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Journal of Andrology, Vol 18, Issue 1 62-70, Copyright © 1997 by The American Society of Andrology

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Alternative splicing of CREB and CREM mRNAs in an immortalized germ cell line

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Alternative splicing of CREB (cAMP response element binding protein) and CREM (cAMP response element modulator) mRNAs in separated pachytene spermatocyte, round spermatid, and elongated spermatid fractions and the germ cell-derived immortalized cell line GC-2spd(ts) was studied by reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR). Both primary germ cells and the GC-2spd(ts) cell line expressed the testis-specific CREB splice variant containing exon W. In the CREB

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C-E exon region, both primary germ cells and GC-2spd(ts) cells produced RT-PCR products that included exon Y. RT-PCR using CREM primers produced multiple bands in primary germ cells. The truncated CREAM deltaC-G form was found in all the germ cell fractions. The smaller splice forms of CREM were more prominent in the GC-2spd(ts) cells. GC-2spd(ts) cells resembled F9 teratocarcinoma cells more closely than primary germ cells with respect to the relative expression of both CREB and CREM alternative splice products. In Sertoli cells, RT-PCR products of CREB exon lacking W and the product corresponding to CREM delta C-G were most prominent. These data show that the GC-2spd(ts) cell line retains some qualitative characteristics of primary germ cells with respect to alternative splicing of CREB and CREM mRNA.

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