Corticotropin-like intermediate peptide (CLIP)

Also called: ACTH(18-39); ACTH 18-39; corticotropin-like intermediate lobe peptide; corticotropin-like intermediate peptide

What it is

CLIP is ACTH(18-39), the part of ACTH left when the enzyme PC2 splits off alpha-MSH; human ACTH-secreting tumours that make it carry PC2 (PMID 7962350). It has been mapped in the human brain (PMID 1849784), increased paradoxical sleep in rats (PMID 8008628), and has never been given to a person.

Approval status

Research Chemical. Not a medicine: CLIP has been measured in human tissue and tumours (PMID 7921221) and given only to animals and cells, never to a person. Drugs@FDA (openFDA) returns no record (November 3, 2026).

Dosing, as printed in the page's Recommended Dosing box

No established human dose

No study read has given CLIP to a person. The human studies on this page measure the peptide the body or a tumour makes, in brain and pituitary sections, tumour extracts and blood, and the only human work that applied CLIP used fetal adrenal cells and blood cells in a dish.

Educational information, not medical advice. None is a recommendation for you. An unapproved compound has no established safe or effective human dose, and products sold for "research use only" are not made or tested for people. Talk to a doctor before acting on anything on this site, including before you start, stop or change any medicine or dose.

Key human evidence

The first 3 of the 6 human studies carded on the page (20 study cards in all):

• **Found in tumours behind ectopic ACTH syndrome** (Human, 1981). Ratter and colleagues used radioimmunoassays with chromatography to sort the ACTH-related peptides in human plasma, spinal fluid and tumour tissue. CLIP did not show up in the blood or spinal fluid profiles, but it was present, together with alpha-MSH, in tumours taken from patients whose Cushing's syndrome came from ACTH made outside the pituitary. Pituitary tumours studied in culture released ACTH and related peptides instead. **PMID 6268379**

• **Shares cells with DSIP in the human pituitary** (Human, 1988). Human pituitary glands and stalks were stained for CLIP and for delta sleep-inducing peptide. About three-quarters of the CLIP-stained cells in the anterior lobe and in what remains of the intermediate lobe also held DSIP. Few CLIP fibres reached the posterior lobe. The authors proposed that the two peptides might work together on the sleep-wake cycle. **PMID 2842706**

• **Mapped through the human brain** (Human, 1991). A monoclonal antibody against CLIP was used on human brain tissue. Stained cell bodies clustered in the base of the hypothalamus, and fibres spread through the hypothalamus, preoptic area, septum, amygdala, brainstem and spinal cord, with dense networks around the periaqueductal grey. The pattern matched earlier animal maps, and the authors linked these areas to sleep, pain and breathing and heart control. **PMID 1849784**

Interactions

A PubMed search for interaction studies of this compound with any drug (November 3, 2026, 0 records) found none in people. That is not evidence that it is safe to combine with anything.

Side effects and cautions

Reported side effects	Contraindications and cautions
• The human studies read measured CLIP in tissue and blood; none gave it (PMIDs 1849784, 7962350) • Human cells exposed to it in a dish were fetal adrenal cells and blood mononuclear cells (PMIDs 6270171, 8402922)	• Not a medicine: there is no approved product and no treatment dose • Its sleep, feeding and excitability effects come from injections into rat brains and have not been tested in people • In ACTH testing, CLIP from a tumour can distort results; that is a laboratory issue for clinicians, not a reason to take or avoid the peptide

Five questions to ask

1. Corticotropin-like intermediate peptide (CLIP) is listed here as "Research Chemical". What does the evidence on this sheet mean for someone in my situation, and is there an approved treatment I should consider instead?
2. Here are the medicines and supplements I take. Do any of them interact with Corticotropin-like intermediate peptide (CLIP)? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example the human studies read measured clip in tissue and blood?
4. Do any of the cautions on this sheet apply to me, such as: Not a medicine: there is no approved product and no treatment dose?
5. What should we check before I start and while I am on it (blood tests, blood pressure, weight), and how often?

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