

pWZLneo-Raf1-CAAX Retroviral Vector

CATALOG NUMBER: RTV-113

STORAGE: -80°C

QUANTITY AND CONCENTRATION: 100 µL of bacterial glycerol stock

Background

Retroviruses are efficient tools for delivering heritable genes into the genome of dividing cells. Cell Biolab's retrovirus vector is based on the pWZL vector system, which is derived from Moloney murine leukemia virus (MMLV). The vector provides the viral package signal, transcription and processing elements, and a target gene. The viral *env* gene, produced by the package cell line, encodes the envelop protein, which determines the viral infectivity range. Transfection into a package cell line produces high-titer, replication-incompetent viruses. In addition to transfer and expression of exogenous genes in mammalian cells, recently, retroviruses have been used to express silencing RNAs (siRNA) to decrease the expression of target genes both *in vitro* and *in vivo*.

The vector contains the bacterial origin of replication, ampicillin-resistance gene, and neomycin-resistance gene for the growth of infected mammalian cells to select stable cell lines (Figure 1).

Mitogen-activated protein kinases (MAPK), including ERK1/2, p38, and JNK1/2, are important regulators of cell function. The ERK MAPKs are most frequently activated by mitogens, whereas the JNK and p38 MAPKs are strongly responsive to stress and inflammatory signals. The extracellular signal-regulated kinases (ERKs) are activated in response to growth factors, via the Ras proto-oncogene and multiple intracellular kinase phosphorylation cascade events. C-Raf, a mitogen-activated protein kinase, is the main effector recruited by GTP-bound Ras in order to activate the MAPK pathway. A constitutively active form of human c-Raf, Raf1-CAAX, is cloned into the retroviral vector pWZL-neo at the *Sna* BI site. The mutant includes a Prenyl group binding site (CAAX box) for membrane association.

Safety Consideration

Remember that you will be working with samples containing infectious virus. Follow the recommended NIH guidelines for all materials containing BSL-2 organisms. Always wear gloves, use filtered tips and work under a biosafety hood.

References

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3. Schuck S, Manninen A, Honsho M, Fullekrug J and Simons K. (2004) *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 101, 4912-4917.
4. Avruch J., Zhang X. F., and Kyriakis J. M. (1994) *Trends Biochem Sci.* 19:279-83.

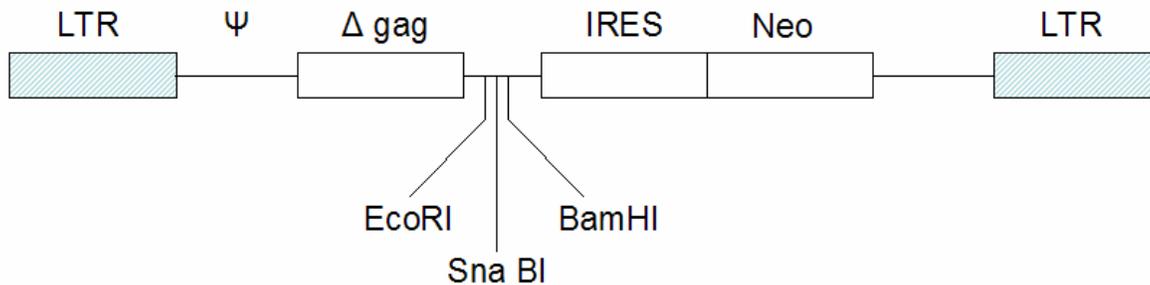


Figure 1. Schematic representation of pWZLneo retroviral vector

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