Another aspect as reported herein is a method for the production of an anti-IL-6R antibody comprising

a) cultivating a eukaryotic cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding the anti-IL-6R antibody in a cultivation medium wherein the amount of glucose available in the cultivation medium per time unit is kept constant and limited to a constant value of less than 80 % of the amount that could maximally be utilized by the cells in the cultivation medium per time unit, characterized in that the eukaryotic cell is a Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell, and

b) recovering the anti-IL-6R antibody from the culture.

Another aspect as reported herein is a composition comprising an anti-IL-6R antibody, characterized in that the composition has been prepared with a method as defined herein, characterized in that the anti-IL-6R antibody is attached to a mannose-5 glycostructure of 8% or less.

Patent Claims

1. Method for the production of an anti-IL-6R antibody comprising

   a) cultivating a eukaryotic cell comprising a nucleic acid encoding the anti-IL-6R antibody in a cultivation medium wherein the amount of glucose available in the cultivation medium per time unit is kept constant and limited to a constant value of less than 80 % of the amount that could maximally be utilized by the cells in the cultivation medium per time unit, characterized in that the eukaryotic cell is a Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell, and

   b) recovering the anti-IL-6R antibody from the culture.

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of glucose available per time unit is kept constant in a range between 80 % and 10 %.

3. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the amount of glucose available is kept constant in a range between 50 % and 10 %.

4. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein the amount of glucose available is kept constant in a range between 45 % and 20 %.

5. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that the constant value is less than 80 % and more than 20 %.

10. Method according to claim 9, characterized in that the cultivating is at a pH value of from pH 6.9 to 7.3.

11. Method according to claim 10, characterized in that the cultivating is at a pH value of from pH 6.95 to pH 7.05 or at a pH value of from pH 7.15 to pH 7.25.

12. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the anti-IL-6R antibody is of immunoglobulin class G or class E.

13. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that cultivating the host cell is performed for six to twenty days.

14. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the anti-IL-6R antibody is tocilizumab.

15. Composition comprising an anti-IL-6R antibody, characterized in that the composition has been prepared with a method according to any one of claims 1 to 14, characterized in that the anti-IL-6R antibody is attached to a mannose-5 glycostructure of 8% or less.

16. The composition according to claim 15, characterized in that the anti-IL-6R antibody is Tocilizumab.