

Task 1 DNA/Protein Sequence Analysis

Sequence Similarity Analysis between *Streptococcus pyogenes* M-Protein and Human Cardiac Myosin

Introduction

Protein sequence comparison is one of the most important bioinformatics techniques used to study evolutionary relationships, structural similarity, and potential functional overlap between proteins.

The **M protein** of *Streptococcus pyogenes* is a major virulence factor. It helps the bacteria evade the host immune system by resisting phagocytosis. However, certain regions of this bacterial protein show **molecular mimicry** with human heart proteins, especially **cardiac myosin**. This similarity is believed to play a key role in **autoimmune cross-reactivity**.

To explore this concept at the molecular level, a **protein sequence comparison** was performed between the M protein of *S. pyogenes* and human cardiac myosin using NCBI databases and BLAST tools.

Background Information

1. M Protein (*Streptococcus pyogenes*)

- A surface-exposed protein responsible for virulence.
- Highly variable in sequence, with over 200 known serotypes.
- Some conserved regions show cross-reactivity with human tissues.

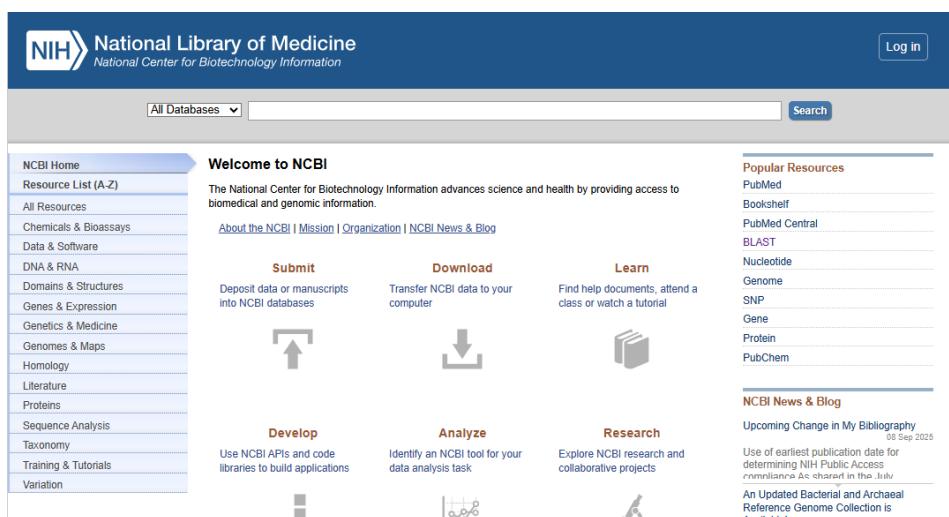
2. Cardiac Myosin (Human)

- A major contractile protein in cardiac muscle.
- Plays a key role in muscle contraction and heart function.
- Has both conserved functional domains and variable regions.

Procedure:

Steps to Retrieve FASTA sequences from NCBI:

1. Open the NCBI website



2. In the search bar, type the **protein name**

The screenshot shows the NCBI search interface. The search term 'M protein Streptococcus pyogenes' is entered in the search bar. Below the search bar, a summary table displays results from 18 databases across various categories:

Category	Count
Literature	1,574
Genes	33
Proteins	3,362
Genomes	0
Clinical	0
PubChem	0

3. From the results, open the **Protein** record of the selected protein.

This screenshot shows the detailed protein record for 'M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]'. The main search bar at the top contains the query. The results table shows three entries:

- M protein, partial [Streptococcus pyogenes]**: 198 aa protein, Accession: RXH49094.1, GI: 607122, Nucleotide, PubMed, Taxonomy, GenPept, Identical Proteins, FASTA, Graphics
- M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]**: 579 aa protein, Accession: RXH49094.1, GI: 1582396168, Nucleotide, Taxonomy, GenPept, Identical Proteins, FASTA, Graphics
- M protein precursor [Streptococcus pyogenes]**: 389 aa protein, Accession: AAA26918.1, GI: 153697, Nucleotide, PubMed, Taxonomy

4. Scroll to the top-right section and click on the “FASTA” link.

This screenshot shows the detailed protein record for 'M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]'. The FASTA sequence link is located in the 'Identical Proteins' section of the right sidebar. The main content area displays the protein's definition, accession number (RXH49094.1), and a table of attributes such as Locus, Definition, Accession, Version, DBLINK, DBSOURCE, KEYWORD, SOURCE, ORGANISM, REFERENCE, AUTHORS, TITLE, JOURNAL, PUBLISHER, REFERENCE, AUTHORS, TITLE, and JOURNAL. The right sidebar includes sections for Analyze this sequence, Related information, and other search results.

5. The FASTA format sequence will appear; you may **copy the sequence directly** for use or to download the sequence, click on “**Graphics**” at the top of the record.

The screenshot shows the NIH National Center for Biotechnology Information Protein page for the M protein of *Streptococcus pyogenes*. The sequence is displayed in FASTA format:

```
>RXH49094_1 M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]
GenBank: RXH49094.1
GenPept: identical Proteins, Graphics
>RXH49094_1 M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]
MAKKNTNRHSLRLKLTGTASVAVLQVAGQIVKAKRQVWVQLGQENLLEWRVQL
DQHGRVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQVQ
EDIEKKKKEYQDNLDDFLAKQGVASSDXRNHEQELLEEKKVVTEATAKQKNESTKQDL
TEKQMRVSELEQELATTKENAKYDQFELAALQGLQADKEYNAYIAELESKLADAKKFELAALQGHQHAIN
YQAKLAEDQGQIQLQEEQKQIQLDASRKGTDARLAVRQAKKATEAEELNLKAELAKVTEQQQQLDASRKG
TARDLVEVRKAKAQAEVALQKLEEQNNIISAEASRKGLROLDASREAKKQVEKDNLTAELDWVKEEKQI
SDASRQGLRRLDASREAKQVEKALEANSKLAELKLNKELEESKKLTTEKEAKLQAKLAEAKAKLE
QLAKQAEELAKLRAQDSSDQSPDTKPGKAVPQGKQAPQAGTKPNQNQTKRQLPSTGEAMPPFTAAA
LTVMATAGVSAPPVKKRKEEN
```

The right sidebar contains links for Analyze this sequence, Run BLAST, Identify Conserved Domains, Related information (Nucleotide, Taxonomy, CDD Search Results), Recent activity, and a search bar for "M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]".

6. Select “Download” and choose **FASTA format** to save the file.

The screenshot shows the same protein page but with the "Graphics" tab selected. This view displays the sequence with various biological features highlighted as tracks. The "Tools" menu is open, showing options like "Download" and "FASTA". The right sidebar remains the same as in the previous screenshot.

7. Repeat the same steps for the **second protein** (e.g., Myosin).

The screenshot shows the NIH Protein page for Myosin from *Homo sapiens*. The sequence is shown in FASTA format:

```
>CAA86293_1 Myosin [Homo sapiens]
GenBank: CAA86293.1
GenPept: identical Proteins, FASTA
>CAA86293_1 Myosin [Homo sapiens]
100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1K 1,000 1,200 1,400 1,600 1,800 1,900 1,937 aa
```

The right sidebar includes links for Analyze this sequence, Run BLAST, Identify Conserved Domains, and sections for "Articles about the MYH8 gene" (with links to a paper on mutations in Chinese samples and a paper on rapid switch-off of the gene), "Reference sequence information" (with a link to the genomic sequence), and "More about the MYH8 gene" (with a link to a page stating that myosins are actin-based motor proteins). The "Tools" menu is also visible.

Steps to Perform Multiple Sequence Alignment Using NCBI BLAST

1. Open the BLAST page on NCBI

The screenshot shows the NCBI BLAST homepage. At the top, there's a blue header with the NIH National Library of Medicine logo and a "Log in" button. Below the header, the URL "BLAST®" is visible. The main content area is titled "Basic Local Alignment Search Tool". It includes a brief description of what BLAST does: "BLAST finds regions of similarity between biological sequences. The program compares nucleotide or protein sequences to sequence databases and calculates the statistical significance." A "Learn more" link is provided. To the right, a "NEWS" box displays a message from "Mon, 21 Jul 2025": "Here are a few highlights in our latest BLAST+ release: Download BLAST+ 2.17.0 now! More BLAST news...". Below this, there are sections for "Web BLAST" (with links to "blastx" and "tblastn") and "BLAST Genomes" (with a search bar). A "Protein BLAST" logo is also present.

2. Select **Protein BLAST (blastp)**.
3. Under the query box, click "**Align two or more sequences**".
4. Upload or paste the **FASTA sequences** of both proteins (Actin and Myosin).
5. Scroll down and click "**BLAST**" to run the alignment.
6. Wait for the results to load; the alignment output will be displayed below.

The screenshot shows the "blastp" sub-page of the NCBI BLAST suite. The top navigation bar includes "Home", "Recent Results", "Saved Strategies", and "Help". The main form is titled "Align Sequences Protein BLAST". It has three main sections: "Enter Query Sequence", "Enter Subject Sequence", and "Program Selection". In the "Enter Query Sequence" section, there are fields for "Enter accession number(s), g(i)s, or FASTA sequence(s)" (with a "Clear" button), "Query subrange" (with "From" and "To" fields), and "Or, upload file" (with a "Choose file" button set to "M protein.fa"). There's also a "Job Title" field and a checkbox for "Align two or more sequences" (which is checked). In the "Enter Subject Sequence" section, there are similar fields for subject sequences and a "Choose file" button set to "Myosin.fa". The "Program Selection" section shows "blastp (protein-protein BLAST)" selected under "Algorithm" (with a "Choose a BLAST algorithm" link). At the bottom, there are buttons for "BLAST" and "Search protein sequence using Blastp (protein-protein BLAST)", and a checkbox for "show results in a new window". A "Feedback" link is located in the bottom right corner.

Understanding the BLAST Alignment Output

- **Matching letters** → identical amino acids at that position.
- **Dots (.)** → similar amino acids (conserved substitution).
- **Spaces ()** → mismatch; no similarity at that position.
- **Query** → first protein sequence you input.
- **Subject** → second protein sequence.
- **Score / Bit score** → strength of alignment (higher = better).
- **E-value** → significance of the match (lower = more significant).

The screenshot shows the National Library of Medicine BLAST search results for RID-JPDWFM8T114. The top navigation bar includes the NIH logo, National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information, Log in, Home, Recent Results, Saved Strategies, and Help. The main search parameters are listed on the left: Job Title (gb|RXH49094.1|:1-579 M protein [Streptococcus]), RID (JPDWFM8T114), Program (Blast 2 sequences, Citation), Query ID (IclQuery_5120997 (amino acid)), Query Descr (gb|RXH49094.1|:1-579 M protein [Streptococcus pyogenes]), Query Length (579), Subject ID (IclQuery_5120999 (amino acid)), Subject Descr (emb|CAA86293.1|:1-1937 Myosin [Homo sapiens]), Subject Length (1937), and Other reports (Multiple alignment, MSA viewer). A 'Filter Results' section allows setting Percent identity, E value, and Query Coverage ranges with a 'Filter' button. Below this, a 'Clusters' tab is selected, showing a table of 'Clusters producing significant alignments'. The table has columns for Max Score, Total Score, Query Cover, E value, Per. Ident, Acc. Len, and Accession. One row is highlighted for 'emb|CAA86293.1|:1-1937 Myosin [Homo sapiens]' with a score of 30.0, total score of 56.0, 58% coverage, and an E value of 0.001. The bottom part of the screenshot shows two ranges of significant alignments (Range 1: 1427 to 1745, Range 2: 1807 to 1909) with detailed sequence alignments and statistics for each query and subject.

Range 1: 1427 to 1745	Graphics	Sort by:	E value		
emb CAA86293.1 :1-1937 Myosin [Homo sapiens] Sequence ID: Query_5120999 Length: 1937 Number of Matches: 2					
Range 1: 1427 to 1745 Graphics ▾ Next Match ▲ Previous Match					
Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps
30.0 bits(66)	0.001	Compositional matrix adjust.	84/341(25%)	151/341(44%)	29/341(8%)
Query 149	EYQDLNDFD	LAKQGYASSDKRHHQQELEKEEKVTEATAKVQDISKELETAKQKNESTQ	288		
Sbjct 1427	E+DL D + +	A+ DK+ + +K ++E K ++ +ELE +++++ S			
Query 209	DLTEKQNRVSE	LEQELATTK-ENAKKDFELAALGHOLADKEYNAKIAELESKLADAKDF	267		
Sbjct 1483	+L + -N V -E +L T + EN	E++ L +Q+A EYNN +I ELE KK			
Query 268	E LAALGHQAH	NNEYQAKLAEKDGQI-K-QLEEQHQIQLDASKRGTAARDLEAVRKQAKKATEA	325		
Sbjct 1537	Q A E +A L + +G+	QLE + +E + R K +D			
Query 326	E QEKCEIQA	LEAKVTEQKQ-I LDASRGKGTARDLEAVRKAKAQVEAALKQLEEQNRISASRK	384		
Sbjct 1585	LK +V E +V L DA	+K + + +QL NR++ S +			
Query 385	ELNNLKAEL	VAKVTEQKQ-I LDASRGKGTARDLEAVRKAKAQVEAALKQLEEQNRISASRK	441		
Sbjct 1645	QIDQLKRNH	TRVETM QSTLDAEIRSNRALRVKKKMEGLDNEMEIQLNHNRLAESLR	1644		
Query 442	NYRNTQGIL	KEAKVKEEKVKEQLHLDLARQGEDLKEQLAIVERRANLQAEIEELWATLQTERSRKI	1704		
Sbjct 1705	AEQELLDASERVQL	HLDLARQGEDLKEQLAIVERRANLQAEIEELWATLQTERSRKI	1745		
Range 2: 1807 to 1909	Graphics	Sort by:	Next Match	Previous Match	First Match
emb CAA86293.1 :1-1937 Myosin [Homo sapiens] Sequence ID: Query_5120999 Length: 1937 Number of Matches: 2					
Range 2: 1807 to 1909 Graphics ▾ Next Match ▲ Previous Match ▲ First Match					
Score	Expect	Method	Identities	Positives	Gaps
26.6 bits(57)	0.008	Compositional matrix adjust.	38/119(32%)	57/119(47%)	25/119(21%)
Query 357	AVRKAKAQV-	-EAALKOLE-----EONRISAEASRKGLRDLDA-SREAKKQVEKDOLANL	408		
Sbjct 1807	A++ K Q+	EA +++LE EQ R +EA KGLR+ +E Q E+D N+			
Query 409	ALKGQQQQI	QKLEARVRELEGEEQNKRNAEV-KGLRKHERRVKELTYQTTEEDRKVNVL	1865		
Sbjct 1866	-----	AEELDKVKEEKQISDASRQGLRDLDA-SREAKKQVEKALEANSKLAALEKLNLKEEES	466		
		Q L L A + K+Q E+A E++N+ L+ KL ELEE+			
		-----RLQDLVDKQLQAKVSKYRQAEAAAEGSNANLSKFRKLQHELEA	1909		

