Salusin-alpha

Also called: salusin-α; salusin alpha

What it is

Salusin-alpha is a 28-residue peptide found in 2003 by a computer search of human transcripts (PMID 12910263). It reduced cholesterol storage in human macrophages (PMID 18212280) and shrank aortic plaques in mice (PMID 20684826), and serum levels were lower in coronary artery disease (PMID 23611255). In people it has only been measured, never given.

Approval status

Research Chemical. Not a medicine anywhere in the sources read: Drugs@FDA (openFDA) returns no record for salusin (November 3, 2026). In people it has only been measured in blood and urine (PMID 16889872).

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

No established human dose

Salusin-alpha has never been given to people in any study read. The human evidence is entirely blood and urine measurement: assays that detect it in healthy serum and urine, and observational comparisons of its level in coronary disease, hypertension, diabetes, thyroid disease, dialysis and other conditions.

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 15 human studies carded on the page (24 study cards in all):

• **First measurement in human blood and urine** (Human, 2006). A radioimmunoassay built for human salusin-alpha, with negligible cross-reaction with salusin-beta, found it in the serum of 31 healthy people at 11.0 to 40.4 pmol/L (mean 23.3) and in urine at a mean of 156.8 pmol/L. On chromatography the main measured peak ran at the same position as synthetic salusin-alpha, which confirmed that the precursor is cut where the gene sequence predicted. **PMID 16889872**

• **Low in coronary disease, and it slows foam-cell formation** (Human, 2008). Serum salusin-alpha averaged 4.9 pmol/L in 173 people with coronary artery disease shown on angiography, against 15.4 pmol/L in 40 people with mild hypertension and 20.7 pmol/L in 55 healthy volunteers. Both salusins were found in coronary plaques. In macrophages grown from human blood monocytes, salusin-alpha cut the build-up of stored cholesterol and lowered the cholesterol-storing enzyme ACAT-1, while salusin-beta did the reverse. **PMID 18212280**

• **Lower in hypertension, and lower still with carotid plaque** (Human, 2008). Among 70 people with essential hypertension and 20 with normal blood pressure, serum salusin-alpha was lower in the hypertensive group. Across everyone it fell as carotid plaque scores rose, and in a stepwise regression it stayed independently and inversely linked to the thickest carotid wall measurement after other risk factors were considered. **PMID 18497465**

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
• In the discovery study, an intravenous injection in rats caused a fast, steep fall in blood pressure and heart rate (PMID 12910263) • No human safety data exist: every human study read only measured it (PMID 16889872)	• Not a medicine: there is no approved product and no treatment dose • A blood level is a research reading; no clinical test or reference range uses it • Laboratory effects in cells and animals have not been tested in people

Five questions to ask

1. Salusin-alpha 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 Salusin-alpha? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example in the discovery study?
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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