

C-reactive protein

C-reactive protein (CRP) is an annular (ring-shaped), pentameric protein found in blood plasma, whose circulating concentrations rise in response to inflammation. It is an acute-phase protein of hepatic origin that increases following interleukin-6 secretion by macrophages and T cells. Its physiological role is to bind to lysophosphatidylcholine expressed on the surface of dead or dying cells (and some types of bacteria) in order to activate the complement system via C1q.^[5]

CRP is synthesized by the liver^[6] in response to factors released by macrophages and fat cells (adipocytes).^[7] It is a member of the pentraxin family of proteins.^[6] It is not related to C-peptide (insulin) or protein C (blood coagulation). C-reactive protein was the first pattern recognition receptor (PRR) to be identified.^[8]

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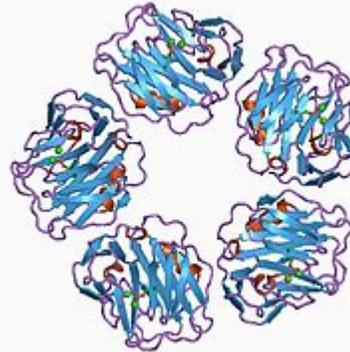
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CRP



Available structures

PDB Ortholog search: PDBe (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/search/Results.html?display=both&term=P14847%20or%20P02741>) RCSB (<http://www.rcsb.org/pdb/search/smartSubquery.do?smartSearchSubtype=UpAccessionIdQuery&accessionIdList=P14847,P02741>)

List of PDB id codes

1B09 (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/1B09>), 1GNH (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/1GNH>), 1LJ7 (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/1LJ7>), 3L2Y (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3L2Y>), 3PVN (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3PVN>), 3PVO (<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3PVO>)

Identifiers

Aliases CRP (https://www.genenames.org/cgi-bin/gene_symbol_report?hgnc_id=2367), PTX1, C-reactive protein, pentraxin-related, C-Reactive Protein

External IDs OMIM: 123260 (<https://omim.org/entry/123260>) MGI: 88512 (<http://www.informatics.jax.org/marker/MGI:88512>) HomoloGene: 128039 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=homologene&dopt=HomoloGene&list_uids=128039) GeneCards: CRP (<https://www.genecards.org/cgi-bin/carddisp.pl?gene=CRP>)

Gene location (Human)

Fibrosis and inflammation
 Cancer
 Obstructive sleep apnea
 Rheumatoid arthritis

See also

Additional images

References

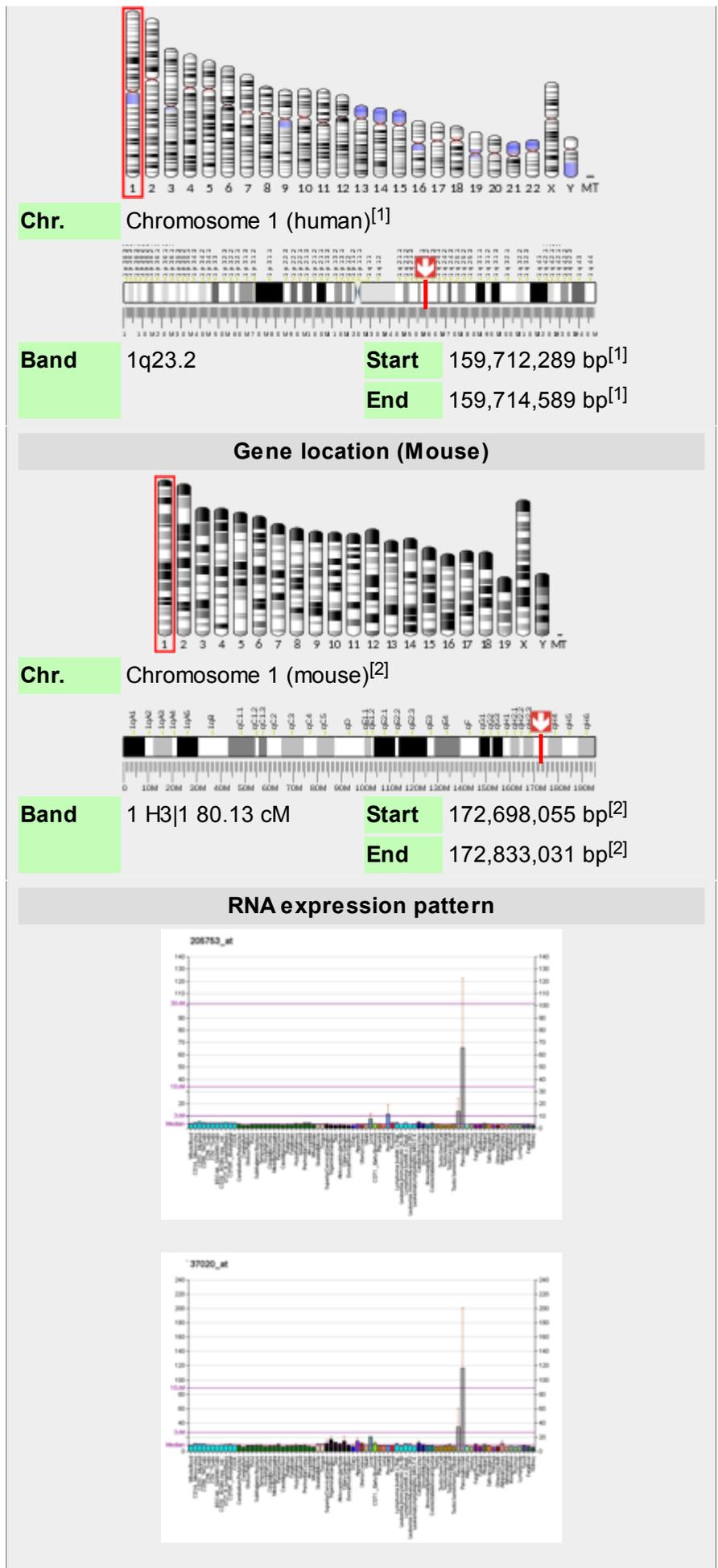
External links

History

Discovered by Tillett and Francis in 1930,^[9] it was initially thought that CRP might be a pathogenic secretion since it was elevated in a variety of illnesses, including cancer.^[6] The later discovery of hepatic synthesis (made in the liver) demonstrated that it is a native protein.^{[10][11][12]} Initially, CRP was measured using the quellung reaction which gave a positive or a negative result. More precise methods nowadays use dynamic light scattering after reaction with CRP-specific antibodies.^[13]

Nomenclature

CRP was so named because it was first identified as a substance in the serum of patients with acute inflammation that reacted with the antibody against the somatic capsular polysaccharide (C-polysaccharide) of pneumococcus.^{[14][15]}



Genetics and structure

The *CRP* gene is located on chromosome 1 (1q23.2^[16]). It is a member of the small pentraxins family. The monomer has 224 amino acids,^[17] and molecular mass of 25,106 Da. In serum, it assembles into stable pentameric structure with a discoid shape.

Function

CRP binds to the phosphocholine expressed on the surface of dead or dying cells and some bacteria. This activates the complement system, promoting phagocytosis by macrophages, which clears necrotic and apoptotic cells and bacteria.^[13]

This so-called acute phase response occurs as a result of increasing concentrations of IL-6, which is produced by macrophages^[6] as well as adipocytes^[7] in response to a wide range of acute and chronic inflammatory conditions such as bacterial, viral, or fungal infections; rheumatic and other inflammatory diseases; malignancy; and tissue injury and necrosis. These conditions cause release of interleukin-6 and other cytokines that trigger the synthesis of CRP and fibrinogen by the liver.

CRP binds to phosphocholine on micro-organisms. It is thought to assist in complement binding to foreign and damaged cells and enhances phagocytosis by macrophages (opsonin-mediated phagocytosis), which express a receptor for CRP. It plays a role in innate immunity as an early defence system against infections.^[13]

Gene ontology

Molecular function

- low-density lipoprotein particle receptor binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0050750>)
- calcium ion binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0005509>)
- virion binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0046790>)
- complement component C1q binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0001849>)
- GO:0001948 protein binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0005515>)
- metal ion binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0046872>)
- low-density lipoprotein particle binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0030169>)
- choline binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0033265>)
- identical protein binding (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0042802>)

Cellular component

- extracellular region (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0005576>)
- extracellular (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0005615>)

Biological process

- negative regulation of lipid storage (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0010888>)
- positive regulation of superoxide anion generation (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0032930>)
- positive regulation of gene expression (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0010628>)
- inflammatory response (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0006954>)
- acute-phase response (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0006953>)
- negative regulation of macrophage derived foam cell differentiation (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0010745>)
- regulation of interleukin-8 secretion (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:2000482>)
- opsonization (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0008228>)
- defense response to Gram-positive bacterium (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0050830>)

- negative regulation of blood vessel diameter (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0097756>)
- Classical complement pathway (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0006958>)
- innate immune system (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/amigo/term/GO:0045087>)

Sources:Amigo (<http://amigo.geneontology.org/>) / QuickGO (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO/>)

Orthologs

Species	Human	Mouse
Entrez	1401 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=gene&cmd=retrieve&dopt=default&list_uids=1401&m=1)	12944 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=gene&cmd=retrieve&dopt=default&list_uids=12944&m=1)
Ensembl	ENSG00000132693 (http://www.ensembl.org/Homo_sapiens/geneview?gene=ENSG00000132693;db=core)	ENSMUSG00000037942 (http://www.ensembl.org/Mus_musculus/geneview?gene=ENSMUSG00000037942;db=core)
UniProt	P02741 (https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/P02741)	P14847 (https://www.uniprot.org/uniprot/P14847)
RefSeq (mRNA)	NM_000567 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NM_000567) NM_001329057 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NM_001329057) NM_001329058 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NM_001329058)	NM_007768 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NM_007768)
RefSeq (protein)	NP_000558 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NP_000558)	NP_031794 (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NP_031794)

	_000558) 4) NP_001315986 (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NP_001315986) NP_001315987 (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/viewer.fcgi?val=NP_001315987)
Location (UCSC)	Chr 1: 159.71 – 159.71 Mb (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgTracks?org=Human&db=hg38&position=chr1:159712289-159714589) Chr 1: 172.7 – 172.83 Mb (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgTracks?org=Mouse&db=mm0&position=chr1:172698055-172833031)
PubMed search	[3] [4]
Wikidata	
View/Edit Human	View/Edit Mouse

Serum levels

Normal

In healthy adults, the normal concentrations of CRP varies between 0.8 mg/L to 3.0 mg/L. However, some healthy adults show elevated CRP at 10 mg/L. CRP concentrations also increase with age, possibly due to subclinical conditions. There is also no seasonal variations of CRP concentrations. Gene polymorphism of interleukin-1 family, interleukin 6, and polymorphic GT repeat of the CRP gene do affect the usual CRP concentrations when a person does not have any medical illnesses.^[6] The plasma half-life of CRP is 19 hours, and is constant in all medical conditions.

C-reactive protein	
<i>Medical diagnostics</i>	
Purpose	Detection of inflammation in body. ^[18]
Test of	The amount of CRP in the blood. ^[18]

Acute inflammation

When there is a stimulus, the CRP level can increase 10,000-fold from less than 50 µg/l to more than 500 mg/L. Its concentration can increase to 5 mg/L by 6 hours and peak at 48 hours. Therefore, the only factor that affects the blood CRP concentration is its production rate, which increases with inflammation, infection, trauma, necrosis, malignancy, and allergic reactions. Other inflammatory mediators that can increase CRP are TGF beta 1, and tumor necrosis factor alpha. In acute inflammation, CRP can increase as much as 50 to 100 mg/L within 4 to 6 hours in mild to moderate inflammation or an insult such as skin infection, cystitis, or bronchitis. It can double every 8 hours and

reaches its peak at 36 to 50 hours following injury or inflammation. CRP between 100 and 500 mg/L is considered highly predictive of inflammation due to bacterial infection. Once inflammation subsides, CRP level falls quickly because of its relatively short half-life.^[13]

Chronic inflammation

CRP concentrations between 2 and 10 mg/L are considered as metabolic inflammation: metabolic pathways that cause arteriosclerosis and type II diabetes mellitus.

Clinical significance

Diagnostic use

CRP is used mainly as an inflammation marker. Apart from liver failure, there are few known factors that interfere with CRP production.^[6] Interferon alpha inhibits CRP production from liver cells which may explain the relatively low levels of CRP found during viral infections compared to bacterial infections^[19]

Measuring and charting CRP values can prove useful in determining disease progress or the effectiveness of treatments. ELISA, immunoturbidimetry, nephelometry, rapid immunodiffusion, and visual agglutination are all methods used to measure CRP.

A high-sensitivity CRP (hs-CRP) test measures low levels of CRP using laser nephelometry. The test gives results in 25 minutes with a sensitivity down to 0.04 mg/L.

The risk of developing cardiovascular disease is quantified as follows:^[20]

- low: hs-CRP level under 1.0 mg/L
- average: between 1.0 and 3.0 mg/L
- high: above 3.0 mg/L

Normal levels increase with aging.^[21] Higher levels are found in late pregnant women, mild inflammation and viral infections (10–40 mg/L), active inflammation, bacterial infection (40–200 mg/L), severe bacterial infections and burns (>200 mg/L).^[22]

CRP is a more sensitive and accurate reflection of the acute phase response than the ESR^[23] (Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate). ESR may be normal while CRP is elevated. CRP returns to normal more quickly than ESR in response to therapy.

Cardiovascular disease

Recent research suggests that patients with elevated basal levels of CRP are at an increased risk of diabetes,^{[24][25]} hypertension and cardiovascular disease. A study of over 700 nurses showed that those in the highest quartile of trans fat consumption had blood levels of CRP that were 73% higher than those in the lowest quartile.^[26] Although one group of researchers indicated that CRP may be only a moderate risk factor for cardiovascular disease,^[27] this study (known as the Reykjavik Study) was found to have some problems for this type of analysis related to the characteristics of the

population studied, and there was an extremely long follow-up time, which may have attenuated the association between CRP and future outcomes.^[28] Others have shown that CRP can exacerbate ischemic necrosis in a complement-dependent fashion and that CRP inhibition can be a safe and effective therapy for myocardial and cerebral infarcts; so far, this has been demonstrated in animal models only.^[29]

It has been hypothesized that patients with high CRP levels might benefit from use of statins. This is based on the JUPITER trial that found that elevated CRP levels without hyperlipidemia benefited. Statins were selected because they have been proven to reduce levels of CRP.^{[6][30]} Studies comparing effect of various statins in hs-CRP revealed similar effects of different statins.^{[31][32]} A subsequent trial however failed to find that CRP was useful for determining statin benefit.^[33]

In a meta-analysis of 20 studies involving 1,466 patients with coronary artery disease, CRP levels were found to be reduced after exercise interventions. Among those studies, higher CRP concentrations or poorer lipid profiles before beginning exercise were associated with greater reductions in CRP.^[34]

To clarify whether CRP is a bystander or active participant in atherogenesis, a 2008 study compared people with various genetic CRP variants. Those with a high CRP due to genetic variation had no increased risk of cardiovascular disease compared to those with a normal or low CRP.^[35] A study published in 2011 shows that CRP is associated with lipid responses to low-fat and high-polyunsaturated fat diets.^[36]

Coronary heart disease risk

Arterial damage results from white blood cell invasion and inflammation within the wall. CRP is a general marker for inflammation and infection, so it can be used as a very rough proxy for heart disease risk. Since many things can cause elevated CRP, this is not a very specific prognostic indicator.^{[37][38]} Nevertheless, a level above 2.4 mg/L has been associated with a doubled risk of a coronary event compared to levels below 1 mg/L;^[6] however, the study group in this case consisted of patients who had been diagnosed with unstable angina pectoris; whether elevated CRP has any predictive value of acute coronary events in the general population of all age ranges remains unclear. Currently, C-reactive protein is not recommended as a cardiovascular disease screening test for average-risk adults without symptoms.^[39]

The American Heart Association and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have defined risk groups as follows:^[40]

- Low Risk: less than 1.0 mg/L
- Average risk: 1.0 to 3.0 mg/L
- High risk: above 3.0 mg/L

But hs-CRP is not to be used alone and should be combined with elevated levels of cholesterol, LDL-C, triglycerides, and glucose level. Smoking, hypertension and diabetes also increase the risk level of cardiovascular disease.

Fibrosis and inflammation

Scleroderma, polymyositis, and dermatomyositis elicit little or no CRP response. CRP levels also tend not to be elevated in SLE unless serositis or synovitis is present. Elevations of CRP in the absence of clinically significant inflammation can occur in renal failure. CRP level is an independent risk factor for atherosclerotic disease. Patients with high CRP concentrations are more likely to develop stroke, myocardial infarction, and severe peripheral vascular disease.^[41] Elevated level of CRP can also be observed in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), including Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.^[23]

High levels of CRP has been associated to point mutation Cys130Arg in the *APOE* gene, coding for apolipoprotein E, establishing a link between lipid values and inflammatory markers modulation.^[42]

Cancer

The role of inflammation in cancer is not well understood. Some organs of the body show greater risk of cancer when they are chronically inflamed.^[43] While there is an association between increased levels of C-reactive protein and risk of developing cancer, there is no association between genetic polymorphisms influencing circulating levels of CRP and cancer risk.^[44]

In a 2004 prospective cohort study on colon cancer risk associated with CRP levels, people with colon cancer had higher average CRP concentrations than people without colon cancer.^[45] It can be noted that the average CRP levels in both groups were well within the range of CRP levels usually found in healthy people. However, these findings may suggest that low inflammation level can be associated with a lower risk of colon cancer, concurring with previous studies that indicate anti-inflammatory drugs could lower colon cancer risk.^[46]

Obstructive sleep apnea

C-reactive protein (CRP), a marker of systemic inflammation, is also increased in obstructive sleep apnea (OSA). CRP and interleukin-6 (IL-6) levels were significantly higher in patients with OSA compared to obese control subjects.^[47] Patients with OSA have higher plasma CRP concentrations that increased corresponding to the severity of their apnea-hypopnea index score. Treatment of OSA with CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) significantly alleviated the effect of OSA on CRP and IL-6 levels.^[47]

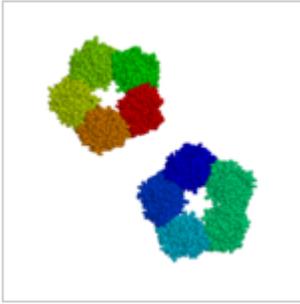
Rheumatoid arthritis

It has previously been speculated that single-nucleotide polymorphisms in the CRP gene may affect clinical decision-making based on CRP in rheumatoid arthritis, e.g. DAS28 (Disease Activity Score 28 joints). A recent study showed that CRP genotype and haplotype were only marginally associated with serum CRP levels and without any association to the DAS28 score.^[48] Thus, that DAS28, which is the core parameter for inflammatory activity in RA, can be used for clinical decision-making without adjustment for CRP gene variants.

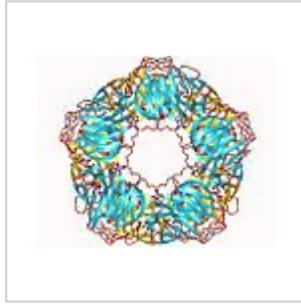
See also

- acute phase
- erythrocyte sedimentation rate

Additional images



C-reactive protein



C-reactive protein

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External links

- *MedlinePlus Encyclopedia* C-reactive protein (<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003356.htm>)
 - Inflammation, Heart Disease and Stroke: The Role of C-Reactive Protein (<http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=4648>) (American Heart Association)
 - C-Reactive+Protein (<https://meshb.nlm.nih.gov/record/ui?name=C-Reactive%20Protein>) at the US National Library of Medicine Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)
 - CRP at Lab Tests Online (<http://labtestsonline.org/understanding/analytes/crp/tab/test>)
 - CRP: analyte monograph (<http://www.acb.org.uk/Nat%20Lab%20Med%20Hbk/CRP.pdf>) - The Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine
 - George Vrousgos, N.D. - Southern Cross University (http://epubs.scu.edu.au/hahs_pubs/2234/)
 - Human *CRP* (<https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgTracks?db=hg38&singleSearch=knownCanonical&position=CRP>) genome location and *CRP* (https://genome.ucsc.edu/cgi-bin/hgGene?db=hg38&hgg_gene=CRP) gene details page in the UCSC Genome Browser.
 - Overview of all the structural information available in the PDB for UniProt: *P02741* (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pdbe/pdbe-kb/proteins/P02741>) (C-reactive protein) at the PDBe-KB.
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