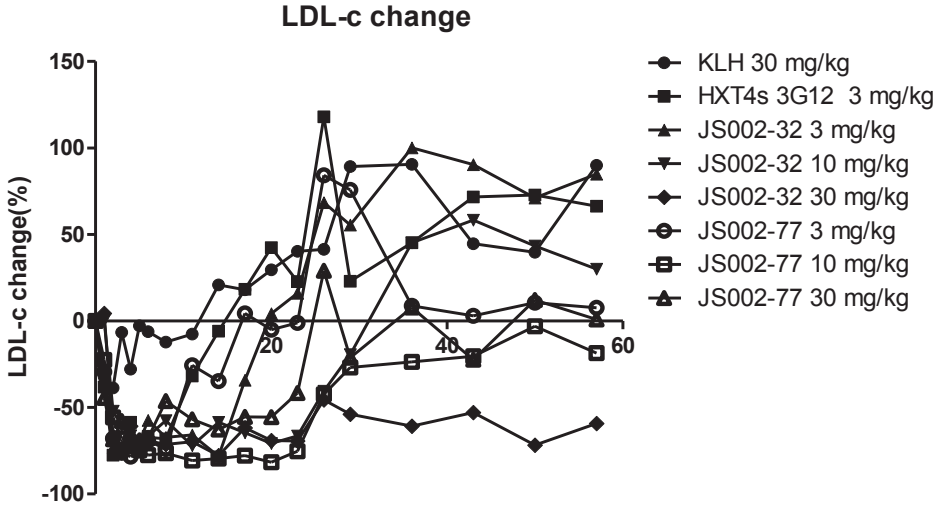
Figure of the Abstract



Claims

1. An antibody or a functional fragment thereof comprising heavy chain CDR(s) 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 light chain CDR(s) 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.

2. The antibody or a functional fragment thereof of claim 1, 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

3. The antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the amino acid sequences of the heavy chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 and the light chain CDR1, CDR2 and CDR3 are selected from one of the groups 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

4. An antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 3, 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.

5. The antibody or functional fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 4, 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.

6. The antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 5, which is a chimeric antibody, a humanized antibody, or a fully human antibody.

7. 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, or any variant of said sequence, and/or a light chain selected from the group consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:45 or any variant of said sequence,

or

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

8. An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding the antibody or functional fragment thereof of any one of claims 1 to 7 and an expression vector or a host cell comprising the nucleic acid

molecule.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody or functional fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 7, or the nucleic acid molecule and expression vector or host cell according to claim 8, or any combination thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. The use of the antibody or functional fragment thereof of claims 1-7, or the nucleic acid molecule of claim 8 or the expression vector or host cell of claim 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for treating diseases such as dyslipidemia and related cardiovascular diseases, including hyperlipidemia or hypercholesterolemia.

11. The use of an antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to claims 1 to 7 or a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 8 or an expression vector or a host cell according to claim 9 in the manufacture of a medicament for facilitating cellular uptake of LDL.

12. An immunoconjugate comprising an antibody or a functional fragment thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 7 conjugated to a therapeutic agent, preferably that the therapeutic agent is a toxin, a radioisotope, a drug, or a cytotoxic agent.

Specification

Anti-PCSK9 Antibody and Use Thereof

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 hypercholesteremia (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(PCK9), 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, Rhaids 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 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 aspects.

In one aspect, the invention provides anti-PCSK9 antibodies capable of binding to proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin 9(PCK9), 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 aspect, 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

In another aspect, 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 aspect, 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 aspect, 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 aspect, 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 aspect, 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.

In another aspect, 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.

In another aspect, 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 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.

In another aspect, 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 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 aspect, the present invention provides an immunoconjugate, which 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.

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;

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);

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;

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).

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* (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(PCK9). The present antibody or the functional fragment thereof has at least one of the capabilities including blocking the interaction 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 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*, *Streptomycete* or *Proteus mirabilis* and the like. The eukaryotic host cell can be fungus such as *Pichia pastoris*, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *schizochytrium*, 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.

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 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 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 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 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 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 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

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 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 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.

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.

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.

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 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 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.

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 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.

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.

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 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.

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 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.

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.

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  CTGCCCGCCG  CCTGCAGGCC  301
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

ATGGTCACCG ACTTCGAGAA TGTGCCCGAG 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

TGCCAGCGCC TGGCGAGGGC TGGGGTCGTG CTGGTCACCG CTGCCGGCAA CTTCCGGGAC 961

GATGCCTGCC TCTACTCCCC AGCCTCAGCT CCCGAGGTCA TCACAGTTGG GGCCACCAAT 1021

GCCCAGGACC AGCCGGTGAC CCTGGGGACT TTGGGGACCA ACTTTGGCCG CTGTGTGGAC 1081

CTCTTTGCCC CAGGGGAGGA CATCATTGGT GCCTCCAGCG ACTGCAGCAC CTGCTTTGTG 1141

TCACAGAGTG GGACATCACA GGCTGCTGCC CACGTGGCTG GCATTGCAGC CATGATGCTG 1201

TCTGCCGAGC CGGAGCTCAC CCTGGCCGAG TTGAGGCAGA GACTGATCCA CTTCTCTGCC 1261

AAAGATGTCA TCAATGAGGC CTGGTTCCCT GAGGACCAGC GGGTACTGAC CCCCAACCTG 1321

GTGGCCGCCC TGCCCCCCAG CACCCATGGG GCAGGTTGGC AGCTGTTTTG CAGGACTGTG 1381

TGGTCAGCAC ACTCGGGGCC TACACGGATG GCCACAGCCA TCGCCCGCTG CGCCCCAGAT 1441

GAGGAGCTGC TGAGCTGCTC CAGTTTCTCC AGGAGTGGGA AGCGGCGGGG CGAGCGCATG 1501

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

TGCCATGCCC CAGGTCTGGA ATGCAAAGTC AAGGAGCATG GAATCCCGGC CCCTCAGGAG 1861

CAGGTGACCG TGGCCTGCGA 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 TGTCTGTCAC CTGCAAATCC GGGGACTTCA GCTGTGGGGG CCGTGTCAAC 241
CGCTGCATTC CTCAGTTCTG GAGGTGCGAT GGCCAAGTGG ACTGCGACAA CGGCTCAGAC 301
GAGCAAGGCT GTCCCCCCAA 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 TGCGCTGTGG 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 TGAACCCATC AAAGAGTGCG GGACCAACGA ATGCTTGGAC 961
AACAACGGCG GCTGTTCCCA CGTCTGCAAT GACCTTAAGA TCGGCTACGA GTGCCTGTGC 1021
CCCGACGGCT TCCAGCTGGT GGCCCAGCGA AGATGCGAAG ATATCGATGA GTGTCAGGAT 1081
CCCGACACCT GCAGCCAGCT CTGCGTGAAC CTGGAGGGTG GCTACAAGTG CCAGTGTGAG 1141
GAAGGCTTCC AGCTGGACCC CCACACGAAG GCCTGCAAGG CTGTGGGCTC CATCGCCTAC 1201
CTCTTCTTCA CCAACCGGCA CGAGGTCAGG AAGATGACGC TGGACCGGAG CGAGTACACC 1261
AGCCTCATCC CCAACCTGAG GAACGTGGTC GCTCTGGACA CGGAGGTGGC CAGCAATAGA 1321
ATCTACTGGT CTGACCTGTC CCAGAGAATG ATCTGCAGCA CCCAGCTTGA CAGAGCCCAC 1381
GGCGTCTCTT CCTATGACAC CGTCATCAGC AGGGACATCC AGGCCCCCGA CGGGCTGGCT 1441
GTGGACTGGA TCCACAGCAA CATCTACTGG ACCGACTCTG TCCTGGGCAC TGTCTCTGTT 1501
GCGGATACCA AGGGCGTGAA GAGGAAAACG TTATTCAGGG AGAACGGCTC CAAGCCAAGG 1561
GCCATCGTGG TGGATCCTGT TCATGGCTTC ATGTACTGGA CTGACTGGGG AACTCCTGCC 1621
AAGATCAAGA AAGGGGGCCT GAATGGTGTG GACATCTACT CGCTGGTGAC TGAAAACATT 1681
CAGTGGCCCA ATGGCATCAC CCTAGATCTC CTCAGTGGCC GCCTCTACTG GGTTGACTCC 1741
AAACTTCACT 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 TGAACTGGTG TGAGAGGACC ACCCTGAGCA ATGGCGGCTG CCAGTATCTG 2041
TGCCTCCCTG CCCCGCAGAT CAACCCCCAC TCGCCCAAGT TTACCTGCGC CTGCCCGGAC 2101
GGCATGCTGC TGGCCAGGGA CATGAGGAGC TGCCTCACAG AGGCTGAGGC TGCAGTGGCC 2161
ACCCAGGAGA CATCCACCGT CAGGCTAAAG GTCAGCTCCA CAGCCGTAAG GACACAGCAC 2221
ACAACCACCC GACCTGTTCC CGACACCTCC CGGCTGCCTG GGGCCACCCC TGGGCTCACC 2281
ACGGTGGAGA TAGTGACAAT GTCTCACCAA 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

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℃ 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℃. After washing for 3 times with FACS buffer (20 mM Tris, 100 mM NaCl, 2mM Ca^{2+}, 1% FBS, pH7.4), straptavidin allophycocyanin(SA-APC, 2μg/mL) was added, and incubated for 20 min at 4℃. 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℃. After washing for 3 times with PBS, straptavidin allophycocyanin(SA-APC, 2μg/mL) was added, and incubated for 20min at 4℃. 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℃ with 5% CO_2.

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℃ for 15 minutes. After washing with PBS for 3 times, 0.2 μg/ml SA-APC was added and incubated at 4℃ 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℃ 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℃, and washed with washing buffer for three times. Then chimeric antibody at different dilution ratios was added and incubated for

1 hour at 37℃. After washing with washing buffer for three times, the HPR-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℃. 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℃ 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℃ 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℃ 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℃ 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℃, 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℃ pre-denaturing for 10min, and Taq enzyme 1μl was added. Temperature cycles and PCR amplification were carried out. The reaction conditions were 94℃ denaturation for 1 min, 58℃ annealing for 1 min, 72℃ extending for 15s, in total 32 cycles, and then kept at 72℃ 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

DIQMTQSPSSLSASLGDKVTITCKASQDINKYIDWYQHKPGKGPRLLIHYTSTLQPGIPS RFSGSGSGRDYSFSISNLEPEDIATYYCVQYDDLWTFGGGTKLEIK

SEQ ID NO:1 LCDR1: KASQDINKYID

SEQ ID NO:2 LCDR2: YTSTLQP

SEQ ID NO:3 LCDR3: VQYDDLWT

1A5 HC

SEQ ID NO:32

QVQLKQSGPSLVQPSQSLSITCTVSGFSLTSYGVHWVRQSPGKGLEWLGVIWRGGSTD
YNAAFMSRLSITKDNSKSQVFFKMNSLQADDTAIYYCANHRDWGQGTLVTVSA

SEQ ID NO:4 HCDR1: SYGVH

SEQ ID NO:5 HCDR2: VIWRGGSTDYNAAFMS

SEQ ID NO:6 HCDR3: HRD

3G12 LC

SEQ ID NO:33

DIQMTQSPSSLSASLGGKVTITCKASQDINKYIDWYQHKPGKSPRLLIHYASTLQPGIPS
RFSGSGSGRDYSFSISNLEPEDIATYYCLQYDDLWTFGGGTKLEIK

SEQ ID NO:7 LCDR1: KASQDINKYID

SEQ ID NO:8 LCDR2: YASTLQP

SEQ ID NO:9 LCDR3: LQYDDLWT

3G12 HC

SEQ ID NO:34

QVQLKQSGPSLLQPSQSLSITCTVSGFSLTSYGIHWVRQSPGKGLEWLGVIWRGGITDY
NAPFMSRLNITKDNSKNQVFFKMNSLQVDDTAIYYCANHRDWGQGTLVTVSA

SEQ ID NO:10 HCDR1: SYGIH

SEQ ID NO:11 HCDR2: VIWRGGITDYNAPFMS

SEQ ID NO:12 HCDR3: HRD

1B5 LC

SEQ ID NO:35

DIVLTQSPASLVVSLGQRATISCRASESVDNYGISFMNWFQQKPGQPPKLLIYTTSNQGS
GVRARLSGSGCGTDFSLNIHPMEEDDSAMYFCQQSKEVPYTFGGGTKLEIK

SEQ ID NO:13 LCDR1: RASESVDNYGISFMN

SEQ ID NO:14 LCDR2: TTSNQGS

SEQ ID NO:15 LCDR3: QQSKEVPYT

1B5 HC

SEQ ID NO:36

DVQLQESGPGLVKPSQSLSLTCTVTGYSITSDYAWNWIRQFPGNKVEWMGYISYSGSS SYNPSLKGRISITRDTSKNQFFLQLNSVTTEDTATYYCARFYYRFDAYFDSWGQGTTLT VSS

SEQ ID NO:16 HCDR1: SDYAWN

SEQ ID NO:17 HCDR2: YISYSGSSSYNPSLKG

SEQ ID NO:18 HCDR3: FYYRFDAYFDS

2B12 LC

SEQ ID NO:37

DIVLTQSPASLAVSLGQRATISCRASESVEYYGTSLMHWYQHKPGQTPKLLIYSGSNVE SGVPARFSGSGSGTDFSLNIHPVEEDDIAMYFCQQSREVPSTFGGGTKLEIK

SEQ ID NO:19 LCDR1: RASESVEYYGTSLMH

SEQ ID NO:20 LCDR2: SGSNVES

SEQ ID NO:21 LCDR3: QQSREVPST

2B12 HC

SEQ ID NO:38

DVQLQESGPGLVKPSQSLSLTCSVTGFSITSDYAWNWIRQFPGNKLEWMGYISYSGTTN YNPSLKSRISITRDTSKNQFFLHLNSVITEDTATYYCARREGHYSWFPYWGQGTLVTVS A

SEQ ID NO:22 HCDR1: SDYAWN

SEQ ID NO:23 HCDR2: YISYSGTTNYNPSLKS

SEQ ID NO:24 HCDR3: REGHYSWFPY

1B11 LC

SEQ ID NO:39

DIQMTQSPASLSASVGETVTITCRASENIYSYLAWYQQKQENSPQLLVYNAYTLADGV PSRFSGSGSGTQFSLKIISLQPEDFGNYYCQHHYRTPPTFGGGTKLEIK

SEQ ID NO:25 LCDR1: RASENIYSYLA

SEQ ID NO:26 LCDR2: NAYTLAD

SEQ ID NO:27 LCDR3: QHHYRTPPT

1B11 HC

SEQ ID NO:40

QVQLQQSGAVLVRPGTSIKVSCKASGYAFTNYLIEWIKKRPGQGLEWIGMINPGSGDT

NFNEKFKAKATLTADKSSTTAYMQLNSLTFDDSAVYFCARSSQLGLPYWGQGTLVTV SA

SEQ ID NO:28 HCDR1: NYLIE

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/£ constant region were cloned 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 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/£ constant region.

Example 12: Binding of chimeric antibody with human PCSK9

A 96-well ELISA plate was plated, coated with 4μg/ml streptavidin, and incubated at 37℃ 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℃ for 1 hour, and washed with washing buffer for 3 times. Then, chimeric antibodies that were diluted at different dilution ratio were added, incubated at 37℃ 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℃ 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)

DIQMTQSPSSLSASVGDRVTITC**QASQDINKYID**WYQHKPGKAPKLLIH**YASTLQ**
PGVPSRFSGSGSGRDYTFTISSLQPEDIATYYC**LQYDDLWT**FGQGTKVEIK

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

GACATCCAGATGACCCAGAGCCCCAGCAGCCTGAGCGCCAGCGTGGGCGACA
GAGTGACCATCACCTGCCAGGCCAGCCAGGACATCAACAAGTACATCGACTGGTA
CCAGCACAAGCCCGGCAAGGCCCCCAAGCTGCTGATCCACTACGCCAGCACCCTGC
AGCCCGGCGTGCCCAGCAGATTCAGCGGCAGCGGCAGCGGCAGAGACTACACCTT

CACCATCAGCAGCCTGCAGCCCGAGGACATCGCCACCTACTACTGCCTGCAGTACG
ACGACCTGTGGACCTTCGGCCAGGGCACCAAGGTGGAGATCAAG

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

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSLTCTVSGFSIS**SYGIH**WIRQSPGKGLEWIG**VIWRGGI**
TDYNAPFMSRVTISKDNSKNQVSFKLSSVTAADTAVYYCAN**HRD**WGQGTLVTVSS

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

CAGGTGCAGCTGCAGGAAAGCGGCCCGGGCCTGGTGAAACCGAGCCAGACCC
TGAGCCTGACCTGCACCGTGAGCGGCTTTAGCATTAGCAGCTATGGCATTCATTGG
ATTCGCCAGAGCCCGGGCAAAGGCCTGGAATGGATTGGCGTGATTTGGCGCGGCG
GCATTACCGATTATAACGCGCCGTTTATGAGCCGCGTGACCATTAGCAAAGATAAC
AGCAAAAACCAGGTGAGCTTTAAACTGAGCAGCGTGACCGCGGCGGATACCGCGG
TGTATTATTGCGCGAACCATCGCGATTGGGGCCAGGGCACCCTGGTGACCGTGAGC
AGC

77-HC

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

QVQLQESGPGLVKPSQTLSLTCTVSGFSIS**SYGVH**WIRQSPGKGLEWIG**VIWRGGS**
TDYNAAFMSRVTISKDNSKNQVSFKLSSVTAADTAVYYCAN**HRD**WGQGTLVTVSS

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

CAGGTGCAGCTGCAGGAAAGCGGCCCGGGCCTGGTGAAACCGAGCCAGACCC
TGAGCCTGACCTGCACCGTGAGCGGCTTTAGCATTAGCAGCTATGGCGTGCATTGG
ATTCGCCAGAGCCCGGGCAAAGGCCTGGAATGGATTGGCGTGATTTGGCGCGGCG
GCAGCACCGATTATAACGCGGCGTTTATGAGCCGCGTGACCATTAGCAAAGATAAC
AGCAAAAACCAGGTGAGCTTTAAACTGAGCAGCGTGACCGCGGCGGATACCGCGG
TGTATTATTGCGCGAACCATCGCGATTGGGGCCAGGGCACCCTGGTGACCGTGAGC
AGC

Example 15: Binding of humanized antibody with human PCSK9

A 96-well ELISA plate was plated, coated with 0.1μg/ml streptavidin, and incubated at 37℃ 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℃ for 1 hour, and washed with washing buffer for 3 times. Then, humanized antibodies that were diluted at different dilution ratio were added, incubated at 37℃ 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 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 PSK9 is not changed with an EC50 value at about 5ng/ml.

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℃ with 7% CO_2 for 1h. Then Dil-LDL (5 μg/ml) was added, incubated at 37℃ with 7% CO_2 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.

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 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.

Reference documents

Abifadel, M., et al. (2003). "Mutations in PCSK9 cause autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia." Nat Genet **34**(2): 154-156.

Abifadel, M., et al. (2003). "Mutations in PCSK9 cause autosomal dominant hypercholesterolemia." Nat Genet **34**(2): 154-156.

Benjannet, S., et al. (2004). "NARC-1/PCSK9 and its natural mutants zymogen cleavage and effects on the low density lipoprotein (LDL) receptor and LDL cholesterol." Journal of

Biological Chemistry **279**(47): 48865-48875.

Fisher, T. S., et al. (2007). "Effects of pH and Low Density Lipoprotein (LDL) on PCSK9-dependent LDL Receptor Regulation." Journal of Biological Chemistry **282**(28): 20502-20512.

Jones, S. T. and M. M. Bendig (1991). "Rapid PCR-cloning of full-length mouse immunoglobulin variable regions." Bio/Technology **9**(1): 88-89.

Lagace, T. A., et al. (2006). "Secreted PCSK9 decreases the number of LDL receptors in hepatocytes and inlivers of parabiotic mice." Journal of Clinical Investigation **116**(11): 2995-3005.

Lambert, G., et al. (2009). "Molecular basis of PCSK9 function." Atherosclerosis **203**(1): 1-7.

Seidah, N. G., et al. (2003). "The secretory proprotein convertase neural apoptosis-regulated convertase 1 (NARC-1): liver regeneration and neuronal differentiation." Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences **100**(3): 928-933.

Zhang, D.-W., et al. (2007). "Binding of Proprotein Convertase Subtilisin/Kexin Type 9 to Epidermal Growth Factor-like Repeat A of Low Density Lipoprotein Receptor Decreases Receptor Recycling and Increases Degradation." Journal of Biological Chemistry **282**(25): 18602-18612.