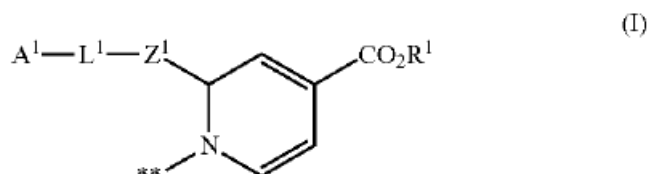


CLAIMS

1. An albumin-sugar chain complex comprising five or more molecules of an asparagine-linked sugar chain bound per molecule of albumin, the asparagine-linked sugar chain having a structure represented by the general formula (I) below:

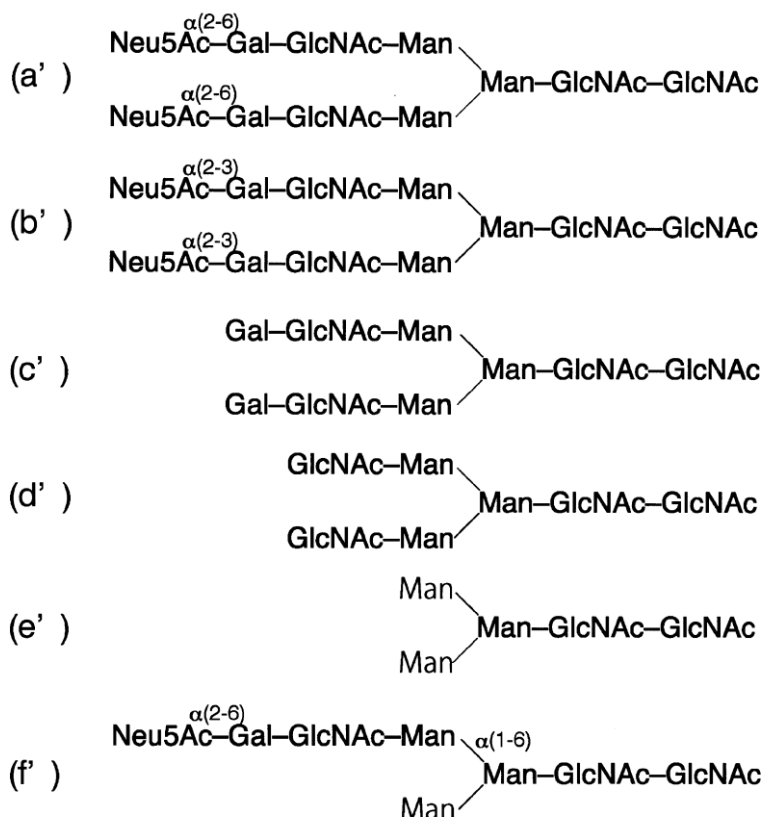


where A^1 is a group in which an N-linked sugar chain is bound to an amide nitrogen atom of a side chain of an Asn residue, L^1 is a linking group which is bound to the Asn residue at a nitrogen atom not bound to the sugar chain, Z^1 is a 1,2-phenylene group, 1,3-phenylene group, or 1,4-phenylene group, R^1 is an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and ** is a site that is bound to a carbon atom bound to an amino group on a side chain of a lysine residue of albumin.

2. The albumin-sugar chain complex according to claim 1, wherein the sugar on a non-reducing terminal of the asparagine-linked sugar chain comprises a sugar selected from the group consisting of N-acetylglucosamine, galactose, mannose and sialic acid.

3. The albumin-sugar chain complex according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the asparagine-linked sugar chain is one or more types of a sugar selected from the group consisting of the following formulas (a') to (f'):

[Chemical Formula 1]



wherein, Neu5Ac represents N-acetylneuraminic acid,
Gal represents galactose, GlcNAc represents N-
5 acetylglucosamine and Man represents mannose.

4. A functional molecule carrier for selectively
delivering a functional molecule to a target tissue in the
body, comprising the albumin-sugar chain complex according
10 to any of claims 1 to 3.

5. A functional molecule carrier for selectively
delivering a functional molecule to a target tissue in the
body, comprising the albumin-sugar chain complex according
15 to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the target tissue is
hepatic stellate cells, and the non-reducing terminal of
the asparagine-linked sugar chain is N-acetylglucosamine.

6. A functional molecule carrier for selectively delivering a functional molecule to a target tissue in the body, comprising the albumin-sugar chain complex according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the target tissue is hepatic Kupffer cells, and the asparagine-linked sugar chain is branched and has mannose and N-acetylneuraminic acid at its non-reducing terminal.

7. A functional molecule carrier for selectively delivering a functional molecule to a target tissue in the body, comprising the albumin-sugar chain complex according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the target tissue is the liver or spleen, and the non-reducing terminal of the asparagine-linked sugar chain is mannose.

8. A functional molecule carrier for selectively delivering a functional molecule to a target tissue in the body, comprising the albumin-sugar chain complex according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the target tissue is cancer cells, and the non-reducing terminal of the asparagine-linked sugar chain is $\alpha(2-3)$ -linked sialic acid.

9. The functional molecule carrier according to any of claims 4 to 8, wherein the functional molecule is a fluorescent substance or drug.

10. A bioimaging probe comprising the albumin-sugar chain complex according to any of claims 1 to 3 as an active ingredient thereof that is to be administered into the body of an animal.