

CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

An aptamer comprising nucleotide sequences represented by
5 the following formulas (1) to (3) in the order of the formula
(2), the formula (1), and the formula (3) from the 5'-terminal
side:

CGRYKACY formula (1)

CCKYC formula (2)

10 GYMCG formula (3)

wherein R is A or G, Y is C or U, K is G or U, and M is A or C,
wherein the aptamer comprises the nucleotide sequence of the
following (a) or (b):

(a) a nucleotide sequence represented by any of SEQ ID NOs: 1 -
15 5, 7, 20 - 29, and 31 - 43 (provided that uracil (U) may be
thymine (T))

(b) a nucleotide sequence resulting from the substitution,
deletion, insertion, or addition of 1 or several nucleotides in
the nucleotide sequence of the (a),

20 wherein the aptamer binds to interleukin-21 and inhibits
binding between the interleukin-21 and a receptor thereof.

[Claim 2]

The aptamer according to claim 1, wherein, at the 1st C
25 in the formula (1), the hydroxy group at the 2'-position of
ribose is substituted by a fluoro group.

[Claim 3]

An aptamer comprising a nucleotide sequence resulting
30 from the substitution, deletion, insertion, or addition of 1 or
several nucleotides in the aptamer according to claim 1 or 2,
wherein

(a) in the nucleotide contained in the aptamer,

(i) the 2'-position of ribose of each pyrimidine
35 nucleotide is a fluorine atom, and

(ii) the 2'-position of ribose of each purine nucleotide is a hydroxy group, or wherein

(b) in the aptamer of (a),

(i) the fluorine atoms at the 2'-position of ribose of
5 respective pyrimidine nucleotides are each independently unsubstituted or substituted by an atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxy group, and a methoxy group,

(ii) the hydroxy groups at the 2'-position of ribose of
10 respective purine nucleotides are each independently unsubstituted or substituted by an atom or group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a methoxy group, and a fluorine atom.

15 [Claim 4]

The aptamer according to any one of claims 1, 2, and 3, wherein, at the 4th C in the formula (3): GYMCG, the hydroxy group at the 2'-position of ribose is substituted by a fluoro group.

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[Claim 5]

A complex comprising the aptamer according to any one of claims 1 to 4 and a functional substance.

25 [Claim 6]

The complex according to claim 5, wherein the functional substance is an affinity substance, a labeling substance, an enzyme, a drug delivery vehicle, or a drug.

30 [Claim 7]

A medicament comprising the aptamer according to any one of claims 1 to 4 or the complex according to claim 5 or 6.

[Claim 8]

35 The medicament according to claim 7, which is for the

treatment or prophylaxis of pulmonary hypertension.