ABSTRACT

METHODS OF ASSAYING DNA-REPAIRING ENZYMES AND THEIR ALKYLATED DERIVATIVES

The present invention provides methods of assaying the human DNA repair enzyme O^6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) and/or active site alkylated derivatives thereof (R-MGMT), which rely on the ability of a protease, e.g. V8 Protease (also referred to as Glu-C Protease), to distinguish between these two enzyme forms. Such a method comprises the steps of: (a) contacting the sample with a protease to which one of human MGMT and R-MGMT is preferentially sensitive, and (b) determining whether the treated sample contains one or more polypeptides selected from (i) at least one polypeptides fragment characteristic of action of the protease on the protease-sensitive form of human MGMT and (ii) the protease-resistant form of a human MGMT.

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