Urocortin 3

Also called: UCN3; Stresscopin; SCP; Urocortin III; UCNIII

What it is

Urocortin 3 (UCN3), also called stresscopin, is an endogenous 38-amino-acid neuropeptide of the corticotropin-releasing factor family, identified in 2001 and a selective agonist of the CRF type 2 receptor (CRHR2). In the pancreatic islet it drives delta-cell somatostatin feedback to restrain insulin and glucagon and marks a mature beta cell (PMID 35065098); it is also a stress-axis peptide expressed in the brain, adrenal gland, gut and placenta (PMIDs 16095756, 15949638, 35738909). It is an endogenous research peptide and biomarker, not an approved medicine, and has never been given to people in a published trial.

Approval status

Research Chemical. Not a drug: Drugs@FDA and the openFDA label endpoint hold no record, and FDA GSRS and ChEMBL hold no substance record for urocortin 3 / stresscopin (searched November 6, 2026). It is an endogenous human neuropeptide; there is no therapeutic development of UCN3 itself, and no registered interventional trial of giving it to people. It is studied as a local islet signal, a stress-axis peptide and a biomarker.

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

No established human dose

Urocortin 3 is an endogenous human neuropeptide that has never been given to people as a treatment. It is studied as a local islet signal, a stress-axis peptide and a candidate biomarker measured in blood and urine, not as an administered drug.

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 2 human studies carded on the page (6 study cards in all):

• **Expression in human adrenal glands and tumors** (Human, 2005). Immunoreactive urocortin 3 / stresscopin was found at high concentration in normal human adrenal glands — higher than in brain — and in aldosterone- and cortisol-secreting adenomas and pheochromocytomas, with UCN3 mRNA confirmed by RT-PCR. The authors concluded UCN3 is produced in the adrenal and acts as a local autocrine or paracrine regulator, part of the adrenal stress system. **PMID 16095756**

• **Urocortin 3 / stresscopin in the human colon** (Human, 2005). Urocortin 3 was localised in the myenteric and submucosal nerve plexuses, vascular cells, smooth muscle and enterochromaffin cells of the normal human large intestine, with its CRHR2 receptor co-expressed, and immunoreactive UCN3 measured at highest levels in the rectum and sigmoid colon. The pattern — distinct from urocortin 1 — suggests UCN3 modulates gut function under stressful conditions. **PMID 15949638**

Interactions

A PubMed search for interaction studies of this compound with any drug (November 6, 2026, 1 record) 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
• No human adverse-event data exist: no published study has administered urocortin 3 to people • It is a local islet and stress-axis signal measured in tissue and body fluids, not a therapy (PMIDs 35065098, 35738909) • Animal and human-cell work used recombinant urocortin at experimental concentrations that do not translate to human dosing (PMIDs 36476733, 19351656) • Material sold online as 'stresscopin' or 'UCN3' is an unregulated research chemical of unverified content	• Not a medicine: no FDA application or label, and no approval anywhere • No human dosing, interaction, pregnancy or long-term safety data exist for administered urocortin 3 • It is a laboratory research peptide and biomarker, not a treatment • Its expression patterns in disease are associations studied in the lab, not a reason to take it

Five questions to ask

1. Urocortin 3 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 Urocortin 3? This sheet records none published, which does not mean none exist.
3. Which side effects should make me stop and call you, for example no human adverse-event data exist: no published study has administered urocortin 3 to people?
4. Do any of the cautions on this sheet apply to me, such as: Not a medicine: no FDA application or label, and no approval anywhere?
5. What should we check before I start and while I am on it (blood tests, blood pressure, weight), and how often?

Grey Peptides is a vendor-neutral encyclopedia: it sells nothing and names no seller. This sheet is educational, not medical advice, and is not a prescription.