pool was formed. Meanwhile, a 96-well plate was plated at 0.8 cells/well in limiting dilution. After 15 days, 293F-LDLR monoclonal antibody was picked out and passaged to form a 293F-LDLR stably transfected cell strain.

3.2 The binding of biotin-labeled human PCSK9 D347Y with 293F-LDLR stably transfected cell strain

Different concentrations of biotin-labeled human PCSK9 D347Y recombinant protein was mixed with 293F-LDLR stably transfected cell line, incubated for 15 minutes at a temperature of 4°C. After washing for 3 times with FACS buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 2mM Ca²⁺, 1% FBS, pH7.4), straptavidin allophycocyanin(SA-APC, 2µg/mL) was added, and incubated for 20 min at 4°C. After washing with FACS buffer for three times, detection was carried out by flow cytometry.

As shown in FIG. 3, the constructed human PCSK9 D347Y recombinant protein can specifically bind to LDLR on 293T-LDLR cells, showing a dose dependent effect.

3.3 The binding of biotin-labeled human PCSK9 to LDLR on HepG2 cells

To further verifying the binding ability of hPCSK9 with LDLR, different concentrations of biotin-labeled human PCSK9 D347Y recombinant protein was mixed with HepG2 cells, incubated for 15 minutes at a temperature of 4°C. After washing for 3 times with PBS, straptavidin allophycocyanin(SA-APC, 2μg/mL) was added, and incubated for 20min at 4°C. After washing with FACS buffer for three times, detection was carried out by flow cytometry.

As shown in FIG. 4, the result is consistent with the above. Human PCSK9 recombinant protein can specifically bind to LDLR on HepG2 cells.

Example 4: Preparation of anti-PCSK9 murine-derived antibody

4.1 Immunizing animals:

Human PCSK9 recombinant protein as antigen was mixed with an equal amount of immune adjuvant (Freund's adjuvant), and 5 six-week old female FVB mice were immunized. After the first immunization, the immunization was boosted once every week, with total 4 immunizations.

4.2 Cell fusion

After the last boost immunization, lymph nodes at the base of mouse thigh were collected, and grinded in normal saline, and the suspension rich of lymphocytes were collected, fused with SP20 cells according to a conventional electrotransfection method. The fused cells were distributed in 96 wells with RPMI-1640 complete culture medium containing HAT, and cultured at 37°C with 5% CO₂.

Example 5: Ligand and receptor blocking assay

1220 clones that can secrete antibodies binding to human PCSK9 protein were screened out among 20000 different monoclonal hybridoma cells via ELISA reaction. 15 out of these 1220 antibodies can inhibit the binding of biotin-labeled human PCSK9 with LDLR on the HepG2. We focused on sequential experiments on the ones with inhibitory ability in the top 5.

The supernatant of the above five hybridoma cells were mixed with biotin-labeled human PCSK9 (400ng/ml), and incubated at room temperature for 20 min. Then, the mixture and 293T-LDLR stably transfected cell strain were incubated at 37°C for 15 minutes. After washing with PBS for 3 times, 0.2 μg/ml SA-APC was added and incubated at 4°C for 15 minutes. After

washing with PBS for 3 times, flow cytometer was used to verify if the antibody secreted by the hybridoma cell can inhibit the binding of human PCSK9 with LDLR on the surface of the 293F-LDLR cells. Similarly, using reference antibody anti-PCSK9 monoclonal antibody (Merck) as control, the above assay was performed at a concentration of 4 µg/ml.

As shown in FIG. 5, the flow cytometry result shows that consistent with the reference antibody, the 5 candidate monoclonal antibodies 3G12, 1A5, 1B5, 1B11 and 2B12 all can be effectively bind with human PCSK9, so as to inhibit the degradation of LDLR.

Example 6: Cross reaction between PCSKs among different species

Cross-reaction among monoclonal murine-derived candidate antibodies 3G12, 1A5 and 1B5, 1B11 and 2B12; human-derived PCSK9; murine-derived PCSK9, and Cynomolgus monkey-derived PCSK9 were detected with ELISA assay. The experimental results show that the anti-PCSK9 murine-derived antibody prepared by us can cross react with anti-PCSK9 antibodies reported by other companies, which will facilitate animal experiments and save time consumption. The experimental results are shown in table 1:

Table 1

Sample	3G12	1A5	1B5	1B11	2B12
Species cross-reactivity	h/m/cy	h/m/cy	h/m/cy	h/cy	h/m/cy

H: human-derived; m: murine-derived; cy: Cynomolgus monkey-derived.

Example 7: Determining the binding constant with human PCSK9 recombinant protein

As shown in table 2, the combination constant between different murine-derived antibodies and HPCSK9 was determined with a ForteBio instrument, indicating that the prepared murine-derived antibody can specifically bind to human PCSK9.

Table 2

Sample	3G12	1A5	1B5	1B11	2B12
KD (nM)	0.28	0.91	0.90	4.7	0.49

Example 8: Binding of murine-derived candidate antibody with human PCSK9

A 96-well Elisa plate was plated, coated with 4µg/ml streptavidin, incubated at 37°C for 90 min. Then the solution in the wells was discarded, and the wells were washed with washing buffer for three times, and a PBS solution containing 2% of milk was added for blocking for 60 minutes. After washing with washing buffer for three times, each well was added with 2µg/ml

biotin-labeled human PCSK9, incubated for 1 hour at 37°C, and washed with washing buffer for three times. Then chimeric antibody at different dilution ratios was added and incubated for 1 hour at 37°C. After washing with washing buffer for three times, the HRP-labeled mouse anti-human IgG (H + L) was diluted with washing buffer at 1: 5000, incubated at room temperature for 1 hour. After washing with washing buffer for three times, 100µl TMB substrate solution was added for developing, reacting for 10 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was terminated by 100µl 12M HCl solution and the absorbance was read out at 450 nm.

As shown in FIG. 6, the murine-derived antibody can specifically bind to human PCSK9. Compared with the reference antibody, 2B12 and 3G12 have better binding ability.

In order to further verify the specific binding of the antibody with human PCSK9, similar to the above experiment, the antibody (1µg/ml) was plated in a 96 well plate, incubated for 60 minutes at 37°C. Then the solution in the wells was discarded, and the wells were washed with washing buffer for three times. Then, the PBS solution containing 2% of milk was added for blocking for 60 minutes. After washing with washing buffer for three times, 100µl biotin-labeled PCSK9 at different concentrations was added, incubated at 37°C for 1 hour. After washing with washing buffer for 3 times, HRP-strep was diluted with washing buffer at ratio of 1:5000, incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. After washing with washing buffer for 3 times, 100µl TMB substrate solution was added for developing, and reacted for 10 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was terminated by 100µl 12M HCl solution and the absorbance was read out at 450 nm. As shown in FIG. 7, the binding profile of murine-derived antibody with human PCSK9 is consistent with that in the previous experiment.

On this basis, the similarities and differences among the binding of different murine-derived antibodies with human PCSK9 antigen epitopes were further designed and compared: Coating with 4µg/ml streptavidin and incubating at a constant temperature of 37°C for 90 minutes. Then the solution in the wells was discarded, and the wells were washed with washing buffer for three times. Then, the PBS solution containing 2% of milk was added for blocking for 60 minutes. After washing with washing buffer for three times, 100µl biotin-labeled PCSK9 at 2µg/ml was added to each well, incubated at 37°C for 1 hour, and washed with washing buffer for 3 times. Then, chimeric antibodies that were diluted at different dilution ratios with 200ng/ml reference antibody were added, incubated at 37°C for 90 min. After washing with washing buffer for 3 times, HRP-labeled goat anti-human IgG-Fc was diluted with washing buffer at a ratio of 1:5000, incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. After washing 3 times with washing buffer, 100µl TMB substrate solution was added for developing, and reacted for 10 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was terminated by

100μl 12M HCl solution and the absorbance was read out at 450 nm.

As shown in FIG. 8, 1B11 and 2B12 cannot significantly compete with the reference antibody for binding to the human PCSK9 antigen epitope; while 1A5 and 1B5, 3G12 can significantly competitively bind to the antigen epitopes on human PCSK that would otherwise be bound by the reference monoclonal antibody. It is suggested that the competitive binding ability of 1A5, 1B5 and 3G12 is significantly stronger than that of a reference antibody.

Example 9: Effect on the LDL uptake of HepG2 cells

Antibodies at different dilution ratios were incubated with biotin-labeled human PCSK9-D347Y (2.5 μg/mL) for 1 hour at room temperature, and then mixed with FL-LDL (5μg/mL), incubated for 3 hours at 37°C, and washed for three times with PBS, and then fluorescence detection was carried out with Tecan Safire 2 (Ex 514nm/Em 570 nm).

As can be seen from the results of FIG. 9 and Table 3, different murine-derived monoclonal antibodies can bind to human PSCK9 to inhibit its effect on the LDL uptake with an IC50 of about 1μg/ml.

Table 3

Sample	3G12	Reference antibody
IC50(nM)	5.5	5.9

Example 10: Obtaining the candidate variable region sequences

The candidate hybridoma cells were cultured, centrifuged at 1000 rpm, and the total RNA was extracted by trizol. After being synthesized, the first cDNA strand was used as subsequent template to amplify the corresponding variable region DNA sequence of the hybridoma cells (Jones and Bendig 1991). In 50μl reaction system, 1μl cDNA, 10XPCR buffer 5μl, upper- and down-stream primers 1μl respectively (25pmol), dNTP 1μl, 25mmol PL MgCl2 1μl, H2O 39μl were added respectively, 95°C pre-denaturing for 10min, and Taq enzyme 1μl was added. Temperature cycles and PCR amplification were carried out. The reaction conditions were 94°C denaturation for 1 min, 58°C annealing for 1 min, 72°C extending for 15s, in total 32 cycles, and then kept at 72°C for 10min.

After sequencing the amplified products, the heavy chain and light chain variable region sequences in the candidate hybridoma are:

1A5 LC

SEQ ID NO:31

DIQMTQSPSSLSASLGDKVTITCKASQDINKYIDWYQHKPGKGPRLLIHYYTSTLQPGIPS
RFSGSGSGRDYSFISISNLEPEDIATYYCVQYDDLWTTFGGG**TKLEIK**

SEQ ID NO:1 LCDR1: ASQDINKYID

5 SEQ ID NO:2 LCDR2: YTSTLQP

SEQ ID NO:3 LCDR3: VQYDDLWT

1A5 HC

SEQ ID NO:32

10 QVQLKQSGPSLVQPSQSL SITCTVSGFSLTSYGVHWVRQSPGKGLEWLGVVIWRGGSTD
YNAAFMSRLSITKDNSKSQVFFKMNSLQADDTAIYYCANHRDWGQGT**LVTVSA**

SEQ ID NO:4 HCDR1: SYGVH

SEQ ID NO:5 HCDR2: VIWRGGSTDYNAAFMS

SEQ ID NO:6 HCDR3: HRD

15

3G12 LC

SEQ ID NO:33

DIQMTQSPSSLSASLGKVTITCKASQDINKYIDWYQHKPGKSPRLLIHYASTLQPGIPS
RFSGSGSGRDYSFISISNLEPEDIATYYCLQYDDLWTTFGGG**TKLEIK**

20 SEQ ID NO:7 LCDR1: ASQDINKYID

SEQ ID NO:8 LCDR2: YASTLQP

SEQ ID NO:9 LCDR3: LQYDDLWT

3G12 HC

25 SEQ ID NO:34

QVQLKQSGPSLLQPSQSL SITCTVSGFSLTSYGIHWVRQSPGKGLEWLGVVIWRGGITDY
NAPFMSRLNITKDNSKNQVFFKMNSLQVDDTAIYYCANHRDWGQGT**LVTVSA**

SEQ ID NO:10 HCDR1: SYGIH

SEQ ID NO:11 HCDR2: VIWRGGITDYNAPFMS

30 SEQ ID NO:12 HCDR3: HRD

1B5 LC

SEQ ID NO:35

35 DIVLTQSPASLVVSLGQRATISCRASESVDNYGISFMNWFQKPGQPPKLLIYTTSNQGS
GVRARLSGSGCGTDFSLNIHPMEEDDSAMYFCQQSKEVPYTFGGG**TKLEIK**

SEQ ID NO:13 LCDR1: RASESVDNYGISFMN

SEQ ID NO:14 LCDR2: TTSNQGS

SEQ ID NO:15 LCDR3: QQSKEVPYT

5 1B5 HC

SEQ ID NO:36

DVQLQESGPGLVKPSQSLSLTCTVTGYSITSSDYAWNWIRQFPGNKVEWMGYYSISGSS
SYNPSLKGRISITRDTSKNQFFLQLNSVTTEDTATYYCARFYRFDAYFDSWGQGTTLT
VSS

10 SEQ ID NO:16 HCDR1: SDYAWN

SEQ ID NO:17 HCDR2: YSISGSSSYNPSLKGR

SEQ ID NO:18 HCDR3: FYYRFDAYFDS

2B12 LC

15 SEQ ID NO:37

DIVLTQSPASLAVSLGQRATISCRASESVEYYGTSLMHWYQHKPGQTPKLLIYSGSNVE
SGVPARFSGSGSGTDFSLNIHPVEEDDIAMYFCQQSREVPSTFGGGTKLEIK

SEQ ID NO:19 LCDR1: RASESVEYYGTSLMH

SEQ ID NO:20 LCDR2: SGSNVES

20 SEQ ID NO:21 LCDR3: QQSREVPST

2B12 HC

SEQ ID NO:38

DVQLQESGPGLVKPSQSLSLTCSVTGFSITSSDYAWNWIRQFPGNKLEWMGYYSISGTTN
25 YNPSLKSRISITRDTSKNQFFLHLNSVITEDTATYYCARREGHYSWFPYWGQGLVTVS
A

SEQ ID NO:22 HCDR1: SDYAWN

SEQ ID NO:23 HCDR2: YSISGTTNYPNPSLKSR

SEQ ID NO:24 HCDR3: REGHYSWFPY

30

1B11 LC

SEQ ID NO:39

DIQMTQSPASLSASVGETVTITCRASENIYSYLAWYQQKQENSPQLLVYNAYTLADGV
PSRFSGSGSGTQFSLKIISLQPEDFGNYYCQHHYRTPPTFGGGTKLEIK

35 SEQ ID NO:25 LCDR1: RASENIYSYLA

SEQ ID NO:26 LCDR2: NAYTLAD

SEQ ID NO:27 LCDR3: QHHYRTPPT

1B11 HC

5 SEQ ID NO:40

QVQLQQSGAVLVPRGTSIKVSCKASGYAFTNYLIEWIKKRPQGGLIEWIGMINPGSGDT
NFNEKFKAKATLTADKSSTTAYMQLNSLTFDDSAVYFCARSSQLGLPYWGQGTLVTV
SA

SEQ ID NO:28 HCDR1: NYLIE

10 SEQ ID NO:29 HCDR2: MINPGSGDTNFNEKFKA

SEQ ID NO:30 HCDR3: SSQLGLPY

Example 11: Constructing chimeric antibody expression vector

Heavy chain constant region Fc fragment and light chain k/λ constant region were cloned
15 from human blood cells (Beijing Blood Institute), and then ligated into pCDNA3.1 plasmid for
engineering. The above heavy chain and light chain sequence fragments were synthesized by
Genscript, with the heavy chain cleaved by BspqI and the light chain by BspqI, ligated into
engineered pCDNA3.1 plasmids respectively, and sequenced to obtain correct clones. The
sequential experimental materials were obtained by transfecting this series of plasmids into
20 cells and purification. Similar to the above experiments, the heavy chain and light chain were
cloned into the engineered pCDNA3.1 plasmid comprising murine heavy chain constant region
Fc fragment and light chain k/λ constant region.

Example 12: Binding of chimeric antibody with human PCSK9

25 A 96-well ELISA plate was plated, coated with 4μg/ml streptavidin, and incubated at 37°C
for 90min. Then, the solution inside the wells was discarded, and the wells were washed with
washing buffer for three times. PBS solution containing 2% milk was added for blocking for 60
minutes. After washing with washing buffer for three times, 100μl biotin-labeled PCSK9 at
2μg/ml was added to each well, incubated at 37°C for 1 hour, and washed with washing buffer
30 for 3 times. Then, chimeric antibodies that were diluted at different dilution ratio were added,
incubated at 37°C for 1 hour. After washing with washing buffer for 3 times, HRP-labeled
mouse anti-human IgG (H+L) was diluted with washing buffer at ratio of 1:5000, incubated for
1 hour at room temperature. After washing for 3 times with washing buffer, 100μl TMB
substrate solution was added for developing, and reacted for 10 minutes at room

temperature. The reaction was terminated by 100μl 12M HCl solution and the absorbance was read out at 450 nm.

As shown in Figure 10, 3G12 chimeric antibody and the murine-derived antibody can both specifically bind to human PCSK9.

Example 13: The effect of chimeric antibody on the cell-uptake of LDL on HepG2 cells

The constructed chimeric antibody (10μg/ml) and biotin-labeled human PCSK9(400ng/ml) were mixed and incubated at room temperature for 60 min. The mixture was added to HepG2 cells, and then FL-LDL(5μg/ml) were added, incubated at 37°C for 3 hours. After washing 3 times with PBS, the samples were loaded and detected on flow cytometry.

As shown in Figure 11, the constructed 3G12 chimeric antibody can inhibit the effect of human PCSK9 on the LDL uptake.

Example 14: The humanization of the antibody

Humanization was carried out according to the variable region sequences of the antibodies secreted by the above obtained hybridoma cells. Briefly, the humanization process involved the following steps: A, aligning the gene sequences of the antibodies secreted by each hybridoma cells with the gene sequence of human embryonic line antibody, and finding out the sequence with high homology; B, analyzing the HLA-DR affinity to select the human embryonic line framework sequence with low affinity; C, utilizing computer simulation technology to speculate the space-3D binding profile by analyzing the variable region and the adjacent frame amino acid sequence by molecular docking. By calculating factors such as electrostatic force, Van der Waals force, hydrophilicity, hydrophobicity, and entropy, analyzing the individual critic amino acids that can interact with PD-1 and maintain the spatial construction in each antibody gene sequence secreted by hybridoma cells, grafting it back to the selected human embryonic line gene framework, and based on such labeling out the framework amino acid sites that need to be kept. Synthesizing random primers and preparing phase library, to screen humanized antibody library (Pini, A.et al.(1998).

Design and Use of a Phage Display Library: HUMAN ANTIBODIES WITH 10 SUBNANOMOLAR AFFINITY AGAINST A MARKER OF ANGIOGENESIS ELUTED FROM A TWO-DIMENSIONAL GEL., Journal of Biological Chemistry, 273(34): 21769-21776). Based on such, we obtained the various following humanized antibodies, including the following clones: 32 and 77, for which they share the same light chain.

32/77-LC

(SEQ ID NO:45, light chain nucleotide sequence)

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITCQASQDINKYIDWYQHKPGKAPKLLIHYASTLQP
GVPSRFSGSGSGRDYTFITSSLPEDIATYYCLQYDDLWTFGQGTKVEIK

5 (SEQ ID NO:46, light chain nucleotide sequence)

GACATCCAGATGACCCAGAGCCCCAGCAGCCTGAGCGCCAGCGTGGGCGACA
GAGTGACCATCACCTGCCAGGCCAGCCAGGACATCAACAAGTACATCGACTGGTA
CCAGCACAAGCCCGGCAAGGCCCCCAAGCTGCTGATCCACTACGCCAGCACCTG
AGCCCGGCGTGCCAGCAGATTCAGCGGCAGCGGCAGCGGCAGAGACTACACCTT
10 CACCATCAGCAGCCTGCAGCCCGAGGACATCGCCACCTACTACTGCCTGCAGTACG
ACGACCTGTGGACCTTCGGCCAGGGCACCAAGGTGGAGATCAAG

32-HC(SEQ ID NO:47, heavy chain nucleotide sequence)

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSISSYGIHWIRQSPGKGLEWIGVIWRGGI
15 TDYNAPFMSRVTISKDNSKNQVSFKLSSVTAADTAVYYCANHRDWGQGTTLVTVSS

(SEQ ID NO:48, heavy chain nucleotide sequence)

CAGGTGCAGCTGCAGGAAAGCGGCCCGGGCCTGGTGAAACCGAGCCAGACCC
TGAGCCTGACCTGCACCGTGAGCGGCTTTAGCATTAGCAGCTATGGCATTCAATTGG
ATTCGCCAGAGCCCGGGCAAAGGCCTGGAATGGATTGGCGTGATTTGGCGCGGCG
20 GCATTACCGATTATAACGCGCCGTTTATGAGCCGCGTGACCATTAGCAAAGATAAC
AGCAAAAACCGAGGTGAGCTTTAACTGAGCAGCGTGACCGCGGCGGATACCGCGG
TGTATTATTGCGCGAACCATCGCGATTGGGGCCAGGGCACCTGGTGACCGTGAGC
AGC

25 **77-HC**

(SEQ ID NO:49, heavy chain nucleotide sequence)

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSTCTVSGFSISSYGVHWIRQSPGKGLEWIGVIWRGGS
TDYNAAFMSRVTISKDNSKNQVSFKLSSVTAADTAVYYCANHRDWGQGTTLVTVSS

(SEQ ID NO:50, heavy chain nucleotide sequence)

30 CAGGTGCAGCTGCAGGAAAGCGGCCCGGGCCTGGTGAAACCGAGCCAGACCC
TGAGCCTGACCTGCACCGTGAGCGGCTTTAGCATTAGCAGCTATGGCGTGCAATTGG
ATTCGCCAGAGCCCGGGCAAAGGCCTGGAATGGATTGGCGTGATTTGGCGCGGCG
GCAGCACCGATTATAACGCGGCGTTTATGAGCCGCGTGACCATTAGCAAAGATAAC
AGCAAAAACCGAGGTGAGCTTTAACTGAGCAGCGTGACCGCGGCGGATACCGCGG

TGTATTATTGCGCGAACCATCGCGATTGGGGCCAGGGCACCCCTGGTGACCGTGAGC
AGC

Example 15: Binding of humanized antibody with human PCSK9

5 A 96-well ELISA plate was plated, coated with 0.1µg/ml streptavidin, and incubated at 37°C for 60 min. Then, the solution inside the wells was discarded, and the wells were washed with washing buffer for three times. PBS solution containing 2% BSA was added for blocking for 60 minutes. After washing with washing buffer for three times, 100µl biotin-labeled PCSK9 at 0.2µg/ml was added to each well, incubated at 37°C for 1 hour, and washed with washing
10 buffer for 3 times. Then, humanized antibodies that were diluted at different dilution ratio were added, incubated at 37°C for 1 hour. After washing with washing buffer for 3 times, HRP-labeled mouse anti-human IgG (H+L) was diluted with washing buffer at ratio of 1:10000, incubated for 1 hour at room temperature. After washing for 3 times with washing buffer, 100µl TMB substrate solution was added for developing, and reacted for 10 minutes at room
15 temperature. The reaction was terminated by 100µl 12M HCl solution and the absorbance was read out at 450 nm.

As shown in Figure 12, after humanization, the binding ability to the human-derived PCSK9 is not changed with an EC50 value at about 5ng/ml.

20 Example 16: The effect of humanized antibody on the cell-uptake of LDL on HepG2 cells

The humanized antibody and reference antibody (gradient diluted at different concentrations with a starting concentration at 10 µg/ml, with a 2-fold concentration gradient) and HuPCSK9-D347Y (2.5 µg/ml) were incubated at room temperature for 30 min, and added to HepG2 cells, incubated at 37°C with 7% CO₂ for 1h. Then Dil-LDL (5 µg/ml) was added,
25 incubated at 37°C with 7% CO₂ for 5 hours. After washing for 4 times with PBS, Tecan M1000 Pro was used for fluorescent detection (Ex 554nm/Em 571nm).

As shown in Figure 14, the humanized antibody can effectively inhibit the binding of PCSK9 with LDLR, to improve the LDL uptake of HepG2 cells with an IC50 value of around 1µg/ml.

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Example 17: Humanized antibody can effectively reduce the in vivo LDL-c in Cynomolgus monkey (*Macaca fascicularis*).

Cynomolgus monkey was used as an animal model with subcutaneous administration of a single dose. At different administration time point, the changes in serum LDL-c and in the
35 antibody concentration were observed under different dosage conditions (3, 10, 30mg/kg).

As shown in Figure 14, through detection, it can be seen that with different administration dosages, the LDL-c amount in serum was significantly reduced. At D7 after the administration, a 70% reduction in LDL-c level was observed. Meanwhile, comparing to chimeric antibody, the half-life of humanized antibody significantly increased.

5

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Claims

1. An antibody or a functional fragment thereof, wherein the three heavy chain CDRs of the antibody or the functional fragment thereof are selected from any one of the following group (A) to group (E): (A) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:4, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:5 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:6, (B) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO: 10, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:11 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:12, (C) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:16, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:17 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:18, (D) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:22, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:23 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:24, and (E) HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:28, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:29 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:30; and

the three light chain CDRs of the antibody or the functional fragment thereof are selected from any one of the following group (a) to group (e): (a) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:1, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:3, (b) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:7, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:8 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:9, (c) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:14 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:15, (d) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:19, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:20 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:21, and (e) LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:25, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:26 and LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:27.

2. The antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to claim 1, wherein:

the antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:1, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:2, LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:3, HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:4, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:5 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:6; or

the antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:7, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:8, LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:9, HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:10, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:11 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:12; or

the antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:13, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:14, LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:15, HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:16, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:17 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:18; or

the antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:19, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:20, LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:21, HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:22, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:23 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ

ID NO:24; or

the antibody or the functional fragment thereof comprises LCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:25, LCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:26, LCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:27, HCDR1 as shown in SEQ ID NO:28, HCDR2 as shown in SEQ ID NO:29 and HCDR3 as shown in SEQ ID NO:30.

3. An antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to claim 1, which comprises a heavy chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 32, 34, 36, 38, and 40, and a light chain variable region selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOs: 31, 33, 35, 37, and 39.

4. The antibody or functional fragment thereof of claim 3, wherein said heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 32 and said light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 31, or the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 34 and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 33, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:36 and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:35, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO:38 and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 37, or

the heavy chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 40 and the light chain variable region is SEQ ID NO: 39.

5. The antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to claim 4, which is a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a fully human antibody.

6. An antibody or a functional fragment thereof, comprising a heavy chain selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NO:47 and SEQ ID NO:49, and a light chain selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:45, or

a heavy chain encoded by a nucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:47 or SEQ ID NO:49, and a light chain, encoded by a nucleotide encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:45.

7. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody or functional fragment thereof of claim 1 or an expression vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule, or a host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or functional fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6, or the nucleic acid molecule and expression vector or

host cell according to claim 7, or any combination thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5 9. Use of the antibody or functional fragment thereof of claims 1-6, or the nucleic acid molecule of claim 7 or the expression vector or host cell of claim 7 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of dyslipidemia and related cardiovascular diseases selected from hyperlipidemia and hypercholesterolemia.

10. An immunoconjugate comprising an antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 6 conjugated to a therapeutic agent.

10 11. The immunoconjugate according to claim 10, wherein the therapeutic agent is a toxin, a radioisotope, a drug, or a cytotoxic agent.